



# MILWAUKEE IN MINIATURE

## A Guide

From:

**SINCE  
1935**



**MILWAUKEE CO.  
HISTORICAL SOCIETY**

We welcome you to tour historic Milwaukee as it was in the early 1900s. Through the miniature models of Ferdinand Aumueller, seen at the Milwaukee County Historical Society, the architectural treasures of Milwaukee come to life, telling the story of a city rich in history.

Now see these landmarks as they are today on this self-guided tour of historic Milwaukee. View the sites where these buildings once stood, as well as some of the buildings that are still standing. Through this self-guided tour you will learn about Milwaukee's past as you tour Milwaukee's present.

# MILWAUKEE IN MINIATURE



- = Exposition Building
- = Republican House
- = 2nd Ward Savings Bank
- = Milwaukee River
- = Pabst Building
- = Mitchell & Mackie Buildings
- = Pabst Theater
- = City Hall
- = Germania Building
- = Schlitz Hotel & Palm Garden
- = Public Service Building
- = Gimbels
- = North Broadway
- = Layton Art Gallery
- = Milwaukee County Courthouse
- = Milwaukee Road Depot

# Exposition Building

Constructed  
1880 - 1881

Architect: Edward Townsend Mix;  
Contractor: Charles Kockhefer Jr.

Architectural Style:  
Queen Ann

## Construction Materials:

Brick, Metal, Glass

## Dimensions:

400x 290; 100 feet high at main entrance; dome was  
226 feet high

## Address (Old):

North 5th and 6th Streets, Cedar (Kilbourn) and  
State. Main entrance on 5th Street

## Address (New):

--None--

## Extra Facts!

The site of the Exposition Building was originally a tamarack swamp. As part of his deed of the land parcel that the Exposition Building was built on, Bryon Kilburn donated part of this land to serve as a market square.

## Story

Milwaukee's first Industrial Exposition, featuring the slogan "Make Milwaukee Mighty," arrived in 1881 and showcased local innovation in industry, arts, and culture. The event took place in the Exposition Building, created by the Milwaukee Industrial Exposition Commission. During the exposition, over 145,000 visitors came from all over the country to see products from all disciplines of industry and art.

Following its inaugural year, the Exposition Building was at the epicenter of a myriad of other events, both social and somber. Mardi-Gras festivals, concerts, sporting competitions, and funerals were but a few of the events in the building. It also became the first repository for the collections of the Milwaukee Public Museum, while at the same time serving as Milwaukee's ice-skating rink, and bicycle racetrack. On the afternoon of June 4, 1905, a fire

started in in the attic over the west annex to the Exposition Building, and within a short period of time the building was in complete ruins. The acting fire chief stated the fire was undoubtedly caused by defective electric light wiring or crossed wires. Since there was a fire in the hall the day before, caused by burning powder from the flash of a photographer, it was also thought a burning ember from that fire re-ignited, starting the inferno.

The site of the Exposition Building was originally a tamarack swamp. Bryon Kilburn donated part of this land to serve as a market square.



# The Republican House Hotel

Architect: Fred Velguth

Constructed  
1884

Architectural Style:  
Victorian Italianate



## Story:

Erected in 1884, the Republican House Hotel resided on the site of an earlier hotel constructed in 1836. Named in honor of the newly formed Republican party, the hotel was known for the food served to its guests and local visitors. Breakfast was a feast of sirloin steak, fried potatoes, and a huge German pancake. Lunch consisted of soup, fish, roast, and poultry, large pieces of pie, fruits, and nuts. The building was demolished in 1961.

This hotel is known as the "Birthplace of the American League" because in 1900 Charles Comiskey, Connie Mack, Ben Johnson, Henry and Matt Killilea, and others gathered in Room 185 to sign the incorporation papers that completed the field of eight teams, making up the circuit.

Address (Old):  
Corner of 3rd and Cedar Sts.

Address (New):  
Corner of North 3rd and West Kilbourn Ave.

## Construction Materials:

Brick with limestone veneer.

## Dimensions:

Four stories high. 128 feet fronts N. 3rd and 150 feet along W. Kilbourn Ave.

## Extra Facts!

This hotel is known as the "Birthplace of the American League" because in 1900 Charles Comiskey, Connie Mack, Ben Johnson, Henry and Matt Killilea, and other gathered in Room 185 to sign the incorporation papers that completed the field of eight teams which made up the circuit.

# The Second Ward Savings Bank

Architect: N/A

Constructed:  
1858 - 1859

Architectural Style:  
N/A

Address (Old):  
Triangle West Kilbourn, Third Street, North Plankin-  
ton

Address (New):  
910 North Third Street

Construction Materials:  
N/A

Dimensions:  
N/A

## Story:

The Second Ward Savings Bank first opened in 1856 and later became a member of the National Banking System in 1866, with controlling interests held by Milwaukee brewery giants Valentin Blatz, Joseph Schlitz and Phillip Best. As these officers passed away, other prominent brewers took positions in the bank, such as Frederick Pabst and members of the Uihlein family. The bank became known to many as the "Brewer's" Bank because of these ties. By 1881 the bank's resources of over \$2,500,000 made it the fourth largest bank in Milwaukee.

The building in this display was built in 1859 at North Third was West Kilbourn Avenue. In December 1928 the Second Ward Savings Bank consolidated with First Wisconsin Bank. In 1913 the building which now is home to the Milwaukee County Historical Society was completed to replace the older building.

On August 1894 42-year old Jacob Christman came into the bank take out the \$70 he believed he had on deposit. The ex-soldier had taken out all his savings and was distraught when told he had no money on deposit in the bank. He flourished a .44 caliber revolver and threatened to shoot everyone connected to the bank. Fortunately, no-one was injured and Christman taken into custody.

Extra Facts!

On August 1894 42-year old Jacob Christman came into the bank take out the \$70 he believed he had on deposit. The ex-soldier had taken out all his savings and was distraught when told he had no money on deposit in the bank. He flourished a .44 caliber revolver and threatened to shoot everyone connected to the bank. Fortunately, no-one was injured and Christman taken into custody.



# Germania Building

Architect: Schnetzky and Liebert

Constructed  
1896

Architectural Style:  
Classic Revival

Construction Materials:  
Granite foundation with rusticated lime-  
stone, pressed brick, and terra cotta accents

Dimensions:  
Eight Storys High

Address(Old):  
103 Wells Street

Adress(New):  
103 West Wells St

## STORY:

Milwaukee's Germania Building achieved recognition as the world's largest German newspaper building. The building's owner and publishing mogul, George Brumder, ran a successful publishing business from the site and printed many German books, magazines, and newspapers. Brumder's building, once the largest office space in Milwaukee, serves as a reminder of the days when German was spoken in the streets and Milwaukee was America's most German city. Eugene R. Liebert, the building's German-born architect, had a reputation for being the favorite of many prominent Milwaukee Germans. His design was based on renaissance forms that were being used in Germany during the last decade of the 19th century and resulted in an eight story building with four hemispherical copper domes topped with spikes that resembled German spiked helmets. This Germanic image was further enhanced with a giant statue over the doorway that was given the name "Germania".

After complaints of it appearing to be too "Germanic". William C. Brumder had the statue of Germania removed during the night of May 15, 1918. The raised letters of the Germania Building were also chiseled off and the building renamed the "Brumder Building."



## Extra Facts!

The bronze, ten foot high, three ton statue of Germania was quietly removed in the middle of the night of May 15, 1918 from the Germania Building under the direction of William C. Brumder after complaints of it appearing to be too "Germanic." The raised letters of the Germania Building were also chiseled off shortly after the statue was removed and the building renamed the "Brumder Building." Herein lies the mystery as to what happened to the statue after its removal. Some believe it was melted down as scrap and used in the war effort, and other want to believe it still exists somewhere waiting to find its place back on its perch above the door of the Brumder Building.

# Schlitz Palm Garden and Hotel

Architect: Charles Kirchoff, Jr

Constructed:  
1889, 1896

Architectural Style:  
Oriental Style

ADDRESS (OLD):  
South East corner of 3rd St.

ADDRESS (NEW):  
Grand Ave Mall (275 West Wisconsin Ave)

Construction Materials:  
Stone

Dimensions:  
N/A

## STORY:

The Schlitz Brewing Company built two architectural treasures on Grand Avenue in the late 19th century. The famous Schlitz Hotel opened in 1889, standing on the southeast corner of Third Street and Wisconsin Avenue. Directly south and adjacent to the hotel was the Schlitz Palm Garden. The Schlitz Palm Garden opened on June 6, 1896 and became known as the finest establishment for beer, food, and music in Milwaukee. Waves of German immigrants brought beer gardens to Milwaukee, creating important and popular gathering places for the city's citizens. The Palm Garden was constructed as a banquet and concert hall, featuring Schlitz beer and nickel sandwiches of baked ham or roast beef.

When building the Palm Garden, the Uihlein family spared no expense, building it in an Oriental style with an arched ceiling that reached 40 feet above the floor at its highest point. The interior was free of any pillar or support posts, and the decor was brown, red, and gold. Upon the opening of the Schlitz Palm Garden, the Milwaukee Sentinel declared: "it is doubtful if a more handsome and artistic barroom can be found this side of New York."

Despite its beauty, the Palm Garden was not immune to the national prohibition of beer and liquor. On Prohibition Eve, June 30, 1919, a bugler closed the Schlitz Palm Garden with a "soulful rendition of TAPS."

The Schlitz Hotel was demolished in 1921. Proprietors A. Puiss and P. Heck converted the Schlitz Palm Garden into a movie palace, reopening it as the Garden Theater in 1920. The theater closed in 1960, and the building demolished in 1964.

The Garden was also a popular tourist attraction, and counted Presidents William McKinley and Woodrow Wilson among its visitors.

### Extra Facts!

The Garden was also a popular tourist attraction becoming a must see place for even the most famous of people including former president's William McKinley and Woodrow Wilson.



# Union Depot, (Chicago, Milwaukee St. Paul Railway or Milwaukee rd.)

Architect: Edward Townsted Mix

Constructed:  
Completed Dec 18, 1886

Architectural Style:  
Queen Ann

Address (Old):  
N/A

Address (New):  
321 West Everett

Construction Materials:  
Red Pressed Brick, Terra Cotta

Dimensions:  
321 foot long, facing 4th Ward Park

## Story:

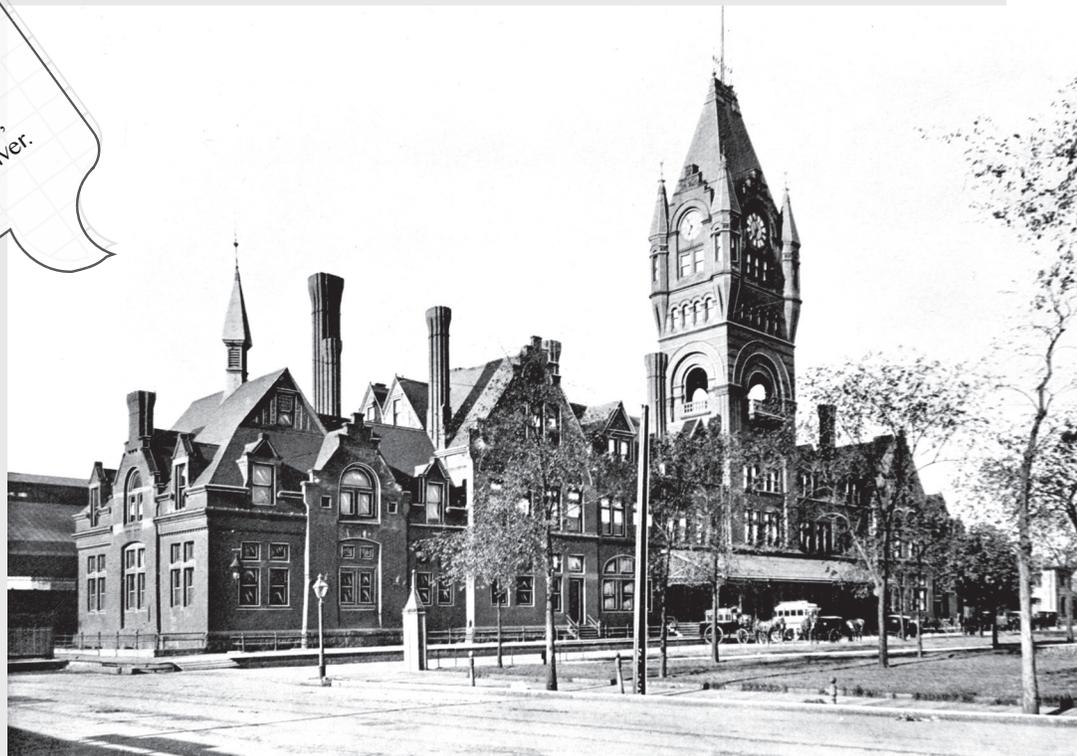
The Chicago, Milwaukee & St. Paul Railroad (common known as the Milwaukee Road) built a new depot at 4<sup>th</sup> and Everitt (just south of West Michigan Avenue) in 1886, to replace an old out of date depot on Reed Street (South 2<sup>nd</sup> Street) that had been built twenty years previous. The plans for the Queen Anne style building were made by famous Milwaukee architect Edward Townsend Mix. Constructed of red pressed brick, the 321 foot in length depot faced the city's Fourth Ward Park, thus giving one "an unobstructed view of its architectural beauty", which included an "electrified" 4-face clock.

The depot served Milwaukee for 79 years with a number of name changes to the railroad, --but always known as the Milwaukee Road) having little modification to its exterior. One noticeable change was the removal in 1943 of the top part of the 180 foot tower, reducing it to a height of 105 feet.

On August 4, 1965, a new train depot was opened a block south of the old depot, at 5<sup>th</sup> and St. Paul, and the old depot was soon demolished.

### Extra Facts!

The first chef at the restaurant inside the depot was John Williams, formerly of the Montezuma Hotel in Las Vegas, and the Windsor Hotel in Denver.



# The Public Service Building

Architect: Herman J. Esser

Constructed:  
1858 - 1859

Architectural Style:  
Neoclassical

Address (Old):  
201 Michigan Street

Address (New):  
231 W Michigan Street

Construction Materials:  
Limestone & Pressed Brick

Dimensions:  
N/A

## Story:

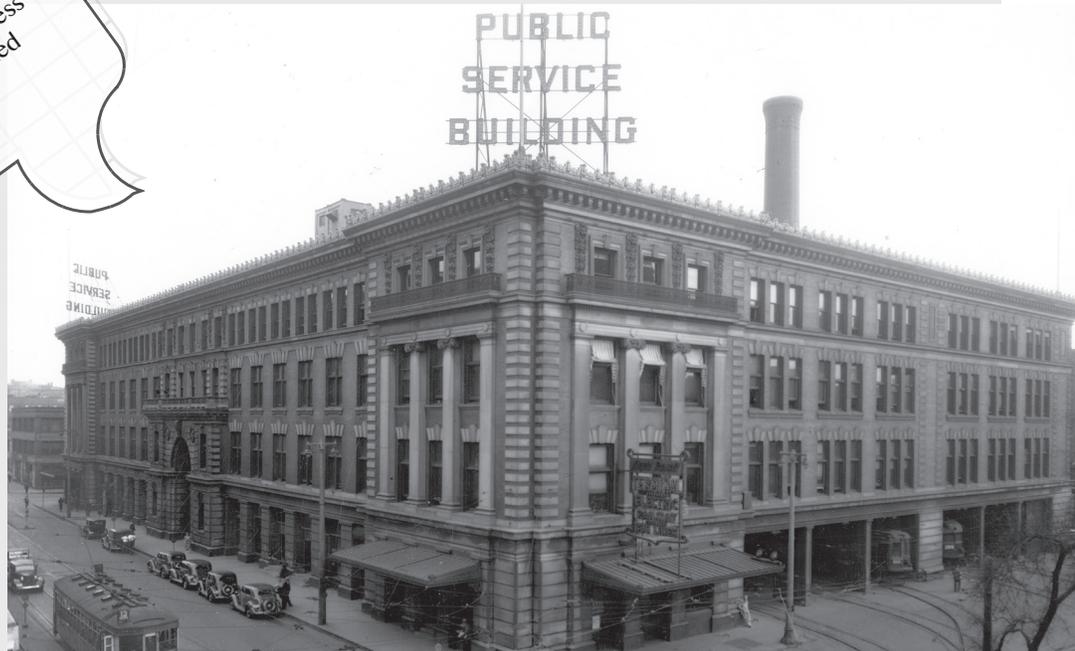
The Public Service Building is one of the few remnants from Milwaukee's once extensive system of rail transit and interurban lines. The Milwaukee Electric Railway and Light Company (TMER&L) ran in 1849 as a horse-drawn omnibus. Electrification started in 1880, and the TMER&L was formed in 1896. In its heyday, the electric railways served the entire city of Milwaukee, with interurban lines traveling as far as Watertown, East Troy, Kenosha, and Sheboygan.

The Public Service Building opened in 1905. The first floor was devoted to the transportation operations, while the second floor featured a 1,200-seat auditorium that housed everything from cooking demonstrations to Milwaukee's first Holiday Folk Fair. The second floor also contained bowling alleys, dining rooms, a library, billiard rooms, and a barber shop.

In 1941, TMER&L merged with the Wisconsin Electric Power Company. By 1952, the Wisconsin Electric Power Company sold its transportation business, but retained the building as offices for its electric, natural gas, and steam service. We Energies continues to have its headquarters in the Public Service building. They currently use the terminal area on the first floor for a parking garage, where the rail lines are still visible.

Extra Facts!

When the building was constructed the future of the fledgling electric industry was uncertain. Therefore the structure was designed so that if the utility business folded, the building could be converted into a hotel.



# Gimbels

Daniel H. Burnham and Co. (1901) and Herman J Esser (1923-1925)

## Constructed:

1901 Riverfront section 1823 - 1825

## Architectural Style:

Neoclassical

### ADDRESS (OLD):

SE corner of Grand and W Water

### ADDRESS (NEW):

101 W Wisconsin Ave

### Construction Materials:

white glazed brick and terra cotta

### Dimensions:

N/A

## STORY:

In 1842, Adam Gimbel opened a store called "Places of Trade" in Vincennes, Indiana. As business deteriorated in Indiana, Adam Gimbel's seven sons decided to move to Milwaukee in 1887. They soon opened the first Gimbels on Wisconsin Ave. The department store expanded to adjoining buildings over the next decade, and by 1901, construction of the present complex was underway. The building's facades along Wisconsin Avenue and Milwaukee River present a consistent architectural face, concealing six different buildings built between the mid-nineteenth century and the 1920s.

After establishing a solid clientele in Milwaukee, Gimbels went east, opening stores in Philadelphia and New York. They also acquired the highly successful Saks Fifth Avenue stores. The Milwaukee store contributed enormously to the city's growth and achieved nationwide fame as a commercial retailer offering quality goods and services.

In 1986, Marshall Fields bought Gimbels, and the downtown store closed. Today, the structure is used for many businesses, including a fitness health club and the Residence Inn Marriott.



### Extra Facts!

Gimbels was the first in the Milwaukee area to offer electric elevators. The first radio station in the area originated from and was sponsored by Gimbels.

# Pabst Building

Architect: S.S. Beman of Chicago



## Story:

An iconic structure that helped define Milwaukee's skyline at the end of the nineteenth century, the Pabst Building saw use as a commercial building throughout its history. Built for its namesake, Captain Frederick Pabst, it was designed by architect S.S. Beman of Chicago.

At its completion in 1891, it had fourteen office floors and an immense semi-circular stone arch over the main entrance. Billed as a marvel and one calculated to attract attention throughout the country, the Pabst included over two-hundred offices, a restaurant, a saloon, a bank, and a barbershop. A large, illuminated clock was located above the observation gallery. For a short period of time, it held the distinction of being Milwaukee's tallest building, but later lost the honor to City Hall.

By the 1940s, the Pabst Building began to deteriorate, and a large percentage of it was renovated due to safety concerns. In 1980 the building was demolished, but it will always retain the honor of being Milwaukee's first skyscraper.

Solomon Juneau, Milwaukee's first European settler, built his trading post on the site when he arrived to the area in 1818.

Constructed  
1891 - 1892

Architectural Style:  
Flemish Renaissance Style

Address (Old):  
68 Wisconsin Street

Address (New):  
110 East Wisconsin Avenue

Construction Materials:  
Steel frame with tile floors, Brownstone and terra cotta.

Dimensions:  
60 x 139 feet, 235 feet high

**Extra Facts!**

Solomon Juneau, Milwaukee's first European settler, built his trading post on the site when he arrived to the area in 1818.

# Makie & Mitchell Building

Architect: Edward Townsend Mix

## Story:

Alexander Mitchell, a banker and business executive, had few equals among the great financiers of the United States. As the president of the Wisconsin Marine and Fire Insurance Company Bank, and the Chicago, Milwaukee & St. Paul Railroad, Mitchell made his mark on the city in many ways, but his architectural contributions are seen by Milwaukeeans every day.

## Mitchell Building:

In 1876, the Mitchell building opened as the home for the Wisconsin Marine and Fire Insurance Company Bank. The first floor interiors were lavishly decorated with marble floors and wainscot, marble, iron and slate staircases, as well as ash woodwork and frescoed walls. The building has since been remodeled and renovated, leaving very little of the original design and decor.

## Mackie

**Extra Facts!**  
The Mitchell building stands on the location that was once Solomon Juneau's home.



Construction Materials:  
Sandstone/Granite/Limestone

Dimensions:  
N/A

Address (Old):  
85 Michigan Street

Address (New):  
207 E Michigan Street

Constructed:  
1876

Architectural Style:  
Neoclassical  
**Building:**

In 1879, Mitchell commissioned Edward Townsend Mix to design a building next to the Mitchell building for the Chamber of Commerce. The Mackie Building is Mix's most important, impressive, and costly achievement in commercial architecture. The building's Grain Exchange room is elaborately decorated with gold leaf, stained glass, eight brass gas chandeliers, and murals of heroic figures representing trade, manufacture, mining and agriculture. By 1935 the Grain Exchange and the Chamber of Commerce vacated the building, and it fell into disrepair.

The building was then re-named the Mackie Building in honor of Alexander Mitchell's grandnephew Mitchell Mackie. The widow of the building's owner sponsored its restoration in 1979, and in 1983 the building and Grain Exchange room re-opened. The Mitchell Building stands on the location that was once Solomon Juneau's home.

# Layton Art Gallery

Architect: Leonard A. Schmidtner

Constructed  
1869 - 1873

Architectural Style:  
Italian Renaissance

## Story:

In April 1888, Frederick Layton, owner of a prominent meatpacking business, made good on his promise to the Milwaukee Art Association to organize and build Milwaukee's first art museum.

Designed by London architects W.J. and G.A. Audsley, the Layton Art Gallery was constructed by prominent American contractor/architect Edwin Townsend Mix. The building's "Thompsonian Greek" style conveyed exterior beauty while enticing visitors to discover the treasures within.

The Layton Art Gallery featured a sculpture gallery, two painting galleries, and a main picture gallery. By the 1920s and 30s, the Gallery had broadened its activities to include exhibiting works from Wisconsin artists and creating a traveling exhibition program. With the emergence of the Milwaukee Art Institute in 1918, Milwaukee had two strong art institutions. Following World War II, Milwaukee leaders saw the potential of creating a singular, strong art entity by combining both institutions. The result was the Milwaukee Art Center, which became the Milwaukee Art Museum. The Layton Art Gallery building was demolished in 1957 to make room for a parking lot.

At the time of its opening in 1888, the Layton Art Gallery collection was considered one of the most comprehensive art collections west of New York City.



Address (Old):  
438 Jefferson

Address (New):  
758 North Jefferson

Construction Materials:  
Indiana limestone, Milwaukee Brick, with  
trimmings of Ohio Sandstone.

Dimensions:  
80 feet wide, 110 feet deep

## Extra Facts!

At the time of its opening in 1888, the Layton Art Gallery collection was considered one of the most comprehensive art collections west of New York City. The collection was comprised of thirty-eight paintings; the combined value of the collection on opening day was \$85,000.

# Milwaukee County Courthouse

Architect: Leonard A. Schmidtner

Constructed:  
1869 - 1873

Architectural Style:  
Italian Renaissance



## Story:

The seat of Milwaukee County government did not always reside west of the Milwaukee River. In fact, Milwaukee County's first two courthouses were located in Cathedral Square. Residing between East Wells, East Kilbourn, North Jefferson, and North Jackson Streets, the land, courthouse, and jail were given to Milwaukee County as gifts from Solomon Juneau and his business partner, Morgan L. Martin, in 1836.

By 1866, county government had outgrown a small, two-story frame structure, and the County commissioned Leonard A. Schmidtner, famous for constructing St. Stanislaus Church, to build a new Courthouse. Made with Milwaukee brick and veneered with Bass Island sandstone, the second Milwaukee County Courthouse boasted two-story wings on either side of a three-story center section, complete with a cupola. Other amenities included a gilded figure of Justice atop the dome and a stone bust of Solomon Juneau, overlooking the courtyard.

During the 1870s and 1880s tourists could climb a spiral staircase to the cupola and see a magnificent view of Milwaukee. By 1890, however, the building was already too small to accommodate the ever growing number of county officials and their offices. Beginning in 1905, debate raged about where the next courthouse should be built, and in 1929 construction began at the current site of the Milwaukee County Courthouse. Ultimately, the cost of maintaining and improving the old courthouse led to its demolition in 1939.

Address (Old):

North end of block bordered by North Jefferson, No. Jackson, East Kilbourn, East Wells

Address (New):

--None--

Construction Materials:

Lake Superior Sandstone, brown stone, Athens stone, common brick.

Dimensions:

210 feet east to west, 150 feet north to south. Height at main cornice 8 feet. Height to figure on top 208 feet 6 inches.

## *Extra Facts!*

Schmidtner was said to have used St. Isaac's Cathedral in St. Petersburg, Russia as a model.

A bust of Solomon Juneau was installed on the second floor of the courthouse from 1871 to 1931. Workers used chisels, rope and tackle to remove and transport the over 300 pound bust from the second floor of the courthouse when it was razed.

# North Broadway

Address (Old):  
440-503 N Broadway

Address (New):  
758-844 N Broadway

## Story:

North Broadway has undergone many changes throughout the city's history. This model consists of the 1900 version of these blocks. Located between Kilbourn and Mason Streets, this block tells the story of a city fully devoted to the protection and service to its people.



## Old St. Mary Parish:

Old St. Mary Parish is the oldest church in Milwaukee. Built with Cream City brick, the cornerstone was laid by Bishop Henni in 1846, and the dedication took place on September 12, 1847. The original tower clock had four 150 pound weights which had to be cranked by hand, morning and evening. When it was installed, only three similar bells existed. Since then, the mechanism has been replaced by an electrical unit, although the faces date to 1870. The Old St. Mary Parish continues to serve the people of Milwaukee.

## Central Police Station:

Established on September 10, 1855, the Milwaukee Police Department had its first headquarters on Wisconsin Ave, just east of North Water Street. In the summer of 1859, a new police station opened on the west side of Broadway, just north of Mason Street. The Central Police Station featured here opened in 1885. It remained the police headquarters until the building was demolished in the 1930s. This location is now a parking structure.

# North Broadway

Continued.....

Extra Facts!

Broadway is the only street in Milwaukee that does not have a special designation, ie. Street, Road, Drive, etc. It is simply "North Broadway"

## Fire Department:

The Milwaukee Fire Department has been located on Broadway since the beginning of the city's history. In 1872, a firehouse for the city's first professional fire department was built at 784 N Broadway (building in model). This two-story building served as the city's only firehouse and department headquarters. At that time, the department used a horse-drawn ladder wagon, a hand pumper, hose cart and hand-drawn ladder wagon. The Fire Department is still at this location; however the current structure was built in 1935 under the Works Progress Administration program.

## Light Horse Squadron Armory:

Organized as a Calvary troop under the Wisconsin National Guard in 1880, the Light Horse Squadron required stables for their horses and space for their equipment. Building the armory in 1885, the Squadron remained in the building until 1906 when the City of Milwaukee purchased the armory as an annex and drill hall for the police station adjacent.

## Milwaukee County Jail:

Designed by C.A. Gombert, the Milwaukee County Jail was constructed in 1885. The exterior walls were made of limestone from Wauwatosa. The building included several towers, used as ventilation shafts for the building. The cell department of the building was made entirely of stone and iron. There were four stories of cells, with the lower level used for female prisoners and the upper three levels for male prisoners. The prisoners who were held in the jail were usually temporary visitors. Most inmates were convicted misdemeanants serving short sentences, or individuals already convicted and sentenced, who awaited transfer to a longer-term penal institution. Overcrowding and terrible conditions within the jail led to the destruction of the building in the late 20th century.

Visit the Research Library to see the listings of prisoners of Milwaukee County Jail.

## S.A. Mondschein Piano Co:

Stephen A. Mondschein was a successful piano salesman before moving to Milwaukee. In 1897 he organized a stock company known as the S.A. Mondschein Piano Company. The large store at the corner of Mason and Broadway was very successful, carrying one of the largest stocks of pianos in the Northwest.

This building was torn down to make way for a new building designed by Armand Koch in 1916. This new building was built for the Milwaukee Athletic Club, which still occupies the building to this day.

# Milwaukee City Hall

Architect: Leonard A. Schmidtner

Constructed:  
1893 - 1895

Architectural Style:  
New Renaissance / Flemish Renaissance

ADDRESS (OLD):  
Corner of E. Wells and Market

ADDRESS (NEW):  
200 E. Wells Street

Construction Materials:  
Black granite, Berea sandstone, pressed brick and terra cotta.

Dimensions:  
350 foot south clock tower that joins to eight story main building with smaller tower at north end. Building footprint is 57 feet, by 315 feet, by 327 feet, by 112 feet.

## STORY:

An iconic symbol of Milwaukee since its opening, the construction of City Hall was not without controversy. The city lost a lengthy legal dispute with the architect, and ended paying over \$1,000,000 to build the massive structure. Resting on a foundation of wooden piles driven into reclaimed marshland, the building supports a 350-foot clock tower featuring a ten-ton bell. Rung for the first time in 1896, the bell chimed every hour until 1925 when inspectors determined vibrations had damaged the tower.

The latest renovation of the building involved removing much of the brick and architectural elements to work on the building's skeleton, which took over three years and cost \$75,000,000. The tower was rebuilt and the bell now rings without damaging the building.

The official name of the bell is "Solomon Juneau," in honor of the founder of Milwaukee. Nicknamed "Big Ben," it stands over eight feet high. When it was rung on December 31, 1896, it was the third largest bell in the world.



## Extra Facts!

The official name of the bell in the tower is "Solomon Juneau" in honor of the founder of Milwaukee. Its nickname is "Big Ben" and it stands over eight feet high. At the time it was rung on December 31, 1896, it was the third largest bell in the world. It was cast from spare Milwaukee fire bells by the firm of G. Campbell and Sons.

# Pabst Theater

Architect: Otto Strack

Constructed:  
1893 - 1895

Architectural Style:  
German Renaissance

ADDRESS (OLD):  
42 East Wells

ADDRESS (NEW):  
144 E. Wells Street

Construction Materials:  
brick

Dimensions:  
N/A

## Extra Facts!

The 1928 restoration was done by Conrad Schmitt Studios, who gave the theater an Art Deco look. In the 1970s, Conrad Schmitt Studios was once again asked to renovate the interior, bringing it back to its original 1895 style.

## STORY:

Jacob and Hermann Nunnemacher built an opera theater in 1871 at the northwest corner of North Water Street and West Wells. Capt. Frederick Pabst purchased the building in 1890, turning it into a playhouse for the German Stock Theater renaming it the Stadt Theater. In January 1895 the building burned down, and Pabst hired Otto Strack to draw plans for a new building to be the most thoroughly fireproof in the world. Opening on November 9, 1895, the \$300,000 theater featured an intricately designed Mosaic floor, new ceiling, and a marble stairway that led to the balcony. Upstairs, golden-winged cupids protected the patrons.

From the theater's opening night performance of "Zwei Wappen" until World War I, German productions were the main-stay of the Pabst Theater. English productions took over the stage during and after the war, as sentiment ran high against all things German. In 1928 the theater underwent a \$240,000 renovation, including the installation of 1,640 opera chairs.

The Pabst Brewing Company owned the building until 1953, when it sold it to the Pabst Theater Foundation Inc. In 1961 the City of Milwaukee purchased the building. In subsequent years, the building deteriorated greatly and needed a major renovation. The restoration project culminated with the theater's re-opening on September 23, 1976, restoring the Pabst as nearly as possible to its original condition in terms of design, décor and atmosphere, while at the same time fashioning a modern, working theater for the people of Milwaukee to use.

Conrad Schmitt Studios undertook the 1928 art deco restoration, and was asked in 1976 to rework the theater to its original 1895 style.



# Milwaukee River

## Extra Facts!

The banks of the Milwaukee River, between E. Wells Street and E. Juneau Avenue, were known as Milwaukee's red light district during the late nineteenth century. Brothels lined this area, including the Kitty Williams' house on E. State Street, which had forty-two rooms designed to lure men of every social class



### Story:

The Milwaukee River historically functioned as a place for commerce, recreation and travel. The river is sixty miles in length, with branches beginning in Fond du Lac and Sheboygan counties. The straight cut of the Milwaukee harbor, completed in 1857, allowed larger lake steamers into the river and increased the tonnage shipped from the port of Milwaukee by 500 percent.

Although the Milwaukee River aided in the development of the city of Milwaukee, it also cut the city in half. Named after their founders, the east side of the river was known as Juneautown and the west side as Kilbourntown. Intense rivalry between the two men who founded these towns led to the bridge war. This war involved attempts to prevent the building of bridges enabling residents from one settlement to cross the river into the other. Later, city inspectors discovered the streets in each settlement did not line up, resulting in the slanted bridges we see today.



The vessel in this model is the SS Christopher Columbus, built between 1892 and 1893 in Superior, Wisconsin. It was the only whaleback ship ever built for passenger transport, providing transportation and excursion services to various ports around the Great Lakes, including the Port of Milwaukee.

In 1917, the Columbus was caught in the current of the Milwaukee River and spun sideways, crashing into the Yahr-Lang Drug Company's water tower, toppling it and flooding Columbus' decks. The collision killed sixteen passengers and severely damaged her pilot house, putting her out of service for the rest of the year. The Columbus returned to the seas the next year, transporting passengers until her retirement in 1936.