

*Then and Now: A Photo Walk in Downtown Columbus from the
Early 1900s to the Present (2020)*

Emil R. Pinta and Susan E. Scritchfield



High Street Looking North from Town Street about 1917, 1991, and 2020—High-Rise Buildings and the Rise and Fall of the Wonderful Columbus City Center Mall



Emil and Susan in 2016

Introduction by Emil R. Pinta

This project began in 1985 when my future wife, Susan Scritchfield, and I were dating. I collected postcards and we decided to take identical pictures of the early Downtown Columbus scenes that were on the postcard photos. After our marriage, we repeated the photos in 1991 and 2005. There are 26 postcard scenes that we photographed.

Susan was diagnosed with cancer and passed away in 2018, but she encouraged me to finish our project without her. So in October and November 2020, I retook photos of the same scenes. Therefore, this project consists of postcard scenes from the early 1900s and then photos of the same scenes in 1985, 1991, 2005 and 2020—a 35-year, multi-decade project, just as we envisioned it. Often not much changed between 1985 and 1991, so the 1991 photos are included only if there is something that shouldn't be missed.

In this “photo walk,” I have a pretend ploy. Readers can use their imagination and pretend along, or just ignore it and look at the photos and descriptions. I pretend that I've been loaned a time-machine for a day by a relative of mine, who traveled back in time from several hundred years in the future. Maybe that's not as far-fetched as it sounds? It could happen to someone, somewhere, sometime—and perhaps already has that we don't know about?

So, a small group of friends and I begin by setting our hand-held time-machine to the early 1900s for a walk in Downtown Columbus. We look forward to seeing several early buildings through the years that were constructed in the nineteenth century and are still standing today, including

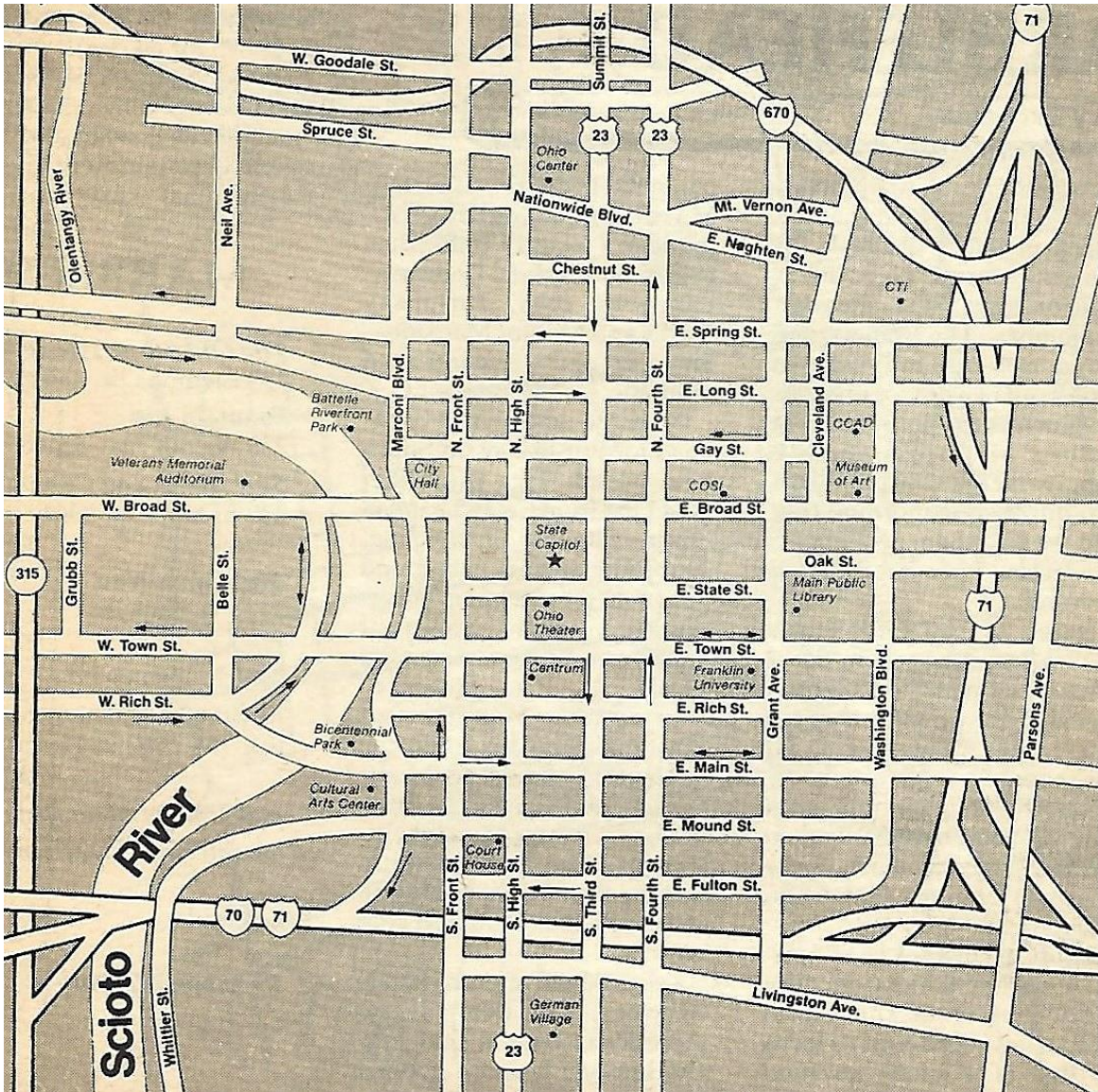
the Hayden-Clinton (1869), “Old, Old Post Office” (1887), Toledo and Ohio Central Depot (1895), Wyandotte (1897) and Hartman Hotel (1898). Most have found new purposes and developers willing to renovate them. The same is true with many early twentieth century high-rise buildings including the New Hayden (1901), Brunson (1905), Columbus Savings and Trust (1905), Capitol Trust (1906) and LeVeque Tower (1927), which still dot the Downtown skyline as familiar anchors in a constantly changing architectural landscape.

We start at the south end of Downtown at Fulton and S. High Streets, where we see some of the electric-light arches that earned Columbus a reputation as an “Arch City” in the early 1900s. Then we’ll fast-forward to 1985, 2005 and then back to the future of 2020. Our plan is to walk the area south of Broad Street for the first part of our trip. We’ll be able to see the Hartman Hotel shortly after it opened in 1898—it’s still occupied today as condos—and learn about its remarkable founder and his elixir, Peruna. We’ll see the Columbus Auditorium on Town and Front streets, which later became the Lazarus Annex. Then there’s the venerable F&R Lazarus Department Store through the years with its “skybridge” to the Columbus City Center Mall in the 1990s. And it’ll be exciting to see the buildings along High Street from the early 1900s to the present. From Third Street, we’ll take in the many changes that have occurred on E. Broad Street in both directions.

During the second half of the day, we’ll begin by looking at the many changes at the intersection of Broad and High streets—the center of the City of Columbus. We are hoping to catch a glimpse of Mr. John G. Deshler, the builder and owner of the Deshler Hotel at Broad and High, which opened in 1916. We are impressed with a letter he left in a time capsule when his hotel was built. We’ll wander down W. Broad Street and see the Wyandotte Building, the city’s first steel-framed skyscraper, and the James Theater—Columbus’ first grand movie theater of the silent era. Later we’ll walk across the Broad Street Bridge and see the changes in Columbus’ skyline over the years, viewed from across the Scioto River. This includes Columbus’ most famous skyscraper, the LeVeque Tower. Farther down W. Broad is the Toledo and Ohio Central Railroad Depot that had a reputation as the most unique building in Columbus.

We’ll take a walk on E. Gay Street in the 1900s and see the B.F. Keith Theater, a vaudeville theater where the famous escape-artist Harry Houdini performed. We’ll end the day with a walk south on High Street from Chestnut Street to see one of the most vibrant shopping areas of the past and see how it has changed today. Before ending our time-travel, we’ll visit the Chittenden Hotel at Spring and N. High Streets, which was built in 1895 with unique Spanish turrets. And these are just a few of the adventures that await our travelers.

At the end of this book is information regarding our sources and acknowledgments and brief biographies of Susan and me.



Map of Downtown Columbus in 1985

A Few Words about the Age of Postcard Photos in Our Book

With few exceptions, the years given for postcard photos in our book are approximations. If the card has a postmark, the year for the photo is said to be “about” the postmark year. However, postcards might have been purchased months and even years before they were mailed, or remained in stores for long periods before being sold. Therefore all postcard photos were closely examined with attention to buildings with known construction dates and other known details to confirm—as best as possible—that they were taken “about” the time of the postmark date.

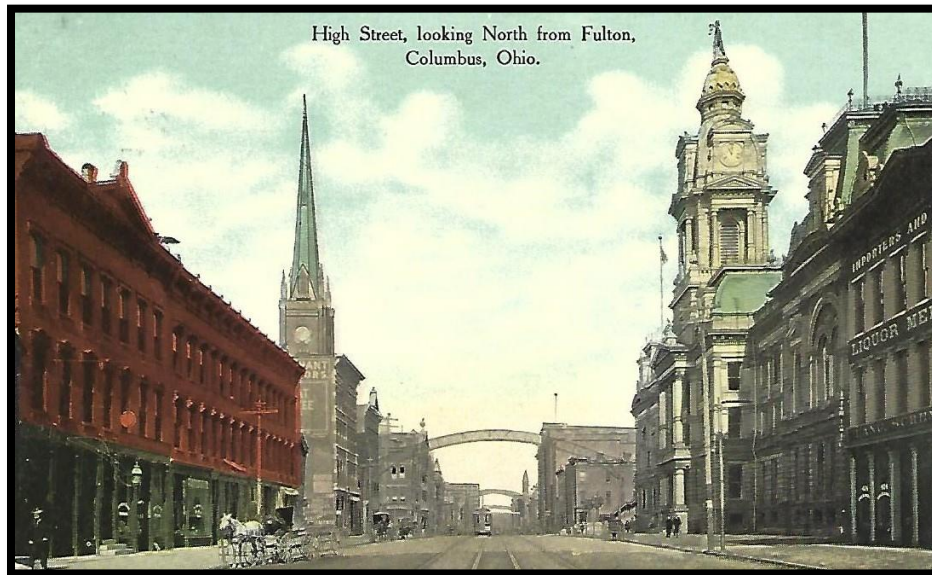
Electric-light arches on steel frames were present on many Downtown Columbus streets from 1896 to 1914, and arches in a photo are helpful in determining its age. But the absence of arches does not always mean that the photo was taken outside these years. There are several postcard photos in this collection believed to be within these years in which arches were likely removed during the postcard production process—presumably for artistic reasons.

“Retouching” or “doctoring” of early postcard photos during their production was a common practice. On many postcards in this collection, tall flagpoles were added to roofs of buildings to indicate the tallest buildings or to draw attention to others. It was also common practice to remove or add persons, horse-drawn wagons, automobiles, streetcars and other objects on photos, which limit the factual value of postcard photos for historical information. Some of these changes—such as replacing older model cars with newer models—were obvious manipulations to increase the lifespan of a postcard. However, the important value of a postcard photo for purposes of our book is not the exact date but the identification of buildings and other structures for comparisons over the years.

There are postcard features that are helpful in determining its age. Postcards with divided backs—with one half for addresses and the other half for messages—were first produced in the U.S in 1907. Before 1907, the postal service allowed only addresses on postcard backs. White borders around postcard photos, if present, were introduced in 1915 to save ink and continued until 1930. Many early U.S. postcards were printed in Germany, where postcard production originated; however, once Germany became involved in World War I this printing option was no longer available, and a notation on the postcard indicating that it was made in Germany means it was printed before 1915.

A helpful source for dating U.S. postcards is “How to Age a Postcard” by the Chicago Postcard Museum; online at www.chicagopostcardmuseum.org/postcard_age.html. An article that discusses the manipulation of postcard photos during their production is Dirk H. R. Spennemann, “The Evidentiary Value of Late Nineteenth and Early Twentieth Century Postcards for Heritage Studies,” in *Heritage* 2021, 4, 1460-1496; online at <https://doi.org/10.3390/heritage4030081>.

Looking North on High Street from Fulton Street



Postcard North on High from Fulton about 1910

This postcard from about 1910 shows the Franklin County Courthouse, dedicated in 1887, on the right side of S. High St. The courthouse extends from the southeast corner of Mound and High and takes up two-thirds of the block. At the right of the photo is the Lang-Schenck Co., wholesale wine and liquor merchants at 404 S. High St. Across High St. from the courthouse is St. Paul's German Lutheran Church, erected in 1844 and rebuilt in 1857 after a fire. The long, brick commercial building on the left of the photo, known as the Diemer Block, was occupied by Esper & Sons at 403-407 S. High St., wholesale grocers and wine merchants. In the distance, electric-light arches are seen crossing High St.

In the early 1900s, electric-light arches earned Columbus the nickname "Arch City." The arches spanned High St. and many other Downtown streets. The first arches were erected in 1888 and were wood with gas lights. They were built to commemorate the Centennial Anniversary of the Capital of the Northwest Territory in Marietta and the Twenty-Second Reunion of Union Veterans of the Civil War. That reunion and encampment was held in Columbus in September 1888 with nearly 70,000 former Union soldiers attending! In 1896, Columbus merchants financed a change to electric lights on a steel frame. In addition to providing light for the night, they attracted tourists who came from afar to see them.

Electric light was sweeping the nation in the early 1900s! Electric illumination and light displays were featured at the Chicago World's Fair in 1893. Many cities, such as Cleveland in 1905, developed amusement parks called "Luna Parks" that were covered with thousands of electric bulbs. Columbus, with lighted arches on many Downtown streets, must have been an impressive site. In recent years, electric-light arches once again bend over streets in the Short North district. Despite protests, the electric-light arches were replaced by light poles in 1914.



North on High from Fulton in 1985

In this photo from 1985, the buildings on left (west) side of the postcard have been demolished, and those across the street on the east side of High are also gone. Dorrian Commons Park opened in 1976 on the right side of the photo where the 1887 Franklin County Courthouse once stood. The Courthouse was razed in 1974.

Looking north, the high-rise buildings in the distance from left to right are the top of the LeVeque Tower, built in 1927; the Huntington Center, built in 1984; across High St., the Rhodes State Office Tower, built in 1974; and the Capitol Square Skyscraper, built in 1984 at 65 E. State St.

The building partially shown at the left is the Franklin County Hall of Justice Building. On the right, partially shown, is the Franklin County Administration Building at 410 S. High St.



North on High from Fulton in 2005

In this photo from 2005, the scene has not changed significantly except that the Riffe State Office Tower, built in 1988, is now in front of the Huntington Center; and the Fifth Third Bank Building—built in 1998 at the southeast corner of High and State streets—is visible in the distance on the right side of High to the left of the Rhodes State Office Tower.



North on High from Fulton in 2020

In this 2020 photo, a pedestrian bridge is seen over High St. between the Franklin County Government Center on the left and a parking garage (not seen) at 34 E. Fulton. It extends over the James A. Karnes Building at the right of the photo, which houses the sheriff's department and other county offices. This building at 410 S. High St.—formerly the Franklin County Administration Bldg.—was renamed in 2011 to honor the 48-year career of Franklin County Sheriff Jim Karnes (1940-2011). In November 2020 the pedestrian bridge was demolished, about one month after this photo.

The massive Government Center includes the 27-floor Franklin County Courthouse, built in 1991, the 19-floor Franklin County Municipal Court and the 10-floor Franklin County Hall of Justice. The modern building at left-center of the photo, which appears in front of the Riffe Tower, is the Franklin County Common Pleas Courthouse at 345 S. High St. It opened in 2011.

We set our time to 1906 and walk north on High to Main Street where the beautiful Great Southern Hotel and Theater is found. It's only about ten-years-old as we round its corner. We turn right and walk on Main going east until we reach the intersection of Fourth Street where we see our destination—the Hartman Hotel at its northwest corner. Built originally in 1898 as an office building, it was soon converted into a luxury hotel for guests receiving treatment at the “surgical hotel” next door. It opened to the general public just a few years before our present travel-time. The Hartman Hotel would be an excellent place to stay if we had a night to spend. We might even get treatment for any ailments at the surgical facility next door—not!! There are few changes in its outward appearance as we travel over the years back to the present.

Looking at the Northwest Corner of Main and South Fourth Streets



Postcard Northwest Corner of Main and Fourth about 1906

In this postcard photo from about 1906, the Hartman Hotel looks surprisingly very much as it does in 2020, but its hotel functions ceased many years ago. Shortly after it opened, it became a luxury hotel for guests using the medical facilities at the “surgical hotel” seen just to the right (north) of the building. The Hartman Hotel was built in 1898 by Samuel B. Hartman, MD (1830-1918), an 1857 graduate of the Jefferson Medical College of Philadelphia. The Market Exchange Bank on the ground floor was founded by Dr. Hartman in 1905. His surgical hotel or hospital was constructed several years earlier.

Note the electric-light arches crossing S. Fourth St. and the many telephone and electric lines on poles along its eastern side. The long building farther north on Fourth St., with a smoke stack at its rear, is Columbus’ Central Market. It stretched from Rich to Town streets from 1850 to 1966 and also contained Columbus’ first City Hall. It was an ancestor of today’s North Market.

The hotel opened its doors to the public in 1902, and a number of dignitaries stayed here in its early years. President Theodore Roosevelt took rooms here, as did his fashionable and newsworthy daughter, Alice Roosevelt Longworth. Ohio’s forty-fourth governor, Andrew L. Harris, chose the Hartman Hotel as his official residence during his term of office from 1906 to 1909.

At Dr. Hartman’s surgical hotel, patients received treatments that included surgery, hydrotherapy, “mechanical massage” and most certainly Dr. Hartman’s amazing elixir, Peruna! Peruna was intended to cure a buildup of catarrh (mucous secretions) in body cavities, which, according to Dr. Hartman, was the underlying cause of almost all disease.

Notice: The following information regarding the staff of the Surgical Hotel might be TMI (Too Much Information) for many readers:

MEDICAL AND SURGICAL REGISTER.

.. THE ..

Surgical Hotel,

247-251

South Fourth Street,
COLUMBUS, OHIO.



SURGICAL STAFF.

S. B. HARTMAN, M. D., Orthopaedic Surgery.	W. A. FOSTER, M. D., Alcoholic and Narcotic Habits.
D. R. SUMMY, M. D., Orificial Surgery and Gynecology.	I. T. EVANS, M. D., Mechanical Massage.
A. J. MILLER, M. D., Cancers, Tumors and Skin Diseases.	C. S. CARR, M. D., Chemist, Microscopist and Pathologist.
E. G. CORBETT, M. D., Eye and Ear.	S. B. HARTMAN, M. D., Consulting Surgeon in all departments.

R.L. Polk & Co, *Medical and Surgical Register of the United States*, 1896

According to Polk's *Register*, most of the staff (above) of the Surgical Hotel were, like Dr. Hartman, graduates of the Jefferson Medical College of Philadelphia, a regular (non-sectarian) medical college. Staff from sectarian medical schools included a homeopathic physician, Dr. Carr, and a graduate of the Eclectic Medical College of Pennsylvania, Dr. Evans. Dr. Evans was apparently a practitioner of "mechanical massage," an unclear technique. The *Register* gives 1890 as the year the Surgical Hotel was established.

In the 1890s and early 1900s, Peruna was outselling every patent medicine in the U.S. and made Dr. Hartman a multi-millionaire and one of the richest men in Columbus! Peruna's nearly 30 percent alcohol content didn't hurt its popularity. The Hartman Hotel, the Hartman Surgical Hotel, the Hartman Office Building, the Hartman Theater, the Hartman Farm, located south of the city near today's Scioto Downs Racetrack and Casino, and the large Peruna Building, on the southeast corner of Rich and S. Third, were the result of the success of Peruna. The Hartman Theater and Hartman Office Building were at the southwest corner of State and S. Third streets.

The Pure Food and Drug Act of 1906 ordered that products such as Peruna must reduce their alcohol content or be marketed as alcoholic beverages and required labels on bottles listing their alcohol content. By then Dr. Hartman was very wealthy and occupied with farming, dairy production and raising cattle and horses on his huge 2,900-acre Hartman Farm.



Northwest Corner of Main and Fourth in 1985

In this photo from 1985, the location of the former surgical hotel is a parking lot. Most of the hotel is vacant, but the ground floor is occupied by a branch of the Huntington National Bank. The hotel closed in 1921, and the State of Ohio acquired it shortly afterwards for offices, which included the Ohio Bureau of Motor Vehicles that was here for many years.

The state maintained offices here until the early 1970s. Huntington Bank, which took over Hartman's Market Exchange Bank in 1958, closed its branch at this location after 34 years in 1992, when the building became vacant.



Northwest Corner of Main and Fourth in 2005

About the time of this 2005 photo, the Hartman Hotel was being converted into the Hartman Loft Condos, which featured small units with lower-than-average price tags. Called “starter condos” by some, the units started at \$165,000, when most Downtown condominiums began at \$350,000. The interior of the abandoned building was gutted to make condominiums, and the exterior was refurbished. The tall building to the right of the hotel in this and other photos is the Rhodes State Office Tower at 30 E. Broad St., constructed in 1974.



Northwest Corner of Main and Fourth in 2020

In 2020 the basic appearance of the building—now the Hartman Loft Condos—is unchanged. A parking lot is still to its north. The Amerititle Company occupies a portion of the ground floor, which also includes Aveda, a barbershop, and a salon and spa.

We walk west on Main St. and return to High St., where we continue our trek north and set our time to 1917. Nearing Town Street, we come to a center of activity and are impressed by the F&R Lazarus Building with its large electric roof sign. Looking forward in time, we are amazed by the major changes seen from this intersection that include many high-rise buildings and the rise and fall of the wonderful Columbus City Center Mall.

Looking North on High Street from Town Street



Postcard North on High from Town about 1917

In this postcard photo from about 1917, a portion of the Ohio National Bank, built in 1911, is shown at the left of the photo at the southwest corner of Town and High streets. Across Town St. at the northwest corner is the F&R Lazarus Department Store, which occupied this location since 1909. A large electric sign is on its roof. Across High St. on the northeast corner is the Central Bank Bldg. North of it are commercial buildings including the large Morehouse-Martens Co., a department store at 134-146 S. High St. It will be rebuilt in 1921 after a fire.

Farther north at Broad St. is Columbus' tallest building at the time, the Capitol Trust Bldg., built in 1906. Also called the Eight East Broad Street Bldg., it has a tall flagpole on its roof. Across High St. on the left is the 12-story Harrison Bldg., constructed in 1903.

Street cars and early motorized vehicles move along High St., and no electric-light arches are seen. At the lower right of the photo is a sign with musical notes for the Columbia Phonograph Co. Columbia used this version of its logo beginning in 1917 and helps date the photo.



North on High from Town in 1985

In 1985, the Ohio National Bank on the left of the photo is now BancOhio, with a clock on a tall base in front. The Lazarus Building has undergone major remodeling. The roof sign has been replaced with a long vertical sign on its eastern wall. Beyond Lazarus is the tall Huntington Center constructed in 1984. Farther north on the right side of High St. in the distance is the Capitol Trust Bldg. at 8 E. Broad St. A number of buildings on the east (right) side of High have been demolished as part of the Capitol South redevelopment program.

Capitol South, officially the Capitol South Community Urban Redevelopment Corp., was a group of private, non-profit corporations formed in the 1970s that provided capital backing and professional services to develop the area south of Capitol Square. The Columbus City Center Mall was the centerpiece of its plans in the 1980s.

At the right of the photo, a tip of the Rhodes State Office Tower can be seen peeking over the top of the former Union Department Store, just to the left of a water tower. In 1968 the Union Store moved to this location of the former Morehouse-Martens Store. Morehouse-Martens became Morehouse Fashion and then simply “The Fashion” when the Union Store took over. It became the Halle’s Store in 1980 before closing in 1982. Demolition began in 1986, about one year after this photo to make room for the City Center Mall.



North on High from Town in 1991

In 1991 the most dramatic change is the enclosed “skybridge” over High St., which connected the Lazarus store to the Columbus City Center Mall that opened in August 1989. Part of the Mall is visible on the right of the photo. Looking past the Mall to Broad St. is the Rhodes State Office Tower. Constructed in 1974, it is still Columbus’ tallest building at 629 ft. On the left of the photo, the Riffe State Office Tower, built in 1988, looms over Lazarus and behind it is the Huntington Center.

When the three-level City Center Mall opened in 1989, it was central Ohio’s premier shopping location with 1,250,000 square feet of space. Its anchors were Lazarus, Jacobson’s and Marshall Fields. Local-based Limited Brands also had a strong presence. At its peak, there were 140 tenants with plentiful underground and attached parking. The north end of the Mall was connected to the Hyatt on Capitol Square. The iconic Ohio Theater, which booked live attractions such as symphonies and Broadway productions, was adjacent to its north entrance.



North on High from Town in 2005

In 2005 the Lazarus sign is gone and some of the windows on its south wall appear shuttered with plywood. Lazarus ceased its Downtown operation at City Center Mall in August 2004, about a year before this photo was taken. City Center Mall still exists and the skybridge is still there (it'll be demolished in 2008), but the Mall has lost two of its three anchors: Lazarus in 2004 and Jacobson's in 2002. Various factors led to its decline, including the opening of three major shopping centers in the Columbus area between 1997 and 2002. City Center ceased most operations in 2007 and officially closed in March 2009. One year later, in March 2010, the Mall was demolished and gone.

The Riffe State Office Tower and Huntington Center from the previous photo are seen. However, now the Fifth Third Bank Bldg., built in 1998 in conjunction with the Capitol South project, is across High on the southeast corner of High and State streets. It obscures a view of the Rhodes State Office Tower.



North on High from Town in 2020

In 2020, the Lazarus Bldg. and the high-rise buildings seen in the 2005 photo are there. But the skybridge is gone and Lazarus has undergone a major renovation—all 750,000 square feet of it. It took three years, from 2004 to 2007, to complete the renovation. The John F. Wolfe Columbus Commons—a 9-acre, landscaped city park with an outdoor stage and carousel—is where the City Center Mall once stood. One of the attractive entrances to the park is barely visible in the lower right corner of the photo. Across High from the Lazarus Bldg. is Highpoint on Columbus Commons, a luxury apartment complex, the rear of which forms part of the western boundary of Columbus Commons.

The Lazarus Bldg. now consists of two divisions with a middle Galleria. The division on the northwest corner of Town and High seen in this photo has an address of 50 West Town St., and at the time of this photo it houses OSU Urban Arts, Nosh on High (a restaurant) and the First Financial Bank, among others. The division on the corner of Town and Front streets has an address of 150 South Front St. Also referred to as the Lazarus Government Center, it houses government entities such as the Ohio Department of Medicaid, the Ohio Department of Insurance and the Ohio Environmental Protection Agency.

Returning to the past, we set our time to 1929 and walk west down Town Street toward the Scioto River to see if there are any events happening at the Columbus Auditorium on Front Street. But there are no events scheduled for today.

Looking at the Southwest Corner of Town Street and South Front Street



Postcard Southwest Corner of Town and Front from about 1930

The Columbus Auditorium is pictured in this postcard from about 1930. The Auditorium was privately financed at a cost of \$2 million and opened in 1927 on the southwest corner of Town and S. Front streets. Seats at the Auditorium sold very well for its first years. In 1928, it engaged the Chicago Civic Opera Company. The company's first season in Columbus was heralded in newspapers as the "city's first grand opera season."

The opera company featured the famous soprano Mary Garden. She was treated like royalty in Columbus, and the room at the Deshler-Wallick Hotel where she stayed became the "Mary Garden Suite." In 1929, during the opera company's second season in Columbus, she sang the difficult title role in Massenet's *Thais* to a sellout crowd of 5,500.

However, the Auditorium, like the rest of the country, soon found itself in the midst of the Great Depression and was never able to recapture the attendance it had in its first seasons. It tried to stay afloat with well-known attractions, such as the Kay Kyser and Duke Ellington orchestras; musicals, featuring famous personalities such as Rudy Vallée; and trade shows, auto shows and even boxing and wrestling matches. However, by 1945 it had developed mounting financial debt and was sold to the Lazarus Department Store. In 1946 it re-opened as the Lazarus Annex, selling housewares, hardware and appliances.



Southwest Corner of Town and Front in 1985

By the time of this 1985 photo, the Lazarus Annex had become a store for reduced-price furniture. To obtain a glimpse of the past, shoppers could enter at Front Street and walk to the rear of the building where a small stairway led to a raised platform. Here amid furniture displays, one could stand at center stage where Mary Garden once thrilled capacity crowds. In this photo, the 15-story Columbia Gas of Ohio Building, constructed in 1983, can be seen behind the Lazarus Annex.



Southwest Corner of Town and Front in 2005

In this 2005 photo, the location where the Annex once stood is now a vacant lot. The Annex was razed in 1992. The view of the Columbia Gas of Ohio Building at 200 Civic Center Dr. and its parking garage is unobstructed



Southwest Corner of Town and Front in 2020

In 2020, the space previously occupied by the Lazarus Annex is now occupied by the Annex Apartments at RiverSouth, modern townhouse apartments. Columbia Gas moved to a new location in the Arena District in 2015. The top of its previous building, now an office complex, is visible above the apartments.

We walk back to High Street along Town Street, turn left and continue our walk north. We realize that we are entering a very special area as we see the large State Capitol Building on our right that is surrounded by trees, landscaped greenery and historic statues. Before we left for our time-walk, we read that the cornerstone for the Statehouse was laid in 1839, and that it was first occupied by the legislature in 1857, four years before its completion in 1861. Later the Statehouse Annex was completed in 1901 at its east (rear) end. An underground parking garage was added in 1965.

Here we have a treat and our time-machine takes us to two dates—one in 1907 and another one in 1914.

Looking North on High Street from State Street



Postcard North on High from State about 1907

This postcard view is about 1907. Electric-light arches, described previously, are present. A team of horses is pulling a wagon and there is a horse-drawn carriage. A few early motorized vehicles are also present. The Statehouse grounds are at the right of the photo.

At the left of the photo is Newell's European Hotel at 69-71 S. High St. Just north of it is the brick building of Bryce Bros. & Co., retail clothiers that occupied this spot at 49-57 S. High from about 1897 to 1919. Beyond that is the Neil House at 41 S. High St., one of Columbus' grander hotels, and then the taller Harrison Bldg. at 21 S. High St., built in 1903.

The tiny spire farther north on the left of High St. belongs to the Huntington Bank Building that was built in 1878 at the southwest corner of Broad and High. Across High St. rising above trees is the Capitol Trust Bldg., built in 1906. It has a flag flying from its roof, and next to it is the New Hayden Bldg., first occupied in October 1901.



Postcard North on High from State about 1914

This 1914 postcard photo is taken slightly farther north on High. The electric-light arches are gone. The Harrison Bldg. is at the left of the photo. A sign for the Pastime Theatre is clearly visible on the left. The theater, at 17 S. High St., showed silent movies from 1911 until it closed in 1923 to make room for an expansion of the Huntington Bank. Movies were very popular in 1914, but Cinema was still in its infancy. It would be another 13 years before the first movie, *The Jazz Singer* with Al Jolson, would have segments in sound, and several years later before all-sound “talkies” were shown at most movie theaters. Farther north, the spire of the Huntington Bank Bldg. at 1 S. High St. is clearly visible.

On the right, of note is a statue present in this and the 1907 postcard but most easily seen in this one from 1914—and then with the aid of a magnifying glass or microscope! It is seen below the third window of the small corner building that is to the left of the tall Capitol Trust. This is the statue at the corner of High and Broad of Samuel M. Smith, M.D. (1816-1874), a prominent Columbus physician and educator. He held many important positions including dean of Starling Medical College and surgeon general of Ohio during the Civil War. But he is probably most revered today by those associated with the OSU psychiatry department, including yours truly, for being the first U.S. professor of psychiatry in 1847 at an ancestor of the OSU College of Medicine. Dr. Smith’s statue was at this location from 1880 to 1915. After several moves to other locations, in 2020 it is on the OSU medical campus adjacent to the psychiatric facility.



North on High from State in 1991

There was extensive road construction on High Street in 1985, so we decide to jump to 1991. The Huntington Bank Building at 17 N. High is now at the left of this 1991 photo. Constructed in 1926, this “newer” Huntington Bank Bldg. incorporated the Harrison Bldg. into its south end.

Looking farther north on the left past the Huntington, the modern, steel and glass building is One Columbus Center at the northwest corner of High and Broad, built in 1987. Appearing on the left all the way past Chestnut St. is the tall One Nationwide Plaza, built in 1976. Across High St. on E. Broad are the familiar tall Capitol Trust and New Hayden Bldgs. To the right (east) of the New Hayden, a part of the four-story Hayden-Clinton Bldg, at 20 E. Broad is visible behind trees. Built in 1869, it is the oldest building on Capitol Square. We’ll get a much better view of it later.

From 1927 to 1939, the official headquarters of the National Football League, formed in Canton, Ohio, in 1920, were located on the eleventh floor of the New Hayden Bldg. at 16 E. Broad.



North on High from State in 2005

Portions of the Riffe State Office Tower, constructed in 1988, and the Huntington Center, constructed in 1984, are at the left of the photo. The Rhodes State Office Tower, 30 E. Broad St., takes up the right corner of the photo.

The familiar tall landmarks of the Capitol Trust Bldg. at 8 E. Broad St. and the New Hayden at 16 E. Broad are seen to the left of the Rhodes State Office Tower. About the time of this photo, the New Hayden—called “New” compared to its much older neighbor, the Hayden-Clinton at 20 E. Broad—began to be called the 16 E. Broad Street Bldg., and the Hayden-Clinton became simply the Hayden Bldg. In 2022, after extensive renovations, the two buildings are connected internally, and the two buildings (formerly 16 and 20 E. Broad St.) comprise an office complex called “The Hayden” with the same address of 20 E. Broad.

Our time-travelers are as perplexed by these name and address changes as the readers of this book are likely to be.



North on High from State in 2020

In 2020, a major change involves the Capitol Trust Bldg. at 8 East Broad St. The 114-year-old building has been converted into condominiums called “8 on the Square,” and the number “8” is clearly visible on its roof. Balconies are seen on its western side. The four-story corner building to its left was rebuilt in 2007. Rogers Jewelers occupied this site from 1920 to 1985. We’ll learn more about these renovations in conjunction with the Broad and High Project later.

We set our time to 1914 and continue our walk east along E. State St. from High. We walk past the Statehouse on our left and a group of buildings on our right. Anyone expecting to see the Ohio Theater on this walk will be disappointed. It will be another fourteen years before this iconic structure will be here. But we do walk past the Grand Theater at 59 E. State, which opened the year of this time-travel. We read this was the first theater in Columbus to show the 1927 movie *The Jazz Singer*, the first motion picture to have sound for some dialogue and singing. A film buff in our group said that was no small achievement for the Grand, and would have required purchasing Warner Bros.’ new Vitaphone system—costing nearly \$400,000 in 2020 money we are told—a sound-on-disc process that synchronized sound with film. The Grand, later the RKO Grand, was also the first movie theater in Columbus to show the new “Cinerama” movies in 1960.

As we near S. Third St., we see the large Hartman Theater Building on our right and what has been called the “Old, Old Post Office” at the southeast corner of E. State and S. Third streets.

Looking South at the Intersection of East State and South Third Streets



Postcard Intersection of E. State and S. Third about 1914

This postcard photo is looking south from the Statehouse at the “Old, Old Post Office” and the Hartman Theatre Bldg. at the intersection of E. State and S. Third streets. The “Old, Old Post Office” was dedicated in 1887 and also held federal and district courts. It was enlarged and extensively remodeled in 1912 into the Victorian Gothic structure seen on the postcard. Although it remained in service until 1975, another post office (the “Old Post Office”) at 85 Marconi Blvd. opened in 1934. In 1969, a “New Post Office” was dedicated at Twin Rivers Drive.

The Hartman Theater Bldg., consisting of an office building and an attached theater at its southern side, were constructed in 1911 on the former site of the First Presbyterian Church. The entrance on E. State to both the theater and office building has a canopy visible on the building’s ground floor.

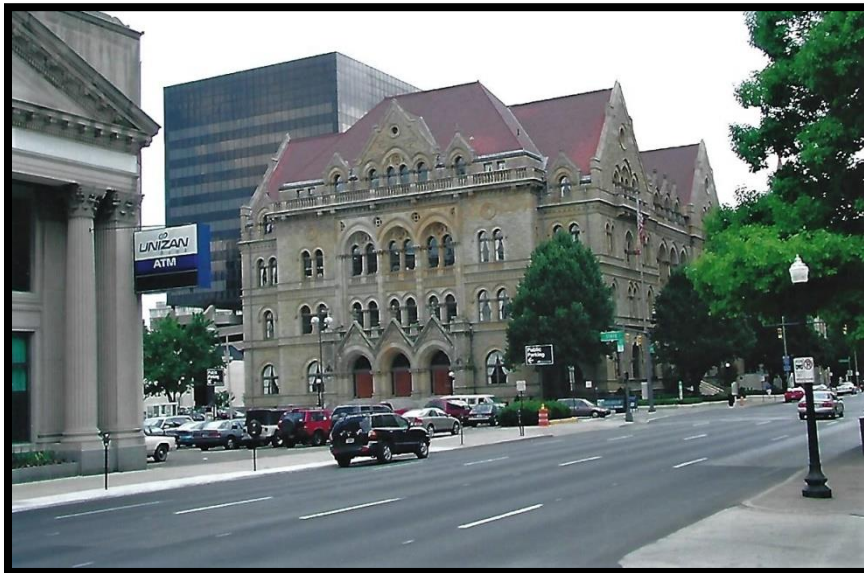
The theater was built by Dr. Samuel Hartman of Peruna fame (see pages 10-11) to please his daughter who was fond of theatrical productions. Its huge stage, 82 ft. wide by 45 ft. deep with multiple traps, was considered one of the largest stages outside of cities in the East. When built, it and the Great Southern Theater were considered Columbus’ finest legitimate theaters. Plays by Eugene O’Neil and James Thurber had their first performances at the Hartman. Famous personalities such Helen Hayes, Gertrude Lawrence, Al Jolson, George M. Cohan and the Barrymores graced its stage over the years.

The theater was demolished in 1971. The office building remained until 1981, when the site was cleared for the Hyatt on Capitol Square and the adjacent Capitol Square Skyscraper at 65 E. State St.



Intersection of E. State and S. Third in 1985

The former post office in 1985 looks essentially unchanged from the postcard. At the right is the Hyatt on Capitol Square, on the former site of the Hartman Theater Bldg. In 1989 it will be connected to the new Columbus City Center Mall.



Intersection of E. State and S. Third in 2005

This 2005 photo is taken from S. Third St., north of the previous photo. In 1986, after extensive remodeling, the Bricker & Ekler law firm moved into the former the post office. The Hyatt is still there but isn't seen.

On the left of the photo, the building with classic architecture that is partially seen was a former Central Ohio Federal Savings and Loan Bank at 66 S. Third St. Built in 1955, with its Corinthian columns and colorful indoor mural, it was designated a “Most Endangered Site” by the Columbus Landmarks Foundation in 2021.



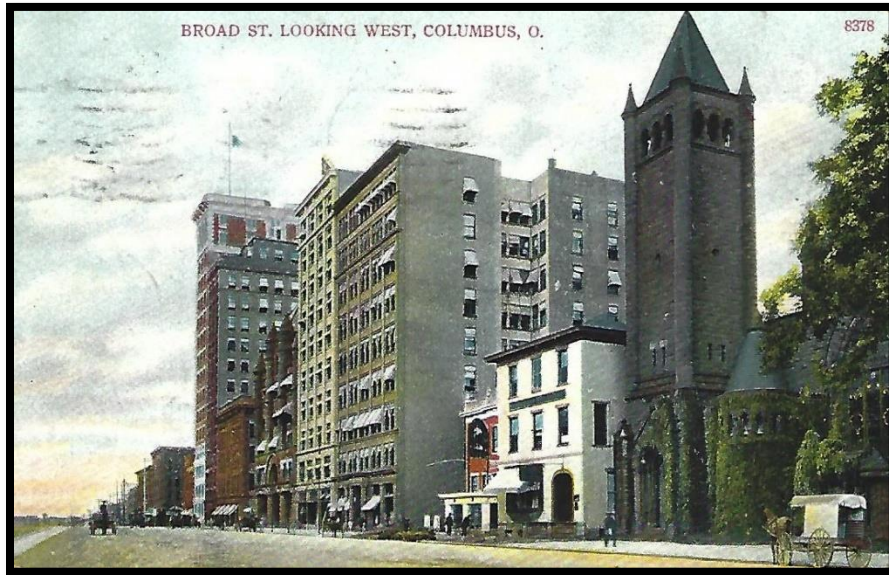
Intersection of E. State and S. Third in 2020

This 2020 photo is taken from approximately the same angle as the 1985 photo. Not much has changed with the outward appearance of the former post office, but in 2020 it is the Bricker Ekler Bldg., and over 100 attorneys of its law firm have offices in this location at 100 S. Third St. In August 2023, a merger with Cincinnati attorneys created a new law firm, Bricker Graydon LLP.

The Hyatt on Capitol Square is now a Sheraton Hotel. The Hyatt at this location went into receivership in 2011, two years after the closing of the City Center Mall, and was taken over by Sheraton Hotels and Resorts.

We continue our walk north on S. Third St., but travel back to 1908. We walk to E. Broad Street and look west. We are impressed by the number of tall buildings, most of which have been constructed in the past ten years. We talk about what an exciting a time it must have been in Columbus to witness all the new changes and developments that were happening.

East Broad Street Looking West from Third Street



Postcard East Broad West from Third about 1908

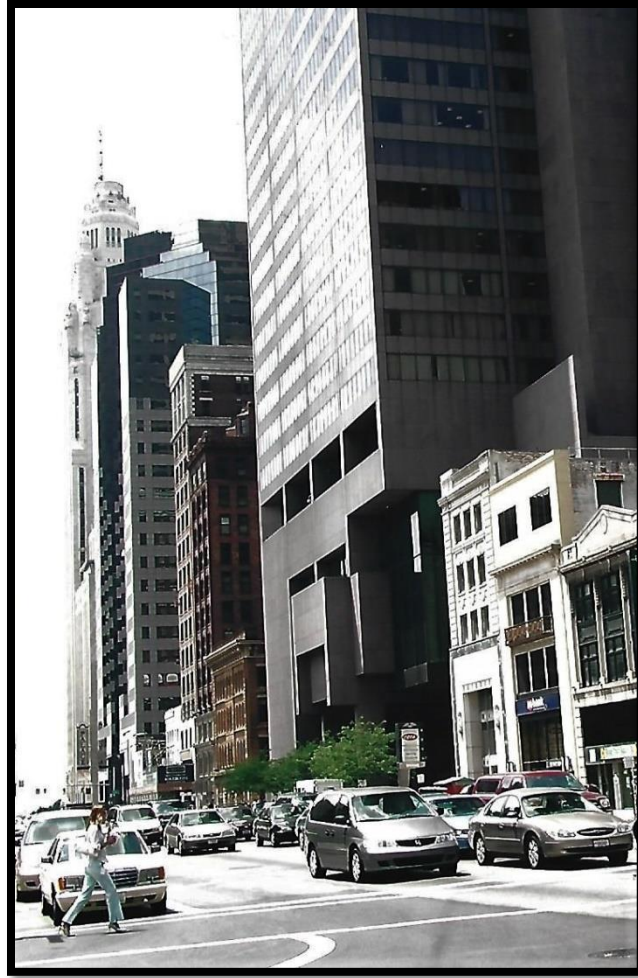
This postcard photo is looking west at East Broad St. from Third St. about 1908. The Statehouse is across Broad St. and not seen. At the right of the photo is the First Congregational Church, built in 1856. To its west at 68 E. Broad is a three-story, white office building with a sign for the Kossmann Dye House. Next to it is a partly visible, red-brick double residence that, at the time of this photo, housed the *Ohio Sun* at 62 E. Broad. The *Ohio Sun* was a daily morning newspaper with a brief existence from 1907 to 1909. Its publisher was C. C. Philbrick, one of the founders of the Columbus Charity Newsies. To its left is the nine-story Spahr Bldg. at 50 E. Broad, built in 1897. It housed the offices and presses of one of Columbus' main newspapers, the *Ohio State Journal*, from 1897 until 1920. Next to it is the Outlook Bldg., built in 1901.

The next building is the turreted Columbus Board of Trade Bldg, at 30 E. Broad and then the four-story Hayden-Clinton Bldg. built in 1869, which still stands today. Continuing on is the New Hayden Bldg., built in 1901. It was then the tallest building in Columbus until its neighbor, the Capitol Trust Bldg. with a flag on top—also called the Eight East Broad Bldg. and the State Savings and Trust Bldg.—was constructed in 1906.



East Broad West from Third in 1985

In 1985 the only buildings remaining from the postcard are the Capitol Trust, New Hayden and Hayden-Clinton. An office tower at the right of the photo, the Society Bank Bldg., constructed in 1963, is where the First Congregational Church once stood. To its west are three smaller commercial buildings and then the Rhodes State Office Tower, built in 1974. It is at the former site of the Columbus Board of Trade at 30 E. Broad St. and also occupies the previous locations of the Outlook and Spahr buildings. Looking farther west and across High St. is the LeVeque Tower, built in 1927.



East Broad West from Third in 2005

This photo is similar to the one in 1985 with the exception that One Columbus Center, a steel and glass exterior, high-rise building constructed in 1987 at 10 W. Broad St., now appears in front of the LeVeque Tower.

About the time of this photo, the Dispatch Printing Company purchased the weekly paper *Columbus Alive* and moved its offices into the middle of the three smaller buildings at the right of the photo. Its address was 62 E. Broad, the same address as the *Ohio Sun* newspaper on the 1908 postcard. The *Alive's* new location was a renovated, five-story building built in 1920. It was the building where the *Ohio State Journal* relocated after leaving the Spahr Bldg. that year. The *Journal* remained at 62 E. Broad until 1959 when it merged with the *Columbus Citizen* to form the *Citizen-Journal*.



East Broad West from Third in 2020

No major structures have been taken away or added since 2005. Scaffolding and construction are seen at the entrance of the Rhodes State Office Tower. It is undergoing “modernization,” as a sign by the building explains. On the right, the former Society Bank Bldg. is now the Key Bank Bldg.

In 2016, the *Columbus Dispatch*—then owned by GateHouse Media— moved its headquarters into 62 E. Broad St., the middle of the three small buildings seen to the left of a parking lot. As previously described, it was the same building occupied by the *Ohio State Journal* in the past. The *Dispatch* moved from its location at 34 S. Third St., where it had been since 1925. In 2022 the building was up for sale after the *Dispatch* transferred most of its functions elsewhere.

We continue our walk east on Broad from Third Street and reset our time to 1921. Looking down E. Broad we see the recently constructed Rowland Building at the northeast corner of Third and Broad streets, and across Lazelle St. is the Columbus Athletic Club. The men in our group are especially eager to explore the Athletic Club, one of the finest facilities of its type that combines athletic and social activities with the possibility of enhancing business and political contacts. Men can gather for activities in the gym, pool, squash or handball courts; relax in steam rooms; and then retire to a plush environment for drinks and fine meals. Some of the women in our

group are put-off by the exclusive men's club thing, but they mellow when they learn that women members have been welcome since the 1970s.

Looking East at Broad Street from Third Street



Postcard East on Broad from Third about 1921

At the left of this photo, the ornate Rowland Building, an office building with shops on its ground floor, was constructed in 1921, about the time of this photo. On the right of the photo is the Columbus Athletic Club, which opened in 1916 at 136 E. Broad St. This site had once been occupied by the Esther Institute, a female seminary.

The daughters of Ohio Governor Salmon P. Chase (1808-1873) attended the Esther Institute at this location in the 1850s. Governor Chase was one of the few statesmen to hold top positions in all three branches of the U.S. government: U.S. Senator from Ohio in the legislative branch; Chief Justice of the U.S. in the judicial branch; and U.S. Secretary of the Treasury in the executive branch.

This last appointment led to another noteworthy distinction—his portrait on U.S. \$10,000 bills, the highest denomination that is legal tender. Printed between 1928 and 1946, they are now collector items, and one “Chase” in pristine condition could pay for a college education. So if someone happens to find one, they shouldn't make the mistake of buying their lunch with it!



East on Broad from Third in 1985

The Athletic Club's western side has been altered in this 1985 photo. Visible on the western side of the building is one of three oriel windows with a green roof, a style of bay windows that were added in 1965. The high-rise building to the left of the Athletic Club replaced the Rowland Bldg. in 1965. It was then the City National Bank Bldg. In 1985 it's the Bank One Bldg. The high-rise building visible behind the Club is the Borden Bldg., constructed in 1974.



East on Broad from Third in 2005

The buildings in 2005 are essentially unchanged. There is a different entranceway to the Bank One Bldg. and more greenery along East Broad St.



Photo East on Broad from Third in 2020

The three oriel windows on the western side of the Columbus Athletic Club (the first three from the left) are clearly visible in this 2020 photo. The bank building to its left is now the Chase Bank Tower, and plywood is seen covering its entrance for renovation. The Borden Bldg., beyond the club at 180 E. Broad St., has become the Continental Plaza. The Athletic Club promotes itself today as one of the most unique Downtown family athletic clubs in the country and offers a variety of family memberships at its facility.

We turn around and start walking west on Broad toward High Street. By now it's lunch time and we are thinking of a good place to eat. I suggest Italian food at Marzetti's Restaurant on the ground floor of the New Hayden Building. We expected that we would need to buy lunch and managed to find older paper money on eBay—the same place we got most of our time-appropriate clothes. So I reset our travel machine to 1948, which seems a good year because the Cleveland Indians took the World Series that year. We walk to 16 E. Broad Street and enter the restaurant's dining room—an attractive space with pillars, chandeliers, and tables covered with white cloths.



Postcard of Marzetti's Dining Room in 1940s

Marzetti's had previously been on Gay Street and moved to 16 E. Broad St. in 1940. It was a popular restaurant throughout the 1960s, but it closed its doors in 1972 upon the death of its matriarch and co-founder, Teresa Marzetti. It's remembered today in Marzetti's salad dressings available nationwide and in a recipe called Johnny Marzetti—a beef and noodle casserole.

Following an excellent meal at Marzetti's Restaurant with too much food, we continue to High Street and look back at the buildings on East Broad Street. These are the same buildings we saw while standing at Third Street. We reset our time to 1911.

Looking East on Broad Street from High Street



Postcard East on Broad from High 1911

This photo from 1911 shows not only the buildings on the north side of E. Broad, but the northeast corner of Broad and High as well. It's an interesting shot taken at a height from either the Wheeler or Wyandotte building on W. Broad. It shows the busy activities at the intersection with pedestrians, horse-drawn carriages, early motorized vehicles and an electric streetcar crossing Broad St. Tall poles with telephone and electric wires cross High St. on the left bottom corner of the photo and surround an electric arch.

Columbus was becoming electrified and connected. In 1891, the first electric streetcars appeared on High, Main, Long and Mt. Vernon streets. By 1914, three years after this photo, the city would boast 140 miles of electric streetcar routes within the city limits, and there would be several telephone companies serving the city. In 1914 there were electric coffee percolators, electric irons, fans, toasters, ovens, lamps and water heaters—many of the same electrical comforts of home today.

Looking at the buildings on the north side of E. Broad, from the left is the four-story corner commercial building. Then there are buildings previously described: the tall Capitol Trust, and next to it the New Hayden; then the four-story Hayden-Clinton, and across Pearl St., the turreted Columbus Chamber of Commerce Bldg., which before 1909 was the Columbus Board of Trade; then the taller Outlook Bldg., Spahr Bldg., a small white office building, and at the end of the line is the First Congregational Church at the northwest corner of Broad and Third.

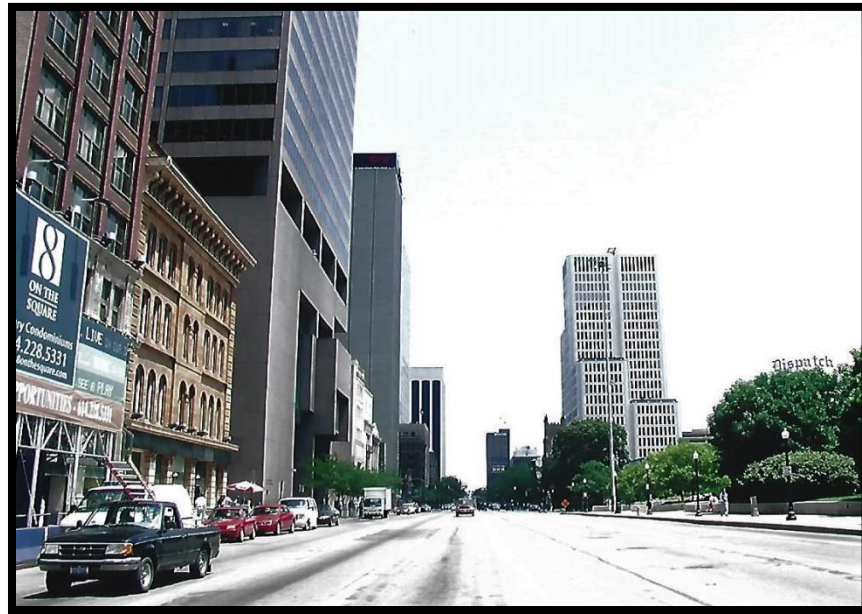
A sign for the Victoria Theater dates the photo. It is seen extending from the Chamber of Commerce, and a large hand on a sign on the four-story corner building points the way. The Victoria Theater provided vaudeville and other entertainment at the Chamber of Commerce auditorium for about one year, closing in 1911.



East on Broad from High in 1985

At the left of this 1985 photo, a portion of the New Hayden Bldg. is seen and then a full view of the four-story Hayden-Clinton Bldg. at 20 E. Broad St. Its style is considered “plain” High Victorian Italianate, and its sandstone front looks spiffy years after its 1920 ground-floor remodeling. It was constructed in 1869 and remains the oldest building on Capitol Square. It houses a branch of the State Savings Bank, which merged into the Fifth Third Bank of Columbus in 1998. The Unity Episcopal Church was at this site from 1839 to 1869. Unity Episcopal Church then moved to its present location at the southeast corner of E. Broad and S. Third.

Looking past the Hayden-Clinton and across Pearl St., the large Rhodes State Office Tower occupies the location of the former Columbus Chamber of Commerce Bldg. and also takes up the previous sites of the Outlook and Spahr buildings. There are three small commercial buildings and then the Society Bank Bldg. at the former site of the First Congregational Church.



East on Broad from High in 2005

Structures are essentially unchanged in this 2005 photo. There is an advertisement on the New Hayden Bldg. for condos called “8 on the Square,” which will be built in the Capitol Trust Bldg. Across Broad St., past the Statehouse grounds, is the multi-tiered National City Plaza, an office building constructed in 1976 at 155 E. Broad St. In 2020 it will be the PNC Bank Bldg. The top of the *Columbus Dispatch* sign from its building at 34 S. Third St. is seen above the Statehouse trees.



East on Broad from High in 2020

This 2020 photo has poles and street-lights blocking a clear view, but there is still much to see. Seques are grouped together for rental at the southwest corner of Broad and High.

The four-story corner building has been rebuilt, and the Capitol Trust Bldg. has undergone extensive renovations as part of a Broad and High Project, a capital improvement project by private companies (see page 47). The Capitol Trust Bldg. has been converted to “8 on the Square” condominiums. Balconies are visible on the western face of the building. The entrance facing Broad St. is distinguished by a marquee in the photo. Both the Hayden and Hayden-Clinton buildings are undergoing renovation, and a window sign advertises “exceptional office space” to be available in 2018. But it’s October 2020 and the buildings are closed, and renovation equipment is behind the windows. Delays of this type were likely influenced by the COVID-19 pandemic.

Looking farther down Broad St., the entrance to the Rhodes State Office Tower and its sidewalk are closed due to construction. Scaffolds on the building indicate that the “modernization” explained on signs is underway. The previous Society Bank Bldg. is now the Key Bank Bldg.

Our group resets our time-machine to 1914 as we stand at Broad and High, the crossroads of the City of Columbus, gazing around in awe. Addresses on High Street going north and south originate here, as do addresses going east and west on Broad Street. In 1914, the State Capital was less than one-hundred years old. Columbus became a new “infant Capital” in 1816 with a population of less than 1,000. It experienced rapid growth, and by 1914 it had a population of approximately 205,000. Key factors contributing to its growth were its location on the Scioto River, a tributary of the Ohio River; an 11-mile feeder canal, completed in 1831 to connect with the Ohio-Erie Canal; the National Road (now U.S. 40) that reached Columbus at about the same time; and passenger trains beginning in 1850.

Looking at the Southwest Corner of Broad and High Streets



Postcard Southwest Corner of Broad and High about 1914

In this 1914 postcard, the five-story Huntington Bank Bldg., built in 1878, is at the southwest corner of Broad and High streets. When built, it was Columbus’ tallest building and contained a weather station. To its right, looking west on W. Broad, is the tall Wheeler office building constructed in 1895. The Wyandotte Bldg. is the next tall building, completed in 1897 at 21 W. Broad St. The year of the postcard, 1914, was the first year that automobile production in the U.S. was greater than horse-drawn carriages and wagons.

South of the Huntington Bank, to its left in the photo, are three commercial buildings. The first two were early constructions, built about 1840. The fourth building is the tall Harrison Bldg., built in 1903. Just across Capital Alley is the Neil House Hotel at 41 S. High St., the second hotel by that name on this site. It was built in 1862 after a fire destroyed the first. It will be replaced by a more luxurious third Neil House Hotel in 1925, which was razed in 1981 to make room for the Huntington Center that retained the Neil House address.



Southwest Corner of Broad and High in 1985

In this 1985 photo, a covered outdoor “Mall” is at the old Huntington Bank site, and there is a newer Huntington Bank to its left, built in 1926 at 17 S. High. The Harrison Bldg. was incorporated into its southern portion. The Neil House Hotel is gone. Across the space that was once Capital Alley, a sliver of the new Huntington Center, constructed in 1984, is visible. The Wyandotte Bldg. on the right looks unchanged and unfazed.



Southwest Corner of Broad and High in 2005

In this 2005 photo, more of the building next to the Wyandotte at the right of the photo, the Huntington Plaza built in 1965, can be seen. The Huntington “Mall” has undergone a renovation

and now displays Huntington Bank's name and logo. A 1992 bronze and stainless steel, abstract sculpture, *Intersect*, by artist Stephen Canneto, rests in the foreground at the center of the photo.



Southwest Corner of Broad and High in 2020

The “Mall,” at 1 South High St., has been enlarged in this 2020 photo and houses a Mexican restaurant, Cinco Tacos, with a small dining area. A pizza restaurant on the ground floor of the Huntington Bank Bldg., Pizza Rustica, is accessible from the Mall. A cluster of Seques are for rent at the corner to the left of a light pole.

Our group now turns its attention to another Broad and High corner, the northeast corner.

Looking at Northeast Corner of Broad and High Streets



Postcard Northeast Corner of Broad and High about 1909

This view is almost identical to the one used for looking down East Broad Street in 1911, and few comments are needed for the buildings on E. Broad. There is no sign for the Victoria Theatre, which operated from 1910 to 1911 at the Columbus Chamber of Commerce (former Columbus Board of Trade Bldg.) at 30 E. Broad. The absence of the sign and a 1910 postmark (unseen) place its year about 1909. Electric-light arches on High St., which would have been visible in 1909, were most likely erased during the photographic process for aesthetic reasons (see explanation on page five for dating postcards).

The commercial establishments on N. High St. to the left of the corner about this time would have included a milk store at 2 N. High, the NY Dairy Lunch at 8 N. High, and the Windsor Café and Perfecto Cigar Co. at 20 N. High.



Northeast Corner of Broad and High in 1985

In 1985, the four-story, brick corner building is vacant and is undergoing construction. The tip of a crane is in the upper left corner of the photo. People in our group recall that Roy's Jewelers occupied this spot for many years—from 1920 to 1985, the year of this photo, The Capitol Trust, New Hayden and the Hayden-Clinton buildings are seen. Across Pearl St., the Rhodes State Office Tower looms tall.

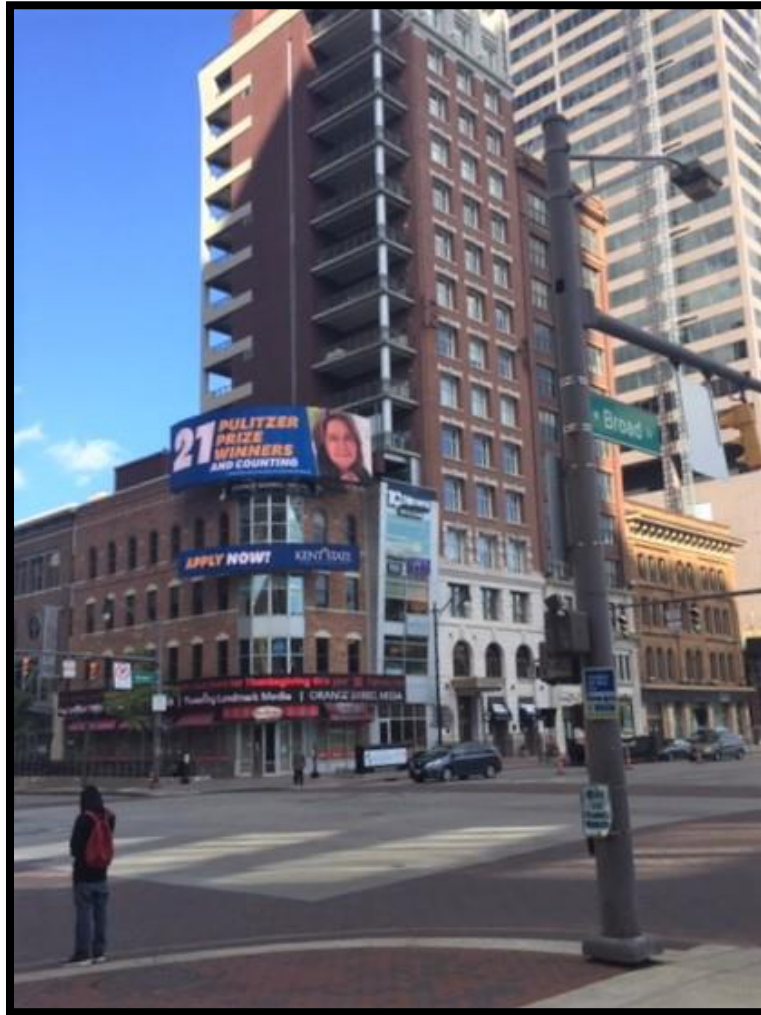


Photo Northeast Corner of Broad and High in 2005

Buildings at the northeast corner of Broad and High are undergoing construction. Signs on the corner building have photos of the Capitol Trust and the New Hayden as they will look after renovation. There is an ad for future “8 on the Square” condominiums at the Capitol Trust Bldg. All are part of the Broad and High Project mentioned previously. Another sign announces this site as “Future Home NBC4 Studios.”

The Broad and High Project was a redevelopment project by private enterprise led by the Don Casto Co. The four-story corner building, which previously housed Roy’s Jewelers, was demolished and a new four-story retail space was constructed. WCMH-NBC TV (Channel 4) committed to the project with plans to broadcast news from a studio in the building. The centerpiece of the \$30 million plan was the conversion of the 16-story Capitol Trust Bldg., built in 1906, into upscale 1,400- to 2,800-sq.ft. condominiums. When this 2005 photo was taken, the building had been vacant for two years after city inspectors declared it unsafe. The conversion also included new underground parking, stairways and balconies. Construction was completed in 2008.

In this 2005 photo, the Key Bank Bldg. at the northwest corner of Broad and Third, has replaced the Society Bank Bldg. and is seen behind the Rhodes State Office Tower



Northeast Corner of Broad and High in 2020

The four-story corner building was rebuilt in 2007, and the Capitol Trust Bldg. has been renovated into condominiums, “8 on the Square,” with balconies visible and a new marquee entrance. At the time of this 2020 photo, Tim Hortons was the most recent occupant of the corner building’s ground floor at 2 E. Broad. WBNS-10 TV controls an illuminated news ticker that crawls around the corner day and night.

Earlier in 2007, at the completion of this part of the High and Broad Project, there was an extensive media display on the new four-story corner building. These included two tickers and six video screens, one of which was an impressive 68 ft.by 15 ft. video screen on its roof that wrapped around the corner. One of the tickers was operated by the Huntington National Bank and the other by WCMH –NBC TV (Channel 4). In 2020, only one news ticker remains from the elaborate display along with several electronic billboards.

In 2008, Channel 4 began broadcasting several of its morning news and afternoon shows from a studio in the building that were shown on outside screens. It called itself *NBC 4 on the Square*. However, it ceased this project in 2011 and leased its space to WBNS-10 TV.

Standing at the crossroads of Columbus, our group is eager to visit the Deshler Hotel at the northwest corner of Broad and High, and we reset our travel-time to 1916. We are eager for two reasons: the hotel, which opened that year, was one of the most luxurious hotels in Ohio; the other reason is that we hope to catch a glimpse of John G. Deshler (1852-1929), its builder and owner. Our group became familiar with him because of a letter he wrote in 1915. We had all read his letter, which is readily accessible on the Internet.

In 1915 when ground was broken for the Deshler Hotel, Mr. Deshler placed several items in its cornerstone. One was a letter written by him on August 2, 1915, in which he wondered what life would be like when his letter was read. He estimated that his building would last 75 years, but the building was razed after 54 years in 1969 and his letter recovered. Here are some excerpts:

“TO THE OWNER OF THIS PROPERTY WHEN THIS BOX IS OPENED—I would like to be with you...so as to be able to see some of the wonderful changes that will take place and know about the surprising developments that will be made in art, science and mechanics...I doubt very much if you will really be any happier than we are...but you will know so much more. I wonder how far you will develop the use of electricity; to what point aerial navigation will be practically used...I wonder how you will live and what you will talk about; whether you will drink beer and whiskey and smoke tobacco....I wonder whether your men will play cards, pool, billiards, and take a social drink or two or three!... I hope you will enjoy building your house as much as I have enjoyed the building you are destroying.

With my kindest regards and very best wishes, I remain,
Yours very sincerely and regretfully, John G. Deshler”

“Aerial navigation” is what he wrote! I guess there was no concept of “airplane travel” just a little more than a decade after the Wright Brothers. Wouldn’t he be surprised how “practical” it’s become? Given his comments about social drinking, I wonder what he thought about Prohibition in 1919, just a few years after his letter?

Of course if we run into Mr. Deshler at his hotel, we don’t dare talk about any of these future events, no matter how tempting. We all saw the *Back to the Future* movies and wouldn’t want to be responsible for a cosmic time upheaval or an alternate reality to keep us from getting back to the future we left!

Looking at Northwest Corner of Broad and High Streets



Postcard Northwest Corner of Broad and High about 1917

This postcard shows the Deshler Hotel, completed in 1916, at the northwest corner of Broad and High. The Deshler family owned this site since 1817 and built two family residences on it. Later a variety of businesses occupied this location that became known as the Deshler Block. The buildings were razed in 1915 to make room for the Deshler Hotel.

The 12-story building had an exterior of brick and terra cotta. The hotel boasted 400 rooms—350 with private baths. There were three dining rooms and a large ballroom. One of the dining rooms, the Ionian Room, had dancing every evening to the Hotel Deshler Orchestra.

Several vehicles are seen outside the building, and at least one appears to be a Model T Ford. Model Ts were produced between 1908 and 1927 and were very popular for their durability and affordable prices. However, automobiles in the early 1900s were not nearly as reliable as cars today.

One of the women in our group collects old sheet music to play on her piano. She said that one of the biggest hits around this time had to do with the frequent breakdown of automobiles. The song, from 1913, was “He’d Have to Get Under—Get Out and Get Under (To Fix Up His Automobile).”



She said the words went something like this: “He’d have to get under, get out and get under, to fix up his little machine. He was just dying to cuddle his queen, but every minute, when he’d begin it, he’d have to get under, etc....A dozen times they would hug and kiss, and then the darned ol’ engine it would miss, and he’d have to get under, etc....”

In 1927, when the American Insurance Union (A.I.U.) Citadel (now the LeVeque Tower) opened next to the Deshler Hotel, an enclosed “Venetian Bridge” across Wall Street allowed patrons access between the two structures. The capacity of the Deshler was increased by an additional 600 rooms in the Citadel, making a total of 1,000 rooms for the newly named Deshler-Wallick Hotel! In 1952 the Deshler-Wallick became the Deshler-Hilton, with several more hyphenated names to follow. Business gradually declined with the opening of new hotels in Columbus. It closed in 1968 and was demolished the following year. The site remained a parking lot for 16 years until development began for One Columbus Center.



Northwest Corner of Broad and High in 2020

Seen in this 2020 photo, One Columbus Center, completed in 1987, is at the previous site of the Deshler Hotel. The 25-story office building, with an address of 10 West Broad St., has a fitness center, a conference center, and a penthouse lounge with a large outdoor deck overlooking the city. US Bank has branch and regional offices here, with a large sign at the top of the building.

I think Mr. Deshler would be amazed and pleased to see what replaced his Deshler Hotel. In his day, the tallest buildings had exteriors of stone and brick. One Columbus Center's exterior is a maze of steel and glass, and the convoluted design allows for more corner offices.

We continue to walk west on W. Broad Street about half a block to get a good look at another structure that Mr. Deshler and his Deshler Bank had a major role in financing. This is the Wyandotte Bldg. at 21 West Broad Street. Constructed in 1897, it's Downtown's oldest continuous office building. We set our time to 1902.

Looking at Wyandotte Building at 21 West Broad Street



Postcard Wyandotte Building 21 W. Broad about 1902

Postcard is of the Wyandotte Bldg. about 1902, a few years after it opened in 1897. Built to be fireproof, the 11-story building was the city's first steel-framed "skyscraper" and the tallest building in Columbus when it opened. When completed, it had two elevators, steam heat and electric lighting. The Wyandotte Building and Loan Co. was one of its first occupants.

It was designed by the famous Chicago architect Daniel H. Burnham, who also designed the Columbus Union Station in 1893. It is considered an example of "Chicago School" design and displays Chicago-style bay windows that gain light when there is little space between buildings.

To the left of the building, looking east toward High St., are two small commercial buildings and then the Wheeler Bldg. Completed in 1895, the Wheeler was Columbus' tallest building for two

years until the Wyandotte opened. Looking farther east is the spire of the Huntington Bank Bldg. at the corner of Broad and High.

There are no major changes in the outward appearance of the Wyandotte over the years. The changes have all been inside and with the buildings surrounding it. So to save time, our group decides to fast forward to the present year, 2020.



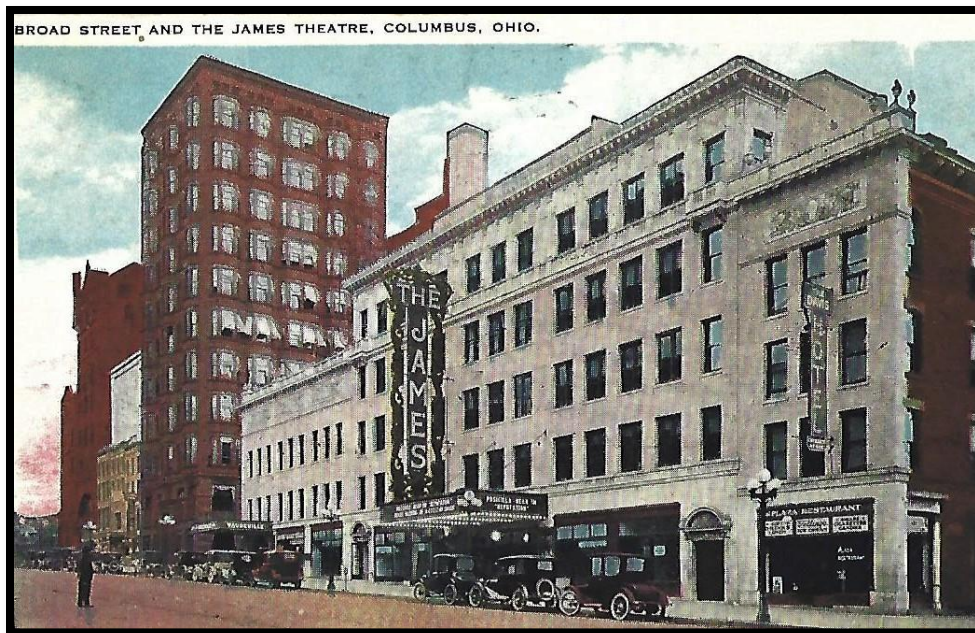
Wyandotte Building 21 W. Broad in 2020

The Wyandotte exterior looks basically unchanged after more than 120 years, and it is still an office building. It was purchased from John G. Deshler in 1916 by the state, which continued to have offices here until the Rhodes State Office Tower opened in 1974. It was privately purchased at a 1977 public auction to save the building, and underwent a major renovation in 1979. In 2014 its owner became The Huntington National Bank. To the left of the building is part of the Huntington Bank Bldg. at 17 N. High St., and behind the Wyandotte is the Huntington Center, built 1984. The Riffe State Office Tower, built in 1988, is seen to the right of the Wyandotte.

We remain at the same location and travel to 1923. We are eager to see the James Theater, Columbus' first grand movie theater. Its interior is said to be breathtaking, with high, glazed plaster ceiling decorations, lighting of different colors, and white Italian marble staircases. We heard that the distance from the projection booth to the screen is 140 feet, and that special lenses were crafted for the projector to send the sharpest images possible.

We had hoped to be able to look inside the theater, but it's closed at this time of day. We were advised to return later, but that, of course, is impossible for this group.

Looking East at West Broad Street from Front Street



Postcard East at West Broad from Front about 1923

Scene is looking east about 1923 at the south side of W. Broad St. from Front St. The James Theater was located here from 1921 to 1927—across Broad from where the Palace Theater is today. In 1927 it became the Loew's Broad. The building to its left (east) is occupied by another theater, the Broadway Theater that opened in 1911. Its marquee is visible advertising vaudeville. On the Broadway's roof, not visible in this daytime photo, is a large animated electric sign of a woman skipping with a rose-garland rope while standing on a horse! Looking farther east is the Wyandotte and other buildings described in previous photos.

The James Theater sign pictured in the postcard was one of the most elaborate theater signs in the Midwest with 3,000 flashing bulbs. The theater boasted a seating capacity of 3,100—more than today's Ohio and Palace theaters. As such, it was in the same category as other grand movie palaces of the silent era that were built about the same time, such as the huge Capitol Theater in New York City that opened in 1919.

Although we often think of a single piano or organ accompanying silent films, many major theaters had full orchestras. The James Theater advertised a symphony orchestra of 35 musicians conducted by Fred L. Neddermeyer—a highly regarded Columbus musician with extensive conducting experience, including opera in Detroit. Neddermeyer was musical director of the James Theater Orchestra from opening night in 1921 until his death in 1924, when he was succeeded by Maurice Sharr.

When silent films came to an end in the late 1920s and movie soundtracks replaced theater orchestras, the American Federation of Musicians estimated that as many as 18,000 musicians nationwide were displaced from their jobs.



East on West Broad from Front in 1985

In this 1985 photo, the entire south side of West Broad St. from Wall St. to Front St., including the previous sites of the James and Broadway theaters, has been replaced by the 12-story Huntington Trust Bldg. It was constructed in 1965 at 37 W. Broad St. It was renamed the Huntington Plaza Bldg. about the time of this photo



East on West Broad from Front in 2005

This scene in 2005 is essentially unchanged from the 1985 photo. There is a good view of the unusual construction at the base of the Huntington Plaza. West Broad St. slopes downward toward the Scioto River. In order for the building to be level, it is built on a foundation that raises its western end by the height of about one story.

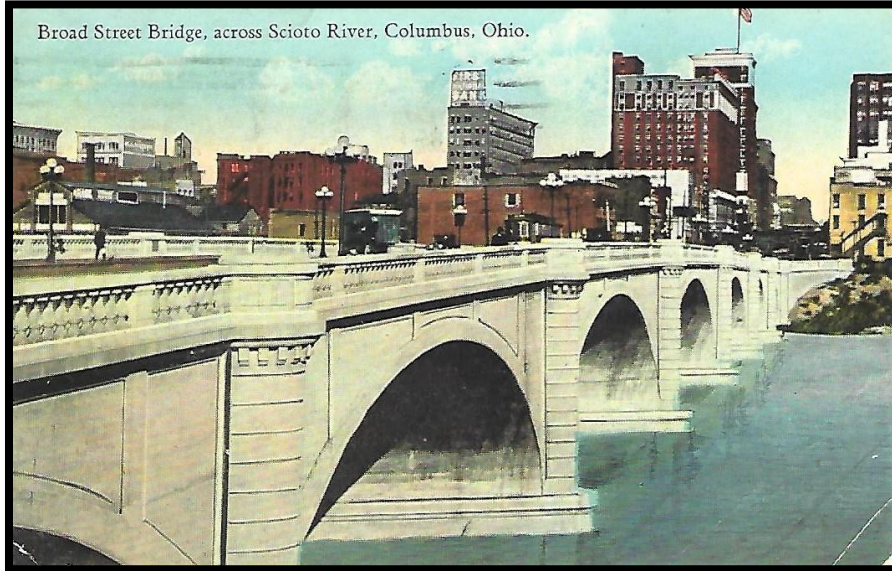


East on West Broad from Front in 2020

This photo shows a different angle from previous ones. Wall Street separates the Wyandotte Bldg. from the Huntington Plaza, with only a portion of it showing to the right of the photo. To the left of the Wyandotte is the Huntington Bank Bldg. and behind it is the Huntington Center.

At this point, our group decides to continue our walk over the Broad Street Bridge and get a view of the Downtown area from across the Scioto River. We reset our time to 1923.

Looking East at Columbus from across the Scioto River



Postcard Columbus across the Scioto about 1923

This photo shows the Columbus skyline about 1923 looking east over the Broad Street Bridge from the west bank of the Scioto River. At the extreme right of the photo is the tall Wyandotte Bldg. Across Broad St. is the tallest building in the photo, the Capitol Trust Bldg. at the northeast corner of Broad and High; it has a flag flying from its roof. In front of the Capitol Trust is the 12-story Deshler Hotel at the northwest corner.

In front of the Deshler, at a site soon to be occupied by the American Insurance Union (A.I.U.) Citadel, is the Colonial Theater and the long, four-story, red-brick A.I.U. "Temple" Bldg. and Auditorium. The Colonial's marquee is barely visible in the photo. It was built in 1909 and demolished along with the A.I.U. Bldg. in 1926 to make way for the A.I.U. Citadel.

Moving to the top of the photo, at about its center is the First National Bank Bldg. with a large sign on its roof. It was built in 1910 at 33 N. High St. The last building at the left, partially visible, is the Columbus Savings and Trust Bldg. It was constructed in 1905 at the northeast corner of High and Long and is identified by the terra cotta facing on its top floors. The Broad Street Bridge in this photo was constructed between 1918 and 1921.



Across the Scioto in 1985

The white rectangular building across the river at the right of this 1985 photo is the Ohio Department of Transportation Bldg., constructed in 1965. Across Broad Street is the Rhodes State Office Tower at 30 E. Broad St., Columbus' tallest building at 629 ft. It appears to be dwarfed by the LeVeque Tower, a telescope-style, Modernistic skyscraper with a height of 555.5 ft. The last six inches were added to make it taller than the Washington Monument. When built in 1927, it was said to be the fifth tallest building in the world.

Looking farther left (north) on the photo, to the right of a light pole, is the Columbus Savings and Trust Bldg., then known as the Atlas Bldg. It occupies numbers 130-140 N. High St. The Brunson Building at 145 N. High St. is to the left of the pole. We'll become better acquainted with these two Downtown landmarks when we continue our walk north on High St.

The LeVeque Tower was the American Insurance Union (A.I.U.) Citadel when it was constructed in 1927. However, the A.I.U. went into difficult times as most insurance-related companies did during the Great Depression and never recovered. In 1945 it was sold at auction, and its buyers were entrepreneurs John C. Lincoln and Leslie L. LeVeque. By 1946 the Citadel had a new name: the LeVeque-Lincoln Tower. It became the LeVeque Tower in 1977 when Katherine LeVeque became its sole owner following the death of her husband, Frederick LeVeque (Leslie LeVeque's son), in a plane crash in 1975.

The LeVeque Tower is home to one of Columbus' palatial theaters, the Palace Theater. It opened in 1926 as part of the A.I.U. Citadel complex as the Keith-Albee Palace and became the RKO (Radio-Keith-Orpheum) Palace in 1929. In 1975 the Palace ceased showing movies. In recent years, after an extensive 1980 renovation, it has presented performances by the Columbus Symphony Orchestra, the Columbus Opera, the Columbus Jazz Arts Group, Broadway musicals,

concerts and other stage attractions. Today it is the Columbus Palace Theater and its ownership and management since 1989 has been the Columbus Association for Performing Arts (CAPA).



Across the Scioto in 2005

This 2005 photo shows the 1992 replacement bridge over the Scioto that featured shallower arches. Several new high-rise buildings are seen. New buildings are from the right of the photo: the Riffe State Office Tower at 77 S. High St., constructed in 1988, and to its left, the Huntington Center at 41 S. High St., constructed in 1984. Directly behind the LeVeque Tower is another high-rise, One Columbus Center at the northwest corner of Broad and High. Built in 1987, it was constructed on the site of the Deshler Hotel. Behind it is the Rhodes State Office Tower.



Across the Scioto in 2020

This photo was taken from Columbus' Genoa Park, located at the west end of the Broad Street Bridge. No significant changes can be seen from the 2005 photo. No high-rise buildings were constructed in the heart of Downtown after the 1990s. The white building at the end of the bridge on the right, which was the Department of Transportation building, now houses the Ohio Department of Education at 25 S. Front Street. The building behind it is the Huntington Plaza at 37 W. Broad St.

Extensive changes have occurred inside and outside the LeVeque Tower. It now houses the LeVeque Tower Residences and the Hotel LeVeque at 50 W. Broad St., a 150-room boutique hotel managed by Marriott's exclusive Autograph Collection. Interior and exterior renovations have produced a multipurpose facility with apartments, condominiums, a restaurant, hotel and penthouse suites.

We now have to make a decision whether we will take a short walk to 379 W. Broad Street and go back in time to see the earliest version of the Toledo and Ohio Central Railroad station. Its very strange pagoda-style architecture earned it a reputation as "the most unusual building in Columbus." However, none of our group are railroad fanciers, and although tempted they prefer to spend the time we have exploring the north end of Downtown Columbus. They suggest I go by myself at a later day, which somehow I managed to do.

Toledo and Ohio Central Railroad Station



Postcard Toledo and Ohio Central Railroad Station about 1907

This postcard shows the T&OC railroad station at 379 W. Broad St. about 1907 in its earliest version. It began operation in 1896 as a depot for the railroad, which ran from Southern Ohio to Toledo, connecting the coalfields of southeastern Ohio with Lake Erie. Railroad executives had decided to separate from Columbus Union Station and build an ornate structure of their own to demonstrate their success.

Across the tracks to the right is the Macklin Hotel with a similar architectural style. It was built before the T&OC depot, and its style was imitated for the railroad station by well-known architects Frank Packard and Joseph Yost. The Macklin Hotel evolved into a number of restaurants and was demolished in 1955.

In 1930, T&OC's functions were transferred to Union Station by the New York Central, which had leased the railroad since 1922.



Toledo and Ohio Central Railroad Station in 1985

Following the closing of the depot, the building was purchased by the Volunteers of America in 1931, who continued to occupy this location for over 70 years until 2003. It provided temporary shelter for the homeless as well as office space for the organization. Their name on the back of a truck is visible at the bottom left of the photo.

In this 1985 photo, the railroad tracks have been elevated to extend over Broad Street, a project completed in 1911 to accommodate increased traffic on the road. The four iron clocks on the sides of the tower are gone.



Toledo and Ohio Central Railroad Station in 2005

The building is vacant in this 2005 photo. The Volunteers of America sold the building to the City of Columbus in 2003, and its future in 2005 depends on finding an organization willing to develop and repurpose the structure.



Toledo and Ohio Central Railroad Station in 2020

In 2007, the building was purchased by the International Association of Firefighters Local 67 for offices and a reception hall for its 1,600 members. The outside and inside of the building were extensively renovated, and in 2020 it houses union offices and Station 67, a banquet hall and venue for weddings and other events.

Our group now sets our time to 1923 and we continue our journey from Broad and High. We walk one block north on N. High St. to Gay Street and are impressed by the number of stores and thriving commercial activity. Downtown Columbus was a vibrant place to visit and shop in the 1920s, long before suburban stores, the malls and the Internet drained business from urban centers. We look all the way to Spring Street, where we see the pyramid-type, roof turrets of the Chittenden Hotel at the far left. We know that in our time, this is where the William Green Building will be located.

Some of us are especially interested in seeing the White-Haines Building at 80-84 N. High St. Built in 1913, it is still standing in 2020 but was condemned in 2004. And it was in the news

only a few weeks before we took this time-trip. It was named for its original tenant, the White-Haines Optical Company, a company that manufactured and supplied wholesale eyeglasses and other optical instruments.

High Street Looking North from Gay Street



Postcard High North from Gay Street about 1923

This postcard from about 1923 shows the busy activity at this location. At the right of the photo is a corner of the Dispatch Bldg. The *Columbus Dispatch* occupied this northeast corner of Gay and High from 1895 to 1925. Just north of it is a sign for C.W. Taylor Optician, who had offices in the Dispatch Annex at 70 N. High. The White-Haines Bldg., at 80-84 N. High St, is the taller, third building from the corner. At the time of this photo, Madison's Ladies' Wear was located there.

On the left (west) side of High is the United Woolen Mills Bldg., which housed the Jefferson Billiard Parlor and Kraemer's Restaurant. The thin marquee of the Hippodrome Theater, a movie theater at 77 N. High from 1914 to 1933, is visible just north of the building that has a C.C. Winan Furs sign on its upper floors. Farther down the left side of the photo is the white building of the Union Co., a department store at 131 N. High St. It has a large electric sign on its roof. The Union Co. opened here as a men's clothing store in 1895. It was rebuilt after a fire and added onto in 1909 to create this six-story building. Behind the Union is the tall Brunson Bldg., constructed in 1905 at 145 N. High St. Farther on the left are the pyramid-style turrets of the Chittenden Hotel at the northwest corner of Spring and High.



High North from Gay Street in 1985

In 1985 the former Dispatch Bldg. at the right is an office building with its bottom floor occupied by a Hallmark Gift Shop. The sign for Madison's Department Store at 72-76 N. High hangs to the right of the taller White-Haines Bldg. identified on the postcard.

A number of buildings at the left of the photo have been demolished. There is a vacant lot at the northwest corner of Gay and High in front of a S.S. Kresge Department Store. Behind the white Union Bldg. and the Brunson Bldg. is the tall One Nationwide Plaza, built in 1976. The Union Department Store left this location in 1968 and moved to a larger building at 130 S. High St. across from Lazarus. Its previous home is now an office building.



High North from Gay Street in 2005

In this 2005 photo, Madison’s Department Store on the right at 72-76 N. High, which had been at this location for over 60 years, is vacant. The White-Haines Building, two buildings to its north (left) at 80-84 N. High, was condemned the year before this photo was taken. In 2019, this row of three buildings, which include the middle commercial building at 78 N. High, was designated a “Most Endangered Site” by the Columbus Landmarks Foundation.

On the left of the photo, the northwest corner of Gay and High continues to be vacant. Behind the white Union Bldg. is the William Green Building, a 33-story government building built in 1990 on the northwest corner of Spring and High. Its low-rise extension occupies the corner spot of the former Chittenden Hotel. To the right of the William Green is a renovated Brunson Building. One Nationwide Plaza appears at the end of High St. on the left.

In 1993, the Union Building was purchased by the Southeast Community Mental Health Center for offices, with plans to lease additional space to government and private businesses. The building underwent a major renovation in 1996. Southeast Healthcare Counseling and Mental Health Services continues to have a presence here in 2024.



High North from Gay Street in 2020

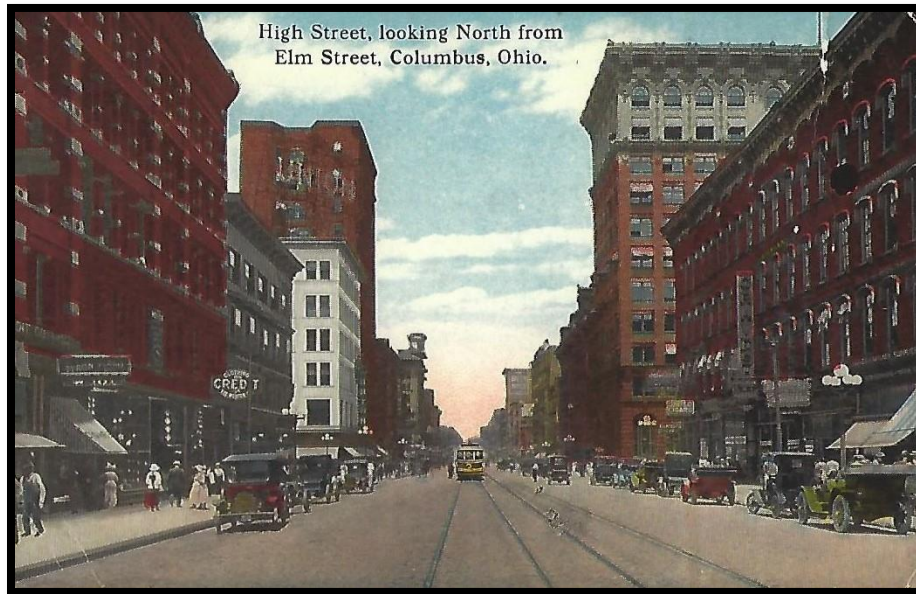
In this 2020 photo, the Madison and White-Haines Bldgs., previously described, are on the right side of the photo and continue to be vacant. They are just north of the old Dispatch corner building, whose ground floor is also vacant. In August 2020, the White-Haines and Madison Bldgs. were awarded Ohio Preservation Tax Credits, with the hope of providing an added incentive for a developer to rescue them.

In July 2021, it was announced that a developer was submitting plans to build a 14-story apartment building that would stretch south from an empty lot at 100 N. High St. and include renovations to the White-Haines-Madison complex. In late 2023, the outside renovations to these buildings, with addresses from 70 to 84 N. High St., appeared to be nearly complete.

On the left side of the photo, a high-rise luxury apartment complex stretches for a large part of the block between Gay and Long. Its units appeared partially vacant in October 2020 when this photo was taken, perhaps a casualty of the COVID-19 pandemic. Other buildings are essentially unchanged from the previous photo.

We walk a little farther north on High to Elm Street to get a better view of some of the shops and activity, and go back in time to 1917.

Looking North on High Street from Elm Street



Postcard North on High from Elm Street about 1917

In this 1917 postcard, we are north of Gay St. on Elm St. and six years before the previous postcard. On the left (west side of High) is a building called the Wesley Block that stretches from 101 to 105 N. High St. Signs for the Bryan Piano Co. on its 3rd floor and the Columbus Credit Union on its ground floor are seen. There is a good view of the white, six-story Union Department Store with its large roof sign. It occupies the northwest corner of High and Long. Behind it is the Brunson Bldg.

At the right of the photo is the long Hinman-Beatty Building, built about 1888. It begins at the corner of Elm St. and includes numbers 98 to 104 on N. High. It is said to be a fine example of High Victorian Italianate style. It houses a number of commercial establishments. Farther north is a long, gray sign for the Graves Cloak House at 110 N. High and beyond that is sign for the United Cigar Store at 116 N. High.

Looking farther north on the right past Long St. is the Columbus Savings and Trust Bldg. at the northeast corner of High and Long. Its top two floors have one of the finest examples in Columbus of terra cotta facing. It was one of the most prestigious office buildings of its time when it was completed in 1905. Noted architect Frank Packard did the design.



Photo North on High from Elm in 1985

On the left of this 1985 photo, the sign is gone from the six-story Union Bldg. The Union Co. Department Store left this location in 1968 for a move to S. High St. across from Lazarus. Its ground floor is occupied in this photo by the Readmor Book Store. Beyond it is the Brunson Bldg., and beyond that is One Nationwide Plaza. In the distance on the right of High St., a portion of the Hyatt Regency is visible as the last building on the right.

On the right of the photo, next to a vacant lot, is a building with curved awnings at 106 N. High St. It's a renovated office building at the time of this photo, but it was the J.C. Penny Department store from 1941 to 1969. To its left is a good view of the 12-story High and Long Bldg., constructed in 1926 across Long Street from the Atlas Bldg.



North on High from Elm in 2005

The buildings seen on the right in this 2005 photo are basically unchanged. On the left of the photo there is a vacant lot at the southwest corner of Long and High. Behind the white Union Bldg., the Brunson Bldg. has been renovated and a sign advertises Luxury Condos. In an architectural feat, a separate 12-story structure has been attached to the northern side of the 100-year-old Brunson, which will open as condominiums in August 2005, two months after this photo. The tall William Green Building at Spring and High appears behind the Brunson, and behind that is One Nationwide Plaza.



North on High from Elm in 2020

In 2020, the buildings on both sides of High St. have been modernized. The Brunson Bldg., behind the white Union building on the left of High, has been converted into the Brunson Building Condominiums at 145-147 N. High St. New buildings have been constructed in the former vacant lot across Long St. from the Union Bldg. They are part of a mixed-use neighborhood development project that extend about halfway to Gay St. and are still partially under construction at the time of this photo.

In the distance, a walkway extends over High St. from the William Green Bldg. on the left to the John W. Bricker Bldg. at 200 N. High St. Across High on the right, the Atlas Bldg., now the Atlas Apartments, with its terra cotta top floors, appears stately at the northeast corner of High and Long. At the southeast corner are the lower floors of the 12-story High and Long Bldg. And just south of it, on the end of the photo at the right, are the Atrium Lofts at 106 N. High—condominiums constructed on the former site of the J.C. Penny Building.

Our travel group wants to take a closer look at the venerable Columbus Savings and Trust Building that has been in so many photos. We reset our travel time to 1906, the year after the office building opened.



Postcard Columbus Savings and Trust about 1906

This postcard shows the Columbus Savings and Trust Bldg., about a year after of its completion in 1905, at the northeast corner of Long and N. High streets. Designed by noted architect Frank Packard, it was one of the most prestigious locations in Columbus for an office. Its address is 8 E. Long St. and it occupies numbers 130-140 on N. High St.

The first three floors are distinguished by columns in red stone and the top two floors are white stone with glazed terra cotta facing— one of the best examples of terra cotta facing in the region. Ornamental cornices decorate the top of the building.

A large number of telephone and electric lines crisscross at a pole at the front of the photo. To the left of the building is the McAllister-Mohler Furniture Co. at 142-148 N. High, with its sign and building partially obstructed.



Atlas Building in 1985

After 80 years, the Columbus Savings and Trust Bldg., now known as the Atlas Building, does not appear to have weathered much change in this 1985 photo. This is largely due to a major renovation three years before this photo in 1982.

Sometimes identified as the “Ohio Savings and Trust Building,” it was named the Ferris Building in the early 1920s by its then-lessee, Warren B. Ferris (1879-1951). Ferris was president and founder of a Columbus brick company bearing his name and an inventor with patents ranging from brick-making machines, to fluorescent-lighting games, to manned rocket ships!

The building became the Atlas Building in 1927 when its owner became the Atlas Realty Company, a name that continued for 87 years.



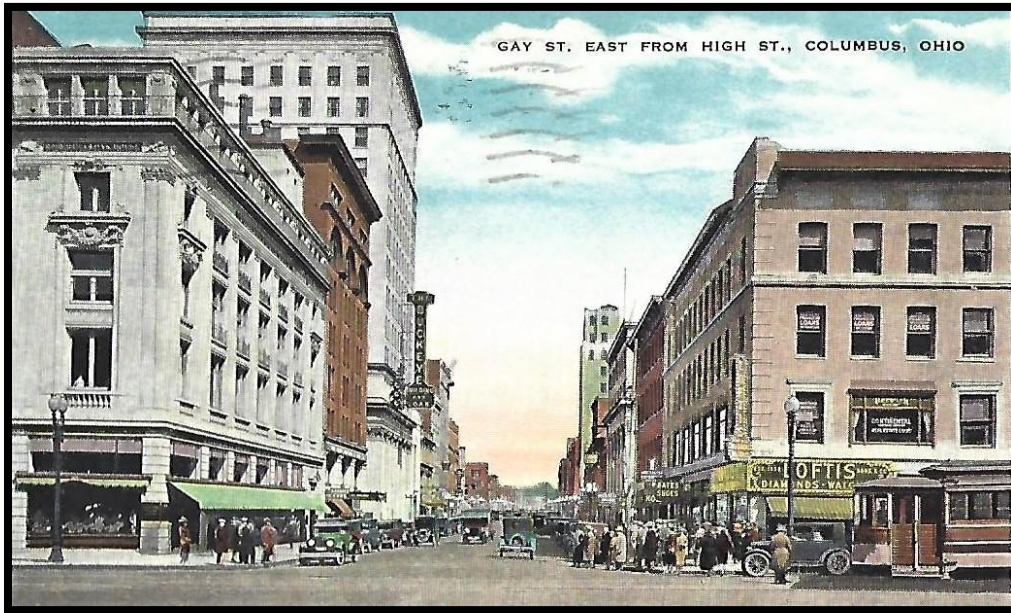
Atlas Apartments in 2020

In 2020 the outward appearance of the building, now the Atlas Apartments, has not changed significantly in 115 years and still looks impressive today. The High and Long Bldg., across Long Street, casts its shadow on the Atlas.

In 2011 a new owner, the Shiff Capital Group, acquired the building, and the building underwent its second major renovation. The entire building was stripped to a shell and transformed into residential apartments. In 2014 it became the Atlas Apartments with the first tenants arriving in 2015.

We set our time to 1928 and walk south on High to Gay Street. We look east where we see a lot of activity.

Looking East at Gay Street from North High Street



Postcard Gay East from High about 1928

On the left of this 1928 scene, we see the previous Dispatch Bldg. at the northeast corner of Gay and High. The *Columbus Dispatch* was at this location from 1895 to 1925, when it relocated to 34 S. Third St. The building in the photo was constructed in 1910. At the right side of the photo, the upper floors of a four-story office building display signs for the Continental Real Estate Loan Co. The Loftis Brothers Co., jewelers, is in its ground floor at 56 N. High. Looking down Gay St. on the right, a sign for Bates Shoe Experts can be seen at 17 E. Gay

Looking east on the left side of Gay is a sign for a fur shop near the base of an eight-story brown building. This is the Ruggery Bldg., an office building at 20-24 E. Gay built in 1895. Across Pearl St. is the 13-story Buckeye Savings and Loan Bldg. at 36-38 E. Gay, erected in 1927.



Gay East from High in 1985

The buildings in 1985 are very similar to the postcard photo. The building at the right of the photo, at the southeast corner of Gay and High, has been modified and houses the Dollar Savings Bank. The ground floor of the previous Dispatch Bldg. is a Hallmark Gift Shop.



Gay East from High in 2005

Buildings in this 2005 photo are also largely unchanged. Adjacent to the corner Dispatch Bldg. is a better view of the eight-story, brown, Italianate-style Ruggery Building. Built in 1895, it was renovated in 2000 and has been a popular location for commercial offices over the years.

The two high-rise buildings appearing at the end of the scene are the Renaissance Columbus Hotel on the right and the 26-story Continental Center at 150 E. Gay on the left. When the Continental Center opened in 1974, it was the Ohio Bell Bldg. and later the Ameritech Bldg. The Renaissance Hotel is at the previous sites of the Virginia Hotel and the Sheraton Plaza Hotel at the southeast corner of Gay and N. Third St.



Gay East from High in 2020

On the left of this 2020 photo, the former Dispatch Bldg.'s ground floor is shuttered. Looking farther east on the left, there is a barely visible vertical sign on the Buckeye Bldg. for the Residence Inn of the Downtown Marriott at 36 E. Gay. We'll get a better look at it later.

Across Gay from the Buckeye Bldg. is the square, gray Commerce Bldg. at 35 E. Gay. It was built in 1924 at the southeast corner of Pearl and Gay. The office building houses the Pub Mahone Bar and Grill on its ground floor. Nearby are a group of colorful canopies for outdoor dining for several other restaurants on the right side of Gay, such as the Due Amici and Tip Top.

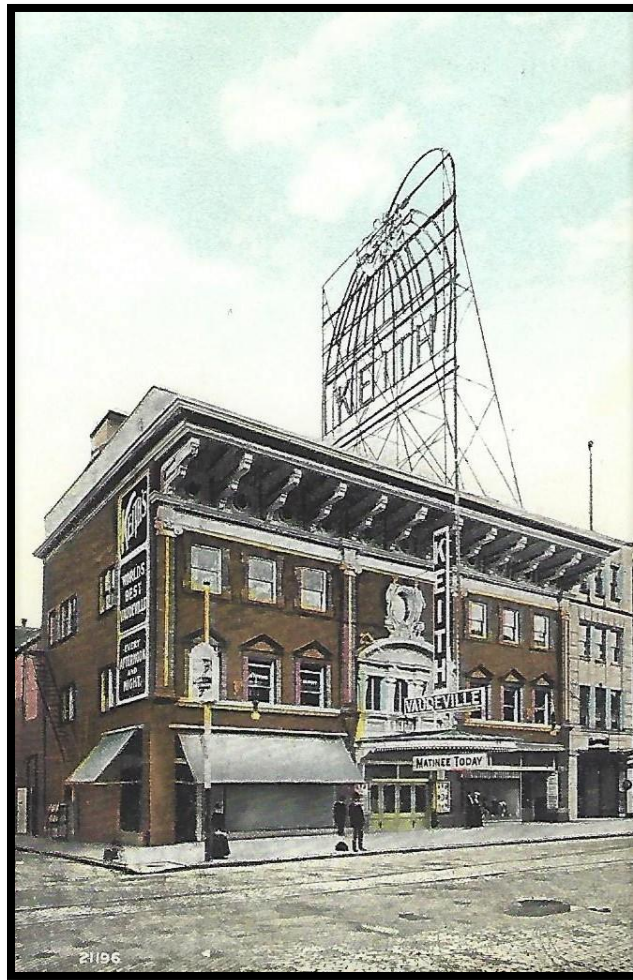
Looking farther east on the right is a 12-story building in front of the Renaissance Hotel that has terra cotta ornamentation near its roof. This iconic structure, built in 1927, is today the Law and Finance Bldg. at the southwest corner of Gay and N. Third. We'll take a closer look at it shortly.

Our group has heard exciting things about an early theater located where the Buckeye Building is today. We walk along Gay to Pearl St. and turn back our time to 1910 to have a look-see.

There were, in fact, two early theaters at the northeast corner of Pearl and Gay streets. In 1902 the Empire Theater opened here to great fanfare. It was designed to be Columbus' most prestigious theater for vaudeville and stage productions. On opening night, carriages waited in an hour-long line to take patrons dressed in formal wear to the theater entrance. The *Columbus Dispatch* described the theater's interior as "a dream of beauty, a fairyland of color and brilliancy."

However, not long after it opened, the Empire Theater underwent a management change, and four years later in 1906 it re-opened as the slightly remodeled B.F. Keith Theater.

Northeast Corner of Pearl Street and Gay Street



Postcard Northeast Corner of Pearl and Gay about 1910

This postcard from about 1910 shows the B.F. Keith Theater on the northeast corner of Pearl and Gay streets. The theater operated from 1906 to 1926, and many top-name entertainers and vaudevillians performed here.

The famous magician and escape-artist, Harry Houdini, appeared here in 1907 and 1911. At one of his performances, he escaped from a sealed galvanized iron can filled with beer supplied by the Hoster Brewery Co. and other local brew houses! And at another performance, he planned to escape from a hardwood packing crate “especially constructed by the expert packers of the F&R Lazarus Co.” after they tied him up and nailed the box shut. None of our group could find a source that told if he actually escaped—or whether he might still be in the crate?

The Keith Theater roof displays a large “fireworks” electric sign built by the Yoerger Sign Co. of 188 W. Broad St. The Yoerger Co. also made the signs for the garland-skipping girl on the roof

of the Broadway Theater at 31 W. Broad and the 3,000 flickering-bulb sign of the James Theater next door to it. With large electric signs on many Downtown buildings, electric-light arches crossing Downtown streets, and electric lights in the windows of many buildings, the dark skies admired by stargazers were now gone forever in Downtown Columbus.



Northeast Corner of Pearl and Gay in 1985

After the Keith Theater was demolished in 1926, the 13-story building of the Buckeye State Building and Loan Co. was constructed on its site in 1927. In this 1985 photo, it's the Buckeye Federal Savings and Loan Association at 36 E. Gay St.



Northeast Corner of Pearl and Gay in 2020

At the time of this 2020 photo, the building is simply known as the Buckeye Building. It's now part of the Downtown Marriott Residence Inn and contains the Buckeye Bourbon House, a restaurant specializing in bourbons. A sign for the Residence Inn is clearly visible.

Before leaving Gay Street, we want to walk a little farther east to view a 93-year-old building with some interesting architectural features. This building is on the southwest corner of E. Gay and N. Third, and in 2020 houses a steakhouse restaurant. This could be a good place for our group to congregate after we complete our tour. We go to the site and adjust our time to 1927.

Southwest Corner of East Gay Street and North Third Street



Postcard Southwest Corner of Gay and N. Third about 1927

When this building was built in 1927, it was the Ohio State Savings Association Building. The postcard photo is from about that year. The building is in a Modernistic architectural style. Other features include roof projections with white glazed terra cotta and marble coverings and an art-deco interior. When it opened, Ohio State Savings boasted having the heaviest vault door in the city. Question: did the photographer arrange for the small building at the right to look like it is peeking at the building?



Southwest Corner of Gay and Third in 2005

In this 2005 photo, the attractive terra cotta and marble facings are more clearly visible.



Southwest Corner of Gay and Third in 2020

In 2020, the building is called the Law and Finance Building at—pick your street—45 N. Third St. or 85 E. Gay St. The building houses Mitchell’s Steakhouse, located in the art-deco, ornate lobby of the old bank. The renovated building has offices, lofts and penthouse suites. In a photographic illusion, the building that looks next to the Law and Finance Building is actually the back of the Rhodes State Office Tower from E. Broad St.

Our group walks back to High Street, and we walk all the way north past Chestnut Street. We reset our time to 1910, turn around and look south down High to see another thriving business district of the past.

Looking South on High Street from North of Chestnut Street



Postcard South on High from North of Chestnut about 1910

On the left of this postcard from about 1910, the eight-story Beggs Department Store at 246 N. High has a long vertical sign bearing its name. It's at the southeast corner of High and Chestnut and in a few years will become the Green-Joyce Department Store. An electric-light arch crosses High in front of it.

Across High at the southwest corner is the six-story, red-brick building of the Green-Joyce Co., wholesale dry goods merchants. It's shown with a flagpole on its roof. Farther south on the right is the dark marquee of the six-story Star Hotel at 227 N. High. Beyond that is the barely visible High Street Theater at 217 N. High. The theater occupied this site since 1894, featuring movies and stage attractions. In 1913 it changed its name to the Lyceum Theater, and in the 1930s it became a burlesque house.

Farther south on the right of the photo, at the northwest corner of Spring and High, is the Chittenden Hotel with its pyramid-shaped turret bearing a flagpole. Past it is a gray image of the Brunson Building at 145 N. High. Across High, on the left of the photo in the distance, is a gray image of the Columbus Savings and Trust Bldg. at 130-140 N. High St.



South on High from North of Chestnut in 1985

In this 1985 photo, only the Brunson (right) and Columbus Savings and Trust (left) buildings in the center of the photo have survived. The high-rise Huntington Center, constructed in 1984, appears behind the Brunson. To the right of the photo is the LeVeque Tower, built in 1927.

An open space extends on the right from Chestnut to Spring streets. The Chittenden Hotel was at the south end of this space at Spring and N. High until it was razed in 1973. At the left of the photo is an 11-story government building at the southeast corner of High and Chestnut. It's at the former site of the Beggs Department Store at 246 N. High St. In 2023, it houses Ohio government offices, such as the Department of Health and the Department of Aging.



South on High from North of Chestnut in 2005

The modern, high-rise building at the right of this 2005 photo is the William Green Building, built on the former site of the Chittenden Hotel. It was constructed from 1987 to 1990 and houses government offices, such as the Ohio Bureau of Workers' Compensation. To its right is an open space that is the front lawn of Three Nationwide Plaza (not seen). The Green-Joyce Bldg., Star Hotel and High Street Theater on the postcard were located there.

A walkway crosses over High from the William Green Building to the John W. Bricker Federal Building at 200 N. High St. The Bricker Bldg. was constructed in 1977 and renamed in 1988 for the former Ohio Governor and U.S. Senator.

The north side of what was formerly the Brunson Building is seen behind the walkway on the right. It is now the Brunson Building Condominiums at 145-147 N. High St. In a masterful achievement, essentially a separate 12-story building was added to the Brunson Building to create condominiums. The Brunson Condominiums opened in August 2005, two months after this photo.

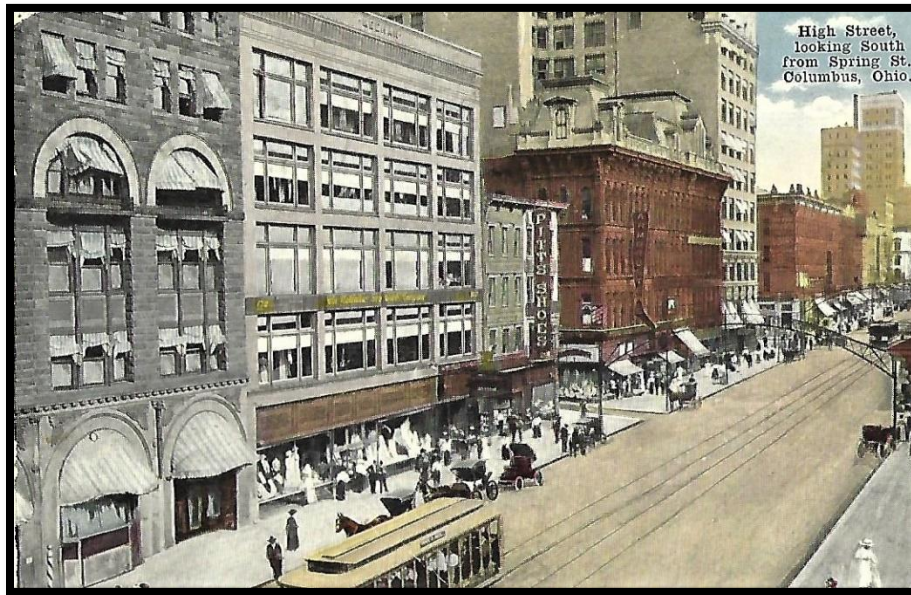


South on High from North of Chestnut in 2020

This photo was taken from a position slightly south of the other photos. The tall part of the William Green Bldg. is not seen, just its low-rise extension at the right end of the walkway over High. Other details are essentially the same as the previous photo. The Brunson Condominiums now contain advertisements.

Our group walks south a block to Spring Street and we reset our year to 1912.

High Street Looking South from Spring Street



Postcard Looking South on High Street from Spring Street about 1914

This photo is taken at an angle from Spring St. to show the busy shopping district in 1914 occupying the east side of N. High St. The building with awnings at the far left is the National Bank of Commerce at 180 N. High. Next to it is the Columbus Dry Goods Co., a large department store at 168-178 N. High. A shoe store, the A E Pitts Shoe House at 162 N. High, is at the northeast corner of High and Lafayette St. Across Lafayette at the southeast corner is the red brick building of the Armbruster Department Store at 150-158 N. High. It has a long vertical sign resembling a leg with a stocking. Farther south, the familiar Columbus Savings and Trust Bldg., occupying numbers 130-140 N. High, has its upper floors cut off in the photo.

A streetcar is running on High and there are horse-drawn carriages and early motorized vehicles. An electric-light arch is visible. Several carriages and an auto are lined up in front of the Columbus Dry Goods Co., apparently waiting while their owners are shopping. Windows of the department store's ground floor are filled with displays and mannequins.



South on High from Spring in 1985

In this 1985 photo, many buildings surrounding Lafayette St. have been demolished. The white office building with vertical slots for its windows is the Schaaf Bldg. at 170 N. High. It occupies the approximate location of the Columbus Dry Goods Co. on the postcard. The Boston Department Store at 168 N. High was at this site from 1924 to 1963, when it was remodeled into the Schaaf Bldg. A parking lot is at the southeast corner of Lafayette and High where the Armbruster Department Store and adjacent businesses were located. Farther south is the north side of the tall Columbus Savings and Trust Bldg., then the Atlas Bldg.

At the extreme right of the photo, the front of a three-story building with a marquee is visible. This is the Clock Restaurant at 161 N. High, a Columbus landmark since the 1920s. It had a huge, ornate bar and a storefront of stained glass. The restaurant, built by the Bott Brothers, opened in 1905 as the Bott Brother's Saloon. It became the Clock Restaurant in 1925 and went out of business in 1994.



South on High from Spring in 2005

On the right side of this 2005 photo, the Brunson Building Condominiums at 145-147 N. High are seen towering over the former Clock Restaurant. A sign extends for the Elevator Brewery and Draught Haus at the former Clock Restaurant. It's still here in 2023.

This photo has a good view of what was essentially a separate 12-story building that was attached to north side of the 100-year-old Brunson to create the Brunson Condominiums. It was an architectural and construction achievement, and extra steel reinforcements were required to keep the new structure from shaking in the wind. Fire inspectors required an additional stairwell and staircase to be built that delayed its opening for a year. It opened in August the year of this photo.

The Southern District of the U.S. Bankruptcy Court moved into the Schaaf Bldg., at the left of the photo, in 1995. The north side of the Atlas Bldg. is now a large advertising billboard. The top of the Rhodes State Office Tower from E. Broad St. is extending itself above the Atlas Bldg.



South on High from Spring in 2020

At the left of this 2020 photo, behind a van, is a one-story FedEx Office store at 180 N. High St. It's at the location of the National Bank of Commerce seen on the postcard.

A parking lot extends from the south side of the Schaaf Bldg. to what are now the Atlas Apartments. The Atlas Bldg. was converted into the Atlas Apartments in 2014. Lafayette St. now ends one block east at Pearl St. and doesn't extend to High. The 12-story building beyond the Atlas Apartments, seen also in the 1985 and 2005 photos, is the High and Long Bldg. It was constructed in 1926 across Long St. from the Atlas.

Our group crosses Spring Street at High, and we re-set our time to 1908 to see the luxurious Chittenden Hotel at the northwest corner of Spring and N. High streets.

Looking at the Northwest Corner of Spring and North High Streets



Postcard Northwest Corner of Spring and High about 1908

This postcard from about 1908 shows the Chittenden Hotel, which occupied the northwest corner of Spring and N. High from 1895 to 1972. This was the third hotel at this site built by Columbus businessman Henry Treat Chittenden, the first two destroyed by fire. Chittenden Avenue near the OSU campus also bears his name. Architect Frank Packard was hired to design a fire-proof third hotel, which he designed out of concrete, stone, steel and brick. The unusual roofs have been described as Spanish turrets.

The Chittenden Hotel was one of Columbus' most luxurious, early hotels. When it opened it primarily catered to wealthy patrons, who enjoyed food in its main dining room that was meticulously prepared by European chefs.

The High Street Theater, described previously at 217 N. High, is in the building just to the right (north) of the hotel. For a period of time, both buildings had the same owner. The star in the lower right of the photo marks the location of the Star Hotel, just north of the High Street Theater at 227 N. High. An electric-light arch is seen in front of the hotel.

The Chittenden closed in 1972 and the building was demolished in 1973.



Northwest Corner of Spring and High in 1985

This photo from 1985 shows a parking lot on the northwest corner of Spring and High streets at the previous site of the Chittenden Hotel. The Columbus and Southern Ohio Electric Co. Bldg., constructed in the 1950s, is at the left of the photo.

Across the lot, directly behind a pole with a sign for US Rt.33, is a sign at the top of a building for the Water Works Restaurant. This was the home of a popular family restaurant at 225 N. Front St., which was in operation from 1971 to 1987. Patrons could sit among bathtubs, sinks and exposed water pipes and order from menus made to resemble sewer covers.



Northwest Corner of Spring and High in 2005

In this 2005 photo, the William Green Building, a 530-foot, 33-floor skyscraper, is seen at the former site of the Chittenden Hotel. It was constructed from 1987 to 1990 and is the third-tallest building in Columbus—after the Rhodes State Office (629 ft.) and LeVeque (555.5 ft.) Towers. To its right is another skyscraper: Three Nationwide Plaza (408 ft.), built in 1989. The William Green Building houses offices for the Ohio Bureau of Workers' Compensation, the Ohio Industrial Commission and other government businesses.



Northwest Corner of Spring and High in 2020

In 2020, the buildings are essentially unchanged since 2005. The 9-story building behind the William Green Building, seen on the left of the photo in this and previous photos, is the former Columbus and Southern Ohio Electric Co. Bldg. After renovations in 2000, it's an office building at 215 N. Front St.

So, this completes our time-travel journey. Thankfully, we all made it back to the future of 2020 happy and safe. As planned, we capped things off with a meal at Mitchell's Steakhouse in the art-deco, former lobby of the 1927 Ohio State Savings Association Building. We have toasts for an unforgettable trip that we can never talk about, and no one would ever believe if we did!

The following are brief biographies of the authors and our sources and acknowledgments:

Emil R. Pinta, MD, is a retired psychiatrist on the emeritus faculty of the Ohio State University College of Medicine. He has lived in Columbus since 1962, when he began medical school at OSU. He has authored books and articles on the history of psychiatry and medical schools in Ohio, and at the time of this writing is an associate editor of the newsletter of the Ohio Psychiatric Physicians Association. As a collector of vintage jazz, popular and operatic records, he has published works on the history of the recording and music industry.

Susan E. Scritchfield, MSW, LISW, who passed away in 2018, was a medical social worker who lived most of her life in Columbus. She was a 1980 graduate of the OSU School of Social Work and worked most of her professional life in oncology-related fields. For many years, she was Coordinator of Consumer Health Education at the OSU James Cancer Hospital, where one of her responsibilities was overseeing the writing and design of patient-education brochures. She was pleased to discover when she was a patient at the James in 2018 that several of the brochures she helped write were included in the patient handouts given to her.

Most of the research for this project was done by Emil that began with the first photos in the mid-1980s. I spent many hours in the Columbus Main Library on Grant Avenue going over R.L. Polk city directories and plat maps, trying to identify locations and addresses on postcards used for this project. Sam Roshon, now deceased, was head of the History Reference Division in those days and shared his extensive knowledge of Columbus history. He also allowed access to his “vertical file” covering a wide range of topics. For example, the information regarding the early electric-light arches was largely taken from a 1962 *Columbus Dispatch* article that Mr. Roshon kept in that file.

Regarding other sources and acknowledgments, an early newspaper article on Columbus “skyscrapers” in the *Ohio State Journal*, May 10, 1904, was particularly informative. It contains information I haven’t seen elsewhere, such as the New Hayden Building being first occupied in October 1901. Other early references were Henry Howe’s *Historical Collections of Ohio, Vol 1*, published in 1888 by the CJ Krehbiel Co. of Cincinnati; William A. Taylor’s *Centennial History of Columbus and Franklin County*, published in 1909 by SJ Clarke Co. of Columbus; and Osman C. Hooper’s *History of the City of Columbus, Ohio*, published in 1919 by Memorial Publishing Co. of Columbus and Cleveland.

In the modern era, I consider the “bible” on Columbus buildings to be the architectural tome *Architecture: Columbus*, written in 1976 by a group of the Foundation of the Columbus Chapter of the American Institute of Architects, with Robert E. Samuelson, Project Director. If that’s the bible, I think its “gospels” must have been written by Richard Barrett and Edward Lentz.

A three-part series titled *Columbus and Central Ohio Historian, Part I, II, and III*, written in 1984 and 1985 by Richard E. Barrett, were used frequently as were his series on Columbus postcards, such as *Columbus, Ohio 1898-1950 in Vintage Postcards*, written in 2002. Edward R. Lentz, Director Emeritus of the Columbus Landmarks Foundation, is probably best known for his columns in *This Week Community News* on various aspects of Columbus history. Most of these highly informative articles are readily accessible on the Internet and were regularly consulted.

Another valuable source was three books by Phil Sheridan on Columbus theater history: *Those Wonderful Old Downtown Theaters*, 1978; *More about Those Wonderful Old Downtown Theaters*, 1984; and *Those Wonderful Old Downtown Theaters, Vol. 3*, 1992. In general, details

regarding theater history were derived from one of these. Mr. Sheridan used a wealth of primary source material for his books taken directly from early Columbus newspapers.

Other sources included *We Too Built Columbus* by Ruth Ann Young, Stoneman Press, 1936; *Columbus, America's Crossroads* by Betty Garrett with Ed Lentz, Continental Heritage Press, 1980; *LeVeque: The First Complete Story of Columbus' Greatest Skyscraper* by Michael A. Perkins, AuthorHouse, 2005; *A Historical Guide to Old Columbus* by Bob Hunter with photographs by Lucy S. Wolfe, Ohio University Press, 2012; *Historic Hotels of Columbus, Ohio* by Tom Betti and Doreen Uhas Sauer, History Press, 2015; and *Lost Restaurants of Columbus, Ohio* by Doug Motz and Christine Hayes, History Press, 2015.

The reference regarding 18,000 musicians who were replaced by movie soundtracks (page 56) comes from James C. Petrillo, president of the American Federation of Musicians, in the AFM's journal, *International Musician*, February 1948, page 3.

I also accumulated my own "vertical file" over the years with numerous *Dispatch* and other newspaper articles. The *Dispatch* online was another very valuable source. For information regarding buildings and locations during the last ten or more years, I largely relied on Internet sources. Disregarding blogs, I was careful about the Internet sources I used, and think (hope?) they were generally reliable. And in some instances, buildings themselves were the source of material. For example, the current Galleria of the Lazarus Building has several plaques describing the extensive renovations that took place from 2004 to 2007.

I'm sure there are many errors of commission and omission in our book. Some sources might not have been reliable, and sometimes the notes I took years ago contained misinformation in the light of more recent knowledge. However, whenever possible, I tried to confirm my older notes with more modern sources.

We hope you have enjoyed this "photo-walk" and thank you for your time and interest in our book.

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