State Street and the Second Leiter Building

- The Second Leiter building took its position as the southern most anchor of the retail district bringing State street to its greatness.

- "The timing of Sears’ takeover of the Second Leiter Building (in 1932) was at a critical time in the nation’s economy. According to Sears’ archives, it was looked upon as a glimmer of hope during a desperate time for Americans”.

  Donohoe, “The Leiter Building”
New Second Leiter Building

- “The relocation of the City Library on the west side of State Street across from the Leiter Building reaffirmed Chicago’s belief in the vibrancy and future of its downtown area, the Loop and beyond”.

- “The Harold Washington Library provides a magnificent partner to the Second Leiter Building as they stand in each other’s shadows throughout the day”.

Donohoe, “The Leiter Building”

The Second Leiter acquired Landmark status in 1997, the same year as Robert Morris University bought it.
“The Second Leiter landmark status includes the exterior surface of the building, the staircases and the elevator doors. It was saved from the wrecking ball while allowing interior renovations to take place, giving it new life for future tenants”.

Donohoe, “The Leiter Building”
Chicago Landmark

Leiter II Building
William Le Baron Jenney, architect
1889–91

Acclaimed as one of the most important, early examples of skeletal-frame commercial architecture, this National Historic Landmark was designed by the so-called "father of the skyscraper." It was built by Levi Leiter, a former partner of Marshall Field, and is the city's oldest surviving department store structure. For many years, it was the flagship store of Sears, Roebuck & Co. (The first Leiter building, at Monroe and Wells, was demolished in 1972.)

Designated on January 14, 1997
Richard M. Daley, Mayor

Commission on Chicago Landmarks
Sources


Sources


