

The Powhatan



Identification

EBN	117561
Name	The Powhatan
Construction Type	high-rise building
Current Status	existing [completed]

Location

Continent Name	North America	District (1st level)	South Side
Country Name	U.S.A.	District (2nd level)	Kenwood
State Name	Illinois	Postcode	60615
Zone	Indian Village	Address (as text)	4950 South Chicago Beach Drive
Metro Area Name	Chicago-Naperville-Michigan City	Main Address	4950 South Chicago Beach Drive

Combined Statistical Area

City Name	Chicago	Virtual Address	1648 East 50th Street
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Map



Description

Structural Material	concrete	Facade Color	light brown
Facade System	applied masonry	Architectural style	Art Deco
Facade Material	limestone	Main Usage	co-operative apartments

Spatial dimensions

Height (structural)	269.75 ft	Volume	Contact us
Height (top floor)	234.8 ft	Floors (underground)	1
Height (roof)	266.43 ft	Floors (overground)	22
Height (obs. deck)	234.8 ft	Units	Contact us

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Height (floor-floor)	10.71 ft	Elevators	3
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Years and costs

Year (construction start)	1927	Building costs	\$ 2,350,000
Year (construction end)	1929		

Features & Amenities

- City landmark

Facts

- Services include a 24-hour doorman and the only 24-hour elevator operators in Chicago.
- The lobby walls feature mosaic strips alternating with the wood paneling, producing the effect of a tropical forest.
- The Powhatan projects farther east than any of the other highrises along Chicago Beach Drive.
- The top floor contains a grand art deco ballroom overlooking Lake Michigan, with open terraces on the north and south sides.
- The interior mosaics were made using a secret process developed by Newton A. Wells and the buildings' architect Charles Morgan which allowed the creation of 430 distinct hues. During restoration, craftsmen had to simulate this lost process.
- Named for an Algonquin chief, this art deco lakefront tower features terra-cotta panels depicting scenes from Native American culture.
- Entrance to the building is through a rotunda at the southeast corner with a ring of art deco depictions of Native Americans around the ceiling.
- In the 1950s the lobby's features were covered over with drywall and a lowered ceiling, but the interior has since been restored.
- Another tower with a similar art deco façade, the Narragansett Apartments, was built directly to the west. Both buildings originally overlooked the Chicago Beach Hotel and its grounds.
- This cooperative building is the most expensive residential high-rise on Chicago's south side per tenant.
- On the ground floor there is an art-deco swimming pool with pink walls and painted palm trees.

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- A pair of Peregrine falcons was brought in during the 1980s to control pigeons, but they had to be moved after they started chasing residents off the terraces.

Involved companies

Architect.....

Robert S. DeGolyer & Co.
307 North Michigan Avenue
60601 Chicago
U.S.A.

Associate Architect.....

Charles L. Morgan

Additional company data available for this building

Construction Company	Contact us	Elevator Supplier	Contact us
Developer	Contact us	Property Management	Contact us

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