Atlantic City, New Jersey: Railway Excursion 1881.

HISTORIC AMERICAN HOTELS
1870-1930

BRIAN ROBERTS
"An evening's end at the Peabody." The hotel was built in 1925 (refer to page 36).
ILLINOIS: CHICAGO
PALMER HOUSE HOTEL

Built 1925, claimed to be Fireproof (see also page 15).

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HOTEL LOCATIONS BY FEDERAL STATE
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BMR, Budleigh Salterton 2021.

INTRODUCTION

The Heritage Group has visited many historic buildings: cathedrals, churches, stately homes, museums, hospitals, Parliament, the BBC, Royal Albert Hall, horticultural glass houses; pumping, sewage and gas works, town halls and civic buildings, UK skyscrapers (once limited to 400 ft high), a prison, a castle and even a passenger liner. But it has not been possible to view the engineering services in a large hotel. So, a series of booklets on hotels around the world has been produced. This one looks a sample of historic hotels in the United States between 1870 and 1930. Over this period, the US population increased from 39 to 331 million. In 1870, the major cities (in order) were New York, Chicago, Brooklyn and St. Louis, but are now New York, Los Angeles, Chicago and Houston. The main USA is 40 times the area of the UK and 2900 miles wide. Before air travel the train journey took 4 days and, in the beginning, had neither restaurant nor sleeping coaches. These factors affected the types of American hotels: luxury, commercial, middle-class, resort and “railroad”. Many were the skyscrapers of their day having over a 1000 guest rooms. From about 1917, the cost of engineering services was recognised: passenger and service elevators were grouped together requiring only a single bank of machinery. Bathrooms were built back-to-back sharing a common plumbing shaft. Air conditioning came later. But information is not easy to find. Many hotels have been demolished, others rebuilt, enlarged or renamed. Today the USA has some 54,200 hotels with 5 million guest rooms.
CALIFORNIA: SAN FRANCISCO
HOTEL SIR FRANCIS DRAKE

Built 1907, 8 floors. Combined with adjacent Handlery Union Hotel in late 1980s.
CALIFORNIA: SAN FRANCISCO
MARK HOPKINS HOTEL

CALIFORNIA: LOS ANGELES
BILTMORE HOTEL

CALIFORNIA: LOS ANGELES
BEVERLY HILLS HOTEL

FLORIDA: EAST COAST
AT ST. AUGUSTINE, ORMOND, PALM BEACH, MIAMI, LONG KEY, KEY WEST

The Magic of the Gulf Stream is Winter's call to Playlove to rest on the East Coast of Florida. For rest and play the great resorts of the East Coast were made. Art and a tropical setting color the days. Fashion decently them. And people, gentry, all, companionable, give them spirit. Select your own part. Every material facility is present for sport, in the water or on the land. And from Naples, herself, Rest—the fountain of youth or the fountain of health, under the magic spell of the Gulf Stream.

Hotels featured: Ponce De Leon, Alcazar, Ormond, Royal Poinciana & Royal Palm.
FLORIDA: WEST COAST
AT TAMPA, BELLAIRE, WINTER PARK, KISSIMEE, OCALA, PUNTA GORDA

Inset pictures of Tampa Bay Hotel.
FLORIDA: PALM BEACH
ROYAL POINCIANA HOTEL

Built 1894, 450 bedrooms, 100 bathrooms (later 1031 bedrooms).
Once the largest wooden structure in USA. Closed and demolished 1934.
FLORIDA: ST. AUGUSTINE
PONCE DE LEON HOTEL

Built 1925. 45 floors, 526 ft, 2210 rooms. For 30 years tallest hotel in world. Demolished 1965.
ILLINOIS: CHICAGO
PALMER HOUSE HOTEL

Around 1880, the original Palmer House had one floor entirely reserved for women guests.
The Hotel LaSalle under construction c.1908.
Hotel LaSalle
CHICAGO’S FINEST HOTEL

HOSPITALITY

With wordless gesture the friendly Red Man welcomed the stranger to his camp. In Chicago today the Indian is only a memory but at HOTEL LA SALLE you will find that spirit of helpful service and genuine welcome which has ever been the essence of real hospitality. No other hotel is better equipped to minister to the personal needs, comfort, and contentment of the traveler.

HOTEL LA SALLE
La Salle at Madison Street
ERNST J. STEVENS
Vice-President - Manager

Built 1909. 23 floors, 264 ft, 1026 rooms. (See Room Rates & Meal Prices). Demolished 1976.
LOUISIANA: NEW ORLEANS
HOTEL MONTELEONE

Built 1886, 520 bedrooms, 50 suites. Demolished 1954 and replaced.
Conflicting history. Possibly built 1914, about 15 floors, 300 rooms, now the Hotel Majestic.
MARYLAND: BALTIMORE
LORD BALTIMORE HOTEL

MARYLAND: BALTIMORE
NEW EMERSON HOTEL

NEW JERSEY: ATLANTIC CITY
HOTEL CLARIDGE

Built 1930, 24 floors, 400 rooms plus suites.
NEW JERSEY: ATLANTIC CITY
MARLBOROUGH BLENHEIM & TRAYMORE HOTELS

NEW YORK: NEW YORK CITY
BILTMORE HOTEL

NEW YORK: NEW YORK CITY
HOTEL MANGER

Built 1926, 22 floors, 2250 rooms. Became the well known Taft Hotel in 1931.
NEW YORK: NEW YORK CITY
NAVARRE HOTEL

NEW YORK: NEW YORK CITY
HOTEL MARLTON

Built 1912, 112 rooms. Located in Greenwich Village.
NEW YORK: NEW YORK CITY
PLAZA HOTEL

Luxury hotel, opened 1907, 21 floors (11 elevators), 282 rooms & 181 condominiums.
NEW YORK: NEW YORK CITY
GRAND VIEW HOTEL, CONEY ISLAND

Built 1886, 208 rooms, 10 floors over water, 7 over land. Destroyed by fire in 1893.
PENNSYLVANIA: PHILADELPHIA
RITZ-CARTLON HOTEL

Built 1930, 30 floors, 394 ft, 301 rooms. Architect: Furness, Evans & McKim, Mead & White.
PENNSYLVANIA: PHILADELPHIA
HOTEL ADELPHIA

TENNESSEE: MEMPHIS
PEABODY HOTEL

TENNESSEE: MEMPHIS
HOTEL CLARIDGE

Built 1924, 17 floors, 400 rooms. Architect: Jones & Furbringer.
TENNESSEE: MEMPHIS
HOTEL KING COTTON

Built 1925, 12 floors. Later renamed Hotel De Voy.
Originally Hotel King Cotton. Closed 1972, demolished 1984.
TEXAS: DALLAS
ADOLPHUS HOTEL

The Adolphus Hotel, Dallas, Texas.

TEXAS: HOUSTON
RICE HOTEL

Built 1913, 17 floors (later air conditioned).
TEXAS: HOUSTON
STATE HOTEL

TEXAS: SAN ANTONIO
PLAZA HOTEL

Built 1920s, 12 floors "The finest hotel in the South" became apartments in 1956.
Note the lobby ceiling fans.
REFERENCES AND FURTHER READING

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Other information from the Heritage Group Archives, website and Historic Postcards.