13TH ANNUAL WEST END GARDEN TOUR
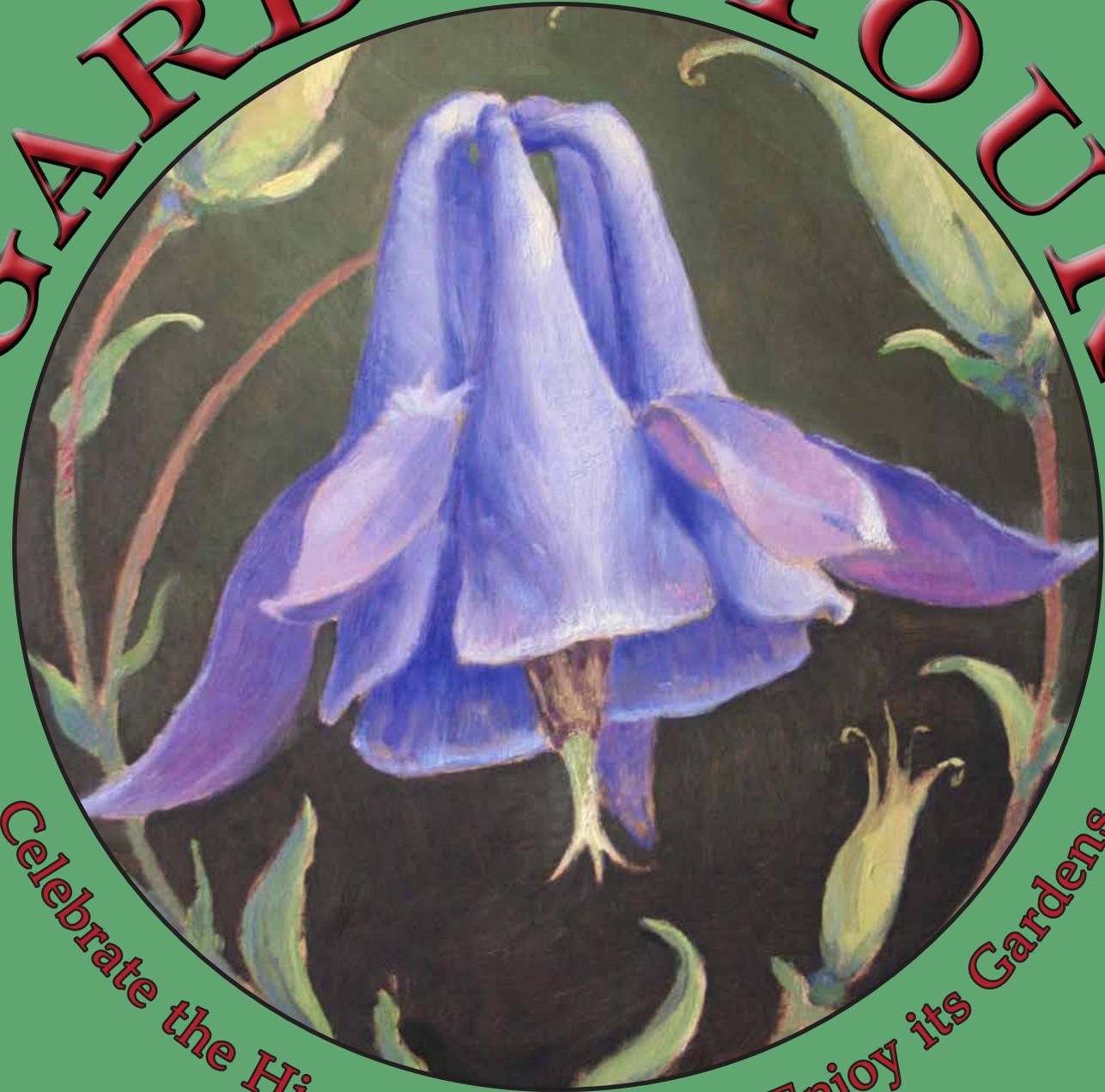
Celebrate the History of West 7th; Enjoy its Gardens

SEPTEMBER 12, 2020

Welcome to the 13th Annual West End Neighbors' Garden and History Tour

Guidelines for enjoyment and safety on our tour: per the CDC and MN Department of Health

- All gardens are to be viewed from the sidewalk and not entered unless invited.
- Masks and social distancing required.
- Interiors of homes are not on the tour; restrooms and refreshments are not provided.
- Pets and insect repellents are not permitted.
- Tours are today only, 10 a.m.–2 p.m.
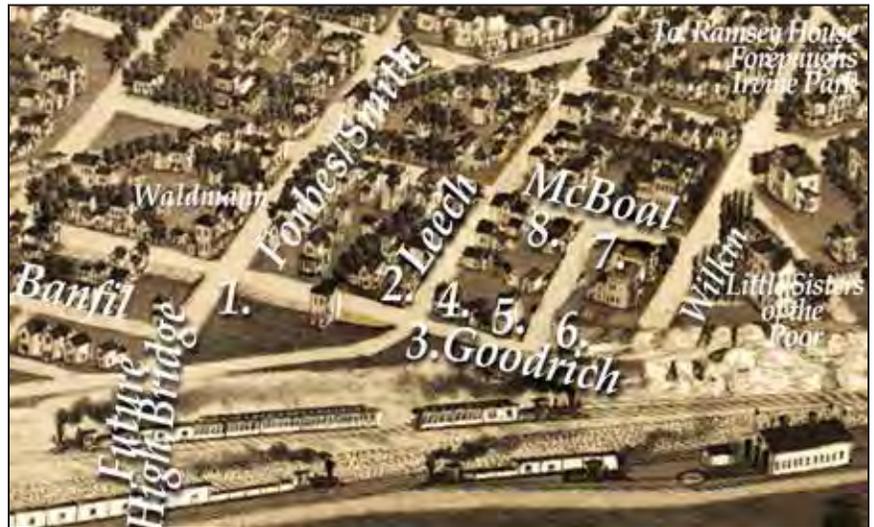
Eight Uppertown Gardens on an 1883 Map[1]

① 218 Goodrich Avenue: page 28
② 183 Goodrich Avenue: page 43
③ 178 Goodrich Avenue: page 11
④ 112 Leech Street: page 13 & 66
⑤ 169 Goodrich Avenue: page 66
⑥ 151 Goodrich Avenue: page 11
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Uppertown Gardens from the High Bridge.1894 photo by William G Wall of MNHS.

We Live in Amazing West End Neighborhoods

As you wander these neighborhoods, perhaps you wonder how the neighborhoods themselves came to be? Each year the gardens motivate us to wonder as well. They reflect a unique pattern of development, cultural roots as well as entrepreneurial spirit. As with garden tours of the past twelve 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, told in stories that may seem disconnected but have built an identity that its residents cherish. This capstone history extends from Jefferson Avenue to Rice Park, an area that included John Irvine's original claim of 300 acres at the Upper Landing. Parallel to the Mississippi River, the plateau of West End is arguably the founding center of not only Fort Road/West Seventh Street but also the Township/City of Saint Paul and Terrirory/State of Minnesota.

This year, West End Neighbors' Garden Tour celebrates eight gardens in a few lovely bluff-blocks of Uppertown. In the 1860s, it bridged wealthier developments of Irvine Park and even West Seventh Street to immigrant farms farther west. The concentrated area is easily walkable; let your footsteps and imagination wander back to the Nineteeth Century origins--to those who gardened and built their homes in this neighborhood.

West End Neighbors

Historically our West End community of neighborhoods has been built with diverse constituencies.

As documented in our first six histories, the stretch of Fort Road/West Seventh Street, from Fort Snelling to the Upper Landing, was an unpopulated forested marsh above the bluffs. Its geology or "lay of the land" set the stage of its history. Native Americans traded along its waterways for centuries before the arrival of Europeans in the mid-1600s. For nearly 200 years afterward, the fur trade dominated commerce with European American traders.

With the advent of American control, the first "claims" were made by French-Canadian refugees from Fort Snelling. They were soon displaced by entrepreneurs from New England, then by waves of German, Slavic, and Italian immigrants among others. They built their homes, businesses, and organizations through common languages and cultures, with a desire to succeed and Old World talent. Not only were there corner stores but also corner churches.

"Until recent years, the history of the immigrant in America followed a more or less stereotyped routine. Upon taking up his residence in a strange city, he first sought a colony of his own nationality-usually in the poorer districts of the city. He read a foreign-language newspaper, attended church in which the services were given in his native tongue and identified himself as closely as possible with his own ethnic group. As his material fortunes increased, however, and he learned the common language, his tendency was to establish himself and his family in better surroundings. Accordingly, he moved to a district of higher residential values where his more prosperous countrymen had already preceded him and the neighborhood he vacated was promptly filled by "new' immigrants."[2]

The West End experience reflected the national experience. Foreign-born populations increased exponentially until the First World War, 1914–18. "Two powerful forces have been at work since that time, however, which have changed the complexion of cities as regards foreign-born population. One force was the World War, which prior to 1920 drew a stream of foreigners of military age back to their native countries to enter war service. The second was the restriction of immigration following the war, with the consequent radical decrease in the number of new arrivals… Another recent influence which undoubtedly had its effect on the shift in foreign-born population was the devaluation of the American dollar. By reason of this, many immigrants returned to their native countries where they could maintain themselves in greater security or where they could care for their dependents remaining on native soil to greater advantage."[3] German immigrant language, culture, and prominence also suffered as a consequence of Germany's role and defeat in both the World Wars.

Small businesses lined the arteries of the West End that supported nineteenth and twentieth century lives. Riverside commerce and employment included transportation (stage coach, steamship, railroad, highway); meat, dairy, and brewery industries; entertainment venues, etc. that continue into the twenty-first century. Since the well-to-do only briefly called the West End home in the later 1800s, working class stability remained even as demographics changed within its boundaries.

The settlers that founded the West End have a wonderful history that exemplifies the Great Melting Pot, the national metaphor of cultural fusion of its immigrant groups. This capstone history is their story as well as the origin story of Irvine Park and the Upper Landing, of Fort Road/West Seventh, of the Town/City of Saint Paul, and of the Territory/State of Minnesota.

Métis/French Canadian Settlement

1800: A Tale of Two Towns and Twin Ports; Lower and Upper Landings

"… there were two distinct towns, Upper and Lower, and there was almost as much rivalry and prejudice between them as exists today between St. Paul and our sister city (Minneapolis). Lower town was nestled away in the hills near the foot of Jackson street, while Upper town began at the upper steamboat landing and had its center near the Seven Corners."[4]

The riverfront of the City of Saint Paul in the mid-1800's would be unrecognizable to us today. Before the 1837 Treaty of St. Peters, before Plympton drove settlers off Fort Snelling's military reservation, the land had no inhabitants. There were two breaks in the bluffs along the river that would become the Lower and Upper Landings. The lower was an outlet for Phelan and Trout Creeks; the upper drained the bluffs above.

Ten miles of forested bluffs lined the Mississippi River between *Bdote,* the confluence of the Minnesota and Mississippi Rivers, south to the first Dakota Village of *Kaposia* next to *Wakan Tipi*/Carver's Cave below Dayton's Bluff/Mounds Park. The plateaus above the bluffs were marshland with many streams feeding the Mississippi. Outside of Dakota ownership the area lacked "legal" property borders that could facilitate property sale and transfer to those outside of native communities.

In the 1600s, French explorers, traders, and missionaries came to the Midwest via Canada and the Great Lakes. Not only did the native hunter-gatherer way of life change with "Western" trade goods, but the impact of intermarriage extended beyond genetics. Their offspring, the *Métis*, would play an important intermediary role in the economy

and settlement of Minnesota. Prominent place names throughout Minnesota recognize their descendants and contributions.

In 1805, after the Louisiana Purchase in 1803, Lieutenant Zebulon Pike explored the Northwest Territory and negotiated an agreement with the Dakota to acquire land—even though he had no authority to do so. The areas included 100,00 acres at *Bdote* including the West End, as well as 51,000 acres at the St. Croix River.

Resolution of the War of 1812 between the U.S. and England defined the Canadian-U.S. border. A series of American forts governed the area, regulated trade, mediated between native tribes, and restricted settlement until permitted by treaties. Initially called Fort St. Anthony, Fort Snelling was built between 1820 and 1825 at *Bdote*. Its garrison included soldiers' families and slaves and attracted a diverse population of Dakota and Ojibwe natives, traders, as well as settlers who began to establish farms in support of the growing American presence. This diverse population would soon be evicted and forced to settle the area of the Upper and Lower Landings and "found" the City of Saint Paul.

1811: Selkirk Settlement: The Canadian Catalyst founding St. Paul[8]

In 1811, the Red River Colony or Selkirk Settlement was founded by Thomas Douglas, 5th Earl of Selkirk on 116,000 square miles of land that included territory in both Canada (southern Manitoba, eastern Saskatchewan, northwestern Ontario) and the U.S. (northern Minnesota and eastern North Dakota). He had a controlling interest in the Hudson's Bay Company (HBC) and its monopoly over the fur trade in the watershed that drained north into Hudson's Bay.

Life on the northern prairie was brutal for those first Scottish and Irish settlers. They were challenged by ferocious winters, locusts, disease, floods and prairie fires, conflicts with native tribes, and lack of experience in developing the prairie for agriculture. In 1821, the colony was reinforced with 165 French Swiss that included the family of Abraham and Mary Anne Perret/Perry.

Many of those first settlers abandoned the colony in the spring of 1823. After an 1826 flood, the Perrys and other colonists drove their cattle to Fort Snelling, a six-month 700-mile journey. Though settlement on the military reservation was prohibited, Colonel Josiah Snelling provided the refugees with sanctuary and supplies. They settled around Coldwater Spring, about a mile from the fort. For the next ten years they prospered even though they had no legal title to their farms.[9]

1830s: Eviction of Settlers

Between 1833 and 1836, Minnesota was part of the Michigan Territory, and became part of the Wisconsin Territory when Michigan became a state in 1837. In 1838, Minnesota was divided between Wisconsin and the Iowa territories until they became states (1848 and 1846 respectively).

Multiple forces were bringing change to the territory's economy. The American Fur Company (AFC) was founded in 1808 by John Jacob Astor, a German immigrant to the United States. In 1825, Alexis Bailly opened AFC's trading post at Mendota across from Fort Snelling, and in 1834, Henry H. Sibley became a partner and managed the post. As bartered pelts declined in value, Sibley changed the basics of bartered trade to accounts payable in dollars with multiple effects. Traders began to indebt natives
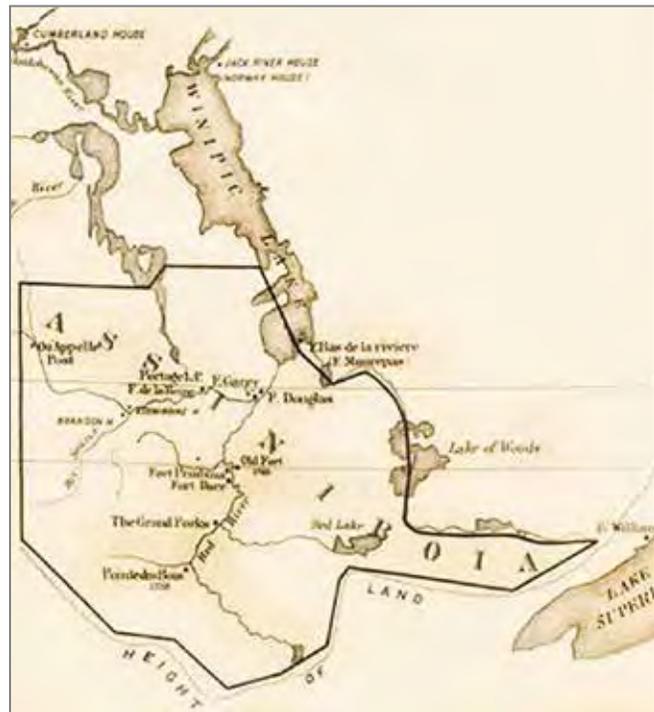
1817 map illustrating Lord Selkirk's land grant of 116,000 square miles on the map of Assiniboia. The line illustrates the grant North to Lake Winnipeg, east to nearly Lake Superior, south to include the Red River. Source: George Bryce, Royal Society of Canada, 1881

Minnesota Territorial Map, 1849-51, edited. Source: Itasca County, USGenWeb and MNGenWeb Project

and collect payments through the Indians' annuities; traders turned to land speculation that required Indians' removal; the profit motive began to shift to extractive industries of lumbering, mining and farming. The decimation of native population due to disease and alcoholism, along with the deprivation

of native lands, foretold the decline of the native way of life.[5]

In 1837, Major Joseph Plympton succeeded Lieutenant Colonel Zachary Taylor, the future U.S. president, as commander of Fort Snelling. The same year the 1837 Treaty of St. Peters opened territory to settlement east of the Mississippi River that included the West End. Plympton feared speculators would claim land before ratification of the treaty and the payment of annuities to the Dakota, and was concerned about conflicts with settlers on land use on the military reservation and the sale of alcohol to soldiers. In 1838, Plympton, at the direction of the national War Department, claimed all land between the St. Croix and Mississippi Rivers for the military reserve and evicted 157 people and 200 horses and cattle from the fort.

Abraham Perret/Perry and his family, Red River refugees, had established a prosperous farm at the fort but were now forced to relocate east beyond and above Parrant's claim at Fountain Cave and Stream. The Perrys were joined by other Selkirk refugees. Benjamin and Genevieve Gervais and their five children settled next to the Perrys; their claim extended along the river to where the High Bridge is now located. Pierre Gervais, single and 17 years younger than his brother, worked for the American Fur Company and arrived at Mendota in 1827. His claim was between the High Bridge and Irvine Park, the future Leech's Addition. The first West End community was established—though short lived.

The 1837 Land Cession Treaty with the Dakota was ratified June 15, 1838. One month later the steamship *Palmyra* landed at Fort Snelling with the news, and that night squatters rushed to make claims outside of Fort Snelling's boundaries. In July of 1838, Irish soldiers William Evans and Edward Phelan were released from the Fifth Regiment at Fort Snelling and made their claims: Evans at Dayton's Bluff and Phelan at the Upper Landing. By all accounts Phelan was a ruffian if not a criminal. He also acquired an adjoining claim for Sargent John Hays for when Hays retired Spring 1839. They shared Phalen's cabin but about the middle of April 1839 Hays mysteriously disappeared. His beaten body was recovered near Carver's Cave and Phelan immediately fell under suspicion and was arrested and sent
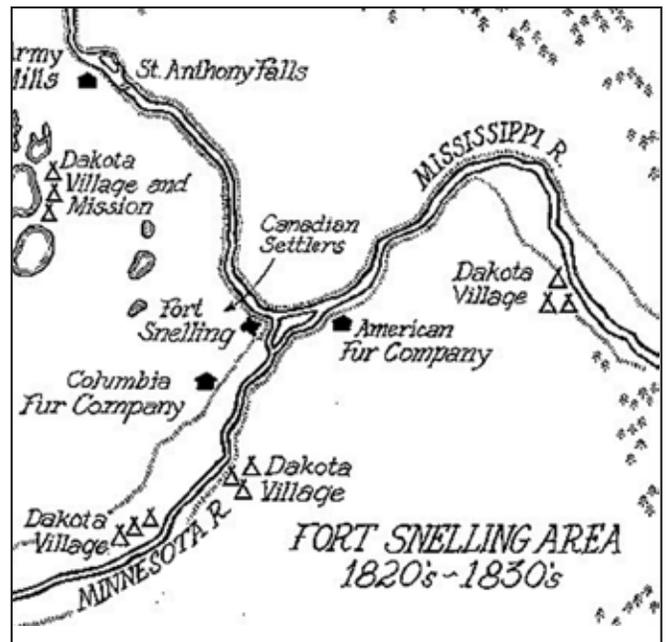
Settlement at Fort Snelling. Source: Canku Ota (Many Paths), www.turtletrack.org

to Prairie du Chien for trial in 1840. Despite some (circumstantial) evidence, he was released Spring 1840. Since he did not occupy his claim for six months, Phelan forfeited his claim to Vetal Guerin who also worked for the AFC and married Adele Perry.

In October 1839, Plympton again expanded the boundaries and jurisdiction of the military reserve. The new reservation line now encompassed most of the West End toward the Upper Landing.[6] On May 6, 1840, Ira B. Brunson, United States deputy marshal, again evicted the settlers from around Fountain Cave and burned their houses. The first settler claims around Fountain Cave in the West End were thrown into turmoil; consequently, settlement and development shifted to the Lower and Upper Landings. As Flectcher opined: "Thus at the close of the year 1839, there were nine cabins within the present limits of the city of St. Paul. Patience! We shall have a city yet."[7]

1830s:
Pierre Pig's Eye Parrant, the Founding St. Paul[10]

Much has been made of the name "Pig's Eye" for the nascent St. Paul capital. However, it might not have been so strange for the Americans, Canadians, and Europeans who were settling an unnamed area.

Pierre *Pig's Eye* Parrant was an itinerant French-Canadian (Métis?) trader and opportunist from Sault Ste. Marie whose personality reflected his disparate appearance. As voyageur or boatman, he was employed by the fur companies in transporting goods and passengers to and from trading posts, traveling the rivers between Sault Ste. Marie, St. Louis and Prairie du Chien. He was employed by Mckenzie and Chouteau from 1832 - 38 at Mendota, where he distilled and sold liquor to Indians and soldiers, French and Métis traders, retired voyageurs, discharged soldiers, and the Selkirk refugees at the fort. He was constantly threatened with closure by the authorities, primarily Indian Agent Maj. Taliaferro, since only the government could legally provide alcohol to natives.

He was about 60 years of age and probably ready to settle down. He was illiterate but entrepreneurial. Given the huge demand for alcohol, Parrant had to teach himself not only how to distill whiskey but also to acquire the ingredients and market his product. On the frontier and in America, drinking alcohol was an accepted part of everyday life—for breakfast, mid-morning breaks, out in the fields, during meals—not to mention distraction to escape the harsh realities and boredom of life on the frontier. Fort Snelling was considered a "hardship post." Doctors at Fort Snelling even prescribed brandy and whiskey as a first cure, and alcohol was considered healthier than water. By 1830, Americans consumed 7.1 gallons of absolute alcohol per year, as opposed to 2.3 today.[11]

In the spring of 1838, Parrant found an ideal location for his tavern, *Pig's Eye Pandemonium*, at Fountain Cave, just outside Fort Snelling's military reserve, about six miles downriver from the fort and Mendota. He wanted to distill and sell liquor undisturbed from authorities at the fort—establishing a West Seventh/West End "hospitality" tradition. He also anticipated ratification

Fountain Cave, circa 1870. MNHS

of the treaty of September 29, 1837, and settlements east of the Mississippi River. The site's landmark (Fountain) cave provided shelter for his clientele who were used to foraging and sleeping outdoors; its stream provided a supply of fresh water. Passing steamships not only brought supplies but also additional customers.

While he was considered a rough individual, so was that life. His hospitality included being able to manage his diversity of guests in an inebriated state while providing the comforts of an establishment that included a range of services from buying and selling, serving, and providing accommodations—all without any wait staff or bouncers or distillers.

His was the first "claim" in St. Paul:

Here in the coolie, a secluded and lonely gorge in the riverbank, Parrant, about the first of June, in the year of our Lord 1838, began erecting his hovel. He, the immortal parent of our saintly city, and of the noble army of whisky-sellers who have thriven since that day—it, the first habitation, the first business house, of our Christian metropolis (Saint Paul) of today![12]

Parrant was probably ignorant of the fact that in 1817, Major Stephen H. Long, U. S. Corps of Topographical Engineers, explored the natural sandstone Fountain Cave and gave it its name. However, Parrant's was the first legal "claim" of ownership, first structure to the new community, and first commercial enterprise of what was to become the City of St. Paul.

In 1875, J. Fletcher Williams wrote: "Such was the man on whom Fortune, with that blind fatuity that seems to characterize the jade, thrust the honor of being the founder of our good city."[13]

When Plympton again evicted settlers at Fountain Cave, Parrant moved three miles down the Mississippi and took up a new claim in a French-speaking settlement, *La Pointe Basse* (Lowertown). He built his shed on a rise above swamp land and continued his liquor trade for a year. "Enter, one day in 1839, Edmund Brissett, a young French Canadian doing odd carpentry jobs. He was stopping at Parrant's tavern and he wanted to send a letter to Joseph R. Brown on Grey Island but lacked a return address." I looked up inquiringly at Parrant," he recalled, "and seeing his old crooked eye scowling at me, it suddenly popped into my head to date it at Pig's Eye, feeling sure that the place would be recognized, as Parrant was well-known along the river. In a little while an answer was safely received, directed to me at Pig's Eye. I told the joke to some of the boys, and they made lots of fun of Parrant. He was very mad, and threatened to lick me, but never tried to execute it."

In 1839, Parrant also lost his original claim at Fountain Cave to William Beaumette for a $90 debt that was subsequently sold to John Miller. Miller built Sibley's house at Mendota in 1835—the first stone house in Minnesota. In 1840, Parrant relocated his tavern nearer the river for three years, but in 1844, he sold his third claim on the Lower Landing to Louis Robert for $10 and moved down the Mississippi to the *Grand Marais*, the alluvial bottoms of the river some two miles below the site of the Union Depot in St. Paul, still named "Pig's Eye Lake."[14]

Pierre Parrant, or Old Pig's Eye, Pierre "Pig's Eye" Parrant, first settler of Saint Paul of European descent. Drawn from a remembrance of a physiognomist, ca 1840. Source MNHS

Gardens of WENGT 2020

112 Leech Street

1840s: From Claims to Plats[15]

Two valleys of the Lower and Upper Landings of the Mississippi River framed the white limestone bluffs called *Imnizha ska* by the Dakota. Each landing or port had a unique path to development in the 1840s with shifting property ownership, commercial development, population growth, and an emerging rivalry.

"Throughout the river transportation period, residential settlement in concentrations that could be called urban was tightly focused at particular points along the river. St. Paul's town center ranged for several blocks on either side of the Upper and Lower Landings, but the rest of the present St. Paul riverfront was either unsettled or claimed by isolated farmers."[16]

When evicted from Fountain Cave in 1840, the Perrys, Joseph Rondo, and the Gervais brothers lost their properties with no compensation. They moved east of the fort's new reservation line to a stream that cut through the bluffs to the river—the Upper Landing—and made their new claims.

Vetal Guerin appropriated the Hays claim, gave half of it to Pierre Gervais who moved to lower town when he sold it to Dennis Cherrier in 1842. Joseph Rondo bought Phelan's claim next to the Hays claim; Phelan then moved to the lake and creek that bears his name. After 1840, settlers' "claims" established possession but did not provide legal title to the properties, including the ability to subdivide and sell "plots." Pressures of rapid population growth and demand for real estate culminated in two groups of settlers that wanted to solidify their claims in the two landings and along the bluffs.

Before 1840, French-speaking Metis and Canadian traders out of Mendota had small farms in the Lower Landing. As American commercial interests further developed and expanded the port with warehouses, streets, and even leveled "Baptist Hill" (site of Mears Park) to improve infrastructure, the English language predominated. The francophone settlers lead by Vetal Guerin sold off their claims and moved to establish another community at Little Canada.

Property claimants in both the Upper and Lower Landings needed to document ownership and determine the boundaries of their adjoining lots. Their names are prominent in St. Paul: Robair/Robert, Lambert, Jackson, Brunson, Cavileer, Sibley, Bass, Larpenteur, Forbes, Simpson, Rhodes, LaRoche, Rondo, Perry, Gervais, Bottineau, Rice, Coty, and

Claims overlay from 1840 on an 1860 lithograph of St. Paul by George C. Nichols, Miller & Boyle's Lithography. Library of Congress

Guerin. The group's trustees were H. H. Sibley, Louis Robert, and A. L. Larpenteur. Since the claims and lots were ill-defined, claimants met once a week and worked out their differences.

In 1848, they commissioned Ira B. and Benj. W. Brunson of Prairie du Chien to survey their claims. Brunsons created a "plat" or map of the area's claims that defined the area into salable or buildable lots. This in turn became the first recorded subdivision plat, the registered land survey "that comprised the urban jigsaw that was to become St. Paul." The survey's plat shows 39 blocks but no lots. Like all river settlements, the orientation of the roads was parallel to, and at right angles to, the river and showed "the layout and dimensions of the lots, blocks, and streets" and even included commercial and residential structures. Lots were then "deeded" so each owner had title.

The city's odd layout of streets following the bend of the river was a product of the 1848 Brunson survey. Writing in 1852, James Goodhue, the founder of Saint Paul's first newspaper, the *Minnesota Pioneer,* fumed that

The projectors of this town, appear to have had but the smallest possible ideas of the growth and importance that awaited Saint Paul. The original plat was laid off in very good imitation of the old French part of Saint Louis, with crooked lanes for streets, irregular blocks, and little skewdangular lots, . . . without a reservation fit to be called a public square— without a margin between the town and river, without preserving a tree for shade . . . In fact, it was a survey without measurement, a plan without method, a volunteer crop of buildings . . . Then came Rice and Irvine's Addition. This is laid out but little, if any, better. In fact, the two plats appear to have taken a running jump at each other . . . It would save immense cost and prove an eternal blessing to Saint Paul, if the whole site of the town could be now thrown into one common field, and platted as it ought to be, with large reservations of public ground, with strait, wide, regular streets, and blocks and lots of uniform size.[17]

The Federal Government's Land Office at St. Croix Falls offered the newly surveyed land for sale to the public on August 26th, 1848. In referring to this sale in his *Reminiscences of Early Days of Minnesota*, General Sibley says: "I was selected by the actual settlers to bid off portions of the land for them, and, when the hour for business had arrived, my seat was invariably surrounded by a number of men with huge bludgeons. What was meant by the proceedings I could, of course, only surmise, but I would not have envied the fate of the individual who would have ventured to bid against me."[18] The claimants' strategy limited bids to $1.25/acre.

In 1848, St. Croix Falls was the office of the Chippewa land district of the territory of Wisconsin and included much of Minnesota. The auction took place September 15, 1848, and successful claim holders included H. Jackson, David Lambert, Ben W. Brunson, Chas Cavilear, Henry H. Sibley, J. W. Bass (by his attorney D. Lambert), Aug. L. Larpenteur, Wm Henry Forbes, J. W. Simpson, A. C. Rhodes, L. H. La Roche, J. B. E., Vetal Geurin, and Louis Roberts. "The tract, as surveyed then, contained only about 90 acres, but included all the principal business part of the town, and the more thickly settled portion." After the auction, at which land was sold in legal subdivisions, the individual claimants of land in the platted area received title.[19]

Soon after, the second subdivision, Rice and Irvine's Addition, was platted in the winter of 1848 and certified "that Henry M. Rice and John R. Irvine, the proprietors of Rice and Irvine's Addition to Saint Paul in said county, personally appeared before me and acknowledged the map hereto attached is a correct establishments."

In January 1849, St. Paul was a settlement containing about a dozen buildings and about 150 inhabitants; by the first of July, it had 142 houses and 840 people. The original town site, the "Town of Saint Paul" or "Saint Paul Proper," was recorded on February 28, 1849, in St. Croix Falls.

On November 1, 1849 the Minnesota Territorial Legislature enacted, "An Act to incorporate the Town of St. Paul in the County of Ramsey" that stated, "so much of the town of St. Paul as is contained in the original plat of said town made by Ira Brunson, together with Irvine and Rice's addition, be, and the same is hereby created a town corporate by the name of the town of St. Paul."[20] Its two sub-divisions became the boundaries of the first municipality in the new Territory of Minnesota, though more were soon to follow. In 1851 the Territorial Legislature established the town of St. Paul as the territorial capital.

1841: First Church: The Chapel of Saint Paul[21]

In 1839, the first bishop of the Dubuque Diocese in Iowa, Bishop Loras, arrived in Mendota and Fort Snelling with Father Pelamourgues and baptized 56 and married eight of the 185 Catholics. In 1840, he was followed by Father Lucien Galtier who "had the face of a Caesar and the heart of a Madonna" and served for four years. He cared for five families (Faribault, Martin, Lord, and two Turpin) at St. Peters church in Mendota and six families (Resche, Papin, Quinn, Campbell, Bruce, Rescio) at the fort, along with some unmarried soldiers.

He visited the new French-speaking settlement of "Pig's Eye" down river to site a church. Two options were rejected: Lowertown/La Pointe Basse was subject to flooding and Dayton's Bluff/Mounds Park was too elevated with no steamboat access. In 1841 he chose a point mid-way between two landings on the sandstone bluff above the river at Bench, Third, Minnesota, and Cedar Streets. Vital Guerin, Sr., donated the land, and Isaac Labissonniere, Joseph Labissionniere, two Pierre Gervais, Pierre and Charles Bottinneau, Francois Morin, and Guerin built the rough-hewn church amidst trees and tangled growths, with unshaven sides, steep roof, and simple cross, crowning the brow of the nascent city.

Chapel of St. Paul, Drawing of the Chapel of St. Paul by Robert O. Sweeny 1850 - 70, MNHS

Galtier was quoted: "The church was thus dedicated to St. Paul, and I expressed a wish that the settlement should be known by no other name."[22] When Vital and Adele Guerin were married, the official published bans listed his residence as St. Paul. When Jackson's store and grocery opened in Lowertown, steamboats began to stop at the "St. Paul Landing".

By 1854, the number (of residents) was so considerable that it was necessary to hold three services on Sunday—one French, one German, and one English. Each group heard a sermon in its own language.[23] The church was deconstructed in 1855 due to development pressures of the surrounding midtown area.

1847: First Public School, Harriet Bishop

In 1847, Irvine hosted Harriet Bishop who was recruited to open the first public school. A log cabin was found above the Upper Landing at Third Street and St. Peter for the first classes.

Harriet E. Bishop (1817 - 1883) "was an American educator, writer, suffragist, and temperance activist. Born in Panton, Vermont, she moved to Saint Paul, Minnesota in 1847. There she started the first public school in the Minnesota Territory, the first Sunday school in the territory, was a founding member of temperance, suffrage and civic organizations, played a central role in establishing the First Baptist Church of Saint Paul, and was an active promoter of her adopted state."[24]

She was trained at the National Board of Popular Education (run by Catharine Beecher, sister of Harriet Beecher Stowe) and one of her first class to go west. Since she did not travel Sundays, she declined a passage on the *Chesapeake* which later sank in Lake Erie and all aboard drowned. She arrived via the *Mississippi* and was hosted by Dr. Williamson and his wife at Kaposia, also known as Little Crow's Village. A few days later she was

Harriet E. Bishop, Engraving/print: John Chester Buttre, 1860. MNHS

ferried in a canoe by Native women to stay with John Irvine. She soon began teaching in a log hut on Kellogg above the Upper Landing with a few American and Métis students. She maintained a low opinion of both native tribes and ox cart Métis traders.

Panoramic lithograph of the Upper Landing and Lower Landing. Thompson Ritchie Company. Since the area between the Upper and Lower Landings was uninhabited, there was no "downtown." 1853 original (edited) in the Smithsonian Institution

Gentlemen:—I promised you a letter from this far off region, so here it is. I have spent about four weeks in Minnesota looking at town and country, and making observation on men and things: "C." to the Eaton Register, July 22, 1849 St. Paul.

First, of St. Paul: This place is situated on the east, or rather north side of the Mississippi—on a bluff bank which rises about one hundred feet above the level of the water in the stream. The site of the town is a beautiful plain surrounded with hills which are covered with here and there a scrubby oak, which gives them very much the appearance of old orchards. The population at present is about 1200. The town is entirely new; two thirds of the houses have been built this year. They have sprung up, as it were, by magic, or it looks as though Aladin was here with his wonderful lamp. Although the town has thus sprung up, it is not like Solomon's temple, for the sound of many hammers are constantly heard.

In St. Paul are two good hotels, one near what is termed the lower, and the other at the upper landing, distant from each other about half a mile. Those two points are the only two places where the bluff can be ascended with wagons. We have any quantity of commission houses, stores, groceries, etc. Then we have bowling saloons, billiard rooms, and all that—gaming is quite prevalent. A good school is kept here, and we have various ministers—a Catholic, Presbyterian, Baptist, Methodist; one of each resides here—besides an Episcopalian who has service here every Sunday afternoon. The Catholics are the only denomination who has a Church; a rude log one with a wooden cross at one end, and a hall at the other. Services in this are in the French language. There are not very many professors in this place. We have here three printing establishments.[25]

Gardens of WENGT 2020

151 Goodrich Avenue
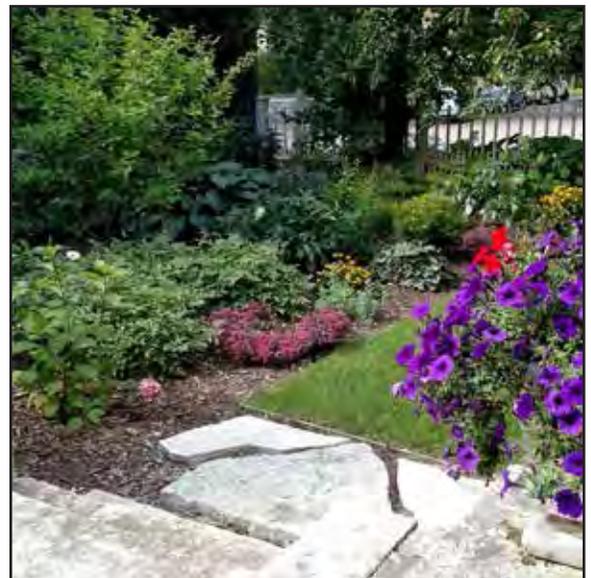
178 Goodrich Avenue

John Irvine (1813–1878)

Prior to 1849, St. Paul was a frontier community with pioneer farmers and little development, much less markets. Settlers needed to clear the land and live in log cabins until land titles cleared and permanent homes were built.

With a cohort of East Coast entrepreneurs, John Irvine migrated west in 1837 from Pennsylvania; he arrived in Prairie du Chien in 1840 as a grocer. His friend and colleague Henry Jackson, convinced him of commercial opportunities at the Upper Landing. As head of Mississippi River navigation, in 1843, he trekked 200 miles in a sleigh with goods for sale and purchased 300 acres of the old Phelan claim for $300 from Joseph Rondo. The next year the steamer *Otter* towed his inventory on a large Mackinac boat from Prairie du Chien to the Upper Landing. It "required great physical effort to drag his supplies through the brush and up the thickly wooded, roadless hill to his log cabin (around Third Street and Franklin Avenue)."[26] At the time of Irvine's arrival, Saint Paul had five stores, one tavern, a Catholic chapel . . . and approximately 20 log cabins."[27]

Within five years, Irvine cleared stands of elm, cedar, and tamarack for a farm. The lumber, processed in his sawmill, was sold to steamers and was also used to construct his home, the first frame building in the settlement. The paths where Irvine "first dragged his supplies became Eagle and Chestnut Streets—the first business strips of West Seventh Street."[28] About 1845, he bought the Mortimer claim.

In 1849, John Irvine donated a parcel of his land above the Upper Landing to the town to create a small park square and switched from farming to real estate. He sold lots around the park square and transformed "Irvine Park into Saint Paul's earliest, most fashionable, residential district."[29] Located on an intermediary plateau above the Upper Landing, by 1857 the neighborhood had approximately 15 houses featuring the Federal, Greek Revival, and Carpenter Gothic styles. Over time, the emerging West End neighborhood was home to two Minnesota governors, one United States Senator, two Chief Supreme Court Justices of Minnesota, seven Saint Paul mayors, and numerous other politicians, as well as prominent businessmen.

John R. Irvine. 1876 Image. J Fletcher Williams

"Mr. Irvine has been one of our most active and useful citizens during his thirty-two years' residence. The ample property, which his foresight and prudence prompted him to secure and hold, is now one of the finest portions of our city. The proceeds of most of it which has been sold, has been reinvested in erecting substantial business blocks, mills, warehouses and other buildings."[30]

The "rear wing" of Irvine's house, built in 1850, still stands on the corner at 340 Ryan in Irvine Park.[31] He died May 2, 1878 with services at Christ Church and burial in Oakland Cemetary.

George Irvine joined his brother John in 1851 and hoed five acres of potatoes on College Avenue, and with John framed a saw mill and partnered in a store on Third Street. In 1857, they built a warehouse on the Upper Levee that moved to Exchange and Third (Kellogg) Streets. George was trained as a tanner and opened the first leather store in the Rice House and a grocery business up to 1861. After stints as a policeman and running a boarding house George left St. Paul but returned in 1876 and worked in the Merchants Hotel until retirement. He died in 1892.[32]

Corner of Fourth Street and Wabasha, Cathedral at center, 1857. Photo Edward A. Bromley MNHS

Henry M. Rice (1816 - 1894)

Henry M. Rice arrived at Fort Snelling in 1839. After a few Midwest commissions, he was drawn to the Upper Landing that replaced Mendota as the northernmost port on the Mississippi. Mendota's bluffs made unloading of cargo difficult and sand bars frequently blocked the channel. Since steamboats brought large numbers of settlers and heavier cargos to the Midwest, the Upper Landing served as a better transshipment point for the Minnesota River's keel boats and canoes for their smaller cargoes.

"We are happy to perceive that H. M. Rice, Esq., one of our most eminent citizens, has also taken up his residence in St. Paul with his family. He removed from Mendota at the same time with Gov. Ramsey, both descending the river to this place in two large bark canoes, from the upper country, managed with their voyagers."[33]

On November 14, 1848, Rice purchased the eastern eighty acres of Irvine's claim for $250. Rice was an attorney, Indian agent, sutler, fur trader, treaty negotiator, one of the first United States senators from Minnesota, and donor of Rice Park to the city of St. Paul. It is posible hat no one among the early traders knew northern Minnesota better than he because, as one writer noted, "He has traveled over every portion of it." He was said to have once owned all of the land from Seven Corners to St. Peter Street. Rice not only dealt in land, but he was a builder as well, erecting warehouses, hotels, and business structures. Perhaps no one at that time was more energetic in making St. Paul the center of trade and the capital of Minnesota than Rice. He gave property to religious and philanthropic organizations for the long-term benefit of the city-to-be. He was instrumental in promoting an educational convention and he was one of the

Henry M. Rice, National Statuary Hall, U.S. Capitol. Harris & Ewing photograph collection, circa 1910. Library of Congress

aggressive advocates of territorial status for Minnesota.[34]

At statehood in 1858 Rice was elected as a Democrat to the United States Senate, served on the board of regents of the University of Minnesota, and was president of the Minnesota Historical Society. He died January 15, 1894, on a visit to San Antonio, Texas, and is buried in Oakland Cemetary.

1850s: Upper Landing Commercial Development[35]

On March 3, 1849, Minnesota was named a territory with the "Town of Saint Paul" as its capital. It occupied approximately 280 acres of two subdivisions (plats) the "Town of Saint Paul" and "Irvine & Rice's addition." Within three weeks of becoming a territory, the village doubled in size to 142 buildings. In 1854 it became the "City of Saint Paul, Minnesota Territory." When Minnesota became a state in 1858, the city became known as "The City of Saint Paul, State of Minnesota".

In 1849 - 50, St. Paul's population was 1,100. Ten years later, in 1860, it was over 10,000; 1870 over 20,000; 1880 over 40,000; 1890 over 130,000; and 1900 over 160,000. As head of river navigation, population growth was fed by steamships later supplanted by the railroads.

On June 14, 1849, Major William Williams, in his *Journal of a Trip to Iowa in 1849,* "I awoke early, found out a boat landed at St. Paul's discharging flour. I took a walk up the steep bluff and took a view of the town generally. The Upper or new town is laid out on a wild looking place situated on high bluffs which have a steep face to the River & Rocks projecting. The lower, or Old French town, is composed of about 10 or 15 houses, some of them bark roofs."[36]

Since the transportation and commercial network was via the river, the riverfront topography of the city was radically altered to create more accessible steamship landings. The bluff between the Upper and Lower Landings was blasted out for a land bridge between the two. At the Lower Landing, Baptist Hill was leveled (to make space for Mears Park) at the foot of Jackson Street and became developed with warehouses. The slough and levee of the Upper Landing was filled in to create an accessible stable land mass to the bluff above for future roads and railroads. Each landing development was by block rather than smaller lots, with construction of warehouses and hotels.

The first steamboat arrival in the 1850s was a cause for celebration and opened "communication with the rest of the world, after months of isolation" (It was frozen shut for six months of the year). By the 1860s, St. Paul's leaders had begun to develop a rail system to focus trade on the city but eliminate the

Upper Levee, St. Paul 1860. Photo MNHS
Minnesota Weekly Times. November 29, 1856: Wood and Barkley: Wholesale Grocers: Dealers in Flour, Grain, and Provisions; Commissions and Forwarding Merchants, Upper Levee, St. Paul, Min. All Good consigned to us, should be marked, "Care of Wood and Barkley, Upper Landing, St. Paul."

city's dependence on the Mississippi. Before an all-rail connection to the east was established in 1872, the railroads fed the river traffic rather than competing with it.[37]

St. Paul's image of itself as a river town and the head of navigation on the Mississippi stemmed from this relatively brief period, a time of explosive growth when the region west of the Mississippi was opened and settled, when St. Paul was the jumping-off point for that settlement, and when people and supplies destined for St. Anthony (Minneapolis) and the wide region beyond all had to pass through St. Paul. This is the period that has created our images of historic St. Paul, images of steamboats lining the levees."[38]

(About 1915) "picture postcards of St. Paul often highlighted this particular portion of the riverbank . . . For then the riverbank (at the Upper Landing) was a natural shoreline of earth and rock—an accessible colorful levee, where a variety of boats would dock against a background of rustic, multi-shaped multi-hued brick and wood buildings and patches of wild open space linked together by dirt road and railroad tracks." [39]

The desire to build between the landings was strong, and a mid-town/downtown began to develop. In 1853, J. Wesley Bond was among those who praised the hills, observing "nature never planned a spot better adapted to build up a showy and delightful display of architecture and gardening than that natural terrace of hills."[40]

Site of upper town is more broken and it stands on a succession of benches of sand. There is a great many of people here. Many of them have for a covering their wagons and tents. There are two large frame hotels going up and a great many small frame buildings scattered among the bushes, for the greater part of the ground where the new town stands is not yet grubbed out, full of hazel bushes and scrub oaks. They are asking as high as $500 for lots. I think they will have a great deal of work to do here before they will have things as they should be. There is a slough (backwater) 100 yards wide between the town and the river, over which they build a causeway to get from the River to the town. Between the river and the slough there is barely room for three or four warehouses. Two are here erecting.[41]
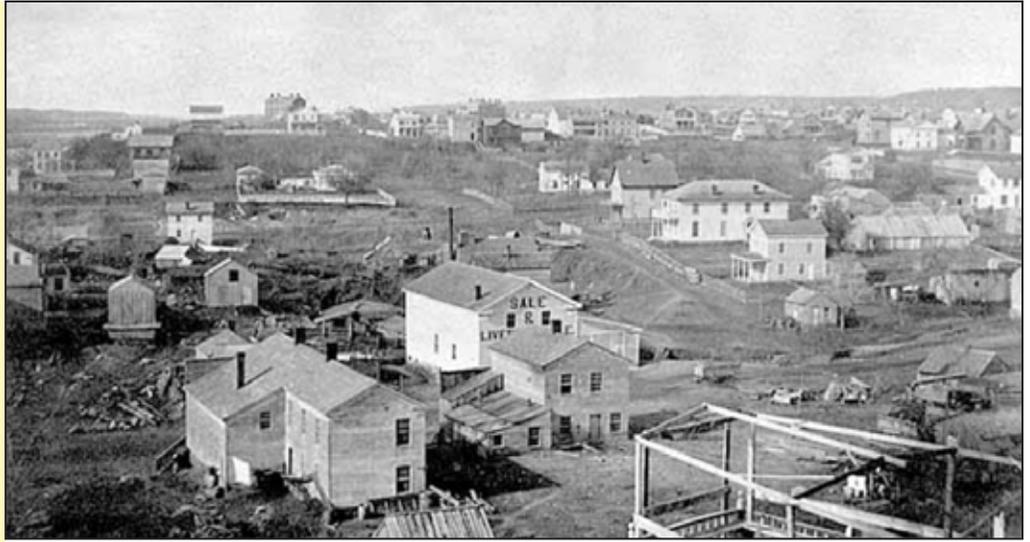
St. Paul looking west from Third Street toward Irvine Park, 1863. MNHS

In 1853, the slough at the Upper Landing was bridged and a third warehouse built. Yoerg Brewery began operations in 1854, and in 1856, the Minnesota Soap Factory opened. In 1858, the primary route between Saint Paul and Fort Snelling, which historically ran along the bluff line, was straightened to follow present-day West 7th Street. Thereafter, West 7th Street became the commercial and transportation spine of the neighborhood. Commercial development extended from Seven Corners west along this route after the horse-car line was established in the 1870s.[42]

Seven Corners, Fourth Street, Cathedral at center; Metropolitan Hotel block off Fourth Street 1860. Benjamin Franklin Upton photo, MNHS

1820s–1870s:

The Red River Trails[43]

The Red River Trails were highways of commerce from Fort Garry/Winnipeg to Pembina on the Red River, then overland across the U.S.-Canadian border and terminating at Mendota, subsequently at the Upper Landing. "The Métis regularly traveled from the area of the Red River Colony to St. Paul, organizing caravans with as many as 200 wooden carts. They carried bison hides, fur, meat, and pemmican to trade, and they returned home with manufactured goods, ammunition, food, tobacco, seed, and other imports. The arrival and departure of the Red River brigades became a characteristic feature of life in the young city of St. Paul, and the newspapers of the day often reported them."[44]

3rd (Kellogg) Street and Washington. Red River cart train. 1858 - 1859 James E Martin photo, MNHS

Red River carts pulled by oxen were used to haul freight cross-country for the fur industry. Fur traders settled in Saint Paul and began building facilities near both landings to store furs before shipment to downriver locations by steamboat. By 1849 Saint Paul was the southern terminus of the Red River fur trade and had become "recognized as an important primary fur market of the country."

Fur trade store house at Mendota circa 1860. Photo "*Minnesota Territory 1849 - 1858*" MNHS

Two fur traders, circa 1880. MNHS

Fort Road/West Seventh and Walnut. Dog team from Fort Garry. Original House of Hope Church in center, 1858. Whitney's Gallery, MNHS

Carters camped on the bluff above the town. "The business generated by the Red River people had grown steadily. Between the years 1855 and 1863 alone, according to one estimate, this international trade brought $1,466,766 worth of furs and robes into St. Paul . . . one of the largest fur markets in America second only to St. Louis."[46]

Saint Paul's economic development was initially built through a network of rivers, watersheds north and south, and confluence of the Minnesota and Mississippi Rivers. While Minnesota is known as the "Land of 10,000 Lakes," it benefits from over 92,000 miles of streams and rivers that flow into eight major basins and 81 major surface water watersheds. The Minnesota Department of Natural Resources organized these watersheds into four hydraulic units: Great Lakes, Missouri, Souris-Red-Rainy, and Upper Mississippi.[47] 34 percent of the state drains into Hudson Bay, 9 percent into the Laurentian basin of the Great Lakes, and 57 percent into the Mississippi River.

Watersheds facilitated exploration of Minnesota and the subsequent economic development of St. Paul. By 1700, explorers had claimed the Louisiana Purchase area for France and documented its connecting waterways: from the Atlantic to the prairies, from Canada to the Gulf of Mexico.

Most travel on the upper Mississippi river and all of its tributaries was accomplished by a number of canoes, bateaus, bull boats, keel boats and so on—all powered by man-powered paddles or poles. Some used the supplemental power of the wind by stretching out and suspending blankets or canvas to catch a strong breeze if it happened to blow in the direction of the way they were traveling.[48]

Prior to the steamship, the keel boat was built to go upstream as well as down, sixty to eighty feet long, and fifteen to eighteen feet wide, sharp at both ends, with a cargo hold below and "box" above. Along each side of the cargo box ran a narrow walk that enabled the men to "pole" the craft forward. For poling the men were provided with tough ash poles, eighteen or twenty feet long, with a wooden or iron shoe or socket to rest on the bottom of the river, and a crutch or knob for the shoulder. In propelling the boat, ten or twelve men on each side thrust the foot of their poles into the bottom of the river, and with the other end against their shoulders, walked toward the stern of the boat, pushing it upstream at the same rate of speed with which they walked toward the stern, racing and rotating back for a continuous turn at propulsion.

Where possible, the boat could also be pulled along by men on shore with a cordelle, a line nearly a thousand feet long, fastened to the top of a mast. In addition to cordelling, the long line was also used in warping the boat around difficult places where the men could not follow the bank.

1850s: Packet boats[49]

The steamship era was launched in April 1823 when the small steam packet *Virginia* made its way upriver from St. Louis to supply Fort Snelling. Non-native settlement at *Bdote* and eventually St. Paul waited for the American establishment of Fort Snelling and Mendota. In 1844 forty-four steamships docked in St. Paul; regularly scheduled steamboat packet service was initiated in 1847 and brought thousands of immigrants and settlers to the emerging city.[50] However, until a series of navigable channels were dredged, low water and flooding, sandbars and snags, storm debris, and winter's ice slowed the river's commercial use.

St. Paul's tourism industry was linked to steam boating. The first "tourist", Giacomo Beltrami, was a passenger on the *Virginia*'s maiden supply journey to Fort Snelling in 1823. In 1835, George Catlin's portraits of American Indians and his panorama of the American West popularized steamboat tourism in the Upper Mississippi River, through St. Paul to the Falls of St. Anthony. The steamer *Warrior* arrived at the fort carrying the usual supplies plus the first group of sightseeing passengers on what became known as a "Fashionable Tour" of the Northwest. Soon visitors from as far away as New Orleans and the East Coast traveled to Minnesota to promote their health, view the natural world and Indian cultures, or simply escape the heat of southern summers.[51]

The creation of the Territory of Minnesota brought about the golden age of steamboating on the Upper Mississippi. The number of immigrants boarding boats at St. Louis and traveling upriver to St. Paul dwarfed the 1849 gold rush to California and Oregon. Minnesota's 6,077 population in 1850 swelled to 172,034 in the next ten years. In 1856-57, ninety thousand new residents arrived.[52]

The Galena, Dubuque, Dunleith, and Minnesota Packet Company began operations in the summer of 1847 with steamboats for river transportation. Its packet boat *Argo* made weekly trips between Galena, Illinois, and St. Paul until it sank in October. Such packet boats, differing from the transient boats, kept to a single route and schedule and rapidly developed into "lines" with multiple owners. Several boats became important contributors to the young settlement's economy. "During the next decade and a half the Galena Line purchased many additional boats and consolidated with a number of competing independent steamboat operators and packet companies, ultimately
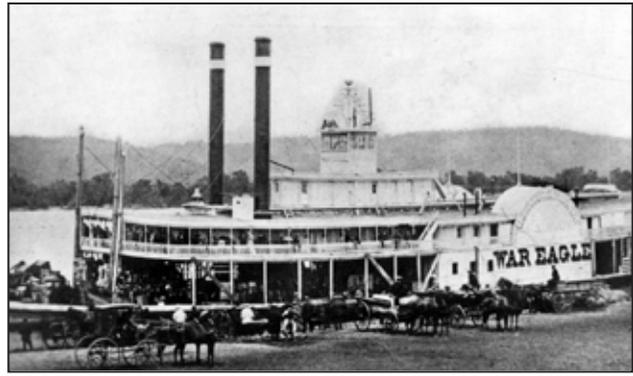
The (second) *War Eagle* was built in Fulton, Ohio in 1853 as a side wheel with 46 staterooms, 219 feet long, 29 feet beam at 296 tons. The *War Eagle* was owned by a variety of companies throughout her career, yet she continuously serviced the upper Mississippi River, transporting passengers and freight between Galena and St. Paul and ports in between. It "made the run from Galena to St. Paul, 1855, in 44 hours, handling all way freight." After President Lincoln's call for troops at the beginning of the Civil War, the steamboats *War Eagle* and *Northern Belle* each were commissioned to take five companies of the First Minnesota Infantry Volunteer from St. Paul to La Crosse and Prairie du Chien to meet their respective railroad connections.

On Sunday 15 May 1870 *War Eagle* arrived at La Crosse in the afternoon to offload passengers and at six p.m. arrived at the Milwaukee Road Depot to meet the midnight train. As freight was loaded onto the steamboat a barrel of kerosene lamp oil caught fire, and fortunately sank the boat before its stock of gunpowder exploded. Flames spread to the railway depot destroying the grain elevator, main depot, warehouse, and docks, a rail passenger car, six freight cars, one express and baggage car, and one mail car. Photo: Wisconsin Historical Society.

becoming the largest, wealthiest, and most powerful transportation organization on the upper Mississippi River before the Civil War."

In 1850, passenger receipts exceeded freight revenue and in 1857, one thousand and twenty-six steamships docked at Galena's levees. In 1853, their boatmen arranged with the Illinois Central Railroad for dependable schedules and established rates. Their line accounted for ninety-four trips to St. Paul, half the arrivals at its terminal. Freight warehouses, used to store the goods and products transported via the steamboats, also began dotting the landscape around the landings.[53]

In 1854, the Galena and Minnesota Packet Company was formed by a consortium of Orrin Smith and Ben H. Campbell at Galena, Illinois; D. B. Morehouse, Henry Rice, H.L.Dousman at Prairie du

Chien, Wisconsin; Henry Sibley and Russell Blakeley at Mendota. Their packet boats were the *Royal Arch* and *Northern Belle* after 1856, with principal route between Galena and St. Paul, Mendota and Fort Snelling. By Spring 1856, the Galena Line accounted for two trips per day from Galena to St. Paul, connecting at Dunleith (Dubuque) with trains from the east and south, and at St. Paul with boats of the People's Minnesota River Packet Company servicing western and northern territories.

In 1859, competition soon forced rival companies to lower freight and passenger rates as much as fifty percent below the previous season. In early 1860, the Galena Line extended its operations to St. Louis by agreeing to an arrangement with its competitor Northern Line, with rail connections at Prairie du Chien, Dunleith, and Hannibal, Missouri, with daily packets at St. Louis for the Missouri, lower Mississippi, and Ohio Rivers. The agreement was not renewed in 1861 and the Northern Line reduced service tri-weekly during the Civil War.

Barges and "lighters" (unpowered flat-bottomed barges) entered the river after 1862 and December 5, 1865 the *Saint Paul Press* reported 53 steamboats, 829 arrivals with 12,631 tonnage; 129 barges and lighters, 342 arrivals and 19,350 tonnage.

St. Paul's location at the head of navigation on the Mississippi was a distinct advantage. By 1870, St. Paul merchants were doing ten million dollars-worth of jobbing business annually, trading with St. Louis, Chicago, and most eastern cities. This business grew to 46 million dollars by 1881 and to 82 million by 1885 when St. Paul's population reached 100,000.[54]
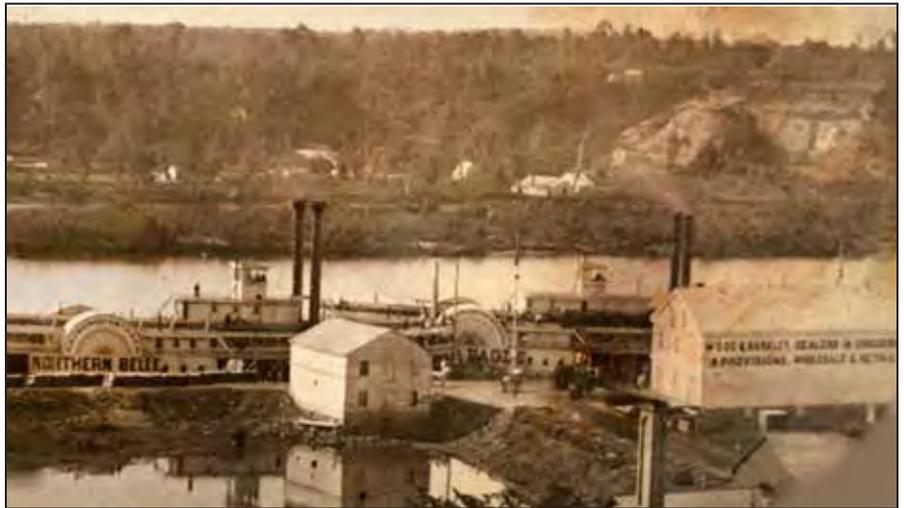
The *Northern Belle* Packet (*War Eagle* at back) at Wood and Barkley Warehouse, Upper Landing, 1860. MNHS
The *Northern Belle* was built in 1856 for the Minnesota Packet Company running Galena-St. Paul as a side-wheel at 498 tons, 226 feet long, 29 feet beam, light draft and very handsomely finished. In 1861 it took five companies of the First Minnesota Infantry Volunteers from St. Paul to La Crosse for service in the Civil War. It was dismantled at La Crosse, Wisconsin in 1874.

Today's riverfront is almost entirely man-made, the accumulation of piecemeal changes. As soon as the Lower Levee or Landing at the foot of Jackson Street became a landing point for steamboats, people began filling low spots and extending the levee farther downstream to accommodate more shipping. The most dramatic changes in the riverfront, however, were made to build railroads and highways.[55]

By the mid-1920s, the river had been declared a health hazard by the state health department, and it was considered hazardous even for boaters. Huge rafts of raw sewage floated down the river. A 1927 survey found almost no dissolved oxygen in the river from the pool above the dam to the confluence with the St. Croix River at Hastings. This degree of pollution made the river a nuisance rather than an asset, even reducing property values near the river.

A report was current here a few months ago, that Mr. Wood, formerly of the firm of Wood and Barkley, and afterwards commander of the steamer Golden State, from St. Louis, had been hung by lynch law at Pike's peak. We learn from a gentleman just returned from the Peak, that the report was without foundation, and that Mr. Wood was doing well there. A man named Calwood had been hung for horse stealing. The weekly *Pioneer and Democrat.* December 21, 1860

Editor's note: the history and expansion of the railroads that supplanted steamships was subject of the 2019 West End Neighbors Garden and History Tour.

1850s: James Crawford Burbank; Northwestern Express Company[56,57]

James C. Burbank 1872. Charles A. Zimmerman photo. MNHS

Before J. J. Hill developed his railroad empire in the Lower Landing, In the Upper Landing James C. Burbank organized the Northwestern Express company in 1851 in his wharf boat and storehouses. Burbank is a central figure and the dominance of his enterprise hard to imagine. During the early 1850s, nearly all the business in the northwest of the U.S. was transacted in its "Upper Town".

Burbank came to Saint Paul from Vermont in 1850 and built his financial empire from scratch, without money and without friends. He was the first express messenger between St. Paul and Galena, Illinois carrying the express matter in his pocket, then secured a sub-contract for carrying the mail consisting of one bag!

He then developed connections with the American Express Company, especially at Galena, that gave him access to New York and points between. He merged with other forwarding companies that resulted in 1,700 miles of staging in addition to 300 miles of pony routes, 700 horses, and 200 men employed to operate the various services, including the hauling of mail. To the north, Burbank kept trade flowing with the famous Red River or Pembina ox carts, 500 in number in large convoys that carried cargos whose groaning and squeaking wheels could be heard for miles. His transportation services ranged from the fur traders' carts and dog teams between Winnipeg and Saint Paul as well as the packet boats that provisioned towns and settlements on the Red, Mississippi, and Minnesota Rivers, as well as an extensive stage (coach) network connecting with the American Express Company (and the Hudson Bay Company) for "the Safe and Speedy Transportation of Money, Valuable and Light Freight, Collection and Payment of Notes, Drafts, Bills and Accounts, and all the business of General Express Forwarding, East running Daily, connecting with all the principal points in the United States, Canada and Europe . . . The cheapest way to get small lots of goods, or single packages from the East is by Express."

In 1855, the merchants of the Lower Landing invited Burbank to relocate his wharf boat and consolidate his operations. The Upper Landing emerged to become an unorganized "Ellis Island" point of disembarkation for the thousands of settlers arriving by boat and train. The Lower Landing by contrast became St. Paul's commercial, financial, and transportation center.

In 1862, Burbank led St. Paul's elite in relocating his residence to 432 Summit Avenue, at the top of Summit Hill. In 1867, he "devoted himself to insurance, banking, railroad, and other enterprises." He founded and was president of the Chamber of Commerce from 1869 to 1881, was active in civic affairs, established Como Park, and began to construct St. Paul's streetcar system. He served in public office as a Ramsey County commissioner and state representative. The Burbank-Livingston-Griggs House was listed on the National Register of Historic Sites in 1970.

Stagecoach traveling from Alexandria to Melrose, 1876. MNHS

Deadwood, South Dakota. Northwestern Express, Stage and Transportation Company, 1880. MNHS

1853: St. Paul Fire and Marine[58]

The Saint Paul Fire and Marine Insurance Company was founded on March 5, 1853, by 17 New England merchants from distinguished as well as modest families. When it was absorbed by Traveler's Insurance it was the oldest Minnesota corporation and one of the oldest insurance agencies in the U.S.

Its first president, Alexander Wilkin, was the secretary of the Territory of Minnesota, a federal marshal, publisher, and land developer. His office, above the Upper Landing on 3rd Street and Exchange, served as its first headquarters; his residence was below at 32 Irvine Park. In 1864, he was killed leading his men at Tupelo, Mississippi in the Civil War.

Co-founders included George and John Farrington, Henry Mower Rice, Auguste Louis Larpenteur, and Alexander Ramsey, then a city mayor and second state governor.

Farrington was an immigrant Irish banker. Theobold was a liquor merchant who immigrated from Prussia in 1869 and lived at 297 Goodhue. The building at right became the first offices of the Saint Paul Fire and Marine Insurance Company since Alexander Wilkin officed here. The company became the St. Paul Companies (1968), and then Travelers Property Casualty (2003)

James Burbank became its second president in 1865, expanded company operations into twenty-nine states and Canada, and remained its president until his death in 1876. Fletcher Williams (1876): "His career presents a striking instance of what energy and integrity will accomplish—starting life a poor boy, and at present one of the wealthiest and most honored men in our state."

The company's second home office building opened in 1909 at the comer of Fifth and Washington streets. In 1961, the company's headquarters were completely rebuilt on the same site.
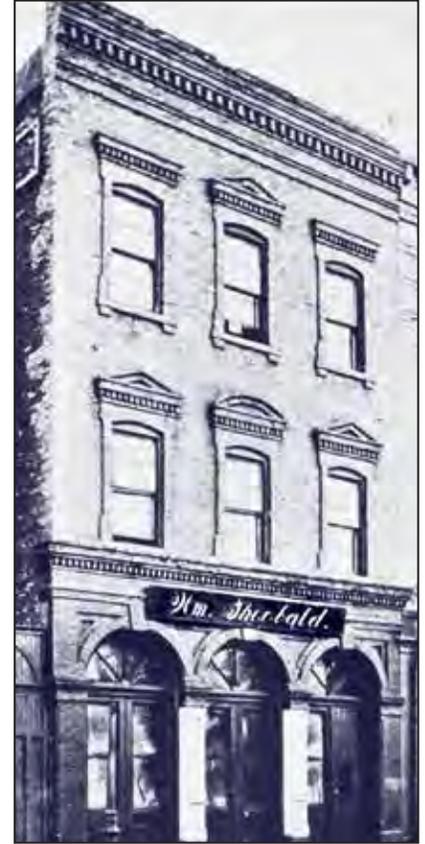
3rd (Kellogg) and Exchange. (John) Farrington, later William Theobold Building. MNHS

3rd (Kellogg) and Jackson. St. Paul Fire and Marine Insurance Company, 1910. MNHS

Gardens of WENGT 2020
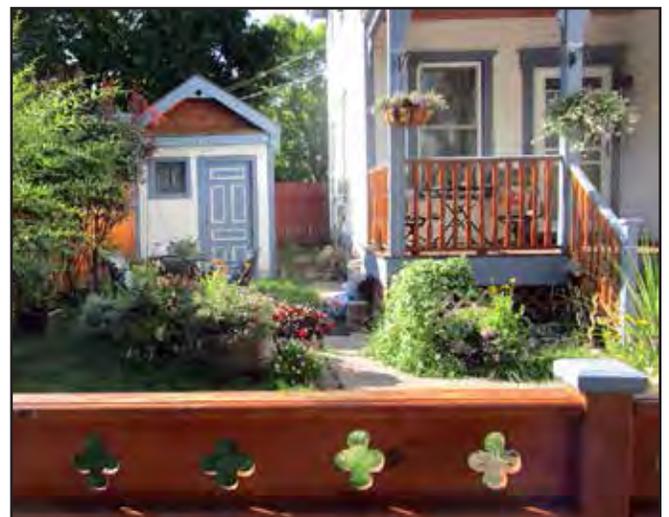
170 McBoal Street

Upper Landing Entertainment District[61]

The area leading up from the Upper Landing between Irvine Park and the bluffs, could arguably be called St. Paul's first entertainment district—entertaining, cultural, and even rowdy. On August 12, 1851, the Mazourka/Mazurka Hall presented the first professional theatrical performance in the Minnesota Territory: seven players from Placide's Varieties in New Orleans opened a two-week engagement.

"Now it seems almost time to tell something about the first theaters in St. Paul. The drama was inaugurated in St. Paul in the summer of 1851. The place was nothing but a country village then, as the population, according to the census of 1850, was 1,294. In the fall of 1850, Charles D. Elfelt, the florist who is still in active business here, erected a two-story frame building on the southeast corner of Third and Exchange streets. The building still stands there. It is about 75 feet long and perhaps 30 feet in width. Mr. Elfelt christened it Mazurka hall." [59]

The Jewish Elfelt family traced its history to the Dominican Republic and Pennsylvania. In 1849, a pioneer settler, Charles Elfelt, came to Minnesota to start a dry goods store at the Upper Landing. A year later he was joined by his brothers (Edwin, Abram, and Edward) and according to the *Minnesota Pioneer*, in November 1850, they relocated their store to 3rd Street (Kellogg) and Exchange across from the American House for "Fancy and Dry Goods, of the richest and

SE corner of 3rd (Kellogg) and Exchange. Elfelt's 2nd floor Mazurka Hall located on the bluff above the Upper Landing. The first professional theatrical performance in Minnesota Territory took place in St. Paul, August 12, 1851, when seven players from Placide's Varieties in New Orleans opened a two-week engagement at Mazurka Hall.[60] MNHS

most fashionable description." The upper story became known as St. Paul's first unofficial auditorium, the Mazourka Hall. Abram lived at 32 Irvine Park and Charles in the Metropolitan Hotel opposite Rice Park. Although the Elfelt Brothers were not "synagogue-going" Jews, Abram helped found B'nai B'rith Lodge #157, which still functions in St. Paul.

In June 1851, at Galena, Illinois, Elfelt met an actor-manager named John Sewell "Jack" Langrishe (1825–1895), popularly known as the "Comedian of the Frontier." He was an Irish-American actor and impresario who travelled extensively throughout the American West and later in life became one of the first state senators of Idaho. Langrishe and his partner J. B. Atwater's company played a three-week performance in May 1852 to good houses.

In the summer of 1857, St. Paul, with a population of 10,000, supported three professional theatrical companies, a minstrel show, a circus, a professional tent show, and an amateur dramatic society.

In 1857, "the people were ready for a genuine theater, and one was promptly built on the northeast corner of St. Peter and Fourth streets, managed by H. Van Liew, called the People's Theater." The good-sized frame structure was built upon the theater plan. Comedy was still the principal diet, but occasionally heavier plays were presented, such as *East Lynne*, *Lady-of-Lyons*, T*he Hunchback*, *Oliver Twist*, and *Othello*. After three seasons the theater was lost to fire September 8, 1859. The financial panic of 1859 also closed the three theaters.

3rd (Kellogg) and Washington Streets. Metropolitan Hotel. William Henry Illingworth 1870 photo. MNHS

1850s: The American House
Mrs. Elizabeth Parker[62]

Wabasha and Fourth. American House, 1873. MNHS

In the 1840s there was a great influx of population into St. Paul and great demand for housing. In 1849 Rodney Parker and Elizabeth Parker arrived in St. Paul to manage the American House. Rodney left management of the House to Elizabeth when he purchased property near Hamline University.

"This difficulty will exist no longer, as in addition to the St. Paul House, kept by Mr. Bass, and the several good private boarding houses recently opened, the very large hotel at the upper landing, the American house, just built by Mr. (Henry) Rice, has likewise gone into operation under the charge of Mrs. Parker, a lady of intelligence and energy, with experience in business. Travelers to this region may now rely on obtaining good lodging and boarding immediately on landing, and at fair prices. Come ahead—there is room for all, and the best chances are not all taken yet, by any means."

At the American House "Here stages left for St. Anthony; here politicians met and discussed questions of great public moment; here balls and dinner parties were given; here strangers and citizens gathered for social intercourse; here bargains in real estate were made; here men of means from the East were inveigled into various schemes of speculation in which they usually lost their money; and here ran rampant "a feast of reason and a flow of soul . . . Mrs. Parker was a large, masculine woman, of fine business qualities; stirring and energetic; a lover of money, and through her industry and economy amassed quite a property. She was a woman of strong prejudices, and not having any children, adopted several." In 1881, she sued the city for trespass and damages of $10,000 on lots adjoining Irvine Park.

Rodney died in 1872, and in 1877, Elizabeth moved to 129 (250) Sherman Street on the Upper Landing where she lived with her adopted daughter Nina. She died November 16, 1881. Alexander Ramsey, ex-Gov. Marshall, Wm. A. Spencer, Horace R Bigelow, Gen. J. H. Simpson, and Chief Justice Gilfillan acted as pall bearers to an express train with a large number of old settlers present at the depot. She was buried in her home town of Goffstown, New Hampshire, with her husband who died in 1872.

The Sherman Street house was moved to 30 Irvine Park in 1976.

1880s - 1920s: Taverns and brothels

In 1990, Meridel Le Sueur wrote that "three powers had divided St. Paul among them—Bishop Ireland took 'the Hill,' [James J.] Hill took the city for his trains, and Nina Clifford took all that was below 'the Hill.'"[64] Below the hill included Washington Avenue that began at the Upper Landing and threaded an area bordered by Irvine Park and the bluffs of downtown Saint Paul. Crudely it continued the West End's entertainment district back to Pigs Eye Parrant with a succession of brothels and taverns that catered to a wide variety of clientele: immigrants and merchants of the docks, fur traders from the north, lumberjacks from the pineries, and "gentlemen" of downtown establishments—even the Minnesota Club.

A police station kept watch nearby: Beginning in 1865, St. Paul regulated brothel prostitution through regular arrests. "Madams of disorderly establishments were taxed through the imposition of monthly fines, while police raids closed troublesome brothels. This system served to keep prostitution under the supervision of the police, minimizing problems, such as robberies of customers or the spread of vice into respectable residential neighborhoods."[65]

Chief of Police John J. O'Connor ensured an infamous "safe haven" system for notorious criminals. "There was an amicable relationship between the police and the underworld in Saint Paul." A Ruberto descendant alleged that the police chief's wife, Annie O'Connor, was the madam who ran the prostitution ring out of the Bucket of Blood tavern that was located at 192 South Washington at Eagle Street, run by Italian immigrants Carmine and Josephine Ruberto who lived at 296 Chestnut with their (three) children.

"Police Court.—Madam Rose Lovejoy and Madam E. M. Robinson were arraigned yesterday on charge of keeping bawdy houses. Each of them were accompanied by four boarders. The proprietors were fined $20 each and the others $5 each. We understand it is the intention of the authorities to repeat this dose once a month. It has been found impossible to completely break up these places, and they are to be made to pay roundly for persisting in keeping open their dens of infamy."[66]

John J. O'Connor, Chief of the St. Paul Police Department 1900–1912), 1912. MNHS

THE WHEELS SILENT.: Mayor Eustis Orders the Gambling Houses to Close Up.
The long-looked-for order to close the gambling houses of the city came last night. It was issued yesterday afternoon by Mayor Eustis and Supt. Smith, and last night the central station sergeants were summoned to the gambling shops and informed the proprietors and managers they must close operating. It is likely that this evening will see darkened rooms and silent wheels, for by that time the order will have been fully assimilated. This order includes not only the little poker and crap rooms, but the more pretentious establishments— the "Bucket of Blood" over Lally's saloon, the famous "Syndicate" and the "club houses.
St. Paul daily globe. January 18, 1893

In the 1860s and 1870s madams Kate Hutton, Henrietta Charles, and Mary E. Robinson were well known to the courts. Tall, attractive, and dressed in flashy clothing, "Long Kate" Hutton's striking appearance was matched by outrageous conduct. She had a contentious career and died at 35 at the hands of a lover. "Dutch Henriette" was a German immigrant who married in the U.S. and lived near Assumption Church; her trade is listed in the 1870 Census as "House of Ill Fame". Her brothel was at 62 Washington Street, at the bottom of Hill Street near Kate Hutton's. She was independently wealthy though died at 38 of syphilis in 1875. Robinson "was the city's most prominent madam, overseeing its most fashionable brothel, and was spectacularly successful. Her holdings included rental property as well as her brothel at 18 W. Eighth Street and her personal residence next door at No. 20." More is known about Robinson's brothel than about rival establishments

because of newspaper coverage of the November 17, 1869, fire. Both the brothel and her residence next door were destroyed."

In the Spring of 1874, Robinson announced her retirement. Reformers hoped it was the first step in closing the city's brothels, but several new houses opened by the end of the year. She lived out her life in St. Paul and died at 80.

Nina Clifford, also known as Hannah Stelnbrecher, was the most notorious madam in Minnesota history. Widowed in 1886 at the age of 35, in 1887 Clifford moved to St. Paul, bought two building lots in Washington Street for her residence (Number 145) and brothel (Number 147). She employed 11 prostitutes and three servants servicing a high-end clientele. Washington Street was then the sin district of St. Paul. The interior of the house was well appointed with plush furnishings, marble fireplaces, and crystal chandeliers; Mumm's champagne was served. In 1920, the brothel needed two telephone lines. Clifford died of a stroke at 78 while visiting family in Detroit in 1929. The building was razed in 1937 for a new city morgue.

Madams and their prostitutes faced multiple problems: they were barred from respectable society; faced drunken, violent customers; were vulnerable to harassment, arrest, and imprisonment by the authorities; and risked closure by reformers. They were sometimes diseased, beaten, and robbed. Diseases included syphilis, alcoholism, and depression. Violence not only came from their visitors but also madams and pimps. Suicide attempts, alcoholism, and drug abuse were not uncommon.

147 South Washington, Nina Clifford's residence. Razed 1938. 1937 photo by A. F. Raymond MNHS

"Sonny," he timidly said, "can you tell me the quickest way to get to the city hospital?" "Sure," was the rapid reply. "Just youse go down to the Bucket of Blood and deliver a temperance lecture. The Saint Paul Globe. October 16, 1904:.

The police court did a good business yesterday, the receipts of cash from fines amounting to over $1,200. Nellie Diller. Nina Clifford, Mollie Wilson, Madonna Frelinghausen, Myrtle Fern, Nona Peck, Katie Putnam, Pauline Bell, and Nellie Anderson were escorted into court by License Commissioner Nugent, and paid their monthly license of $100 apiece, under the name of "fines," for keeping places of pleasure. St. Paul Daily Globe. September 5, 1889

Wilkin Street

75–90 Wilkin: St. Paul College

Macalester College's roots in Upper Town date back to when the Minnesota legislature chartered the Baldwin School in Rice Park as a public school in February 1853. The Baldwin School for girls was a two-story brick building across from the park next to the City Hall, and in 1854 enrolled 74 students.

The College of Saint Paul for boys opened in 1857 opposite the residence of W. L. Banning at 75 Wilkin Street, near the bluff, and enrolled 34. "The College of Saint Paul was duly incorporated, and a large stone edifice erected for its use, on Wilkin street near the bluffs, and enrolled as one of the colleges under the patronage of the Society for promoting collegiate education in the West.[67] Land for the school was donated by John Irvine.[68]

The schools were suspended during the Civil War and the buildings sold. In 1864, they were again chartered, and in 1874 the charter was amended so that the college would be known as Macalester College, located at 1600 Grand Avenue. The Baldwin English and Classical Seminary continued as its preparatory department.

Rice Park: Old City Hall, Baldwin School. As an extension of the Upper Landing and Henry Rice's claims, Rice Park was gifted to St. Paul in 1849 and maintained by a "German florist" with flowers and vegetables, perhaps Charles Elfelt who lived in the adjoining Metropolitan Hotel.

In 1853, the Baldwin School, predessor of Macalester College, with the College of St. Paul was built, though rented out as a post office. The Old (St. Paul) City Hall next to it (left) was built in 1857. A fountain and bandstand were installed in the park in 1872, and electric lights in 1883. The historic Landmark Center now occupies the space. Circa 1860 photo RCHS

Banning Mansion
75 Wilkin:

William L. Banning (1814–93), banker and railroad company president, built his Italianate brick mansion at 75 Wilkin in the mid-1850s. Banning State Park is named after him.

In 1908, the Jewish Home for the Aged of the Northwest occupied the Banning Mansion with eight "inmates"—the term then used for residents. The fire marshal condemned the Wilkin Street facility in 1916, and after a seven-year fundraising drive a new facility opened in 1923 at Midway Parkway. A second twenty-bed home, Sholom Residence, was managed by the Daughters of Abraham at 45 South St. Albans Street. The two merged in 1971, and in 1995 became Sholom Community Alliance. Shalom East left its long-time home on Midway Parkway in 2009 and moved to its new campus at West 7th Street and Otto Avenue, 740 Kay Avenue. An addition was completed in 2013 with greatly expanded services.[69]


75 Wilkin Street W.L. Banning Mansion, 1857. MNHS. Banning (1814-93) was a banker, railroad president, and legislator. Banning State Park is named after him.

86-90 Wilkin Street: House of the Good Shepard; Little Sisters of the Poor

The Congregation of Our Lady of Charity of the Good Shepherd (Sisters of the Good Shepherd) purchased the St. Paul College property on Wilkin Street in 1869; five years later 100 former prostitutes lived under their care. However, the encroaching railroad meant a louder, smokier, and sootier home. The trains shook foundation rocks and other debris and caused so much depreciation that in 1875 the Sisters sued the St. Paul, Sioux City Railroad Company. To resolve the situation, they sold property closest to the tracks to the railroad, and the rest to the Little Sisters of the Poor, who opened their Home for the Aged on the site in 1884.

The mission of the Little Sisters of the Poor in Minnesota began in 1883 when Bishops Thomas Grace and John Ireland petitioned the motherhouse in France to send six Little Sisters to come to St. Paul to work to establish a home for the needy elderly. Within months of their arrival, the Little Sisters were caring for 20 residents and supported the home by begging for contributions of food and clothing, sometimes travelling by horse and wagon for a day or a week at a time. Many of the home's residents were immigrants, who often arrived with no more than the clothes on their backs.

In 1889, a larger home was needed to accommodate the increasing number of elderly poor. The original building was demolished to make way for a new home to welcome 200 elderly. A second home was established in Northeast Minneapolis in the late 1880's. In 1977, the two homes were consolidated and the current facility was constructed to comply with the advancement in healthcare needs and regulations. The address was changed to 330 Exchange Street South.
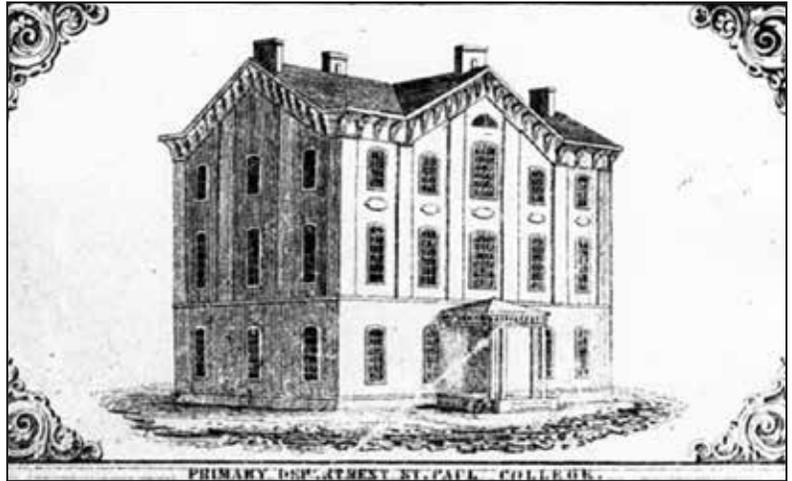
90 Wilkin Street St. Paul College, 1857. MNHS Predessor of Macalester College

86–90 Wilkin Street. Little Sisters of the Poor, 1967. MNHS

German Settlement

In the 1850s, nearly one million Germans immigrated to the U.S. One of the first to arrive in Minnesota was a thirty-one-year-old Westphalian named John H. Tenvoorde, who had emigrated with his parents and seventy-four families in 1836 from their Catholic parish of Vreden, Westphalia, near the Dutch border. Their search led them to an established north German colony at Evansville, Indiana. There his parents died, he married, and was chosen in 1854 to find a location for a new colony—through Kansas, Nebraska, Iowa, and finally the Sauk Valley in Minnesota. "Buoyed by the offer of free main street lots in St. Cloud, he hurried back to Evansville to make his report, and when he returned the following spring with his family and a stock of goods for a general store, he found that at least fifty German Catholic families had preceded him.

Patterns of immigration were similar for these groups: individuals or families first sought a like-minded community way station to acclimate to the new country's environment and possibilities. "Like-mindedness," the primary local attachment of a village or province shaped immigrants' sense of belonging and identity. While regional dialects were spoken at home, Hochdeutsh or standardized high German was able to provide a public vehicle of transcendence and unity.

In the 1850 St. Paul Census, nineteen German-born residents are listed. The 1860 census counted 1,598 of which 418 lived in West End's Fourth Ward. Of that number 301 listed "Germany" as their origin, 52 indicated they were from Bavaria, 83 Prussia, 22 Baden-Württemberg, 9 from Saxony. In 1860, the German population of the state, German-born persons and their children, amounted to 2,425, or 15.8 percent of the state's total population.

The German Reading Society of St. Paul began with a few pioneer Germans. They incorporated a reading club, February 23, 1854, and in 1858, built the Anthenaeum, Walnut and Exchange. The name changed in 1870 to German Society of St. Paul. In 1882 the group joined with the St. Paul Turnverein and built Germania Turner Hall, 406 North Franklin Street, later known as Mozart hall. "This building indirectly caused the disruption of the society and the hall was sold for the benefit of its creditors."[70]

Gardens of WENGT 2020

218 Goodrich Avenue

Gents: ...the German Reading Society, requests you to mention the first Ball which will come off in the German Reading Society's new building Athenæum, corner of Exchange and Chestnut streets, on Friday evening Oct. 7th. The Hall when fully completed, shall be used for Orations, Theatre, Concerts and Social Amusements; while a part of the basement is to receive the Library and to serve as a Reading Room and for School purposes.
G. Leue, Secretary
Minnesotan, *October 3, 1859*

On Monday evening, February 10th, there will be given at the Anthenæum a Grand Dress and Masquerade Ball, gotten up in a style of magnificence never equaled in this city. The Entertainment will be arranged by the German Reading Society, the Freier Mænerchor, (Mens Choir) and the St. Paul Turnverein, and no pains or expense will be spared to make it a really magnificent affair.
The Saint Paul Daily Press. *January 25, 1862*

German Reading Society
Leseverein

By sheer force of numbers, German immigrants built a diversity of organizations. Some were products of intellectual-political refugee-revolutionaries, "Forty-Eighters," who emigrated after their 1848 rebellions failed to bring democracy and unification to the German states in Europe.

One of the first and most active organizations was the St. Paul *Lesevereine* (German Reading Society) organized in 1852 with 121 members. In 1857, under the leadership Casper Sauer, the society built the Athenæum, a *Deutsches Haus* (German House) at Exchange and Pine (now Sherman) Streets for community meetings and German language theatricals. It changed to a literary, dramatic and gymnastic society in 1865.

The *Anthenæum* was dedicated in November 1857 featuring German immigrant and newspaper editor Albert Wolff (1825–93) as speaker. Wolff was sentenced to death for participating in the 1848 revolutionary movement in Dresden, Germany. He was pardoned in 1852, and immigrated to Minnesota. "As a clear and able writer, Mr. Wolff has no superior among the German editors of the Northwest."[72] He built his home at 318 Goodhue Street in 1887, but committed suicide by train at the Saint Paul Union Depot in the economic crisis of 1893.

"In 1886, a number of representative Germans met at the Athenæum yesterday afternoon to discuss the propriety of building a new athenieum. The present quarters were too small and not central. The necessity of a new building was generally admitted."[73]

Thirteenth Sængerfest! Its Silver Jubilee,1860–1885

St. Paul's Germanic community was known for its Sængerfests—*singing festivals that would draw hundreds of singers from German immigrant groups around the State and Midwest. Singing groups, or* Sængerbund, *would compete regionally and statewide. St. Paul festivals included a parade and celebration at Banholzer's park and beer garden.*

Exchange and Pine/Sherman. Athenæum Silver jubilee of the 1860 founding of the Sængerfest, June 5-7, 1885. MNHS.
"All supported by the Full Strength of the Great Western and Great Union Bands and Concert Orchestra, under the General Guidance of Prof. John S. Grode, Musical Director. 400 Vocal and Instrumental Performers. Two performances, one at the Grand Opera House on the June 5, and one at the Anthenæum June 6. Sunday, June 7 Assembly at Headquarters and March to Banholzer's Park" (for the party!).[71]

Order of the Sons of Hermann
Der Orden der Hermanns-Soehne

The Order of the Sons of Hermann, also known as Hermann Sons and by its German name as *Der Orden der Hermanns-Soehne* or *Hermannssöhne*, was a German immigrant mutual aid society formed in New York City on July 20, 1840. On December 28, 1892, St. Paul's "Loge No. 36" was begun with 50 charter members. Records of the lodges were kept at the German-American Hall, Rice and Aurora streets, that was built in 1920 by six lodges with "common interest." The building was lost to fire in 1943. Letters, bylaws, and similar data of the various lodges are stored at the MNHS.

Yoerg Brewery Dining Hall, undated. RCHS

"On Sunday July 28, 1895, three thousand German-American men from across the state marched from Turner Hall to Banholzer's Park to celebrate the 25th anniversary of the founding of the national order of Sons of Hermann. Trains arrived the day and morning before with marching units—one with 500 visitors. One parade unit included innumerable carriages bearing ladies of sister lodges. There was no end of martial music, as many of the outside societies had brought military bands along . . . Washington lodge (of St. Paul), the oldest in the state . . . provided a magnificent float, representing George Washington, surrounded by officers of the colonial army. It was a conspicuous fact that nowhere did the colors of Germany wave but what they were side by side with the Stars and Stripes. Our flag was carried at the head of the marching column, surrounded by a guard of honor, as if to demonstrate, indeed, that it was a priceless boon, under which a new people and a new country had become the heritage of those who left the old fatherland." Once at Banholzer's Park, 5,000 celebrated the event. Once the brief formalities were concluded "Everybody then sought the pleasures of the park, and the associations of the brothers who were present. Dancing, singing, concerts by the bands which were present."[74]

St. Paul's Turner Society

The German Turner movement, had its birth in nineteenth century Germany. In the late 1840s, a European political and fitness movement culminated in the formation of athletic societies, particularly in Germany *Turnervein*) and the Czechs (*Sokol*) and were imported into America with their respective immigrants. "Physical culture," organized health and strength movement, emphasized "heavy gymnastics": strenuous exercises performed with equipment such as pommel horses, parallel bars, and climbing structures. The philosophy combined physical training with intellectual pursuits and culture.

The first Turner society in the United States was formed in Cincinnati in 1848, quickly spreading throughout the eastern states. In 1850 the North American Gymnastic Union (*Nord Amerkanischef Turnerbund*) was formed in Philadelphia. Numerous events in modern competitive gymnastics originated in or were popularized by the *Turnverein* system. While both European and American branches emphasized physical education, the American branch incorporated a more radical political tradition.

The first Minnesota chapter was formed November 11, 1856, in New Ulm. The first St. Paul chapter was formed by Casper Sauer as a section of the St. Paul *Leseverein* (Reading Society). Some members of this group, however, felt the need for an independent organization, and on November 10, 1858, formed the St. Paul Turnverein/Turner Society. The group prospered until 1861 when 74 of its 76 members responded to President Lincoln's first call for volunteers. Activities were suspended and on December 12, 1866 the Minnesota District of the national federation of Turner organizations (*Turnbezirks Minnesota des Nordamerikanischer Turnerbund*) was formed. St. Paul Turners resumed their gymnastics at the first Turner Hall (Franklin between Sixth and Ninth Streets) that had an outdoor gymnastic area. An addition was added in 1882. In 1884 the Turners joined with the Deutsche Verein/ German Society when its building was lost to fire, to form "Turnverein Germania." Their building was razed for a new hall in 1888 that was also lost to fire in 1891. The fire, as well as the financial panic of 1893, resulted in the disbanding of the *Turnverein Germania* in 1895. Many members of the organization temporarily joined the *West Seite Turnverein* (West Side Gymnastic Society), that was formed on

Minnesota Turners met in St. Paul to organize the District of the American Turners, December 13 and 14, 1866 (l-r, top) Herman Zirkler, Reinhardt Stiefel, Frank Werner of St. Paul; (J A) Mayer of Minneapolis; (middle) G Reiner of Owatonna, Blenken and Siebert of Minneapolis, John Waal of New Ulm. (Front) John Nothammer of Minneapolis; John Ruhn of RedWing; Jacob Foll Minneapolis. St. Paul Turners. Society Records. MNHS

Turner gymnasts, 1923: (l-r, top) Al Grossmann, Walter Shulz, Schuler, Bob Krengel, Hemwebel, Prof Schintz. Otto Hufferoer, Andrew Sorenson, EE Roscher, Eddie Harst. John Parzel, Joe Franzen. Professor Albert F. Schintz (1867- 1941) served as a Turner gymnastic director for 59 years. MNHS

August 9, 1888. The Turnverein St. Paul was organized in 1896.

"Minutes of meetings and newspaper articles of the late 1860s, 1870s, and 1880s at the Minnesota Historical Society show the St. Paul society was active in physical education and training, maintained a good library, conducted German and drawing classes, had

a Sunday program and sponsored concerts, dramatic presentations, debates, and gymnastic exhibitions. They advocated a liberal political philosophy, protected political rights of German-Americans, and promoted the preservation of German culture. As strong believers in physical fitness, the American Turners lobbied to have physical education made a part of the educational curriculum in public schools.

In 1906, the Turnverein St. Paul purchased the former Unity Church property, on the south side of Wabasha Street at Summit Avenue. The building

iterations, the organization changed its name to St. Paul Turners on August 29, 1940, and consolidated on the West Side of St. Paul in a vacant fire station on Ohio Street, then moved to Mendota Heights in 1997.

The twentieth century was generally a period of decline for Turner societies. Many factors contributed to this situation, including anti-German sentiment during the world wars, lost income due to Prohibition and the Great Depression, the movement of Turner members into the suburbs, increased competition from other athletic and physical fitness facilities, and a reduced sense of German ethnic identity."[75]

Training and judging for Turner gymnastics was regulated and competitive in regional and national competitions. St. Paul Turners, Society Records, MNHS

Saint Paul Auditorium. Turner first free gymnastic exhibition sponsored by the Department of Parks and Playgrounds. Program included march exercises, plastic poses, pole exercises, Indian club swinging, bar bell and dumbbell exercises, bow and arrow drills, exercises on parallel and horizontal bars, pyramids, mass exercises, and vocal numbers of the Turner *Leidertafel* under the leadership of Prof F Jacobi. 1907 photo Herman Uebel, St. Paul Turners, MNHS

Third (Kellogg) Street. St. Paul Turnverein German Day Parade. 1896 photo Herman Uebel, St. Paul Turners, MNHS

Wabasha and Summit Avenue. Turnerhalle. Circa 1910 photo Herman Uebel, St. Paul Turners, MNHS

BREWERS AND MALTSTERS:
West End Brewers[76]

The German immigrant labor force included grocers, wagon makers, lumbermen, bar and restaurant owners, confectioners, shoemakers, merchants, even bankers and contractors. They also owned the major breweries and a large number of saloons.: in the 1870s, local Germans took out 121 of the 187 liquor licenses issued to foreign born residents.

They are credited with the West End and Minnesota's illustrious brewing history. Bluff caves provided natural cooling, local/rural access to grains and hops, and a large lager-drinking clientele. In the late 1800s St. Paul was the leader with twelve breweries operating at one time, generally reflecting the early contributions of German immigrants who initially built their homes and breweries at the bluff of today's Xcel Center.

"The (eleven) establishments . . . give employment to 105 men and 162-horse steam power. Their product of beer last year amounted to 40,752 barrels, and their sales of malt to country brewers amounted to about 18,000 bushels. They have established a good

1841–1952:
Yoerg Brewing Company

The first of the Bavarian/German commercial brewers was Anthony Yoerg. Yoerg was born into a brewing family in 1816 in Gundelfingen. He immigrated to the United States at 19 years of age, and setteld in St. Paul's West Side German settlement. In 1848, he opened a small brewery in Uppertown that produced hearty, Bavarian-style beers. In 1871, he returned to the West Side and built a great stone brewery on Ohio Street that featured a mile of underground cooling caves. By 1881, they produced over 20,000 barrels of beer a year; in 1891, thirty-five thousand barrels as one of the biggest breweries in the state with Theodore Hamms and Jacob Schmidt far behind.

Yoerg's "Cave Aged" beers were produced exclusively from Minnesota-grown barley and 100 percent Washington State hops. The entire staff was almost all Bavarian born. The Yoerg lagers were produced utilizing the steam process, brewed at warm temperatures using lager yeasts, and the finished products were the richest and most lavish beers on the market.

Anthony Yoerg married Governor Alexander Ramsey's nanny (Elovina Seitzsinger) and had seven children. The youngest, Louis, succeeded his father in the brewery, eventually as president from 1935–1950.

reputation for their products, not only in this city but throughout all the country tributary to St. Paul, and we have the authority of experts for saying that St. Paul beer, especially of this season, will compare favorably with the mostly highly reputed brewing of the whole country. They bought last year of Minnesota farmers about 175,000 bushels of barley, and they gave employment to a considerable number of mechanics in the cooper shops of St. Paul. "Prominent among the special advantages which St. Paul brewers have may be mentioned the unequalled facilities they have for cellarage in the easily excavated decomposed sand-rock which underlies the limestone bed on which the city is built. They are also favored with abundant supplies of pure water and unlimited supplies of ice near at hand. Most of them are men of large means, and have their establishments fitted up with every detail of apparatus necessary to economical work and best results." [77]

Yoerg family and brewers. Anthony Yoerg center row left; chidlren and grand children front row. 1895 photo on the occasion of a Gold Medal for their bock. Compliments Thomas Keim, Yoerg Brewery.

The Yoerg family survived Prohibition by successfully producing soft drinks and milk. After Prohibition, in 1933, cost-cutting and production methods changed and when the last two Yoerg sons passed away in 1950 and 1952, it spelled doom for the brewery. The flood of 1952 and fire in 1958 erased a St. Paul landmark and history. This was a family who helped shape the City of Saint Paul in it's infancy: Yoerg beers were always considered the first great beers produced in the State of Minnesota.

Yoerg Brewery has a twenty-first-century iteration now located at 378 Maria Avenue on St. Paul's East Side.

1853–1871:
North Mississippi Company

The North Mississippi Company was built sometime in 1853 by an obscure beer-maker named "Mr. Rowe." It was located upstream from the Yoerg and Bruggemann plants at Shepard Road and Drake Street. Its early years were marked by many owners and little success. In 1859, a Prussian immigrant, Charles Rausch (1811–1875), bought the facility for $45,000 after cashing in on his successful restaurant business, the Apollo Hall, St. Paul's first restaurant located on Third (Kellogg) and Wabasha Streets and "the most popular place in the city." Shortly after Rausch began operations, a freak accident occurred in which a worker perished in a hot vat of beer and rumors spelled demise in 1865.

1871–1904: Frederick and William Banholzer

The Banholzers, father and son, bought the North Mississippi Brewery. By the 1880s William turned a 1,000 to a 12,000 barrel-a-year operation, one of the five most popular brews in the city. The operation included nine buildings, a one-half-mile deep, multi-chambered cave, accessible from both the bottom of the river bluff (south of the brewery) and from the top of the cliff (right inside the plant's main stone building). Today this cave still runs from the river bank, under Shepard Road, to the vicinity of Butternut street and one can still see the old stone archway at the lower entrance – a lasting reminder of Banholzer's Brewery.

In 1886, William established Banholzer's Park in the empty lots north of the brewery. The recreation area served the city, including its German and Czech neighbors who enjoyed its beer and food, and entertainment of outdoor bowling, band music, and even balloon rides to Lilydale. The park was also a destination for parades and large cultural, athletic, and organizational events. Its competitor park, Schade's Park and Beer Garden, was located at 891 West Seventh.

Third (Kellogg) and Wabasha Streets in Downtown St. Paul
Charles Rausch funded the North Mississippi Brewery with his "Apollo Hall" restaurant at Third (Kellogg) Street. 1857 Benjamin Franklin Upton, 1857 photo. MNHS

Mississippi River . Wing dams and shore protectors. Upper right bluff is the Banholzer Brewery complex, 1905. MNHS

William Banholzer's Beer Garden with stream and gazebo, 1900. MNHS (identified as Schades)

Editor's note: Additional West End brewery histories are documented in June 25, 2016 *West End Neighbors (Beer) Garden Party*. guide book.

1890: Adam Staubel's Saloon, and the People's Meat Market

Adam Staubel (1853–1885) immigrated from Germany in 1871. His tavern was at 212 Fort Road/West Seventh Street, the current corner of West Seventh and Grand Avenue. He married Veronica Beisang in October 13, 1879 and they lived at 734 Stewart. Adam's brother John had John Staubel's Saloon at 1005 West Seventh at Randolph.

Next door was the Peoples Meat Market run by Charles Weber, a Prussian who immigrated in 1869 with his wife and daughter..

212 Fort Road (West Seventh Street) at Grand Avenue. Adam Staubel's Saloon, People's Meat Market 1890 photo. Mary Ginther

1884: Brings Flour and Feed Store; Joseph Brings

The Brings were born near Cologne, Germany and arrived in Saint Paul in 1857. Joseph worked as a cooper (barrel maker), and later opened his feed and general store at 209 Fort Road (later 312-318 West Seventh). Joseph's descendants continued to operate "Brings Feed Store" at the same location until the 1970s.

In 1884, West Seventh Street, (formerly called Fort Road), was the most traveled route for anyone moving west of St. Paul by land. Everything ran on hay. In those days, horses were the main mode of transportation. Delivery wagons from breweries and department stores, express wagons, fleets from dray companies, police and fire wagons, and teams from liveries throughout the Twin Cities patronized Brings. Summit Hill and Irvine Park aristocracy rolled up in fancy buggies. As Oliver Towne (Gareth Hebert) wrote "The old adage that money ain't hay didn't apply to Brings and Company feed and seed emporium." Over a million dollars flowed through the gilt-scrolled cash register in one year during the 1890's."
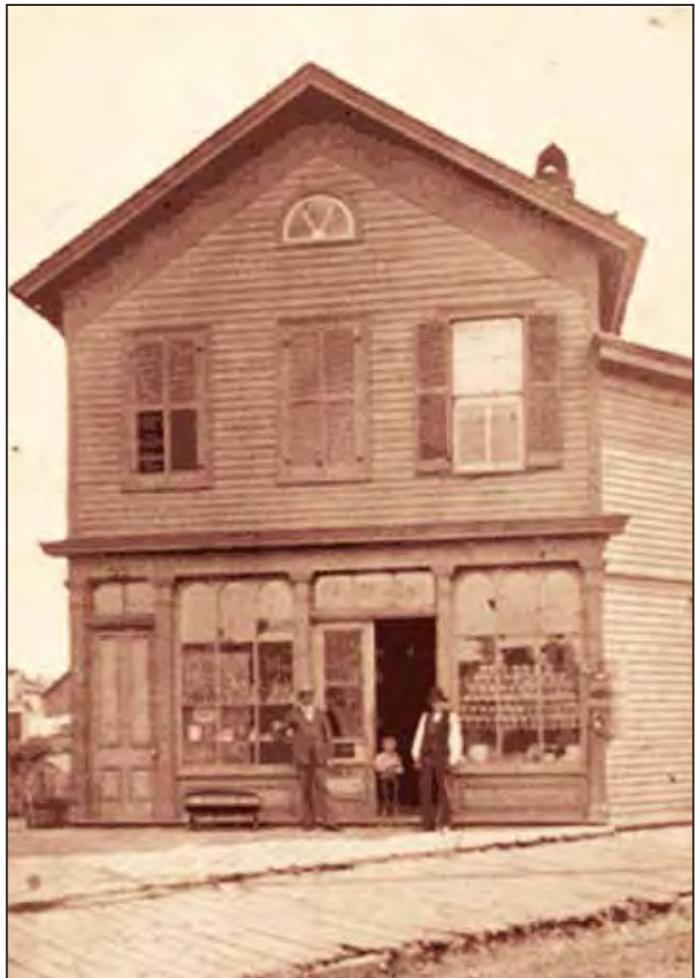
209 Fort Road/312–318 West Seventh, Brings Flour and Feed Store. Joseph Brings at left, early 1870, Kramer Family Collection

Assumption Church

St. Paul's first Catholic Church on 3rd Street/Kellogg Boulevard served English, French, and Irish settlers. The German-born Catholic population of Saint Paul rapidly increased in the 1850s. In 1856 Bishop Joseph Crétin had a plain stone building with wooden steeple built as St. Paul's second parish. When the founding priest, Fr. George Keller, was transferred to Faribault, Minnesota in 1858, Benedictines from St. John's Abbey provided (German-speaking) pastors until 1912. The existing limestone school of 1864 followed.

In 1874, the current Romanesque limestone church replaced the first, commissioned by Archbishop John Ireland. It was modeled after the

Ludwigskirche in Munich by Architect Joseph Reidel, court architect for the Wittelsbach family in Bavaria. The east tower holds four bells including one from the first church. Assumption Church is now the oldest in St. Paul and on the national historic register. As the German-speaking community grew in St. Paul, Sacred Heart, St. Francis de Sales, St. Matthew's, St. Agnes and St. Bernard's churches were spun off from Assumption.

North Franklin Street (later Auditorium Street). Assumption Church, 1909. MNHS

First Assumption Church and school. "In downtown St. Paul, you will find the old Church of the Assumption, dwarfed by the grandeur of the new cathedral . . . For Assumption came right out of the heart of the German Rhineland"[80] circa 1865, photo MNHS

Rev. Alexius Hoffmann

On January 31, 1863, John Mathias Hoffmann was born in a 10 by 12-foot house on St. Peter Street, between Tenth and College Avenue. His father emigrated from Noswendel, Landkreis Merzig-Wadern, Saarland, Germany, and mother Mary from Bavaria. They married in 1861 at Assumption Church and built a house in the German neighborhood above the Upper Landing. They were aided by Richard Ireland, father of Archbishop John Ireland, and Tom Grace, brother of another St. Paul bishop. Its communal water pump was fifty yards distant, "downhill empty, uphill full" his mother related. German immigrants knew the area as *Böhnenviertel* or Beanville: "for every little house had a little garden, bristled with beanpoles"[78]

In 1875, Abbott Alexius Edelbrock invited John Mathias to enter St. John's Abbey for schooling, and he was ordained a priest as Alexius Hoffmann at Assumption December 19, 1885. "While librarian, choir master, fulltime professor, archivist, and subprior, he wrote voluminously" including histories of both St. John's Abbey and early St. Paul. "In 1902 he was instrumental in getting the requirement of wearing beards removed from monastic custom."[79]

Auditorium Street, Assumption Church, 1935. MNHS

House of Hope Church[82]
Walnut and Oak Streets.

In 1849, a young missionary from Philadelphia—the Reverend Edward Duffield Neill—arrived in the new Territory of Minnesota to form the first Presbyterian congregations. Rev. Neill founded First Church in downtown St. Paul in 1849, and started a second congregation on Christmas Eve, 1855, and named it House of Hope. The name was selected "desiring that it might be the place of refuge for weary and heavy-laden souls." The church was located above the Upper Landing at Walnut and Oak (later Smith Avenue) Streets. A staircase led up Summit Hill to his home. The two churches merged in 1914 under

Walnut and Oak Streets, first House of Hope Church circa 1860. RCHS

Dr. Henry Swearingen who oversaw the construction of House of Hope at 797 Summit Avenue, designed by architect Ralph Adams Cram starting in 1909.

311 Ramsey Street
German Presbyterian
Bethlehem Church

While nominally shingle style, this building has no precedent, although some of the design inspiration may come from romantic mountain buildings of Germany and Switzerland. The S-shaped stairway and hillside setting from 1890 are not unlike some of Cass Gilbert's drawings from his days at MIT. Much of the success of the building's design is the attention to detail Gilbert & Taylor paid to all four of the building's facades.[81] Gilbert's future success included the Minnesota State Capitol's design and construction from 1895-1905 in St. Paul.

Niklaus Bolt (1864–1947) was born in Lichtensteig, Switzerland, and organized the congregation at the Goodrich Avenue Presbyterian Church until its own building was constructed. He was a Swiss

311 Ramsey Street, German Presbyterian Bethlehem Church. MNHS

pastor and youth writer. His brothers Gregor and Jakob worked as merchants in New York, and the family followed in 1882 though Niklaus stayed behind to finish his education.

On May 20, 1887, Niklaus Bolt arrived in St. Paul with his widowed mother and five siblings. He was ordained a minister of the Presbyterian Church and founded the German Presbyterian Bethlehem congregation. On the initiative of the Bolt brothers, they commissioned Gilbert to build its church in 1890.

Bolt left to undertake missionary work with immigrant Germans in Chicago from 1895 to 1900. After several trips back to Switzerlnd, he permanently relocated to Lugano, retired and became noted for his childrens books, especially *Svizzero!*.

The congregation in St. Paul disbanded in 1916 and was taken over by the Gargoyle Club, an architects' eating and drinking society. The Gargoyle Club sold the building during the 1960's. Current site: Being, LLC, couseling services.

Niklaus Bolt approx. 1935. Source Wikipedia

Central Church of Christ
74–80 Leech Street

The little church on the corner of Leech and McBoal Streets was first organized as a mission church in a hall at Seventh and McBoal. In 1896 when the congregation numbered 50 members they purchased a lot on McBoal and Leech Streets and built their church in 1902 that still stands. The fundraising inspiration was a biblical number seven: "when the trustees began to raise the fund for the church, only 7-cent contributions were asked. Then somebody interested in the erection of the church thought of the apostle on the island of Patmos who, on the Lord's day, had a wonderful vision and saw one like unto the "Son of Man" standing in the midst of seven golden candlesticks, and having seven stars in his right hand, and the interpretation thereof was that the seven golden candlesticks were the seven churches and the seven stars in his right hand were the seven angels of the churches... With the exception of the pews and the decorations, the 'church that seven built,' that is, the Central Christian church, of St. Paul, is now fully completed."[83]

74–80 Leech Street, Central Church of Christ. 1910 photo MNHS

In 1887, Peter and Augusta Raschik and their three children immigrated to the U.S. and lived at 192 Colbourne. In 1884, Matthias and Hedwig Pitra immigrated and lived at 469 Michigan Street. In 1898, Augusta and Hedwig organized thirty-six West End German Lutherans, and signed a charter creating St. Marcus German Lutheran Church with Reverend W. Biessswanger as the first pastor.

The boundaries were St. Clair, Goodrich, Webster. The synod associated with St. Marcus was the Ohio Synod that was not identified with a specific region of Germany and was neither conservative nor progressive. It was to become one of five West End German parishes within a mile and a half: Catholic Assumption and St. Francis de Sales, St Peter's German Lutheran, Bethlehem German Presbyterian at the foot of Summit Hill, and St. Marcus.

The congregation of Saint Mark Evangelical Lutheran Church had several locations but in 1920 purchased and relocated to the Leech McBoal church. In 1955, St. Mark's again relocated and built a new church located at 550 West 7th Street.[84]Current site: Sharon Seventh-Day Adventist Church.

235 Pleasant. People's Church (second edifice), 1900. MNHS

Rev. Samuel G. Smith, circa 1900. Photo, Philip J. Ramstad

People's Church[85] Pleasant and Chestnut Streets

Between the Upper Landing and the Cathedral of St. Paul was the massive People's Church at Pleasant Avenue and Chestnut Street. When the Methodist Church sought to relocate the popular Rev. Samuel G. Smith, both he and his congregation left Methodism to create the People's Church not only as a spiritual but also intellectual, cultural, and even political center.

Organized in 1888, the independent group led by Rev. Samuel G. Smith held their first services in the Grand Opera House and completed the impressive building in 1889. The building, designed by J. Walter Stevens, contained the largest meeting hall of its type that resembled "a large clubhouse rather than a place of worship." It was rebuilt after a 1902 fire though lost to fire in 1940.[86]

"Bohemian" Settlement

Michael Kartak

When Michael Karták came with his family to St. Paul on September 8, 1860, there were about six Czech families living in the Upper Levee. The first job new arrivals from Bohemia and Moravia had was cutting wood for the winter. Michael Karták, a man reputed to have formidable strength, was an exception when he found a job as furrier within days of his landing. He came upon two men who were trying clumsily to beat a wolf's skin, took the instrument from the less skilled, and proved his ability. One of them spoke to him in English: "I shook my head to show him I did not understand. Then he spoke in German, and that went better. He asked me who I was and what I was doing, and when I had explained my predicament, he promised that he would find me work with a furrier, which he did, and I began working immediately."[87]

Events in this story help us understand the relative success of many Czech immigrants. The Kingdom of Bohemia was a crown land within the Austro-Hungarian Empire since 1526, and its capital Prague was one of the empire's leading cities. Consequently, the Czech lands of Bohemia and Moravia (Czech: *České země*) were connected to the German-speaking cultures of Austria (and Germany) for centuries. Immigrating self-identified "Bohemians" often settled side by side with German-speaking émigrés, an ethnic group that was large and significant enough to provide access to better paying jobs in the trades.

Michael Karták (1830–1904). 1902 photo Sokol Minnesota

The Czechs however were preceded by Polish emigrants from the Prussian- or German-controlled western partition of Poland. Their settlements were relatively small and dispersed in the Upper Landing and West End, and they freely mixed with Czechs (who are also Slavic) and Germans. In 1872, the Poles and Czechs formed the parish of St. Stanislaus Kostka after a Polish saint. As the West End became overwhelmingly Czech in a compact ethnic neighborhood around the church, in 1878 the Poles relocated services to the cathedral and in 1881 founded their own parish, St. Adalbert (*parafia św. Wojciecha*). This began a process of geographic (Polish) concentration that continued for at least fifty years.[88]

In the 1860s, the Bohemian community settled on the Upper Levee, but by the end of the 1880s the majority centered around the intersections of West Seventh Street, and St. Clair and Michigan Avenues. When Michael Karták wrote his account in 1885 he estimated that there were about 300 Czech families in the West End. By the end of the 1880s, the Czech community was well on its way to establishing strong organizations.

1868: Slovanska Lipa

The first organizations of the Czech and Slovak immigrants in the West End were a Workers Union and *Slovanska Lipa* (1868), a literary society, similar to the German *Leseverein* reading society. Their library loan records document their book exchanges since that time. A literary society was particularly critical for Bohemian immigrants since America provided for the free exercise of their culture and language apart for the ruling Germanic Austro-Hungarian Empire's authority. In 1889, Slovanska Lipa was absorbed by C.S.P.S Lodge #12.

West 7th Street / Fort Road Federation

Slovanska Lipa (Slavic Linden Tree), a literary society, similar to the German Leseverein reading society. Circa 1870 photo Sokol Minnesota

Gardens of WENGT 2020

183 Goodrich Avenue

Vác Picha V. Končal Fr. Novotný Anton Jurka Mich Kartak Voj Hájek Jos Picha Jan Picha Fr. Vačura

ŘÁD ČECH č. XII Č.S.P.S.

The C.S.P.S. Hall
383 Michgan Street

The *Česko-Slovanský Podporující Spolek*/Czech Slovak Protection Society (C.S.P.S.) was formed as a fraternal insurance group in St. Louis, Missouri, by Czech immigrants in 1854. Its female compliment was the *Jednota Ceskych Dám*, or Union of Czech Women. In 1879, 100+ members of C.S.P.S Lodge #12 "Čech" purchased a lot for $600 from sitting St. Paul Mayor Charles Dawson. They purchased and moved a wooden school house onto the property, and built a stage to accommodate the free expression of their culture as well as their philosophy of "free thought." It burned in 1886. The current structure was built as a two-story in 1887, with West End Architect Emil W. Ulrici and Contractor William J. Gronewold. A third floor was added in 1917 (architect/engineer Raymond Paul Pavlecka). C.S.P.S. became the financial arm of the building.

The second floor of the C.S.P.S. Hall provided the old-world stage and hall for events. The third floor preserves furnishings and portraits of founders that date from the later 1800s as well as the minutes, in beautiful Czech script, and photographs through the decades of all their organizations—even including the Sokol Camp in Pine City built in the 1930s.

Throughout its history, the Hall has housed several Czech fraternal lodges, singing and theatrical societies, and cultural organizations. These groups were civic in nature, associated with religious liberalism and/or free-thought independent of religious affiliation. These culturally-based programs include *Dramatický odbor* or Drama Club, St. Paul Czech and Slovak Folk Dancers, *Taneční Mládež* children's folk dance group, Czech and Slovak Cultural Center of Minnesota, Senior Singers, and a second fraternal benevolent society, the *Západní*

383 Michigan. *Česko-Slovanský Podporující Spolek*/Czech Slovak Protection Society (C.S.P.S.)'s two-story hall circa 1887, with the first two St. Stans churches. A third story addition was added in 1917. Photo Sokol Minnesota

Česko-Bratrská Jednota (Z.C.B.J.).
In 1977, the C.S.P.S. Hall was declared a National and State Historic Site and placed on the National Register of Historic Sites, Building #77000763. In 1978, ownership was transfered to (Czech and Slovak) Sokol Minnesota whose history dates from 1882 in the West End, also centered at the Hall for its fitness and cultural programming.

Minnesota's oldest theater?

Sokol has an interesting accumulation of ledger books, scripts, and programs relating to theater productions at the C.S.P.S. Hall that date back to at least 1900. There are 203 different scripts in the Czech language that were considered for production; 65 programs detail the playwright, cast, director, and advertise a dance afterwards. Many scripts are comedies about village life in Bohemia prior to 1900. They are well suited to community theater production and the earliest production consisted of three short one-act comedic plays performed in 1908. The plays were *Poprvé u Fotografa* (First Time Sitting for the Photographer), *Smetanova Hubička* (Sweet Kiss), and *Vypáleny Před Souderu* (Burned before the Court).

C.S.P.S./Sokol stage. 1917 scenic set painted by Victor Hubal. 2009 photo Joe Landsberger

In 1917, Victor J. Hubal, Sr. painted scenery for the C.S.P.S. Hall's theater: a unique effort by a single artist. In addition to the front proscenium depicting *Praha* (Prague), there are roll drops, wings, and set pieces. The settings include street scenes, landscapes, woodlands, rustic interiors and fancy interiors. Double-painted interchangeable flats provided variety for a number of shows—now over 100 years old.

Hubal's artistry graced 50 productions of the St. Paul Civic Opera (1933—1975), beginning with the first *Samson And Delilah* in 1933 and continued through to *The Merry Widow* in 1963. His work included sets for the International Institute's "Festival of Nations" and productions for the Andahazy Ballet Company.

Church of St. Stanislaus Kostka 398 W Superior Street

St. Stanislav Kostka Church (St. Stans) on Western off West Seventh Street is the fourth oldest Catholic parish in St. Paul, dedicated by Bishop Thomas Grace in 1872 for Czech and Polish immigrants. The immigrants built the small wooden church (60 x 26 feet); when Czech immigrants grew too numerous, the Polish parishoners moved to Frogtown to found St. Adalbert Church. Fr. Jan Rynda, a Moravian priest, served St. Stans for nearly 40 years. During that time he oversaw the building of the second large brick church, which Archbishop Ireland pronounced a " Czech paradise." Rynda established a school in 1886, though the school with four classrooms was not completed until 1902. That year the Church Hall or *Katolická Beseda* was also completed and was home to its insurance group. Both the school and hall had central heating, a novelty for its time. The hall accommodated 700 and had a grand piano on its stage.

398 Superior Street West, First church of St. Stanislav Kostka. Ca. 1895 photo Church of St. Stanislaus

On April 15, 1934, a fire from faulty wiring broke out destroying the church and setting fire to 27 local roof tops. Mass was then held in the *beseda* or church hall until the current church was completed in 1941, Pesek and Shifflet, architects of Minneapolis. The first Mass was offered on May 5, 1941.

Vaclav Picha

The first floor of the C.S.P.S. Hall has always been commercial space. Václav Picha (1841–1914) moved into the corner store advertising "Wines, Liquors, and Cigars." Although he came to America as a tailor in the early 1870s, he turned to saloon-keeping and his 25-year occupancy of the Hall is legendary. Old Picha, as he was called, was full of fun. He knew lots of jokes. When anyone came in he started telling one, and then everybody had a good laugh. The saloon had a wide reputation, and when anyone came in from out of town, he knew where to go. At the end of the bar was a free lunch counter. A person could buy a big glass of beer for a nickel and go to the lunch counter and eat for nothing.[90] Florence Panushka Mann related when fathers sent their children with pails to take Picha's beer home, he would pour the beer slowly so that the child could eat at the same counter--for free! [91]

Vaclav Picha.
1902 photo Sokol Minnesota

Ceska Svobodna Skola/ Czech Free School. Czech Saturday Class at the old Jefferson School. Vaclav Picha as "Czech" teacher. Photo circa 1905 Sokol MN

Anton Jurka

Another local Czech founder was Anton Jurka (1840–1917), born in Královice, Bohemia. He immigrated in 1866 to Chicago where he was active in the theater. In 1867, he was editor of *Pozor americke* and *Katolické noviny* in St. Louis. In 1870, he moved to St. Paul, married Karolina Novak, and established his family in a small cottage at 16 Douglas Street. He taught Czech and German language in the St. Paul public schools. His innovative teaching methods incorporated music and physical activity that complimented his Sokol philosphy. In 1900, when his teaching appointment was terminated in the St. Paul Schools, he moved his family to New York and became Executive Secretary of the Czech Benevolent Society. In New York his daughter, famous stage and screen actress Blanche Yurka, began her rise to fame.

Anton Jurka.
1902 photo Sokol Minnesota

Franta and Anna Skok

Frank Skok (1847 - 1922) is listed as a founding member of the first Bohemian organization, *Slovanska Lipa* (1868) which was absorbed by the C.S.P.S. fraternal insurance organization in 1879. These pictures hang proudly amongst other founders in the Hall's mezzanine membership room.

Frank, the communal blacksmith, left his village Bošilec-Ševětín on March 2, 1861 to come to America. Frank and Mary Skok lived a few blocks from the C.S.P.S. Hall at 267 Goodhue until her death in 1887.

Anna (Meskan) Skok (1858–1935) was born in Bohemia and brought to the U.S. as an infant. She married John Skok, Frank's brother, in St. Paul in 1880. After John died in 1886, she married Frank June 1888. Anna was the mother and step-mother to about 14 children. Skoks lived on Goodhue until 1960.

Franta and Anna Skok. 1890 photo Sokol Minnesota

Frank Skok's Wagon Blacksmith and Horse Shoeing Shop Superior and West 7th

Interior of Frank Skok's blacksmith shop on the corner of Superior and West 7th Street. Standing by the forge, in long leather apron, is Emil Skok, next to the essential anvil. Next is young Bill Skok, called "Weiner." In center is Frank Skok, with John Busta at right. In the foreground, the bellows pumped oxygen into the coals for a white hot heat in its brick forge. The Schmidt Brewery wagon is a tank or hopper truck. With no sign of electricity, the doors face south to let in the most natural light.

Superior and West 7th: Frank Skok's Wagon Blacksmith and Horse Shoeing Shop. 1900 photo David Christopherson

Cyril Congregational Church 277 Erie Street

Cyril Congregational Church.was formed in 1886 in the "free church" tradition of local congregational autonomy with services in the Czech language.The church dissolved in 1959 and its records were transferred to the Minnesota Historical Society

Czech and Slovak Sokol Minnesota

Sokol promotional placard. Circa 1930 photo Sokol Minnesota

Miroslav Tyrš, founder of the Sokol Union. Portrait by Jan Vilímek. Sokol Minnesota.

The Sokol (Czech: falcon) movement is an all-age fitness and cultural organization founded in Prague in 1862 by Miroslav Tyrš (1832 –1884) and father-in-law Jindřich Fügner (1822–1865). Czechs, along with Poles, Russians, etc. are a Slavic people and were ruled by the Germanic Austro-Hungarians in Vienna.

Though born "German" Tyrš embraced the Czechs of Prague, fought for independence in 1848, and suffered as a consequence. In 1860, he became a Doctor of Philosophy with a specialty in the history of art. His poor physical condition led him to take up gymnastics. He introduced and organized a physical training system after the classic Greek model (*Základy tělocviku*/Basics of Physical Training, 1865) that became popular. "The Sokol movement based upon the principle of "a strong mind in a sound body"; the Sokol, through physical training, lectures, discussions, and group outings, provided what Tyrš viewed as physical, moral, and intellectual discipline for the nation. This training extended to men of all ages and classes, and eventually to women."[92] At this time, the movement spread internationally with emigrants and continues to this day with mass gymnastic festivals or *slets*/flocks every six years in Prague and every four years in the U.S. In its history Sokol has been repressed three times, by the Hapsburgs, Nazis, and Communists.

First Sokol womens gymnastic class with twirling kužely/bowling pins. (l-r) Bessie Walla, .., Cara Hayduk, .., Josephine Posel, .., Bessie Heyduk, ... 1908 Photo by Aug Smutný/Sokol Minnesota

The first American Sokol unit was organized in St. Louis, Missouri, in 1865; St. Paul's on June 13, 1882. As the programmatic arm of the secular Czech-Slovak community in St. Paul, Sokol sponsored its physical education classes and even joint outings with the Turners, a German physical culture society. In 1885, the Sokol in St. Paul adopted the name *Sokol Zizka*, after Czech Hussite General Jan Zizka. Interest waned in the 1890s, but a dynamic unit was formed to include not only physical training but also singing and theater programs. The St. Paul Sokol spread the idea of Sokol to neighboring states and other Minnesota towns. In 1915, the St. Paul Sokol participated in its first *slet*—a gymnastics competition and public exhibition—at Harriet Island in St. Paul.

Sokol development slowed during World War I. Many Sokol members enlisted in the Canadian, U.S., and Czech armies to fight for Czech independance against Austria. In 1926, the District of Minnesota Sokols built a camp in Pine City, Minnesota. In 1978, the St. Paul Sokol Gymnastic Society purchased the Hall from the CSA/C.S.P.S., by mutual agreement, for a nominal purchase price and changed their name to (Czech and Slovak) Sokol Minnesota to reflect the larger membership area and carry on the traditions after the dissolution of Minnesota Sokol units.

Three West End Sokol generations

Joseph Walla/Valla.
1902 photo Sokol Minnesota

Joseph Walla (1854–1925) emigrated from Bohemia in 1864 with his first wife Flora (1863–unk) and was naturalized a citizen in 1871. They lived at 364 Goodhue with their daughter Bessie and nephew Emil Jelinek. Joseph and Emil were metal sheet "tinners". When Flora died Joseph married Veronica (1865–unk) in 1881. Veronica immigrated in 1866 and was naturalized in 1882.

Daughter Bessie married Albert Smolik, who immigrated in 1895 and was another tinner. In 1920 they and their son Don, and two daughters Sylvia and Georgiana (1918–2013) also lived at 364 Goodhue. Granddaughter Georgiana married Albert Buzicky (1915–1974) and when he died she married John Dolejsi in 1975.

The families had strong ties to Bohemia, its language and culture, and Sokol Minnesota through generations — Georgiana was of a generation that knew immigrants that knew Tyrš. Joseph Walla was the first *náčelnik* or mens gymnastic director for Sokol, and his daughter Bessie was the first *náčelnice* or women's gymnastic director. Bessie and Albert have tributary plaques honoring their service, 70 and 76 years respecively. Georgiana not only became a local and regional *náčelnice*, but organized fund-raising, traditional ethnic dinners and festivals that continues to this day. She participated in Saint Paul's first Festival of Nations (1932) as well as in international slets in Prague, even in 1938 just before Nazi occupation of Czechoslovakia. As a self-taught pianist, she organized the senior singers and compiled a song book of folk tunes in the Czech and Slovak languages.

Uniqueness of West Seventh cultural life benefitted. For 78 years she watched the building she loved move forward with preservation, the gym and language classes grow, ethnicity and customs shared. "For years no one joined her beloved Sokol without a welcoming hug, a beautiful smile, and a heartfelt greeting."[93]

Georgiana Buzicky (Dolejsi) as womens and childrens physcial trainer. Circa 1950 photo Sokol Minnesota

Wally Schovanek on accordion with Sokol children in their native *kroj* (costumes) at the Shriner Hospital for Children in Saint Paul. Circa 1936 photo Sokol Minnesota

1870s: The Upper Levee

With the shift of commerce to the Lower Landing in the 1870s, the Upper Landing became the de facto immigrant center. Immigrants disembarked from steamships making the landing, St. Paul's unofficial Ellis Island. An immigrant community began as a series of squatters' shacks along the public levee primarily occupied by Irish and Poles. As the levee became crowded, people built tarpaper shacks on piles set back from the river.

Upper levee "clammers' shacks" with Goodrich Avenue homes on the bluff. 1868 photo MNHS

1880: The Lost Colony of the Bohemian Settlement

The first "Bohemian" immigrants to Saint Paul came in 1860 including Michael Kartak. While most settled in the West End, on the "flats" toward the High Bridge, an insular community of immigrants formed that came to be known as the "Bohemian Settlement." In the 1880 Census, twenty-four families (47 adults, 65 children), 23 Bohemian and one Prussian, were officially listed as residing in the settlement. Unlike the rest of the census for that year, there were no streets or house numbers. According to newspaper accounts that year, the community was located on the river flats and split by the railroad at the High Bridge. 1880 was a significant year since newspapers of the time refer to the inhabitants being evicted for the railroad right-of-way.

The census detailed the mens' occupations: laborer (8), stone mason (4), tailor (3), shoemaker (2), policeman, saddler, horse collar maker, harness maker, and carpenter (one each):

Laborer Vansel (age 60) and Mary (age 54) Mases; Tailor Theofild (28) and Frances (25) Fuksa, 3 children and grandmother Mary Krocak (76, e before 1875); Shoemaker Vansel (58, e 1870) and Catherine (53, e

Upper Levee; Ruins Concert Hall Block on right. 1873 Edward Bromley, photo MNHS

1876) Najman, one child; Policeman John (21, e 1877) Mary (21, e 1877) Klecacky, one child; Saddler Frank (32, e 1866) Mary (31, e 1866) Veverka, four children; Stone mason Andrew (49) Mary Heierson (48); Tailor Mathias (27) Mary (19) Sima, one child; Tailor Frank (30, e 1874) Annie (27, e 1874) Sima, two children; Stone mason Vasel (45, e 1877) Mary (45, e 1877) Klecacky, four children; Shoemaker Frank (46 e 1872) Elenora Borovansky (37 e 1873), four children; Laborer Albert (56 e 1870) Catherine (59 e 1870) Vondra; Carpenter Albert (31, e1879) Annie (28, e1879) Kadlec, one child; Horse collar maker Frank Mary Bartos (e 1876), two children; Laborer Joseph (42) Anna (42) Masek, five children; Laborer Frank (67, e1863) Catherine (68) Brom, three teenagers; Laborer Mathias (50) Catherine (48) Kluzak, five children; Stone mason Dominick (44) Marketa (38) Petrasek, four children; Harness maker Fredrick (41) Louisa (31) Wigand, seven children (Prussian); Stone mason John (46) Rosa (39) Svoboda (e about 1870), three children; Laborer Jacob (59) Anna (59) Sonka; Laborer Frank (32, e1867) Mary (34, e1867) Wosika, five children; Laborer John (47, e1873) Anna (43, e1873) Masek, five children; Anna (38) Oupor, five children.

United States Census, 1880. Minnesota, Ramsey, St Paul, ED 11, Image 18.

Collaborations

During World War I, T. G. Masaryk led a movement to establish an independent Czechoslovakia and became its first president. He depended on the Czech- and Slovak-American community for financial and political support and the St. Paul and Minnesota organizations rose to the occasion—including Sokols, members of the C.S.P.S. and Z.C.B.J. lodges, and St. Stanislaus and St. Cyril churches. After Masaryk's success and independence in 1918, a short 20 years later Adolph Hitler occupied Czechoslovakia as his first European conquest with the blessing of France and Britain. Again Czech and Slovak-American domestic groups donated financial and political support to successfully liberate Czechoslovakia from the Nazis but in 1948, the communists siezed power and the nation fell behind the Iron Curtain. Sokol was again banned as it was under the Austro-Hungarian and Nazi regimes until the Velvet Revolution of 1989 that ended 41 years of one-party rule in Czechoslovakia. Sokol was reestablished in 1990, and on January 1, 1993, Czechoslovakia split into two countries—the Czech and Slovak Republics.

Today the C.S.P.S. Hall is a center for Czech and Slovak cultural and fitness programming in Minnesota—for recent immigrants as well as for the metro area families that have preserved its traditions since the 1880s.

Upper Levee. 1889 photo MNHS

Italian Settlement
Little Italy

"it was the start of the depression, many young men were unemployed, and there was a high rate of juvenile arrests. The residents hoped that (Alice) Sickels, a graduate student in Social Work, would find ways to keep these young men out of trouble and aid in planning programs for the new community center."[94]

In 1938, Sickels published her Master's Thesis at the University of Minnesota as *The Upper Levee Neighborhood: A Study of an Isolated Neighborhood of About One Hundred Italian Families in St. Paul, Minnesota*.

She found a community of 200 buildings, almost all of them single-family homes and all facing the river along three streets that ran parallel to the Mississippi. She documented that the neighborhood was "almost a trans-planted southern Italian village (*Abruzzi-Molise*)." Village ties were important to the Italian immigrants: 30 of the community's 50 marriages were between people from the same town. The residents maintained traditional Italian values by keeping close family ties, established their own restaurants and taverns in the West 7th area, and attended the local Catholic Church, Holy Redeemer, where Mass was said in Italian.

"Little Italy" below the High Bridge, 1952. MNHS

The neighborhood had 410 people in ninety-eight families. Of the 410 people, 316 were "pure" Italian, and most residents found it hard to believe that there were more than seventy non-Italians on the levee. When Sickels visited, most of the residents were semi-skilled workers or day laborers, and the largest group worked for the city.

The people Sickels talked with remembered 1888 as the only year in which the entire levee was flooded to the roofs of the houses, but they also remembered frequent minor flooding. By the early 1900s, the river flats of Upper Landing gradually passed to the Italian immigrants from the region of Molise in south-central Italy. The river figured daily in the life of Little Italy's residents. The oldest residents Sickels found told of a community which at one time had made frequent use of the river. Mary, the oldest Polish resident, remembered Polish fishermen seining carp and buffalo fish to sell commercially in the city. An early resident named Guiseppe recalled, "The water in the Mississippi was clear and shallow. Harriet Island was a popular boating and picnic beach reached by row boats from the Levee." Women washed clothes in the river. Residents scrounged the bark and waste wood from the sawmills for fuel and for supplies for their shacks, though they had to avoid using any logs marked by the logging companies in building their houses. Log booms provided diving platforms for the levee's boys. Ducks, chickens, and goats were quite common, and most residents had gardens where they grew tomatoes, endive, peppers, zucchini, and other vegetables. Early residents obtained their water from a nearby spring.

But by the early 1900s, the river had become very polluted and carried a foul stench; the river became more nuisance than asset. The fishermen disappeared as pollution worsened. With the northern timberlands cut-over, the sawmills closed. By the time of Sickels' visit, she noted that, "The stench from the polluted waters of the Mississippi is at times very bad."

Leonard (Guv) Todora and Ann Todora (Mrs. Stanley) in boat on the Upper Levee during flood, 1952. MNHS

Mill street during the 1952 flood in Little Italy, 1952. MNHS

Flooding

St. Paul is known for its springtime floods just down from the confluence of the Minnesota and Mississippi Rivers.

In the Pioneer Press of April 27, 1881, A. L. Larpenteur reported that in 1852 the first floor of his warehouse on the levee at Jackson Street was under water and that a steamboat ran up "against the second story window in the rear of the warehouse through which her freight was discharged." The 1881 flood crested at 19.7 feet and was the benchmark until the 1951 and 1952 floods. The flood of 1951 approached the 1881 level, but 1952's was the most destructive, displacing 5,000 people, mainly in Little Italy and the West Side, and causing millions of dollars in damage. It crested at 22 feet on April 16, 1952. The flood caused $7 million in damage to St. Paul and South St. Paul—nearly $63 million in today's dollars. It was also blamed for two deaths.

Though the residents of the Upper Levee had the means to move to a better neighborhood, they continued to remain in the community. With the flood of 1952, the residents at the Upper Levee suffered extreme property damage, and the city of St. Paul decided the settlement's location was too hazardous. An urban renewal and relocation plan was implemented by the Housing and Redevelopment Authority, and the Upper Levee residents were dispersed throughout the city.

The area was cleared by the St. Paul Housing and Redevelopment Authority, and eventually leased to Kaplan Brothers Scrap company. In 1989 the land was again reclaimed by the city for a residential complex.

364 Mill Street, Mill Street School in Little Italy. With no room for a playground, the roof served as its "playground," 1931. MNHS

Don Boxmeyer: Italian Renaissance

Don Boxmeyer (1941–2008) was the Master Storyteller of St. Paul for a generation of newspaper readers. He wrote insightful, gentle stories about interesting people in St. Paul—big shots and regular folks alike. During his 36 years with the Pioneer Press newspaper, Boxmeyer was revered as a skillful writer who knew the community well and, with his genial touch, captured the essence of the town and its characters.[95]

In one of his signature columns for the St. Paul Pioneer Press "Italian Renaissance (for Little Italy)" (June 26, 2001), Don Boxmeyer described "a village of southern Italy transported as if by magic from the wild mountains of Abruzzo and Molise and was placed on the banks of the Father of Waters." He interviewed Ernest Ramacier a resident of Winslow Commons and who recalled how the men of the Upper Levee "went off to work each morning, some rail roaders, some as packinghouse workers at the nearby J. T. McMillan Co., some at Northern States Power Co. and many of them as ditch diggers for the city of St. Paul. My father, Dominic, was among them and every morning they would gather to walk to work with their picks and shovels on the shoulders. Their gate was spirited, and the conversation was in Italian. Little or no English was spoken. On their return at the end of their workday, their pace was slow, in a sort of rhythmic way, and no longer a group, but spaced out for a block or so, and with their bundles again on their drooping shoulders. There was no conversation this time."

Simple homes, bountiful gardens. The wood-frame houses the men returned to were nestled side by side along the three streets of the levee, like seats in a theater all focused on the stage—in this case , the river. The houses on the levee were simple but neat and tidy, almost all of them fenced. Most had two other features: a garden that was just as large as possible, and an oven that looked like an Eskimo igloo for making bread.

"Mother began with 10 pounds of flour, some eggs, some yeast, salt, and water. She mixed and kneaded until an entire 50-pound sack of flour turned into dough and raised for several hours in a special bread tub. When the dough was ready, she would bake six loaves at a time in the brick oven that Ernie's father built inside a shed in the back yard." And what couldn't' be grown or baked was available at the grocers on the Upper Levee, Vanelli's, located in the neighborhood, and Cossetta's at Chestnut Street and Ryan Avenue.

(Dominic) Fabio, the famous river cop, recalled that his job was to patrol the river in his homemade boat, the *Minnesota*. He would try to keep the kids out of the brewery and mushroom caves that lined both sides of the riverbank upriver of the levee, and to keep youngsters from swimming in the river. The river was like a magnet to the children of the levee, drawing them there to swim and jump into the drink from rope swings tied high up in the trees along the bank.

"It's OK, I'm not going out that far." Those were the last words of Perina Mancini, Nick's sister, before she entered the Mississippi River. She was wearing her (heavy) woolen swimsuit and her body was never found. Soon after, the Mancini family moved up to West Seventh.

Angelo and Josephina Mancini children (l-r) Perina, Nick, Bertha, 1931. Mancini family

1930 and 1950: The Lost Colony of Little Italy

Families of Little Italy, 1930 Census (immigration year, unless noted country of origin Italy), 1938. MNHS

Employment as listed in the 1930 Census: (McMillan) packing plant, 29; water dept, 17; city, 11; railroad, 10; factory, 10; dept store, brush factory, odd jobs, 6 each; (Franklin) steam laundry: 5; bakery, tin shop, candy: 3 each; (NSP) power plant: 2; printer, grocer: 1 each.

Bold italic: Families that remained in the 1950 Census. Sources: census records and city directories.

Loreto/Loretta Street, Address

1@#395: Matin (1897, Poland) and Martha (1978, Germany) Matykiewizy, 4 children; 2@#387: Pasquale (1909) and Josephine (1909) Dadario, 4 children; 3@#383/5: Pasquale (1891) and Mary (1903) Totoro, 4 children; 4@#379: *Antonio (1910) and Maria Donata (1912) Ruberto;* 5@#375: *Mike (1893) and Rose Fritz,* 5 children; 6@#371: *Madalena (1909) Ferraro*; 7@#367: Mariano (1910) and Natale (1902) Tallarico; 8@#363: *Tony (1914) Rainelli;* 9@#366: *M Tallarico*

Mill Street, Address

10@#409: vacant; 11@405: *Angelo (1908) and Isabella (1912) Maurizio*; 12@#401: *Mike (1895) and Mary (1897) Mascotte*; 13@#395: Nicola (1912) and Filomena (1916) Dadario; 14@#393: Jeneveve (1893) Fabio; Nick and Thelma Fabio; 15@#387: *Michele (1909) and Mary (1913) Marzitelli, Tallarico;* 16@#381: Antonio (1882) and Teresina (1910) Fiore, Pasquale (1909) and Mary (1907) Vincelli; 17@#379: *Antonio (1901) and Mary (1908) Paduano*; 18@#369: vacant; 19@#365: *Leonardo (1889) and Florence (1903) Vanelli, Len (1901) and Maria (1903) Vanelli*; Frank and Eva (1918, Russia) Urman: 365; 20@#361: Domenico (1910) and Emmanuela (1926), Vincelli and Domenick (1898) Perluzzi, Jim (1882) and Emanuela (1922) Sauro; 21@#410: *H. Eilers*; 22@#406: *Francesco (1923) and Maria (1929) Colucci*; 23@#402: Carmine (1901) Marcogliese; 24@#400: Domenico (1913) and Madalena (1921) Marzitelli; 25@#394: Gaetano (1904) and Rose (1909) Dandrea; 26@#382: *Andrew (1919) and Josephine (1919) Vincelli*; 27@#380: vacant

Upper Levee Street, Address

28@#439: *Frank (1924) and Rose Sciacco,* 2 children; 29@#435: *Leonardo (1896) and Gaetana (1900) Fiorito*; 30@#425–27: 31@#423: *Ralph (1891) and Concetta (1904) Ferraro*; 32@#419: Frank (1923) and Antonette Caticchio; 33@#415: Joseph (1900) and Mary (1904) Vignali; Mary (1906) Casacalenda; Peter Otouhil; Antoinetta (1904) Janetto; 34@#403–405: *K McCumber*; 35@#403: *Antonio (1888) and Maria Nicola (1897) Sauro*; 36@#399: Angelo (1911) and Josephine (1919) Mancini, Mary (1907) Totora.

1900s: Three Italian mercantile families

337 & 380 Seventh Street: Bonfe's Auto Service & Body Repair

On May 23, 1893, the family of Francesco (Frank) Bonofiglio emigrated from Calabria in the "toe" of Italy to Harrison County, West Virginia. After Francisco died at 43, the extended family of two brothers and sister plus Frank's children and their mother relocated to Minnesota about 1924. Frank's son Sam (Salvatore) began working as an auto mechanic at Harold Hanson's garage at 255 West 7th. On July 19, 1942, the family name was legally changed to "Bonfe" and in 1951 he purchased the building at the corner of West 7th and Smith Avenue. His son Roger grew the enterprise from 1970–1990, and sons Tom and Tony from 1990 to present including a 25,000 sq. ft. addition in 2005. Bonfe's Auto Service and Body Repair has 35 employees, 55 stalls and performs complete collision, painting, detailing, glass and automotive repairs.

Sam (l) and Roger (r) Bonfe. Photo: Bonfe family.

531 Seventh Street West Mancini's Char House

In 1911, Angelo Pasquale Mancini emigrated from the commune of Fragneto l'Abate, Province of Benevento, in the Italian region Campania, and worked as a furrier while living at 395 Upper Levee in 1920. His wife Josephina arrived in 1919 from the commune of Casacalenda, Province of Campobasso, Molise. They had three children, Perina, Bertha, and Nick.

In 1948, Nick returned from a tour of duty in Japan and mortgaged the family home with his parents to open Mancini's Bar at 531 West Seventh Street. The West End tavern sat about 50 people with a long bar and kitchen featuring Josephina's recipes from Italy. Its building by local architect William J. Gronewald was built as a store and dwelling in 1886.

531 Seventh Street West, Original Mancini's Bar. Nick Mancini, Josephine Mancini (Nick's Mother) and John DelVicario (Nick's Uncle/ Josephine's Brother) behind the original bar. Johnny "Dels" also had a tavern in Little Italy. Mancini family.

Not long afterward, Nick studied Italian grilling techniques and in 1965 opened a renovated *Char House* featuring steaks and seafood. The Vegas-style lounge opened in the 1980s and generations of the Mancini family hospitality continues to this day: *Entre come amico. Partire come famiglia*: Enter as friend. Leave as family.

228 South Franklin
Cossetta Food Market

In the 1900 Census Michael (b 1857) Cossetti/ Cossetta immigrated in 1880 from Calabria, Italy. His wife Irene (b 1868) arrived in 1896 with their first-born, Alfred, and settled on the Upper Levee at 197 Eagle Street. A stepson Michael immigrated in 1899 and worked as a waiter. In 1911, Michael, Sr., opened a food market called Cossetta's at 226 Ryan, which drew customers from everywhere who appreciated his quality foods and genuine hospitality.

266 Ryan at Franklin, First location of Cossetta Food Market in Irvine Park. Photo MNHS

Since 1984, Cossetta's has been known for its award-winning pizza, homemade sauces, and handmade Italian sausages. On the occasion of its 100-year anniversary, the fourth-generation family expanded the tradition to include all the Old World sensations and offerings a customer might experience in Italy and opened The New Cossetta Alimentari featuring the Pizzeria & Eatery, Italian Market, Pasticceria (authentic Italian pastries!), and Louis Restaurante and Bar on the third floor. *Qualita di Vita. Cibo Buono*: Good Food. The Quality of Life.

Church of the
Most Holy Redeemer

Although the Roman Catholic Church of the Most Holy Redeemer was not organized as a parish until May 27, 1901, priests from the Cathedral of St. Paul had been attending to the religious needs of the Italian community in the city on a missionary basis since 1874. The congregation was officially incorporated on February 6, 1906. A poor parish, it initially met in a small church on Market Street across from Rice Park. Later, services were held in the basement of the old cathedral. When the old cathedral was dismantled in 1914, the congregation met in Assumption Church. A new building for Holy Redeemer congregation was built on College Avenue near St. Peter Street and dedicated on January 9, 1916. In 1968 the property was acquired for the Interstate-94/35E construction, and the congregation moved to the northern suburb of Maplewood. In 2007, it merged with the Church of St. Peter.

College Avenue near St. Peter Street. Church of the Holy Redeemer, 1920. MNHS

The services over, there is a wistful lingering on the church steps. Salutations are exchanged. Perhaps the "padre" is to be consulted. Groups chat pleasantly in the musical Italian tongue. Finally, the picturesque congregation melts away. Little Italy vanishes for another Sunday. The Saint Paul Globe. October 21, 1900 page 5

Seven Corners

Commercial development of the West End began with John Irvine and Henry Rice's real estate developments around their respective parks. Irvine's development proceeded up to what was to become Fort Road (a direct line from Rice's development to Fort Snelling). East of their developments were those of the Lower Landing. When the midtown between the landings was developed and platted, the Township of Saint Paul emerged, as did the grid for its streets. Third Street skirted the bluff and connected the two commercial centers.

At the western end of the town, early commercial development and the street grid merged at Seven Corners. At Seven Corners Third Street crossed Seventh Street and took a right turn up the hill. Fort Road or Seventh Street turned left out to Fort Snelling, and Fourth and Fifth Streets terminated.

In the mid-to-late-nineteenth century, the West 7th Street neighborhood extended west from Rice Park, Irvine Park, and Uppertown and was home

Seven Corners looking East on 4th Street, 1861. MNHS

to newcomers attracted to the area's industries, including quarries, breweries, foundries, factories, and railroad shops.

By the mid-1870s, railroad construction was swallowing riverside residential districts and, as Henry Castle notes "a rapid hegira for the hills was well underway. Once fashionable streets such as Woodward, where Henry Sibley settled in1863, were no longer so. Some houses were demolished for rail construction, while others were converted to hospitals or tenements.[96]

Seven Corners, a Convergence of Streets

In 1878, an unnamed reporter for the Saint Paul Globe interviewed "Seven Corners," a personification of the intersection:

"You may well laugh. The corner of Fourth, and Fifth and Seventh streets, sounds queer enough. But remember we are St. Paul."

"How do you account for the irregularity, do you ask? I will repeat the words of a city official, who has an original explanation. He says, when this place (Seven Corners) was settled by the pioneers, trappers, etc., each man spotted his house where he pleased. When the number became greater, enough to imagine a city, they commenced to lay out streets, but considerately made a turn for every old settler. To accommodate them again, the streets were made narrow, so they wouldn't have to walk far between houses, when they got on their nightly apple jack frolics."[97]

West End Arts and the WPA

Before the Artist Lofts at the Schmidt Brewery, Seven Corners of Saint Paul was the creative center of the West End and of St Paul. In the 1870s, Alfred Sederberg's studio was located in the Forepaugh Block and specialized in (Minnesota) landscapes, portraits, photgraphs and daguerotypes. In 1884, S. M. Taylor's Seven Corners Photographic Gallery. at No. 217 West Third Street was one of the principal photographic studios in St. Paul, and although not the oldest it was probably the best known in the city, and certainly one of the most liberally patronized.[98]

From 1895–1904, the St. Paul School of Fine Arts occupied the Moore Building, 175–179 Seventh Street, current site of the Holiday Inn. "In this environment, men and women attended morning, afternoon, and evening classes, either for their own recreation or to build a portfolio and head East to make a career in New York or Paris. The emphasis was on instruction and the work created, not exhibition."[99]

In 1904, the school relocated to the new St. Paul Auditorium, and in 1909 merged to become the St. Paul Institute School of Art. In 1924, after a gap during World War I, it reorganized and relocated several times within the city.

In the 1920s, Montparnasse and Montmartre were centers of creativity in Paris. *Les années folles* or Crazy Years drew writers and artists from Minnesota and around the world. Major international figures included Pablo Picasso, Salvador Dali, Ernest Hemingway, F. Scott Fitzgerald, James Joyce, and Josephine Baker who often could be found in Gertrude Stein's salon.

"Often referred to as the Lost Generation, American artists in Paris during the 1920s found a voice, a style, and a philosophy that eventually gave birth to American Modernism. What was it about their community that inspired such an enduring artistic epiphany in the creative minds of the world? Unlike the segregated United States of America in the 1920s, cultural diversity thrived in Paris, fueling countless innovations in literature, music, arts and technology."[100]

Several prominent Minnesota artists and writers studied in Paris. Cameron Booth (1892–1980), dean of Minnesota painters, spent 1919 in Paris, taught at the Minneapolis School of Art, and in 1929 became director of the St. Paul School of Art. When the depression hit in 1929, he was central to Roosevelt's New Deal

(Seven Corners, Third) Street View. Metro Omnibus Line. Circa 1906 Stereoscope Charles A. Zimmerman, photographer, New York Public Library.

Public Works of Art Project (PWAP, 1933–35) and Federal Art(s) Project (FAP) until 1943 when all WPA work was reassigned to the WWII war effort.

In 1923, West End native Clement Haupers and his partner Clara Mairs studied with Cubist painter Andre L'hote in Paris and in 1928 printmaking under George Gorvel. At the outset of the depression in 1929, Haupers taught at the St. Paul School of Art and in 1935 was appointed the regional director of Minnesota's Federal Art Project. Class offerings for adults were held in the post office building at Fifth and Market (Landmark Center) and included fundamentals of art to cartooning, ceramics, puppetry, crafts, photography, and interior design.[101] In 1932, the school moved to Selby Avenue though returned to downtown several decades later.

Haupers: "I would say the (WPA) opened up the awareness that art was part of the daily function to a vast quantity of people who otherwise didn't have it . . . and for artists to maintain and increase skills." Haupers went on to praise the role of the State Fair in bringing visibility to art in Minnesota.[102]

Wabasha between Third and Fourth Streets Grand Opera House. Dedicated February 22, 1867, and lost to fire January 1888, 1888 MNHS

Sixth and Exchange. Harris Theater, Opera House and Academy of Music. Built Built in 1889 by P (Patrick Egan) Harris (1847-1890), McElpatrick (New York) architect. Became the Park Theater in 1891 though closed soon after. Harris built eight "popularly priced" theaters throughout the U.S. including Minneapolis and Saint Paul. Seated 1,600 with ten private suites. RCHS

P. (Patrick Egan) Harris[103]

Canadian Patrick Egan's (1847–1890) family relocated to Lakeville and St. Paul in 1862, where after serving in the Civil War and a circus in New Orleans, he took a half interest in a "dime museum" in Baltimore, where he started a theater "giving first-class, clean amusements at popular prices" and changed his name to Harris. His theater soon became the largest and in quick succession assumed the successful management of theaters in Washington, Pittsburgh, Cincinnati, and Louisville as affordable, quality entertainment venues. A few years before his death he realized his dream of establishing theaters in Minneapolis and St. Paul, the latter for which he had "tenderest affection." However as his health was deteriorating, with his brother P. F. Eagan, he took a vacation to Europe. On his return he died in Bay Shore Long Island. He was interred in Baltimore, leaving a wife and three children.

P. Harris, St. Paul's modern impresarios

"The monuments of his greatness are scattered from the Mississippi to the Atlantic in the various houses that bear his name.. that was symbolic of purity and refinement in theatricals. He was a singular example of what pluck and perseverance can accomplish in the face of the greatest obstacles… He was continually doing good in a quiet way, and he scarcely knew what it was to enjoy his riches."

Seven Corners Seventh Street, 1934. MNHS

Giesen's: Costumers to St. Paul—1872–1970[104]

In 1872, Marie Dreis Giesen (1836–1929) founded Giesen's Costumers as the first commercial costume business in Minnesota. She began with years of unpaid costuming for German-language operatic productions and "with twenty- two costumes, apparently confident that the city had enough cultural and social activity to sustain it . . . It grew into the largest costume house in the Midwest and one of the ten largest in the country… The Ordways and the Hills rented its costumes for balls and parties."

In 1850, Marie immigrated from Germany with her parents, and located in St. Paul in 1854. Her father, Joseph Dreis, was an artist in Cologne. Marie married Peter Giesen in 1860. He was a "bookbinder who had won exclusive rights to bind West Publishing Company books and owned Mozart Hall until his death in 1915. He published *Volkszeitung*, the German language newspaper of St. Paul, founded the Mozart Club, and was a trustee of the German Club.

Marie managed the business until 1901, when her youngest son, Martin, succeeded her. He was joined by his bride Olga Hilbert Giesen in 1904 until his death in 1943. "Giesen's continued to be a vital part of theater life in the Twin Cities under Olga's management, until the demands of the business and her own ill health forced her to sell in 1960. She died not long after. Its final owners kept it afloat until 1970, just two years short of its 100th anniversary."

From the mid-1870s to 1928 Giessen's Costumers occupied the second floor of Mozart Hall at Franklin (Main) Street. "Two or three salespersons were always on the floor, helping customers select the right costume, selling makeup, taking and filling orders, checking costumes in and out. Beyond the counter was a large room where two or three seamstresses worked, chief among them, Minnie Robinson, a mainstay of the business along with Jacobson and Georgiana D. Glaser, a clerk and all-around assistant. Giesen's provided costumes by mail all over the country. "There wasn't a day that went by that Olga didn't have three or four orders from outside St. Paul," Max Metzger, a musician with the St. Paul Opera Company and founder of St. Paul's Opera Workshop, recalled. Giesen's became the third largest mail order house in the United States sending costumes from Montana to Texas and hundreds of places in between." as well as official costumer for the St. Paul Civic Opera.

Marie Dreis Giesen (1836-1929) 1880. MNHS

First Turner Hall, Mozart Hall, and Labor Temple. Franklin (Main) between 6th and 9th Streets, 1927. MNHS

Robert Aaron (Bob) Brown

Brown was influenced by Honore Daumier, Peter Paul Reubens, El Greco, Diego Rivera, and Paul Cezeanne. Brown was born in Berlin, Wisconsin, in 1893, worked as an iron moulder and played professional baseball with the Toledo Mudhens. He lived in St. Paul from the mid 1920s. In 1929, he met Meridel LeSueur and they became life-long lovers until his death in 1954. He lived near Seven Corners through the 1930s where Kellogg Boulevard turned up to the cathedral near the Venice Cafe/Inn where the bohemian crowd gathered. Artists of the time included Bertrand Old, Wanda Gág, Clem Haupers and Clara Mairs, Angela Svobodny and William Fortune Ryan, Cameron Booth, F. Scott Fitzgerald, and Sinclair Lewis.

Brown had his most productive period in the 1930s as part of the Works Progress Administration Art Project when much of his work reflected the social and economic problems of the time and focused on urban or industrial scenes. His paintings have been described as some of the finest examples of Depression-era art. "Brown drew perverse inspiration from the razing of

Bob Brown pulling a lithograph, William Norman's Burlesque at the Walker Art Center print studio, 1938 Brown lost his first finger on his right hand in his youth. Curiously it has surprisingly reappeared in this later photo (anticipating Photoshop?) [106]

St. Paul buildings to make way for Kellogg Boulevard. His paintings and prints interpret the demolition as a Tower of Babel-like urban apocalypse.[105]

American Regionalism

"Most (Federal Arts Project) artists worked in a realistic style called American Regionalism. Their techniques, however, ranged from the scrupulously realistic to a looser, freer, more impressionistic style. The subject matter was mostly "the American scene." Artists created landscapes and scenes of farms and working farmers. They painted cityscapes and Minnesota's industries— lumber mills, factories, and iron mines–as well as its people. "[107]

Exchange Street to the Upper Landing near Seven Corners. 1935 Painting by William Fortune Ryan. West End native and artist Angela Svobodny Ryan and her husband's studies in Berlin were interrupted by the Depression in the mid-1930s. The milk bottle of St. Paul Milk Company is center and H B Fuller factory at right, circa 1935. Butch and Kathy Ryan

Bob Brown: Frosty Morning --Our Back Yard Watercolor. (His residence was at 222 W Kellogg, Apt 327) Circa 1935. Minneapolis Institute of Art

Meridel Le Sueur[108] [109]

In the March 1987 edition of the *Community Reporter*, Sharon "Sam" Darling interviewed Meridel Le Sueur as "*A Witness to the People.*" Le Sueur had documented the stories of Midwestern women, insisted that "their lives were not defeated, trashed, defenseless but that we as women contained the real and only seed, and were the granary of the people."[110]

She was born in 1900 in Murray, Iowa, and raised in a social and political activist environment spanning radical farmer and labor groups. She adopted the name of her mother's second husband, Arthur Le Sueur, a Socialist mayor of Minot, North Dakota.

Le Seur lived in a warehouse on West Seventh Street during the Depression of the 1930s with several other women—artists, farm women, city girls, writers, and prostitutes. They were "on relief," each living in one room with a stove and one toilet to a floor. They avoided soup lines where they were shunned by men. In 1926, Le Sueur married Harry Rice, a Marxist labor organizer, but two daughters and a few years later became life-long lover with Robert "Bob" Aaron Brown.

Meridel Le Sueur, 1940. MNHS

Her writing career spanned the twentieth century. Her seminal work, *The Girl*, originated with her experiences living in the Upper Levee during hard times. However, it was not published until 1978 since she constantly had to fight being blacklisted. As an activist based in the Midwest and St. Paul, she wrote about the Depression, about mortgages and foreclosure, the beginning of the unions, the fight for an eight-hour workday, for safe working conditions, for a system of social security. She died November 14, 1996, at her daughter's home in Hudson, Wisconsin.

The bohemian crowd of Seven Corners gathered at the Venice Inn, 234 Kellogg Boulevard, in the Great Depression (1929 to 1939) and Prohibition (1920 to 1933). Was the restaurant a speakeasy? The old stone peeking out of the side of the building may be brewer Martin Bruggemann's second Flour and Feed Store. Colorized 1950 MNHS image by Russ Hanson.[111]

West Seventh Street/Seven Corners

Fabel family shoe stores[112]

Fabel Shoe Store, 123 West Third Street. Fabels Conrad, second from left, Phillip at right, circa 1885. MNHS.

Reverse image of a "printers stone" found at Sean Kershaw and Timothy Hawkins' home on Goodhue. "Phillip Fabel, Dealer in Ladies & Gent's Boots and Shoes. Established 1856. 187 West 7th Street." A printers stone (lithographic limestone). Its source could have been from the Smyth Company, founded in 1877, that continues to provide printing services.

Conrad Fabel (1809–1892) emigrated from Darmstadt Hesse in central Germany in 1850 and came to Saint Paul in 1856. With his son Phillip (1836–1921), he opened a shoe store at 123 West Third Street, perhaps the first of the territory, making and repairing shoes. In 1858, Phillip moved to the Moore Building (across from the Xcel Center at Seven Corners) at 187 West Seventh Street. "Conrad continued making and selling shoes and boots, while Philip bought and sold ready-made shoes from a factory in Philadelphia. Father and son remained competitors within two or three blocks of each other for the balance of Conrad's career. When Philip needed more credit to meet the growing demand for shoes, he turned to his friend and customer Governor Ramsey, who wrote a letter to the shoe factory attesting to Philip Fabel's integrity and creditworthiness."

Philip Fabel was joined in business by his son W. E. (Walter Sr.) Fabel. Early in the twentieth century, the Fabels began to specialize. Their neighbor, the famed orthopedic surgeon Arthur Gillette started ordering special shoes for his patients. Soon the Fabels were the provider of shoes for patients at the State Hospital for Crippled Children—known after 1926 as the Gillette Hospital for Crippled Children. The Fabels were also the providers of the special shoes worn by many of Saint Paul's nuns.

W. E. Fabel's two sons, Walter and Forest, continued the business though Walter bought out Forest's share and closed the last location at 179 West Seventh in 1981 after a 125-year run. He died two weeks later.

West 7th/Seven Corners

214-220 West Seventh was built in 1889 by Greenleaf Clark (1835-1904). Clark was a respected lawyer and Judge and active with the Minnesota Historical Society and University of Minnesota, and major donor to the St. Paul's Central Library in 1906.

Joseph A. Theissen Harness and Saddles

Joseph Theissen (1869-1945) was born in Henderson, Sibley County to Mathias and Margaretha Pothen. Matthias was born in Hunningen a German-speaking town in Belgium and came to Minnesota in the 1850's with his family. In 1858, he married Margaretha who was born in Mürringen, another Belgian town.

214 West Seventh Joseph A. Theissen Harness and Saddles. In businss from 1907 - 1944, 1907. MNHS

214 West Seventh Joseph A. Theissen Harness and Hardware, 1932. MNHS
(Current site: OXBO Rentals)

Seven Corners Ace Hardware (1933-2014) 216 7th St West

William Walsh grew up in the West End and became an "elevator constructor" (1920 and 1930 U.S. Census). He started Seven Corners hardware in 1933 as a general store that suceeded Theissen's. Three generations grew the traditional hardware store into a mail order tool operation until its closing in 2015.+.
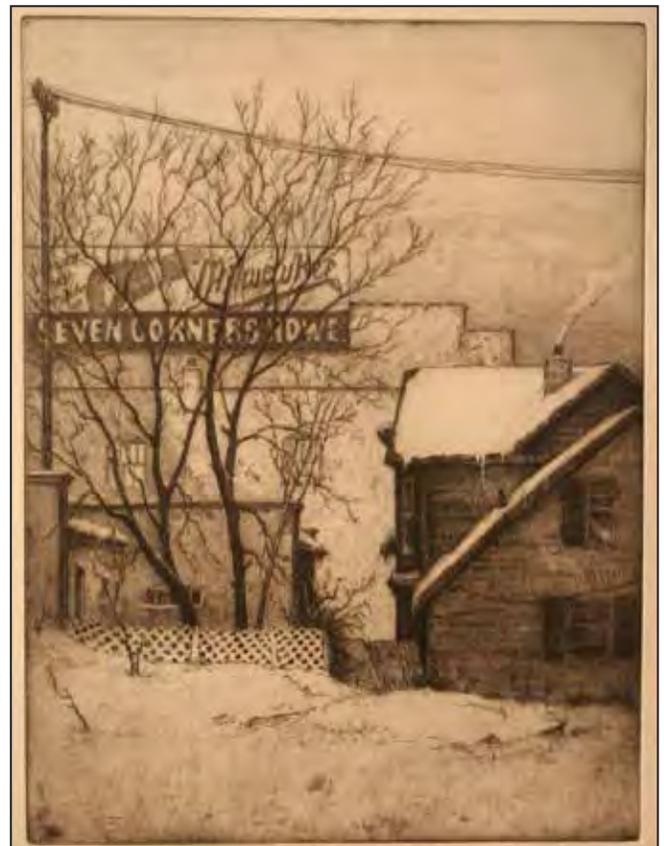
Seven Corners etching after a 2015 drawing by Stuart Loughridge, a Seven Corners artist. Image by permission of the artst

West 7th/Seven Corners
continued

Swift Robertson House[113]

287 West Seventh was built for George Swift and acquired in 1855 by Daniel A. Robertson (1812–1895) St. Paul Mayor (1859 to 1860), Ramsey County Sheriff. Robertson helped found the State Historical and Horticultural Societies, 1880. MNHS
(Current site: United Hospital)

344 Sherman Street. Robertson moved the house from 287 Seventh Street to Sherman in 1883. He died in 1889. In the 1900s the house was subdivided and deteriorated, then razed in 1956, 1888. MNHS
(Current site: parking lot)

Gardens of WENGT 2020

112 Leech Street   **North High Bridge Park**   **169 Goodrich Avenue**

WENGT committee gives thanks:
The West End Neighbors Garden Tours would not be possible without our West End gardeners welcoming our wandering along their yards and gardens for us to enjoy their beauty and contributions to our community.

104–116 West 7th Boss Auto. Built in 1935 next to the auditorium, 1931. MNHS
(Current site: parking lot)

131–33 West Seventh, Elk Laundry. Built 1908/9 by E. Albrecht. Razed 1970, 1931. MNHS
(Current site: Higher Ground Residence)

West 7th/Seven Corners

Widening West Seventh

In the mid-1930s properties along the south side of West Seventh Street lost 16 feet of property to widen the street. Each property was valued and photographed for that effort and the files stored at the MNHS. The project began "downtown" and extended out West Seventh Street in phases.

232–234 West Seventh, Ozonet Building. Built 1918; razed 1927, 1931. MNHS (Current site: parking lot).
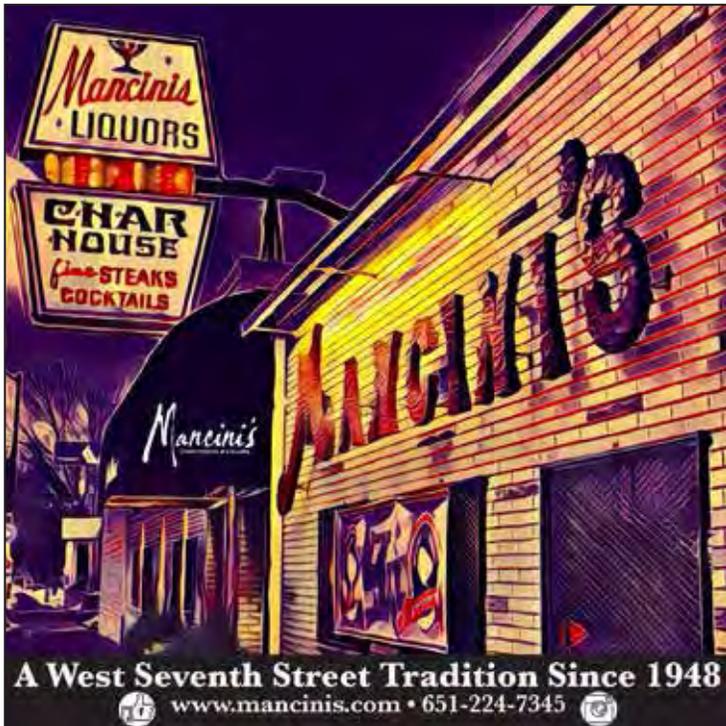
Gardens of WENGT 2020

156 McBoal Street

157–161 West Seventh, August B Wilgus Block. Built 1887 as a store and hotel, 1931. MNHS (Current: Intersection of Fifth & Seventh Streets)

177–195 West Seventh. Pence Auto Company/NW Cadillac Corporation. Built 1885; razed 1974, 1931. MNHS. (Current site: Future hotel and retail, Kellogg and West Seventh)

225–229 West Seventh. Brass Rail Tavern. Built in 1888 by R. A. Smith. 1951 Photo Minneapolis Star Tribune MNHS

211 West Seventh at Chestnut. Built in 1883 by C. Faber; razed 1969, 1931. MNHS (Current Cossetta's Italian Market & Pizzeria)

248 West Seventh. Built 1915, 1931. MNHS. (Current site: Burger Moes)

270–72 West Seventh, Melrose/Mannheimmer Building. Built in the late 1870's; French Second Empire style; stone with outer stucco layer. Razed 1999, 1931. MNHS (Current site: parking)

279–281 West Seventh, Judge Lafayette Emmett (1822-1905) Residence. Attorney General of the Minnesota Territory (1853-1858) First Chief Justice of the State of Minnesota (1858-1865). Built 1880; razed 1936, 1880. MNHS

302 West Seventh, Jansen Fuel. Built in 1888 as a coal office, 1931. MNHS (Current site: Sherman Forbes Housing)

Appreciation for the support of the West Seventh Street Federation/District 9 Community Council

President: Dana DeMaster;
1st Vice President - Wendy Underwood; 2nd Vice President - Tracy Farr;
Secretary - Anthony Molaro; Treasurer - Nicole Loran;

Coordinators:
Area 1 - Jessica Callahan, Casey Carmody, Elyse Jensen
Area 2 - Mary Cutrufello, Emma Pearl, Kelsey Peterson
Area 3 - Tanya Fabyanske Beck, Sara Fleetham, Meghan Redmond

Rochat-Louise-Sauerwein Block[114]

The Rochat-Louise-Sauerwein Block, 261–277 West Seventh Street, is significant as a fine representative of commercial storefront architecture from the Victorian era in St. Paul. The block exemplifies the once common practice of small businessmen, that of constructing a building for combined commercial and residential use (often occupied by the owners themselves). Viewed separately, the three buildings that comprise the block are of differing architectural significance,

261–277 West Seventh, Rochat-Louise-Sauerwein Block. Built 1885-1895. 2015 photo McGhiever [CC BY-SA 4.0 (https://creativecommons.org/licenses/by-sa/4.0)] accessed 11/25/2019

together they form a compatible and important composition in their contribution to the streetscape. When at its peak in the late nineteenth and early twentieth centuries, West Seventh Street was lined with three- and four-story brick Victorian structures like the Rochat-Louise-Sauerwein Block. The Block remains today as a rare surviving example of that era and building type in St. Paul.

The Rochat Building

277 West Seventh was built by a Swiss immigrant watchmaker George Rochat in 1884; William H. Castner, architect. Rochat died a few years after its completion. The building is an excellent example of a three-story Victorian commercial structure. The first-floor storefront is intact with original windows, doors, and zigzag brickwork.

277 West Seventh, Howard W. Belmont Motorcycles, Rochat Building, 1975. MNHS Belmont began in 1939, relocated to 1209 West Seventh Street in the 1970s.

Louise Building

Louise Building was constructed in 1885 by William Robertson, a realestate broker; Edwin Bassford architect. It is named for Robertson's wife Cora Louise, and perhaps his daughter. The three-story Victorian features fine decorative brickwork and is divided into nine bays by brick pilaster strips that run from the top of the second story windows to the roof parapet. Windows are set in semi-circular arches, segmental arches and rectangular surrounds. The structure is topped with a parapet, with a galvanized iron bracketed cornice. Above the parapet is a full pediment with the date 1885; below at the cornice line is the name "Louise." The first floor is separated from the second by a bracketed cornice, and contains storefronts, which are, for the most part, intact.

267–269 West Seventh, Louise Building. Franklin Steam laundry, 1905. MNHS

Sauerwein Building

The Sauerwein Building was constructed in 1895 for tavern owner John Sauerwein and his wife Antonia. They emigrated from Germany in 1880. The building was designed by Herman Kretz, and is more restrained than the Roehat or Louise Buildings. It features diamond brickwork below the cornice line and wrap around windows on the corner, with metal swags. It is divided into bays by brick pilaster strips.

The Sauerwein's Odd Fellows Lodge

From 1902 to 1946, the top floor of the Sauerwein Building was home to the expansive Odd Fellows "Capitol City Lodge No 48." The first half of the twentieth century was known as the "golden age of fraternalism" in America, with the Independent Order of Odd Fellows (IOOF--also known as The Three Link Fraternity) as the largest of the fraternal organizations. The first lodge in Minnesota was charted in Stillwater in 1849. Statewide membership peaked at 26,000 in the 1920s.

John Sauerwin family: (l-r) John, Jacob, Mary, Adolph, Antonia, 1888. Michael Black

THE ODD FELLOWS VALEDICTION
I AM AN ODD FELLOW
I believe in the Fatherhood of God, and the Brotherhood of man. I believe in Friendship, Love, and Truth as the basic guides to the ultimate destiny of all mankind. I believe my home, my church or temple, my lodge, and my community deserve my best work, my modest pride, my earnest faith, and my deepest loyalty, as I perform my duty "to visit the sick, relieve the distressed, bury the dead, and educate the orphan" and as I work with others to build a better world, because, in spirit and in truth, I am and must always be, grateful to my Creator, faithful to my country, and fraternal to my fellow-man.
I AM AN ODD FELLOW   Grand Lodge of MN mnoddfellows.org (accessed 8/26/20)

St. Luke's Hospital

St. Luke's Hospital was organized in 1855 by Episcopal minister John V. Van Ingen as the Christ Church Orphans' Home and Hospital, opened in 1857, and was managed by a "Board of Lady Managers." It closed in 1866 and reorganized as the Church Hospital and Orphans' Home with a lay board, including Henry H. Sibley, William Dawson, and Alexander Cathcart. The hospital had three successive locations: 96 West Fourth Street, 105 East Eighth Street, and finally a site at Smith Avenue and Sherman Street. In 1877, the name was changed to St. Luke's, and in 1920, it dropped its official affiliation with the Episcopal Church. Additions to the hospital were constructed in 1950-1952 and, in 1961, a revolutionary new "cloverleaf" design, consisting of three towers constructed around a single core, was constructed. This innovation was intended to provide better rapport between staff and patients. St. Luke's also pioneered many advanced medical procedures and medical technologies. In 1972, Saint Luke's and nearby


Smith Avenue and Sherman Street, St. Luke's Hospital, 1910. MNHS

Charles T. Miller Hospital consolidated to form United Hospital, using the physical campus of Saint Luke's and the human resources of both hospitals.

400 West Seventh at Smith, Sinclair Service Station. Built 1920; purchased by adjoining Goodyear in 1947, 1932. MNHS (Current site: hillside/bus stop)
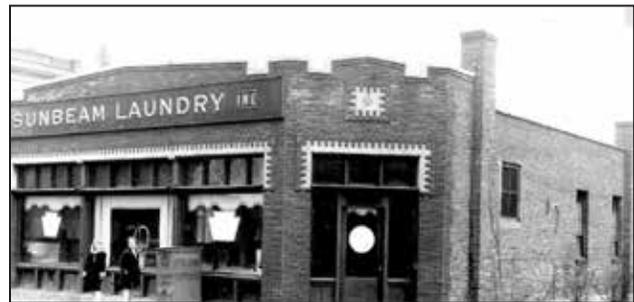
620 West Seventh, Sunbeam Laundry. Built 1881, 1932. MNHS (Current site: Keenans Bar and Grill)

The West Seventh Street Park, West Seventh at St. Clair[115]

The West Seventh Street Park was a former minor league baseball park in 1884. The team, known either as the Apostles or the Saints, was initially a member of the Northwestern League, also known as the "Onion". The league struggled through the summer of 1884 and disbanded in early September.

As its weakest teams were folding, the league was looking for other teams to fill out its schedule. So the Apostles signed on, looking to get a little extra cash for its players. They played eight games before disbanding. Since all their games were on the road, the 1884 St. Paul club has the dubious distinction of being the only "major league" team never to have played a home game. Attendance for baseball games was two thousand, and for lacrosse several hundred.

430 Walnut at West 7h Street, Olsen Burmeister Motors, Inc., 1950. MNHS

279–283 Goodrich, residence of James C. Burbank's parents and sisters. Built in 1874, located next to the Dayby-Day Cafe, 1937. MNHS

196 Smith Avenue at Walnut, Charles H. Affleck (1876–1963) Residence. Affleck was a labor movement veteran, 1898. MNHS (Current site: United Hospital)

424 West Seventh. Built 1880; razed 1973, 1932. MNHS (Current site: Bad Weather Brewing)

416–420 West Seventh. Built 1880; razed 1973, 1932. MNHS (Current site: Bad Weather Brewing)

712 West Seventh. Built 1874/1889; razed 1969, 1934. MNHS (Current site: Richmond and railroad overpass)

Gardens of WENGT 2020

Waldmann Brewery

Amherst H. Wilder Charity[117]

Amherst Wilder was a pioneer St. Paul merchant, government contractor, Indian trader, and stageline owner from Essex, New York. He arrived with his brother-in-law in 1859, and was a director of St. Paul Fire and Marine Insurance. He died on November 11, 1894. When his sole daughter, Cornelia Day, and wife, Fanny, died in 1903, the estate was valued at nearly $2,000,000. Terms of the will followed the father's instructions. Aside from certain bequests and resolution of claims by Cornelia's husband, all proceeds were to be consolidated into the Wilder Trust and dedicated "to aid and assist the poor, sick, aged, or otherwise needy people of St. Paul." The fund was administered in a new four-story stone and brick building facing Rice Park on Washington Avenue at Fifth Street. Support included rent, furnishings, utilities, etc. to the Associated Charities, Relief Society, Humane Society, Anti-Tuberculosis Committee, Guild of Catholic Women, League of Protestant Women, Swedish Loyal Helpers, King's Daughters, and Infant Welfare Society.

Washington Avenue facing Rice Park, Amherst H. Wilder Charity Building. Ca. 1957. Amherst H. Wilder Foundation (Current site: Ordway Theater)

Wilder Day Nursery No. 2

Wilder Day Nursery Number 2 was the second of three day-nurseries opened by the Amherst H. Wilder Charity in St. Paul. The nursery served children ages one to five at 73 Leech Street, and was operational from 1930 to 1976. Wilder decided to open a second day nursery because the first nursery, the Pleasant Day Nursery on Edgerton Street, was extremely over-subscribed. In 1927–28, some of the board members secured three lots on Leech Street and contracted with J. S. Switzer and Sons to build the second nursery.

"Built at a cost of $110,000, the new nursery was one of the most modern and best-equipped structures of its kind in the country—and one of the most colorful. Walls and ceilings sported a variety of pastels—red, yellow, green, blue—and windows featured strikingly bright tapestries. Such cheerful colors, declared the board, would gladden the hearts of the children, 70 of whom could be accommodated. A spacious gymnasium, a therapy room with sun lamps, and a ramp for baby carriages were among the attractions included in the building. No wonder child days of care provided during the first five and half months came to nearly $5,500."[116]

73 Leech Street: Wilder Day Nursery No. 2, built 1929, circa 1960. Amherst H. Wilder Foundation

In the first year, 40 children transferred from the Pleasant Avenue nursery, along with the matron, Frances Granniss, who assumed the same position at the new nursery. Women would leave their children on their way to work. The babies were given a daily bath, fed wholesome food, and a cup of coffee and some wafers pending their mothers return. The nursery closed in 1976, partly due to financial reasons, as Wilder had always heavily subsidized the cost of running it, and partly because by then, daycares had become much more common and accessible—in Ramsey County and generally.

319 Eagle Street at Seven Corners. Wilder Public Baths, 1917. Amherst H. Wilder Foundation
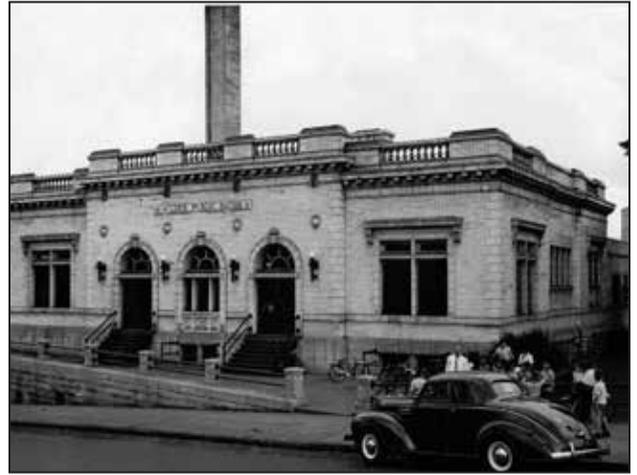
319 Eagle Street at Seven Corners, Wilder Public Baths. Built 1914, 1940. Amherst H. Wilder Foundation

Wilder Public Baths[118]

On May 25, 1914, the Amherst H. Wilder Charity opened the first public bathing house at 319 Eagle Street in the Seven Corners neighborhood in St. Paul. In her will, Fanny Wilder specifically asked that money from her estate be used to provide the residents of St. Paul with a place where anyone could swim or bathe. It featured 85 private shower stalls and a 30-by-70-foot swimming pool; the City of St. Paul provided water at no charge and the facility generated its own electricity. In turn, the charity was able to provide shower baths, a clean towel, and a cake of soap for just two pennies. For just three more pennies, anyone could enjoy a

shower and then rent a shapeless, blue tank suit and spend the day swimming in the indoor pool. Each year it admitted more bathers than the previous year. In the first four years alone, nearly one million people used the facility to shower or swim. During the dust storms that blanked St. Paul in 1934, over 2,100 people used the showers in one day.

With the spread of indoor plumbing in the 1940s, the facility began to lose money. In the 1950s, it was remodeled and reopened as the Amherst H. Wilder Health Center but closed in 1974. It was razed in 1992 for Seven Corners Hardware parking. In 2015 Seven Corners was itself razed for development for an apartment and retail project.

Upper Landing and Irvine Park Industrial Zones

Upper Landing development began with Irvine and Rice's real estate around their respective parks. Rice's evolved to downtown; Irvine's to residential. But as Summit Avenue drew off the wealthy, as the railroads blasted through the bluffs and narrowed the river, as the Lower Landing drew corporate centers, as immigrants disembarked at the Upper Landing, as the Mississippi River became polluted, as brothels and taverns bridged Irvine Park and the bluffs of downtown, industry and tenements similarly took advantage of cheap land, labor, and transportation. Once substantial homes were subdivided and deteriorated or removed and supplanted with warehouses and factories.

The area between West 7th and the Mississippi River became an industrial zone in the later 1800s. Access to the river was an early motivation for industrial interests to locate on its banks, with severe pollution its consequence. As the railroads narrowed the river's banks and retreated its bluffs, the river decreased its transportation value.

St. Paul grew from about 20,000 people in 1870 to more than 270,000 in 1930; by 1922 more than 37,000 St. Paul homes were connected to the city's sewer system that dumped directly into the river without any treatment. By the mid-1920s, the river had been declared a health hazard by the state health department

Upper landing Industrial Area Smokestacks with High Bridge, circa 1930 painting by Bob Brown. MNHS

and was considered hazardous even for boaters. The Harriet Island beaches, which had drawn enormous crowds around 1910, were closed as pollution became more severe. By 1930, the combined capacity of the sewers emptying into the Mississippi within the Twin Cities was two-and-a-half times the normal flow of the river.

The first sewage treatment plant, built at Pig's Eye downriver, was not opened until 1939. Design compromises limited the level of treatment provided by the plant, however, and by the mid-1950s St. Paul and Minneapolis were adding as much of a pollution load to the river as before the plant was built. The plant has been greatly expanded and improved since then, and today's water quality is as good as it has been since early in the twentieth century.[119]

McMillan and Azontine Companies

The J. T. McMillan Company was established in 1871, incorporated from 1906 to 1932, and located its (pork) processing plant along the river between the Upper Landing and the High Bridge to both dispose of by-products and have access to rail lines markets. Its products were distributed under the names of "Paragon" and "Family-seal" brands.

Next door the Azotine Manufacturing Company established a factory that emitted noxious fumes from its processing of animal carcasses recycling grease into candles, the rest drawn off for fertilizer. The short-lived recyling plant was built in 1889 and burned down in 1891—with some relief for its neighbors and city.

The Upper Landing. At left along the slough is the McMillan packing plant. The slough was later filled for rail lines and development, 1906. MNHS

Washington Foundry (and Machine Works) Company

The Washington Foundry was founded by Major John Kelliher (1840-1908), located on Washington Avenue in the industrial area next to the Mississippi River near the St. Paul High Bridge. It originally specialized in threshing machines and carriages. Keliher married Harriet A. Irving, the daughter of John R. Irvine. In 1914, the Orme brothers, who owned the Orme Brass Works at 626 Armstrong Avenue, purchased the foundry.

Washington Foundry (and Machine Works) Company 1888 Washington and Eagle Streets, 1925 photo by A. F. Raymond. MNHS

Dominic Troyer Cave Brewery

In 1855, Dominic Troyer (born 1820 in Austria), a brewer in Green Bay, Wisconsin, relocated and established his Cave Brewery on Eagle Street below Seven Corners in St. Paul. In 1860 he returned to Europe and sold the brewery to a partnership of Funk and Schwitzer, eventually the Frederick Emmert Brewery with peak production of 6,000 barrels in 1880. After his death in 1889 Emmert's sons ran the brewery until the turn of the century after which it was sold to the rival Hamm's Brewery who used it for storage.[120]

Eagle Street near Seven Corners. Dominic Troyer Cave Brewery, built 1855, 1936. MNHS

175 Chestnut Street:
Lauer Brothers Stone Mill, 1884

Henry and Charles Lauer immigrated from Elsaß-Lothringen (Alsace-Lorraine) in 1870 and were contractors and masons who established their business about 1879. They operated a quarry, big steam saw mill and stone planer at the foot of (175) Chestnut Street, built in 1884, on three acres of land. Later quarries were located near St. Clair and Fort Road/West 7th. They dealt in Ninninger and Kasota limestone, Bayfield brownstone, Kettle River stone, and Ohio sandstone.[121] Depending on the season they employed 150 to 300 "hands" and appliances for major projects. The Lauers worked on such local landmarks sites as the Schmidt Brewery, Minnesota Capital, and St. Paul Cathedral.

226 Western Avenue, Lauer Flats, completed in 1887. Is on the National Register of Historic Places, 1973 photo by Henry B. Hall. MNHS

Henry Lauer and Isaac Labisonniere at cornerstone ceremony for the Cathedral of St. Paul. 06/02/1907. Labisonniere was one of the eight parishioners who "hoisted the rough logs and secured them with wooden pins to form the walls" of St. Paul's first chapel, October 1841, 1907. MNHS

WENGT committee gives thanks:
The West End Neighbors 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.

Eugene Smith Lumber Yard, flood of 1892. MNHS

174 Chestnut:
National Lumber Company Office and Warehouse, 1888.

The Chicago, Milwaukee & St. Paul Railway company was given permission to construct a railroad track across Chestnut Street, providing no car remained "upon the said street" longer than five minutes. The track was deemed an immediate need of the National Lumber Company.[122]

292 Walnut Street: St. Paul Welding and Torit Manufacturing Company, circa 1940. MNHS

292 Walnut and Exchange Streets
St. Paul Welding/
Torit Manufacturing

Torit started in 1915 as a manufacturer of welding torches that grew to specialize in engineering and manufacturing high-efficiency filtration equipment to control air contaminants within manufacturing plants and processes. It was located on Walnut Street in 1936. In 1973 Donaldson acquired and relocated Torit in 1959 to its Bloomington location. St. Paul Welding manufactured Torit's welding equipment.

174 Chestnut Street, H. B. Fuller Company Research laboratory. Riehle Studio MNHS

174 Chestnut Street
H.B. Fuller Company

In 1887, Harvey Benjamin Fuller, Sr., came to St. Paul to invent and sell glue. With an iron kettle and the family's wood-burning stove, he concocted a wet, flour-based paste, then sold the mixture to local paperhangers, then to flour mills, shoe companies, box manufacturers, bookbinders, printers, and households. Since flour, a key ingredient in gluemaking, was abundant, he regarded St. Paul ideal to establish his business:

224 Ryan:
Plastics Inc. factory

Plastics Inc. in Irvine Park was a major supplier of dinnerware to the airline industry and was acquired by Anchor Hocking in 1968. Only the plant in St. Paul was unionized. A 1979 strike turned bloody when Machinists Lodge 459 member Don Pilla was killed at the Coon Rapids plant after a truck plowed through the picket line. His death led to landmark state legislation requiring all vehicles to stop before attempting to pass through a picket line. Pilla has been memorialized through an annual scholarship offered by the Minnesota AFL-CIO, relocated 1997.

175–183 Franklin/Ryan; 259 Eagle Street: Milton Dairy Factory and Storage, 1892

Early twentieth century fresh milk delivery was provided via horse-drawn milk wagons that advertised company services and promoted "scientifically pasteurized" milk and cheese. A few major urban Saint Paul creameries were located in the Upper Landing and Irvine Park. As one progressed westward along West Seventh Street a number of small farms with cows supplied milk to their neighbors and the dairies.

In 1902, Milton developed its barn and icehouse on Franklin/Ryan with retail at 722 Wabasha. "They deliver to all parts of the city on orders by telephone or postal card." "Extra good is Milton's Star Brand butter. No other kind is just as good. Extra care is taken to have extra good cream from which we make this extra good butter . . . More STAR BRAND is sold in St. Paul than all other brands combined."

Milton Dairy's butter sculpture from the 1910 Minnesota State Fair. Their Trade Card claimed sponsorsip of the butter sculpture since 1894, 1910. MNHS

St. Paul Milk Company at 197–203 South Franklin Street/Ryan Avenue 1917 to 1974, 1925. MNHS

Delivery wagon of St. Paul Milk Company, 1924. MNHS

Crescent Creamery Company, 226-232 North Smith Avenue, 1924. MNHS

Crescent Creamery Company

The Crescent Creamery Company was originally formed in Monticello, Iowa in 1877 and relocated to St. Paul in 1884 at 226–232 North Smith Avenue. Edward A. Cammack (1855–1912) was employed in the dairy and creamery business in Iowa and Rochester, Minnesota. He moved to St Paul in 1881 and was president and general manager of the Crescent Creamery Company after 1888. His sons Arthur, Howard and W. R. succeeded him and in 1924 purchased the Kemps Creamery of Rochester when its founder moved to California. In 1928 Kemps-Crescent merged with Marigold Dairies of Rochester and Dolly Madison Dairies of Eau Claire, Wisconsin, to form Marigold Foods, Inc.

Saint Paul Municipal Grain Terminal

As the "city" rediscovered the value of the Upper Landing and its riverfront, attention turned to the Saint Paul Municipal Grain Terminal as a remnant of Saint Paul's early history as a port city. "When the Equity Cooperative Exchange formed in 1911, its purpose was to represent farmers to compete against grain traders, like the Minneapolis Chamber of Commerce. At that time, there was no grain terminal in St. Paul, in spite of its beer-brewing facilities and proximity to Minneapolis' world-famous flourmills. Of all the regional grain, 70 percent flowed through St. Paul . . . Equity Cooperative Exchange moved its headquarters from Minneapolis in 1915 to St. Paul and immediately began constructing a grain elevator."[123] The Saint Paul Municipal Grain Terminal was built on the downtown riverfront near the Upper Landing between 1927 and 1931. It included 90 grain silos, a small mill, the six-story head house for loading grain onto barges and train cars, and a sack house for milled flour—partially built on piers! It was the first successful grain terminal elevator owned and operated by a farm cooperative in the United States. It was decommissioned in 1989. The headhouse was placed on the National Register of Historic Places in 2004. The City, Riverfront Corporation, and stakeholders worked to develop the site as a park pavilion, trail head, interpretive center, and event venue.

Shepard Road with grain silos at left and headhouse to its right. Photo by Mike Lynch, 1984. MNHS

The railroad operator shack at Chestnut Street along the Mississippi River, 1950. MNHS

Upper Levee, St. Paul Milling Company KoMo Flour Milling Plant. The elevator and mill structures were demolished in the 1950s to make room for construction of steel-tank elevators, which, in turn, were razed by the city after their acquisition in 1983, 1920. MNHS

345 Sheprd Road. Kaplan Scrap Iron and Metal Company. Distant Harvest States Silos and downtown St. Paul along the Mississippi River, 1969. Henry B. Hall photograph collection, MNHS.

Kaplan Brothers Scrapyard

After the major floods of 1951–52 and the clearing of the island of homes of Little Italy, the St. Paul Housing and Redevelopment Authority leased the land to Kaplan Brothers Scrap company that was relocated from St. Paul's West Side flats. The scrapyard was later described as "an obscenity" by the St. Paul dispatch editor William Sumner.[124]

The H.S. Kaplan Scrap Iron and Metal Company, between Shepard Road, the Mississippi River, and a railroad line, stored and processed scrap metal from 1966–1988. It was again sold to the St. Paul Housing and Redevelopment Authority and placed on the Minnesota Permanent List of Priorities, the state Superfund list for all of the hazardous materials, especially lead and polychlorinated biphenyls (PCBs).

In the late 1990s the city and developers reevaluated development of the prime riverfront of the Upper Landing. The first phase in 2007 entailed moving Shepard Road from along the river to along the bluffs much as the railroads built their tracks in the latter 1800s. The second phase entailed soil remediation as a Superfund site and adding clean fill to raise any development above the 500-year flood plain. The 21-acre mixed-use development, the Riverview at Upper Landing, included 650 rental and for-sale housing units that walled-off the river from the bluffs above "carefully protected from any threat of archtctural excellence by the city's design guidelines."[125]

WHEN YOU FIND YOURSELF COCOONED IN ISOLATION AND YOU CANNOT FIND YOUR WAY OUT OF DARKNESS, REMEMBER, THIS IS SIMILAR TO THE PLACE WHERE CATERPILLARS GO TO GROW THEIR WINGS.
-NICOLE STEPHENS

Wishing our W. 7th neighbors well, and looking forward to when we can all emerge again.

ANIMAL EMERGENCY & REFERRAL CENTER OF MINNESOTA

Want to learn about raising monarchs for your beautiful garden? Visit our blog at https://bit.ly/2E8GhvC

Reclaiming Irvine Park[128]

Irvine Park's history is intimately tied to that of the Upper Landing and the first settler claims in 1840 of the Perrys, Joseph Rondo, and the Gervais brothers. Today it is hard to conceive that the wilds of the Upper Landing stretched to the Summit Avenue bluffs and east to the Lower Landing. The mid-area was uninhabited, forested, and swamp. In 1849, John Irvine and Henry Mower Rice platted the area for development, each donating a parcel for their namesake parks, referencing New England-style public squares. A speculative boom economy followed though development was halted by the Crash of 1857, the Civil War, and Dakota Conflict.

A western view of Irvine Park, 1865. MNHS

The 1870s development of the park "reflected more elaborate tastes, the availability of finer and more decorative materials, and the relatively cheap skilled labor provided by newly arrived, middle-European immigrants. Second French empire, Queen Anne, stick style and Italianate architecture became popular."[126] The park began to take on a separate residential identity from the Upper Landing's industrial one. An entertainment and commercial district bordered and rose up the bluff into the emerging mid-town/downtown St. Paul.

"Homes built in the Irvine Park area after the turn of the century were more modest than those built earlier. Constructed chiefly for upper middle class (German) merchants, these homes exhibited a utilitarian style called Midwest Square. Notably they provided no servants' rooms."[127] In 1881, the Pendergast brothers installed Irvine Park's clasic fountain at a cost of $900.

Later decades were not kind to Irvine Park: the grand mansions became sub-divided into tenements and generally were not cared for. The neighborhood became one of St. Paul's most blighted, magnified by post-WWII "white flight" (or exodus to the suburbs) and its attraction of cheaper housing developments. One hundred years later in 1970, over 90 percent of the homes were deemed uninhabitable and the park was seen as a rusted waste of space.

Contrary to the times, preservationists recognized the urgency and historic significance of the park and returned to the inner city. "A restoration plan was developed by the West Seventh Street Association, the Ramsey County Historical Society, the Minnesota Historical Society, and the City of St. Paul House and Redevelopment Authority. Commercial developers were selected according to approved plans, but individual home redevelopers carried the greater burden of restorations. The site underwent drastic redevelopment five years later when a $40,000 20-foot reproduction fountain commemorating the original was installed, as well as its classic gazebo. Since 1981, Irvine Park has been a St. Paul Heritage Preservation District.

Irvine Park, razed buildings. Top is the SE corner and below the western flats, circa 1970. RCHS

35 Irvine Park: Murray Residence

35 Irvine Park, Murray Residence. With Ethel Allis and Maude Murray, 1890. RCHS

Michael and William Murray founded the Northern Cooperage Company. Michael married Ellen Dollard, and hired architect Edward Bassford and contractor John McDonald (of 56 Irvine Park) to build their romantic Queen Anne home. However as the home was being completed Michael died of pneumonia in 1886. Nevertheless, Ellen and their six children moved in and took in borders. William Murray became president of a cooperage and in 1910 census resided at 35 Irvine Park with his wife, Stella, and four

Ethel Murray. circa 1900.RCHS

children along with Ellen and her daughter Ethel. Ellen's daughter Mae (or Mary) later married Rollin Lanpher, Jr., and their famly replaced the Murrays in the 1920 census.

Along with a gradual decline of Irvine Park, the home "fared worse than most. By the time the HRA acquited it in 1972, it had been subdivided into sleeping rooms, covered with asphalt siding, stripped of its tower cap, and thoroughly vandalized." In 1975, George and Peggy Marhous with their four children bought the house and completed a thorough restoration.

59 Irvine Park: Ohage Mansion

59 Irvine Park, Justus Ohage Residence, 1936. MNHS

In 1871, Justus Ohage emigrated from Hanover Germany to Missouri where he completed his medical studies. He returned to Germany but was recruited by Father Clement Staub, pastor of Assumption Church, to St. Paul in 1881. They worked together to promote the general health of St. Paul. Ohage was an innovative surgeon (he did the area's first gall bladder surgery), a professor at the University of Minnesota, and the city's first public health officer (1899–1918). He initiated compulsory vaccination, pure food laws, and trash disposal. In 1900, he donated Harriet Island as a public recreational area. By 1919, the river and beach became so polluted the park had to close.

Dr. Justus Ohage built the large three-story home at 59 Irvine Park for his wife, Augusta, in 1889. The home's yellow bricks and tower were supposed to be like Augusta's childhood home, but she died right before moving in, leaving the doctor to raise their five children alone. Two daughters, Ada and Augusta, never married and lived in the house together until 1946.

223 Walnut Street
Wright-Pendergast House

Built in 1851, 223 Walnut is the oldest home in the Twin Cities still sitting at its original location. In its park surrounded by an eclectic group of architectural styles, this White House-like home with its large Greek columns is one of the most unique. Carpenter Isaac P. Wright was born in Kentucky and first appeared in the 1850 census living with nine other men mostly carpenters and neighbors, including editor James Goodhue, merchants Charlie, Abram and Edwin Elfelt, Chief Justice Aaron P. Goodrich, and Trader A. R. McCleod. Wright built this home in 1851 and resided here until his death in 1906. "It might not seem like a big deal, but in a neighborhood (Irvine Park) of constant turnover, it is amazing that Wright stayed in one house for 53 years." The side-lawn of Wright's mansion served as the 1st tennis court in St. Paul when it opened in 1885, thanks to the Delta Lawn Tennis Club."[129]

223 Walnut Street Wright-Pendergast House, 1972. MNHS

223 Walnut Street. The Delta Lawn Tennis Club, first tennis club in St. Paul. Just east of Irvine Park with river bluff/view in back, 1885. MNHS

Irvine Park, 1900. MNHS

30 Irvine Park,
Parker-Marshall House
relocated 1883 and 1976

Mrs. Elizabeth Parker came to St. Paul from New Hampshire with her husband Rodney in 1849 to run the American House on the Upper Landing. Several years later they purchased a lot at 35 Irvine Park from John Irvine and built a Greek Revival house. It was moved twice! First in 1883 by Joseph Forepaugh for his home across from the Ramsey House, who turned it to face Sherman Street. It was acquired by the Housing Redevelopment Authority in 1973 and moved a second time to face the park and restored.

30 Irvine park, Parker Marshall House 2019. McGhiever/Gallery Wikimedia

265 S. Exchange Street
Alexander Ramsey House

This large home was built for Alexander Ramsey in 1872. Ramsey was appointed Minnesota's first Territorial Governor by US President Zachary Taylor where he served from 1849-53. He was selected after having a very important role in executing treaties with the Dakota Indians and it kicked off a long political career. As Minnesota was granted statehood, Ramsey ran for Governor, but lost to friend Henry Sibley. He filled the time by serving as St Paul's Mayor from 1855-57 and the regional Indian Agent before being elected as Minnesota's 2nd Governor..

265 Exchange, Alexander Ramsey Residence, 1942. John Alley Dougherty photo MNHS

Forepaugh's Mansion
276 S. Exchange Street

Joseph Lybrandt Forepaugh earned his fortune in wholesale dry goods and Civil War trade. In 1871, he built this Victorian Mansion on five lots on a corner of Irvine Park for his wife and children. He sold his interest in the business and erected the "Forepaugh" block at the corner of Third and Wabasha streets, later sold and known as the McQuillan block. The family moved into a new mansion at 302 Summit Avenue in 1891, though on July 8, 1892, Forepaugh's granddaughter saw him climb onto a streetcar on Selby Avenue traveling west. His body was found two days later in a wooded area near Selby and Hamline. His death was ruled suicide, perhaps from health concerns.[130]

276 South Exchange. Forepaugh's Mansion, 1979. MNHS

On news of Forepaugh's death, a pregnant serving girl named Molly hanged herself in one of the upstairs rooms at Exchange Street. In 2007, Bruce Taher purchased the restaurant and invested $2 million to renovate and reinvent the mansion restaurant into a white-tablecloth establishment. After 11 years, Taher closed Forepaugh's in March 2019.

Horace Bigelow Mansion
288 Walnut

Horace Ransom Bigelow (1820–1894) was born in New York and in 1853 left Utica, New York where he had studied law and taught school. He took the boat up the Mississippi to the Minnesota Territories and St. Paul. The river froze so he stayed the winter and started practicing law in the spring. He only left to marry his student, Cornelia Sherrill, in 1862 in New York. He worked with the Indians and was active in politics. He was a great friend with James J. Hill. "No man stood higher in the legal profession of Minnesota than Horace R. Bigelow, and the bar attested their appreciation by electing him president of the Bar Association."[131]

288 Walnut, Horace Bigelow Mansion, 1891. MNHS (Current site of T. D. Wright, Inc.)

The Houses Moved

As the plateau between the Upper and Lower Landings became populated, modest residential housing was replaced with commercial structures. Rather than destroy these scarce resources, some were said to be moved into Upper Town. Hoffmann's description of the housing was apt:

"It just consisted of little houses or shanties. The former were usually one story, generally facing with the gable to the street from which they stood only a few feet distant so that one could step readily from the door into the street. The shanties were plain board structures, the boards set vertically. Some roofs were shingled, others covered with boards. Most shanties were one room affairs with a shed or "lean-to" serving as a kitchen and woodshed,"[132]

225 Eagle Street, Relocated 2001

In 1886, the John Milton Armstrong House was built to bridge the Upper Landing and emerging downtown business district in a bustling residential and business neighborhood. New immigrants, often laborers or tradesmen, created a demand for affordable rental housing. Armstrong hired Edward Payson Bassford, a noted local architect who designed the second Minnesota State Capitol. For almost 60 years the side-by-side red-brick duplex was income rental property. In 1988, it was unoccupied for thirteen years across from the Xcel Energy Center. The State of Minnesota purchased the house and in 2001 it was moved to its current site near the Mississippi River across from the Science Museum of Minnesota. The five-block move took eight days and $2.4 million. Restoration began in 2005 and the four condos were purchased in 2007 and '08.

178 Goodrich, Relocated 1989

This Federalist-style house was built in 1859 at 316 North Smith Avenue by John and Maria Hagdalena who emigrated from Weggis, Switzerland in 1823 and 1830 respectively. John was a local stonemason. Joseph Brings and his family lived in the house from 1886 to 1933, The house was moved in 1989 to 178 Goodrich and restored based on photographic and historical research.

"If a house was to be moved the furniture above-mentioned was carted to the spot; the house was raised with hack-screws, rollers were laid under it on either side, a capstan with a strong cable was used to pull the house out onto the street. The rollers were set upon tracks—wooden planks—and then the Exodus commenced. The rope pulled, the men stuck poles into the holes of the rollers; then ensured sturdy poling, groans from the rollers, crackings from the house as though it were in pain and the house slowly passed down the street to its new site. The people continued to live in the house while it was on wheels!... Sometimes a house would stand still en route for some time—a sign that either then movers were "under the weather" or that the bottom had fallen out of the exchequer and he waited until he was again solvendo, as Cicero would put it."[133]

233-235 West Fifth Street. Armstrong Quinlan House, 1949. MNHS

314 Smith Avenue North, Joseph Tanzer/ Joseph Brings residence. Relocated 1989 to 178 Goodrich, 1900. MNHS

508 Jefferson Avenue, Relocated 1997

This wood-frame cottage was built by William Dahl and his Irish wife, Catherine Margaret Murphy in 1858 at 136 13th Street, one of 1,500 small, working-class homes near the State Capitol. Ninety percent of homes from this era were wood-frame construction. The Dahl House typifies a simplified Greek Revival style of the times.

Dahl came to the Minnesota Territory in 1849 from England and worked as a clerk, census-taker, shopkeeper, and member of the Pioneer Guard. He died of tuberculosis within a few months of moving into the house. The home remained in the Dahl family for eighty years and was relocated to 508 Jefferson Avenue in 1997 for use as a single-family home.[134]

136 East Thirteenth, William Dahl house (at right) St. Paul Goodwill Industries at 150 East Thirteenth, (formerly Purity Baking Company's stables and garage), 1941. MNHS

508 Jefferson Avenue. William Dahl House 1998 Photo by William Wessen. National Register of Historic Places.

William Dahl, circa 1850. MNHS

169 Goodrich, Relocated 1886

Originally faced east in an adjoining lot at 112 Leech Street. In 1886, a tinsmith Joseph Haag, contracted with Lauer Brothers to both excavate a new foundation on Goodrich and build another new house on Leech Street. Haag and his wife Francis emigrated from Württemberg in 1855 and 1856 respectively; they raised five children on Leech. In 1900 George and Emile Graff and their two daughters lived at 169 Goodrich. According to the 1910 Census an Irish family, David and Bridget Hurley, their three daughters and one granddaughter, and eight (!) lodgers lived at 169 in the modest seven-room house. Since 1980, three additions, four including the garden house off the garage, duplicate the home's original Victorian Stick style.

169 Goodrich, Haag Residence. Built circa 1880 on Leech Street, relocated 1888. Alley views: Top, circa 1940; bottom left, 1979; bottom right, 2018. Joe Landsberger

445 Smith Avenue: Waldmann Brewery & Wurstery
Lore, Legend and Definitely Lager[135]

This distinctive limestone building was constructed in the fall of 1857 at 445 Smith Avenue North. It was built as an investment property by Charles Fuchs, a carpenter/contractor who emigrated from Wurttenburg, Germany, in 1847. Fuchs also is listed as the contractor for the Anthenaeum.

On March 23, 1858, Anton petitioned the Common Council of St. Paul for a liquor license to run his lager beer saloon (though in operation the year before). "Waldmann's saloon was short-lived (1857-1863), but it must have been profitable. In October of 1859, at a time when the rest of the country had barely recovered from the Panic of 1857, and liquid currency was especially hard to come by in the Yankee economy of Minnesota, Waldmann was sufficiently cash-flush to loan $500 to Christoph and Henry Stahlmann, fellow Bavarians who would later become the region's most successful lager beer brewers. In exchange, Waldmann received a

445 Smith Avenue, 1936. MNHS
Current site of Waldmann Brewery and Wurstery

mortgage on the four lots comprising the core of the Stahlmann's brewery operations, which later became the center of Schmidt Brewery's complex of buildings along West 7th Street."[136]

The Waldmann stands as the oldest surviving commercial building in the Twin Cities and is an official Saint Paul Heritage Preservation Site. While its first use as a saloon was listed for Edward and Sarah Shingles, in the 1860 Census, Bavarian immigrant Anton Waldmann (Anthony Waltman) lists his "profession, occupation, or trade" as lager beer saloon.

German lager beer took America by storm in the 1850s and unlike Yankee whisky bars, lager saloons served beer almost exclusively, and frequently offered hearty foods, music, family entertainment, and sometimes even political debates. Waldmann stays true to these traditions today. Re-opened in 2017 for the first time in 154 years, the building still offers wood stoves, virgin pinewood floors, hand-blown window glass, a large collection of 19th century steamboat chairs, whale oil lamps (burning paraffin), and many period maps, photographs, and other memorabilia. Don't forget to take a selfie with Bismark the Bison upstairs! *Prosit*.

1 Leech Street:
Hope Engine 3/
Hope Breakfast Bar:
Believe in Breakfast

Hope Engine #3 opened in 1872 at 1 South Leech Street and is St. Paul's oldest surviving municipal building. It originally included a tower and other roof adornments, removed between 1903 and 1936. Restaurateurs Brian and Sarah Ingram have now transformed the historic space into the Hope Breakfast Bar across from United Hospitals. The development was tied to the five-story, 100-room Residence Inn by Marriott while preserving as much of the original fire station as possible. Ingrams' space is "a faithful approach," recognizing that they were given an opportunity to do much more than a restaurant. The upper level of the Fire Hall, where the crews lived on shift, retains its historic structure and surfaces. It is a welcoming, comfortable public space for working, socializing, having small meetings and scheduled events. This corresponds to Brian's statement, "I have never seen a sense of community and receptivity to good enterprises like there is in West Seventh." They are also intent on being part of and supporting the growing involvement of businesses to share their success with the wider world. They look to their suppliers to see whether they give back and have pledged three percent of monthly profits to local causes.

1 Leech Street, Pioneer Fire Station #3, 1936. MNHS (Current site of Hope Cafe)

West End Neighbors Garden (and History) Task Force
The WENGTask Force meetings were "slowed" by the pandemic:

Gardens - Jeanne Morgan
Audrey Malone, Betty Moran, Dennis Morgan, Emily Northey
Jackie Bruggeman, JoAnn Craighead, Julie Baker, Katie Rubedor-Green
Marilyn Heroff, Michele Holzwarth, Sharon Lynch, Jeanne Ferrell

Publication - Joe Landsberger
Profreaders: Joan Sedlacek, Jennifer Gehlhar; Cover artist: Stuart Loughridge

(North) High Bridge[137]

Robert Smith was both state senator (1886–1890) and City Mayor (1887–1892, 1894–96). In January 1887, he introduced a bill into the State Senate to issue $500,000 in city bonds for the construction of a new bridge between the river bluffs over the Upper Landing. The bill was passed and signed, but not without concern of the St. Paul Chamber of Commerce over allocation of funds for bridges vs. parks, and the burden of such an amount.

The substructure was contracted to the McMullen and Morris Company from Minneapolis for $139,119 on May 17, 1887. The second contract for superstructure of $340,324 went to the Keystone Bridge Company of Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania.

The Keystone Company was organized from the bridge building firm of Piper and Schiffler in 1865. The original investors included Andrew Carnegie (Pennsylvania Railroad Company), John Piper and Jacob Linville. Originally the company specialized in the construction of bridges and buildings for the railroad's tracks and trains, although they quickly expanded into design and fabrication of highway bridges. Piper and Linville were the visionaries, and began to use cast iron instead of wood for construction. Cast iron, however, was not satisfactory for the longer spans needed for the Missouri and Mississippi Rivers, and Carnegie prided himself in being the first to recognize wrought iron as a superior building material. Wrought iron was first used in Dubuque, Iowa, in 1868. Union Iron Works, situated next to Keystone in Pittsburgh, became the direct supplier of standard rolled iron shapes to Keystone.

Construction of the High Bridge built above immigrant shacks, March 1889. MNHS

Northern view of the High Bridge with stair leading down to the coal-fired Northern States Power Plant on the Upper Levee, 1928. MNHS

Cliff Street to the High Bridge, 1962. MNHS

The Cyclone of August 20th, 1904

1904 Storm: Saintly City Survives Its Worst Storm[138]

St. Paul rose with the sun yesterday morning, expecting to find a devastated city, and was surprised. The extreme fears of those who had experienced the terrifying winds, the dazzling flashes of lighting, the deafening peals of thunder, and the roar of bursting timbers were not realized.

The greatest single property loss was the destruction of two spans of the high bridge, a burden which will fall upon the city at large. Any attempt to estimate the aggregate property loss would be but the wildest guess. The damage is distributed among thousands of residents and hundreds of business houses.

1985: High Bridge demolition:

3:55 p.m. Sunday, February 24, 1985 As many as 25,000 spectators gathered around dozens of vantage points up and down the river, 1985. Joe landsberger

A View of the High Bridge, Showing Dwelling at the North End. St. Paul Cyclone August 20th, 1904, Published by Haas & Wright. St. Paul, Minn. Contributed by Joe Landsberger.

A View of the High Bridge, Looking Northwest Towards the West End. St. Paul Cyclone August 20th, 1904. Published by Haas & Wright. St. Paul, Minn. Contributed by Joe Landsberger.

North High Bridge Park Sculpture Garden

A creative(!) community development project of the Bohemian Hill neighborhoods of Upper Town and Uppertown Triangle, St. Paul, Minnesota, USA. The park's multi-cultural projects reflect the history and diversity of the neighborhoods and city, and are dedicated to peaceful co-existence.

In 1987, a new bridge replaced the old, and a half-acre park was landscaped at the north end of the bridge. This was planted in a variety of crab apple trees, conifers, and dwarf honeysuckle. A large center circle, 84 feet in diameter, was mounded in a simple design with sod with seven linden trees at the perimeter.

In 1988, Joe Landsberger was designated by a neighborhood committee to form a North High Bridge Task Force under the neighborhood "Federation" and plant a garden in the center space. The neighbors agreed that this was an important gateway into the Uppertown Neighborhood, and an ideal spot for river viewing and casual conversation. However, we were unaware of the severity of the growing conditions in the park, and all plantings died.

1n 1993, twelve truckloads of Platteville Limestone from the federally mandated sewer-separation project at the C.S.P.S. Hall at Michigan and West 7th Streets, were brought into the park. With collaboration of St. Paul's Parks Department twice-a-week volunteer sessions built retaining walls with the aid of Marion Stanberg's bobcat. Students from the St. Paul Open School came forward, washed the roots, and planted the first 21 varieties of daylilies.

The neighborhood, however, was once again faced with a dilemma: what to do with the remaining stone, which was stacked quite tall in several piles. The idea of the "Watcher" was born, as well as the concept of the park becoming a sculpture garden. A second garden was made from the remaining stone of the Watcher.

The park, as well as its first sculptures, was dedicated Halloween 1995 in a snow storm! The park was decorated with carved pumpkins, and a couple hardy neighbors stood at the entrance to distribute treats for the tricksters!

In 2005, a butterfly garden was added, a shade garden after. Since then, maintenance has been the responsibility of voluntter neighbors.

St. Paul Open School's Daylily Planting Party, 1993. Joe Landsberger

The North High Bridge Park and Sculpture Garden was dedicated Halloween 1995 in a snow storm! Neighbors carved pumpkins and distributed them throughout the installations, 1995. Joe Landsberger

The Watcher

The Watcher. 1995 sculpture by Zoran Mojsilov. 2018 photo Joe Landsberger

Big Green Chair

The Big Green Chair. Green Chair Project, installed 1995. The sculpture was on exhibit at the Walker Art Center before being re-installed in our park, 2017. Joe Landsberger

Peace Pole

Peace Pole. At 7 p.m. CDT, 17 June, 1997 Girl Scout Cadett Troop 464 installed a Peace Pole in the North High Bridge Park. Languages were English, Czech, Hmong, and Spanish. While English is the current lingua franca of St. Paul, Czech was one of the first immigrant languages of the neighborhood, and Hmong and Spanish more recent. The Peace Pole was lost to base rot March 2020, 2015. Joe Landsberger

Community Gate Project. Dedication September 11, 2004. Joe Landsberger

Community Gate Project

The Community Gate Project was dedicated September 11, 2004 in the North High Bridge Park. The West 7th/Fort Road Federation/District 9 Community Council and Czech and Slovak SOKOL Minnesota dedicated the sculpture commemorating the contributions of Czech and Slovak immigrants and their families in building neighborhoods and businesses in the West End of the City of St. Paul since the 1860's.

This environmentally-sensitive sculpture by artist Craig David incorporated the historic baptismal gate from St. Stanislaus Kostka Catholic Church (their national church) and granite curb stones and pavers from St. Paul streets. The carvings on the white marble finials are figurative representations from Antonín Dvořák's opera *Rusalka* (and one of his best-known arias: *Měsíčku na nebi hlubokém* [Silver Moon], her lament for a distant lover.

About our cover

This year our cover is graced with the artistry of Stuart Teal Loughridge, our West End neighbor whose studio carries on a tradition of the arts in Seven Corners. His mediums include oil painting, watercolor, copper-plate etching, serigraph, pencil, and pen & ink. His genres are landscape, portraiture and figuritive painting. His studio is open to visitors by appointment. The floral cover features Columbine Aquilegia vulgaris

About our history

This history is the capstone of a series published and distributed free on the day of our garden tours, thanks to the support of West End businesses. It builds on histories in the Community Reporter, chiefly by Gary Bruggemann, Sharon "Sam" Darling, myself, and a host of others.

Current research began almost immediately after the 12th West End Neighbors Garden and History Tour (WENGT) in 2019. The vast collection of images at the at the Minnesota History Center brings to life the collated stories of both our neighborhoods and city. Often boxes of records included un-inventoried images: For example, when the City of Saint Paul widened its streets in the first half of the 20th Century, property assessments included not only photographs of buildings, but also architectural drawings and descriptions. Boxes of German history included early photographs, often in "scrapbooks" with articles in German and English. The MHS online search feature of Minnesota newspapers is much more effective than "Chronicling America" newspaper archives through the Library of Congress. What a scavenger hunt!

Ramsey County History Center also has a wealth of images, and property records including all the city building permits by street address from 1880 forward. Other centers include the Immigration History Research Center collections at the University of Minnesota, and the Minnesota Genealogical Society (MGS) for family history research. Genealogical tracking was accessed in census data in the Family Search Website of The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints (Mormon). The archives at the C.S.P.S. Hall of Czech and Slovak Sokol Minnesota document not only that immigrant group since the 1860s, but also a neighborhood that thrives to this day.

Many thanks to their research associates!

COVID-19 interrupted finalizing the research and there are a few areas of research yet to be finalized. One in particular relates to the origin story of Fort Road/West Seventh Street, the Township/City of Saint Paul, and the Territory/State of Minnesota. The first claims at the Upper Landing are documented in the minutes of Washington County Historical Society (Minn.). Minnesota Beginnings: Records of St. Croix County Wisconsin Territory, 1840-1849. (1999: project director, Brent T. Peterson ; editor, Nancy Goodman) but a map of those first claims would be interesting (to me!).

With this foundation of research, my knee replacements in 2019 provided a golden opportunity to develop the narrative for this history. Looking forward, I intend to consolidate these histories into a book in the next year(s). Truly it will be, as stated before, *The Origin Story of Fort Road/West Seventh Street, the Township/City of Saint Paul, and the Territory/State of Minnesota*.

These histories have all been under the aegis of the non-profit West Seventh/Fort Road Federation, as well as the West End Neighbors Garden (and History) Tour's Task Force.

We are indebted.

Joe Landsberger

With appreciation to our local businesses and organizations:

In his 1931 seminal address to the American Historical Association in Minneapolis, its President, Carl Becker, addressed the convention: "The history that lies inert in unread books does no work in the world." The West End business and organizational community took this to heart and has supported the publication and free distribution of the *West End Neighbors Garden and History* guidebooks since 2002. This updated image is a composite of most of their display ads, first published in 2016.

In these uncertain times of organizational and commercial closures due to the COVID-19 pandemic, the WENGT task force of the West Seventh Fort Road Federation/District 9 Community Council unites and stands with them in anticipation of better times.

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