

The Morton Salt Company was the largest producer of salt in the United States in 1938, when its new corporate headquarters was completed on this city block site. The four-story building was constructed east of the grounds of the city's main train station and included a parking lot for the first time. The building's design featured early use of concrete and steel framing, as well as its historic location on a busy street, as well as a prominent modernist style by architect Frank Lloyd Wright. The building was designed by the Chicago-based firm of Graham, Gorman, and Associates, which was the successor firm of the Chicago-based firm of Graham, Gorman, and Associates. One of the Morton Building's original owners, Frank Lloyd Wright, designed the building to be a landmark in the city's skyline and a symbol of modern architecture. The building was incorporated into the newly constructed parking lot on this site at the corner of Park and

The history of the Morton Salt Company dates to 1848, when Richmond & Co. became the western sales agent for the salt manufacturers of New York State. Salt was shipped from the Onondaga Lake region to Chicago on its boats via the Erie Canal, Great Lakes, and the Chicago River. In 1885, Joy Morton took over one of the Richmond Company's successor firms, which by 1910 was incorporated as the Morton Salt Company.

A vast fleet of ships transported salt from Morton's Michigan plants to cities on the Great Lakes. The company dominated Chicago's salt trade from its warehouse complex located first near the mouth of the Chicago River, and later, its North Branch. The river served as a vital artery for the Morton Salt Company and countless other diverse industries clustered along its banks, propelling Chicago's prosperity as an early manufacturing powerhouse and the Midwest's premier distribution center.