



## Waukegan Building

4 South Genesee St.  
Bicentennial Landmark

Built during Waukegan's big building boom, which lasted from 1924 until the crash in 1929, 4 S. Genesee St. was the city's first skyscraper. The fire department had to purchase a hook and ladder to insure adequate protection for the new building.

Designed and erected by the St. Louis Bank Equipment Co. for the Waukegan National Bank, the building housed a posh restaurant, the Tip Top, on the 8th floor. On the first floor customers from Cory's Meat Market met bank patrons coming and going. And for years Waukeganites could set their watches by the ornate clock which hung over the corner of Washington and Genesee.

The neo-classicism of the design is evident in the Ionic columns flanking the entrance and the two-story granite piers, which give symmetry to the building. The facade utilizes tripartite horizontal division associated with the classic column. It is emphasized in this building by the use of three different materials: granite, brick and a combination of limestone and brick.

The building is crowned by an embossed limestone frieze. Above the modest cornice an ornate cornucopia-flanked crest in pink and green is emblazoned on the pediment of the attic story. It is said that jade was used in the design.