

Reading Pagoda

Reading, PA, United States



The Reading Pagoda, a 72-foot-tall Japanese-style brick and tile structure atop Mount Penn, stands 886 feet above the city of Reading, PA and serves as the area's most recognizable landmark. Constructed in 1908, the Pagoda was originally intended as part of a luxury resort, though the project was never completed. Its distinctive lighting became a defining visual feature, highlighted by incandescent fixtures that accentuated the tower. In the 1960s, the lighting system was updated to neon, which remained in place for decades.

As energy and maintenance concerns grew, the City of Reading began exploring modern alternatives. In 2007, Independence Lighting provided design assistance supporting the transition to LED technology. This first iteration of the upgrade focused on improving energy efficiency, reducing maintenance demands, and preserving the Pagoda's iconic nighttime presence. Independence Lighting assisted with fixture selection, application guidance, and customization requirements, including specialty finishes and coatings to withstand the harsh mountaintop environment. Special attention was also given to accommodating unique structural and aesthetic constraints.