

## The Maramor and Mills Restaurants

The Maramor was a well-known restaurant in Columbus, Ohio for more than 50 years. Mary Love was the proprietor when it first opened at 112 E. Broad St. The name Maramor was a play on Mary's name. Around 1927, the eatery moved across the street to 137 E. Broad, once the site of the Huntington Mansion.

The Maramor was the type of restaurant where people went on special occasions; where waitresses were inspected before they left the kitchen to serve customers; where the finest silver and china were used; and where show tunes were played on the piano. It was also where food was prepared from scratch using fresh ingredients. At one time it was rated as a four star restaurant and had a gift shop and candy kitchen where chocolates were made. Some world renowned individuals dined at the Maramor including Gertrude Stein, Helen Hayes, Josh Logan and Columbus's own James Thurber.

If the Maramor was for special occasions, Mills restaurant was for everyday appetite control, especially lunch. The first one opened in 1911 as the brain child of James O. Mills. It was a unique, self-serve cafeteria style restaurant. Mills went on to open several other restaurants in Columbus, plus ones in Cincinnati and Cleveland. The next Mills restaurant to open in Columbus was located on E. State St. In 1912, another opened at 165 N. High St. and the next year one opened at 19 N. High, next to the Deshler Hotel. Two years later, another Mills Restaurant opened at Spring and High Streets. In 1916, Mr. Mills opened his last restaurant at 77 S. High St. This one, the last of the Mills restaurant chain closed in 1976. The windmills on the outside of the restaurants were familiar landmarks.

### Sources

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