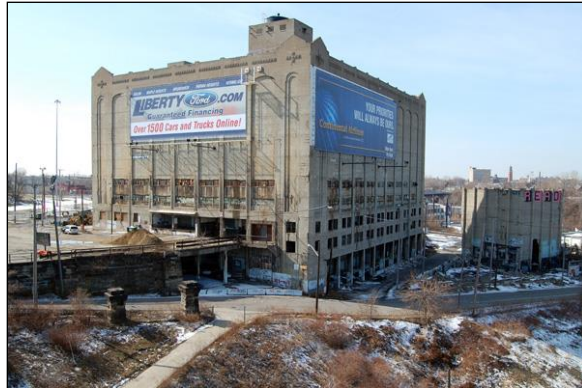


Distribution Terminal & Cold Storage Building **(aka the Cleveland Cold Storage Building)**



By the Tremont History Project

As of January 1, 1928, the Distribution Terminal & Cold Storage Company at 2000 West 14th Street (1988 to 2012 West 14th Street) was the largest dry and cold storage plant between the eastern seaboard and Chicago.

It was a 12-story, reinforced concrete structure modernly equipped. The cost to build it was \$3,700,000. The warehouse was one of three built by Continental Terminals. Five million cubic feet of storage space was added to the Cleveland Terminal facilities. The building's floor was laid on the valley bottom. Three floors were cast against the embankment and cement forms carried the building up to twelve floors. Trucks ran past the bottom floor and trucks backed up to the second and fourth floors because the plant was on a slope. Thirty vehicles could be loaded there at one time.

Because of unusual elevator and loading equipment, eggs, poultry, meats, cheese and butter could be handled there faster than in any other warehouse between New York and Chicago. Six floors of dry, and six floors of cold storage; an ice house with 4,000 tons capacity, a power plant, an automatic call and pneumatic tube order and delivery systems, private tracks, and a roof parking area of an acre were part of the "equipment" available.

The designer: The Distribution Terminal & Cold Storage Company building was designed by Wilbur J. Watson and Associates. Mr. Watson was born in Berea, Ohio and received a Bachelor of Science from Case School of Engineering (now part of Case Western Reserve University). He was an internationally known bridge engineer and designer. Among his designs are the High Level Bridge, the Main Avenue Bridge, the old Clark Avenue Bridge, and the Lorain Carnegie Bridge (Hope Memorial Bridge). Mr. Watson was also a consulting engineer for the Goodyear Tire & Rubber Company and the Firestone Tire & Rubber Company. His design for the giant Zeppelin dock in Akron brought international recognition as it was the world's largest structure unsupported by columns.