

From the Archives

The REALTOR® Building

This year the Library and Archives celebrates 100 years of serving the information needs of NAR's members and staff. As part of the celebration, stories from NAR's history will be highlighted throughout the year.

To kick things off, let's stick close to home for a little background on our beloved REALTOR® Building as we round the corner on the reveal of the beautiful new lobby and redesign of many of its floors.

From 1964 to 1975, NAR's Chicago Headquarters were at 155 E. Superior. Wander just a few blocks north, and you'll find 155 E. Superior is still standing and looks very much the same as it did in when NAR called it home. In December 1975, NAR purchased 430 N. Michigan Ave. and renamed it the REALTOR® Building.

Over the next year, staff was gradually relocated to our current home on Michigan Avenue as the last of the renovations were completed. At the time, Uptown Federal Savings & Loan occupied the lower level, lobby, and mezzanine. The building was 10 stories and 77,000 sq. ft. of space. It had 6 elevators, air conditioning and heat (major luxuries at the time!), and the exterior looked very different from the one we see today.

The Association was experiencing very rapid growth because of the transition of REALTOR®-Associate salespeople to full REALTOR® membership status. The Association went from just under 135,000 members in 1974 to nearly 500,000 in 1975. According to 1975 NAR President Art Leitch, "the increased growth of the association's membership required that it obtain a larger building to house its headquarters staff and to provide a greater range of service to its members." The building was also occupied by many of the NAR affiliates, just as it is today.



about the realtors® building

There are ten stories above the grade available for occupancy and one story referred to as the "first lower level" between upper and lower Michigan Avenue available for occupancy and two levels of parking and mechanical on lower Michigan Avenue and below. Foundations and footings and building design will allow ten additional stories to be added to the building.

The building has four elevators — three passenger and one doubles as a service and passenger elevator — that serve all floors. There are two additional elevators that serve from the parking garage area to the third floor and used by the first floor tenant.

There are approximately 15,000 feet of usable space per floor. The building was constructed in 1964 and was purchased by the NATIONAL ASSOCIATION OF REALTORS® in late 1975.

First occupancy occurred in mid-1976 and the entire Chicago Headquarters was phased in through November of that year.



occupancy

Parking Level	leased by Uptown Federal Savings and Loan Association leased by Billy Goat Grill leased by Moser Secretarial School
1st Lower Level	
Main Floor and Mezzanine	leased by Uptown Federal Savings and Loan Association NATIONAL ASSOCIATION OF REALTORS® — Mail Room
2nd Floor	leased by Putnam Publishing Company NATIONAL ASSOCIATION OF REALTORS® — Personnel Department Herbert U. Nelson Memorial Library NATIONAL ASSOCIATION OF REALTORS® — Accounting Department
3rd Floor	Data Processing Department Employee Cafeteria NATIONAL ASSOCIATION OF REALTORS® — Executive Offices
4th Floor	Farm and Land Institute REALTORS National Marketing Institute® General Conference Room
5th Floor	American Society of Real Estate Counselors Women's Council of REALTORS® Institute of Real Estate Management NATIONAL ASSOCIATION OF REALTORS® — Public Relations Department
6th Floor	J. Corbett Advertising Agency American Dietetic Association Chicago Real Estate Board
7th Floor	Real Estate Securities and Syndication Institute* NATIONAL ASSOCIATION OF REALTORS® — Convention Department*
8th Floor	Economics and Research Department (Chicago)* Exhibits Department*
9th Floor	American Institute of Real Estate Appraisers NATIONAL ASSOCIATION OF REALTORS® — Public Relations Department Hospital Institute and Educational Food Service Society American Dietetic Association
10th Floor	Penthouse and Mechanical Apparatus and available storage — walk up
11th & 12th Floor	

*Effective May 15, 1978





The REALTOR® Building's official dedication for members took place at the Midyear Meetings in Chicago on May 1, 1977.

The 11th and 12th floors weren't added until the 1990s. And, in 1999 the lobby and façade were renovated and the building took shape into the one we know today (pre-renovation, that is!). You might even see some familiar faces in the the ribbon cutting ceremony photos!



Once again, the REALTOR® Building is preparing for the future. The current renovations began in 2019 with the addition of the Sky Level and re-designed spaces for staff to work and meet with members, cementing the REALTOR® Building as the best on Michigan Ave.!