

## **SECOND PALMER HOUSE CHICAGO 1873**



Photograph c.1885. The third Palmer House opened in 1927.

# **ARCHITECTURAL VIEWS OF HISTORIC HOTELS OF THE UNITED STATES**

**BRIAN ROBERTS**

# WALDORF-ASTORIA NEW YORK 1893



Photograph 1893. The Hotel Waldorf shortly after completion.

## SAN FRANCISCO: FAIRMONT HOTEL 1907



Photograph 1907. Originally to open 1906 but delayed by earthquake and fire damage.

The Heritage Group has recorded details of the history and engineering services in a variety of HOTELS, buildings which have the largest range of engineering services (except in possibly some hospital and industrial applications). These include HVAC, Plumbing, Elevators, Fire Safety, Security and Communications: serving Bedrooms, Suites, Kitchens, Laundries, Reception and Staff Areas, Plant Rooms, Restaurants, Conference Facilities, Car Parking and so on. This book shows photographs of the architecture of a small sample of historic hotels, some of which are more than 100 years old, some which are no more.

## FEATURED HOTELS BY CITY

CHICAGO: 1, CINCINNATI: 4-5, DETROIT: 6-7, HOLLYWOOD (LOS ANGELES): 8-10,  
HOUSTON: 11, NASHVILLE: 12-13, NEW ORLEANS: 14-16,  
NEW YORK: 2, 17-19, PHILADELPHIA: 20, PHOENIX: 21-23,  
SAN FRANCISCO: 3, 24-26, ST. LOUIS: 27.

REFERENCES & FURTHER READING: 27

## CINCINNATI: PALACE HOTEL 1882

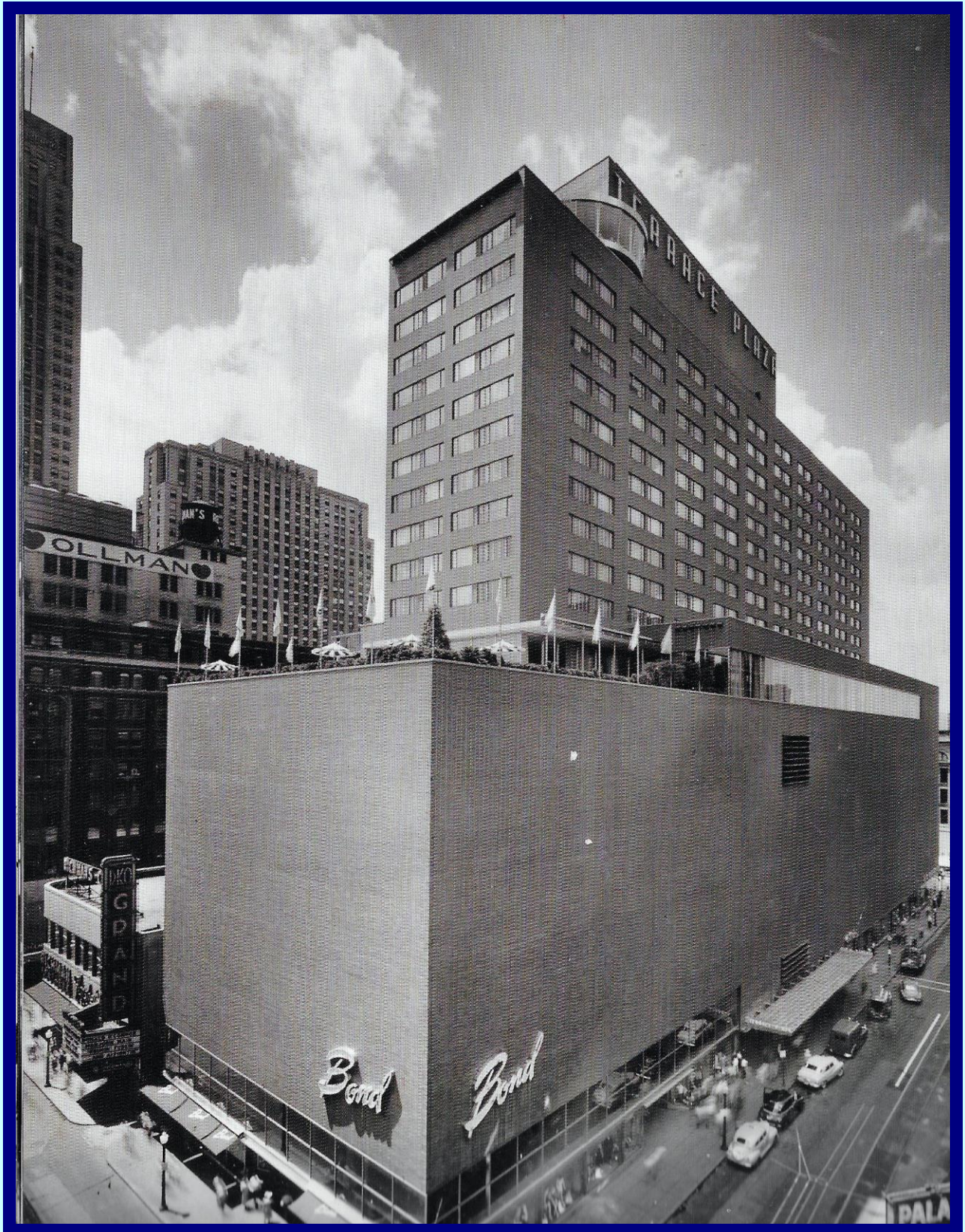


Photograph 1895. The City's oldest hotel.

Once the city's tallest building, having 8 floors with 300 rooms, incandescent lighting and hydraulic elevators, but each floor had only two bathrooms per floor.

The Palace Hotel was modernised in 1948.

## CINCINNATI: TERRACE PLAZA HOTEL 1948



Photograph 1948. The first post-war major US hotel.  
Architect: Skidmore, Owings and Merrill (SOM).

The hotel lobby was on the 8th floor above a large block of retail stores.  
The circular Gourmet Room restaurant was on the 20th floor. In 1956, the stores closed,  
followed by the restaurant in 1992 and the hotel itself in 2008.

## DETROIT: BIDDLE HOUSE 1849



Photograph 1891.

The Biddle was built in 1849, became Detroit's leading hotel, said to resemble the more-famous Tremont House Hotel in Boston and built to bolster the area as the city's business area.

General Ulysses S. Grant attended a reception at the hotel in 1865.

In spite of all this history, the hotel was torn down in 1917.

## DETROIT: SECOND RUSSELL HOTEL 1881



Photograph c.1910. The Russell Hotel was built in 1857 and rebuilt in 1881.

Situated on the Campus Martius (Field of Mars) where troops paraded throughout the Civil War.  
Lower right of photo is the Michigan Soldiers and Sailors Monument.

## HOLLYWOOD: CHATEAU ELYSEE 1829



Photograph 1929, when 77 luxury apartments, surrounded by beautiful gardens.

Famous film stars who kept apartments: Clark Gable & Carole Lombard, Ginger Rogers, Humphrey Bogart and Edward G. Robinson.

In 1951. became Fifield Manor, a home for retired actors.



## HOLLYWOOD: MANOR HOTEL 1973



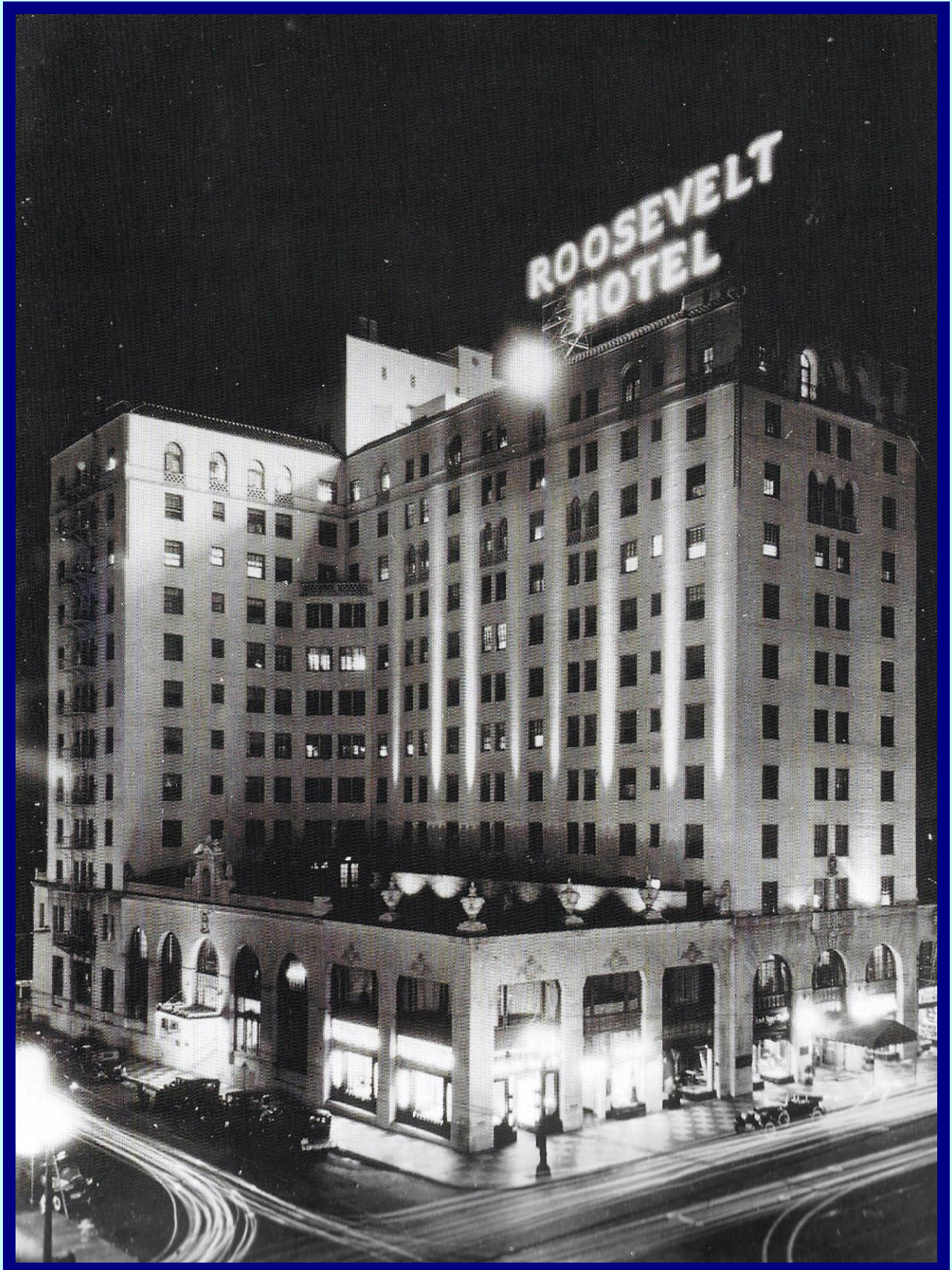
Sold to Church of Scientology 1973, restored and also called the Manor Hotel.

## HOLLYWOOD: MELROSE HOTEL 1881



Just 30 rooms on 5 floors "a centre of fashionable goings-on."

## HOLLYWOOD: ROOSEVELT HOTEL 1926



Photograph 1927. 12 floors, financed by Mary Pickford, Douglas Fairbanks and Louis B. Mayer and others. The first Academy Awards (Oscars) ceremony was held here 16 May, 1929.

A major renovation was carried out in 2005.

## HOUSTON: WARWICK HOTEL 1926



Photograph 1926. Originally 11 floors of apartment, opened as hotel 1964 with guest Cary Grant.

## HOUSTON: SHAMROCK HOTEL 1949



Photograph 1949. 18 floors, 1100 rooms, 1000 car garage.

Demolished 1986. Replaced by Texas Medical Centre, but still with garage.

## **NASHVILLE: ANDREW JACKSON 1925**



Photograph 1948. Connected to the Elvis Presley first No.1 hit "Heartbreak Hotel."

## **NASHVILLE: HOTEL HERMITAGE 1910**



Photograph c.1915. "Fireproof, dust proof and sound proof." Renovated 2003.

## NASHVILLE: MAXWELL HOUSE HOTEL 1869



Photograph 1885.

Work commenced in 1859 using slave labour, but ceased during the Civil War during which time it was used as a barracks by the Confederate Army.

Then used as a prison hospital by the occupying Union Army.

Opened in 1869 with 240 rooms. Advertised with " steam heat, gas lighting and a bath on every floor." Damaged by fire in 1961 and replaced by a bank.

When Theodore Roosevelt was a guest, he declared the coffee "To be good to the last drop" and his comment became the slogan for Maxwell House Coffee.

## NEW ORLEANS: MAISON BLANCHE 1909



Photograph 1910. Once a Department Store, years later in 2000 became the Ritz-Carlton Hotel.

## NEW ORLEANS: ST. LOUIS HOTEL 1838



Photograph 1906 having become Municipal Offices in 1882. Torn down 1915.

## NEW ORLEANS: ROYAL ORLEANS 1960



Incorporates many of the arches of the St. Louis Hotel.

## NEW ORLEANS: FOUR POINTS



Built on the site of the 1859 French Opera House, this Sheraton Hotel opened in 1980.

## NEW ORLEANS: HILTON HOTEL



Built on the site of the 1891 Masonic Temple. Opened 1977.  
29 floors, 341 ft, 1700 rooms.



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## NEW YORK: WALDORF-ASTORIA 1893



Photograph 1900.

Originally two hotels, hence the name

Once New York's grandest hotel, was said "to have died of thirst" during Prohibition and was demolished in 1928 to make way for the Empire State building.

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## NEW YORK: PLAZA HOTEL 1907



Photograph c.1910. "The most fashionable hotel of its day."

## NEW YORK: HOTEL NETHERLAND 1894



Photograph 1905. A 15-floor famous "skyscraper hotel, replaced 1927 by the 38 floor Sherry-Netherland, then the tallest hotel in the world.

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## NEW YORK: ANSONIA HOTEL 1904



Photograph 1904. "A lavish residential hotel."  
Said to be the first air-conditioned hotel in New York.

## PHILADELPHIA: HOTEL WALTON 1896



Photograph c.1900.

The "palatial" hotel replaced the Empire Theatre.

It had 400 rooms, 60 of which had their own bath. In the 1930s and 1940s, its Jack Lynch's Walton Roof featured top name dance bands. But by 1946, it was showing its age and shut down for fire code violations. Although haphazardly renovated as the John Bartram Hotel in 1948, it became shabby and outdated and was torn down in 1966.

## PHOENIX: HOTEL SAN CARLOS 1928



Photograph 1930. Built in 1928, the hotel had "air conditioning, steam heat and elevators."

## PHOENIX: JOKAKE INN 1928



A tea-room in 1926, a hotel in 1928. Later Paradise Inn, now lost, its site part of a golf course.

## PHOENIX: WESTWARD HO HOTEL 1929



Photograph 1937.

The Hotel opened in 1929 and at 16 storeys and 208 ft high it became one of Phoenix's most recognized landmarks, and held the title of the tallest building in Arizona for over 30 years.

The Ballroom became a popular place for dances in the 1930s and during World War II.

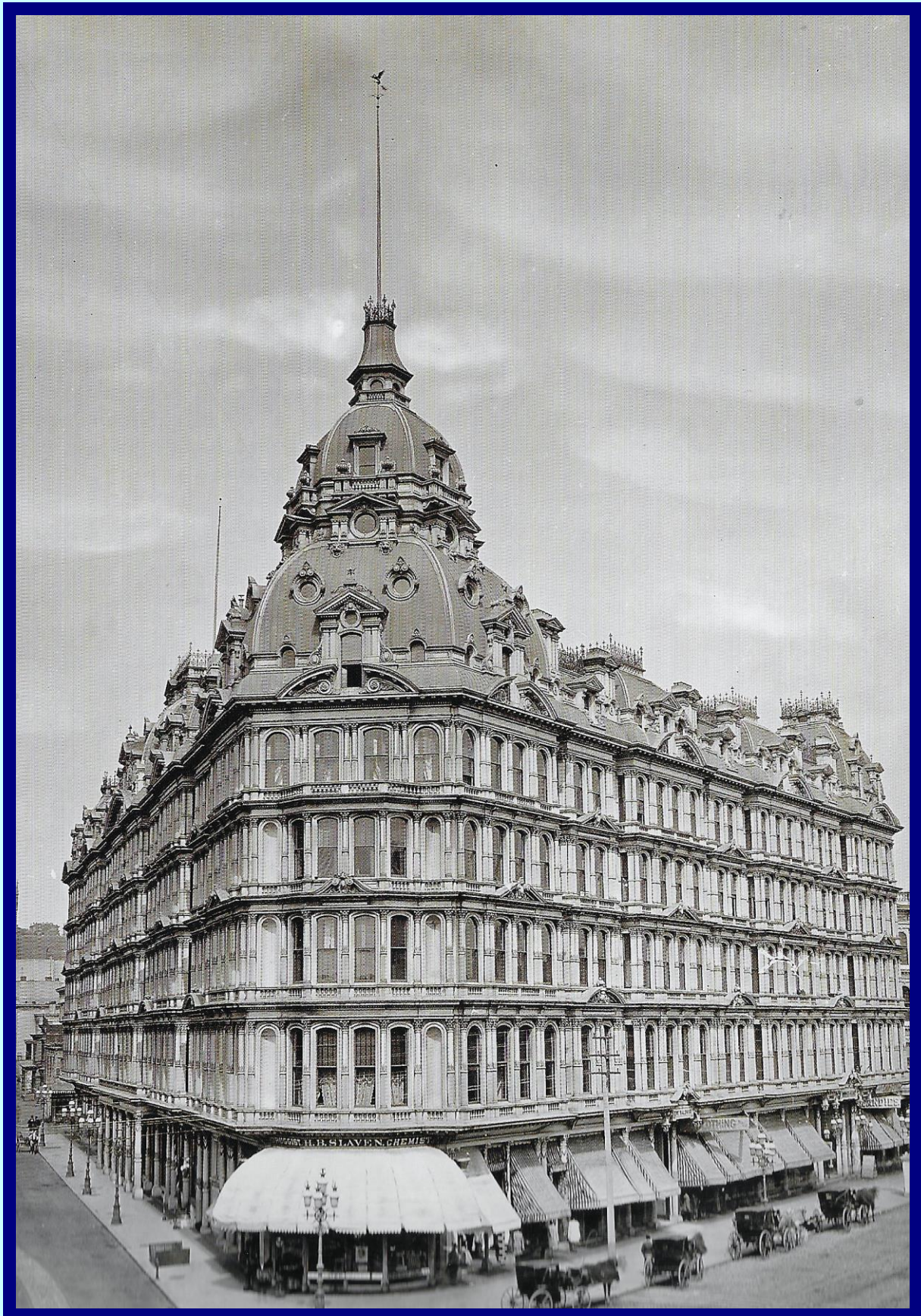
The Westward Ho appeared in the opening sequence<sup>1</sup> of the 1960 Alfred Hitchcock film *Psycho*.

## PHOENIX: THE WESTWARD HO



The hotel closed in 1980 and was converted into a 289 room subsidized housing complex for the elderly and mobility impaired. Upgraded in 2003-4, the window unit air conditioning units were replaced by a central air conditioning system.

## SAN FRANCISCO: BALDWIN HOTEL 1904



Photograph 1878. The hotel was badly damaged by fire in 1898. A replacement, the Flood Building, was completed in 1904 and at nearly 300,000 sq. ft and 12 floors was the largest building in San Francisco and survived the 1906 disasters. It is now mixed-use offices.



## SAN FRANCISCO: FIRST PALACE 1875



Photograph 1883.

The Palace Court served as the hotel's carriage entrance.

The hotel had hydraulic elevators or "rising rooms."

"Each room had air conditioning (?) and a call button... to the concierge."

## SAN FRANCISCO: SECOND PALACE 1909



When reopened in 1909, the carriage entrance had been transformed into the Garden Court.

## ST LOUIS: PLANTERS HOTEL 1891



Photograph c.1910. The first Planters Hotel was on the riverfront, the second of 5 floors opened in 1840, but was destroyed by fire in 1891. It was replaced by the third (shown) which in 1922 became the Cotton Belt office building. In 1971 this was replaced by the Boatmens Bank tower. Hotel guests from long ago include Abraham Lincoln, Buffalo Bill and Charles Dickens.

## REFERENCES AND FURTHER READING

- 2013 Hollywood, Rosemary Lord.
- 2014 Philadelphia, Edward Mauger & Bob Skiba.
- 2014 Lost Los Angeles, Dennis Evanosky & Eric J Kos.
- 2014 Nashville.
- 2015 Detroit, Cheri Gay.
- 2015 Chicago, Kathleen Maguire.
- 2017 St. Louis, Maureen Kavanaugh & Elizabeth McNulty.
- 2017 San Francisco, Dennis Evanosky & Eric J Kos.
- 2017 New Orleans, Sharon Keating.
- 2017 Phoenix.
- 2018 Cincinnati, Jeff Sues.
- 2018 Houston, William Dylan Powell.
- 2019 New York, Marcia Reiss & Evan Joseph.

Books listed all published by Pavilion Books, London.