



## Hotel Fort Des Moines History

**1919** The Hotel Fort Des Moines opens on July 15. The hotel was built for about \$1.5 million, and designed by the architectural firm Proudfoot, Bird & Rawson. Every room originally had a bathtub, purified, chilled circulating water, and a window.

**1922** Helen Keller stays at the hotel over New Year's Eve while in Des Moines for performances.

**1927** Aviator Charles Lindbergh stays at the hotel and hosts a banquet that serves boneless squab — described as a rare Des Moines delicacy.

**1927** Babe Ruth and Lou Gehrig have breakfast here before an exhibition game in Des Moines.

**1933** Amelia Earhart visits to talk about her solo flight across the Atlantic.

**1938** The hotel announces the "first guest room with air conditioning" in the city.

**1939** Police raid the Log Cabin Room on the 11th floor, confiscating liquor and gambling equipment. Tip for the raid reportedly came from some of the men's wives.

**1947** Mae West stays at the hotel during her performance of "Come on Up" at the KRNT Radio Theater.

**1953** TV sets are installed in 100 rooms — reportedly the largest mass installation of televisions in the state at that time. The rate to operate the TV was 25 cents.

**1959** Soviet Premier Nikita Khrushchev stayed in the Presidential Suite during the Cold War.

**1960** John F. Kennedy, Lyndon Johnson, and Hubert Humphrey attend dinner at the hotel and host a meeting on farm policy.

**1971** President Richard Nixon greets supporters in the lobby during his stay.

**1974** President Ronald Reagan attends WHO Radio's 50<sup>th</sup> anniversary celebration at the hotel.

**1975** Jimmy Carter, former peanut farmer and then-President, visits with caucus supporters in the hotel lobby.

**1980** Elizabeth Taylor stays at the hotel during a Des Moines appearance.

**1982** Governor Terry E. Branstad nominates the Hotel to the National Register of Historic Places.

**2003** Cher visits the hotel and requests her own mattress be placed in room #1025.

**2008** Barack Obama and Hillary Clinton both stay at Hotel Fort Des Moines during the Iowa caucuses.

**2021** Renovations are completed and The Hotel Fort Des Moines re-opens as part of Curio Collection by Hilton.

HOTEL



FORT DES MOINES



• AT THE HISTORIC •

PROUDFOOT  
& BIRD

• HOTEL FORT DES MOINES •



HOBNOB  
*Coffee and Wine Bar*

*in confidence*  
COCKTAIL LOUNGE

CURIO  
COLLECTION  
BY HILTON™

AAA  
Four Diamond  
Award