

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

Emil R. Pinta and Susan E. Scritchfield



High Street Looking North from Town Street in the Early 1920s, 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 35 years ago in 1985 when my future wife, Susan Scritchfield, and I were dating. I collected postcards, and we decided to take identical pictures of early Downtown Columbus scenes that were on the postcard photos. After our marriage, we repeated the photos in 1991 and in 2005. There are 27 postcard scenes that we photographed.

Susan was diagnosed with cancer in January 2018 and passed away nine months later. But before she did, she encouraged me to finish our project. So in October 2020, I repeated 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 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. You can use your 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, at sometime—and perhaps already has that we don't know about?

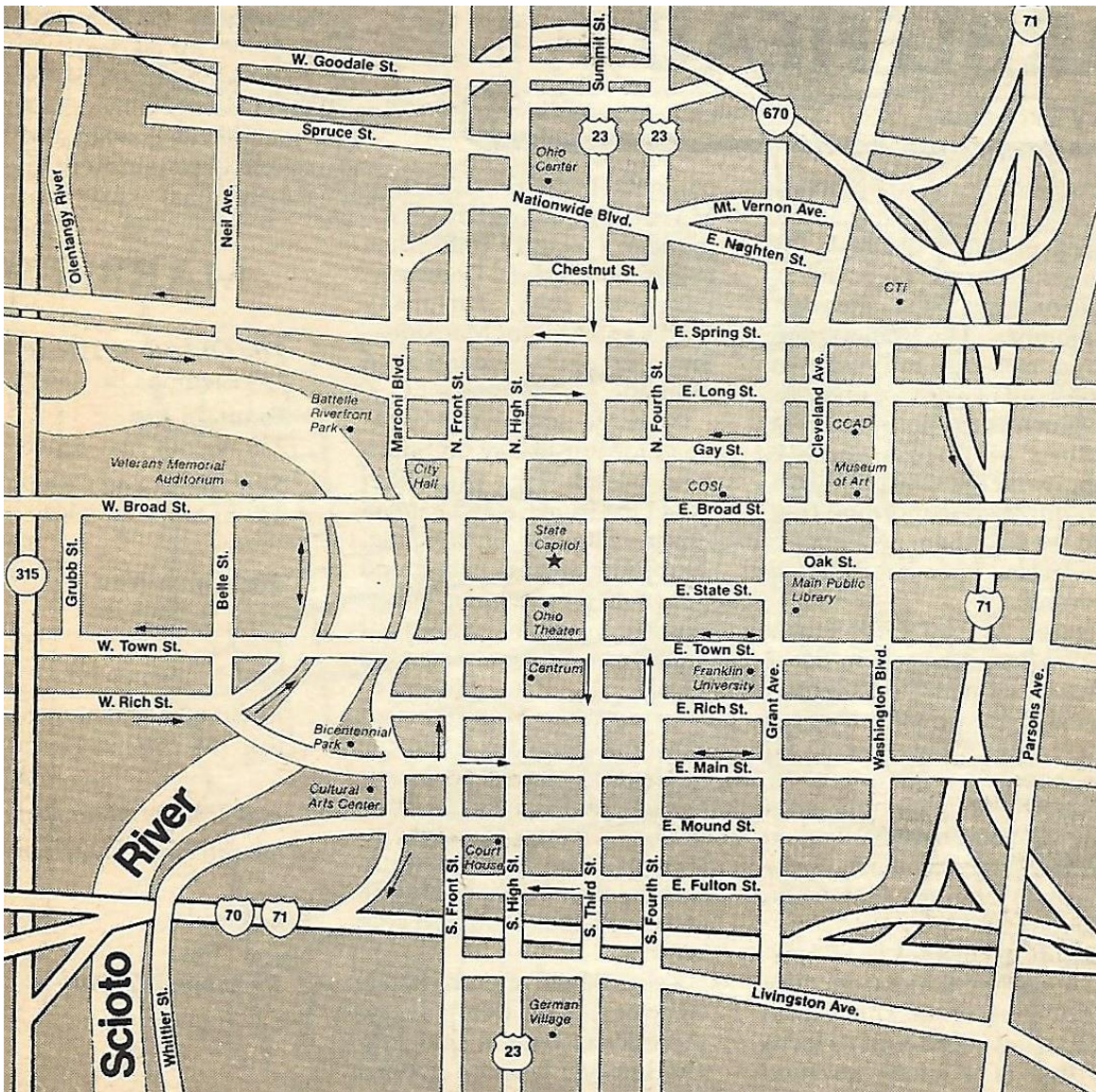
So, a small group of close friends and I begin by setting our hand-held time-machine to the early 1900s for a Downtown walk on High Street. We start at the south end of Downtown at Fulton Street and South High Street, where we see some of the electric-light arches that earned

Columbus a reputation as the “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 is still occupied today—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 “skywalk” to the Columbus City Center Mall in the 1990s. And it’ll be exciting to see all 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, including those around the Columbus Athletic Club.

During the second half of the day, we’ll begin by looking at the many changes at the intersections of Broad and High streets—the center of Downtown Columbus. We’ll wander down W. Broad Street and see the Wyandotte Building, the City’s first steel-framed skyscraper and the James Theater—Columbus’s first grand movie theater of the silent era. Later we’ll walk across the Broad Street Bridge and see the changes in Columbus’s skyline over the years viewed from across the Scioto River. This includes Columbus’s most famous skyscraper, the Leveque-Lincoln Tower. Farther down W. Broad is the Toledo and Ohio Central Railway Depot, which had a reputation as the most unique building in Columbus.

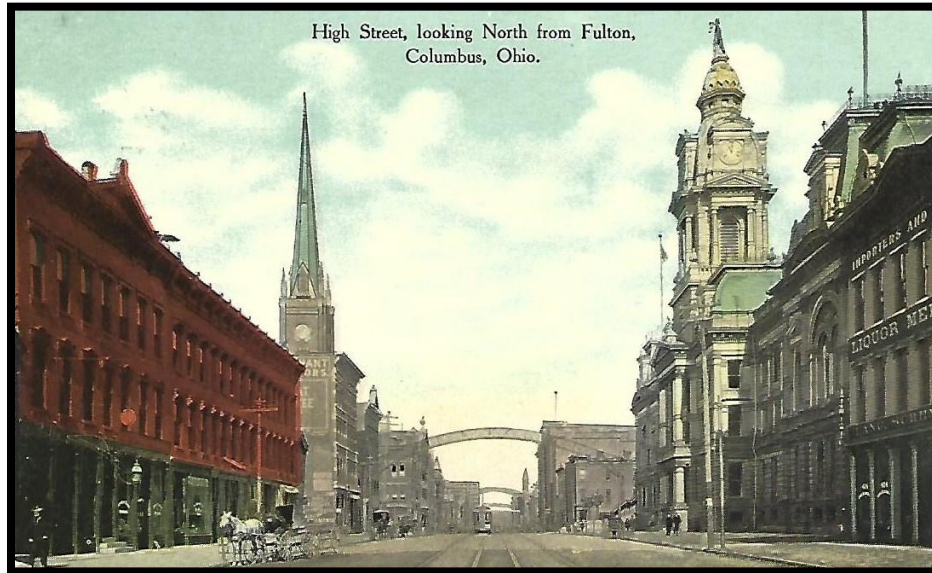
Some of us are hoping to catch a glimpse of Mr. John Deshler, the builder and owner of the Deshler Hotel at Broad and High, which opened in 1916. We are impressed with a letter he left in a time capsule when his hotel was built, and we wonder how he would like the glass and steel high-rise on its site today. 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. Finally, we’ll visit the Chittenden Hotel, built in 1895 with unique Spanish turrets, before ending our trip. And these are just a few of the adventures that await our travelers.

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



Map of Downtown Columbus in 1985

## Looking North on High Street from Fulton Street

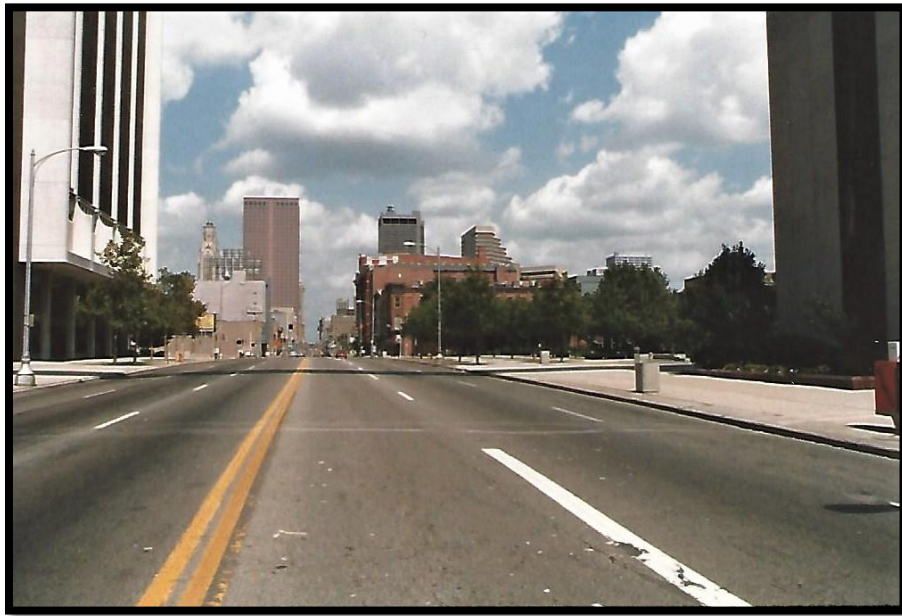


Postcard North on High from Fulton 1910

This postcard from 1910 shows the Franklin County Courthouse, dedicated in 1887, on the right of the photo. The courthouse extends from the southeast corner of Mound and High streets and takes up almost the entire block. At the right of the picture 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 a reputation as an "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," which were covered with thousands of electric bulbs. Columbus with lighted arches on most 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 arches were replaced by light poles in 1914.



#### 1985 North on High from Fulton

In this photo from 1985, most of the buildings on left (west) side of the postcard have been removed, 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-Lincoln 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.



2005 North on High from Fulton

In this photo from 2005, the scene has not changed significantly except 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, is visible in the distance on the right side of High St. to the left of the Rhodes State Office Tower.



2020 North on High from Fulton

In this 2020 photo, a walkway extends over High St. between the Franklin County Government Center on the left (west) side of the photo and the James A. Karnes Building, which houses the sheriff's department and other county offices. 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 Center, is the Franklin County Common Pleas Courthouse at 345 S. High St. It opened in 2011.

We set our time to 1907 and continue to 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 treatments 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 1907

In this postcard photo from about 1907, 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 Dr. Samuel B. Hartman (1830-1918), an 1857 graduate of the Jefferson Medical College of Philadelphia. The surgical hotel or hospital was constructed several years earlier. The Market Exchange Bank on the ground floor was founded by Dr. Hartman in 1905.

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 and was at this location from 1850 to 1966. 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 Building, the Hartman Theater, the Hartman Farms, located south of the city near today's Scioto Downs Racetrack, and the large Peruna Building, on the southeast corner of Rich and S. Third, were the direct result of the success of Peruna. The Hartman Theater and Hartman 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. By then Dr. Hartman was very wealthy and occupied with farming, dairy production and raising cattle on his huge 2,900-acre Hartman Farm.



1985 Northwest Corner of Main and Fourth

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 Bank. The hotel closed in 1921, and the state leased the building for offices, which included the Ohio Bureau of Motor Vehicles that was here for many years. The state vacated the building in the 1970s. Huntington Bank, which took over Hartman's Market Exchange Bank in 1958, closed its branch at this location after 34 years in 1992.



2005 Northwest Corner of Main and Fourth

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 \$125,000 when most Downtown condominiums began at \$350,000. The tall building in the distance 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.



2020 Northwest Corner of Main and Fourth

In 2020, the basic appearance of the building 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 men's barbership, and a salon and spa.

We return to High St. and continue our trek north and set our time to the 1920s. 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 City Center Mall.

Looking North on High Street from Town Street



Postcard North on High from Town 1920s

The postcard is from the early 1920s. A portion of the Ohio National Bank, built 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 on the right are several commercial buildings including the Morehouse-Martens Co. at 130-140 S. High St., a large department store.

Farther north at Broad St. is Columbus' tallest building of the time, the Capitol Trust Bldg, built in 1906. It has a tall flagpole and is seen on the right side of High St. Across High St. to the left is the 12-story Harrison Building, constructed in 1903. Street cars and early motorized vehicles move along High St.



1985 North on High from Town

In 1985, the Ohio National Bank is now BancOhio with a clock on a tall base in front. The Lazarus Building has undergone significant 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 across High St. in the distance is the Capitol Trust Bldg. at 8 E. Broad St. Many of the buildings on the east (right) side of High have been demolished as part of the Capitol South revitalization project.

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 at 130 S. High. Morehouse-Martens later became Morehouse Fashion and then simply “The Fashion” when the Union Store took over. The building closed in 1982. Demolition began in 1986, about one year after this photo, to make room for the Columbus City Center Mall.



1991 North on High from Town

In 1991, the most dramatic change is the enclosed walkway over High St., sometimes referred to as a “skywalk,” which connects the Lazarus store to the Columbus City Center Mall that opened in 1989. The mall building is visible on the right side of the photo. Looking past the mall to Broad St., is the Rhodes State Office Tower constructed in 1974—still today Columbus’ tallest building. On the left side of the photo, the Vern Riffe State Office Tower, built in 1988, looms over Lazarus and behind it lurks the Huntington Center.



2005 North on High from Town

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 in August 2004, about a year before this photo was taken. City Center Mall still exists and the skywalk is still there, but the mall has lost two of its three anchors: Lazarus in 2004 and Jacobson's in 2002. City Center ceased most operations in 2007 and closed in 2009.

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





2020 North on High from Town

In 2020, the Lazarus Bldg. and the high-rise buildings seen in the 2005 photo are there. But the skywalk is gone and the Lazarus building 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 City Center 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 at Columbus Commons, a luxury apartment complex at 190 S. High, the rear of which forms part of the western boundary of Columbus Commons.

The Lazarus Building 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 Street; 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 Street. 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 1930 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 1930s

The Columbus Auditorium is pictured in this postcard from the early 1930s. 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 when it engaged the Chicago Civic Opera Company. The company's first season in Columbus, in 1928, 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 was in significant financial trouble and was sold to the Lazarus Department Store. In 1946 it re-opened as the Lazarus Annex, selling housewares, hardware and appliances.



1985 Southwest Corner of Town and Front

By the time of this 1985 photo, the Annex had become a store for reduced-price Lazarus furniture. But it was still possible to enter at Front Street, walk to the rear of the building where a small staircase 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.



2005 Southwest Corner of Town and Front

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



2020 Southwest Corner of Town and Front

In 2020, the space previously occupied by the Lazarus Annex is now occupied by the Annex Apartments at River South, modern townhouse apartments. Columbia Gas moved to a new location in the Arena District in 2015. The top of its previous location, now an office building, 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 1914 and another one in 1915.

## Looking North on High Street from State Street



### Postcard North on High from State 1914

This postcard view is probably early 1914. The electric 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. 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.

At the far left of the photo is Newell's European Hotel at 71 ½ S. High St. Just north of it is the brick building of Bryce Bros. & Co., retail clothiers that occupied this spot at 49-55 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 the photo belongs to the first 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 1915

This 1915 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. The sign for the Pastime Theatre on the left is clearly visible. 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 1911, but Cinema was still in its infancy. It would be another 16 years before the first movie, *The Jazz Singer* with Al Jolson, would have a dialogue segment 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 both postcards but most easily seen in this one from 1915—and then with the aid of a magnifying glass or microscope! It is seen below the third window of the small 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.



1991 North on High from State

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 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 building is One Columbus Center at the northwest corner of High and Broad, built in 1987. Appearing on the left all the way north 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, is visible behind trees. Built in 1869, it is the oldest building remaining on Capitol Square. We’ll get a much better view of it later.



2005 North on High from State

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.





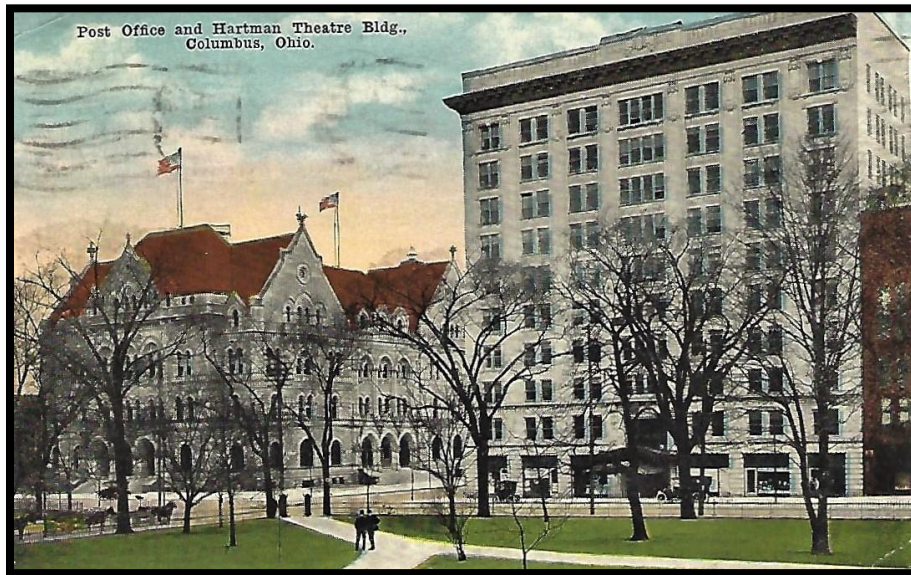
## 2020 North on High from State

In 2020, the major change in this photo 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 evident on its western face. Although not visible in the photo, an attractive entranceway to the condos with a marquee has been added.

We set our time to 1919 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 nine years before this iconic structure will be here. But we do walk past the Grand Theater at 59 E. State, which has been at this location since 1914. 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 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 at the Intersection of East State Street and South Third Streets



Postcard Intersection of State and Third from 1919

In this postcard from about 1919, the “Old, Old Post Office” and the Hartman Theater Building

are at the southern corners of E. State and S. Third. The “Old, Old Post Office” was dedicated in 1887. It was enlarged and extensively remodeled in 1912 into the Victorian Gothic structure seen on the postcard. Although it remained in service until 1974, another post office (the “Old Post Office”) at 85 Marconi Blvd. opened in 1933. In 1969, a “New” Post Office was dedicated at Twin Rivers Drive.

The Hartman Building and Theater 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.

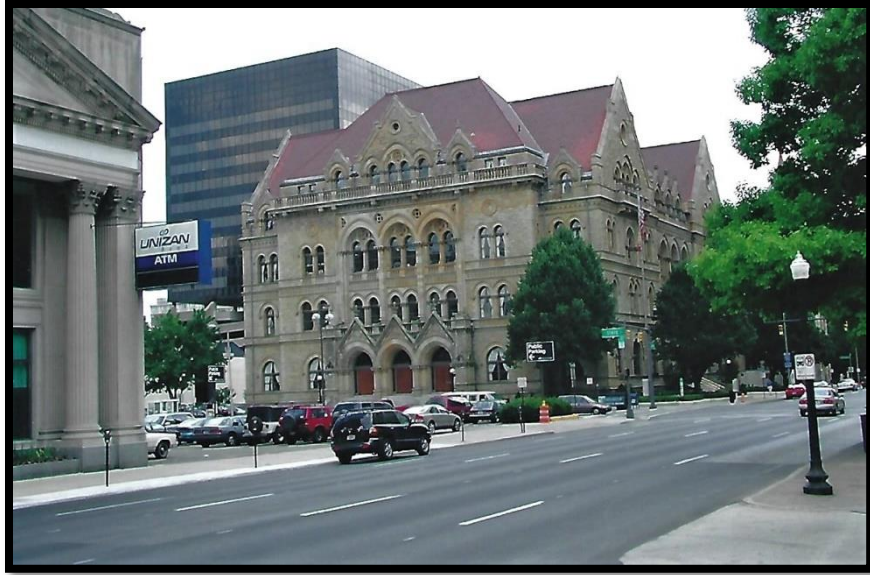
The theater was built by Dr. Samuel Hartman of Peruna fame (see earlier entry), supposedly to please his daughter who was fond of theatrical productions. Its huge stage, 82 ft. wide by 45 ft. deep with multiple traps, was considered one of the largest stages outside of cities in the East. When built, 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, located at the rear of the building, was demolished in 1971. The adjacent office building remained until 1981 when the site was cleared for the Hyatt on Capitol Square.



1985 Intersection of State and Third

The Post Office is seen looking very much the same as the postcard. A portion of the Hyatt on Capitol Square, at the former site of the Hartman Bldg., is at the right of the photo.



2005 Intersection of State and Third

This photo is taken from slightly more north on Third St. than the previous one. The Hyatt is still there but can't be seen. The building with classic architecture that is cut-off on the left of the photo was a former Ohio Federal Savings and Loan Bank at 66 S. Third St., built in 1955. The Brickler & Ekler Law Firm moved into the post office building in 1986 following extensive renovations.



## 2020 Intersection of State and Third

This photo is taken from approximately the same angle as the 1985 photo. Not much has changed with the outward appearance of the Post Office, but the Hyatt on Capitol Square is now a Sheraton Hotel. The Hyatt went into receivership in 2011 and was taken over by Sheraton Hotels and Resorts. The post office is now the Brickler Ekler Building and over 100 attorneys of its law firm have offices at this location at 100 S. Third St.

We continue our walk north on S. Third St, but travel back to 1909. 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 1909

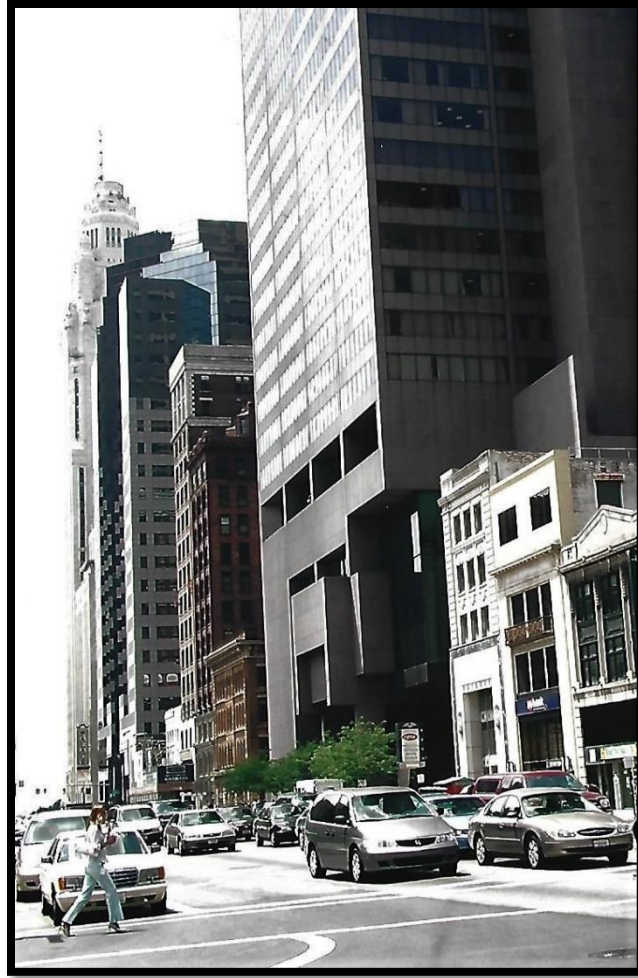
This postcard is looking west at East Broad St. from Third St. in 1909. The Statehouse is across Broad St and not seen. At the right of the photo is the First Congregational Church, built in 1856. To its west are two buildings and then the nine-story Spahr Bldg. at 50 E. Broad built in 1897. It housed the offices and presses of one of Columbus' main newspapers, the *Ohio State Journal*, from 1897 until 1920. Next to it is the 10-story Outlook Bldg., built in 1901.

The next building is the turreted Columbus Board of Trade Bldg, at 30 E. Broad, built in 1896, and then the smaller, four-story Hayden-Clinton Bldg, built in 1869, which still stands today. Continuing on is the 13-story New Hayden Bldg., built 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 built in 1906.



1985 East Broad West from Third

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 now where the Congregational Church once stood. The Rhodes State Office Tower, built in 1974, is at the former site of the Columbus Board of Trade at 30 E. Broad St. Looking farther west and across High St., is the Leveque-Lincoln Tower, built in 1927.



2005 East Broad West from Third

This photo is similar to the one in 1985 with the exception that One Columbus Center, constructed in 1987 at 10 W. Broad St., is now in front of the Leveque-Lincoln Tower.



2020 East Broad West from Third

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. The former Society Bank Bldg., on the northwest corner of Broad and Third streets where the First Congregational Church once stood, is now the Key Bank Bldg.

We continue our walk east on Broad from Third Street and reset our time to 1922. Looking down E. Broad we see the recently constructed Rowland Building at the northeast corner of Third and Broad streets, and across Lazelle Alley is the Columbus Athletic Club. The men in our group are especially eager to explore the Athletic Club, one of finest buildings 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 1922

The ornate Rowland Building at the left of the photo was constructed in 1921, one year before this photo. To its right is the Columbus Athletic Club, which opened in 1916 at 140 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 would pay for a college education. So if someone happens to find one, they shouldn’t make the mistake of buying lunch with it!





1985 East on Broad from Third

Part of the Athletic Club's Broad St. and western sides have been altered. 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.



### 2005 East on Broad from Third

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



2020 Photo East on Broad from Third

The three oriel windows on the western face of the Columbus Athletic Club are clearly visible in this photo. The bank building to its left is now the Chase 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 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 1950s

Marzetti's had previously been on Gay Street and moved here in 1942. It was a very popular restaurant throughout the 1960s, but it closed its doors in 1972. 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 postcard, 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 almost certainly the Wyandotte Bldg. at 21 W. Broad St. 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 and Long 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 five 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 Alley, the turreted Columbus Area 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.

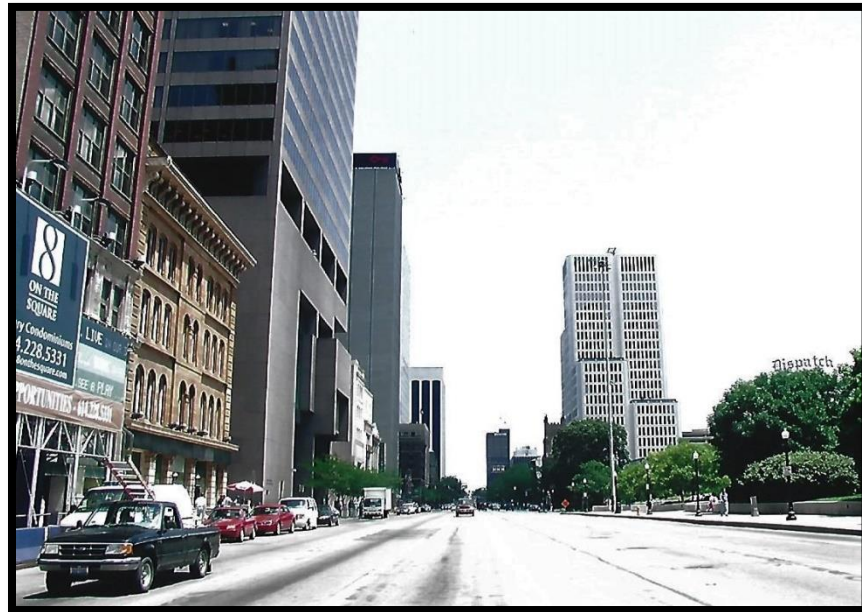
A sign for the Victoria Theater dates the photo. It is seen extending from the Chamber of Commerce, and a large hand painted on the side of the four-story corner building points the way. The Victoria Theater provided vaudeville and other entertainment at the Chamber of Commerce auditorium for about one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



1985 East on Broad from High

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 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, across Pearl Alley 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 two small commercial buildings and then the Society Bank Bldg. at the former site of the First Congregational Church.



2005 East on Broad from High

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 are being built in the Capitol Trust Bldg. Across Broad St., past the Statehouse grounds, is the multi-tiered National City Plaza, constructed in 1976 at 155 E. Broad St. In 2020 it’s the PNC Bank Bldg. The top of the *Dispatch* sign from its building on S. Third St. is seen above the Statehouse trees.



2020 East on Broad from High

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. The Capitol Trust Bldg. now houses 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 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, 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 1914

In this 1914 postcard, the five-story Huntington Bank Bldg., built in 1878, is at the southwest corner of Broad and High streets. It was Columbus’s tallest building at the time 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.

South of the Huntington Bank, to its left on the photo, are three commercial buildings. The first two were built about 1840. The fourth building is the tall Harrison Bldg., built in 1903. Just across Capital Alley is the Neil House Hotel, 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, which kept the Neil House address.





1985 Southwest Corner of Broad and High

In this 1985 photo, a covered outdoor “mall” has replaced 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, part of the new Huntington Center, constructed in 1984, is visible. The Wyandotte Bldg. on the right looks unchanged and unfazed.



### 2005 Southwest Corner of Broad and High

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.



### 2020 Southwest Corner of Broad and High

The "Mall," at 1 South High St., has been enlarged in this 2020 photo and contains a Mexican restaurant, Cinco's, 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 1909

This view is almost identical to the one used for looking down East Broad Street, and no comments are needed for the buildings on E. Broad. No sign for the Victoria Theatre is seen, making it earlier than 1910 judging by the vehicles seen.

The commercial establishments to the left of the corner on N. High about this time would have included a dairy store at the corner, several cigar stores, the NY Dairy Lunch at 8 N. High, and Child's Dry Good Store, a clothing and apparel store, at 18 N. High.



1985 Northeast Corner of Broad and High

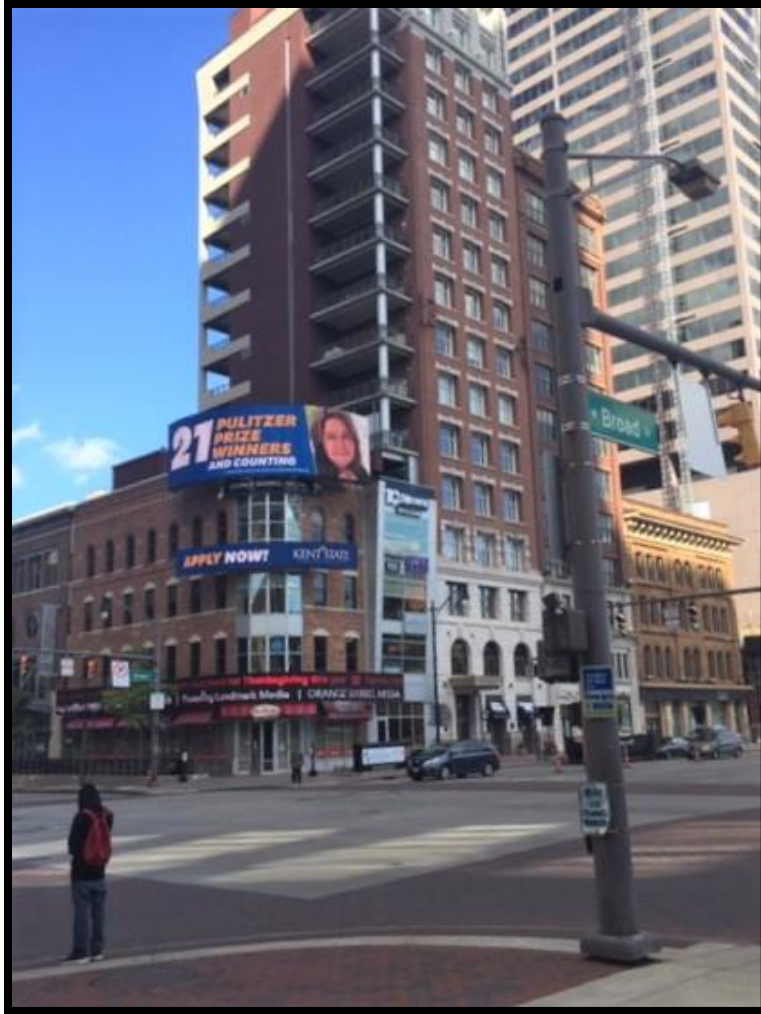
In 1985, the four-story, brick corner building is vacant and is being worked on. The tip of a crane is in the upper left corner of the photo. People in our group recall that Roy's Jewelry occupied this spot for many years. The Capitol Trust, New Hayden and Hayden-Clinton buildings are seen. Across Pearl Alley, the Rhodes State Office Tower looms tall.



2005 Photo Northeast Corner of Broad and High

Buildings at the northeastern corner of Broad and High are undergoing construction. Signs on the corner building have photos of the Capitol Trust and New Hayden buildings 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.

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



2020 Northeast Corner of Broad and High

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. At the time of this 2020 photo, Tim Horton’s 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. screen on its roof that wrapped around the corner! One of the tickers was operated by Huntington Bank and the other by WCMH -NBC TV (Channel 4). In 2020, only one news ticker remains from the elaborate display and no video screens.

In 2008, Channel 4 began broadcasting some of its morning news and shows from a studio in the building, which 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, is 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. He's a person our group became familiar with 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 1916

This postcard shows the Deshler Hotel at its completion in 1916 at the northwest corner of Broad and High. The Deshler family owned this site since 1829 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.

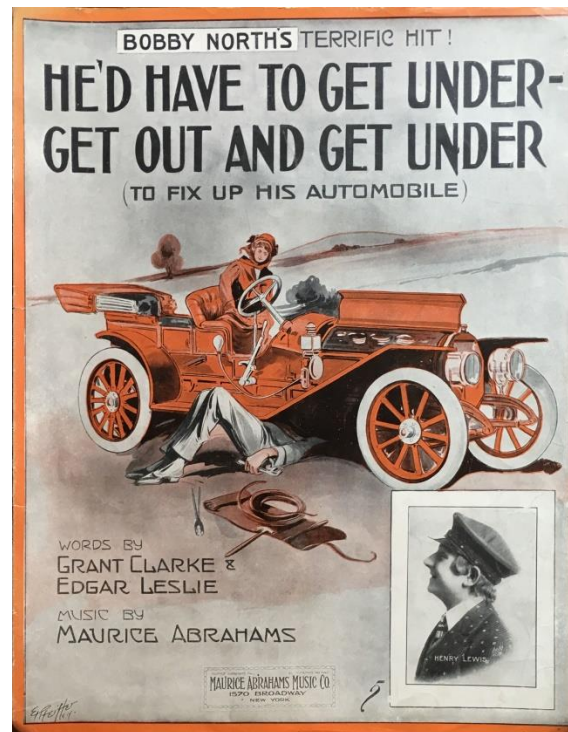
The 12-story building has an exterior of brick and terra cotta. The hotel has 400 rooms—350 with private baths. There are three dining rooms and a large ballroom. One of the dining rooms, the Ionian Room, has dancing every evening to the Hotel Deshler Orchestra.

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 1952 the hotel became the Deshler-Hilton after several other hyphenated names—with several more to come. 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 15 years until plans developed for One Columbus Center.



2020 Northwest Corner of Broad and High

Seen in this 2020 photo, One Columbus Center, constructed 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 a branch 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 were made of brick. One Columbus Center is a maze of steel and glass, and the convoluted exterior allows for more corner offices.

We continue to walk west on Broad Street about half a block to get a good look at the Wyandotte Building at 21 West Broad Street. Built in 1897, it's Downtown's oldest continuous office building. We set our time to 1906.

## Wyandotte Building at 21 West Broad Street



Postcard Wyandotte Building 21 W. Broad 1906

Postcard is of the Wyandotte Bldg. in 1906, a few years after it opened in 1897. Built to be fireproof by the Wyandotte Building and Loan Co., 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.

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 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 in the buildings surrounding it. So, to save time, our group decides just to fast forward to the present year, 2020.



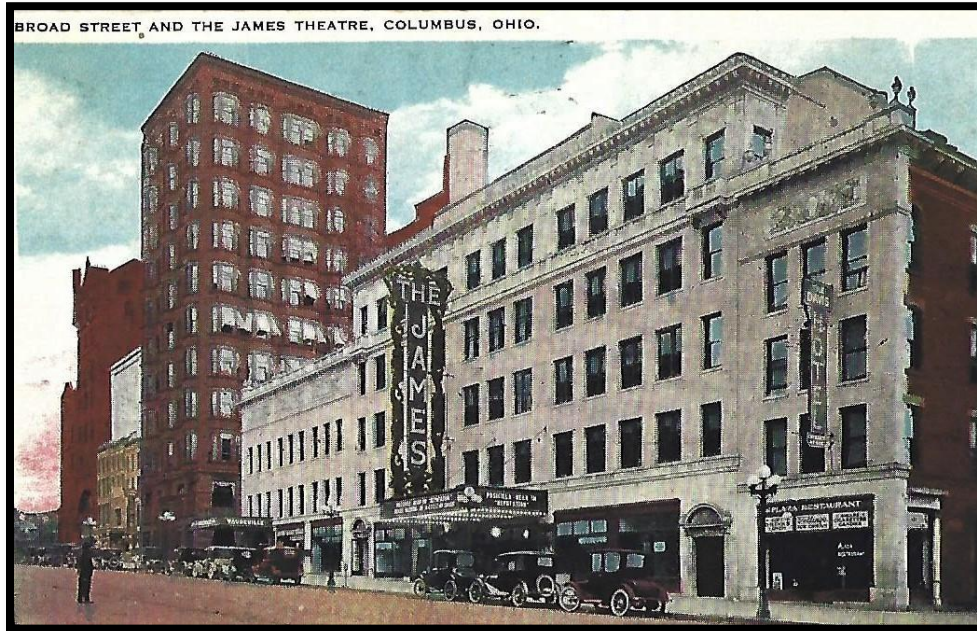
2020 Wyandotte Building 21 W. Broad

The Wyandotte exterior looks basically unchanged after more than 120 years. 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's first grand movie theater. Its interior is supposed 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 is closed at this time of day. We were advised to return later, but that, of course, is impossible for this group.

### Looking East on West Broad Street from Front Street



Postcard East on West Broad from Front 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. It became the Loew's Broad in 1927. 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 being played with silent films, many major theaters had full orchestras. The James Theater advertised a symphony orchestra of 35 musicians that accompanied its silent features. It was conducted by Fred L. Neddermeyer—a highly regarded Columbus musician with extensive conducting experience, including opera in Detroit.

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!



1985 East on West Broad from Front

In this 1985 photo, the entire south side of West Broad St. from Wall Alley 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



### 2005 East on West Broad from Front

Scene is essentially unchanged from the 1985 photo. There is a good view of the unusual construction at the base of the Huntington Plaza. W. 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.

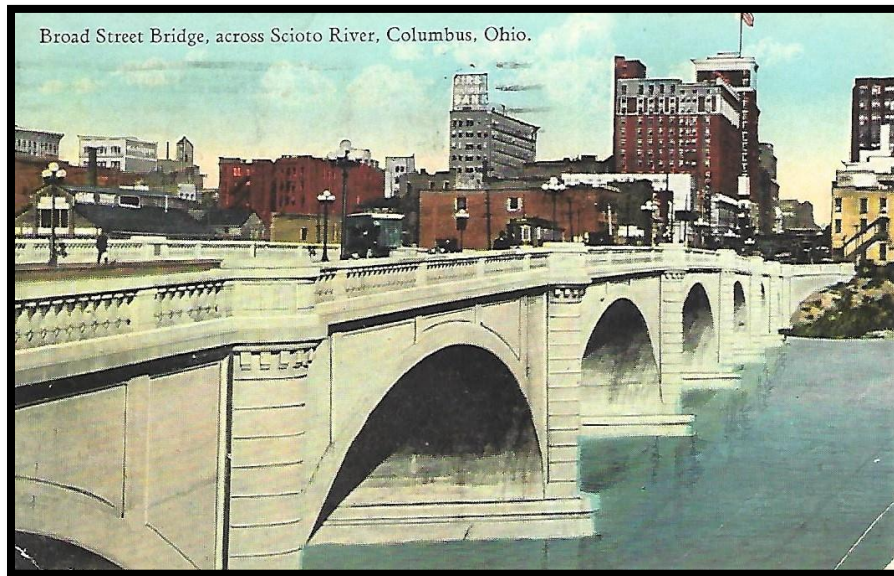


### 2020 East on West Broad from Front

This photo shows a different angle from previous ones. Wall Alley separates the Wyandotte 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 1923

This postcard 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. with a flag flying from its roof at the northeast corner of Broad and High. In front of the Capitol Trust is the 12 story Deshler Hotel at the northwest corner of Broad and High.

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" Building 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. Building 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 obliterated, is the Columbus Savings and Trust Bldg., built in 1905 at the northeast corner of High and Long. The Broad Street Bridge in this photo was constructed between 1918 and 1921.





1985 Across the Scioto

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 High Street is the Rhodes State Office Tower, 30 E. Broad St., Columbus's tallest building at 629 ft. It appears to be dwarfed by the Leveque-Lincoln Tower, a telescope-style, Modernistic skyscraper with a height of 555.5 ft. The last five 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 to the far left (north) of the photo, to the right of a light pole is the Columbus Savings and Trust Bldg. at 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-Lincoln 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 is home to one of Columbus's 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 and the Columbus Opera, along with 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)



2005 Across the Scioto

This photo shows the 1992 replacement bridge over the Scioto that featured shallower arches. Several new high-rise buildings are seen. New buildings in the photo 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-Lincoln Tower is another high-rise, One Columbus Center at the northwest corner of Broad and High, built in 1987. It was built on the site of the Deshler Hotel. Behind it is the Rhodes State Office Tower.



#### 2020 Across the Scioto

This photo was taken from Columbus's 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 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.

Changes have occurred inside and outside the Leveque-Lincoln Tower. It now houses the Leveque Tower Residences and the Hotel Leveque at 50 W. Broad Street. Extensive interior and exterior renovations have produced a multipurpose facility with apartments, condominiums, a restaurant, penthouse suites and a 150-room boutique hotel managed by Marriott's exclusive Autograph series.

We now have to make a decision whether we will walk to 379 W. Broad Street, about a mile, 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 1907

This postcard shows the T&OC railway 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.

The depot remained in operation until 1930 when T&OC was leased to another railroad and its functions transferred to Union Station.



1985 Toledo and Ohio Central Railroad Station

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 the increasing number of autos on the road. The four iron clocks on the sides of the tower are gone.



2005 Toledo and Ohio Central Railroad Station

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.



2020 Toledo and Ohio Central Railroad Station

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 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 north from Broad and High. We walk one block to Gay Street and are impressed by the number of stores, signs and thriving commercial activity that we see. 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 80-82 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. For years it was home to 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 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 1910 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 80-82 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 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 C.C. Winan Furs sign. 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.



1985 High North from Gay Street

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 of the Madison 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.





2005 High North from Gay Street

In this 2005 photo, Madison's Department Store on the right, which had been at this location for over 60 years, is vacant. The White-Haines Building, two buildings to its north (left) at 80-82 N. High, was condemned the year before this photo was taken. A deli most recently was in its ground floor.

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 its 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 office space here in 2020.



2020 High North from Gay Street

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 Madison and White-Haines buildings were awarded Ohio Preservation Tax Credits, which might provide an added incentive for a developer to rescue them.

On the left side of the photo, a high-rise luxury apartment complex stretches for most 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 about a-half block, to Elm Street, to get a better view of some of the shops and activity, and go back in time to 1916.

## Looking North on High Street from Elm Street



Postcard North on High from Elm Street 1916

In this 1916 postcard, we are north of Gay St. and able to see a number of buildings more clearly. 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 3<sup>rd</sup> 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 postcard (east side of High) is the 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 farther north is sign for the United Cigar Store at 116 N. High.

Looking farther north on the right across 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.



1985 Photo North on High from Elm

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. On the right of High St., a portion of the Hyatt Regency is visible in the distance.

On the right of the photo, next to a vacant lot, is a building with curved awnings at 106 N. High St. It is a renovated office building at the time of this photo, but it was the J.C. Penny Department store from 1941 to 1969.



2005 Photo North on High from Elm

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 rooms. The tall William Green Building at Spring and High appears behind the Brunson, and behind that is One Nationwide Plaza.



## 2020 North on High from Elm

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 from the Union Bldg. With street addresses at the left of the photo from about 85-113 N. High, they are part of a mixed-use neighborhood development project and are still partially under construction at the time of this photo.

Across High on the right, the Atlas Bldg. with its terra cotta top, appears stately at the northeast corner of High and Long. 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.

On the right of High St. just south (right) of the Atlas Bldg. are the lower floors of the 12-story High and Long Bldg., constructed in 1926 at the southeast corner of High and Long. And just south of it at the right of the photo, are the Atrium Lofts at 106 N. High—condominiums constructed at the site of the former 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 (Atlas Bldg.) 1906

This 1906 postcard shows the Columbus Savings and Trust Bldg. one year after it opened at the northeast corner of Long and High streets. Designed by noted architect Frank Packard, it was one of the most prestigious locations in Columbus for an office. The upper two floors have one of the best examples of terra cotta facing in the region.

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.



1985 Atlas Building

After 80 years, the Columbus Savings and Trust Bldg., now known as the Atlas Building, does not appear to have weathered much change. Its address is 8 E. Long St. and it occupies numbers 130-140 on N. High St. At various times, it has also been known as the Ferris Building and the Ohio Savings and Trust Building.



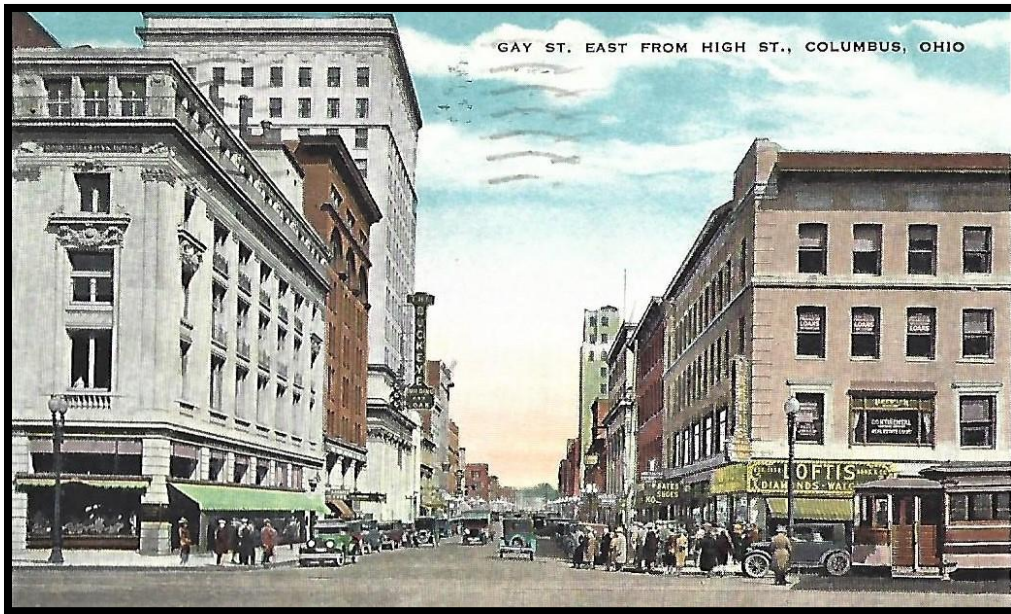


2020 Atlas Building

In 2020 the building has not changed significantly in 115 years. It still looks impressive and is still in use as an office building and also now a residential apartment complex. The High and Long Bldg., across Long Street, casts its shadow on the Atlas.

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

Looking East at Gay Street from North High Street



Postcard Gay East from High 1928

In this postcard from 1928, we see the old Dispatch Bldg. on the left at the northeast corner of Gay and High. The *Columbus Dispatch* was at this location from 1910 to 1925 when it relocated to 34 S. Third St. At the right side of the postcard, the upper floors of the four-story building at the southeast corner are largely occupied by the Continental Real Estate Loan Co. The Loftis Brothers Co., jewelers, is in its ground floor at 56 N. High. A sign for Bates Shoe Experts at 17 E. Gay is farther east on the right.

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



1985 Gay East from High

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.



### 2005 Gay East from High

Buildings in this 2005 photo are also unchanged. To the right of the corner Dispatch Bldg. is a better view of the eight-story, brown Ruggery Building, built in 1895. It was renovated in 2000 and has been a popular location for business 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.



### 2020 Gay East from High

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. 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. East of it are a group of colorful canopies for outdoor dining at several restaurants on the right side of Gay, such as the Due Amici and Tip Top.

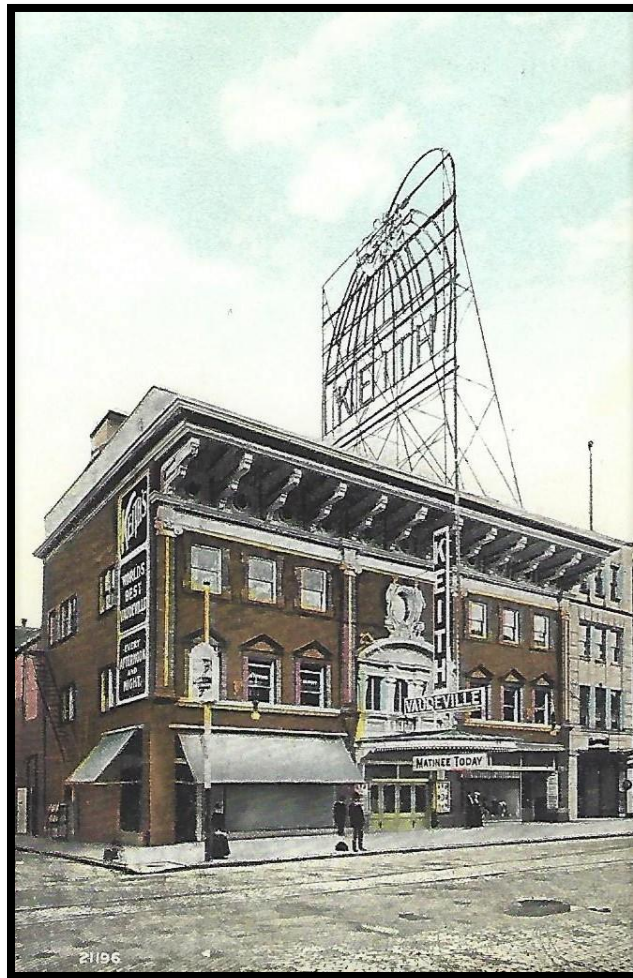
Looking farther east on the right is a 12-story building in front of the Renaissance Hotel that has terra cotta ornamentation near its roof. This iconic structure, built in 1927, is today the Law and Finance Bldg. at the southwest corner of Gay and N. Third. We'll take a closer look at it shortly.

Our group has heard exciting things about an early theater located where the Buckeye Building is in 2020. We walk along Gay to Pearl Alley and turn our time back to 1910 to have a look-see.

There were, in fact, two early theaters at this location, the northeast corner of Pearl and Gay. In 1902 the Empress 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 its opening the Empress 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 Alley and Gay Street



Postcard Northeast Corner of Pearl and Gay 1910

This postcard photo taken about 1910 shows the B.F. Keith Theater on the northeast corner of Pearl Alley and Gay St. 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 galvanized iron can filled with beer supplied by the Hoster Brewery Co. and other local brewhouses! 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 rope-skipping girl on the roof of

the Broadway Theater on W. Broad, and the 3,000 flickering-bulb sign at 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.



1985 Northeast Corner of Pearl and Gay

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.



2020 Northeast Corner of Pearl and Gay

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. 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 Gay and N. Third and in 2020 houses a Cameron Mitchell 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 1928.



Southwest Corner of Gay Street and North Third Street



Postcard Southwest Corner of Gay and N. Third 1928

When this building was built in 1927, it was the Ohio State Savings Association Building. The postcard is from about 1928. The building is built 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. Did the photographer arrange for the small building at the right to look like it is peeking at the Ohio State Savings building?



2005 Southwest Corner of Gay and Third

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



2020 Southwest Corner of Gay and Third

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 Cameron Mitchell’s Steakhouse Downtown, located in the 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 1913, 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 1913

In this 1913 postcard from north of Chestnut St., the eight-story Beggs Department Store on the left has a long vertical sign extending from its building. The department store was at this site, the southeast corner of Chestnut and N. High streets, from about 1907 to 1929. An electric arch crosses High in front of the Beggs Store. Across High at the southwest corner is the six-story, red-brick Star Hotel at 227-229 N. High. Farther south on the right is the marquee, appearing almost as a shadow, of the High Street Theater at 217 N. High. The theater occupied this site since 1894. About the time of this postcard, 1913, it changed its name to the Lyceum Theater, and in the 1930s it became a burlesque theater.

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 to the left (east) of the photo is another gray image, this one of the Columbus Savings and Trust Bldg. at 130-140 N. High St.



1985 South on High from North of Chestnut

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 1984, stands behind the Brunson. To the right of the photo is the Leveque-Lincoln Tower.

An open space extends on the right from Chestnut to Spring streets. The former Chittenden Hotel was at the south end of this space at Spring and High. 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.



2005 South on High from North of Chestnut

The new, 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. A walkway extends 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 Governor of Ohio 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.

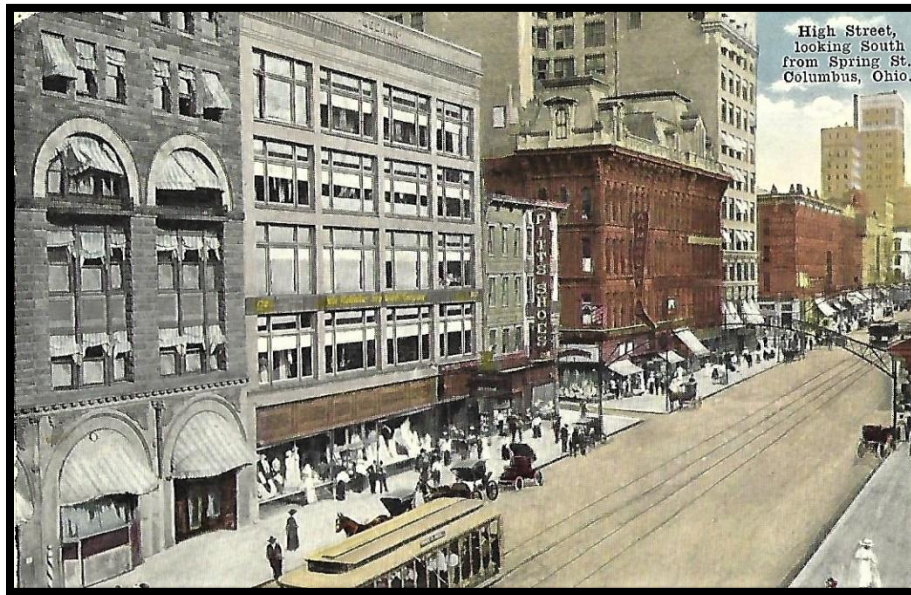


2020 South on High from North of Chestnut

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

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

## High Street Looking South from Spring Street



Postcard Looking South on High Street from Spring Street 1912

This postcard from about 1912 is taken at an angle from Spring St. to show the busy, business district occupying the east side of N. High St. The building with awnings at the far left is the Union National Bank Bldg. at 180 N. High. Next to it is the Columbus Dry Goods Co., a large department store at 170-178 N. High. A shoe store, A E Pitts Shoe House at 162 N. High, sits close to the northeast corner of High and Lafayette Alley. Farther south at Long St., the familiar Columbus Savings and Trust Bldg. has its upper floors cut-off in the photo.

A streetcar is running on High and there is a combination of horse-drawn carriages and early motorized vehicles. Electric-light arches are visible. Several empty carriages and autos 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.





1985 South on High from Spring

In this 1985 photo, all buildings on the postcard north (to the left) of Lafayette Alley have been demolished. The cube-shaped white building with vertical slots for its windows is the Schaaf Bldg. at 170 N. High. It houses government offices. The building occupies part of the site of the Columbus Dry Goods Co. seen on the postcard, which later became the Boston Department Store. It was remodeled into the Schaaf Bldg. in the mid-1960s. There is a vacant lot at the southeast corner of Lafayette Alley, and south of that is the north side of the tall Columbus Savings and Trust, now 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.



2005 South on High from Spring

In 2005, on the right side of the photo the modern Brunson Building Condominiums at 145-147 N. High is seen towering over the former Clock Restaurant. A sign extends from the restaurant for the Elevator Brewery and Draught Haus. It's still here in 2020.

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



2020 South on High from Spring

There are no significant changes in this scene showing the east side of High St. The 12-story building to the right (south) of the Atlas building, seen also in the 1985 and 2005 photos, is the High and Long Bldg. It is across Long St. from the Atlas and was constructed in 1926.

Our group continues to walk south on High Street. We re-set our time to 1907 and stop at Spring Street where we see the luxurious Chittenden Hotel at the northwest corner of Spring and High.

Looking at the Northwest Corner of Spring and North High Streets



Postcard Northwest Corner of Spring and High 1907

This postcard photo from about 1907 shows the Chittenden Hotel that 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 or Moorish 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. Note the electric-light arch in front of the hotel. The Chittenden closed in 1972 and the building was demolished in 1973.



1985 Northwest Corner of Spring and High

This photo 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 light pole 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 Street, 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.



2005 Northwest Corner of Spring and High

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. To its right is another skyscraper, Three Nationwide Plaza, built in 1989. The William Green Building houses offices for the Ohio Bureau of Worker's Compensation and other companies.



2020 Northwest Corner of Spring and High

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

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 Cameron Mitchell's Steakhouse Downtown in the former 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 of this book 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 is currently 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 entertainment 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 happily discovered when she was a patient at the James in 2018 that several of the brochures she helped write were still 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, 1936, Stoneman Press; *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; and *Historic Hotels of Columbus, Ohio* by Tom Betti and Doreen Uhas Sauer, History Press, 2015.

The reference regarding 18,000 musicians who were replaced by movie soundtracks 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 time and interest in our eBook.

Emil R. Pinta and Susan E. Scritchfield (posthumously)  
April 2021, Columbus, Ohio  
scritchpinta@prodigy.net

