



Historic postcard of the Park Hotel in Madison, Wisconsin, as it appeared during Howard W. Simpson's years as co-owner and manager (1920–1924).

Park Hotel

The Park Hotel was one of Madison, Wisconsin's oldest and most prominent downtown hotels. Opened in 1871 on Capitol Square, it served business travelers, government officials, legislators, and visitors to Wisconsin's capital for decades before Howard W. Simpson became co-owner and manager in 1920. Known for its central location and comfortable accommodations, the hotel became an established part of Madison's commercial district.

Howard W. Simpson's Role

Following his resignation as superintendent of the South Dakota School for the Deaf in 1920, Howard W. Simpson entered the hospitality industry by purchasing a half-interest in the Park Hotel. As co-owner and manager, he supervised the hotel's daily operations, including guest services, employee management, finances, and overall business administration. His successful transition from educational leadership to hotel management demonstrated the executive skills and organizational experience he had developed during his decade leading SDSD.

Simpson remained at the Park Hotel for approximately four years before relocating to Wichita, Kansas, where he became owner and manager of the newly opened McClellan Hotel.

Legacy

The original Park Hotel continued serving Madison for many years before eventually being replaced by the present-day Hotel. Although the building Howard Simpson managed no longer exists, his time at the Park Hotel marked the beginning of a successful second career in the hospitality industry and laid the foundation for his later achievements at Wichita's McClellan Hotel.

[Location Map](#)