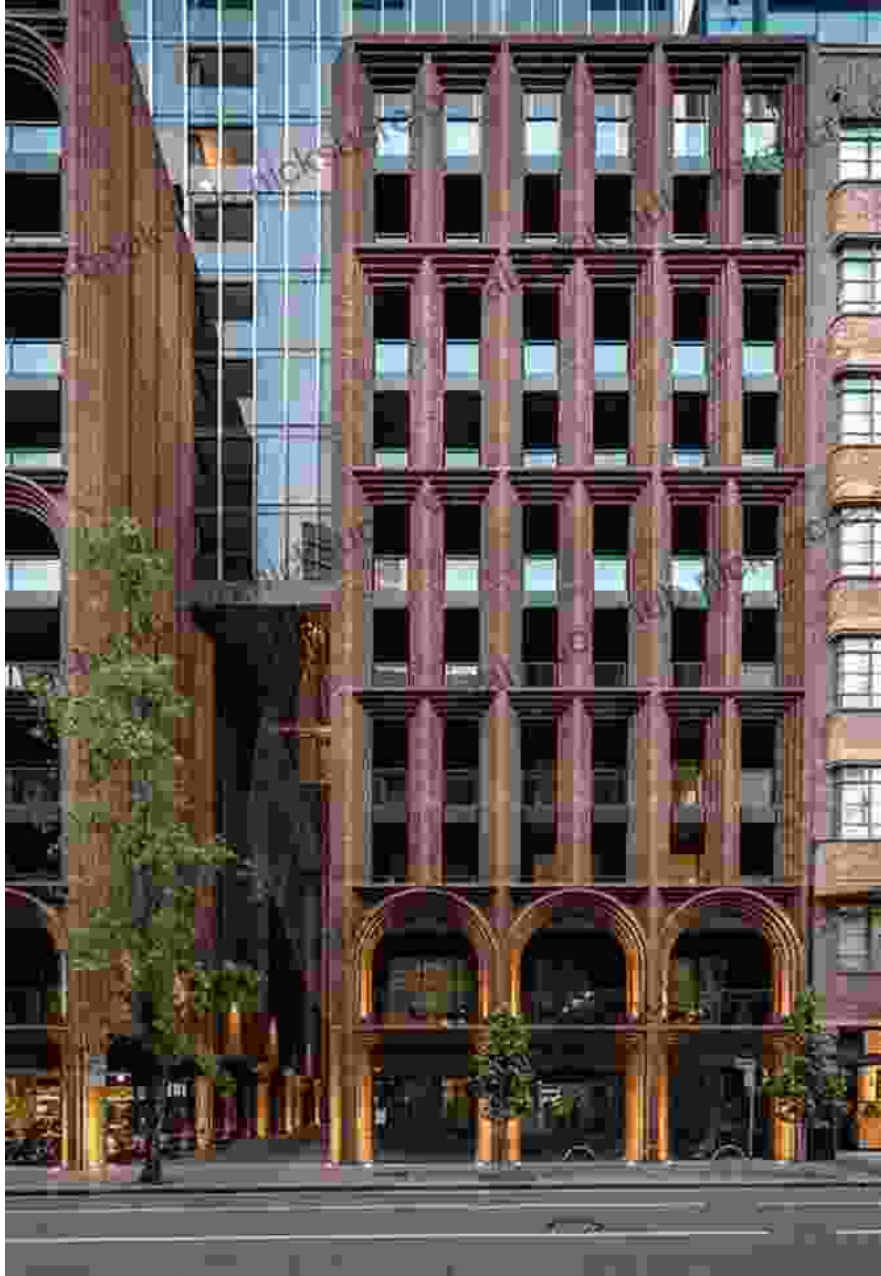


# Kaufmann's The Big Store: The Grande Dame of Pittsburgh Landmarks

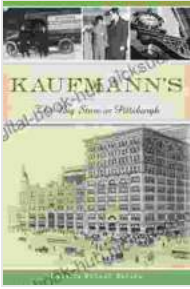


## Kaufmann's: The Big Store in Pittsburgh (Landmarks)

by Margaret Coombs

★★★★☆ 4.6 out of 5

Language : English



File size : 7552 KB  
Text-to-Speech : Enabled  
Screen Reader : Supported  
Enhanced typesetting : Enabled  
Word Wise : Enabled  
Print length : 160 pages



Amidst the vibrant tapestry of Pittsburgh's architectural heritage, Kaufmann's The Big Store stands as a symbol of the city's unwavering spirit of innovation and community.

From its inception in 1899, the store transformed the retail landscape, becoming a beacon of elegance and modernity. Its grand opening was a testament to the burgeoning economic power of Pittsburgh and its aspiration to become a major metropolis.

### **The Visionary Founder: Edgar J. Kaufmann**

At the helm of Kaufmann's was Edgar J. Kaufmann, a visionary entrepreneur whose passion for retail would forever alter Pittsburgh's urban fabric. Born into a family of German immigrants, Kaufmann's innate business acumen became evident from a young age.

A keen observer of customer behavior, Kaufmann understood the importance of creating a shopping experience that catered to the needs and aspirations of Pittsburgh's growing population. With an unwavering determination, he sought to redefine the concept of a department store.

### **A Monument to Architecture and Design**

The architectural majesty of Kaufmann's The Big Store reflects the grandeur of its vision. Designed by the renowned firm of Daniel Burnham and John Root, the building exudes a blend of Beaux-Arts and Neoclassical styles.

Its towering clock tower, adorned with intricate carvings, became an iconic landmark on Pittsburgh's skyline. The store's interior was equally impressive, featuring soaring ceilings, marble floors, and intricate wrought-iron balconies.

Kaufmann's commitment to innovation extended to the store's interior design. It was among the first department stores to embrace the use of electric lighting, pneumatic tubes, and elevators, transforming the shopping experience into a seamless and modern affair.

### **A Hub for Innovation and Community**

Beyond its architectural splendor, Kaufmann's The Big Store played a pivotal role in the cultural and social fabric of Pittsburgh. It was not merely a place to shop but a destination where the city's diverse population converged.

The store hosted countless fashion shows, art exhibitions, and community events, fostering a sense of civic pride and belonging. It became a beloved gathering place for families, friends, and visitors alike.

Kaufmann's unwavering support for the arts was particularly notable. It established one of the country's first in-store art galleries, showcasing the works of renowned local and international artists. This commitment to

culture solidified Kaufmann's position as a pillar of Pittsburgh's cultural landscape.

## **A Symbol of Resilience and Transformation**

Throughout its century-long history, Kaufmann's The Big Store has gracefully navigated shifting economic tides and changing consumer behaviors. It has witnessed the rise and fall of neighboring businesses, yet it has remained an enduring symbol of resilience and adaptability.

In the 1980s, the store underwent a major renovation, transforming its iconic facade while preserving its architectural integrity. This modernization allowed Kaufmann's to continue thriving in an increasingly competitive retail environment.

While its ownership may have changed over the years, the legacy of Kaufmann's The Big Store remains deeply entwined with the identity of Pittsburgh. It has become a symbol of the city's indomitable spirit, its unwavering commitment to innovation, and its dedication to community.

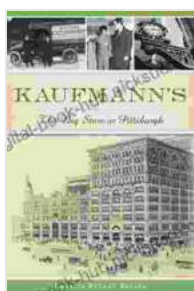
## **A Lasting Legacy**

Today, Kaufmann's The Big Store continues to occupy a prominent place in Pittsburgh's retail landscape. While its focus may have shifted from traditional department store offerings to a mix of retail, dining, and entertainment, its commitment to customer experience remains paramount.

As a designated historic landmark, Kaufmann's The Big Store is not only a reminder of Pittsburgh's rich past but also a testament to the enduring power of visionary architecture and community spirit. It stands as a symbol

of the transformative power of innovation and the importance of preserving our collective heritage.

In the bustling heart of Pittsburgh, Kaufmann's The Big Store remains a beloved landmark, a testament to the city's unwavering resilience and its dedication to progress. It is a place where history, commerce, and community converge, creating a vibrant and enduring tapestry that continues to inspire generations.



## Kaufmann's: The Big Store in Pittsburgh (Landmarks)

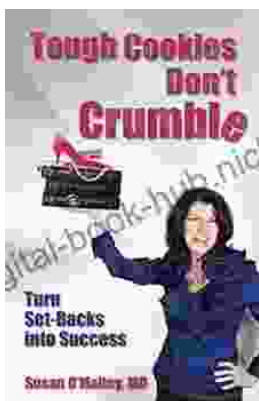
by Margaret Coombs

★★★★☆ 4.6 out of 5

Language : English  
File size : 7552 KB  
Text-to-Speech : Enabled  
Screen Reader : Supported  
Enhanced typesetting : Enabled  
Word Wise : Enabled  
Print length : 160 pages

FREE

DOWNLOAD E-BOOK



## Tough Cookies Don't Crumble: The Unbreakable Spirit of Those Who Overcome Adversity

Life is full of challenges. We all face them, in one form or another. But for some people, the challenges are so great that they seem insurmountable. They may come in...



## The California-Born Diners, Burger Joints, and Fast Food Restaurants That Changed the World

California is known for many things, but its fast food scene is one of its most iconic. From In-N-Out to McDonald's, some of the most well-known fast food...