

Monadnock Building



Identification

EBN	116830
Name	Monadnock Building
Alternative Name	Monadnock Block, Kearsarge Building, Wachusett Building, Katahdin Building
Construction Type	high-rise building
Current Status	existing [completed]

Location

Continent Name	North America	Postcode	60604
Country Name	U.S.A.	Address (as text)	53 West Jackson Boulevard
State Name	Illinois	Main Address	53 West Jackson Boulevard

Metro Area Name	Chicago-Naperville-Michigan City Combined Statistical Area	Virtual Address	52 West Van Buren Street 301-399 South Federal Street 300-398 South Dearborn Street
City Name	Chicago	Latitude	Contact us
District (1st level)	Downtown	Longitude	Contact us
District (2nd level)	Loop		

Description

Foundation System	spread foundation	Facade Color	dark brown
Structural Material	steel masonry	Architectural style	chicago school
Facade System	exposed structure applied masonry	Main Usage	commercial office
Facade Material	brick		

Spatial dimensions

Height (structural)	197 ft	Length	400 ft
Height (tip)	197 ft	Width	66 ft
Height (roof)	197 ft	Floors (overground)	17

Years and costs

Year (construction start)	1889	Year (construction end)	1893
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Features & Amenities

- One of the city's famous buildings
- City landmark

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Facts

- The northern half is built with pre-skyscraper technology: supported not by an internal skeleton but by brick walls. For this reason the walls are abnormally thick (six feet!) at the base.
- At one time the building was divided into 4 sections, each named after a different New England mountain: Monadnock, Kearsarge, Katahdin, and Wachusett.
- The Monadnock was the first high-rise building to use portal bracing, although this was not the more distinctive arched portal bracing used in the neighboring Old Colony Building.
- Early drawings show this as a 12-story building, but a threatened change in zoning laws prompted the developers to get a permit for 16 floors while still possible.
- For the north wing, architect Root explored using varied facade colors and Egyptian ornament. The developer insisted on no ornament, but Egyptian forms survive in the massing and the flared parapet.
- The spread foundations are so wide that they extend 11 feet beyond the building's lot under the surrounding streets.
- Chief developer Peter Brooks originally ruled out any projecting bay windows, but he was persuaded of their financial benefit by his Chicago agent Owen Aldis.
- The Monadnock was architect John Root's last building. Holabird and Roche designed the 17-story southern addition in 1893.
- An elaborate iron staircase runs up the middle of the north building, right through the lobby and the office floor hallways.
- The southern addition has one extra floor, which is even with the windowless attic of the north wing.

Involved companies

Architect.....

Burnham And Root

Chicago
U.S.A.

Holabird & Roche

Chicago
U.S.A.

Additional company data available for this building

Developer	Contact us	Property Management	Contact us
General Contractor	Contact us		

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