

= Marshall Field and Company Building =

Marshall Field and Company Building or Macy 's at State Street , in Chicago , Illinois , built in 1891 @-@ 1892 , was the flagship location of the Marshall Field and Company , also known as Marshall Field 's chain of department stores and , since 2006 , is the main Chicago mid @-@ western location of the Macy 's ( formerly as the R. H. Macy and Company of New York City , now nationwide chain ) . The building is located in the Chicago " Loop " area of the downtown central business district in Cook County , Illinois , U.S.A. , and it takes up the entire city block bounded clockwise from the west by North State Street , East Randolph Street , North Wabash Avenue , and East Washington Street . Marshall Field 's established numerous important business " firsts " in this building and in a long series of previous elaborate decorative structures on this site for the last century and a half , and it is regarded as one of the three most influential establishments in the nationwide development of the department store and in the commercial business economic history of the United States . Both the building name and the name of the stores formerly headquartered at this building changed names on September 9 , 2006 as a result of the merger of the previous May 's Department Stores ( Marshall Field 's former owner and parent ) with the Federated Department Stores which led to the integration of the Marshall Field 's stores into the Macy 's now nationwide retailing network .

The building , which is the third largest store in the world , was both declared a National Historic Landmark and listed on the National Register of Historic Places on June 2 , 1978 , and it was designated a Chicago Landmark on November 1 , 2005 . The building architecture is known for its multiple atria ( several balconied atrium - " Great Hall " ) and for having been built in stages over the course of more than two decades . Its ornamentation includes a Louis Comfort Tiffany , ( 1848 @-@ 1933 ) , ( later Tiffany & Co. studios of New York City ) mosaic vaulted ceiling and a pair of well @-@ known outdoor street @-@ corner clocks at State and Washington , and later at State and Randolph Streets , which serve as symbols of the store since 1897 .

= = Business history = =

Although the official corporate name of the retail entity based in this building had been Marshall Field & Company ( nicknamed Marshall Field 's ) from 1881 until 2006 , the store has had five different names since its inception in 1852 as P. Palmer & Co . In 1868 , after bowing out of involvement in day @-@ to @-@ day operations with his new partners of Field , Palmer & Leiter , Potter Palmer convinced Marshall Field and Levi Leiter to move the Field , Leiter & Co. store to a building Palmer owned on State Street at the corner of Washington Street . After being consumed by the " Great Chicago Fire " and splitting the wholesale business from the retail operations , the store resumed operations at State and Washington in a rebuilt structure , now leased from the Singer Sewing Machine Company . In 1877 another fire consumed this building , and when a new Singer Building was built to replace it at the same location in 1879 , Field then put together the financing to purchase it . The business has remained there ever since , and it has added four subsequent buildings to form the integrated structure that is now called the " Marshall Field and Company Building " .

Chicago 's retailing center was State Street in the famous downtown " Loop " after the " Great Chicago Fire " of 1871 , and this center has been anchored by Marshall Field 's and its predecessor companies in this building complex . However , commuter suburbs began to have significant retail districts by the 1920s . In the 1920s , the store created new suburban locations such as Marshall Field and Company Store to remain competitive . After 1950 , with the booming post @-@ World War II economic / social climate with increasing suburban residential and commercial development , saw the construction of first " strip " shopping centers , followed by regional enclosed shopping malls along major thoroughfares and interstate highways such as the " Magnificent Mile " reduced the role of the " Loop " ' s daily significance to many Chicagoans as downtown retail sales slipped and gradually additional business moved outward following first the streetcar lines and then the automobile . Eventually , there was an influx of stores from other parts of the country as the pace of

commercial retailing merged , consolidating , and spreading first regionally then nationwide . Nonetheless , the Marshall Field and Company Building has survived at this location . However , with the merger and conversion to Macy 's the emphasis of the store changed and store @-@ branded lines replaced many designer labels , such as Dolce & Gabbana , Prada , Miu Miu and Jimmy Choo , which led to the disassembly of several designer departments of the former Field 's ( see picture below ) .

On September 9 , 2006 , at the time of the stores merger and conversion , the name of the building was officially changed to " Macy 's at State Street " . Around this time of the conversion of Marshall Field 's to Macy 's the building was also the location of vociferous and outraged picketing and protesting by opponents of the merger / conversion and the growth in general of massive business mergers and economic consolidation across the country . After buying out his various partners over the early post @-@ Civil War era , Marshall Field founded the Marshall Field & Company corporate entity that survived 152 years and had arranged before his death , to have this building constructed . The sentimental objections to the conversion that both eliminated the existence of the corporate entity bearing his name and renaming the building bearing his name were widely reported in the national media of newspapers , radio and television .

= = = Business legend = = =

The store housed a business that established new retailing standards and broke many retailing conventions of the day . The company quickly became successful , and by the 1880s it was one of the three largest retailers in the country . Before Marshall Field 's death in 1906 , his company became the largest wholesale and retail dry goods enterprise in the world . The Marshall Field & Company offered the first bridal registry , provided the first in @-@ store dining facilities and established the first European buying office . The former store also was the first to provide personal shopping assistants . In the early 1900s , annual sales topped \$ 60 million , and buying branches were located in New York City , London , Paris , Tokyo , Stockholm and Berlin .

The building has hosted the first escalators built in a department store and continues to be the second largest store in the world . Marshall Field took over the operations of the store in 1881 and became the first merchant to post the price of the goods in plain sight , which eliminated the common practice of haggling and charging whatever the buyer would pay . On top of that , Field stood behind his product with his famous slogan that symbolized his willingness to refund the full price of all merchandise ( a policy inherited from early mentor and partner Potter Palmer ) purchased in his store :

= = Building details = =

The 12 @-@ story granite building was constructed in stages between 1891 @-@ 1892 and 1914 on a partitioned block with sections that were added to the building in 1902 , 1906 , 1907 , and 1914 . Although he died before they were constructed , Charles B. Atwood , ( 1849 @-@ 1895 ) , of the D. H. Burnham & Company ( from original 1891 @-@ 1892 structure 's architect Daniel H. Burnham , ( 1846 @-@ 1912 ) , later firm ) , designed the two primary additional sections along State Street ( The north building built in 1902 and the south in 1907 ) . For a time , the building was the largest store in the world at 73 acres ( 300 @,@ 000 m<sup>2</sup> ) of floorspace , with the largest book , china , shoe , and toy departments of all the world 's department stores .

The current building has several atria : A Louis Comfort Tiffany , ( 1848 @-@ 1933 ) , ( later Tiffany & Co. studios of New York City ) mosaic vaulted ceiling dome caps a 5 @-@ story balconied atrium in the southwest corner ; the northwest section has a 13 @-@ story skylit atrium , and a newer atrium with a fountain in the center is bridged by double escalator banks . The Tiffany Ceiling is over 6 @,@ 000 square feet ( 560 m<sup>2</sup> ) , and it is the first iridescent glass dome and it continues to be the largest glass mosaic of its kind . Only Egypt 's 3 @,@ 000 @-@ year @-@ old Temple of Karnak , with its 70 @-@ foot ( 21 m ) columns rivals the four 50 @-@ foot ( 15 m ) Ionic @-@ style capped granite columns on the State Street façade .

The building is known for its two exterior clocks , which weigh about 7 @. @ 5 short tons ( 6 @. @ 7 long tons ) each , on its northwest and southwest corners along State Street at both Randolph and Washington Streets . The southwest clock at the original Washington Street intersection , known as --- " The Great Clock " , was installed on November 26 , 1897 . Marshall Field envisioned the clock as a beacon for his store which he viewed as a meeting place . The clock was installed after the southwest corner of the store had become a popular meeting place and people began leaving notes for one another on the Marshall Field 's windows . The clock was an attempt to end this practice , and encourage punctuality .

Today , the building is located at 111 North State Street , between Washington and Randolph Streets , within the designated " Loop " Retail Historic District of the Chicago " Loop " , across State Street from the " Block 37 " future construction project , across Randolph Street from the Joffrey Tower , and across Wabash Avenue from The Heritage at Millennium Park . An underground public concourse connects the basement to 25 East Washington Street , which formerly housed the Marshall Field 's Men 's Store . The building is a major hub for the " Chicago Pedway " .

= = Traditions and popular culture = =

The building has several Christmas traditions : it is known as the former production site of " Frango " and for the Walnut Room Christmas tree . It also hosts an ornate decorated display windows series at the street level . The windows display includes thirteen themed windows along State Street that in recent years have displayed the themes of the unfolding of stories of Snow White , Charlie and the Chocolate Factory , Paddington Bear , The Night Before Christmas , Harry Potter , and Cinderella . Annually a three @-@ story tall conifer Christmas tree is brought in for the Holidays season . In an effort to quell opposition to the merger / conversion , Macy 's made a formal statement of its intent to continue the traditions of a 45 @-@ foot ( 13 @. @ 716 m ) Christmas tree , a seventh floor " Frango " viewing kitchen , and animated holiday window displays .

On November 3 , 1945 , American illustrator Norman Rockwell drew a picture of one of the Marshall Field 's Building clocks on the cover of the famous " Saturday Evening Post " magazine , entitled " The Clock Mender " . The Rockwell painting shows a man perched atop a ladder and adjusting one of the Marshall Field 's clock to correspond with his own pocket watch . The old Oriental Theatre in the background proves this depicts the matching " Great Clock " at the northwest corner of the building at State & Randolph Streets . In 1948 , Rockwell donated the original painting , " The Clock Mender " , to the store , where it had hung on the seventh floor ever since . After Target Corporation sold Field 's to the May Department Stores , which later merged with Federated Department Stores in 2005 , the Federated officials discovered a reproduction copy on display . Federated removed the fake copy and asked Target to return the original . The painting has since been donated to the Chicago Historical Society , which had from February 26 , 2000 to May 21 , 2000 been the second stop of the seven @-@ city national tour of " Pictures for the American People " , the first comprehensive Rockwell career exhibition that had been organized by the High Museum of Art of Atlanta and the Norman Rockwell Museum of Stockbridge , Massachusetts and that had also visited the Solomon R. Guggenheim Museum in New York City , Corcoran Gallery of Art in Washington , D.C. , San Diego Museum of Art and Phoenix Art Museum .

In John Dos Passos ' novel The 42nd Parallel ( 1930 ) , character Eric Egstrom is employed at this Marshall Field 's building .

Authors G. K. Chesterton and Sinclair Lewis met in the Field 's department store building 's book department , which resulted in their collaboration on the unpublished play " Mary Queen of Scotch . "

= = Gallery = =