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The Rotunda was opened to the public in Dearborn on May 14, 1936, and immediately became a top attraction.

The ultra-modern Rotunda was a huge attraction, becoming the fifth most popular United States tourist destination during the 1950s.

The annual Christmas Fantasy held during the Holiday season was partially responsible for the Rotunda's popularity, with nearly a half million people visiting during 1953, the very first year it was held.

On Friday, November 9, 1962, shortly after 1 p.m. the Rotunda was burned to the ground in less than an hour.

Little was left, other than the foundation.

