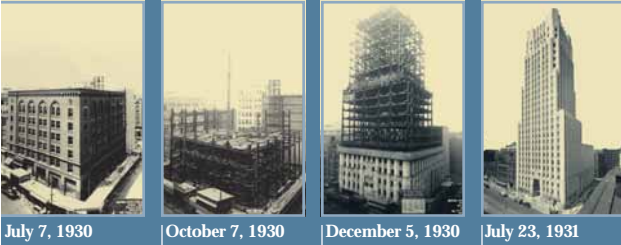


AKRON'S ECONOMY, along with the rest of the nation, spiraled quickly downward after the Stock Market Crash of 1929. But the "Rubber City," due to its reliance on the automotive industry, was more deeply affected than most cities.

Over the next year, 14,500 rubber jobs were lost, and overall 21% of the total Akron labor force filled the ranks of the unemployed. Banks were hit hard too, as savings withdrawals exceeded deposits by \$14 million and the city's banks began to fail.

The local economy was further stripped by an overburden of debt incurred during the tremendous growth years of the previous decade when the city built new water and sewer lines to accommodate the influx of thousands of new residents.



July 7, 1930 | October 7, 1930 | December 5, 1930 | July 23, 1931

AKRON WAS A CITY in economic turmoil during the Great Depression. Visitors to the city in the early 1930's were often surprised to see construction projects underway all over the downtown. These buildings were funded before the stock market crash, and forged ahead despite the economic calamity.

Today, 75 years later, these venerable buildings stand as enduring signs of the city's former and future economic strength. The landmarks that transcended hard times still define the city's skyline and remain part of the architectural and historical backbone of the city.



MAYFLOWER HOTEL
263 S. Main Street
Akron, Ohio



**YOUNG WOMEN'S
CHRISTIAN ASSOCIATION**
146 S. High Street
Akron, Ohio



**YOUNG MEN'S
CHRISTIAN ASSOCIATION**
80 West Center Street
Akron, Ohio



**AKRON FULTON AIRPORT
TERMINAL BUILDING**
1436 Triplett Blvd.
Akron, Ohio



**THE CENTRAL DEPOSITORS
BANK & TRUST COMPANY**
106 S. Main Street
Akron, Ohio

Celebrating the 75th Anniversary of Akron's Landmark Buildings

*Along Downtown Akron's
History Trail*

WITH GENEROUS SUPPORT FROM:



FOR MORE INFORMATION:
www.ci.akron.oh.us or 330.375.2500



MAYFLOWER HOTEL

When the Mayflower Hotel opened May 18, 1931, it would become Akron's premier hotel for most of the 20th century. The 12-floor stately landmark at the corner of South Main and State Streets could accommodate 450 guests in luxury as well as providing an elegant setting for important banquets and countless high school proms. The renamed Mayflower Manor is now an apartment building.



HOTEL MAYFLOWER, AKRON, OHIO



AKRON FULTON AIRPORT TERMINAL BUILDING

This beautiful Art Deco building opened to regular air service on June 14, 1931. It was the crowning achievement of the development of Akron's first airport on land that was farmland a mere six years earlier. Today the structure is being renovated and will continue its life as one of Akron's distinctive landmarks.

THE CENTRAL DEPOSITORS BANK & TRUST COMPANY

Better known today as the FirstMerit Tower, Akron's first skyscraper opened on July 23, 1931 to much acclaim. More than 40,000 visitors passed through the building on its opening day 75 years ago, and thousands more have worked and done business in the structure ever since. The building remains Downtown Akron's best known landmark even today.



FIRST CENTRAL TRUST BUILDING

1920



October 18, 1929



March 1, 1930



May 31, 1930



July 7, 1930



October 7, 1930



December 5, 1930



July 23, 1931

YOUNG WOMEN'S CHRISTIAN ASSOCIATION

The YWCA opened its sparkling new building in January, 1931 on the northwest corner of the High and Bowery Street intersection. The building was home to thousands of young women over the decades, as well as providing a setting for recreational and educational activities. The City of Akron Fire Department and Personnel Office now occupy the building along with an athletic club that still makes use of the beautiful original Art Deco swimming pool.



CENTRAL Y. W. C. A., AKRON, OHIO



CENTRAL Y. W. C. A., AKRON, OHIO

1931

YOUNG MEN'S CHRISTIAN ASSOCIATION

One of the most striking of Akron's landmark buildings, the YMCA opened March 10, 1931. It was a place for exercise, meetings, educational programs, and served as home for many young men over the years. The building was renovated in the 1980s as upscale downtown apartments.

