



C.D. Gilfillan. Image 1890 MNHS

1865: C.D. Gilfillan: Saint Paul's Waterworks Waterworks

C.D. (Charles Duncan, 1831-1902) Gilfillan was born one year after his family emigrated to the US from Bannockburn, Scotland. His brother, Judge

James Gilfillan (1829-1894) would become a respected Minnesota Supreme Court Justice.

C.D. was the founder of the St. Paul city water works, member of the Minnesota Valley and State historical societies, co-founder of the anti-slavery Republican Party, and an innovative agriculturalist and cattle breeder in Redwood County, Minnesota. He took an active role in the affairs of St. Paul and Redwood County. He was orphaned at the age of eleven but continued his education in New York culminating in law in 1853. In 1857 he began a law partnership with his brother James. They accumulated wealth when the government redirected Native payouts to white survivors of the Dakota uprising. His first marriage in 1859 to Emma Waage ended with her death and he married her sister Fannie (1841-1918) in 1865 and had four children.

CD's legacy lay in facilitating and providing Saint Paul with reliable, high-quality drinking water. In 1851, editor James M. Goodhue of the Minnesota Pioneer noted that wells

were few, and water, when available, cost ten cents a barrel hauled to one's door. In 1856 the territorial legislature chartered a private water company followed by a survey for a source and multiple efforts at financing. In 1865 CD was named president of the St. Paul Water Company that planned and constructed its waterworks. By 1869, water began to flow from Lake Phalen but water distribution was limited, and residents still relied on private wells or water vendors. In the later 1870s Gilfillan purchased land in northern Ramsey County and its lakes to guarantee water supply to the system, including the Pleasant/Vadnais Lake watershed. All stock, 2,500 shares, in the water company was held by the Gilfillan brothers (only 100 by James). On August 10, 1882 the city purchased all shares for a publicly owned company and assumed the company's indebtedness.

In the 1880s C.D. quietly bought significant acreage that eventually became North Oaks, then sold them to his friend and railroad magnate J.J. Hill. In 1882 he built the Gilfillan Block, Fourth and Jackson Streets and was vice-president of the First National Bank. In 1882 he retired to Redwood Falls. He accumulated 10,000 acres for his home, office, grain elevator, stockyards and tenant houses. A railroad spur delivered stock to Chicago as well as his private car to St. Paul. The family made annual trips to Europe where their children

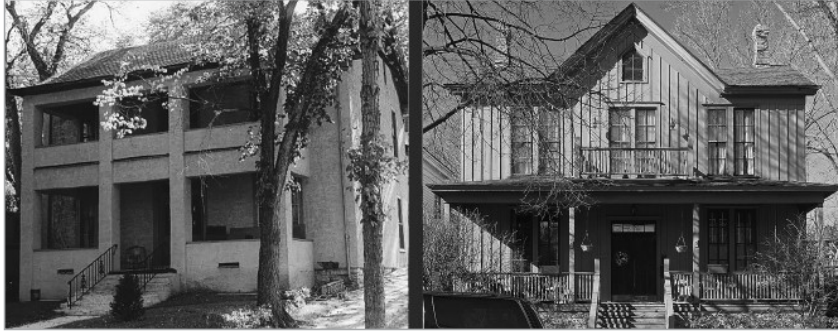
were educated. He died in 1902; the funeral was at 237 Exchange Street, home of Mrs. James Gilfillan, burial in Oakland Cemetery.

In 1925 the Mississippi River was integrated into the system through a 60-inch conduit from Fridley to Charley Lake and the Vadnais Lake system.



Waterworks canal to Saint Paul connecting Lake Vadnais to Sucker Lake. Image 1937 MNHS

1860: Knox House, 26 Irvine Park



Knox House, 26 Irvine Park, was covered in stucco in 1910. As the first house to be restored in 1975, the stucco was removed and the board and batten siding and color was revealed. Image (left) RCHS.

The Jay and Henry Knox House was built in 1860 by two brothers who were bankers. This is one of the few Carpenter Gothic houses in the Twin Cities. From 1903 to 1938 stonemason Andrew T. Sherwood and his wife Marian owned the house. Upon their deaths, Marian's son Herbert Bowen converted it to a fourplex. Dave and Sue Thune returned it to a single family residence.

1871/1978: John McDonald House, 56 Irvine Park

The house at 362 Smith Avenue North was built 1871-1873 by John McDonald (1835-1913). He is listed as a "carpenter" contractor in city directories, and is credited with the construction of the Murray-Lanpher House at 35 Irvine Park and the Spencer House at 39 Irvine Park (since razed). He was in the contracting business from 1868. Although they list their countries of origin as Scotland in census records, his and his wife Sarah's death records at Oakland Cemetery indicate Canada.

The house was moved to its present location in 1978 from 362 Smith Avenue, possibly the only house in the nation to receive a parking ticket. During its move from Smith Avenue to Irvine Park, the house had to sit in the street overnight. In the morning, the developer found a parking ticket affixed to the front door.

1860: Spencer House 47 Irvine Park



Spencer House, at left. Image ca 1880 MNHS.

William Austin and Marie Antoinette Langford Spencer built 47 Irvine Park after their first home was lost to fire. They were active abolitionists and founders of the Republican Party of Minnesota. The family retained ownership of the adaptation of the "broadside Greek Revival style" until 1913. Mary Powers and her sister Hanna acquired the home in 1916 and rented apartments as the "Walnut Flats". The HRA acquired the property in 1976, and the Spencer Blum family began careful restoration that continues with recent owners.



John McDonald house (362 Smith Avenue) from the back yard at left (Image 1978 RCHS) , moved to 56 Irvine Park in 1978.

1854: Charles L. Wood House 255 Sherman¹¹²



Charles L. Wood House, 255 Sherman. Image 2024 Craig Johnson

The back portion of this house was constructed in 1854 according to the City of Saint Paul building records; the first recorded resident was David Stewart in 1856. He was a Saint Paul pioneer and partner in one of the city's first steam mills at the Upper Levee. Another resident was D.C. Taylor founder of D.C. Taylor & Co., Seven Corners banking house and was another banker ruined in the financial crash of 1857. The most prominent resident was Horace R. Bigelow whose second home was across from the original Ramsey House across Walnut Street. Horace Bigelow was a wealthy Saint Paul lawyer who made his original fortune settling homesteaders insurance claims resulting from the Dakota Conflict of 1862 in the Minnesota River Valley. Charles L. Wood, pioneer railroad, is the man most held responsible for the present appearance of the house. He lived in the house from 1864 until 1887.

1853: Eaton Myler House 53 Irvine Park¹¹³

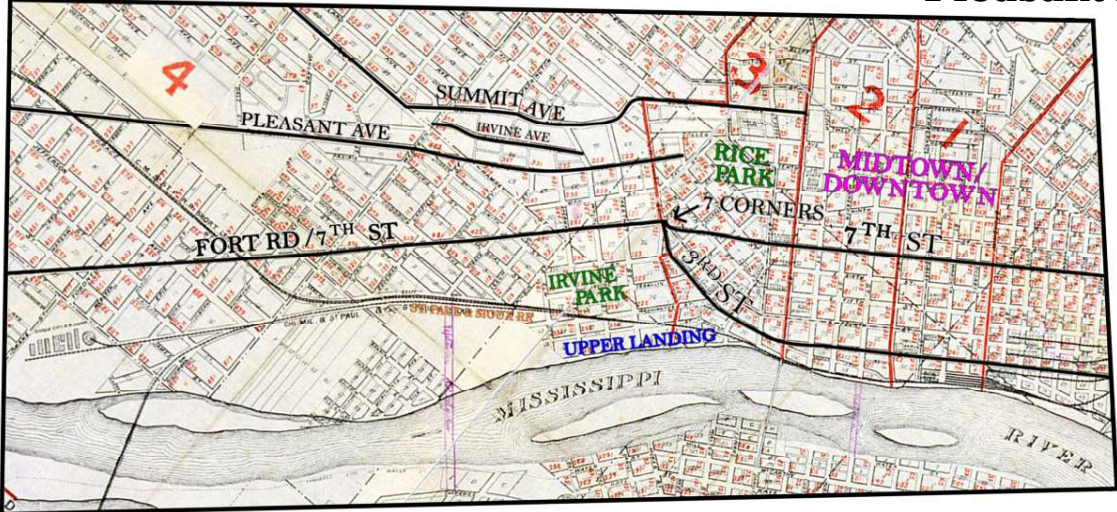


Eaton Myler House, 53 Irvine Park. Image 2024 Joe Landsberger

Alonzo Eaton (1820-1897) was born in New York; his wife Margaret (1818-1875) was from Pennsylvania. They married in Minnesota (1850) and built in the house at West Seventh and Forbes/Douglas Avenues in 1852-53. The Greek Revival-style brick house became subject to an 1880 court case, sold at auction, and was purchased by James and Margaret Myler, who owned a hotel nearby on Fort Road/ West Seventh.

After the Mylers died, their adopted daughter, Molly Kennedy sold the house to Nicholas and Emma Marrone, who sold it to the Salvation Army for an expansion. The house was rescued, relocated and restored by playwright Lance Belville (1935-2020) in 1981.

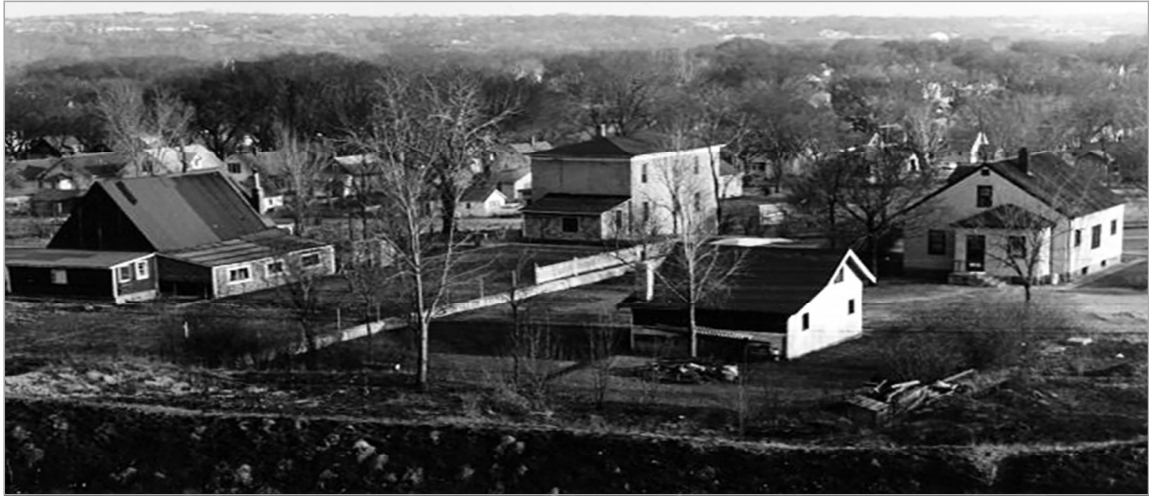
Pleasant Avenue



Saint Paul Wards denoting major arteries. Image 1883 MNHS (David L.) Curtice's Standard Map of the City of St. Paul. Dj Devan rendering.

Before the National System of Interstate Highways identified the Pleasant Avenue corridor as the route for 35E through Saint Paul, Pleasant Avenue was a major residential

and through street of the city. Its modest to high end immigrant-built homes were above the terrace above the first line of bluffs of the Mississippi River. It also paralleled



Jefferson Avenue before 35E. Image RCHS



1026 James at Pleasant Avenue, removed for 35E. About 34 homes between Otto and Goodrich were removed for 35E. Image 1962 Minnesota Department of Transportation.

the commercial corridor of Fort Road/West Seventh as it approached Kellogg Boulevard and Downtown Saint Paul. Two hundred homes, businesses and even two churches were razed to accommodate the guideway of 35E.



1213 Pleasant was built in 1903 for Mrs. M M Hohmann and removed in 1967 for 35E. Image 1956 RCHS



Anthony (Tony) DeVito (1895-1953)

DeVito Pays the Price ¹⁹⁴

On September 28, 1953 Tony DeVito was hanging out in Jack's Chicken Shack, corner of Walnut and West Seventh. It was a local mob hang out. He didn't know it was his last day.

DeVito was with Tony Legato. When they left the bar they were met by Alex DeGoode, Salvatore (Rocky) Lupino, John Azzone, and Sam Cimin. As DeVito and Legato "walked past the car DeVito was seized. DeGoode put a pistol in his back and Cimin gagged him.

Legatto, who had been walking down the street with DeVito, said, "that's it, Rock" and left without interference. Cimin put a sash cord in DeVito's mouth to prevent him from calling for help. They got into the car, Azzone and Cimin holding DeVito in the back seat, Lupino driving, and DeGoode in the front seat on the passenger side."

They drove to the Eastside, "Ultimately they came to a place east of St. Paul by a deserted house and near a swamp. DeVito was taken out of the car... Lupino and Azzone dug a ditch. DeVito, disrobed, was told to lie down. He did so. Then Cimin, at the end aided by Lupino, tightened a rope around his neck with a twisting stick, thus terminating his life. DeVito's body was placed in the ditch and covered with the lye. The hole was filled and, to discourage dogs, the surface of the new ground was covered with red pepper. The living four then retired, tearing up and casting away DeVito's garments as they returned to the city."

It was DeVito's confession involving Lupino, DeGoode, and Azzone for a robbery in Aynor, South Carolina which motivated his death. The owner of Jack's was found in contempt for refusing to testify and sent to prison. When he was released from prison he disappeared. His body was found later, but nobody was arrested for his killing

Pastor's Legacy

The Paster family entry into property development and management at Sibley Plaza came out of tragedy. Chaim Paster/Pastoro (1903-1960) emigrated from Bessarabia, Romania in 1920. He became a naturalized citizen in 1940 under the name Herman Chaim Pastor. He was entrepreneurial and engaged in the operation of about twelve businesses. According to records at the MNHS, he had a long criminal record that included confidence games, grand larceny, shipping gambling devises interstate and was a registered felon living at 1752 Pinehurst Avenue. He served three terms in prison.



After his release from prison the second time, Paster began Paster Enterprises at 2227 University Avenue. He was shot to death in his home by a gunman standing outside his window. According to the Minneapolis morning Tribune 28 Oct 1960 "...the one-time Upper Midwest pinball machine boss, was shot to death Friday night as he sat reading a newspaper... Twenty minutes later Paster died in an ambulance en route to Ancker hospital." The killer was never found.

Herman and his wife Celia Nilva (1903-2013) were founding partners of Paster Enterprises. After Herman's death she was matriarch of the Paster family, and active in the business with their four children until her passing at age 99. Paster Properties has ownership and asset management responsibilities in over 30 properties in the Twin Cities totaling approximately \$200M in asset value including Sibley Plaza, Mendota Plaza, and Doddway Shopping Center. Paster Properties was re-branded in 2017 with focus on mixed-use properties and "dynamic urban environments": asset management, real estate acquisition and development.

West End Firefighters

1872: Hope Engine #3, 1 Leech Street¹⁹⁵



Pioneer Fire Station #3. Image 1936 MNHS

Hope Engine #3 opened in 1872 at 1 South Leech Street and is Saint Paul's oldest surviving municipal building and the last fire station that once housed a volunteer fire company. It originally included a tower and other roof adornments, that were removed between 1903 and 1936.

The station opened as the home of an existing volunteer fire company Hope Engine Company #3 in 1872. In 1877 it disbanded due to not

having enough active members and Atena Engine Company #3 briefly took its place. All Saint Paul volunteer fire companies were disbanded October 1, 1877 and replaced with a paid fire department. St. Paul Fire Engine 3 and Hose 3 occupied 1 Leech Street until 1965 when a new Station 1 was built on Seventh Street.

In 2016 the historic structure was threatened with demolition for a new hotel development. A coalition of organizations filed a lawsuit that led to its preservation and incorporation into the development as a restaurant and preserved and enriched the cultural and visual fabric of its neighborhoods. The upper level retains its historic structure and surfaces.

One block of Leech Street serves as an open air space for dining in summer for two restaurants, Hope Breakfast Bar in the fire hall, and Cafe Astoria across the street in the historic Paulina building on Grand Avenue.

Commemorating the fallen of Station 3 in service to the West End

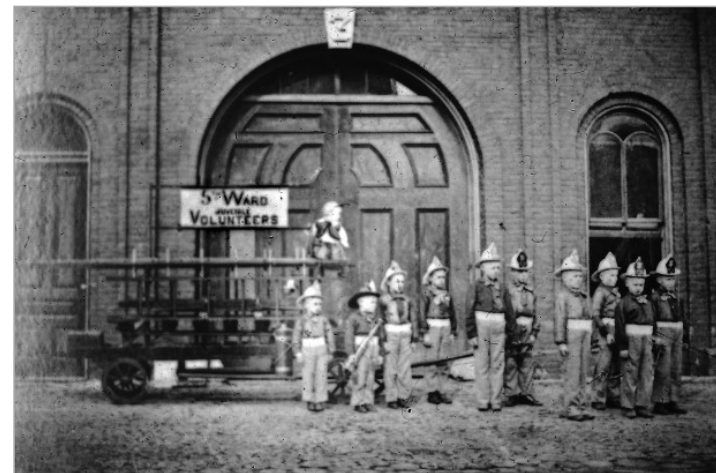
Engineer Frederick Guion (1854-1882) Steamer 3. His American family dates from the 1800s and in the 1700s Québec. He was an Engineer of Steamer 3 on Leech Street and gravely injured disconnecting a gauge. At his death Guion was one of the oldest and best known citizens of St. Paul.

Captain John E. Conroy (1864-1892) was captain of Hose Company 3 on Leech Street and gravely injured when a wheel dropped into a hole at the intersection of West Seventh and Chestnut streets. His hose cart overturned and he died a few days later.

Captain Michael Kane (1861-1911) died of injuries when crushed by falling hay bales at Brings Feed Store, 314 West Seventh Street.

Firefighter Louis Literski (1887-1932) Hook and Ladder 3, then housed at Station 5 at Victoria/Ashland. He died from injuries when he fell from the back tillerman's seat as his truck rounded the corner on the way to an alarm. His father immigrated from Lugase, Germany in 1862.

Captain George W. Aker, Jr. (1923-1976) Ladder Company 3. He died of a heart condition while fighting a fire in a duplex at 830 Van Buren Avenue. He was evacuated to St. Paul Ramsey Hospital though died one hour later while firefighters were still battling the blaze.



Firestation No. 3 Volunteers. Image 1893 MNHS

1885: Fire Station 10 754 Randolph



Engine 10. Image 1910 Saint Paul Fire Department

Fire Station 10 was the oldest operating fire station in Saint Paul until it closed in 2010. The famed architect was Cap Wigington. In 1885 it was built as a single-bay house for Chemical Engine 5 with two horses, an 80-gallon tank engine, and 200 feet of hose. In 1890 Engine Company 10 was organized and a “horse hospital” was built in back. An addition was completed in 1911 for Ladder 11.

In 1937 Quad 10 replaced Engine 10 and Ladder 11. The horse hospital closed in 1924, though the cobblestones of the horse stalls were still visible. In 1949 the repair shop was moved from Station 9 to Station 10. For years, Engine 10, Medic 10 and Ladder 10 were housed in this building. The station got one of the first ambulances in the city in 1971. In April 2010 Fire Stations 1 and 10 were consolidated into the new facility located at 1000 West Seventh. A Side Public House restaurant has occupied the building since 2021

Commemorating the fallen of Station 10 in service to the West End

Captain Edward Low (1866-1907), Station 10, died in a fall from its hayloft.

Truckman Daniel Campion (1884-1919), Station 10 Hook and Ladder was thrown from his seat to the pavement when the wheels of his coal supply wagon became wedged in car tracks. He was on his way to the blacksmith’s shop to have his horses re-shod.

Firefighter/Truckman James E Seery (1887-1941) Ladder 10 was overcome and drowned by rising water in the basement in a fire at Highland Village Shopping Center, Ford Parkway & Cleveland. He came to Saint Paul in 1914 and was appointed as a fireman in 1917. Ladder 10 was housed at Station 14 at Snelling and Ashland at the time.

Engineer Ernest Kellerman (1897-1950), Ladder 10, was the son of German immigrants and an Engineer, Ladder 10. He suffered a heart attack while fighting a fire at a garage.

Firefighter Sam Jørgensen/Jurgenson (1888-1950) Engine 10 was born in Vejle, Denmark and immigrated as a newborn. He was on the back of Engine 10 truck when it was struck by a oil tanker at the corner of Lexington and Randolph as it was responding to a fire call the snowy evening of December 20, 1950. His son, George, a young firefighter, ran blocks to the accident from his engine house when he was told of his father’s injuries. Sam died December 26 at Ancker Hospital.

Firefighter Edward James Ayd (1890-1972) Ayd family came to Minnesota before statehood in the 1850s. In the course of fighting a fire out of Station 10 on October 31, 1923 Ayd was severely injured (traumatic brain injury). The Minneapolis Tribune reported that “A St. Paul fireman was seriously hurt when the roof of the burning structure fell in. There were 25 kindergarteners in the temporary structure at West Seventh and Alaska, now the exit of 35E. However the children were out to lunch at noon when the fire started. The origin of the fire was unknown and put out by 1 p.m. According to documents and family, Ayd was institutionalized nearly 50 years—difficult for his wife and five children. Outreach to the Saint Paul Fire Department for Ayd’s recognition is ongoing.

1981: Monroe School 810 Palace



Parents hoist the new iteration for Monroe Community School. Image 1981 RCHS

The last Monroe High School class graduated in 1977. When the school administration threatened to close Monroe as a school in 1981, over 3,000 alumni attended an all-school reunion in 1983, and confronted the closure. Monroe emerged to become the first K-8 school in the city.

When Riverside School was closed in 2014, the Federation and community stepped in to bring attention to citywide educational issues. Since then, Monroe partnered with Linwood School to create an upper and lower campus. In 2019 the Saint Paul School Board voted 6 to 1 to strip the name of the slave-owning U.S. president from the upper campus school at the encouragement of its student body and parent-teacher organization. Renamed Global Arts Plus School, it provides a quality, comprehensive, arts-infused, pre-K through 8 education.

Monroe Graduate: Ruby Hunt²⁶²

Ruby Hunt (1924-2024) was born in Lac Qui Parle County, Minnesota to Adolph Miller, a Russian immigrant (1911) and Helene Anna Caroline Mueller. In Saint Paul Adolph was a blacksmith helper at the Omaha Shops and they lived at 883 Tuscarora. Ruby graduated from Monroe High School (1942) and was her class's valedictorian.

She worked for the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers in the Panama Canal Zone where she met her husband Richard Hunt (-2005). They made their home in Saint Paul and raised three daughters.

She exemplified civic engagement, particularly when women's contributions were not valued. One of her greatest contributions shaped the city's home rule charter system through her leadership in the League of Women Voters, approved in 1970. Council members became elected by district rather than at large. As only the third councilwoman, she guided its implementation. After a decade on the council, including two years as its president, she became Ramsey County Commissioner, 1983 to 1995. In "retirement" she engaged on a number of issues as the anti-billboard Scenic Saint Paul and watchdog group Saint Paul Strong,



Friends of the West End: Mayor George Latimer (1935-2024) and Ruby Hunt (1924-2024). Image 2014 Brad Stauffer

Ruby Hunt was a champion of change. Her death at age 100 marked the end of a remarkable era in Saint Paul as one of the most influential women in city history.

While the Federation often found itself in an adversarial role with the city, at the same time it provided the city council and mayor with an organizational model for citizen participation. In 1975 the city endorsed the concept and officially created and funded 17 district councils "to provide early notification and involvement by residents of a district in planning for land use, physical and social service, zoning changes, public improvements and parks, playgrounds and open space. The Federation treaded lightly in combining its organization into the district council format given past disagreements and controversies, transit and housing at the fore. But the work continues!