

Huntington Bank

The Huntington Bank has been synonymous with downtown Columbus, Ohio since the 1860's, and success and growth have been synonymous with the Huntington name. The bank, which still bears the founder's name, remained a family-run bank from 1866 until 1958 when the last son stepped down as CEO. The family also owned the land on which the bank buildings were located from 1872 until 1970.

Pelatah Webster Huntington, patriarch of the family, relocated to Columbus, Ohio from Connecticut in 1853. He and his sons would become prominent businessmen and influential Columbus citizens.

In 1866, P. W. partnered with David Deshler, who was from another prominent Columbus family, when he opened the Huntington Bank in Exchange Bank building. When Jane Deshler, David's daughter, married P. W., the two families became further entwined.

In 1878, success afforded Huntington the opportunity to build his own bank building located at 1 South High Street. This Gothic five-story structure was labeled the first skyscraper in Columbus since it was the tallest building other than the Statehouse. High Street would now be the home of the Huntington Bank for years to come. By its 50th anniversary in 1916, the bank had outgrown its skyscraper and moved into the Harrison Building at 21 South High Street. With the acquisition of the State Savings Bank and the Hayden-Clinton Bank in the 1920s, it was time to remodel the Harrison Building. Remodeling was done on a grand scale with a lovely Tiffany ceiling; ornate, bronze teller cages and marble flooring. The first part of the remodeling was completed in 1925 at what is now 17 South High Street. Its neighbor, Neil House, was undergoing remodeling as well. The two structures were the dominant facades facing the Statehouse.

The Huntington's continued success led to yet another growth opportunity in the mid-1980s, which culminated in the current Huntington Center, designed by Chicago architect Bruce Graham. The new, 37-story facility replaced the Neil House and continues to be a prominent part of the Columbus, Ohio skyline.

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