



Lost Landmarks:
Historic Toledo Buildings That Have
Been Demolished or Altered

INTRODUCTION

Toledo, like most modern cities has lost its share of early historic landmarks. This exhibit remembers a few of the most notable that are long gone or altered.

Each page offers a turn-of-the-century postcard or view with a photograph that duplicates (as closely as possible) the postcard view. Commercial, industrial, public, residential, natural and recreational sites are featured.

This feature was based on an exhibit of early postcards presented by the Ward M. Canaday Center in 1993 entitled, "Wish You Were Here!" This exhibit was funded by a grant from the Ohio Humanities Council. A primary resource for the original exhibition's text was William D. Speck's 1983 thesis entitled, "Lost Toledo: A Study of Demolished Architecture in Toledo, Ohio." The Columbia University student of Historic Preservation documented 156 "historically significant" structures that had been destroyed or significantly altered.

All of the modern photographs were taken by William Hartough of the University of Toledo's Public Information Office.

BOODY HOUSE HOTEL

405 Madison Avenue (at St. Clair Street)

E. Townsend Mix, Architect, French Second Empire, 1872-1928

A symbol of Toledo's post-Civil War prosperity, the Boody House Hotel was named for Azariah Boody, a major investor and railroad owner. The \$300,000 hotel was equipped with the turn-of-the-century's most modern amenities: a passenger elevator, sinks with hot and cold running water in each room, and a bathroom on every floor.

As Toledo's largest hotel, the Boody soon became the social center of the city. The hotel guest list included William Jennings Bryan, Clarence Darrow, and every president from Grant to Taft.

By the 1920s the Boody's French Second Empire style had fallen from favor, and its prominence among Toledo hotels had been supplanted by newer buildings like the Secor Hotel and Toledo Club.

After a farewell party for 1,500 guests in 1928, the hotel was torn down

BOODY HOUSE HOTEL

Then

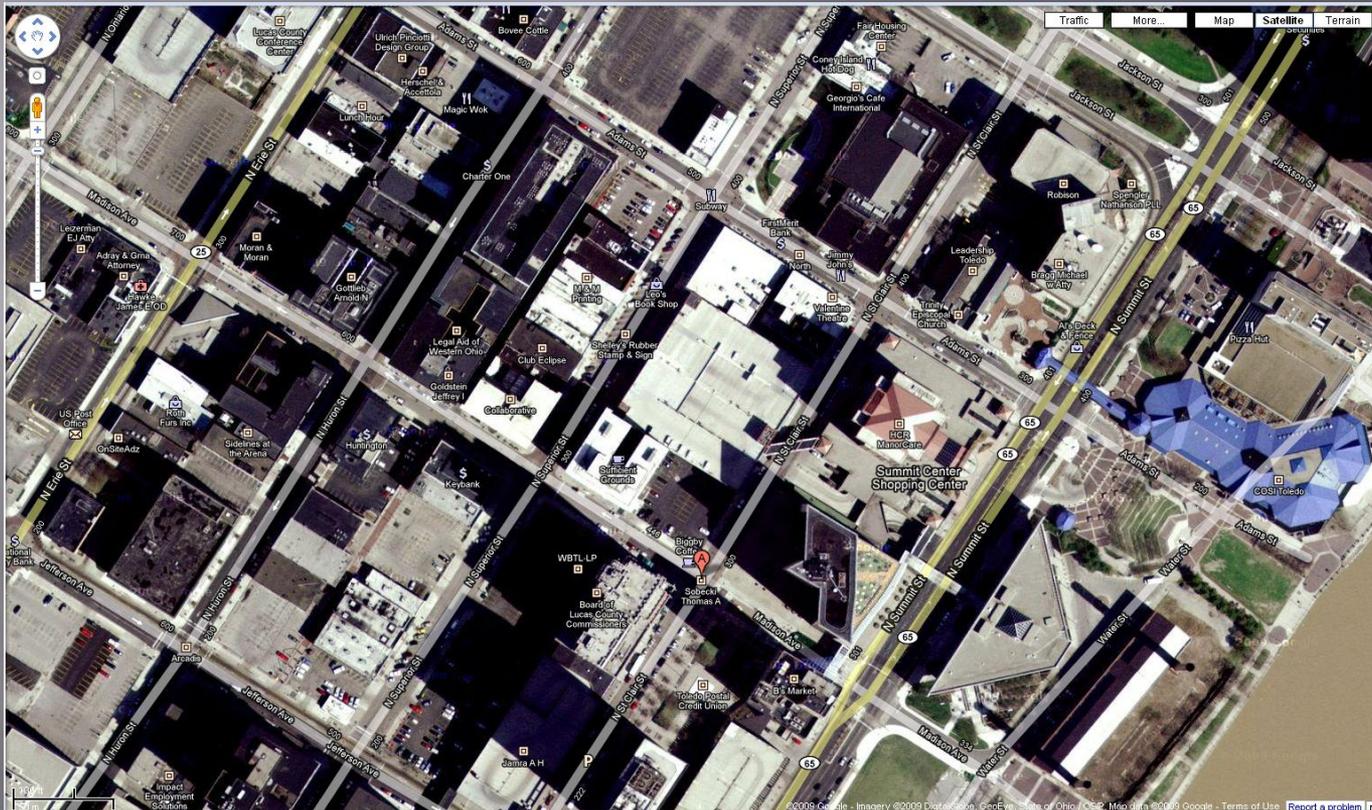


Now



BOODY HOUSE HOTEL

Google Maps, Aerial View (Today, 2009)
405 Madison Avenue, Toledo, OH 43604



THE CASINO

Summit Street at Bay View Park , Mills & Wachter, Architects, 1895-1901,1902.1910

The Casino was a popular summer resort operated by the Toledo Railways & Light Company. The three story building was constructed on pilings 800 to 1200 feet from the shore of the Maumee River. A small roller coaster ran alongside the boardwalk that led to the building, which housed a 3,500 seat theater, ice cream parlor, and restaurant. The Casino Theater's 16-week season was split between dramatic productions, musical comedy, and light opera. Other features included a merry-go-round, crystal maze, slot machines, gambling wheels, fish ponds, and a boat landing. The Casino burned during the winter of 1901 and a replica was rebuilt in 1902. A German village located on shore featured Huebner-Toledo Breweries' brauhaus, built in 1907.

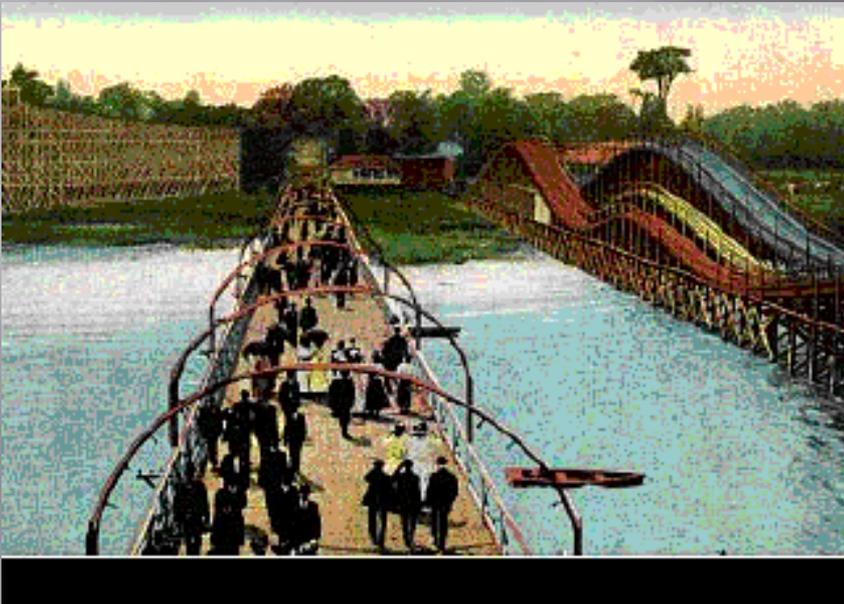
Each year the Toledo Railways & Light Company hosted a party for its employees and their families. Up to 8,000 people attended the annual outings, which featured ball games, theatrical performances, and music by the company band.

The 4th of July was always commemorated with a special celebration at the Casino, but the national holiday in 1898 was honored with a reenactment of naval battles of the Spanish-American War.

When the Casino burned down again in the summer of 1910 it was not rebuilt. Today thick foliage and undergrowth along the shoreline in the area of the Casino blocks the view of the Maumee River.

THE CASINO

Then



Now



The ponds are still there
in Detweiler Park

THE CASINO

Google Maps, Aerial View (Today, 2009)
Summit St., Toledo, OH 43611



CITY WATERWORKS

Broadway Avenue at Stebbins Street; Josiah Cook, Engineer
Gothic 1874-1917

To late nineteenth century Toledoans, the City Waterworks was a monument to the public good. It provided water for fire-fighting and industrial uses, thereby increasing public safety and drawing business to the growing city.

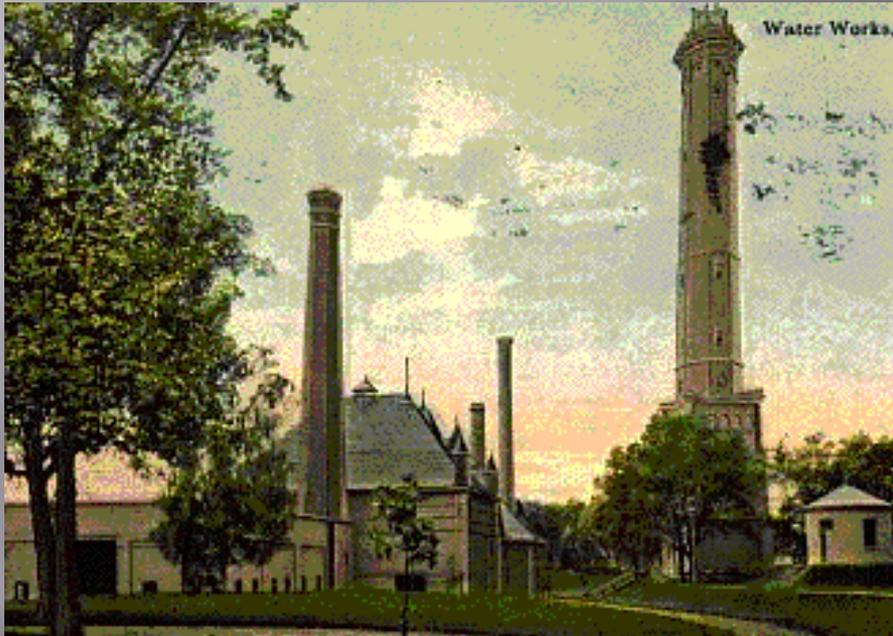
The waterworks' brick standpipe, which maintained water pressure, was billed as the tallest in the world. The octagonal brick tower that enclosed it was embellished with Gothic buttresses and an iron turret.

The city was not able to add a purification system to the plant until 1902, when a typhoid outbreak made it imperative. New buildings were constructed to house the purification system and most of the original structures were demolished in 1917.

Today, Danny Thomas park occupies the site.

CITY WATERWORKS

Then

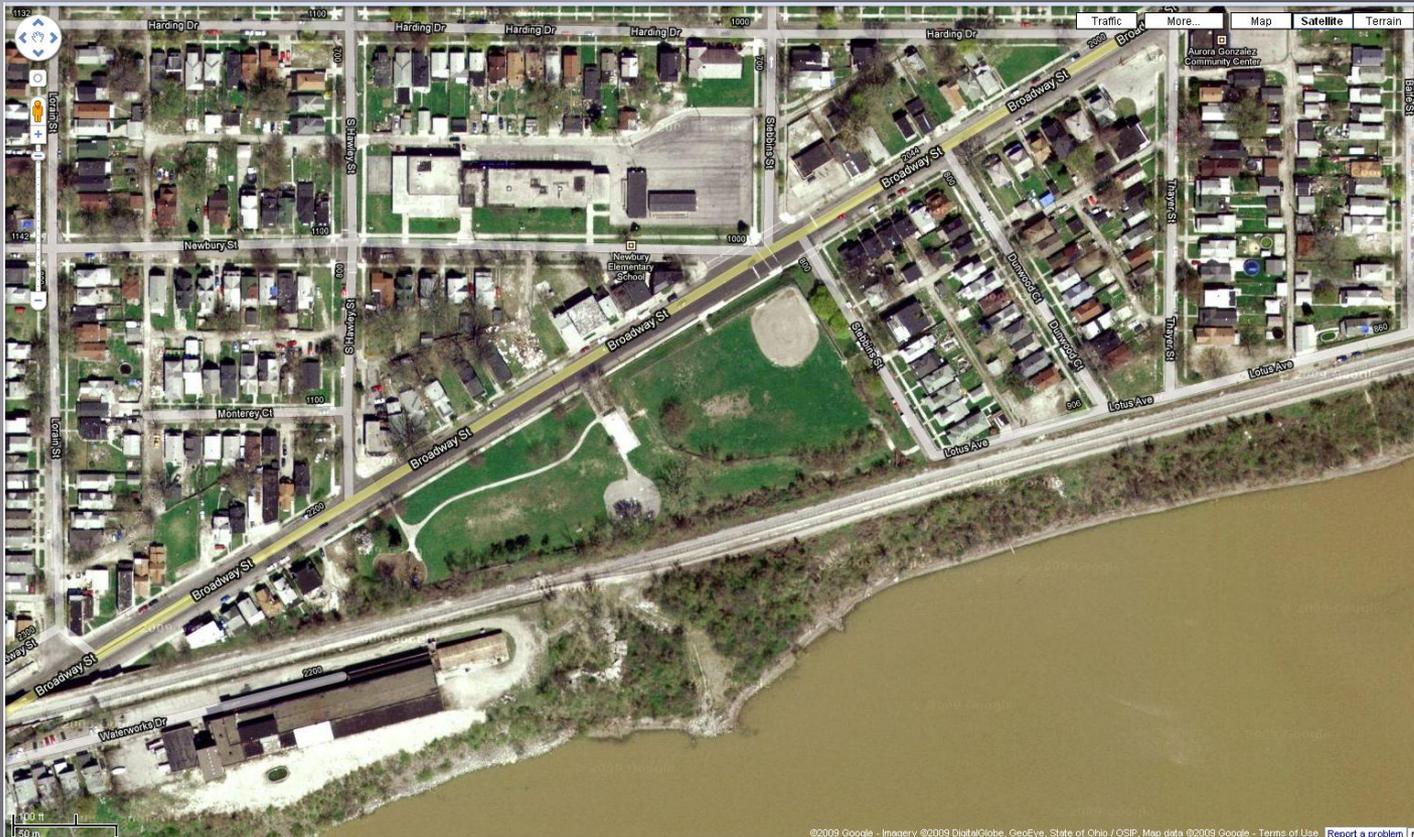


Now



CITY WATERWORKS

Google Maps, Aerial View (Today, 2009)
Broadway, Toledo OH 43609



DIME SAVINGS BANK

500-02 Adams & Superior Streets; Neoclassical - 1915-1931

The classic columns of the Dime Savings Rank were almost mandatory features of banks throughout much of the nineteenth and twentieth centuries. Ancient Greek and Roman features imbued banks with a sense of permanence, stability, and security that inspired confidence in depositors

The Dime Bank was incorporated 1900 and later merged with the Ohio Savings Bank and Trust, which failed during the Great Depression. The new owner "modernized" the building's facade to make it more suitable for a men's clothing store. In the mid 1970s the building was occupied by Davis Junior College.

Today it is vacant.

DIME SAVINGS BANK

Then

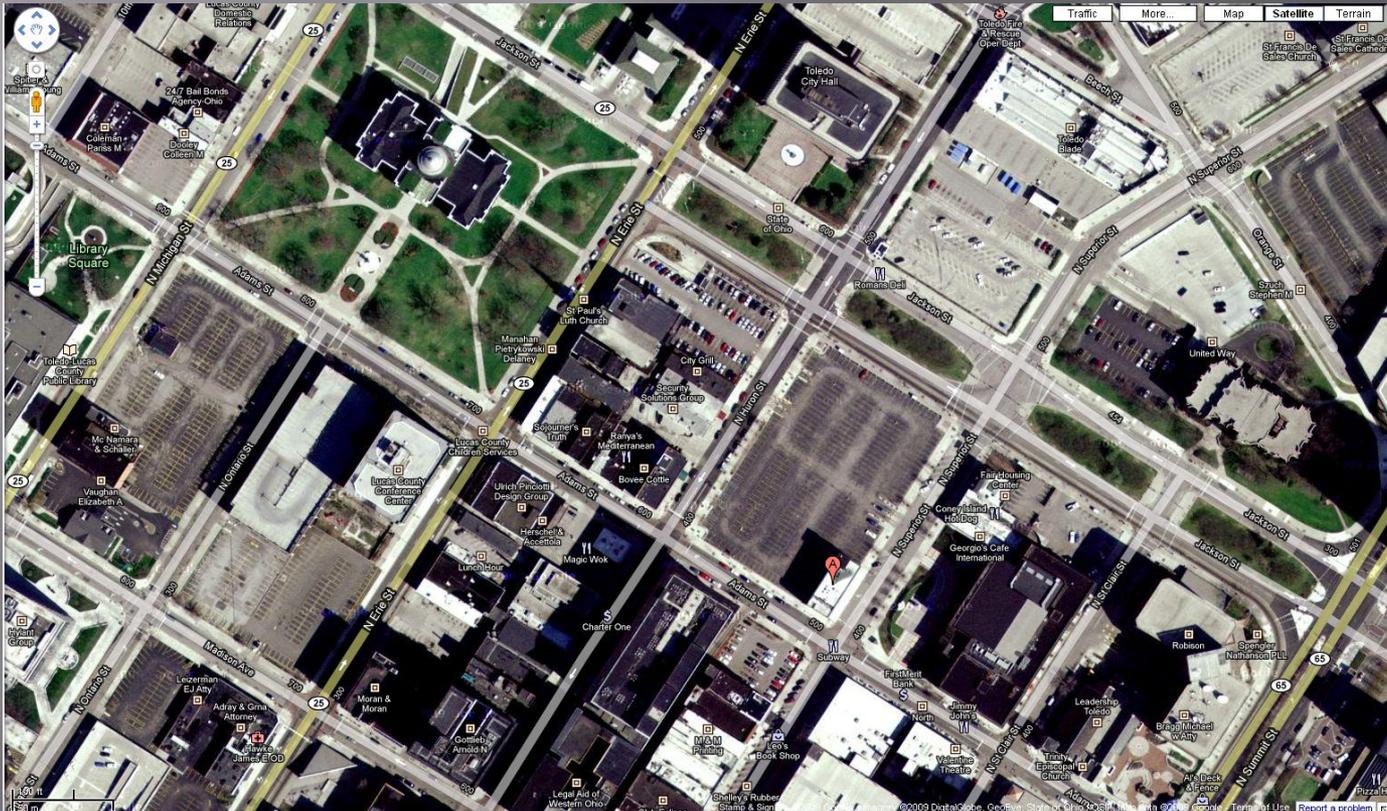


Now



DIME SAVINGS BANK

Google Maps, Aerial View (Today, 2009)
502 Adams St, Toledo, OH 43604



MILBURN WAGON WORKS

3134 Monroe St.; Victorian Italianate 1875-1936

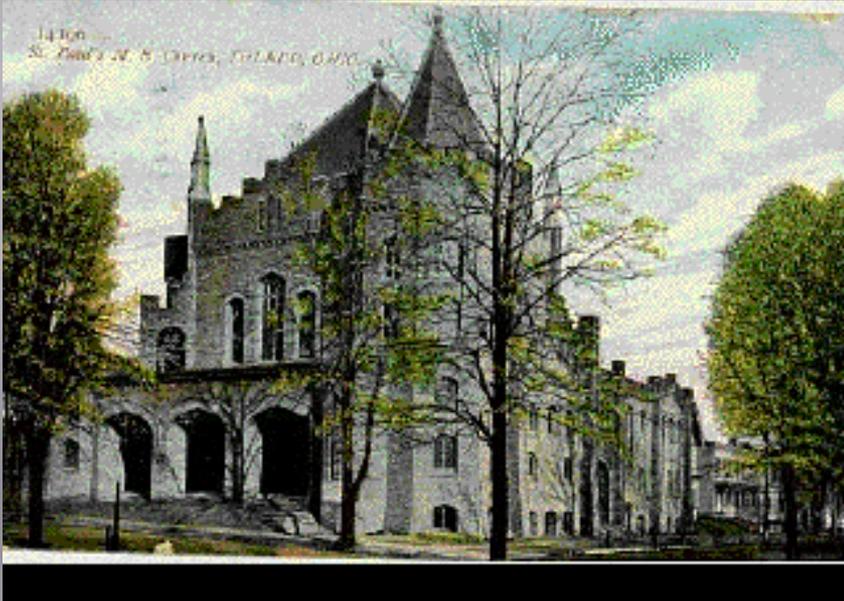
The Milburn Wagon Works was one of Toledo's leading industries in its heyday. The third building on the right side of this postcard, this 32-acre factory employed 600 men and manufactured 65 different kinds of wagons at the turn of the century.

The invention and mass production of the automobile forced the Works to expand its production to include electric cars, but the old-fashioned factory did not adapt well to new methods of mass production. In 1919 the second fire in the company's history signaled the end of that era of transportation in Toledo; the Wagon Works stopped production in the early 1920s.

Most of the factory buildings were razed in 1936 during a Works Progress Administration project.

MILBURN WAGON WORKS

Then



Now



MILBURN WAGON WORKS

Google Maps, Aerial View (Today, 2009)
3134 Monroe St, Toledo, OH 43606



THE MILTMORE APARTMENTS

425 Winthrop Street & Ashland Avenue
George Mills, Architect; 1904-1972

Advertised as "the exclusive Miltmore Apartments," this building was equipped with all the turn-of-the-century's modern conveniences, including Frigidaire refrigerators. The huge apartments were especially popular with wealthy bachelors and widows because of its large rooms and low-maintenance spaces. Each of the apartment building's four floors contained two apartments that included servants' quarters. The spacious apartments have been estimated at over 2,000 square feet each.

As wealth moved to the suburbs, the neighborhood declined. The Miltmore was purchased and used as office space by the United Auto Workers Local 12 until 1972, when the apartments were torn down to make way for the new UAW building's parking lot.

THE MILTMORE APARTMENTS

Then



Now



THE MILTMORE APARTMENTS

Google Maps, Aerial View (Today, 2009)
425 Winthrop Street, Toledo, OH 43620



NASBY BUILDING

245 Huron Street & Madison Avenue Edward O. Fallis,
Architect Spanish/Moorish 1893 – Present

One of Toledo's first "skyscrapers," the Nasby Building was commissioned by Horace Walbridge. He asked Edward Fallis to design an eye-catching, unique building for Toledo's downtown.

Fallis' designed a structure that was unusual for Toledo, but resembled New York City's Madison Square Garden Building. The Nasby bore the hallmarks of the new Chicago School of Architecture, which used bay windows and emphasized verticality.

The Nasby's main section, along Huron Street, was constructed in 1892, and the tower section was completed in 1893. The tower may have been based on Seville, Spain's Giraldo Tower. Toledo's first large steel frame building was named for "Petroleum V. Nasby," a popular fictional character created by Toledo Blade editor David Ross Locke.

Fallis was duly proud of the Nasby, and made his office in the tower from 1894 to 1927. When the tower began to deteriorate in 1934 it was removed. In 1964 the Nasby's arched windows and columned facade were covered over with asbestos panels in an effort to "modernize" the structure.

NASBY BUILDING

Then

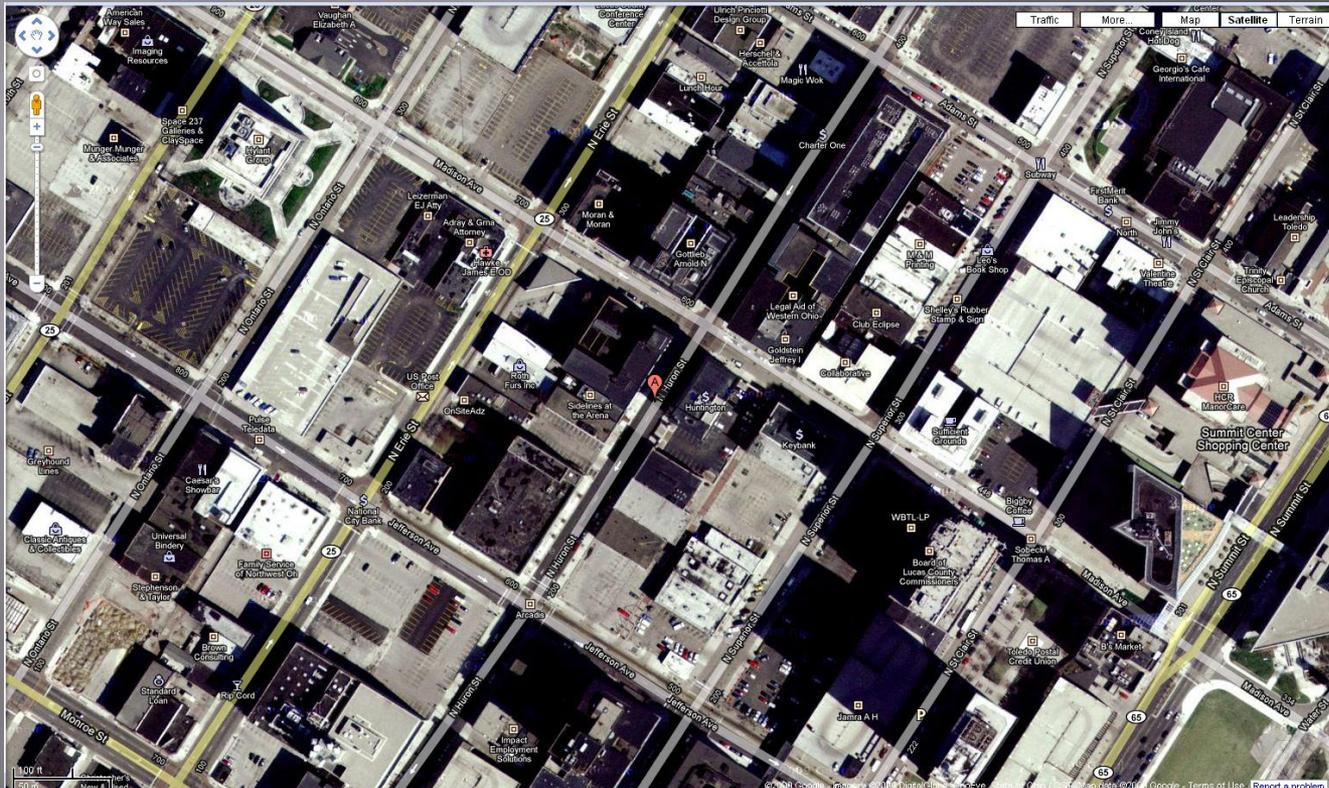


Now



NASBY BUILDING

Google Maps, Aerial View (Today, 2009)
245 N Huron St, Toledo, OH, 43604



NOTRE DAME ACADEMY

1111 Bancroft Street, Bacon & Huber, Architects Gothic 1904-1960

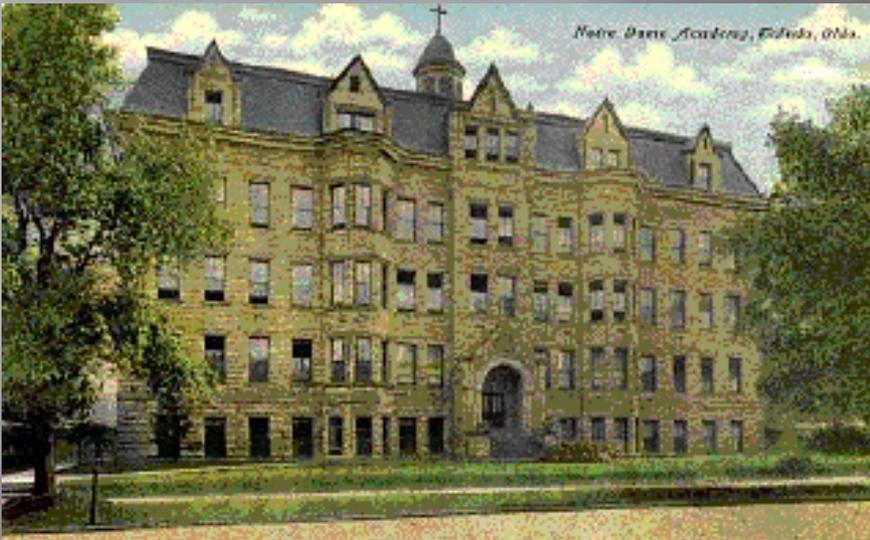
Notre Dame Academy was created to educate young ladies of Toledo in areas fitting to cultured women of the early twentieth century: domestic skills, art, and music. Gothic-inspired details accentuated the building. Notre Dame's rough-hewn stone complemented the church and administration buildings that still stand adjacent to the site.

The school later moved to a new complex on Sylvania Avenue, and the original building was demolished in 1960 to make way for a U-shaped motel, the "Stardust," now itself demolished.

Today the site is an empty lot.

NOTRE DAME ACADEMY

Then



Now



NOTRE DAME ACADEMY

Google Maps, Aerial View (Today, 2009)
1111 Bancroft Street, Toledo, OH 43606



TOLEDO PUBLIC LIBRARY

Madison & Ontario Streets; Edward O. Fallis
Richardsonian Romanesque 1890-1940

Toledo's first free public library was housed in the King Block on Summit Street at Madison in 1873. The Library's 7,000-volume collection was kept there until 1890, when the city's first public library building was built.

Edward Fallis designed the building with elements of H.H. Richardson's trademark style. The structure was built with paving bricks donated by the city, and featured very little decorative detail.

The building was Toledo's only library until 1917, when a Carnegie Foundation grant made the first branch library possible. By the 1930s the library's 145,000 volume collection outgrew space in the main building and a termite infestation brought a sense of urgency to calls for a new building.

In 1938, library administrators asked for and received a Public Works Administration grant to build the present library, which was completed in 1940.

The old building was razed for a parking lot that year.

TOLEDO PUBLIC LIBRARY

Then



Now



TOLEDO PUBLIC LIBRARY

Google Maps, Aerial View (Today, 2009)

N Ontario St & Madison Ave, Toledo, OH 43604



SOLDIERS' AND SAILORS' MEMORIAL HALL

805 Adams Street; D.W. Gibbs & Co. Architects
Renaissance Revival 1886-1955

The Civil War made an indelible impact on the United States. Americans looked forward to the war as a glorious test of strength and honor, but found it to be a bloody seemingly endless conflict. By the 1880s, however, veterans groups like the Grand Army of the Republic (GAR) promoted the idea that the war was a heroic event.

Commemorations to the memories of those who fought and died on the battlefields usually took the form of statues and monuments, but members of the Toledo Soldiers' Memorial Association chose to erect a building to honor the City's glorious dead. The cornerstone was laid on July 4, 1884 and the building was dedicated "to be the home of the military of our city forever" on Washington's birthday, 1886.

The building included a meeting hall, GAR offices, "parlors" for women's auxiliary groups, and a museum for war relics and documents.

Our country's fascination with and glorification of war took a nose dive after World War I, and the fortunes of the Soldiers' and Sailors' Memorial went down as well. The building served as a roller skating rink until it was purchased by a Masonic group and razed in 1955 for a parking lot.

SOLDIERS' AND SAILORS' MEMORIAL HALL

Then

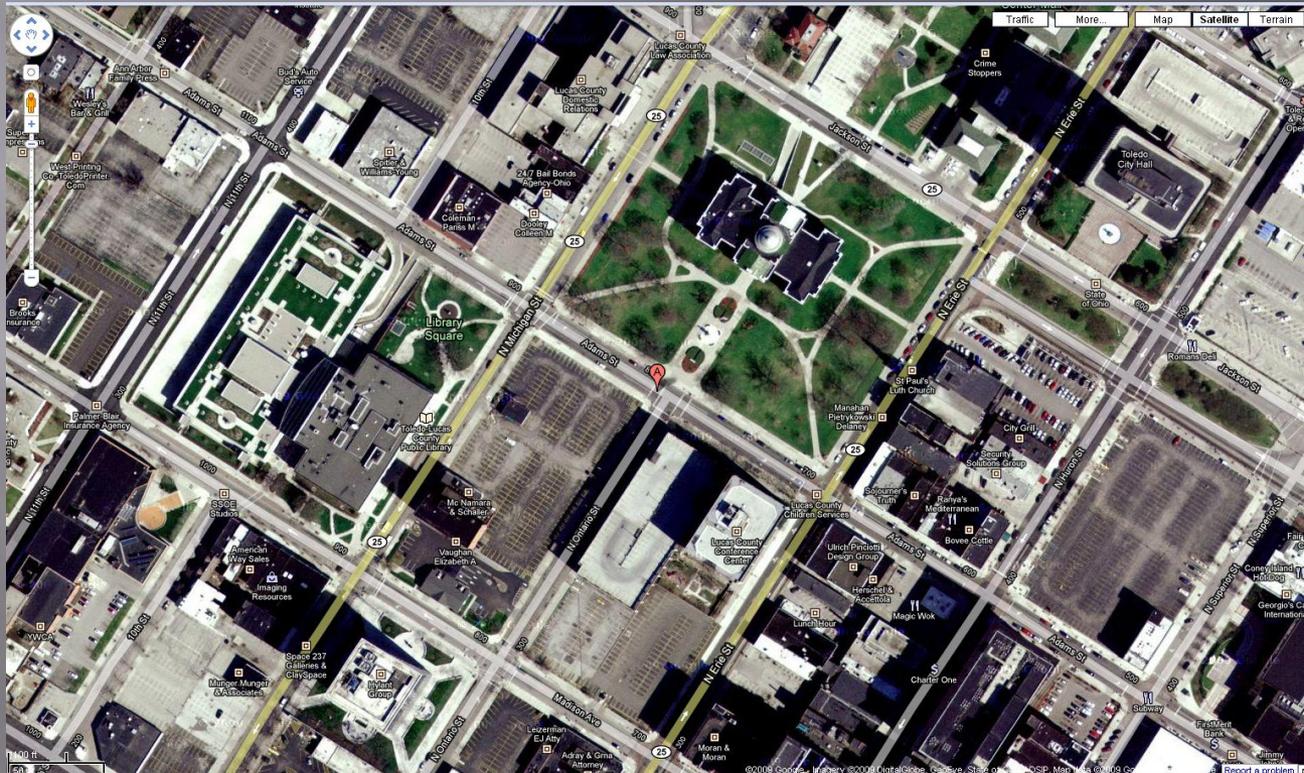


Now



SOLDIERS' AND SAILORS' MEMORIAL HALL

Google Maps, Aerial View (Today, 2009)
805 Adams St, Toledo, OH 43604



ST. PAUL'S METHODIST EPISCOPAL CHURCH

1304 Madison Avenue; Edward O. Fallis
Gothic/English Perpendicular 1897 - 1981.

This fortress-like church completed in 1897 featured two octagonal towers flanking the Madison Avenue entrance. The stone for this impressive church was contracted from the Welfare Farm in Whitehouse, Ohio. The "Citadel's" octagonal sanctuary was paneled in oak, with fan vaulting, a Tiffany window, and an organ with 17th century pipes.

Designed by Edward O. Fallis, one of Toledo's most famous and prolific architects, St. Paul's was placed on the National Register of Historic Places in January 1979. In December of that year, a fire of "suspicious origin" literally gutted the building but left the exterior walls standing. All of the church historical records, which dated back to the congregation's foundation in 1836, were also destroyed. After a year of indecision, St. Paul's congregation chose to demolish the shell.

Today the site is an empty lot.

ST. PAUL'S METHODIST EPISCOPAL CHURCH

Then



Now



ST. PAUL'S METHODIST EPISCOPAL CHURCH

Google Maps, Aerial View (Today, 2009)

1304 Madison Avenue, Toledo, OH 43604



SWAYNE FIELD

Monroe Street and Detroit Avenue, 1909-1956

Once the home of the Toledo Mud Hens professional baseball team, Swayne Field was built on land donated by Noah Swayne, Toledo lawyer and baseball fan. Swayne, a Yale graduate and son of Supreme Court Justice Noah Haynes Swayne, was also involved in the development of the Toledo State Hospital.

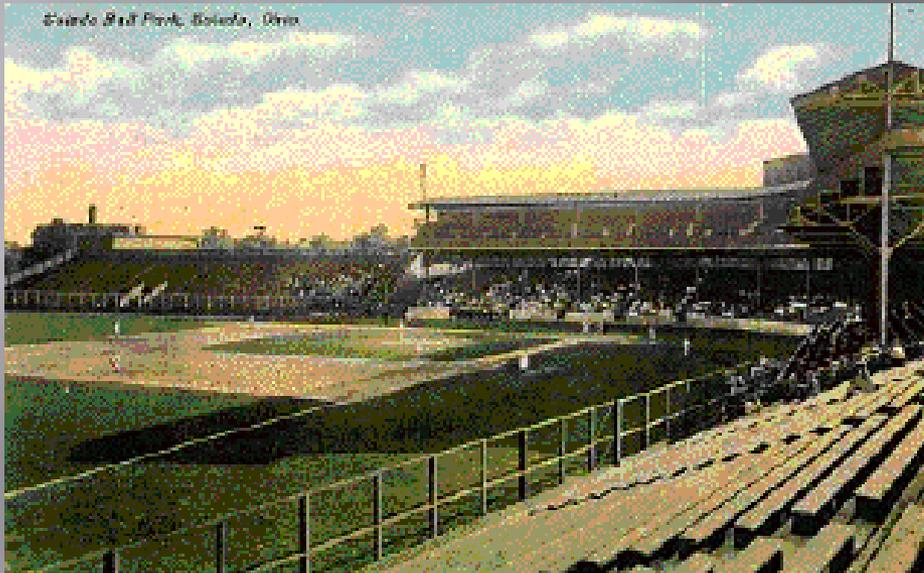
Opening day for the field was Saturday, July 3, when over 9,000 fans showed up for an 18-inning game against a Columbus, Ohio team. The construction of the Mud Hens' home brought stability to the team, which had been in existence since 1883. Before 1896, the Toledo ballplayers were known as the "Swamp Angels" (probably in deference to Northwest Ohio's Black Swamp), "Black Pirates," "White Stockings," and many other nicknames; they changed homes and leagues almost as many times as they changed names. Blue laws cancelling Sunday baseball games forced the club to relocate to Terre Haute, Indiana in the late 1880s, and the popularity of the 1892 Chicago World's Fair sapped attendance so much that some regional leagues cancelled operations entirely.

But in 1909 Swayne Field became the home of such Hens as "Spaghetti" Manera, "Stinky" Davis, and "Dizzy" Trout. Loyal fans packed the stadium the ballpark's first decade in operation. 1953 posted a record 343,000 paid admissions, but attendance dropped steadily after that season, and in 1955 the Milwaukee Braves switched their Toledo franchise to Wichita. By the time the Mud Hens returned to Toledo in 1965, the ball park was long gone.

Swayne Field was torn down in January 1956 for a shopping center.

SWAYNE FIELD

Then

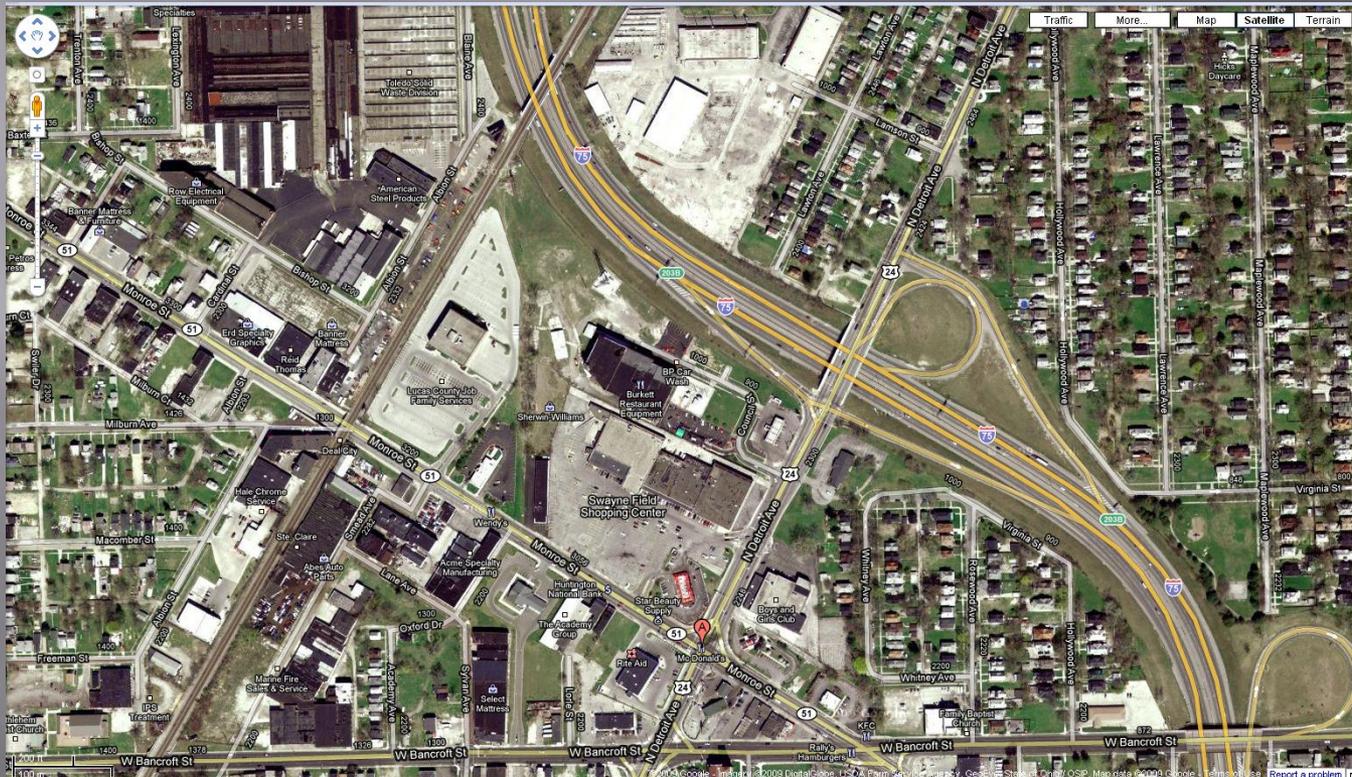


Now



SWAYNE FIELD

Google Maps, Aerial View (Today, 2009)
3000 Monroe St, Toledo, OH 43606



TOLEDO ASYLUM FOR THE INSANE

S. Detroit Avenue between Arlington & Glendale Avenues; Edward O. Fallis
Flemish/Baroque 1888-1970s & 1980s

Once considered a "revolutionary development in mental health", the Toledo Asylum's residential flavor and park-like atmosphere was a far cry from the sanitariums of previous years. The facility, built in the "cottage" or "detached ward" system, included separate buildings for moderately disturbed patients and larger hospitals for seriously ill men and women.

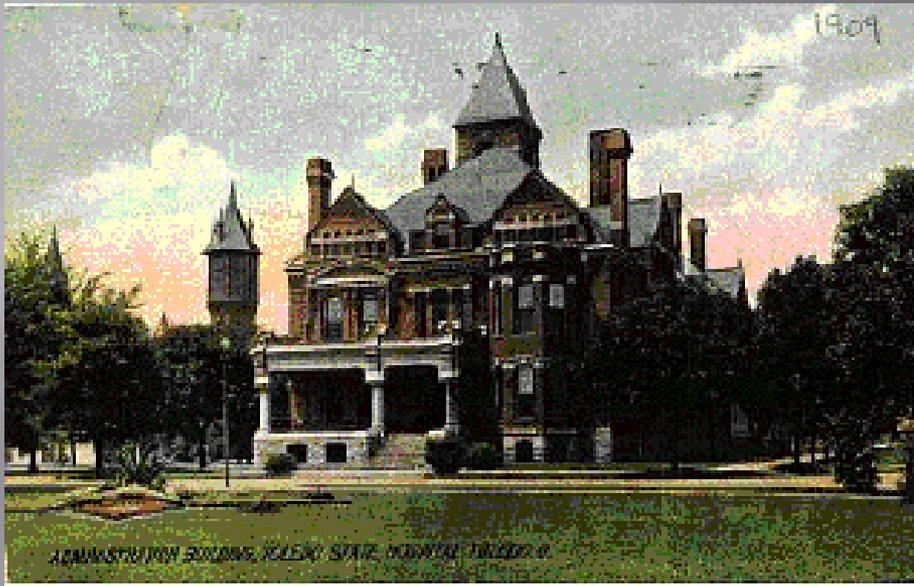
Principal architect Edward Fallis designed the 32 original campus buildings. The 150 acre complex had enough room for 1,060 patients. The expansive grounds featured man-made "lagoons," a farm where male patients were kept active, an auditorium, greenhouse, and chapel. The entire construction cost for the complex was \$664,880.

One souvenir view book called the State Hospital "striking evidence of the humanitarian principles of the people of the great State of Ohio."

Beginning in the 1970s, patients were gradually moved into more modern buildings, and the original buildings were destroyed. Many of the lakes and lagoons were filled in to prevent accidental drowning and mosquito breeding.

TOLEDO ASYLUM FOR THE INSANE

Then



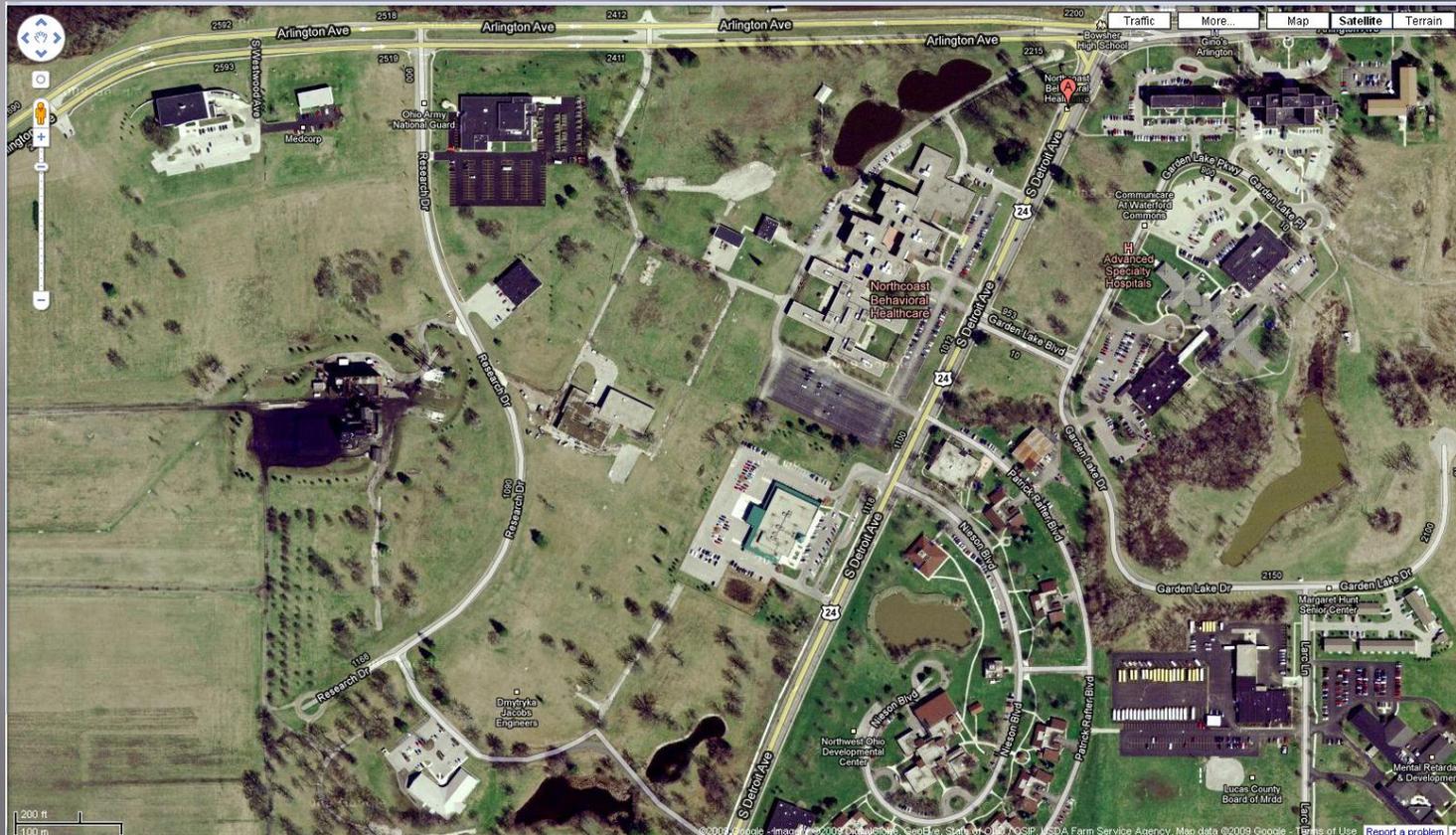
Now



One of the ponds still exists (see the bottom of the map, next page)

TOLEDO ASYLUM FOR THE INSANE

Google Maps, Aerial View (Today, 2009)
930 S Detroit Ave, Toledo, OH



UNION STATION

Emerald Avenue; High Victorian Gothic 1886-1950

Toledo's first train station was the Island House Hotel, located at the Middle Grounds. Like the early Cherry Street Bridge, the Island House Hotel was plagued by spring floods, and the Lake Shore and Michigan Southern Railroad, which ran the station at the time, decided to move the train stop to higher ground in the early 1880s.

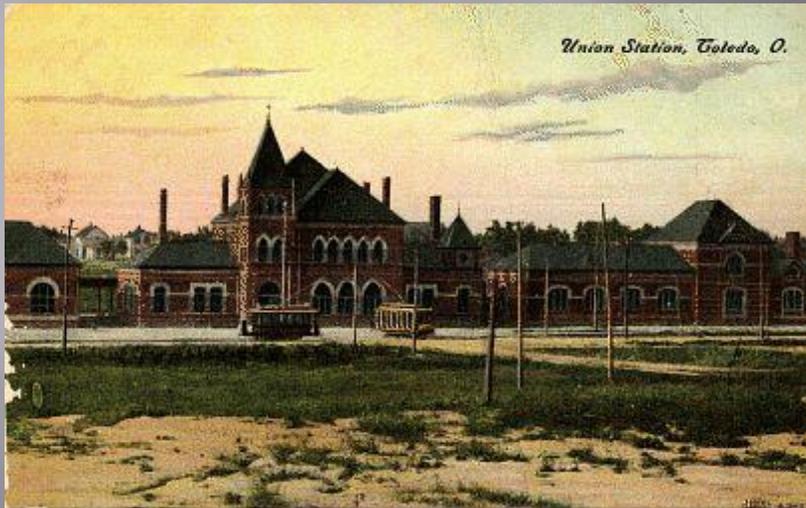
The new station, on Emerald Avenue at the foot of Knapp Street, was heralded as "the handsomest thing of its kind between New York and Chicago." Thousands cheered the grand opening on November 9, 1886. They came to admire the station's carved oak, plate glass, and polished brass details.

Thousands also cheered the fire that caused \$300,000 damage to Victorian landmark 44 years later. Although Union Station had deteriorated into "Toledo's Oldest Joke" by 1930, the railroads could not afford to build a new terminal. Post-World War II prosperity brought a multi-Million-dollar, Art Deco station to Toledo that doomed the 19th century building to demolition. The week-long gala opening for the new Union Station featured a parade complete with a burning replica of the old station.

The future of the 1950 station has been threatened since the late 1980 but was recently renovated.

UNION STATION

Then

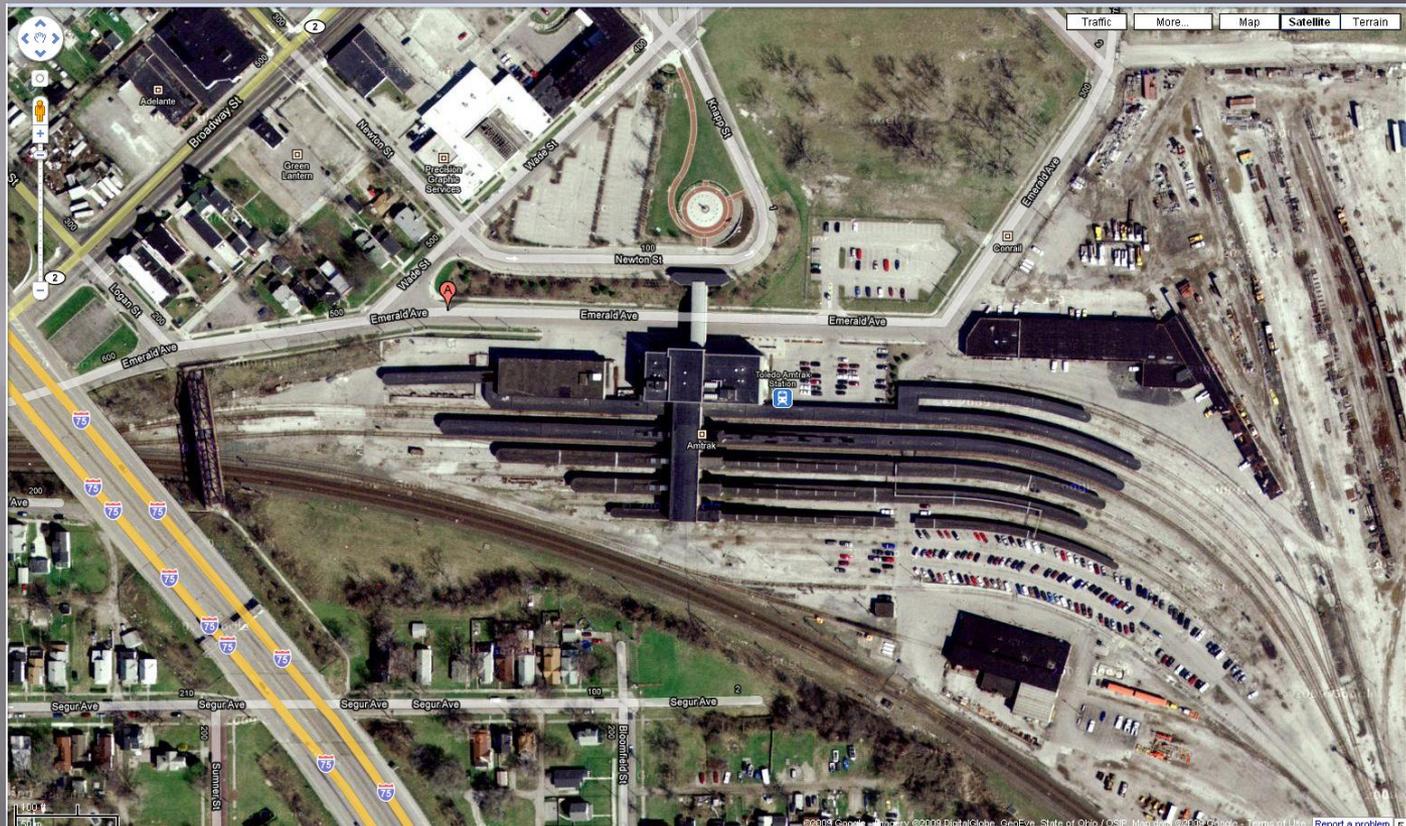


Now



UNION STATION

Google Maps, Aerial View (Today, 2009)
Emerald Ave, Toledo, OH 43604



HOTEL WALDORF

300-10 Summit Street; Thomas Huber, Architect, 1916-1979

The 500-room Hotel Waldorf was promoted as Toledo's largest hotel when it first opened in 1916. The massive building was constructed in three sections: first the left half, then the right half, and finally the rear wing. A strong selling point for the hotel was its fireproof construction; an electric sign atop the building proclaiming this feature is just visible in one of the postcards.

Although the Waldorf looked typical from the outside, its interior featured a solid marble main desk and marble pillars in the lobby, a ladies parlor, barbershop, and roof garden.

As Toledo's downtown declined during the mid-twentieth century, so did the Waldorf. The hotel was purchased by the City in 1976 and razed in 1979 for the construction of the Toledo Trust Building.

HOTEL WALDORF

Then

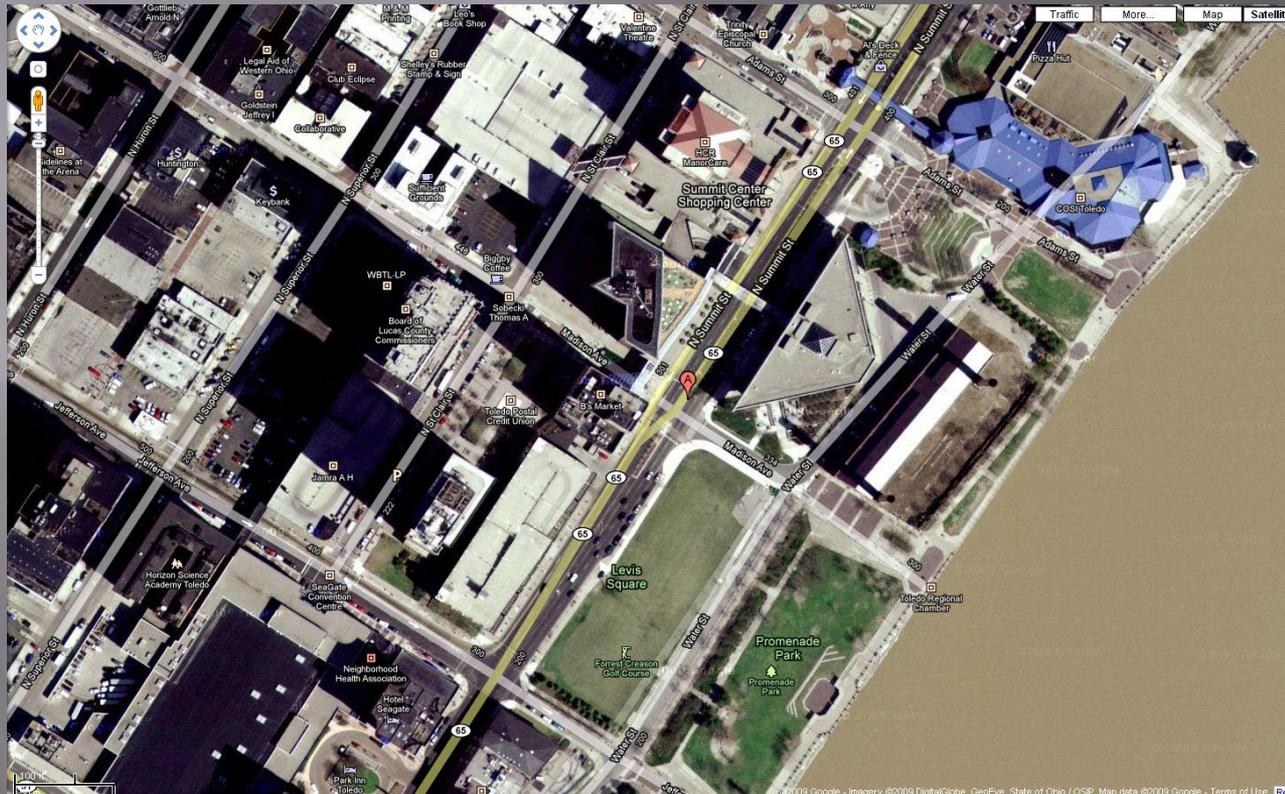


Now



HOTEL WALDORF

Google Maps, Aerial View (Today, 2009)
300 N Summit St, Toledo, OH 43604



WILLYS-OVERLAND ADMINISTRATION BUILDING

North Side of Wolcott Blvd. (now Jeep Pkwy), Mills, Rhines Bellman & Nordhoff, Architects; Neoclassical 1915-1979

In 1915, Willys-Overland ranked second only to the Ford Motor Company in number of cars produced. Completed in 1915, the Willys Administration was a longtime Toledo landmark.

The Willys Building's neoclassical style reflected federal buildings built in the nation's capital during the early twentieth century. Its imposing columned exterior was matched by an impressive lobby and elegant offices. According to one postcard, the Willys Building was one of the world's largest industrial office buildings of its time.

Financial and commercial success in the 1920s soon changed to bankruptcy in the 1930s, and Ward M. Canaday took over the company. Willys Overland bounced back when production of the famous "Jeep" bolstered profits and helped win World War II.

During Cold War, the roof of the administration building was used for the "Operation Sky Watch" civil defense program.

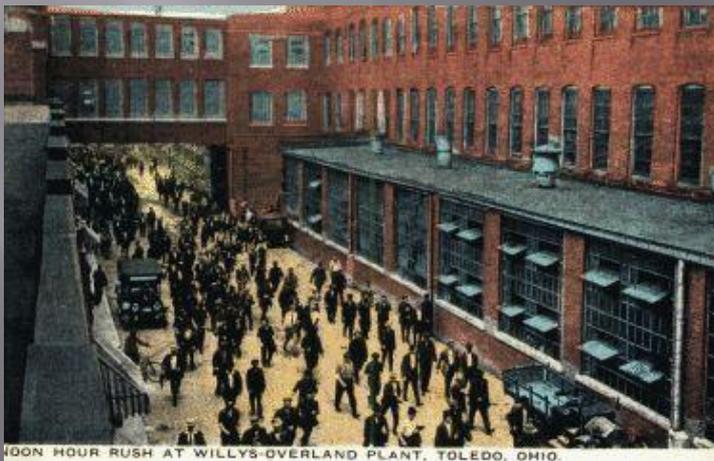
When American Motors bought the company and moved its headquarters from Toledo in 1969, the administration building was dynamited for "much needed parking space."

WILLYS-OVERLAND ADMINISTRATION BUILDING

Then



Now



WILLYS-OVERLAND ADMINISTRATION BUILDING

Google Map, Aerial View (Today, 2009)
Jeep Pkwy, Toledo, OH 43610

