



HISTORIC SAINT PAUL PRESENTS



TRIVIA NIGHT



TUESDAY, MAY 5 | 7:30 - 8:30 PM | [RSVP FOR ZOOM LINK](#)



About Historic Saint Paul

Historic Saint Paul is a nonprofit working to **strengthen Saint Paul neighborhoods by preserving and promoting their cultural heritage and character**. We have been around more than twenty years .

We work in partnership with private property owners, community organizations, and public agencies to leverage Saint Paul's cultural and historic resources as assets in economic development and community building initiatives.

1. True or false? Hamline University was founded in Red Wing, MN.

Answer:

TRUE!

Hamline University was founded in Red Wing in 1854 by a group of Methodist ministers – the first college established in the Minnesota Territory. Hamline ran into enrollment and financial troubles following the Civil War and closed in 1869, to reopen in Saint Paul in 1880.

2. What is now Saint Anthony Falls in Minneapolis receded over millennia. The falls were located just downstream from what is now downtown Saint Paul approximately how many years ago?

- A. 6,000**
- B. 12,000**
- C. 28,000**

Answer:

B. 12,000

It was an immense waterfall some 2,700 feet across and 175 feet high. It receded over the centuries as the falling water eroded the softer St. Peter sandstone underneath the harder Platteville limestone on top.

3. This 1915 Mediterranean Revival style building on University Avenue, originally home to a film company, is now home to what restaurant?



1928



1925

Answer:

DEMERA ETHIOPIAN RESTAURANT

It's a fantastic restaurant, now open for takeout (823 University Av.). The vegetarian platter is highly recommended. Historic Saint Paul worked with the building and restaurant owners and Neighborhood Development Center to provide design, technical, and financial support and project management for a complete restoration of the façade which was completed last year.

4. True or false? Saint Paul has the largest
Hmong population per capita
in the U. S.



Answer:

TRUE!

St. Paul has the largest Hmong population overall and per capita in the U. S. (10.0%; 28,591 Hmong Americans), followed by Wausau in Wisconsin (3,569; 9.1% of its population). Fresno, CA also has a very large Hmong population. Minnesota, Wisconsin and California are the states with the largest Hmong populations in the U. S. The 66,000 ethnic Hmong in the Twin Cities (2010) make it the largest urban Hmong population in the world. Hmong people began immigrating to Saint Paul in 1975. Since then, their culture and entrepreneurial skills have enriched and transformed a number of Saint Paul neighborhoods.

5. A speakeasy saloon downtown on N. Wabasha St. in the 1920s & 30s was a favorite hangout of gangsters and other criminal types. It was the:

A. Green Lantern

B. Red Lantern

C. Purple Orchid

Answer:

A. GREEN LANTERN

It was located at 545 N. Wabasha, between 10th and 11th where the public housing authority's Wabasha Hi-Rise is now located. It "was St. Paul's premier criminal hangout – a saloon for safecrackers and bank robbers which Alvin "Creepy" Karpis called "my personal headquarters." The Lantern was turned over to Dillinger gang members Tommy Gannon and Pat Reilly in 1933, closed in 1934, and became a photography studio and beauty shop in the 1950s before being razed." (MNopedia)



THE HAMM BUILDING
(photo c. 1922-25)

6. Construction was halted during WWI and completed after the war. It was originally intended to be what?

- A. Hdqtrs of St. Paul Fire & Marine Insurance (which became Saint Paul Companies and is now Travelers)
- B. A department store
- C. Ramsey County office building

Answer:

A. A DEPARTMENT STORE (Mannheimer Brothers)

Distinctive for its beautiful terra cotta cladding, the building was designed by Toltz King & Day, which today is TKDA. Its steel framework stood silent during WWI. The building originally included the Capitol Theater, fronting on 7th Place, the first true movie palace in the Twin Cities and the largest, most costly, and most elaborate movie palace in the Upper Midwest. The lavish theater was designed in a Spanish Baroque style, had more than 3,000 seats, and was later renamed the Paramount. Park Square Theater now occupies a small portion of the original theater space. The basement was originally home to the St. Paul Recreation Company, which included a bowling alley, boxing ring and pool hall.



7. This 1914 building still stands, though long-vacant, on University Avenue just west of the capitol.

What was its originally intended use?

Answer:

The building is the Ford Building and it was built to be a Ford assembly or subassembly plant for Model T Fords.

It never fully functioned as such, though, as a larger multi-story plant was built in Minneapolis also in 1914 and then Ford constructed a single-story assembly plant in Highland Park, Saint Paul in 1925. The building has been owned by the State and vacant for decades and the state just recently has sought approval again to demolish it though nothing else is planned for the site.



2010

8. This grand 1915 building, extant on Robert St. between 7th St. and 7th Place, was for decades the home of which department store:

- A. Golden Rule
- B. The Emporium
- C. Zayre
- D. Schuneman's

Answer:

A. GOLDEN RULE

The Classical Revival style building is now an office building named the Golden Rule Building. It was designed by prominent Saint Paul architect Clarence H. Johnston and incorporated earlier buildings on the site (some designed by Johnston).



9. This fine brick edifice was located on the bluff on Washington Street where the Science Museum is now located. It is historically significant as:

A. The city's first brick residence

B. The home of Harriet Bishop, who arrived in St. Paul in 1847 and is best known as the founder of the city's first public and Sunday schools

C. A brothel

Answer:

C. A BROTHEL

It was operated by the saintly city's prominent yet infamous madame Nina Clifford. The 1900 census listed 39 women living in this not-large building. Clifford was a successful St. Paul business woman for an astonishing 50 years and the headline of a newspaper article upon her death referred to her as "Long St. Paul Demi-Monde Queen." Nina's Coffee Cafe at Selby & Western is named after her.



10. The white vertical trim element on the corners of this house at 400 Summit Avenue is called:

- A. Voussoirs
- B. Keystones
- C. Velouté
- D. Quoins

Answer:

D. QUOINS (pronounced coins, spelled quoins)

Quoins are a decorative element and most often of masonry – brick or stone, but can also be made of wood or stucco. A voussoir is a wedge-shaped element, typically stone or brick, used in building an arch or vault. A keystone is the center unit at the apex of an arch. And velouté is a sauce made with stock, cream, and egg yolks.

**11. Why is the
Lowertown
neighborhood
in downtown
called
Lowertown?**



Answer:

BECAUSE IT IS LOCATED ADJACENT TO THE HISTORIC MISSISSIPPI RIVER LOWER LANDING AT WHAT IS NOW THE FOOT OF JACKSON STREET, JUST BELOW UNION DEPOT.

Saint Paul developed and prospered where it is because it's at the head of the navigable portion of the river. Two very busy steamboat landings developed where there are breaks in the bluff to allow access to the land – the Lower Landing at what became Lowertown and the Upper Landing at the foot of Chestnut Street or Eagle Parkway in between the Science Museum and Irvine Park (which area became known as Uppertown).

12. The buildings and street alignments at what is now the intersection of Kellogg Boulevard and W. 7th St. have changed dramatically over time. One hundred years ago, this intersection was known as:

- A. Five Corners
- B. Six Corners
- C. Seven Corners



1904

Answer:

C. SEVEN CORNERS

Remember Seven Corners Hardware store that was across 7th from Cosetta's until not that long ago? Minneapolis's Seven Corners also no longer has that many.

13. This magnificent 1889 building, the People's Church, was located on what street that is now largely obliterated by 35-E?



Answer:

PLEASANT AVENUE

Pleasant was a major street, only a small portion of which remains. The distinctive and unusual church building, located just a few blocks from Seven Corners, was designed by prominent Saint Paul architect J. Walter Stevens. An auditorium on the upper two floors accommodated 2,500 people – making it the largest church in the city. It was heavily damaged by fire in 1902 and then destroyed by fire on Good Friday in 1940.

14. Why is the West Side area of Saint Paul, located south of downtown and surrounded on three sides by the Mississippi River, called the West Side?



Answer:

BECAUSE IT IS WEST OF THE MAIN CHANNEL OR ORIENTATION OF THE MISSISSIPPI RIVER.

**15. This 1884 mansion,
home of Norman Kittson,
one of the country's early
millionaires, lasted only
20 years. It was located
on what is now the site of:**

- A. City hall/county
courthouse**
- B. Cathedral**
- C. State capitol**



1889

Answer:

B. CATHEDRAL

Kittson didn't get to enjoy his opulent Second Empire style house for long – he died four years after the house was built. It later became a boarding house and the archdiocese purchased it in 1904 for \$52,000. Kittson made his wealth in the fur trade, real estate, investments, and transportation. He was St. Paul's eighth mayor, for one year in 1858-59.

16. By the early 1900s, the river flats at the Upper Landing was a tight-knit community of people emigrated from which country?



1940

Answer:

ITALY

“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. “Little Italy” was a thriving, almost self-contained community on the Upper Levee, below the High Bridge, from the early 1900s to the 1950s. Serious flooding over many years finally led the city, in the mid-1950s, to begin condemnation and acquisition of houses on the levee. Several well known Italian family businesses (Bonfe’s, Cossetta’s, DeGidio’s, DiSanto’s [Fort Road Florists, now closed], and Mancini’s), continue operations on West 7th Street today.” (from Italians, SaintPaulHistorical.org, by Jim Sazevich)

17. What prominent U.S. photographer, writer, musician, and film director got his start as a photographer at the Frank Murphy store pictured here – where Pazzaluna is now located at Fifth & St. Peter?



1948



(Hint: There is a school on University Ave. named after him.)

Answer:

GORDON PARKS

Gordon Parks was a prolific, prominent, and multi-talented Renaissance man. Not long after he began taking photographs – he was self-taught – he talked his way into being hired as a fashion photographer at the tony Frank Murphy women’s fashions store. Later he became the first African American staff photographer at Life magazine (for 20 years), in 1970 he helped found Essence magazine and was its editorial director from 1970 to 1973, and he directed the 1971 hit film “Shaft”.

18. Construction of the Cathedral of St. Paul began in 1906.

How long did it take to complete?

- A. 3 years**
- B. 5 years**
- C. 9 years**
- D. 17 years**



Answer:

C. 9 YEARS

It opened to the public on Palm Sunday in 1915.

19. The oldest remaining house in the city, the Charles Symonds House, was built in 1850 in what neighborhood?

- A. Little Bohemia**
- B. Frogtown**
- C. Ramsey Hill**
- D. Irvine Park**



Answer:

D. IRVINE PARK

It's located at 234 Ryan Avenue, just east of Irvine Park and just west of Eagle Parkway.

20. What is the origin of the Crocus Hill neighborhood's name?
- A. It was platted by Seymour Crocus.
 - B. Crocus flowers have bloomed abundantly in the area since it was first developed.
 - C. Sculptor Curtis Crocus lived at 1 Crocus Place in 1885 and designed a fountain placed in Triangle Park.
 - D. A farmers market, with vendors selling spring greens and crocus bouquets, was a yearly harbinger of spring in the 1860's.



Answer:

B. Crocus flowers have bloomed abundantly in the area since it was first developed.

21. Before building his Summit Avenue mansion, James J. Hill built this house in 1878 in which neighborhood?

- A. Lowertown**
- B. Irvine Park**
- C. Dayton's Bluff**
- D. Sherburne Hill**



Answer:

A. LOWERTOWN

A part of Lowertown around long-gone Lafayette Park was once a high society residential area with more than 30 mansions, most built before 1880 and before the railroad expanded greatly in the area. They were located north of what is now thought of as Lowertown, across the interstate where warehouses, office buildings, and the county jail now stand – around Lafayette Road.

22. What street was renamed Kellogg Blvd. to honor St. Paul resident and former senator Frank B. Kellogg?



Answer:

THIRD STREET

Kellogg served as U. S. secretary of state from 1925 to 1929 under President Coolidge. He was awarded the 1929 Nobel Peace Prize for his work on the Kellogg-Briand Pact of 1928, an international agreement designed to prohibit war as an instrument of national policy.

23. Which major street was cleared for the Interstate 94 corridor heading west out of downtown?



Answer:

RONDO AVENUE

As most people know, Rondo was the heart of the city's African American community and efforts are still underway to knit Rondo back together.

TIE BREAKER!
How many historic
buildings were saved
from demolition in the
Dayton's Bluff
"Demolition Derby"
of 2016?



Answer:

SIX!

That's all - hope you
enjoyed it!