

Our Historic Building

The Cleveland Reserve Bank building on East Sixth Street and Superior Avenue is a Cleveland landmark, listed in the National Register of Historic Buildings. It stands as a monument to the ingenuity and prosperity of the post-World War I era, a time when superb craftsmanship and materials could be devoted to a project of such elegant style and large scale. Even today, few edifices in this section of the country can rival its magnificence. 4-14-14-14-14-14-1 The planning and construction of this building have been preserved in the photographs that follow. From these visions came a structure that was, when completed, "the last word in bank construction." RIGHT: Visitors are welcomed to the Federal Reserve Bank of Cleveland's East Sixth Street entrance by two sculptures representing the values of Security and Integrity created by artist Henry Hering.

The Federal Reserve Bank reflects the architectural style of several buildings in downtown Cleveland that were built as part of a long-range city project called the Group Plan.

The Group Plan was developed at the turn of the century. City leaders were impressed with the urban design concepts of Daniel Burnham, who planned the layout of the 1893 World's Columbian Exposition held in Chicago. Burnham had developed the concept of a central mall surrounded by buildings of harmonious architecture.

Clevelanders united behind a similar project for their downtown, hoping to improve the rapid and haphazard development of the city with a series of architecturally impressive public buildings.

Work on the Group Plan started in 1903 and continued for several decades. But the ambitious project was never fully completed because the Great Depression halted development on the west side of the mall.

BOTTOM LEFT: View from the Federal Reserve Bank of Cleveland's south west corner down Superior Avenue toward Public Square (hidden, top right). BOTTOM RIGHT: Downtown Cleveland, circa 1911, looking east along Superior Avenue from Public Square. RIGHT: Aerial view of downtown Cleveland in the modern day.













Breaking Ground

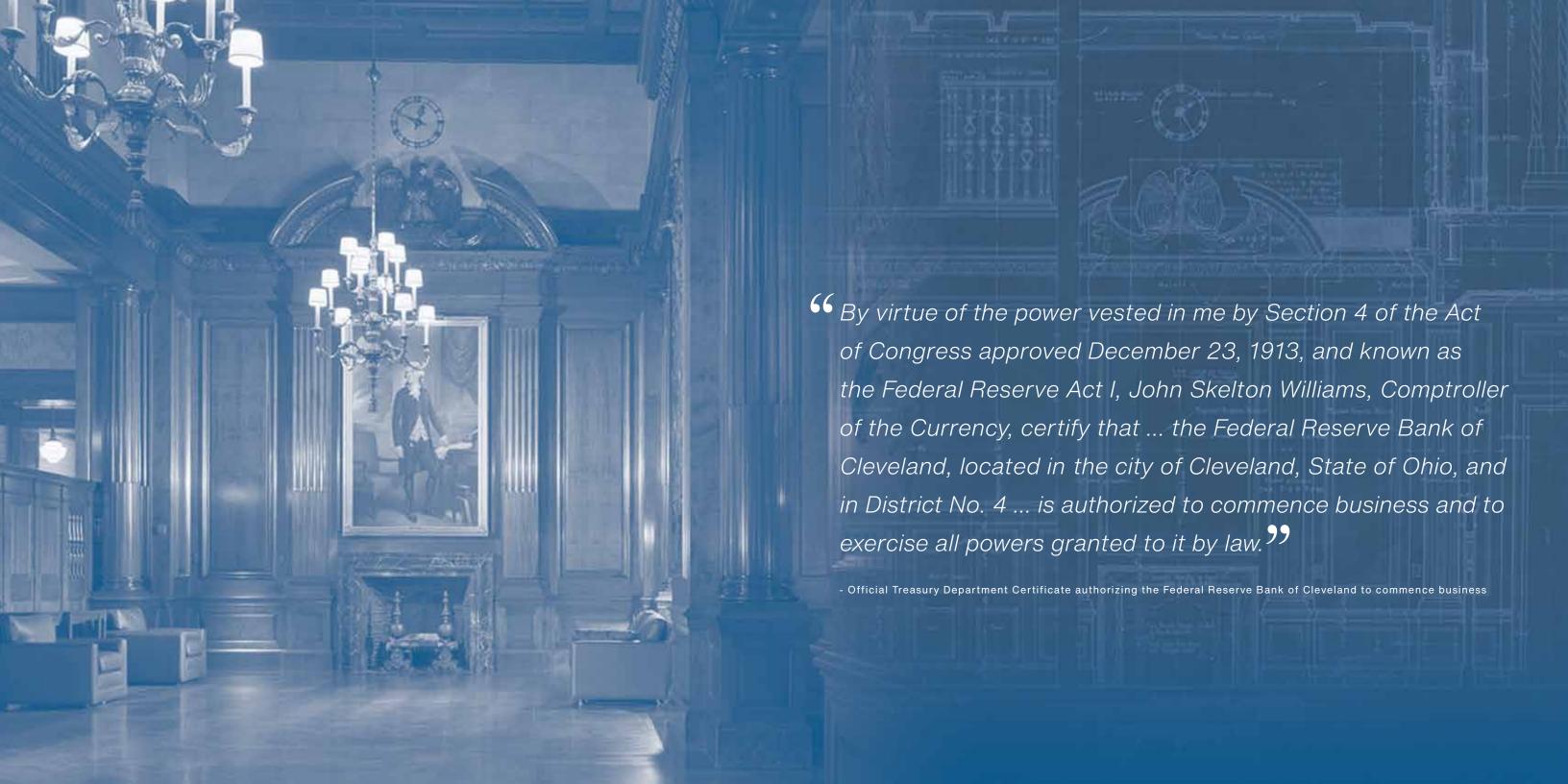
Ground was broken for the Cleveland Reserve Bank building on March 15, 1921. The structure would be the new headquarters of the Fourth Federal Reserve District, one of 12 Federal Reserve Districts in the nation's central banking system created under the Federal Reserve Act of 1913.

The Cleveland Reserve Bank had begun operations seven years earlier in leased offices in the Williamson Building on Euclid Avenue at Public Square.

But banking activity had grown so quickly in the Fourth District—which includes all of Ohio, the eastern part of Kentucky, the western part of Pennsylvania, and the northern panhandle of West Virginia—that the Cleveland Reserve Bank had outgrown the available space.

At that time, the Cleveland Reserve Bank held total assets of \$613,777,000, making it the third largest of the 12 Federal Reserve Banks.

LEFT: Breaking ground on the new Federal Reserve Bank of Cleveland building.



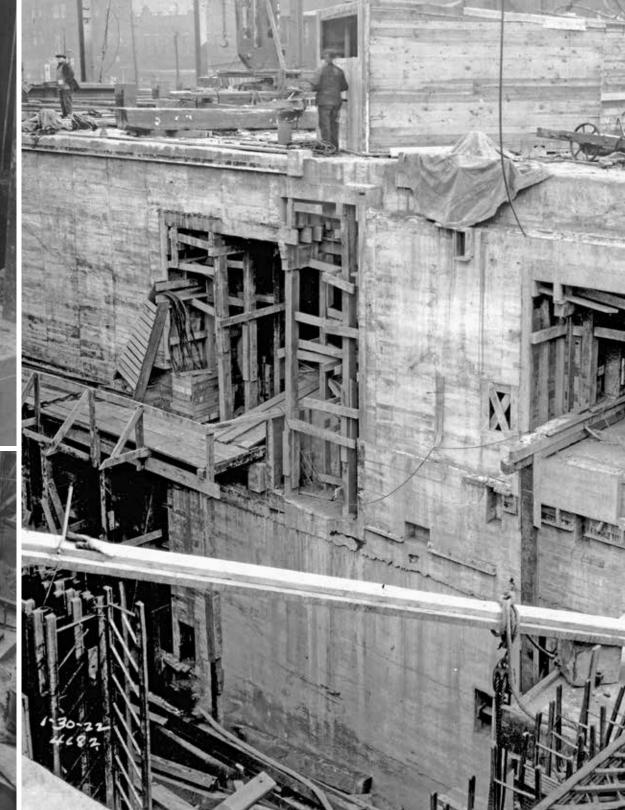
It had taken four architects at the prestigious firm of Walker & Weeks 13 months and 1,000 sketches, plus a team of draftsmen creating 1,924 blueprints, to prepare for the moment of groundbreaking for the new Cleveland Reserve Bank building. And yet, that was only the beginning of a project that would challenge the technology of the times and the ingenuity of the general contractors, John Gill & Sons. The first problem was to provide a firm foundation for the bank on a site formerly occupied by Cleveland's Masonic Temple and, 10,000 years earlier, Lake Erie. The shoreline and sandy beaches of the lake had existed as far south as today's Public Square and Euclid Avenue. As the lake retreated to its present boundary, it left behind a sandy subsoil that produced sinkholes at the construction site.

To assure a firm foundation for the building, it was necessary to excavate in watertight steel cofferdams, and to drive more than 600 concrete-filled tubular pilings into the ground more than 50 feet below street level. Concrete filling was used because the piles had a tendency to tilt to one side and come out of the ground as new ones were driven in.

Construction progress, 1922. TOP LEFT: Concrete-filled tubular pilings are placed in the foundation to secure the building's structure. BOTTOM LEFT: Materials are laid out to construct the highly secure vault in the sub-levels of the Bank's structure. RIGHT: Workers construct the two-story vault structure.















FROM LEFT TO RIGHT: The Federal Reserve Bank of Cleveland was built from the ground up using a large network of steel girders.

Two years and \$8.25 million later, the Federal Reserve Bank of Cleveland was completed. The building measured two hundred feet on East Sixth Street, 216 feet along Superior Avenue, and towered 225 feet from street level to the upper floors. The 13 story headquarters was a modern adaptation of an Italian Renaissance palazzo, or fortress palace.

At the sidewalk level is a base of Moose-a-Bec granite from Maine. The remaining exterior of the building is covered with Etowah marble, a pinkish stone quarried in Tate, Georgia. The stone closely resembles granite and retains a warm color when weathered.

The architects used the marble's various textures to a pleasing advantage, placing the more vigorous textures

at the base and the lighter textures near the top of the building. The sidewalk curbs surrounding the bank are also of Etowah marble to help define the building's territory.

Unlike the unbroken "window wall" style of modern office buildings, the bank's walls are deliberately interrupted seven times between street level and roof line. The first break is at the top of the granite foundation. An elaborate frieze of large rosettes at the second-floor level signals a shift in architectural style while also concealing a number of small windows and ventilator openings.

Projecting moldings arrest the eye at the first, eighth, and ninth floors. Two balconies complete the effect: the third-floor balcony, which is primarily for decoration and consists of carved marble balustrades and squares, and the tenth-floor balcony, which was originally functional but is no longer used.





Finishing touches made to the new building, 1922. TOP LEFT: Cars are lined up on the north side of the building along Rockwell Avenue.

TOP RIGHT: Finishing touches are made on the employee entrance on Superior Avenue. RIGHT: The grand Bank building after construction concluded, 1924.

The architects used another technique to prevent the building from looking tall or massive. They varied the size of the windows from floor to floor. In all, six different window sizes are used across the more than 600 windows in the building.

Perhaps the most memorable feature of the Bank's architecture, especially to the casual passerby, are the large arched windows around the first-floor exterior of the building.

These are protected by heavy, ornate grilles of Swedish iron, giving the façade a protected appearance without seeming overly formidable.

Within the window arches is a keystone design of an eagle with outspread wings surmounted by a star with radiating rays. Large iron torchholders punctuate the space between the windows.







Our Protectors

Three larger-than-life statutes grace the exterior of the Federal Reserve Bank of Cleveland, two in stone, one in bronze. All three were sculpted by Henry Hering of New York City, a student of the sculptor Augustus Saint-Gaudens.

Two stone figures guard the main entrance to the bank on East Sixth Street. According to an internal Federal Reserve document titled "Building of the Federal Reserve Bank of Cleveland," dated March 1, 1937, the female figure on the right, Security, "gazes forth in firm strength, clad in armor and bearing in one hand her iron-bound casket, in the other her sturdy sword."

The same Cleveland Federal Reserve source notes that Integrity, the statue on the left of the entrance,

is "crowned with olive, ... her gaze fixed on a future untroubled by doubt. In one hand she bears the important rolls of office ... In her other, she raises a rod, tipped with an uplifted right hand symbolic of the oath ... of responsibility."

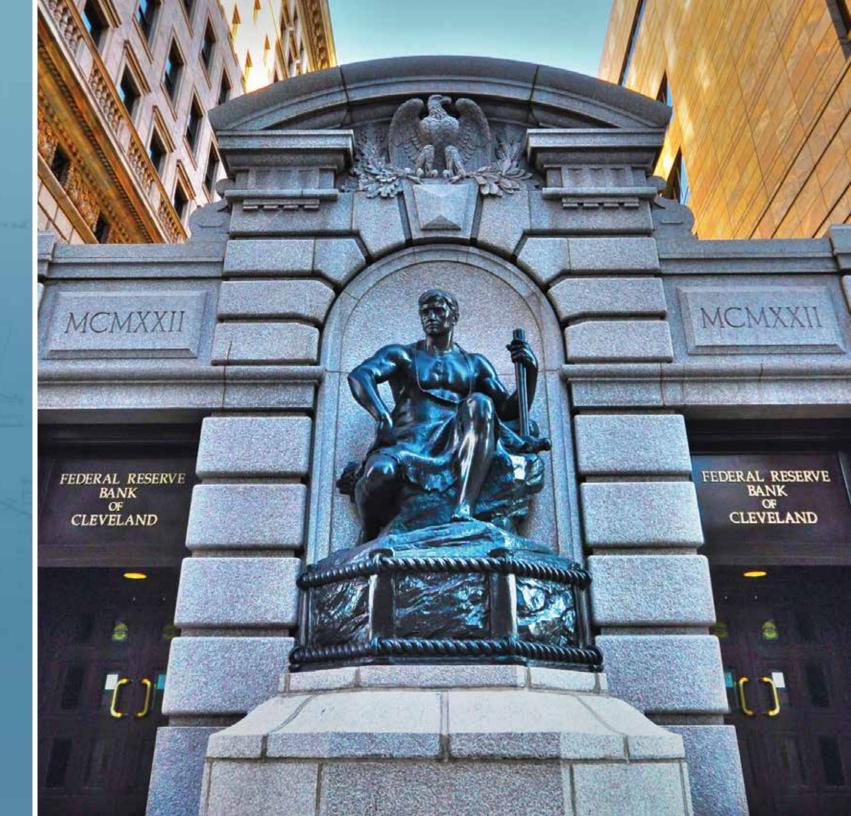
Between these two symbolic figures is the bronze main lobby entrance door, which is topped by a decorative panel. On this panel, an orb of the world, circled by the zodiac, holds the great scales of commerce in equilibrium. The world is flanked by two fierce eagles, each with the talons of one claw firmly planted on the shield of the United States.

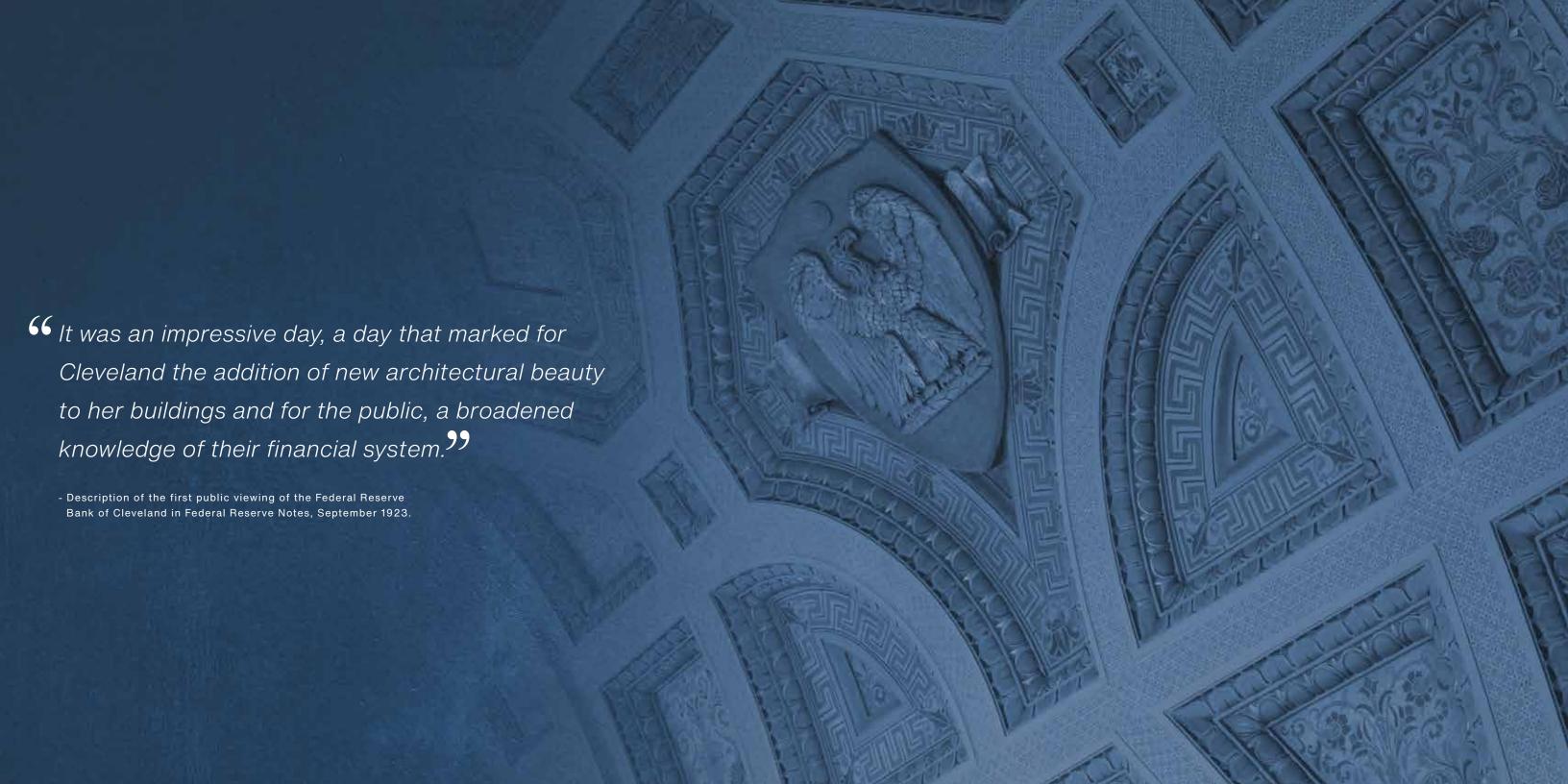
LEFT: Construction of Security statue, East Sixth Street. RIGHT: Integrity (left) and Security (right).

The third statue created by Hering is located on the Superior Avenue side of the building, between two employee entrances. This colossal bronze male figure, Energy in Repose, weighs nearly three tons and is scaled about four times life size.

The document "Building of the Federal Reserve Bank of Cleveland" explains that this statue represents "the great physical energy which, directed by intelligence,

is characteristic of the tremendous activity of
the District for which this great bank serves as the
economic and commercial stabilizer. . . . Energy . . . looks
down upon the workers who enter the gates and who
share, in large measure, the qualities which the figure
typifies in enduring bronze." It is said that the popular
turn-of-the-century matinee idol Francis X. Bushman
modeled for this impressive statue.





Opening Our Doors

On August 23, 1923, the day the doors to the new Federal Reserve Bank of Cleveland opened to the public, an estimated 40,000 visitors passed through the building. They were welcomed into the Bank's golden Italian Renaissance lobby, which is still one of the most spectacular interiors in the city.

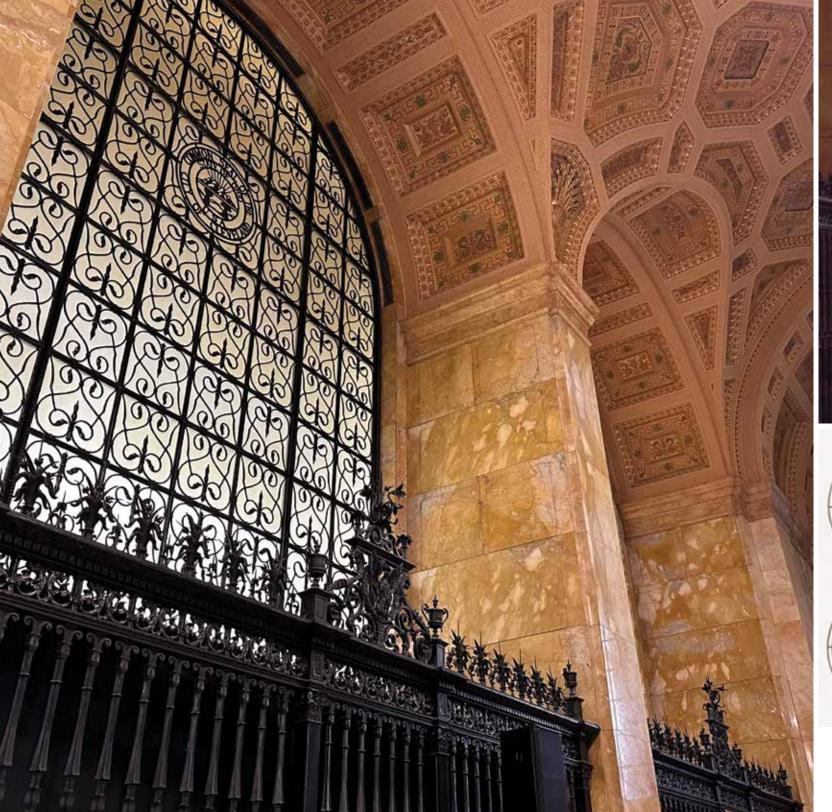
The lobby floor plan and decorations are in the style of a Roman basilica or place of public assembly. The walls are covered with golden, polished marble from Siena, Italy, and reach to a gilded ceiling. The vaulted and domed ceiling has a pattern of deeply recessed panels, hand-painted with red, blue, and gold oils on ornamental plaster in intricate Florentine designs by Joseph Sturdy of Chicago.

Seven large chandeliers and 12 windows in arched, floor-to-ceiling bays provide the soft lighting.

Each window is screened with cast iron grillwork and bears the seal of one of the 12 cities in which Federal Reserve Banks are located. In the early years of the Bank's operation, tellers greeted the public behind the high Swedish iron gates. A series of lights atop the gates served as a silent alarm system.

Pillars, decorated with eagles emblazoned on shields, support the center rotunda. Eight other pillars in the central halls are topped by large gilt sheaves of wheat, a symbol of abundance and prosperity. A massive pair of carved marble urns on the interior stairs leading to the street entrance add to the feeling of solidity and strength evident in the lobby and throughout the building.









LEFT: View of lobby ceiling and window. TOP RIGHT: View of the East Sixth Street Lobby interior from end to end. LOWER RIGHT: Pencil drawings of the original cast iron grillwork Reserve Bank seals that border the walls of the East Sixth Street Lobby.

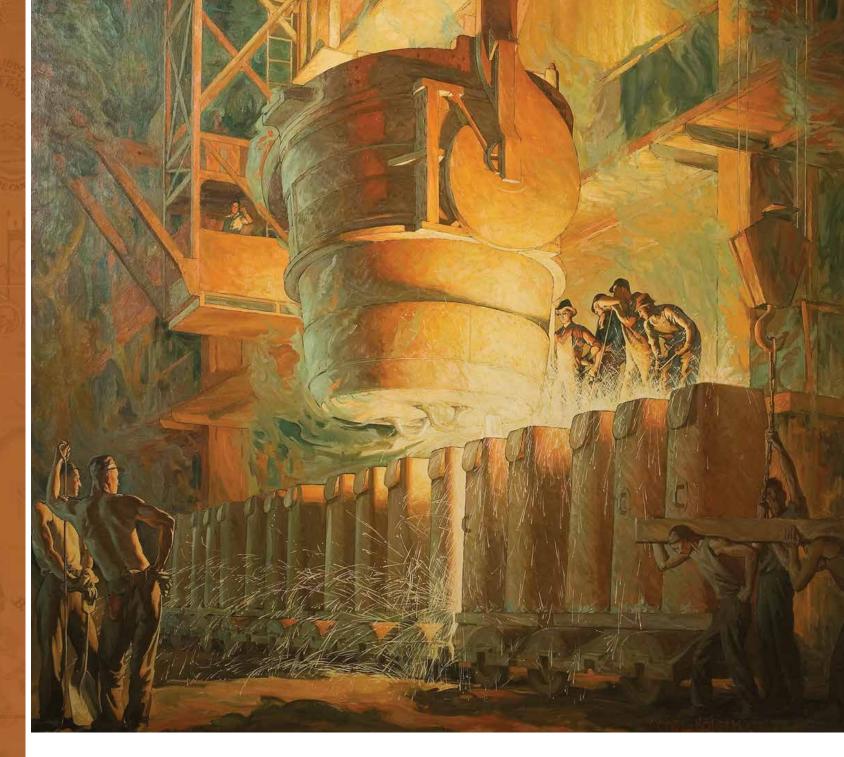
Art Depicts Industry

The section of the lobby that leads from the street entrance directly to the interior offices is decorated with three paintings that illustrate the history and economic life of the Fourth Federal Reserve District and the United States.

A mural entitled *Steel Production* is in a shallow, arched niche above a set of bronze-paneled doors. The painting, by Cleveland artist Cora Millet Holden, portrays an open hearth furnace and is symbolic of the steel industry in the Midwest.

On the left and right walls of the lobby flanking the *Steel Production* mural are two decorative maps. The *Modern Map* shows the Federal Reserve districts and branch offices as they were in 1923. It also depicts a geographical distribution of natural and economic resources at the time.

The *Historical Map* shows the growth of the United States from the early colonies up to 1923. Portraits of Moses Cleaveland, who founded Cleveland in 1796, and of Alexander Hamilton, first secretary of the Treasury, appear on the map.



Cora Millet Holden's mural Steel Production looms large in the Historic Lobby. It depicts a gritty scene from a local steel production facility; the manufacturing of steel was a large part of the Fourth District economy.

The Executive Floor

The offices and meeting rooms on the executive floor reflected the Bank's 1920s heritage, when elegance and comfort were considered important aspects of the banking business.

The Reception Room, in the center of the eighth floor, is a two-story open hall paneled in American black walnut. The walls leading to the area have a hand-stenciled eagle design in coral, aqua, gold, and tan, and the ceiling throughout is painted in oils in the same Florentine style as the main lobby.

The original floor was herringbone-patterned teak wood. Wrought iron chandeliers decorated in Florentine gilt, and candelabra modeled in the Italian Renaissance style add to the grandeur of the room.

The seals of the four states of the Fourth Federal Reserve District are featured prominently on four central panels in the Reception Room. Walker & Weeks designed the intricate seals. Fischer & Jirouch Company of Cleveland created them in clay relief.

Above the stately marble fireplaces at either end of the room hang full-length portraits of Alexander Hamilton and Robert Morris, both of which were painted by Alonzo Myron Kimball of Cleveland. Hamilton was the first secretary of the Treasury, and Morris provided the financial foundation for the American Revolution.

Excellent quality wood is used throughout the eighth floor. The dark walnut paneling of the Reception Room is repeated in the Member Bank Room, Executive Dining Room, President's Office, and First Vice President's Office. The Historic Board of Directors Room is paneled in English oak and has a plaster ceiling that simulates chestnut beams.

When the Bank first opened, a two-story library with a hand-painted ceiling was located on the eighth floor.

Later, the library was moved to another floor in order to accommodate its growth. Only the ceiling remains of the original library, which has been converted to offices.







TOP: Executive floor Reception Room, 2012. BOTTOM LEFT: Historic Board Room, 1923. BOTTOM RIGHT: A two-level research library used to be located on the eighth floor. The library was later relocated to the ninth floor with the Research Department.

Changing with the Times

Self-supporting steel frame construction, a technical innovation that was first used in the United States in 1887, helped produce a modern office building that has retained its flexibility and usefulness over the years. The operating areas of the Bank have changed significantly since 1923 in terms of equipment and layout, but not in terms of building design.

Most of the building is devoted to typical office functions.

The tenth floor, once designed for employee activities, had

several unique features. The tenth floor is now the Conference Center, and the employee amenities have moved to the ninth floor mezzanine. A gymnasium, once located on the tenth floor, was also designed to be used as an auditorium and featured small but fairly elaborate stage facilities.

Originally, the roof included an outdoor garden and tennis courts, all of which have been replaced with air-conditioning equipment.

TOP RIGHT: The tenth floor originally housed a gymnasium and stage area for employees. BOTTOM, LEFT TO RIGHT: Employee amenities are now located on the ninth floor mezzanine, including the cafeteria. The tenth floor serves as the Bank's Conference Center.











The Vault

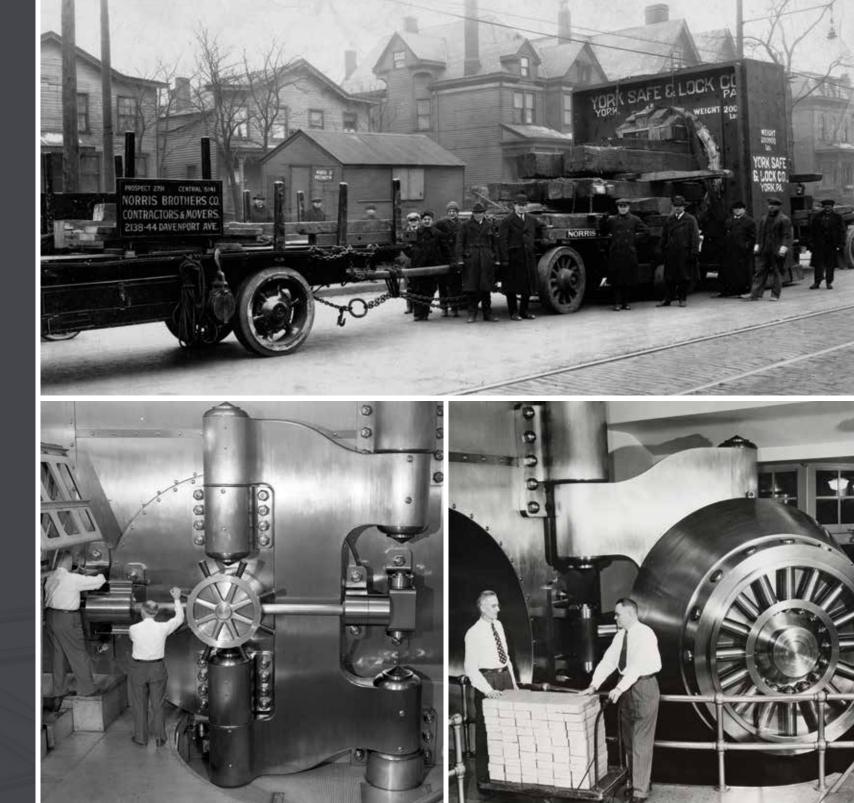
It is said to be the largest vault door installation in the world. At the least, taken as a complete 12,000-ton functioning unit, the Bank's two-story, 3,560-square-foot main vault is an engineering marvel.

The main vault is housed in its own building, constructed before and completely separate from the main bank because of its size. The concrete walls are 6-1/2 feet thick, reinforced throughout with an intricate interlaced type of fabricated steel known in 1921 as "rivet-grip vault steel."

But the big attraction to most visitors is the main vault door, which is five feet thick and has a 47-ton, 19-foot-high hinge. When closed, the door is held by 16 steel bolts, each six inches in diameter and weighing 246 pounds.

Yet, despite its 100-ton weight, the vault door is so precisely balanced that one person can swing it closed.

In 1922, transporting the door from its manufacturing site in York, Pennsylvania, required the largest railroad flatcar in America and nearly a month of travel to cover the 350-mile distance. A crew of 12 men took two days and two nights to load the frame when it reached the train station on East 55th Street and Euclid Avenue in Cleveland. The one-mile trip from the station to the Bank took another four days and four nights, with the heavy trucks moving only about one block an hour.





LEFT: Secure cars enter the security court entrance to pick up and drop off currency to hold in the vault, 1923. BOTTOM LEFT: Rockwell Avenue security entrance, 1923. BOTTOM RIGHT: Loading coal into the furnace to fuel the building's independent power system.

When the Federal Reserve Bank was planned, the founders were concerned about possible attacks by mobs, anarchists, and the usual assortment of bank robbers. As a result, steps were taken to provide as much security as possible, with an emphasis placed on guns and firepower.

The entire security system was designed in 1920 by Byron Dalton, a partner with Walker & Weeks architects who went on to found Dalton-Dalton-Newport, Inc. When completed, the security system featured 21 vaults, armed guard stations, connecting tunnels, concealed observation windows, and hidden gun turrets.

Gun turrets were concealed within the three large statues outside the building. The revolving steel turrets could once hold two guards with small cannons and machine guns.

Hidden gun ports also existed in other parts of the Bank, such as under the East Sixth Street steps.

The ground floor and the Security Court, where all currency and coin was once loaded and unloaded every day from security vehicles, were catacombed with narrow passages to allow guards to move around the floor without being seen.

Security considerations compelled the building's planners to design a power system that would allow the Bank to be independent of any outside source of heat or electricity. Steam engines generated electricity while diverting exhaust steam for heating purposes, and a comprehensive ventilation system featured 23 large fans to change the building's air up to 15 times an hour.





66 A major reason for creating the Federal Reserve was to ensure that the nation had a safe and efficient means for transferring funds within the banking system....Federal Reserve safekeeping services have important advantages for depository institutions in terms of security and convenience. "" - The Federal Reserve System Purposes and Functions, 1984

Growth Through Change

The building and its systems served the Bank well for more than a half a century. However, by the mid-1980s, it became clear that the Bank would need an expansion in order to remedy the lack of space, address growing security concerns, and respond to the changing needs of the nation's financial system.

Because the building was essentially the same size as it was when it was built in 1923, some of the Bank's daily functions were outgrowing their areas. For example, the building had just one delivery entrance. This meant that all deliveries, whether office supplies or cash, were unloaded in the same area—through an entrance that was too small for the now larger delivery trucks. This presented a significant security risk. And because the Bank was handling an increasing number of shipments, the area no longer provided sufficient space to accommodate them.

Space was at a premium in areas beyond the delivery court, too. The demand for currency continued to grow, and the Bank was processing, shipping, and storing larger volumes of cash. Check payments were increasing in popularity, and check processing was becoming the Bank's largest service. Credit card payments were becoming increasingly common, too. But despite this increased demand, the Bank was still using the same two-story cash vault installed in 1923, and the current building offered no room to place the equipment and technology necessary for automation and efficiency for noncash payments.

So, over a few years, Bank leaders and Bank departments developed a detailed plan for building a new operations center and renovating the Bank's original building.



RIGHT: Proposed plans for the Federal Reserve Bank of Cleveland's planned addition looking west down Superior Avenue. Notice Key Bank Tower, a well-known Cleveland landmark, in the background along with the Cleveland Public Library just west of the Bank.

On April 26, 1991, the Bank submitted its proposal to the Board of Governors. On July 29, 1991, the Board of Governors approved the proposal, authorizing the Bank to begin the selection process of the project's design and construction teams.

A year later, after receiving multiple competing bids, the Bank chose St. Louis firm Hellmuth, Obata + Kassabaum, Inc. (HOK) as its architect and Cleveland firm Van Dijk, Pace, Westlake and Partners to oversee architectural and engineering services for the project. A nationally recognized firm, HOK worked on several other Federal Reserve System buildings, including the Federal Reserve Banks of St. Louis, Minneapolis, and Dallas and branch offices in Baltimore, Maryland; Charlotte, North Carolina; and Omaha, Nebraska. Van Dijk, Pace, Westlake and Partners was selected to also handle the historical renovation of the Bank's original building. The firm's Cleveland-area project portfolio includes the Society Bank Building, the Huntington Bank Building, and the Palace Theater restoration.

Cleveland-based MK Ferguson and New Jersey firm Torcon, Inc. were awarded the contract to manage construction services for the Bank's new operations center, better known to employees as the annex, and renovations to the original building.

While the Bank needed a state-of-the-art facility to help modernize its operations, it also had a respected past. To ensure the construction project was carried out in a way that honored the building's history, before beginning design, Bank leaders commissioned an architectural history of the building. The resulting report was 87 pages. The eight-story annex was to be built between the Italian Renaissance Revival style original Bank building and the neoclassical style Superior Building. It was important that this contemporary structure be designed so that it could be functional and modern without disrupting the harmonious style of its neighbors.







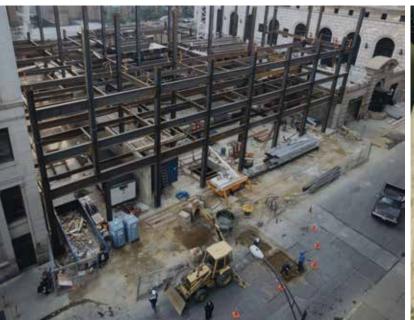
To create a complimentary aesthetic, the 270,000-square-foot annex would be clad with the same pink Georgia marble that was used on the Bank's original building. The annex's exterior would include moldings and scored horizontal bands so that it would have sculptural depth and shadows similar to those of the original building. Design elements such as a series of subtly folded stone screens and small stone balls, lamps, and brackets would add drama to the annex's design. While much time and effort went into the look of the Bank's annex, nothing was more important than ensuring the building's security. Issues with the original

building's delivery area would be addressed by adding separate and secure delivery docks large enough for any delivery the Bank would receive. It was also essential for employees to have secure and convenient access between the annex and the original building.

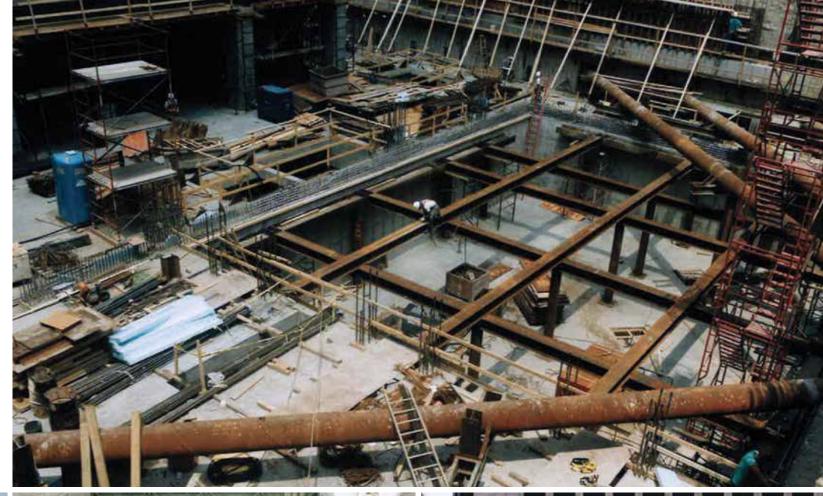
A street-level entrance to the annex was not an option because it posed a potential security risk. The solution?

A glass and steel walkway connecting the original building with the annex at the third, fourth, and fifth floors. Set back from Superior Avenue, the walkway would provide the Bank with the security, convenience, and efficiency it needed.

BELOW, RIGHT: Progress on the Federal Reserve Bank of Cleveland's annex that allowed for more space for the Bank's growing resource needs.











After visual and security needs were considered, operational space considerations remained. The annex needed to provide a space that was efficient and adaptable and that would continue to meet the Bank's changing needs well into the future. The final design would need to incorporate office space, areas for sorting and processing machines, lanes for robotic cash-handling vehicles, a parking garage, and a highly sophisticated mechanical plant capable of heating and cooling the entire two-building complex. Not to be overlooked—the annex would need to house a three-story, automated vault for storing the Bank's large volume of cash.

On July 14, 1994, the Bank held a groundbreaking ceremony for the annex. This marked the first phase of a four-year construction and renovation project that would provide the space and technological abilities the Bank desperately needed. Cleveland Fed President Jerry Jordan and First Vice President Sandra Pianalto addressed employees on the occasion, noting that this project was the first significant alteration to the building since 1923.

In 1995, construction of the annex was underway.

Because of the clay-filled and silt-filled ground and high groundwater levels beneath the Bank and surrounding

buildings, slurry-wall construction was selected to stabilize the site for the annex. Before excavation could begin, the construction crew simultaneously dug and filled a trench along the perimeter of the site with a cement slurry mixture. This method enabled the construction crew to excavate and build a stable foundation below the level of the area's groundwater.

As construction commenced, Bank leaders took steps to lease office space at the nearby Bond Court Building; during fall 1996, most Bank employees relocated there to work while the construction and renovation activities continued. Core operations such as cash and check processing, staff from facilities management (now RESG), and the law enforcement unit (LEU) remained in the original building while construction of the annex was completed.

In early 1997, construction concluded. Cash and check operations employees relocated to the annex by late March. All remaining employees returned to the Bank's original building by August 1998.







TOP RIGHT: Federal Reserve Chairman Alan Greenspan delivered remarks at the opening ceremony for the new annex.

BOTTOM LEFT: Automated cash transfer machines. BOTTOM RIGHT: Check processing machines.

The Bank recognized the culmination of this four-year project with a series of celebrations. On September 9, 1998, the Bank commemorated its 75th Anniversary at an event that was open to the public. The next day, an employee ceremony was held to dedicate the Bank's new annex and to rededicate its original building. Federal Reserve Chair Alan Greenspan attended. The Bank concluded its celebration with a weekend open house for employees, Bank retirees, the project's construction workers, and their families.

The successful completion of the Bank's annex and renovations to its historic building were finished ahead of schedule and under budget. In addition, the project caused no disruptions to any of the Bank's daily operations with financial institutions. In fact, check processing employees shipped nearly 3,000,000 checks on their first full day of business in the new annex.

The expansion and renovation project offered the Bank improved security, modernized facilities, and reconfigured workspaces, adding efficiencies and positioning the Bank to adjust to future changes. For example, as check processing was replaced by digital payments, the Bank adapted its space and technology to support, then expand, the new service.

Departments located in the annex continue to reconfigure their operations to adopt new technologies to support the varying demands of the United States economy. For example, the Treasury Services Department was established to provide a suite of digital products and services to the United States Treasury. Through its expertise and technology, the department develops, operates, and maintains the systems that allow the federal government to collect funds electronically.

Since the building expansion of the annex, the Bank added an Education and Learning Center. It was built in the two-story space of the main lobby along East Sixth Street flanking the main entrance. This new structure was tied into the original building's structural beams. They added a mezzanine for additional space, a second-floor classroom, and an elevator.

More than three decades after it was created, the plan to improve the Federal Reserve Bank of Cleveland buildings to meet to the everchanging needs of the nation's economy remains a success. Combining a strong foundation with the ability and desire to adapt and improve, the Bank looks forward to serving our region and the United States economy for years to come.



FEDERAL RESERVE BANK of CLEVELAND

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