

Guardian Building



Identification



EBN	118559
Name	Guardian Building
Alternative Name	Union Trust Company Building Union Trust Building
Construction Type	skyscraper
Current Status	existing [completed]

Location

Continent Name	North America	Postcode	48226
Country Name	U.S.A.	Address (as text)	500 Griswold Street
State Name	Michigan	Main Address	500-548 Griswold Street

Metro Area Name	Detroit-Warren-Flint Combined Statistical Area	Virtual Address	37 West Congress Street 28-38 West Larned Street
City Name	Detroit	Latitude	Contact us
District (1st level)	Downtown	Longitude	Contact us

Description

Structural Material	steel	Architectural style	Art Deco
Facade System	applied masonry	Main Usage	commercial office
Facade Material	brick ceramic tile granite terra-cotta	Side Usage	 governmental office shop(s) service branch(es)  restaurant conferencing space court house
Facade Color	dark orange dark red		

Spatial dimensions

Height (structural)	495.51 ft	Height (main roof)	396.83 ft
Height (tip)	632.01 ft	Floors (underground)	3
Height (roof)	482.01 ft	Floors (overground)	40

Years and costs

Year (construction start)	1928	Year (construction end)	1929
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Features & Amenities

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

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- Skybridge link to next building

Facts

- Designated a National Historic Landmark in 1989, the Guardian Building was designed by Wirt C. Rowland of the leading Detroit architecture firm Smith, Hinchman & Grylls.
- Termed a "cathedral of commerce" and "one of the most exuberant Art Deco skyscrapers built in America," the Guardian Building was built for what was at the time Detroit's leading financial institution.
- The cathedral theme is emphasized on the exterior by the two towers at each end of the building connected by a somewhat lower navelike block. The theme is played out in the interior with the tall banking lobby designed as a nave with side aisles.
- A specially formulated orange brick, known as Guardian brick, clads the steel frame. Brilliantly colored terra-cotta, glazed tile, and gold-stained glass and metal decorate it inside and out.
- The Guardian Building was the world's tallest masonry structure when it was completed.
- This Art Deco piece is marked by American Indian and Aztec motifs.
- The south tower roof lies at 423'-10" above street level, plus 9'-8" to the structural top.
- The main roof at the 36th floors lies 396'-10" above street level, plus 4'-4.25" to the parapet wall.
- The north tower roof lies 482'-0" above street level, plus 13'-6" to the structural top.
- The flagpole rises 150'-0" from the north tower roof, making the tip height 632'-0".
- On the 32nd floor lies the Guardian Club Banquet Hall/Auditorium, which serves as a small conference center for up to 300 people.

Involved companies

Architect.....

Donaldson & Meier

Detroit
U.S.A.

Smith, Hinchman & Grylls

Detroit
U.S.A.

Tenant.....

SmithGroup JJR

500 Griswold Street, Suite 1700
48226 Detroit
U.S.A.

Phone	+1 313 983 3600
Fax	+1 313 983 3636
Email	contact@smithgroupjjr.com

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Additional company data available for this building

Facade Supplier	Contact us	Steel Supplier	Contact us
General Contractor	Contact us	Tenant	Contact us
Property Management	Contact us		

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