

West End Neighbors

GARDEN TOUR



Celebrate the Beauty, History and Industry of West 7th, Jefferson & Randolph Neighborhoods

June 7 & 9, 2018



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We live in amazing West End neighborhoods. Each reflects a unique pattern of development that reflects their immigrant roots as well as entrepreneurial spirit. As with garden tours of the past ten years, we've attempted to bring to light not only each neighborhood's uniqueness, but also residential homes, businesses, and communities that were their product. And from genesis of the settler farms of the 19th Century, the gardens that beautify each.

This year, the eleventh (!) West End Neighbors Garden Tour celebrates a neighborhood with

no name (or an old one: "Reserve Township") but many identifiers—churches of St. Francis and St. James, Palace Playground, and Monroe and Adams Schools. It's a plateau and valley between the Mississippi River and the hills and bluff to the north. Its farms date from the 1850s, thus beautiful yards and gardens, as do its many commercial landmarks.



Community Garden * 330 Webster * 300 Oneida
 Hinding/915 W 7th * 388 Bay * 416 Arbor * 421 Osceola * 671 Palace * 392 Osceola * 404 Daly
 Leitners/945 Randolph * 974 James * 934 James * 895 James

Welcome to the 11th Annual West End Neighbors Garden Tour
 Please observe these guidelines for the enjoyment of all:

- Please observe garden courtesy when visiting!
- Wander appreciatively on paths and lawns; surfaces may be uneven, so care should be taken.
- Do not enter the gardens, pick the flowers, take seeds or cuttings, or lift plant markers.
- Interiors of homes are not on the tour; restrooms and refreshments are not provided.
- Inquiries should be brief, and critiques/suggestions not appropriate.
- Pets and insect repellents are not permitted.

Tours are today June 9 only, 10 a.m. – 4 p.m.
 Appreciation and compliments are always welcome!
 We warmly welcome feedback, email: gardens@fortroadfederation.org



300 Oneida

When we moved into our prominent corner property in 2009 we went right to work as landscape superheroes, texturizing the rough and weedy front yard, and removing the enormous and neglected in-ground backyard pool by hand. As an aspiring garden-zealot, I took to our property full-throttle, slowly shaping berms in the front yard and adding native and sustainable shrubs, trees and perennials, hiring a permaculture guru to design and source. Our front corner still slowly evolves, adding and subtracting, with a local stone path winding through. The backyard, minus the original pool and its concrete perimeters, is now a source of food, with beds of heirloom vegetables, fruit trees and shrubs, and a woodland-style garden below an overarching maple. In our property, you'll find: hazelnuts, honeyberries, perennial grasses, hardy kiwis and strawberries, a black gold cherry, and not one area of full-sun.



330 Webster

When we moved here in 2012, we were thrilled to have a "blank slate" in our backyard. The front and back yard were without landscaping and we were able to let our imaginations run free. The garden is constantly in flux and a work in progress. We have raised beds in the back in which we grow vegetables and herbs. We have a large patch of rhubarb and an asparagus bed that we just started harvesting last year. Perennials, some natives and a few annuals grace us every year with their color. We planted native shrubs

this past year but unfortunately the bunnies seem to like them as much as we do. Last year, a boulevard garden was put in. Every year we do a bit more and every year the garden changes and grows, just like its caretakers.

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404 Daly St.

We bought this 1896 corner brick home in 1996. The original attached summer kitchen was long gone, and the deteriorating cinder block garage that replaced it had been torn down. Left was a dirt drive in a small backyard bordered by one neighbor's garage and another home just inches from the property line. The transformation began with the construction of a *marquesina a la Puerto Rico* that serves as a patio during the summer and a covered parking place in the winter. Hardscaping, tiered perennial gardens, and a waterfall completed the transformation into an urban oasis with multiple seating, sunning, and entertaining spaces.



392 Osceola Ave. South

We moved into our house, built in 1906, 37 years ago. We had a backyard full of ferns, day lilies, poppies, peonies, and grass. Over the years, we moved a lot of plants, grew a vegetable garden, and planted raspberries, currants, and a silver maple and pine, both from seedlings. Who knew the trees would grow quite large, defining what the yard is today. It's a wonderful mix of plants, art, and relaxing niches. Our side house garden is the perfect spot for sun-loving roses, peonies, and bee balm, and sometimes we tuck in a few annuals and veggies. The driveway garden is a shared effort created with our neighbor. It's continuously blooming, from spring through fall. It is the garden seen from the street and sidewalk, with people stopping and enjoying a variety of flowers and colors. It's eclectic, with very little planning. It has magic soil; anything will grow there, even weeds!



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671 Palace Avenue

A decade ago, our yard was mostly shade with five big trees. Today, three of those trees are gone. It was a bit of a struggle to maintain our hosta garden, but with help from the pagoda dogwood we added several years ago, it has thrived. Our driveway garden came into existence when the yard was mostly shade. My neighbor and I decided we should tear up the grass and put flowers there. My favorite part of this garden is that something is always in bloom, starting with the crocus, daffodils, and tulips in the early spring, then peonies, black-eyed Susan, rudbeckia, salvia, day lilies, daisies, and hibiscus. The back yard is a work in progress, with plans being made to redo the garden along the fence. Roses and window boxes grace the side of the garage, and a magnolia tree brings beautiful white blossoms in the spring.



421 Osceola

This organic garden features a small vegetable garden with a mix of flowering and nonflowering plants and bushes. An abundance of native plants include the Texas Blazing Star (liatrus), which attracts a plethora of butterflies each summer. Young blueberry bushes are still maturing alongside Purple Coneflowers, Northern Maidenhair Ferns, Fireweed, Black-Eyed Susan, Wild Bergamot, asters, lilies, lupines, and various columbine and phlox varieties. Other features include roses, peonies, tiger lilies, native grasses, herbs, and some trees.



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416 Arbor

Quilts on the Clothesline in the Spring Garden. Stop by and linger in this nestled urban garden tended by a West 7th textile artist. Veggies, perennials and natives abound in this quiet backyard retreat. Artistic quilts will be on the clothesline for display. Glue or hand sew a small 4"x6" quilt on card stock; this short project should only take 5 to 10 minutes to complete or simply enjoy the convergence of garden and art!



388 Bay Street

Having grown up on a working dairy farm in northern MN, my husband, Jason, was determined to find the best way to make our urban gardening the most productive and aesthetically pleasing as possible. Over 2-3 years we tried out and tested a variety of raised bed styles in the front of our west-facing home. The raised beds are home to a large selection of vegetables, including tomatoes, peas, green beans, eggplant, squash, and cucumbers, several varieties of peppers, lettuce, carrots, and radishes. We also have a small herb garden in the pot upfront. As a studio florist, I have enjoyed growing some different varieties of flowers that I can use as cuttings in my arrangements, like hydrangeas, zinnias, sunflowers, dusty miller, curly willow, and yarrow, to name a few. We've also custom-made our window boxes to be self-watering, which has taken a lot of the work out of tending to the flowers that we have enjoyed growing there. Swing by and ask us some questions. We would love to chat with you.



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Jefferson Avenue & S. Victoria Street: Fort Road Community Garden

The Fort Road Community Garden was established in 2010 by community members and the Fort Road Federation.

This garden has brought people together from a variety of backgrounds which is evident by the different gardening approaches and techniques. The majority of the gardeners grow vegetables in their plots. The group has also established several flower beds. Our lovely garden has been the recipient of a Blooming Garden Award. Gardeners maintain the common areas and compost together. This organic garden consists of 26 twelve-foot by twelve-foot plots available for rental by area residents. The modest rental fee pays for water and infrastructure. The Fort Road Community Garden has provided great opportunity for members of the community to meet and grow together.



915 Seventh Street West: Hinding Plumbing and Heating

This garden in the city provides a restful haven for the owner. In its location and formality the garden space is uncharacteristic of the urban streetscape. The small garden features a formal lawn, a border of boxwood, shrubs, and arborvitae. A burst of colorful annuals completes the border and fills the tree box out in front of the storefront. The owner collects old advertising signs, several on the building wall, along with two aged automobile anteriors: a VW bus and a Ford Model-A cowl. The headlamps on both light the garden and an awning provide shade on hot summer days.



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934 James Avenue

The third time is the charm for this urban retreat. New basement construction in 2015 required an entire garden rehab. Former house parts were repurposed into a bench, a fence for the produce garden, and a new side garden stone border. Bee-friendly perennials like butterfly bush, delphiniums, and coreopsis provide a feast for the eyes and the bees. The produce garden features blueberries, greens, and more. Rose bushes adorn the sunny south side of the back yard. The fairy garden in the back yard features a fairy home made from a tree stump. The fairies celebrate Christmas with their own mini tree and many delightful surprises. Come and enjoy the evolution of my gardens.



895 James Avenue

This little “cottage” home was newly sided last year, which took a toll on some of the foundation plantings. 2018 will bring a few new additions to replace those that were lost. Perhaps a Bloomstruck® hydrangea? A fun trip to the garden center will determine what strikes my fancy. As a complement to some classics such as ferns, iris, lilacs, and peonies, I have incorporated more shrubs into my landscape for less maintenance. Newer members include elderberries, bayberries, and a Diabolo® ninebark tree. Hostas have a happy home under the apple trees. Clematis adorn both front and back vertical garden spaces. The peaceful backyard retreat with its lovely gardens, patio, benches, and decorative ornamentation makes a welcome sanctuary for all who enter.

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974 James Avenue

Our garden has been an evolving labor of love since we moved to the neighborhood a decade ago. An edible garden in the back yard containing vegetables, herbs, and medicinal plants ties us to our family farming heritage, and a compost bin allows us to reuse as much as possible. Inspired by some of the beautiful front yards in nearby neighborhoods, the deep shade in the front of the house presented a challenge to our love of color. With guidance from the team at Leitner's Garden Center, we added window boxes planted with vibrant foliage and annuals, took out some old plants that didn't suit the space, and added a violet slate path. Using elderberries, boxwood, false cypress, and rhododendrons as a base, we accented with peonies and irises that have been passed down through my family. Two juniper specimens anchor the house and yard, while a magnolia heralds in early spring. Last year, we began work on the side yard, adding a fire pit and plants that love the acidity of the thick layer of evergreen needles that fall year round. Future plans include a meditation garden with a place to practice yoga and tai chi and updating a patio off the kitchen.



945 Randolph Avenue: Leitner's Garden Center

Welcome to Leitner's! We share your passion for gardening and all things green. Come to us for organic soils, fertilizers and pesticides. Our selection of plant material is outstanding! If there is a plant we don't carry tell us and we will try our best to get

it in for you. Our fresh cut flowers are locally-sourced and very reasonably priced. We do weddings, sympathy pieces and events large or small. We're so proud to be a part of the history and the future of this neighborhood.

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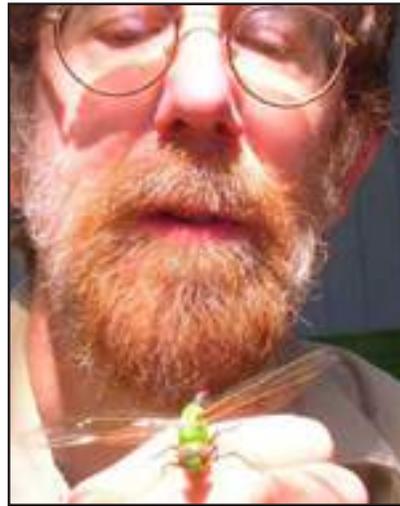
Bee Positive!

Thursday evening June 7, 7 p.m.
at the North Garden Theater, 929 7th Street West.

Naturalist David Crawford's photography and presentation:
The Importance, Care, and Feeding of Native Pollinators



Native bees play a large role in our ecosystem and are the most efficient pollinators. They make possible native plant communities (now in decline) in our prairies and grasslands, as well as commercial food crops. Dave Crawford will share photos and videos of pollinators to illustrate their diversity, as well as what is needed to maintain pollinator-friendly habitats, including in your own yard and garden. He'll illustrate a "palette" of native plants which can help provide for pollinators' nutrition throughout the growing season, based on what has worked in his own native plant gardens. A walk in your garden will not be the same after you hear and see Dave's talk.



Dave Crawford is a retired Minnesota State Park Naturalist who has worked and volunteered at parks up and down the St. Croix Valley for over 40 years. After retiring, he developed a growing interest in the many hundreds of species of pollinating insects that are native to Minnesota. He documents his pollinator finds in parks and in his home's native plant gardens through video and still photography. He's presented talks on pollinators and native plant gardening to a variety of audiences across Minnesota.

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Our Gardens' History Tour "Method"

To tell this story, I researched and tried to verify this history from several sources, beginning with the archives of 48 years of the *Community Reporter* ("Business of the Month!"), Gary Brueggemann's West End Calendars of 1981 and 1983 as well as his centennial calendar of St. Francis de Sales Church, the online Library of Congress' "Chronicling America" (*The St. Paul Globe*, 1896–1905), Family Search.com (genealogy), and Lyfmap.com (memories by location and date). Building permits were furnished at Ramsey County History Center, and a wonderful trove of digital images and other archival resources were obtained from the Minnesota History Center (MNHS.org). The Garden Tour Committee is very indebted to the writers, researchers, editors, board members, and volunteers who have documented what has made West End neighborhoods what they are today: a treasure founded in our immigrant past for current residents and business people, and for future generations. Note: Building addresses often had multiple storefronts and businesses as well as overlapping dates.

Joe Landsberger



The West End: The Fort Road Plateau, the Reserve Township, Peasant Valley, Seven Corners West

On September 23, 1805, in a questionable treaty with Zebulon Pike, Chief Little Crow of the Dakota agreed to sell 100,000 acres of land that included much of St. Paul and Minneapolis, including the West End. While the US government took the land, it did not make all the agreed-upon payments. In 1820 Fort Snelling was established, and in 1840 settlers were evicted from its lands and made their way down river to establish St. Paul.

Between the fort and the emerging city of St. Paul stretched the Reserve Township—a plateau of limestone near the river and wetlands and marshes toward the hills, as well as emerging farmland reserved to support the fort and, eventually, St Paul as the capital of the territory, then later the State of Minnesota, 1858.

In 1854 Saint Paul was incorporated as a 2400-acre city with three wards centered in today's downtown. At this time the Reserve began to be settled between the city and the fort, principally along Fort Street, today's West Seventh. Prior to 1850 a few French families settled along the river. In 1850 Euro-American settlement began in earnest and in 1858 voters gathered at the house of William Niven to elect a town board. Later that year the board further defined boundaries of the the Reserve, divided it into two "road districts" and raised funds for a school house. In 1860 the population was 249; in 1880 there were 490. *The nearness to St. Paul, where a ready market is found, has induced many to engage in gardening, dairying and raising early vegetables and berries.*¹ The Reserve's settlers developed farmland and gardens out to Fort Snelling and in 1862 the Legislature added the emerging "West End" as the city's fifth ward, and what was to become our state's first neighborhood commercial district.

The Fort Road Plateau; the Township Reserve; Peasant Valley; the West End



The Otto Bartusch, later Crosby, Farm, 1409 West 7th.
Otto immigrated from Germany in 1882.
See also 1173–75 West 7th. 1906 Photo MNHS

Prussian, Bavarian, and Bohemian immigrants began to settle and farm an area bordered by Jefferson and Randolph Avenues from the Mississippi River north to the hills. They fled political oppression and burdensome taxation by the royal houses of Europe. They fled war, changing borders, and conscription into armies. They fled drought, the (potato) famine, and lack of opportunity. They were pushed out of their villages and countries. Out of little they manufactured resources that built our neighborhoods in the Reserve Township. They brought their faith, their customs, their skills and education, and the desire to succeed. Integration into the emerging “East Coast” community of downtown St. Paul was not a priority, and not possible given subtle and obvious prejudices.

These immigrants were pulled by the promise of freedom and better prospects for their families. Often they sent one of the family to prospect situations in America to pave the way, usually a younger member

avoiding military service. As families and individuals, they developed communities and concentrated housing in new neighborhoods as well as business districts along its arteries: Fort Street/Road, Jefferson Avenue, and Randolph Avenue. They took both entry-level employment and skilled labor, such as brick- and stonework, iron smithing, and cooperage; or they developed commercial services with farms, groceries/meat markets, blacksmith stables, and shoemaker shops. Before the 1900s the area became known colloquially as “Peasant Valley” referencing both the immigrants’ Old World rural origins as well as economic status in the development of the West End. As entrepreneurs, merchants, and builders, these early settlers did not need to reinvent their identity but rather fuse it with the existing environment in all its complexity.

As decades passed, Fort Road/West 7th Street and Pleasant Avenue emerged as the east-west thoroughfares; Randolph and Jefferson north-south. In the mid-1800s the intersection of Fort Road (West 7th), Randolph Avenue, and Warsaw Street (Osceola Avenue)--Seven Corners West--was at the heart of an emerging neighborhood



Warsaw Street eventually became Osceola Street.
The building at right is the back of Shamrocks Bar and Grill. 1915 Photo MNHS

commercial district organized as the Reserve Township in 1858. In 1862 the Legislature added much of the Reserve Township as the city’s fifth ward, and in 1972 these neighborhoods became the second ward due to a charter change. In 1871 the Pioneer Press reported that 173 houses, 8 stores, 23 barns, and 4 public buildings were built in the West End, between Randolph and the City of St. Paul. Farther west, beyond Otto, farmland stretched out to Fort Snelling.

Ayd Farm/924 Grace Street

The Ayds originated in Ersingen, Karlsruhe, Baden, Prussia. First to arrive in 1838 were Johann Kajetan and Clementena, who homesteaded in the Reserve Township. They were followed by Johann's brothers Edward with his wife, Louise, in 1840 and Leonard and Mary Ayd in 1844. In 1854 Johann and Clementena purchased their 160 acres for \$1.25/acre, with Randolph/Lexington/St. Clair/Victoria as boundaries. They farmed, built a grist mill at Cascade Creek, and raised five children (Edward, Emily, Rudolph, Catherine, and Leonard) in a "country" home built in 1860 below Ridgewood Lookout (Linwood Park) and above its ravine, streams, and spring.



Ayd Grist Mill

924 Grace Street, razed 1893.
Circa 1880 Photo MNHS.



Conrad Ayd's house, 981 Jefferson Avenue

Built in 1896 (18-inch thick walls!) razed in 1966 for 35E.
Conrad Ayd was related to Johann Kajetan Ayd through his great grandfather Georgeo Adamo Ayd in Baden, Germany.
1959 Photo by John Dorough MNHS

825 Jefferson, built 1954: Businesses included G&K Dry Cleaners (1960s), Paradises Sport Page Bar (1975), Frontier Bar (1982), Spankys Bar and Grill (1992). Current: Tav. on the Ave (2000).

For early settlers, "squatting" on public land was recognized and legalized in 1841 as a rightful method of acquiring land.ⁱⁱ Early St. Paul Prussian immigrant families were the Ayds, the Kuhns, the Krameraths, the Rees, and the Schades. Often European immigrant names, even years of birth, changed in census records: 1870, 1875, 1880, 1885, 1910, 1920, etc. For example, in Minnesota the German name Ayd was phonetically spelled Aid, Ayde, and Ayd. For Ries, records also show Reese and Ris. The Bohemian/Czech Dvořák became DeVorak, Devorak, Deworschak, etc.

With its critical location and value, the farm eventually was subject to parceling and street widening (St. Clair) of the "Ayd Subdivision" that culminated in the development of St. Paul's major artery "Ayd Mill Road." John's sons became entrepreneurs along West 7th, whose names appear later in this history.ⁱⁱⁱ In 1864 the Ayds sold the south forty of their property to countrymen Michael and Catherine Kuhn.

The Ayd Farm and the Ridgewood Park above it were considered for a Ridgewood Park in the 1880's, abandoned with economic failure in the 1890's, and resurrected in the 1980's for an Ayd Mill Linear Park along its roadway.

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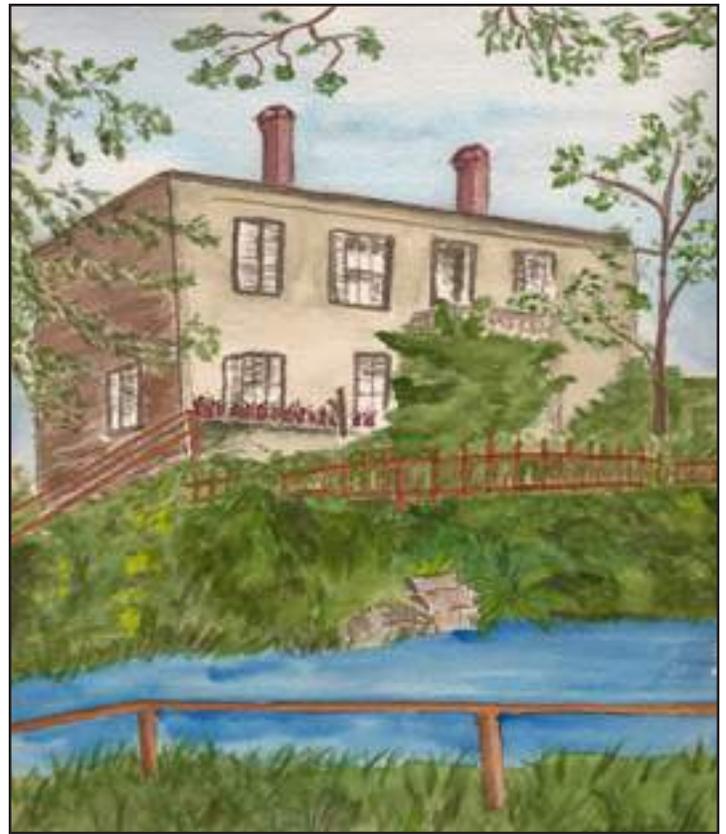
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Kramerath: 987 Jefferson

Charles and Mary Kramerath were also Prussian immigrants, and in 1866 they purchased the mill and remaining nine acres of farm. They improved the grounds as a resort with a large 300-trout pond for St. Paul city folk. In 1878 the property was compromised: mortgage foreclosure; the death of Charles on June 28, 1878; and, for metro farmers, its difficult access to the mill on its marshy hill. In 1879 the railroad acquired the rights to use the stream bed for a railroad connecting St. Paul and Minneapolis and cut off the water supply from the millstream and drained the millpond.^{iv}

In its earliest days the neighborhood's retail trade was an intricate part of the community . . . With the 1890s came the grocery-store (or saloon) -on-every-corner phenomenon . . . Even up until 1950 the Fort Strip alone, from Seven Corners to Otto, supported no fewer than 11 barbershops, 6 hardware stores, 12 meat markets, 7 show stores, 3 confectionery stores, 6 drug stores, 2 bakeries, 2 variety stores, 1 dry goods store, 12 restaurants, 2 movie theaters, 1 flour and feed store, and 21 grocery stores.^v We can add six breweries, three coopers or barrel makers, a gun factory, a bowling alley, and Shades Beer Garden!



987 Jefferson, Kramerath resort.

Razed as Conrad Ayd residence in 1966 for 35E. Water color by K E Goers after a drawing in the St. Anthony Graphic, July 12, 1889



732 Randolph, Kramerath house and descendants.
Circa 1910 Photo Jerry Hoffman



Quonset Huts: 922-66 Jefferson:

18 (army surplus) Quonset huts were built in 1946 for 36 families of post-WWII veterans. Rent was \$42/month, including water and sewer service. June 20, 1946 Photo St. Paul Dispatch



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Stahlman's Horse Stables.

Across from the Schmidt Brewery, located at Webster Street at Jefferson, are the horse stables built in the 1870s for Stahlman's Cave Brewery. It was later used for Schmidt's storage. The roughly coursed stone is limestone from a local riverbank quarry. Stahlman-Schmidt horse stables, Webster at Jefferson. Note the second story hay loft. 1940 Photo MNHS



451 Bay Street, built 1895, rebuilt 1910.

A typical neighborhood corner store. In 1895 the resident was Charles Hartmann. West End Bakery was established in 1905 by Karl/Charles Zalesky, who emigrated from Bohemia in 1880; his wife, Katherine/Kate, emigrated in 1882. They came to Minnesota via Illinois, and they improved the property in 1910. Karl was killed during World War I in a gas attack (July 1918, France). John Sevcik emigrated from Bohemia in 1911, and his wife, Cecilia, in 1907. John immigrated to the US with his parents; his father was a blacksmith. John and Cecilia owned the bakery from 1919–1946 and lived upstairs with their five children. Paul and Eugenia Bedard (1948–1967). Ernest Y Mack, resident/optometrist (1949). Current: private residence. West End Bakery, 451 Bay Street. 1924 Photo Hubold Studio, MNHS

833 Jefferson, built 1940, razed 1971
Frank Fritz Service Station.

823 Jefferson, built 1941: Raymond Cikanek's Root Beer Stand.

Applebaum 795 Jefferson

In 1900 Oscar Applebaum migrated from Russia and settled on the West Side of St. Paul in its Jewish community. He bought a horse and wagon to market fruit and vegetables. Soon he opened a storefront downtown. In 1958 he added the market at Milton and Jefferson to become a grocery chain that grew to 26 stores. In 1982, 56 stores were sold to Gateway Foods and converted to Rainbow Foods. Valu-Mart (1984). Current: AT&T switching station.



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Palace Recreation Center.

**784 Jefferson/
781 Palace**

The Palace Recreation Center and warminghouse was originally at 784 Jefferson at View. An early 1919 program listed a very active earlier center: Classes included “married ladies; boys’ evening; young ladies; young mens; boys’ and girls’ gymnastics, a dramatic club, and junior orchestra; and Palace Women’s Booster Club”, with 134,690 participants for the year.

In 1974 an 8,300-square-foot recreation center was built, though it “was built like a prison,” with poor visibility for staff and few windows, and the design contributed to later problems with crime at the center. The new 16,500-square-foot facility built in 2016 offers educational programs, after-school activities, open gym, family events, fitness center memberships, an outdoor refrigerated ice rink, youth and adult athletics, field rentals, rental space (for parties, meetings, and events), playground, accessible walking paths, benches, picnic tables, bike racks, and landscaping. ^{vi}



Palace Recreation Center
1924 Photo MNHS



“Old” Palace Playground Warming House.
Jefferson and View. Photo Betty Moran





The Ideals at Central High School.

Pictured (l-r) are Woessner, Schleuder, Wiecher, O'Brien, Hanzel, Cunningham, Sharrov, Mikesch, Dahl, Watzl, Cigler, Pavlick, Shetka, Kosar, Paar, Jansen, Pahl, Maidl, Glonning, Schiller, Horeish . 1919 Photo MNHS

The Palace Ideals

Professional football began around 1892, and the first pro league formed in 1920. Before 1920 the rules began to standardize, though several issues were outstanding: use of college players, high salaries, and unregulated player free agency. On August 20, 1920, a professional league, led by the legendary Jim Thorpe, was formalized as the American Professional Football Conference, later the American Professional Football Association (APFC), in Canton, Ohio. On September 26, 1920, the first exhibition game took place between their professional team, the Rock Island (Illinois) Independents of the APFC and the Saint Paul (Minnesota) Ideals of a semi-pro league. The Independents won 48–0 before 800 spectators. League play began the next week. In 1922, the APFC changed its name to the “National Football League,” with the Independents–Ideals game considered the first NFL game—St. Paul’s claim to professional football. The Ideals’ origins were at Palace Playground in St. Paul’s West 7th neighborhood, and at various times the team was also known as the “Palace Ideals.”^{vii}

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We give thanks

To naturalist David Crawford for his photography and presentation on Thursday, June 7 on “The Importance, Care, and Feeding of Native Pollinators”.

Pleasant Avenue/35E

Construction of 35E sliced a fissure in the earth and the West 7th neighborhood and decades of modest to historic houses were removed. Streams and hillside marshes were routed to sewers. Before 35E, Pleasant Avenue was a through street to downtown St. Paul at the base of the West End's hills and bluffs.

Neighborhood connection between the West End and the hill neighborhoods was lost. When the springs and streams of the adjoining hills were diverted to sewers, the peat-plateau dried out and subsequently affected structure/house foundations. To create a stable foundation for the freeway, twelve feet of peat were removed from 1009 Randolph, which was typical for the length of the roadway through the West End.

Construction began in 1964 but was halted pending an environmental impact statement and legal actions of "RIP35E".



1034 James.

About 30 homes between Otto and Goodrich were removed for 35E. 1962 Photo Minnesota Department of Transportation.

Eventually both the Saint Paul City Council and

the Minnesota State Legislature approved a federal court-sanctioned agreement that resulted in a nationally unique speed-limited, four-lane parkway that was completed in 1990 (instead of the typical six-lane freeway). The route was "sunken," trucks were prohibited, and the speed limit was set at 45 miles per hour. A "35E bike path" was added by MNDOT. Recently it has been reclaimed by neighbors and MN Nature in a unique partnership with MNDOT, the city, and many environmental groups to serve as gardens, a pollinator sanctuary, and tree trek called "Little Bohemia Trail." From St. Clair past Jefferson the bike path is a scenic and tree-lined route connecting pedestrians from Fort Snelling to Downtown.



Construction began on 35E

The bridge begins to cross over the Mississippi and basically follow the route of Pleasant Avenue.

1962 Photo MNHS

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Nettleton/Wardell house,
Lexington & Randolph. 1930 Photo MNHS



Nettleton/Wardell house 1930 Photo MNHS

Hatch Estate, Randolph at Lexington

New Yorker Major Edwin A. C. Hatch was an outlier in the settlement of the Reserve Township. He arrived in St. Paul in 1843, and in the 1850 census he is listed as a property owner and merchant (\$500). He made his early fortune trading with Native populations. In 1860 his property was listed at \$40,000, his personal estate at \$2,000, and he was identified as a “collector of port.” In 1862–63, at the top of Randolph Hill at Lexington, he built a “two-story, thirteen-room stone mansion in the ‘Italian Villa-style’ and developed his 130-acre farm.”

During the civil war, Hatch formed Hatch’s Independent Battalion, Minnesota Calvary, at Fort Snelling in 1863 with a beginning and ending rank of Major, though he had no military experience. The unit patrolled the northern frontier of Minnesota, enabling regular forces to fight in the civil war. It was decommissioned in 1865.^{viii}

Nettleton Farm

William Nettleton came to St. Paul via Ohio and bought the farm in 1871, when Hatch moved to 14 Pleasant Avenue to work for the St. Paul Rochester Railroad. On May 9, 1876, the house burned down and was rebuilt. In 1886 Nettleton’s son Edward platted the farm into building lots as the “Lexington Park Addition.”

Wardell Farm

In 1900, John Wardell and his wife, Johona, acquired the Nettleton farm and developed the Highland Spring Company from its natural spring that had a constant flow of 27 gallons/minute. They were of Scottish descent. When the company ceased operations in 1965, services included delivery of water, ice, and carbonated beverages. Between 1951 and 1965, the Wardell family sold portions of the property to housing developers. At the corner of Randolph and Lexington is the original retaining wall.^{ix}

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In 1857 Randolph Avenue was established as a main artery of St. Paul. Peat was removed down to bedrock to establish a stable road surface.

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Ries Pioneer Farmer House, 463 Warsaw (Osceola) Avenue

In 1860 Gottlieb Ries (Reese/Ris) moved to the western edge of St. Paul with Franny, his Bavarian-born wife, in the Township Reserve. He emigrated from Switzerland in 1855. In 1860 they built a frame house and barn at 463 Warsaw Avenue (as Osceola was then known) at Randolph and Fort Road/West 7th, where they raised three children. Gottlieb was a butcher and used the barn for 38 years as a slaughterhouse for his meat market on West 7th Street at Chestnut serving “downtown” customers. The market catered to the sale of horse meat to (German) immigrants. In 1883 they built a second meat market closer to home on the northeast corner of Randolph and West 7th Street. His house was razed in 1993. 1937 Photo MNHS



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Leitners' first truck circa 1920. Photo: Leitners Garden Center

in February 1887 for a series of enterprises. Much of the land south of Randolph was farmed before 1900. Frank's profession progressed from milking and trading cows to breeding horses for teamsters (teaming), contracting for construction work and excavation, as well as delivering milk and coal. In 1979 Leitner's Garden Center was rebuilt at Randolph, and Landscape Products further added at 630 Juno. Through the 20th and 21st Centuries, Leitner's has expanded operations to its thriving Garden Center and Landscape Products Center. Today many residential gardens and landscapes, as well as golf courses, owe their "greens" to the expertise of four generations of Leitners.^x

Wosika: 931 Randolph:

John Wosika had a tavern at 931 in the 1930s and '40s. He was born in New York, just after his parents immigrated to New York in 1868. His father, František, emigrated from Bohemia in 1867; he opened his tavern at 974 West 7th in 1887. Current: private residence.

Trummer: 923 Randolph, built 1930: Alfred J Danneker, building contractor. German-speaking Matheus Trummer emigrated from Hungary in 1881 and his wife, Kathe, in 1883. In 1930 contracted with Alfred J. Danneker to build his butcher shop at 923, and he lived at 903 Palace with his family. Their son George (Rex) operated the Pure Oil Service Station at 923 in 1934. Small Engine and Marine (1982), Small Engine & Electric (1987). Kerry Olson Service Station. Current: Industrial Engine Rebuilders (1985).

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Kisslinger: 979 Randolph

Christ and Mary Kisslinger emigrated from Germany in 1892 and built and opened their grocery in 1921. It became Sami Glassman Grocery in 1935. Otto Geiger owned the grocery in the 1940s. He grew up on the West Side of St. Paul. Al and Ruth Ruzichka (1956–63). Quick Chick Inn (1967–1976). Current: Rooster's BBQ Deli.

Leitner: 945 Randolph

Frank Leitner (Poxleitner), Sr., was born in 1865 in Finsterau, Bavaria, near the Bohemian border and came to Saint Paul in the 1880s. With his new wife, Anna Hernitschek, they purchased 959 Randolph

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Steffen: 920 Randolph, built 1928

In 1913 Ernest Steffan/Steffen emigrated from Germany; his wife, Marie/Marion, from Bohemia. He was a baker in the 1920 census, and the couple built and opened their bakery in 1928. Frank Steiner emigrated from Austria in 1896. He was a “wholesale baker,” and with his wife, Elsa, he bought out the Steffans in the 1930s. Baker Richard Schuster emigrated from Hungary in 1903; with his wife, Alice (sales), he owned the bakery (1940–1960s). It became Mildred’s Bake Shop in 1967 and then Tina’s El Dago Restaurant, Eha Plumbing & Heating, Ralph’s Bakery, Ryco Cleaning Service, Rose Champion Meats and Catering (1973), Paul’s Bar (1978). Current: Skinners Catering (2015).^{xi}

Vogelgesang: 917–919 Randolph

Daniel Vogelgesang and his wife, Catherine, emigrated from Germany in 1881. They lived and raised six children across the street at 916 Randolph, They lived with their parents into their 30s. Daniel built and opened a saloon that became the Vogelgesang grocery and confectionery (1885–1953). Paul’s Place (1967–1977), Novak’s Randolph Bar (1977), Sonny’s Place (1990). Current: Skinners Pub and Eatery (2000).

At right Daniel Vogelgesang is on the phone taking orders at his grocery. 1925 Photo by Candian immigrant Charles Gibson. MNHS



The Impact of World War I:

German immigrants throughout the United States, Minnesota, and the West End were considered patriotic and industrious before the First World War.

Opinions changed during World War I when the United States entered the war against Germany. Civil liberties were then suspended by the Minnesota Safety Commission Act. The German language could no longer be used in either schools or churches. “Aliens” (immigrants and their families) were required to profess a loyalty oath, register, and carry identity cards. Citizens were encouraged to inform on each other, and in 1918, 500 “German” men were detained by the Saint Paul Home Guard and its auxiliary without cause; only six were convicted for not having their cards on their person. The Commission was disbanded after the war.

One outcome of the war was that Czechoslovakia achieved independence and became a nation, though in 1993 two nations emerged: the Czech Republic and Slovakia.^{xii} Bohemia forms a significant part of the Czech Republic, along with Moravia and part of Silesia.

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Schleck/Horeish: 910–14 Randolph

Alfred J. Danneker was a building contractor in 1891 for Bikubanski Service Station at 937-41 and for Schleck Brothers Hardware Retail in 1920 that also became a gas station in 1925. Like many West End residents, Louis “Red” Horeish worked at the Omaha Shops, the local railroad yard for engine repair that closed in 1958 following a fire. His “second” job began in 1933 when he purchased the gas station, and in 1958 he focused full-time on his station. Red was known throughout the West End for his garden behind the station, was a charter member of the Silver Fox Club, was a Hall of Fame fast-pitch softball catcher, and a prominent Bohemian. He died in 1984. His nephew Jerry Lyden continued to run the station for a few years until Kerry Olson bought the station. Olson operated the station on the opposite corner. In 2004 gas service was discontinued when the tanks developed a leak and had to be removed.

Currently St. Paul Automotive (an auto repair shop) at 910 is owned by Scott McClure.^{xiii}



Novak: 907 Randolph

John Novak immigrated in 1912 from Austria and his wife Regina followed the next year. They built and owned the Randolph Shoe Hospital, 1923 to 1948. Winner Trophies. Current: Mahler Music Center/Accordion Heaven (Since 1983).

Swartz/Schwartz Meat Market

1925 Photo by Canadian immigrant Charles P. Gibson, MNHS

Schwartz: 899 Randolph

Joseph E Schwartz was born in 1889 in Minnesota of German-speaking Hungarian parents; his wife emigrated from Hungary in 1905. According to the 1910 census, they “farmed” in 1910 at 416 Vance Street, at what is now Palace Place Playground. They owned their meat market (Homemade Sausage!) at 899 from 1920–1945. Mike Paul Electric ; Wagner and Lang Remodeling. Current: Brinkman’s Silver Plating and Repairing.



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Steingrueble: 860–868 Randolph

Joseph and Mary Steingrueble emigrated in 1883 from Austria; he was a teamster that drove commercial wagons with teams of draft animals, horses, oxen, and mules. They built the store in 1919 and the family lived upstairs at 862. His son, Joseph, was a garment cutter, who with his brother Charles and his wife, Mary, owned the confectionary and grocery downstairs. Joe played left field for the J.P. Jelineks “Druggists” baseball team in the early 1900s. H. H. Elfenbien owned Randolph Pharmacy 1923–1966 at this location; William Wondra owned a grocery here in 1934; it became Schouvellier/Vitek Meat Market in 1934; then Frank Burnell barber shop in 1935; and then Merles Construction (1948–1994). Current: Run ’n Fun (1991).

Wittmer: 859 Randolph

Enzelfried Wittmer immigrated in 1885 and his wife Matilda in 1876 from Württemberg. Jacob Danneker, building contractor, built their saloon for \$900 in 1885 (*Fine Wines and Liquors and Cigars!*). In 1902 Bohemians Alex and Christina Micko owned the bar until 1914. He was a brewmaster at Schmidt’s. When Micko died in 1914, the bar returned to Wittmers (1914 to 1927). Matthias Mazanek (a shoemaker) and his wife, Anna, lived at 647 Randolph and purchased Wittmers Saloon in 1927. He emigrated with his

parents from Bohemia in 1866. Anna came ten years later. Agnes (Wittmer) Davidson bought the bar in 1936 which became Barr and MacDonald Restaurant, then “Barrs Bar”, then Wallys Tavern (1955). Under the ownership of Bob (Burgher Bob) Koehnen, Marion Dusterhoft played an organ in a back corner of the bar three-four times a week. She had a repertoire of 1000 songs but was legendary on improvising those she did not know. Marion was preceded at the organ by Winfed Rousy. Current: Still the Spot Bar (oldest saloon in Minnesota).

Stasny: 850 Randolph

Frank Stasny was born in 1862 in Bohemia and immigrated to the US in 1880; his wife, Jessie, in 1870. Frank built his meat market and flats in 1885 when he purchased the property from F. B. Clarke in December and received a permit for a two-story brick veneer building and operated it at least until 1930. His son Frank, Jr., was born in 1885, and he worked as a meat cutter at 1199 West 7th. The family lived at 1107 Randolph (1920). C Dieber . Harry Ryman Construction Company. Current: private residence.



877 Randolph, built 1885, 1898:

Irishman John (Corenius) Kains owned 877 in 1885 and Peter Arend, a New Yorker and fireman, lived at this address in 1885. He is listed as living in Minnesota since 1875. (Nicholaus) Raven Brothers, a German building contractor built the current house a year later for J. Keintz in 1886. It is a “folk architecture” stone/brick house and predates 1898, as is noted on the gable. Photo Joe Landsberger



Dannecker: 793 Randolph, built 1913, rebuilt 1949

Jacob Dannecker emigrated from Wurtenberg, Germany in 1878 and his wife, Theresa, from the Rhineland/Bavaria in 1882. He was a carpenter at the Omaha Shops railroad yard then became a building contractor. They lived at 445 Fulton. In 1912. Their son Edward Anthony (Ed or E. A.) Dannecker (born 1889 in Minnesota), and his wife, Frances (born 1887 in Minnesota), lived at 471 View Street and founded Dannecker's Confectionery at 793 Randolph Avenue. It was built in 1913 by Jacob Lauer, building contractor. The store featured candy, cigars and tobacco, newspapers, and groceries, as well as a soda fountain into the late 1930s. "Self-service" began in 1946, an expansion in 1949, and an off-sale liquor license was acquired in 1951. The parking lot for Danneckers was the home of St. Stephan's Episcopal Church (that moved to 803 Watson in 1949). As the store's popularity grew, his sons Edmund and Frederick joined their father to establish a neighborhood grocery before the advent of chain stores. They built their residence next door, and "in the old days" the daughter, an organist, played music for the enjoyment of the customers. Dannecker's was one of the few supermarket-liquor-store combinations in the metro area. Thomas J. Wang, an immigrant from China, bought the business (1982). Current ownership: Ker Vue and family.^{xiv}

Deneen: 786 Randolph

John N Deneen was born of Irish immigrant parents and in 1885 built 786 as a saloon while working at the Howard and Aberdeen Hotels in St. Paul. Following Deneen was Joseph and Mary Felger's bakery (1920–1935). They emigrated from Bohemia in 1906 and lived at 625 St. Clair with three children. Kindz Bakery, Phil's Place-Restaurant (1977), Mildred Pierce Café (1999), Café de Tava,. Current: Mucci's Italian (2015).

Fire Station 10: 754 Randolph

Fire Station 10 was the oldest operating fire station in Saint Paul until it closed in 2010. The architect was famed city architect Cap Wittington. In 1885 it was built as a single-bay house for Chemical Engine 5. It housed two horses, an 80-gallon tank engine, and 200 feet of hose. In 1890 Engine Company 10 was organized and a horse hospital was built in back. An addition was completed in 1911 for Ladder 11. In 1937 Quad 10 replaced Engine 10 and Ladder 11. The horse hospital closed in 1924, though the cobblestones of the horse stalls are still visible. In April 2010

Fire Stations 1 and 10 were consolidated into the new facility located at 1000 West 7th Street. In 1949 the repair shop was moved from Station 9 to Station 10. For years, Engine 10, Medic 10, and Ladder 10 were housed in this building. The station got one of the first ambulances in the city in 1971. Five firefighters who worked at this location died in the line of duty: Edward Low, Captain, Engine 10, September 14, 1907; Daniel Campion, Truckman, Ladder 10, March 8, 1919; James Seery, Firefighter, Quad 10, February 20, 1941; Ernest Kellerman, Engineer, Ladder 10, February 21, 1950; Sam Jurgenson, Firefighter, Engine 10, Dec. 26, 1950.^{xv}



Engine 10. 1910 Photo St. Paul Fire Department

Ayd 731 Randolph

Another Ayd son, Leonard, built 731 in 1888 though Jacob Schmidt Brewing opened/sponsored a saloon in 1903. The Wosika family had a long history of owning taverns in the West End, and operated the Luby-Wosika Buffet (1934). Later the space was used for Becker's Bar (1976). John and Pauls' Bar (1990). Current: Bay Street Grill.

Columbia Hotel, Herrmann/Hoffman: 727 Randolph

John C. Hermann and C (Charles) Hoffman, building contractors, built the Columbia Hotel. In 1885 H. Hoffman had sole ownership (1905–1941). Annie Bauer and Frank Hakl were borders (1895). Hakl's family emigrated from Bohemia in 1884; his two sons worked at Mackovec's Grocers. Janies Harrison Barbers (1935). Harvey Davis, Evelyn Howell, Willard Johnsen, Jos. Jones, Angeline Poser, and Leonora Thampson were borders in 1949s. Current: apartments.

Klecacy: 686-88 Randolph.

Another of the Ayd sons, Rudolph, built 686–88 in 1884. Joseph S. Klecacky/Klecatsky graduated from the University of Minnesota and began his long career by opening a funeral home at 688 (1926). He closed the Randolph location and moved to West 7th and Michigan, as well as other locations in the metro area. The site was later occupied by Joseph F. Chan, a watchmaker (1934).

O'Loughlin: 675 Randolph

In 1929, when a gallon of gas was probably less than the tax today (10 cents a gallon in 1933), Frank O'Loughlin built and opened Frank's Service Station at 675 Randolph. His father came from County Clare, Ireland. The service station started as a Shell outlet and in 1930 switched to Barnsdall, selling three engine grades: not-a-knock, some-knock, and all-knock! Those first few years Frank often sold more ice than gas. A long list of neighborhood employees culminated in "Whitey" (Harold Peterson) who worked 35 years until his death in 1968. Whitey even managed the station while Frank served in the army in the Pacific during World War II. Automated gas pumps were installed in the 1940s, and credit card sales in the 1950s, though the original 1934 cash register was still in use. One local lore is that Frank bowled the first 300 game in 1942 at St. Francis Bowling Lanes. Frank's closed in 1984, and in 1987 the station was rebuilt as Fort Road Mobil, a full-service gas station and convenience store. Although it sold Mobil gas, Croix Oil Company built the station according to prototypes from Chicago and Detroit. Manager/owners were Roy and Cheryl Johnson. Current: Cherokee State Bank.^{xvi}



Frank's Service Station.
1934 Photo MNHS

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Coal haulers down 7th 1906.

Trains dropped coal for home delivery at Duke and Erie Streets, and ice was brought from Pike Island/Wita Tanka (Dakota name) at the confluence of the Mississippi and Minnesota Rivers. 1906 Photo MNHS

Arthur Grundhofer (1909–1979)

Arthur began delivering ice for the West End Ice Company at the age of 15. In winter, four-hundred-pound blocks of ice were cut out of Crosby Lake and two-horse sleighs carried them to Armstrong and Lee where they were stored underground in sawdust. Customers received 25 or 50-pound blocks using 20 wagons and 50 horses. Blacksmiths and wagon masters supported Arthur's route that included the C.S.P.S. Hall, Schmidt Brewery, Pilneys, Machovecs, etc., six days a week. Residential customers requested stops with little "ice signs" for fifty pounds a week, but Summit mansions took regular deliveries of 800 pounds. In the 1930s artificial ice became the norm, delivered with trucks, followed by electric Frigidaire's after World War II.^{xvii}

"Refrigerator Without an Ice Bill" *The Saint Paul Globe. November 15, 1903*

When we stop to think what a necessity of life the daily delivery of ice has become, in all appearances, to the American housekeeper, we find it hard to realize that housewives all over Europe manage (and that fairly well) without this tremendous item of expense. We have come to consider the diurnal visit of the ice man as a matter of course, and to groan over his bills as an unremediable evil. In reality the matter is one very much in need of intelligent consideration on the part of the American woman. Women, as economical as nature herself in other matters, are wasteful in their ice chest to a degree which would cause any European housekeeper to marvel at her folly.

The Saint Paul Globe, February 21, 1904

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**Interior of West 7th
Dry Goods Store**
Photo MNHS





West 7th Upholstery Shop. 1895 Photo MNHS

Millinery Library, West 7th
The Saint Paul Globe, November 05, 1899.
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Fischbach Grocery: Interior at left 1930 and exterior at right 1936. Photo MNHS

Poetz/Fischbach 783-785 West 7th

Caspar Poetz was a brewer born in 1848 in Prussia and lived with his wife Barbara and their four children on Toronto Street in 1880. His family lived in 783 -785 from 1884 to 1902, though Caspar died in 1893.

Conrad Fischbach was born in 1818 in Helena, Scott County, Minnesota the last of seven children to German immigrants (1860) John and Margaretha Fischbach. Conrad and Annie moved from Jordan to St. Paul and started Fischbach Grocery. 783 and other structures on West 7th at Grace Street were moved and/or razed when the "flyover ramp" between St. Clair and Jefferson Avenues was built over the railroad tracks in the early 1970's for West 7th Street/Highway 5, then US 212.

Frick: 805 West 7th

was also lost to the flyover ramp in 1970. It was built by N W (Theodore?) Frick in 1889. A builder, Theodore lived nearby on Forbes at this time. The property became a filling station for Atlas Oil Company in 1921. Managers were Joseph and his son Charlie Popal. Joseph immigrated from Germany in 1874. They managed the station at least until 1929.





West End Commercial Club 1932 Photo RCHS

West End Commercial Club (WECC) 825 West 7th/55 Jefferson

Prior to 1912 a structure was built on this site in 1887 by H. Thompson Libr Company. The West End Improvement

Association met for the first time November 29, 1903. Three months later it had 50 members and ten committees, and met monthly at St. Francis Church. It actively promoted streetcars and gas lights in lieu of gasoline in the Fifth Ward, and prioritized removing “unsightly quarries.” In 1894 The American Architect (Vol. CI, No 1894) reported that the East End Commercial Club would build a two-story at Jefferson and Erie for \$15,000 for the WECC. John Peter Jelinek was appointed director and treasurer of the WECC’s Building Corporation, and chose Lauer Brothers as contractor. In 1912 the WECC moved from Toronto and West 7th to their new three-story hall. The Commercial Club maintained a library of statistical works, official reports, and books on financial subjects, as well as a reading room where all the leading newspapers and magazines were kept for the use of members. On January 31, 1937, the WECC District Carnival Parade had 15 floats, 20 drum corps, 2,000 marchers, and 5,000 spectators.^{xviii} Current: McDonalds.

Congratulations
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**From the board of the
 West 7th Business Association**

We are a coalition of local businesses and neighborhood residents. We believe that an attractive, safe, well-built and clean neighborhood is more vibrant for businesses and visitors, more livable for neighbors and enhanced for all. Building on our rich history, we will continue to foster the efforts of local businesses, non-profits and individuals by organizing, publicizing and seeking assistance to implement our goals



Stahlmann Schmidt/Marie Schmidt Bremer House.

1920 Photo MNHS

daughter, Marie. The Bremers, mother Marie, sons Otto and Adolph, and daughter Frieda also immigrated to the US in 1886 from Lower Saxony (Niedersachsen). Upon Schmidt's death in 1911, Otto took control of the brewery and continued its successful operation. Permits were pulled in 1907 by Jacob Schmidt and in 1932 by J. Bremer for work on the house, and it became known as the Stahlmann Schmidt Mansion and the Marie Schmidt Bremer House. The Bremer Foundation donated the house to the Wilder Foundation in 1955, and Wilder donated the house to RS EDEN in 1989 for a 32-bed community correctional facility serving men released from the Minnesota Department of Corrections on Work Release and US Probation and Pretrial.

Bremer kidnapping, June 1933

The Barker/Karpis gang kidnapped William Hamm of Hamm Brewing and, after a \$100,000 ransom was paid, released him three days later. In January 1934 they kidnapped Edward George Bremer, Jr., and released him a month later in front of the West End Commercial Club after his family paid \$200,000 in ransom.



Reporters outside 847 West 7th next to the Marie Schmidt Bremer House on the abduction/release of Otto Bremer. 1934 Photo MNHS

Stahlmann/Schmidt/Bremer 855 West 7th, built 1874

Christopher Stahlman was a Bavarian immigrant to the US (1846), brewer, and founded the Cave Brewery (later Schmidt Brewery), 1855–1876, across West 7th. It became the largest brewery in Minnesota, averaging 10,000 barrels of beer per year. He built 855 in the Italianate Style. He died of tuberculosis at the height of his career in December 1883, as did his three sons. After bankruptcy in 1897, the brewery was sold to “North Star Brewery” but the brewery complex burned down in 1900.

Jacob Schmidt and his wife, Catherine, emigrated in 1886 from Switzerland, and had an alliance with Adolph Bremer, who founded the National German American Bank and who married Schmidt's

Schade: 891 West 7th.

Schade's Park and Beer Garden (1878–1904)

Prussian Frederick H. Schade emigrated from Prussia with his wife, Annie, in 1855. They had seven children of whom Hermann was a butcher, Christopher a harness maker, and Henry a bartender. He established his park in 1865 near Stahlmann's Brewery, "about three blocks from the western terminus of the horsecar track." It was bordered by Fort Street (West 7th), Webster and Toronto Streets, and included a creek and foot bridge, outdoor bowling lanes, and beer garden. June 17, 1883: "The park itself is easily accessible from every direction either by street car, which directly pass it on the 'union depot and Fort street line,' by carriage over a smooth and level macadamized driveway, or *per pedes apastolorem*, on a continuous ten-foot sidewalk, affording, by the way, a fine chance to view this rapidly growing and largely improved part of our city."^{xix} The German and Czech/Slovak communities frequently held concerts, dancing, and vaudeville performances as well as athletic events. Frank Ayd bartended at the Shades Park Saloon in 1885.



Schades Park and Beer Garden was bordered by Fort Street (West 7th), Webster and Toronto Streets. Water color by K. E Goers after a 1900 MNHS photograph. The large "palm" trees in the original photograph are something of a mystery.

Stahlmann: 891 West 7th Street

Bavarian Adam Stahlman and his Hessen-Darmstadt wife, Elizabeth, emigrated from Bavaria, Germany about 1853, came to Minnesota via Ohio and Iowa, and built the Stahlman saloon in St. Paul in 1859. Elizabeth's brother Henry Bingenhamer was a bartender. Son Edward Stahlmann continued the saloon on his father's death in 1887. The building was razed March 1960. Before it was razed, it served as a carpentry shop and storage for the Schmidt Brewery across the street. 1959 Photo MNHS



Meisel/Bonn: 895–909 West 7th

George and Sophie Meisel were born in Minnesota. George originally worked for a local dairy and had a grocery in one storefront at 1920 West 7th. George Meisel took out a permit for his grocery store at 895 in 1885 that he operated until the 1920s. His parents were German and Swiss immigrants.

Michael Bonn immigrated from Alsace Lorraine in 1882, and his wife, Augusta, in 1880 from Germany. They built/opened a tailor Shop at 899 from 1888 to 1910+; in 1920 he is listed as a real estate agent.

Peter and Catherine Engler were born in Hungary and Croatia respectively, immigrated in 1907, and opened their Union Tailor Shop in 1920. Stephen Potzman's Shoe Repair (1934), A. Fashingbauer Tailor Shop (1934), Joe and Stans (1934, Joe Ischer and Stan Masloski), Tony's Black Bear Tavern (1967). St. Paul Amsoil. R. E. Eckstrom Realtor (1981).

Tschida: 907–909 West 7th built 1878

907-909 was built in 1878. John Tschida immigrated in 1881 from Austria and lived with his family at 851 Randolph. He worked in the cigar industry until he opened John Tschida Confectioner (1923–1934) featuring "Fine Havana & Domestic Cigars, Confectionary, and School Supplies." Tony Latesa Shoe Sales and Repair, Chilafone 32 Bar, Eckstrom Realtors Century 21.

Current, 895-909: Organic Chiropractic, Infinite Awareness.



Post WWII street scene featuring Rybak's Meat Market, DeAglie Bakery, and the Garden Theater. Photo Lyfmap.com



Joseph Ertes Barbers Shop
Is Ertes looking out the window?
1937 Photo MNHS

Weber/Fieger: 925 West 7th

In the 1880 census, New Yorker Fredolin Weber had a retail grocery/liquor store and shoe shop in addition to the dwelling upstairs in a previous building at 925 West 7th. The current building was built in 1886.

August Fieger emigrated from Germany in 1885 and opened his barbershop in 1893. He lived at 423 Toronto. Joseph Ertes Barber Shop (1935). Cy's Barber shop. Rick's Barbershop (1987). Current: 7th Street Barbers—considered the oldest barbershop in Minnesota.

Zoch: 915–21 West 7th

Joe Zoch, Jr., was born in 1883 and emigrated from Bohemia in 1904. His Polish wife, Stephanie, emigrated in 1906. They lived at 537 Michigan. Peter was a blacksmith (1915–1935). They remodeled the storefront in 1911 for Ives Ice Cream with Peter Medernach, who was also a blacksmith. Peterson Auto (1934). White's Fuel and Ice. Bob Shaffer Confectionery. Liska Plumbing (1987). Current: Hinding Company.

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West 7th Street scene, circa 1930.

Note the steeple of the first St. Francis Church. Photo Artista Bottega.

Theater sponsored a Czech-language film series organized by Jan Pesek, a member of Sokol St. Paul at the C.S.P.S. Hall. The films were classics of Czech cinematography and shown on Monday nights.

The Garden was operated by Russian immigrant Solly Torodor. He remodeled the theater in 1947. In 1960 the building was sold to a casket manufacturer and lost its movie marquee. In 2017 the theater was renovated and reopened as the North Garden Theater with restored marquee. It serves as an event venue and flexible performance space with movable risers to seat up to 200.^{xx} Current: North Garden Theater.

Spink: 933 West 7th

Peter Spink was born in Scotland in 1857. Along with his son Frank, he built 933 as a residence and commercial building in 1884. The first moving picture was shown here in 1884. Frank manufactured vinegar as a profession. Jewish-Romanian Joseph Herman immigrated in 1890 and was the next to occupy the building, as a clothier. It was later occupied by the Flavor Fried Pop Corn Company. They sold popcorn, candy, and ice cream (George's Special Made Ice Cream opened here and at 977 West 7th) from 1934–1947. DeAglie Bakery (1947). Ramacier Sash and Door Company. Current: Music Go Round.



Johnson's Super Market
1954 Photo Lyfmap.com

Bartels: 937–41 West 7th

Charles Bartels and wife, Wilhelmina, emigrated from Prussia in 1865, and built 937-41 twenty years later in 1885. Conrad Kerst (1859–91) was born to Prussian immigrant parents who farmed in the Reserve Township in 1860. His career began as a bookkeeper, and he financed the construction of 937; W. H. Hinas was recorded as the contractor. (Leonard) Schleck Brothers Retail Hardware (1891). Rason H. Roger shoe cutter (1895). Walter H. Jansen was born in the US to German immigrants (1852), Matthias and Gudula Jansen. Walter and his wife, Margaret, owned the grocery (1905). Hyman Margolis grocery store (1920–1947). Margolis immigrated in 1914, having fled Russia via Poland and its persecution of the Jewish people. L. O. Bowman (1923). L. Murphy (1931). Johnson Super Market (1937–1954). Pappes and Eichler's Billiards, Modell's Upholstery. Current: Artista Bottega.

Memmer: 943–45 West 7th

Peter Memmer family built and occupied 943-45 from 1895 to 1935. In 1906 Joseph and Emma Rybak were born to Bohemian immigrants and had their meat market (1906–1946). In 1920 their family lived at 427 St. Clair off West 7th. Used Furniture and Other Things (1984). Current: Thune Gallery.

Steeley/Torodor: 929 West 7th

I. J. Steeley pulled a permit to build a shop at 929 in 1888. In 1916, the Garden Theater was renovated and opened at 929, and Moving Picture World boasted "New Garden Opens to Capacity. The new playhouse is as modern as present day planning can make it and played to a capacity house the first night it was open." Its success "caused the closing down of the Royal, only a few blocks away, one of the oldest in St. Paul." In the 1930s and 1950s the Garden

The Lauer Family

The Lauers are well known in the West End as contractors, builders, and stonemasons. Charles Lauer (born 1846) emigrated in 1870 from Lothringer, Lorraine, a German-speaking area of France, with his wife, Margaret. His sons Nicloss (a stone cutter) and Henry (born 1877 in Wisconsin) followed their father into stonework and contracting. Charles' brother Jacob immigrated with his wife, Mary, in 1873. The census of 1910 also lists his sons George and William as contractors (builders of houses and roads). The family business began in 1879, first with a steam sawing mill and quarry at the foot of Chestnut, and a quarry at West 7th and St. Clair. Projects included Lauer Flats (1887), the Minnesota State Capitol (1897), the Commerce Building (1910), and the St. Paul Cathedral (1915). The John Lauer House at 449 Arbor Street was designed by Charles Hausler in 1914 for John Henry and remains in the family. It has distinctive column capitals and stained-glass transoms.



John Lauer House
2018 Photo Joe Landsberger

Charles Hausler

was born in 1889 in the West Seventh Street neighborhood of St. Paul and lived at 495 Bay Street. His Prussian father Martin immigrated in 1873 from Baden, Prussia and his mother Anna was born in Minnesota. In Charles late teens, he apprenticed with Louis Sullivan in Chicago. He returned to St. Paul, in 1911 and soon became St. Paul's first City Architect (1914-1923). He designed many St. Paul schools, branch libraries, fire stations, and park buildings, some in the Prairie School style. Hausler was elected to the State Senate in 1922. He retired after sixteen years' service and reestablished his architectural practice in 1939. Hausler's architectural career extended nearly to his death in 1971.^{xxi} The Charles A. and Philomena Hausler Prairie-style house was at 1734 West 7th from 1917 to 1960 when they sold the house and it was moved to 526 Grace Street.



Charles A Hausler Prairie-style house
526 Grace street. 1974 Photo MNHS



Living History
Have you a West End friend or neighbor who has move from their home to one of our local residences? Why not give them a call and say hello? Maybe they have a book of family and/or West End history to chat about?



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Michael Leierich Saloon,
949 West 7th. 1900 Photo MNHS

Leierich/Rothmeier
947–49 West 7th, built
1899, 1921: Jacob Lauer
building contractor (1899).
Michael Leierich emigrated
from Bohemia in 1882 with
his wife, Catherine. The
commissioned Jacob Lauer
as contractor and opened
their saloon in 1899, then
moved on to a shoe store.



Andy Rothmeier Saloon
1910 Photo MNHS

John Rothmeier/Rothmeyer
and his son Andrew L. (Andy) lived upstairs and managed the Buffet/
Speakeasy (1905–1939). Rothmeyer pulled another construction permit

in 1921, and John Johnson in 1929. John Mauer (1936). Tony and Marie's Café (1967). Eve and Otto's Café at 947
(1976). Joe and Stan Marlosk Tavern (1939–47). Pam's Café (1984). Current: Joe and Stan's Saloon.



Graff and Cummings 1917 Photo MNHS.

Born/Graff/Ruhman: 951–57 West 7th.

Mary Born pulled a building permit in 1890 for 951-57, and in 1892 Henry Clarke operated a one-story coal and wood office built by C. L. Lauer. In 1904 John Kroiss and J. Eader built the current store and dwelling at 957. In 1914 Herman Graff opened the West End Variety Store, then specialized in menswear, then opened his dry goods store. Clyde A. and Etta Cummings partnered with him to establish Graff and Cummings until 1946. Cummings eventually became the sole owner. Albert Fielder, a carpenter, lived in Flat #4 (1920).

Rudolph Ruhman, who emigrated from Germany, began St. Paul Saddlery on the East Side of St. Paul in 1903. In the 20th Century the whole family became involved with cutting, sewing, smoothing, and riveting the harnesses. His son Rudolph and grandson Garry Ruhmann continued to produce leather harnesses, bridles, and halters for draft team horse teams and buggies and moved to 953 West 7th (1973). The harnesses were constructed from thick leather using the tools passed down for generations and then specially tanned with oil and tallow. Gary said that he had never put a harness on a horse, which was true of his father and grandfather. In addition to 20 harnesses, Gary produced about 12 twelve saddles and 250 motorcycle bags per year.^{xxii} Antique Boutique Thrift Store (1987).

Current: Center for Lost Objects.



Deavitt/Jelinek: 961–65 West 7th

This building was designed in 1884 by architect A. F. Gauger for M. Deavitt and was built by William F. Brady, contractor. Brady was born in 1858 to a Scottish father and Minnesota mother. P. Jelinek Drugs (1898–1941); E. Smisek (1940–44), Kunzie Drug Store (1944). Dr. Erickson D.D.S dental, second floor; Hagen’s Drugs, Hagen Card and Gift Shop (1977). Joyner’s Varieties (1993). Current: 7th Street Tattoo.



Jelinek Drugs, 961 - 65 West 7th
1900 Photo MNHS

West End State Bank: 967 West 7th

West End State Bank was built by contractor J. J. Trentor and incorporated in 1914. It was later incorporated as the City Bank (1916), and Commercial State Bank (1933–1981). In 1981 it moved to 35 West 5th Street. John W. Lux Liquor Store (1949). Jerry’s Restaurant/Jerry’s (Mudzinski) Wine and Dine (1977). US Post Office Elway Station (1987). Current: Supatra’s Thai Cuisine.



City Bank
For many years the vault remained though is now lost. 1916 Photo MNHS

Jelinek: 971 West 7th

Jelinek opened his first drugstore at 971 in 1906 and a second at 295 West 7th. He served as a State Representative from the West End, and was a founder of local Czech immigrant organizations at the C.S.P.S. Hall. Current: parking lot.

Hammer: 985–89 West 7th

The “back” building at 985 was built by John Heinel in 1885. Ed Hammer emigrated from Germany in 1867 and built the Hammer Building in 1906 for his wholesale and retail Boot and Shoe Store. Hammer is also listed as a solicitor for fire insurance at 981 West 7th. In 1910 John Heinel opened his shop in a storefront in 1887. Weuzier Nederost, M. Jensen (1829). Joseph Koch Shoes (1934), H. Kremer (1937–1943). West End Plumbing (1938). Jelinek Drugs and Ice Cream Parlour (1944). West Seventh Café (1976). West End Senior Citizens Center (1981). Current: Shamrock’s Grill and Pub.



Ed Hammer Building
October 27, 1936 Photo by A. F. Raymond before West 7th Street Widening MNHS

Kopriva: 991 West 7th

Charles and Teresa Kopriva emigrated in 1860 from Bohemia; their son Peter was born in Minnesota in 1867. They opened a dry goods store in 1888 as part of the Hammer Building. Schleck Brothers Hardware (1894). L. Schlik (1925–29). Jansen Hardware Company (1934). Schwartz’s Bar/Tavern. Current: Shamrock’s Grill and Pub.

Ferber: 995 West 7th

Joseph and Francis Koch Ferber were born of German immigrant parents in Minnesota, married in 1885, and raised six children on 375 Yankee Street. They maintained Ferbers Dry Goods and Furnishings from 1893 to 1938 next to Machovec’s Grocery. Schwartz’s Bar (1976). Sportsmans Bar. Current: Shamrock’s Grill and Pub.



1950s Street scene,
Randolph and West 7th.
Photo: Lyfmap.com

Machovec: 999 West 7th. Built 1893, remodeled 1947

Frank F. Machovec was born in Prague, Bohemia, in 1860. After several years in the grocery business in the Wurm Block, he built his building and store at 995 West 7th, designed by architect Hermann Kretz, a German 1880 immigrant. Machovec specialized in home deliveries by horse up until World War I. His son J. Stanley took over in 1933, and grandson Stanley F. in 1967. Machovec's became known as the "Boat Store," delivering groceries, even clothing, to the commercial barges and boats at the Lower Landing, even south to Red Wing and Winona, night and day. They also specialized in fresh ground poppy seed and jaternice sausage for the local Bohemian community of West 7th.^{xxiii} It closed in 2001 after 112 years, and was considered the oldest family-run grocery in the Twin Cities. Schwartz's Bar (1977). In 1984 Phil "Skip" Skarda and his wife, Mary, bought Schwartz's bar. It became Mr. Patom's, followed by Shamrock's (Runyon and Casper families).

Mary Kopriva Machovec's "Old, Very Old" Czech Recipe for Poppy Seed Filling:

Combine ½ pound poppy seed, ½ cup corn syrup, ¾ cup sugar, 2/3 cup water or milk or crème. Cook gently for 12 minutes, stirring continuously. Cool a bit and add a lump of butter about the size of a walnut. Stir. Ready for coffee cake or Kolache!

The Bohemian Skarda family

The Skardas have a very long history in the West End. John Skarda emigrated in 1869, and his wife, Antonia, in 1900, from Bohemia. They are pictured in the historic C.S.P.S. Hall's founders' portraits. In 1880 he first worked as a harnessmaker, then grocer at Richmond and West 7th (1887), then relocated to 1035 West 7th (Ayd's Building), then bought the Wurm block, 1015 West 7th (1895) and so established the family entrepreneurial legacy. They had six children, and 20 years later his sons Tom and Phil established a saloon and restaurant at 1015. It is said Phil's—the youngest—family stopped speaking Bohemian at home when his hybrid of English and Bohemian was becoming incomprehensible even in the family. A third generation established Phil's Restaurant, originally located on West 7th at Randolph from 1946–1966 and moved to 786 Randolph at Bay across from St. James. Phil, Jr., was a cook and his wife, Arline, was the manager. The restaurant's hours were 4:30 p.m.–2:30 a.m. They catered to newspaper reporters after deadline and a hungry bar crowd after closing. Arline, Phil's wife, stated in 1983 that, "back then West

7th was a small town, sufficient unto itself. Family, work, play were all here. But things haven't changed with the name 'Fort Road,' we just have to recognize these traditions." Their son Ray continued the restaurant, and two of his brothers also had businesses at Randolph and 7th. Another Skarda business was Skarda's Liquors at 728 Armstrong.^{xxiv}



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John Stauble's Saloon, 1005 West 7th
Stauble was born in New York to immigrants from Switzerland and came to Minnesota before 1880. Sons John and Frank (l-r) are in the doorway. Next door is Machovec's Market. His brother Adam also had a saloon located at the Northeast corner of Grand at West 7th Street. Circa 1890 Photos Mary Ginther.



John Stauble's Saloon
receives a lager beer delivery from Banholzer's Brewery.



Wurm Block. 1885 Photo MNHS

**Wurm Block:
 1013–19 West 7th**

Conrad Wurm was born in Missouri, the son of Prussian immigrants. With his Bohemian immigrant wife, Johanna, they founded a brewery (1863–1889) at Grace and Neiderhoeffler Streets that produced 400 barrels a year. The Wurms built Randolph's first commercial building in 1879 at 1013–19 West 7th, also known as the Wurm Block. Typical of the time, the Wurm family lived upstairs with the middle first floor section as their grocery. Conrad died in 1880, and his wife and sons continued their commercial enterprises, including the brewery. The succession of

businesses included a grocery leased to Bohemian immigrants Peter Kopriva and James Krenick, for their "staples and fancy groceries," and Wurm, Jr.'s, saloon (1884) in the east section, featuring his mother's beer. Charles Winterer barber (1884–1895). Peter Kopriva sold the grocery (1886) to his brother Charles Kopriva and his sister Mary and her husband, Frank Machovec. Peter Kopriva moved to 937 West 7th to establish a dry goods and notions store, and two years later he moved to his new building at 991 West 7th. Tom Skarda's Buffet (1895–1947). West End Plumbing and Heating (1934). The Wurm building was razed 4-6-1966.^{xv} Sandwich Giant (1980). Current: Hot City Pizza.

We give thanks
 The West EndNeighbors' Garden Tours would not be possible without our West End gardeners welcoming our wandering in their yards and gardens for us to enjoy their beauty and contributions to our community.



Ayd Hall with its distinctive stone-carved plaque. 2018 Photo Joe Landsberger

Ayd: 1033–35 West 7th, built 1887

Before Ayd Hall was built, Edward Ayd Groceries, Flour and Feed occupied 1033 in 1882, and Joseph J Kuber operated his saloon and grocery in 1884. Construction contractors Joseph Fischer (who immigrated from Bavaria Germany in 1882) and F. Hofer built the Ayd Building/Leonard Ayd Saloon and Dance Hall in 1887 with a design by German immigrant John Bergman. The dance hall was upstairs with two storefronts below: a saloon and grocery. Rudolph Ayd’s shoe and boot manufacturing and repair (1887), and Ernst Rudemann Grocery Crockery Flour and Feed in 1889. Upon Rudemann’s death, Albert Zachmann continued the grocery in partnership with Edward Ayd. Joseph Bauer plumber (1922-1929). J. V. McAfee and Walters Butcher Shop—fresh and salt (1930). Conrad Heating Co. (1946). E. J. Trophies (1976). Curly Q Beauty Salon. Classic Cuts and Such (1987). Current: Donohue Properties, Photographers Guild.

1081–87 West 7th, built 1900

West End Cash and Carry (1934). Current: A Touch of Andrea Salon, Supreme Electric.

Ayd: 1095–1105 West 7th

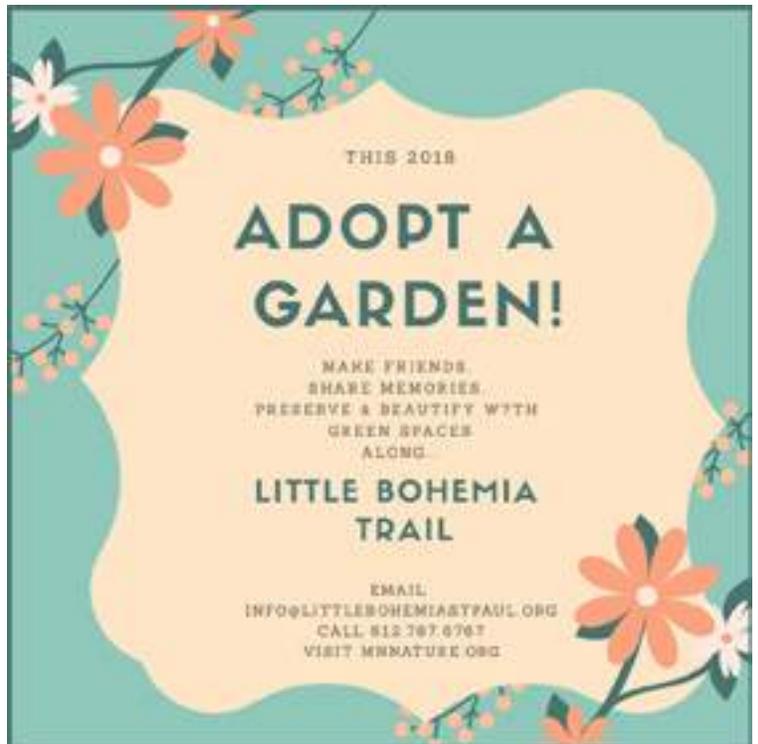
Ed Ayd, a sawyer, built the 1095–97 in 1888 for Fort Road Merchants—grocery, flour, and feed store. The construction contractor was L. E. Lorren. Marshall’s Old West Saloon (1883). Albert Zachman grocery (1894). Pitzel’s Saloon. L. Hovorka (1930). William Houghton Grocery (1934). George’s Place Saloon (1934). B&R (Bartizal and Rishavy) Tavern. Dr. Zachamn (1940). Small Engine and Marine Service.

Zachman/Ferber/Mosner: 1095–1105 West 7th

1095-1105 was built in 1888. Albert Zachman’s Grocery Store/Ice Cream Parlour (1895). Ichler’s Grocery Store. Bill and Dan’s Tavern . Bill’s Place (1930). Feber Dry Goods (1932). Mosner’s Shoe Store custom shoe and leather repair business spanned three generations., began in 1924 at 1148 West 7th; then moved to 1173 (1926); 1171 (1941); and finally at 1101 in 1963. Frank Mosner immigrated in 1907 from Bohemia and ran the business until it became Hangge Shoes in October 1980. Scott Hangee continued the work as cobbler and sold a line of shoes.^{xxvi} E. F. Bauer West End Furniture. Dr. Zachman MD/Fort Road Medical Center at 1095 (1940–1960). Wild Bill’s Cycles. Egg Roll Hut, Oriental Unicorn (1985). Current: Golden Chow Mein (1987), Ron Tracy Guitars (2017).

1107 West 7th was built in 1911

Anton G. Bauer Hardware (1981) relocated to 1107 from 1097 West 7th. Fort Road Rental and Repair/ Fort Road Hardware (1983). True Value Hardware (1985). Creative Colors Paint Store (1987). Current: Joseph’s Coat.



United Ancient Order of Druids

In 1882, A. J. Gronewald was secretary of the North Star Grove No. 4 that met every Wednesday at Unity Central Hall, Seventh and St. Peter Streets. The Chief of Police Weber was the chief of the American branch of the order, and J. P. Leitner grand secretary of the Minnesota grand grove. At this time there were 18-20,000 members of the United Ancient Order of Druids in the US, 5-600 in St. Paul. The first Minnesota grove was organized in 1856 and was one of three most populated in the US. Of the six St. Paul groves, four were English and two German. Druids advocated “unity, peace and concord” and based their secrets upon charitable and benevolent principles. Their philosophical foundation was universality and non-denominational and practical duties were to “attend the sick and dying, administer consolation to distressed and suffering, and provide for wants for those in need.”

The Gronewalds

Three brothers immigrated from Hanover, Neidersachsen, Prussia. J.J. was the first in 1853, followed by A. (Ameling) J. in 1856 with his wife Louisa, and William in 1869. The brothers were contractors, and William became the West End’s premier contractor specializing in brick structures and was in practice from 1862-1889. Notable structures include the two-story C.S.P.S. Hall (1887) at 383 Michigan Street, Anton Bucha’s tailor shop at 407 Michigan, John Thomsen grocery (1886) at 893 Randolph, Peter Eiswrith’s Saloon/Mancini’s (1886, since modified) at 531–35 West 7th, John Myers store (1884) at 1169 West 7th, 425 West 7th, 1179 West 7th, 1189 West 7th. A. J. moved to California in 1889 for his wife’s health, though died a year later. William was active in the West End Improvement Association, precursor to the West End Commercial Club and West 7th Business Association.

1163–65 West 7th, built 1891: A. J. Gronewald, building contractor. Horejs Brothers (John, James, Frank and Joe) wholesale and retail bakery “made strictly in the Vienna Style” with a second location at 461–63 West 7th. John Masek’s grocery (1894). Josef and Mary Povalny emigrated from Bohemia in 1881. He was a bookbinder of legal books (1910). Mosner Shoe Store, (1939). West End Cabinet Works, United Sound Stores.



**1163-65 West Seventh Street
before 7th was widened.**
1932 Photo MNHS/City of St. Paul



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Neighbors Garden Tour

The 1880 census listed 50–60 Bohemian families living in the “Bohemian Settlement” at the base of what was to become the High Bridge. Many other Bohemian families lived in the area of West 7th and St. Clair/Michigan Street with the C.S.P.S. Hall, 383 Michigan Street, at its center. The hall was built in 1882, burned and rebuilt in 1887 as a two story hall, and added a third level in 1917.



Beck's exterior before West 7th Street widening.
1932 Photo MNHS/City of St. Paul.



Beck's exterior after West 7th Street widening.
1935 Photo MNHS

Meyer/Beck: 1169–71 West 7th.

W. J. Gronewald built 1169-71 for J. Meyer in 1884). John G. Meyer was born in Germany in 1853 and is listed in the 1895 census as a brass molder at 1171. G. O. Prenzer (1887). William Meissner Bakery (1894). John Masek Grocery.

Bernhard Beck emigrated in 1881 from Germany; his wife, Franciska/Fransine came two years later. They lived on Butternut Street and owned Bernard Beck Grocery from about 1900 to after 1935. In the 1940 census he is listed with his son Bernhard, Jr. as a brewer. Mosner Shoes relocated four times along West 7th and was at 1169 from 1931–1940. Current: 1169, Mojo Monkey Donuts; 1171, Details Barber Lounge.



Beck family Grocery.

This family photo was of Bernhard and Fransine with children Mary, Anna, Francine, Bernhard, Theresia, Angnis, William, Joseph. 1902 Photo MNHS



Beck's interior.

1925 Photo MNHS



Ditsch Building circa 1890 Photo MNHS

Ditsch/Ayd/McGinley: 1173–75 West
 Joe Ditsch was born in Pennsylvania of Bavarian immigrants, and worked in a brewery in 1880 in St. Paul. He built and lived upstairs at 1173 from 1884 to 1889 (as Burke’s Hotel?) and remodeled the building with his name on top as the West Seventh Hotel in 1888. Conrad Kleinschmidt of Mankato was the building contractor. When Ditsch died two years later, Frank Ayd (son of John Ayd) became a popular saloon-keeper at Frank’s Place (1889–1895). Sample Pool was next door. William Meissner Bakery (1895).

Anthony McGinley Saloon 1900-05.

Anthony immigrated from the “Irish Free State” in 1883 with his brother Patrick and sister Mary.

Otto Bartusch opened his meat market (Poultry in Season!) in a storefront in the Ditsch building in 1901. He emigrated from Germany on the ship General Werder August 12, 1882, at the age of three with his mother,

Augusta, and five siblings. His father, Ernst, a butcher, preceded them on the ship Ethiopia March 22, 1882. The Scorpio (strip) Club. Pepper Pot 32 Bar. Current: 1173–75, Rats Nest Saloon.



Anthony McGinley Saloon. 1902 Photo MNHS

1189–1199 West 7th, built 1886, razed 1978

A. J. Gronewald, building contractor for Chas H. West and Mrs. H. Schonemann. Hilda Cunningham (1893). Frank J. Stasny emigrated from Bohemia in 1888 with his parents, Mati and Marie, and four siblings. He applied for 1189’s liquor license in 1905. See also 850 Randolph. Hamm’s Brewery (1909–1935). Current: Taviel Grill at 1199 (2017).



Bartusch Market. 1908 Photo MNHS



Bartusch Market. 1910 Photo MNHS



Traberts Place. Ted Trabert in white apron. 1907 Photo MNHS

Trabert: 1209 7th Street

Frank J. Trabert was born in 1860 in Holstein, Germany. He immigrated in 1884 with his wife, Minnie. He opened his saloon in 1903 with his son Theodore as bartender, and he had a boarder, Carl Seifert as “porter.” After her husband died, Minnie continued to take in borders at 641 Lee Avenue. Her son became a hotel clerk in 1920. Next to acquire the saloon was Louis Stransky, and he eventually changed the name to Stranskys West 7th Recreation, 1933–47. He emigrated from Bohemia in 1883 with his parents. His wife, Lillie, was born in Minnesota to Bohemian parents. Al Danneker opened a café at 1209 (1947). Marge’s Café (1967).



St. Paul Harley Davidson.
1975 Photos MNHS



“Liberace”
1975 Photo St. Paul Harley Davidson.

West 7th Harley-Davidson® moved into 1209 West 7th Street in the early 1970s and played a significant role in the Minnesota motorcycling community. When motorcycles were starting to grow in popularity, Howard W. Belmont became passionate about the developing sport at a young age, and in 1939, Howard’s mother took out a mortgage on their home to set up shop at 277 West 7th near downtown. The site quickly became a community landmark, as well as the premier biker resource. They incorporated in 1945. The business thrived through the 1950s and ’60s, and in the early 1970s it moved to 1209. In 1981 Belmont retired and sold the business, which relocated off Highway 94 in Oakdale.

Boehm: 1217 West 7th

William Boehm was born 1874. He emigrated in 1882 from Berlin with his parents, William and Frederik and naturalized in 1884. His wife, Emma, was born in the US to German immigrant parents. The William Boehm Grocery (1905–1920). Dr. McKenzie (1931). Eagle Flour Mill (1935). Smolik Electric. Current: Page Law Office.

St. Francis de Sales Catholic Church

German immigrant Frank Popplar, cooper and stone mason, donated swampy land for the building of the church (1884). Contractors were Curt and Bartels, and Joseph Danneker and Rupert Heller for the nave. Construction was by parishioners, with Andrew Heieis as foreman/stonemason. Fr. John H. Stariha presided until his assignment as bishop in South Dakota (1884–1902). Stariha was born in 1845 in Liabach, Carniola, Austria. After brief service in the Austrian army (silver medal of glory for bravery) he came to America in 1867 and was ordained in 1869 in Marquette, Michigan. Before coming to St. Paul, he served in Negaunee, Michigan; Marystown, Scott County, Minnesota, and St. Joseph’s in Red Wing, where he built a new church and school. At St. Francis, Rev. Stariha organized the congregation of about 150 families. In addition to the church, he built the priest’s house and the school in 1884, and in 1886 a convent for the School Sisters of Notre Dame, and in 1890 a parish hall. The congregation grew to over 600 families, and in 1901, 565 students were enrolled in the school.^{xxvii} In 1890 the St. Francis German Casino was founded and is the oldest Catholic men’s group in the archdiocese. It was founded to support the church and as a benevolent society for its members. In 1937 a new school was built with a six-lane bowling alley, and a replacement church in 1938. After WWII, Veteran Jim Pacholl “Pache” was a beloved coach, physical education teacher and athletic director. His St. Francis school sports program was considered the best in the city.



**Blanche Devorak
(Landsberger)**
*on graduation from
St. Francis Jr. High School.
1928 Photo Joe Landsberger*



St. Francis de Sales (German) Catholic Church
1959. Photo MNHS



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St. James Catholic Church

St. James was organized in 1887 for English-speaking people living in the “Reserve.” The boundaries were the Mississippi River to the south, Fort Snelling to the west, Grand Avenue north, and Goodhue/Western to the east. Its first mass was on September 28, 1888, with Fr. John Conway presiding. He immigrated in 1882 from Kilkenny, Ireland, and lived initially in an apartment on West 7th; his horse “Parnell” provided him with transportation. A rectory was built for him in 1889 though he soon left to serve in the Archdiocese of St. Paul and become the editor of the *Northwestern Chronicle* in 1889. His death was never documented after a sudden disappearance. He was succeeded in 1901 by Fr. Jeremiah O’Connor who served for 35 years: he opened a school in 1913 with 445 students and expanded it in 1923. A “new” church was built in 1938. Its stain glass windows feature O’Connor, Columbus, and missionary priests Louis Hennepin (1626 – 1704) and Lucien Galtier (1811-1866).^{xxviii}

Saint Francis/St. James United School

The two schools combined in Fall of 1990 though closed permanently in 2013. Sand Castle Child Care, 749 Juno, opened in 1981 and expanded into the convent in 1985. It is a Christian-oriented center where basic Christian and social values are experienced. Children, infants through pre-school, from all races, creeds, and religions are welcome to register. It operates under the merged St. Francis/St. James Church.

Adams School

The dedication of the first Adams school was November 13, 1858, on the corner of 10th and Cedar Streets. Attendance that first year was 201, including natives of 17 different states and 7 countries. Instruction was in English and German. In 1883, the downtown Adams was replaced by a new school on View and Armstrong and had only four classrooms, with four more added the next year and a cafeteria to serve 450 students. On December 29, 1924, construction began at the current 615 Chatsworth school. An expansion to add classrooms, specialized spaces, and a new cafeteria began Fall 2017 for the current Adams Spanish Immersion School.^{xxix}



Adams school on Armstrong. Photo 1900 MNHS



Monroe School, 375 Goodhue at Western. 1889 Photo MNHS

Monroe High School

Monroe School was originally located at 375 Goodhue at Western Avenue. In 1924 Monroe's three stories contained eleven classrooms, one general science and one art room, one foods laboratory plus dining, one manual training room, and a small gymnasium. Football was introduced in 1938, and one year later Monroe won the city championship. Sports included baseball, track, golf, and swimming. In the late '40s and early '50s Monroe was involved in a national experimental effort to apply Dewey's principles to objectives, curriculum, and methods. This Progressive Education was an attempt to mesh all subjects into one experience, though in the 1960s subject matters were revived with emphasis on math and science due to the surprising launch of the Russian Sputnik and sudden advance in space exploration. The senior high closed in 1977.^{xxx}



Monroe class of 1900 Photo MNHS

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Clara Mairs and Clem Haupers by Mairs
1930 Painting MNHS

20th Century West End Arts

Clement Bernard Haupers (1900–1986) parents were George, a carriage painter, and Welburga Ostertag, a German immigrant (1873). They lived at 783 Randolph and attended St. Francis. Clement said, “I was always interested in depicting the things around me; from the time I was a little kid. The first manifestation of that urge took the shape of making miniature boats that I saw in the river.” He worked as a stenographer for the railroad 1917–1920 and took day trips to visit the Chicago Art Institute. As a teenager when he took night classes in St. Paul, he met artist and teacher Clara Gardner Mairs, who was 22 years his senior. They developed an enduring, professional, and open relationship for forty years and he moved his family’s house to property she owned at 377 Ramsey Hill. Clara died in 1963. As director of the Minnesota Works Progress Administration Federal Art Project and superintendent of the Fine Arts Department of the Minnesota State Fair, he featured Minnesota artists’ exhibitions and juried shows with fellow artist Cameron Booth. He taught at the St. Paul Arts and Crafts Center and St. Paul Gallery and School of Art, and was LeRoy Neiman’s first teacher (American artist known for his brilliantly colored, expressionist paintings and screen prints of athletes, musicians, and sporting events).^{xxx}



Minnetonka Amusement Park. *Angela Svobodny Ryan sketch; William Fortune Ryan paint.*
Photo William Fortune Ryan

Angela Svobodny was born at 796 Juno to Joe and Julia Dvorak Svobodny in 1906. Joe’s family emigrated from Bohemia in 1895 and lived at 807 Otto Avenue. He was a cigar maker and played French horn in the Great Western Band. Julia’s Bohemian family lived in Spillville, Iowa. In 1899 she and her brother William drove a team of horses and wagon over 800 miles to the Oklahoma Land Rush. Julia was forced to drive them back alone when her brother died of typhoid the next year in Canute, Oklahoma. In the 1920 census, Angela listed her profession as artist in an art studio. Her husband William Fortune Ryan was born in Milwaukee, studied art in New York from 1926–27, and with Angela in Germany. In 1934 he benefited from Haupers’ efforts to feature Minnesota artists in the Works Progress Administration Federal Art Project and studied under Cameron Booth. He exhibited at multiple museums and won multiple awards (Minneapolis Institute of Arts, Minnesota State Fair, Seattle Art Museum) and taught at multiple art schools. He eventually supported their art as a commercial photographer. During that time they both continued to paint local (St. Paul) urban scenes plein-air.



We give thanks

The West End Neighbors' Garden Tour is under the aegis of the West 7th/Fort Road Federation/
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We give thanks

The West End Neighbors' Garden Tours' Task Force:

Joe Landsberger, Betty Moran
Jeanne Morgan, Jeannie Farrell
Marilyn Heroff, Jackie Brueggemann

Research/history: Joe Landsberger
Garden Sites: Jeanne Morgan, Jeannie Farrell
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Cover art: Gerry Heroff
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The 12th annual West End Neighbors' Garden Tour and history in 2019 will feature the neighborhood of West 7th Street to the Mississippi River, from Jefferson Avenue to Fort Snelling. We invite all interested to join us-- whether to feature your garden, research and write the history, or join our committee.

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