

Then and Now

- Construction began on the Heidelberg Hotel in 1927 with no formal plans, just a sketch on a napkin and the details held in the mind of architect Edward Nield.
- Because Baton Rouge had suffered the greatest flood in the history of the Mississippi Valley in that same year; the construction site was meticulously inspected every morning for signs of water seepage. None was ever found.
- Huey P. Long was elected governor in 1928, ushering in the Long era of Louisiana politics.
- The song “Every Man a King,” co-authored by Huey P. Long and Castro Carazzo, was written in the Heidelberg and first played on a piano on the 10th floor of the hotel.



- In the 1930s, the new Louisiana State Capitol building was built under the direction of Huey P. Long, and became the tallest capitol building in the U.S.
- In 1931, the hotel was briefly the Louisiana State Capitol during a power struggle between governor Huey P. Long and lieutenant governor Paul Cyr. Cyr declared the hotel as the capitol when Long refused to hand over power after winning a seat in the U.S. Senate.
- On September 8, 1935, Huey P. Long was assassinated in the hall of the Capitol Building in Baton Rouge. The events in the Capitol that day have never been proven or explained. Through the years there have been assorted reports of sightings in the halls of the hotel of an apparition accompanied by a strong and unmistakable cigar smell.
- Every governor between 1928 and 1980 stayed at the Heidelberg thanks to the custom of the owner to grant free lodging to major candidates for governor during their campaigns.
- In addition to numerous Louisiana politicians, former U.S. Presidents John F. Kennedy, Hubert H. Humphrey and Jimmy Carter, as well as Will Rogers and Cuban President Fidel Castro have all been guests of the hotel.
- In 1982, the Heidelberg Hotel was placed on the National Register of Historic Places in a successful attempt to prevent its demolition. Unfortunately, it has stood vacant since 1985.
- 2006 marked the 80th anniversary of the start of construction on the original structure. The hotel recently completed renovations bringing the Heidelberg and the Capitol House, with their rich and colorful histories, together into the remarkable Hilton Baton Rouge Capitol Center.
- Do you have an interesting story, memorabilia or favorite memory of the Heidelberg/Capitol House? Call us at 877-862-9800.

