

The North Market

In 1814 civic minded property owners organized a Central Market in Columbus, Ohio. It was located in the middle of High Street, south of Rich Street. A 50-foot frame structure was used until 1817, when City Council authorized the construction of a larger market on State Street just west of High Street. The new two-story building housed the market, a printing office and amusement games.

By 1847, the market had again outgrown its site and needed more parking spaces. A location was selected on Fourth Street near Town Street and City Council agreed to use the structure's second floor for government offices. The new facility was completed in 1850 providing Columbus with its first City Hall and an improved Central Market.

Vendors filled the public market with a wide variety of goods ranging from pigeon meat to fresh blackberries, thus establishing an agricultural institution that would survive well into the 20th century. During the 1950 centennial, local papers noted that the market held "the largest concentration of meat stands in the United States", 20,000 people shopped at the market on a busy Saturday, and 10,000 people attended the 100th anniversary celebration. Although successful, the market was perceived as standing in the way of progress and was razed in 1966 to make way for the Market-Mohawk urban renewal project.

Over the years public markets were established in various neighborhoods to accommodate Columbus's growing population. There were markets on the east and west sides, but only the North Market has survived to carry on the tradition.

Established in 1876, the North Market was located in a block-long building at Spruce and Wall Streets. The original building burned in February, 1948, and was replaced with a Quonset hut that housed the market.

In January, 1995, the bond was renewed between Columbus city government and the public market when City Council passed an ordinance earmarking \$4.2 million dollars for the North Market expansion. Renovation of 59 E. Spruce Street took nearly a year. Space was created for 44 merchants inside, plus an additional 36 booths for seasonal outdoor shopping. The North Market was temporarily closed as merchants moved their wares. The grand opening ceremony was held in November 1995.

Source:

Darbee, Jeffrey T. *AIA Guide to Columbus*, Athens, OH: Ohio University Press, 2008