

Shreve Building
100-104 West Lake Street
northwest corner of Lake
and Clark Streets
Chicago
Cook County
Illinois

HABS No. ILL-1031

HABS
ILL,
16-CHIG,
32-

PHOTOGRAPHS
WRITTEN HISTORICAL AND DESCRIPTIVE DATA

Historic American Buildings Survey
National Park Service
Washington Planning and Service Center
1730 North Lynn Street
Arlington, Virginia

SHREVE BUILDING

HABS
ILL,
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32-

- Location: 100-104 West Lake Street; northwest corner of Lake and Clark Streets, Chicago, Cook County, Illinois.
- Present Owner: The Lurie Corporation, Real Estate; 120 South La Salle Street, Chicago.
- Present Occupant: Stores on ground floor, Reed Hotel on upper floors.
- Statement of Significance: The building is a typical example of commercial architecture in Chicago following the great fire of 1871.

PART I. HISTORICAL INFORMATION

A. Physical History:

1. Original and subsequent owners (chain of title): Legal description of the property: Lot 4 of Block 18 in Sub-division of Lot 8, Block 18 of the Original Town of Chicago.

The following is an abstract of the chain of title contained in Book 454A, pp. 33-35, in the Cook County Recorder's Office:

The property appears to have been controlled by the Peck family for many years. Clarence I. Peck is first mentioned on August 28, 1872 as entering into a party wall agreement with the heirs of Fertus Wadsworth (Document 53750). The last member of the Peck family to be mentioned is Mary F. Peck on July 20, 1922 (Document 1581451). The most recent entry in the Deed Book, dated August 3, 1962, names the Lurie Corporation as owner (Document 18552253).

2. Date of erection: c. 1873.
3. Notes on alterations and additions: The appearance of the ground floor has changed considerably, due to the addition of store fronts and other alterations. The upper floors have survived with little alteration.

B. Historical Events Connected with the Structure:

There is no mention of the Shreve Building in any of the histories of Chicago in the 1870's. It is thought that the building, now known as the Reed Hotel, was originally called the Merchants' Hotel /Frank A. Randall, History of the Development of Building Construction in Chicago (Urbana: The University of Illinois Press, 1949), p. 83/. An earlier Merchants' Hotel stood on the northwest corner of State and Washington, but was destroyed in the fire of 1871 /Industrial Chicago, Vol. I (Chicago: The Goodspeed Publishing Company, 1891), p. 110/. Whether these buildings were in some way related has not been determined from the available evidence.

C. Bibliography:

Andreas, A.T. History of Chicago. Vol. 3. Chicago: Published by the author, 1886.
General material.

Industrial Chicago. Vol. 1. Chicago: The Goodspeed Publishing Company, 1891.

Randall, Frank A. History of the Development of Building Construction in Chicago. Urbana: The University of Illinois Press, 1949.

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August, 1963

PART II. ARCHITECTURAL INFORMATION

A. General Statement:

1. Architectural character: This is a typical example of the downtown business buildings in Chicago in the 1870's.
2. Condition of fabric: The building is in shabby condition, but appears to be structurally sound; the facade ornament is nearly all in place.

B. Description of Exterior:

1. Number of stories: 4 stories.
2. Over-all dimensions: 40' south side on Lake Street, 110' east side on Clark Street.

3. Layout-shape: Rectangular.
4. Wall construction: Stone and plaster painted a medium gray color, some sheet metal and cast iron detail. Later shop fronts on ground floor. Sheet metal cornice with decorated frieze between first and second floors. Simple molded cornices between stories on east side, dentilled cornices on south side, stepped out around corner pilaster at south-east corner. Brick party walls on the north and west.
5. Openings:
 - a. Doorways and doors: Doorways to shops are later additions: Entrances on both east and south sides lead to stairways giving access to second floor hotel lobby.
 - b. Windows: All windows are one-over-one-light, double-hung sash. Heads on second floor windows are semi-circular arches; third floor, segmental arches; fourth floor, flattened arches. Window openings on east side framed with Tuscan pilasters and molded archivolts; on south side, framing with Corinthian colonettes and molded archivolts.
6. Roof:
 - a. Shape: Flat.
 - b. Cornice, Eaves: Large, elaborate, dentilled cornice with paired brackets.
- C. Description of Interiors:
 1. Floor plans: The first floor is divided into several small shops opening onto street. Hotel occupies three upper floors. Stairways from sidewalk on east and south sides lead to hotel lobby on second floor. Long narrow lobby in center of building has rooms around all sides; stairway along one side leads to upper floors.
 2. Stairways: Enclosed wooden stairways.
 3. Flooring: Wooden.
 4. Wall and ceiling finish: Plaster.
 5. Trim: In the center of the second floor hotel lobby is a row of tall and very slender cast iron columns with fluted shafts and Corinthian capitals.

6. Lighting: Electric.

D. Site:

Orientation, setting: The building is located in the downtown business district, in a neighborhood in which most of the buildings are about the same size. It faces south and east at the north-west corner of Lake and Clark Streets, sharing party walls with adjoining buildings on the north and west sides.

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