

= Marquette Building (Chicago) =

The Marquette Building , completed in 1895 , is a Chicago landmark that was built by the George A. Fuller Company and designed by architects Holabird & Roche . The building is currently owned by the John D. and Catherine T. MacArthur Foundation . It is located in the community area known as the " Loop " in Cook County , Illinois , United States .

The building was one of the early steel frame skyscrapers of its day , and is considered one of the best examples of the Chicago School of architecture . The building originally had a reddish , terra cotta exterior that is now somewhat blackened due to decades of Loop soot . It is noted both for its then cutting edge frame and its ornate interior .

Since being built , the building has received numerous awards and honors . It was designated a Chicago Landmark on June 9 , 1975 , and it is considered an architectural masterpiece . It was added to the National Register of Historic Places on August 17 , 1973 . It was named a National Historic Landmark on January 7 , 1976 . The building 's preservation has been a major focus of the Landmarks Preservation Council of Illinois . The John D. and Catherine T. MacArthur Foundation completed an extensive four @-@ year restoration in 2006 .

= = History = =

The building was named after Father Jacques Marquette , the first European settler in Chicago , who explored the Chicago region in 1674 and wintered in the area for the 1674 @-@ 5 winter season . It was designed by William Holabird and Martin Roche , with Coydon T. Purdy , architects of the firm Holabird & Roche .

In the 1930s the building was the downtown headquarters for over 30 railroad companies . Around 1950 , the terra @-@ cotta cornice was removed from the Marquette Building when an additional story was added . The building has been in continuous use as an office building since its construction .

In 1977 , Banker 's Life and Casualty Company , owned by John D. MacArthur , acquired the Marquette Building . After his death in 1978 , the building became the headquarters for the MacArthur Foundation , which bears his name .

The lobby of the Marquette Building connects with the D.H. Burnham & Company ? designed Edison Building to the west , providing a pedway from Dearborn to Clark . After the September 11 , 2001 attacks , many downtown buildings closed to the public , which eliminated warm , dry , indoor walking routes providing shortcuts through full city blocks , but the Marquette Building did not .

= = Architecture = =

The building features several distinct elements that have earned it honors as a Chicago Landmark , a National Historic Landmark , and a National Register Historic Place . It is considered an exemplary model of the Chicago School of Architecture . The architects , Holabird & Roche , used trademark long horizontal bay " Chicago windows " on the Marquette Building . These are large panes of glass flanked by narrow sash windows . The grid @-@ like window frames and spandrels are facilitated by the steel structure which enables non @-@ load @-@ bearing masonry walls . This was one of the first steel framed skyscrapers . Wave @-@ like moldings decorate the façade , which is made of horizontally banded brown terra cotta . The building is built around a central light court featuring an ornate , two @-@ story lobby .

The ensemble of mosaics , sculptures , and bronze of the Marquette Building entry and interior honors Jacques Marquette ? s 1674 @-@ 5 expedition . Four bas relief panels over the main entrance by sculptor Hermon Atkins MacNeil show different scenes from Marquette 's trip through the Great Lakes region , ending with one depicting his burial . The revolving door panels feature carvings of panther 's heads . The hexagonal railing around the lobby atrium is decorated with a mosaic frieze by the Tiffany studio depicting events in the life of Jacques Marquette , his exploration of Illinois , and Native Americans he met . The mosaics are by Louis Comfort Tiffany and his chief

designer and art director , Jacob Adolph Holzer ; they contain panels of lustered Tiffany glass , mother @-@ of @-@ pearl , and semi @-@ precious stones .

= = Restoration = =

The preservation of this building was championed by the Landmarks Preservation Council of Illinois . In 2001 , the John D. and Catherine T. MacArthur Foundation , its current owners , began a multi @-@ year renovation . The restoration to the exterior proceeded in two phases : reconstructing the cornice and replacing the 17th story windows to match the original windows ; and cleaning and restoring the masonry and restoring the remainder of the windows . Restoration architect Thomas " Gunny " Harboe directed this work .

On September 12 , 2006 , The Commission on Chicago Landmarks honored 21 landmark buildings , homeowners , and businesses with the Chicago Landmark Award for Preservation Excellence at the eighth @-@ annual Landmarks ceremony . The award recognizes work involving notable improvements to individual Chicago landmarks or to buildings within Chicago Landmark Districts .

On October 16 , 2007 , the Foundation opened a new interactive audio visual exhibit on the first floor , detailing the history of the building and its contribution to Chicago architecture . The free exhibit , which is open to the public , will run indefinitely .

= = Additional sources = =

Riedy , James L. , Chicago Sculpture , University of Illinois Press , Urbana , IL 1981

Rooney , William A. , Architectural Ornamentation in Chicago , Chicago Review Press , Chicago , 1984