

Historic Hotels!

LII: Orlando's Angebilt Hotel

Construction started on Orlando's Angebilt Hotel in June 1921-1923 at a \$1,000,000. It eventually opened March 14, 1923. The original owner was Joseph Fenner Ange, who had moved to Orlando in 1913 from Martin Co., North Carolina, and who sold his interest in the building two months after the opening. In November 1924, a group of Orlando business men purchased the hotel for \$1,250,000.

Murray S. King (Florida's first registered architect) was the architect. He also designed the Orlando Albertson Public Library and the 1927 Orange County Courthouse. The 11-story, 240-room hotel was designed in the 20th Century Commercial style. Various business were also housed in the hotel over the years. In 1923, the Bank of Orange and Trust Company held the offices for two radio stations including WDBO - the first regular radio station in Orlando (WDBO was so named for the phrase "Way Down By Orlando"). Currently, it houses business offices, two restaurants, and a smoothie store. The hotel suffered a fire in 1983 [<http://www.cfhf.net/orlando/1922.htm>]

The building's current owner, New Angebilt Corp. has completely renovated the office space. The historic structure boasts a grand lobby with the original antique brass elevator, and ceilings that soar 48 feet above the floor. Dwayne Jackson, P.E., Principal of ONM&J, states, "The Angebilt Hotel

Angebilt Hotel, circa 1930. From a contemporary postcard

holds a significant place in the architectural history of Florida. It is noteworthy from a structural standpoint as it is a 12-story building, only made possible in its day by the invention of more affordable and reliable elevators."

"This was the showplace of the Roaring Twenties--you can feel the atmosphere, complete with tuxedo and gown clad couples gliding to the music of the Big Band era," says Jackson. [<http://www.aecnewswire.com/industrynews/Detailed/493.shtml>]

