

= Wells Fargo Building ( Philadelphia ) =

The Wells Fargo Building , originally the Fidelity @-@ Philadelphia Trust Company Building , is a skyscraper in Center City , Philadelphia , Pennsylvania , United States . Designed in the Beaux @-@ Arts style by the architectural firm Simon & Simon , the building was erected for the Fidelity @-@ Philadelphia Trust Co. in 1928 . The 29 @-@ story high @-@ rise is listed on the National Register of Historic Places .

The building was long regarded as premier office space , but by the 1980s , tenants were leaving for newer buildings in the West Market Street neighborhood . Extensive rehab work has since drawn new tenants . Its largest tenant has always been the Fidelity @-@ Philadelphia Trust Company or its successor companies ? today , Wells Fargo .

The 405 @-@ foot ( 123 m ) limestone and granite skyscraper features recesses that give the building an H @-@ shape above the fifth floor . Decorations include sculpture by Piccirilli Brothers and 150 @,@ 000 square feet ( 14 @,@ 000 m2 ) of marble . Seven medallions , mainly depicting early American coins , decorate the street @-@ level facade . Bas @-@ relief figures decorate the spandrels above the building 's bronze doors , which are themselves decorated by high @-@ relief panels depicting the history of commerce and civilization .

= = History = =

In the late 1920s , numerous high @-@ rises were constructed in Center City Philadelphia . Among the businesses commissioning new high @-@ rises was the Fidelity @-@ Philadelphia Trust Company , the result of the 1926 merger between Fidelity Trust Company and the Philadelphia Trust Company . Before the merger , in 1925 , architects Edward P. Simon and Grant M. Simon of the firm Simon and Simon were approached to design a new building . The designs were complete by the end of 1926 and in January 1927 general contractor Irwin & Leighton was engaged to build the Fidelity @-@ Philadelphia Trust Company Building . The site of the building along Broad Street was previously the location of the Forrest Theater and the " Yellow Mansion " ( also known as the Dundas Lippincott House ) .

Construction began in 1927 and the building was opened on June 1 , 1928 . The building became premier office space in the center of the city , serving as the home of major law firms among other tenants . In 1953 , steel and concrete pen houses were built at the back of the building to house air conditioning equipment .

In July 1982 , the parent company of Fidelity Bank , Fidelcor , put up for sale Fidelity Building Corp. , a subsidiary which owns The Fidelity Building and the neighboring Witherspoon Building . In December of that year , Fidelcor announced that the Al @-@ Tajir Foundation , a real estate investment company owned by Mahdi Al Tajir , had agreed to buy Fidelity Building Corp. for US \$ 63 @.@ 5 million .

During the late @-@ 1980s office building boom in the West Market Street area of Center City , businesses left the Fidelity Building for newer office space . As a result , the building 's owners filed for Chapter 11 bankruptcy protection in 1992 . That same year , the Fidelity Building Corporation was purchased by First Fidelity Bankcorp , a company formed in the 1988 merger of the building 's original owners and First Fidelity Corporation of Newark , New Jersey .

First Union Corporation took control of the building in 1995 when it bought Fidelity Bankcorp . Shortly after taking over , First Union spent millions of dollars renovating the facade and interiors and modernizing the mechanical systems . In 2000 , First Fidelity Building Corporation , a company controlled by First Union , put the Fidelity Building up for sale . Later that year , Nicholas Schorsch , of the American Financial Resource Group , and a group of investors bought the building for about US \$ 110 million . In 2006 , a 256 @,@ 000 @-@ square @-@ foot ( 23 @,@ 800 m2 ) portion of the lower floors of the building was sold to Resnick Development Corporation , a subsidiary of Jack Resnick & Sons Incorporated . In April 2008 , American Financial Realty Trust sold the remainder of the building to SSH Real Estate and Young Capital for US \$ 57 @.@ 7 million .

During the early 2000s , the building became known as the Wachovia Building . Wachovia became

the building 's largest tenant after merging with First Union Corporation early in the decade . In 2006 , Wachovia re @-@ negotiated its lease , which was set to expire in 2010 . After exploring other potential new office space in Center City , Wachovia made a deal to stay in the Wachovia Building along with the neighboring Witherspoon Building , the nearby One South Broad , and the Widener Building until the 2020s . The building became known as the Wells Fargo Building after Wells Fargo , which bought Wachovia in 2008 , re @-@ branded Wachovia area banks in April 2011 . Wells Fargo marketed the change by having a stagecoach carrying Philadelphia mayor Michael Nutter and others ride from Philadelphia City Hall to the Wells Fargo Building .

= = Architecture = =

The 29 @-@ story , 405 @-@ foot @-@ tall ( 123 m ) Wells Fargo Building is located on the Avenue of the Arts in Center City , Philadelphia . The building faces Broad Street on the west , Walnut Street on the south , and Sansom Street on the north . To the east of the building is the 11 @-@ story Witherspoon Building , built in 1896 . Owned by the same owners , the two buildings are linked together . Containing 892 @,@ 000 square feet ( 83 @,@ 000 m<sup>2</sup> ) , the Wells Fargo Building 's footprint measures 220 feet 6 @.@ 5 inches ( 67 @.@ 22 m ) by 175 feet 5 @.@ 5 inches ( 53 @.@ 48 m ) . Built in the Beaux @-@ Arts style the building 's brick curtain wall is made of limestone ashlar on the upper and lower floors and rusticated granite on the 2nd and 3rd floors .

Horizontally the building is divided into three parts . The first two stories and a mezzanine level make up the building 's base . The next eighteen floors make up the building 's shaft and center . The distinctive features of the center are two 55 feet ( 17 m ) recesses on the east and west sides of the building . Starting above the fourth floor , the recesses give the building an H @-@ shape . The skyscraper 's top section is distinguished from the lower floors by three small setbacks .

At street level , three arched entranceways line Broad Street . The central arch is slightly larger than the others to indicate the entrance to the main banking hall . Carved into the facade above the center arch is the building 's name . Inside the arches and above the doorways are windows designed by d 'Ascenzo Studios . Leaded panes of glass of various shades of amber are surrounded by a Renaissance @-@ style border . Below the windows are bronze doors , each with 24 high @-@ relief panels depicting the history of commerce and civilization . Bas @-@ relief figures decorate each of the arches ' spandrels . A male figure with a hammer representing industry and a female figure with a beehive representing thrift decorate the center arch . The arch closest to Sansom Street is decorated by two figures with cornucopias to represent abundance . The arch nearer to Walnut Street is decorated by a painter and a sculptor to represent art .

Next to the two smaller archways are carved medallions , one flanking each spandrel . The medallions closest to Sansom Street represent early American coins , a Pine Tree coin from Massachusetts and Grandi Copper coin from Connecticut . The medallions closest to the Walnut Street side represent the first American coin issued by Congress and the Eye Coin from Vermont . Two medallions on the Walnut Street side depict both sides of the Lafayette Medal . Only one medallion decorates the Sansom Street side , depicting another early coin from Vermont .

The Wells Fargo Building 's interiors include a 2 ½ -story banking hall featuring six 58 @-@ ton steel girders that support the skyscraper 's structure . The girders were the largest in the Eastern United States at the time of construction . Among the 150 @,@ 000 square feet ( 14 @,@ 000 m<sup>2</sup> ) of marble inside the Wells Fargo Building is the cream @-@ colored terrazzo marble used throughout the banking hall . At the rear of the hall is a marble sculpture by the Piccirilli Brothers . The statue depicts semi @-@ nude male and female representations of day and night clasping hands under a clock to symbolize eternity .

Above the statue and framed by marble pilasters is a window that depicts scenes from Philadelphia history . In the window 's tympanum is a depiction of Independence Hall . Below that are pictures showing William Penn 's treaty with the Indians , George Washington 's Farewell Address to Congress , the proclamation of the Declaration of Independence , the Philadelphia Convention , the drafting of the Declaration of Independence , Benjamin Franklin 's printing office , Betsy Ross exhibiting the United States flag , and Caesar Rodney 's ride from Delaware . The border of the

window contains portrait busts of notable American Revolution @-@ era Philadelphians : John Bartram , George Clymer , Robert Morris , David Rittenhouse , Benjamin Rush , and James Wilson .

The Wells Fargo Building was added to the National Register of Historic Places on November 27 , 1978 . The skyscraper was listed because it was an excellent example of commercial Beaux @-@ Arts architecture and because it stands " as a glossary of modern skyscraper design , synthesizing the primary features of three phases of skyscraper development reaching back to the 1880s " . The building 's characteristics are its tripartite system of a base , shaft , and capital , the treatment of the skyscraper as a tower , and the use of setbacks .

= = Tenants = =

Leasing 30 percent of the building , Wells Fargo is the skyscraper 's largest tenant . The second largest tenant is law firm Montgomery , McCracken , Walker & Rhoads , which occupies about 108 @,@ 000 square feet ( 10 @,@ 000 m2 ) on the top five and a half floors ; the firm signed a 15 @-@ year lease in 1995 . Other tenants include Domus Inc . , which occupies 12 @,@ 000 square feet ( 1 @,@ 100 m2 ) . Domus Inc. moved into the Wells Fargo Building in 2000 after outgrowing its space in the Bellevue @-@ Stratford Hotel .

Past tenants include the law firms Morgan Lewis & Bockius and Pepper Hamilton & Sheetz and offices for the Westmoreland Coal Company . A private eating club used to operate at the top of the building . Called the Midday Club , it was intended " to provide in the heart of the financial district , removed from the noise and activity of the street , a place where businessmen can dine in a restful atmosphere with their business associates " . The Midday Club opened in 1929 and closed in 1978 .

= = Museum = =

The lobby holds a branch of the Wells Fargo History Museum ; its exhibits include a stagecoach , telegraph equipment , historic clothing and currency .

= = In popular culture = =

In 1983 , the Wells Fargo Building was featured in the film Trading Places , which starred Dan Aykroyd and Eddie Murphy .