

Pioneer Building

Identification

EBN	128104
Name	Pioneer Building
Alternative Name	Pioneer Press Building
Construction Type	high-rise building
Current Status	existing [completed]

Location

Continent Name	North America	District (1st level)	Downtown
Country Name	U.S.A.	Postcode	55101
State Name	Minnesota	Address (as text)	336 North Robert Street
Metro Area Name	Minneapolis-St. Paul-St. Cloud Combined Statistical Area	Main Address	332-344 North Robert Street

City Name	St. Paul	Virtual Address	121-129 East 4th Street
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Description

Foundation System	pile foundation	Facade Material	brick
Structural System	rigid frame	Facade Color	dark red
Structural Material	steel	Architectural style	romanesque revival
Facade System	applied masonry	Main Usage	commercial office

Spatial dimensions

Height (structural)	225.5 ft	Floors (overground)	16
Height (roof)	225.5 ft	Escalators	2
Floors (underground)	1	Gross Floor Area (GFA)	Buy full PDF

Years and costs

Year (construction start)	1888	Year (last renovation)	1909
Year (construction end)	1889		

Features & Amenities

- One of the city's famous buildings
- City landmark
- National landmark
- Light court is present
- Panoramic elevators are present

Facts

- The Pioneer Building was added to the National Register of Historic Places in 1974.

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- The offices and elevators are arranged around an interior light court, the only surviving example in the Twin Cities from the 19th century.
- A plaque inside the building indicates it was the home of the world's first telephone answering service, implemented in 1927.
- At the completion of construction in 1889, the Pioneer Building had 12 stories and was the tallest building west of Chicago, surpassing St. Paul's previous tallest, the Globe Building.
- The Pioneer Building was an early home of Minnesota's first newspaper, now known as the Pioneer Press. The newspaper is now located in the aptly-named Pioneer Press Building, a few blocks to the west.
- The building is adjoined on the east and north by the Endicott Building. The buildings are connected at the ground and skyway levels.
- Solon S. Beman, the original architect, designed four additional floors which were added in 1909, 20 years after the completion of construction.
- The Pioneer Building still employed elevator operators as of June 2004.
- The foundation consists of more than 600 wooden piles.
- The Pioneer Building was the tallest in St. Paul from 1889 until 1915, when the Merchant's Bank Building, directly across Robert Street, was completed.
- Four elevators rise along the west side of the light court. They are grouped into two sets of two, separated by a stairwell.

Involved companies

Architect.....

Solon S. Beman
Chicago
U.S.A.

Additional company data available for this building

Construction Company	Buy full PDF	Property Management	Buy full PDF
Elevator Supplier	Buy full PDF	Real Estate Agent	Buy full PDF
Escalator Supplier	Buy full PDF		

Renovations

Renovation 1909

Companies involved in this renovation

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Architect.....

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Structural Engineering

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