

# The Rookery



## Identification

<b>EBN</b>	185630
<b>Name</b>	The Rookery
<b>Construction Type</b>	high-rise building
<b>Current Status</b>	existing [completed]

## Location

<b>Continent Name</b>	North America	<b>Postcode</b>	60604
<b>Country Name</b>	U.S.A.	<b>Address (as text)</b>	209 South LaSalle Street
<b>State Name</b>	Illinois	<b>Main Address</b>	209 South LaSalle Street
<b>Metro Area Name</b>	Chicago-Naperville-Michigan City Combined Statistical Area	<b>Virtual Address</b>	130 West Quincy Street 135 West Adams Street

<b>City Name</b>	Chicago	<b>Latitude</b>	<a href="#">Contact us</a>
<b>District (1st level)</b>	Downtown	<b>Longitude</b>	<a href="#">Contact us</a>
<b>District (2nd level)</b>	Loop		

### Description

<b>Foundation System</b>	spread foundation	<b>Facade Color</b>	dark red
<b>Structural Material</b>	steel masonry	<b>Architectural style</b>	romanesque revival
<b>Facade System</b>	exposed structure	<b>Main Usage</b>	commercial office
<b>Facade Material</b>	brick	<b>Side Usage</b>	shop(s)

### Spatial dimensions

<b>Height (structural)</b>	180.5 ft	<b>Floors (overground)</b>	12
<b>Height (tip)</b>	180.5 ft		

### Years and costs

<b>Year (construction start)</b>	1885	<b>Year (last renovation)</b>	1992
<b>Year (construction end)</b>	1888		

### Features & Amenities

- One of the city's famous buildings
- City landmark
- Atrium is present
- Doorman is available

### Facts

- The architects Burnham & Root moved their offices here for a while upon its completion, and Frank Lloyd Wright also set up an office here at one time.
- The metal framework is a combination of cast iron (main columns), wrought iron (spandrel beams), and steel (internal columns).

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- The lobby was remodeled in 1905 by Frank Lloyd Wright, who simplified the ironwork and added planters and light fixtures in his characteristic style.
- Before the Rookery name had stuck to this project, its developers proposed a long list of possible names, mostly of American Indian derivation.
- The Rookery represents a transition between masonry and metal construction methods, with the outer walls supported mostly by masonry piers and the inner frame built of steel and iron.
- Architect John Root devised the "grillage foundation" – iron rails and structural beams in a crisscross pattern and encased in concrete – to support the building's immense weight without heavy foundation stones.
- Since the interior frame is built of steel and iron, the facade facing the light court has far more extensive window area than the more fortresslike street facades.
- An atrium, originally an open light court, extends through the center of the building, down to the lobby skylight. On the west side of this court there is a famous semi-spiral staircase.
- The building became an official city landmark in 1972.
- Like the Fisher Building, the Rookery incorporates in its facade animal forms derived from the building's name – in this case pairs of rooks by the entrance archway.
- The only metal framing on the perimeter walls is in the first two stories along the alleys. Above that the walls are pure masonry.
- The exterior ornamentation draws from several styles, including Romanesque, Moorish, Islamic, and Venetian.
- The light court was very influential in the design of office buildings in Chicago, including its use of glazed white brick for added brightness.
- Since the perimeter walls are so much heavier than the interior frame, their foundations were built higher to account for greater settling.
- The renovation architects were recognized with an Honor Award for Design from the American Institute of Architects in 1993.
- Above the LaSalle Street and Adams Street entrances there are wide balconies at the 8th floor.
- The "Rookery" name is inherited from the previous building on this site, an old city hall which was a favorite roosting spot of pigeons.
- Completed in 1888, the Rookery is the oldest high-rise in Chicago that is still standing.
- In the Frank Norris novel The Pit, financial speculator Curtis Jadwin's has his office in the Rookery.
- Projected string courses around the facade divide the building into five distinct horizontal layers.

## Certificates

Name	Level	Year	Status
Leadership in Energy and Environmental Design	Gold	2014	Certified

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## Involved companies

Architect.....

**Burnham And Root**  
Chicago  
U.S.A.

## Additional company data available for this building

**Developer** [Contact us](#) **Real Estate Agent** [Contact us](#)

## Renovations

### Renovation 1905 - 1907

*Companies involved in this renovation*

Architect.....

**Frank Lloyd Wright**  
Oak Park  
U.S.A.

### Renovation 1989 - 1992

*Companies involved in this renovation*

Architect.....

<b>McClier</b>	
401 East Illinois Street	Phone +1 312 373 7700
60611 Chicago	Fax +1 312 373 7710
U.S.A.	

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