



tour **SAINT PAUL**

dayton's
bluff



views
diversity
preservation

DAYTON'S bluffs

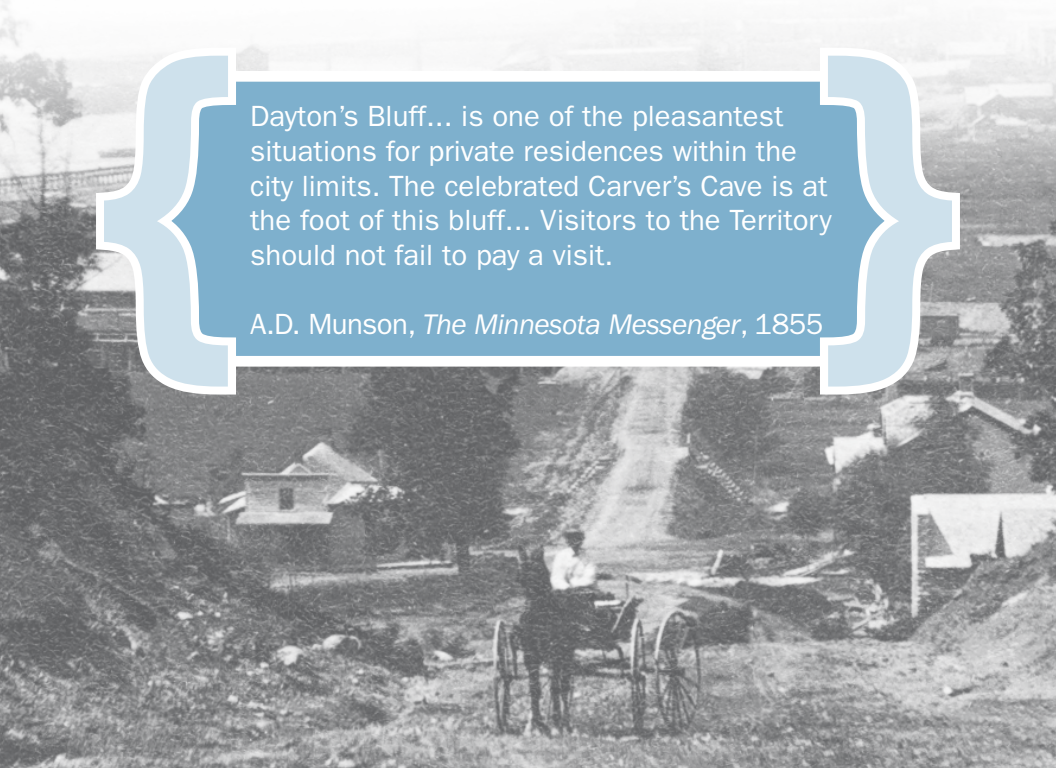
the early years

More than a thousand years ago, Native Americans built dozens of mounds on these bluffs high above the Mississippi River. Later, a settlement of Mdewakanton Dakota lived near here along the river in a seasonal village known as Kaposia.

By the 1830s, other groups began to arrive. Some of them were mixed-blood Metis who had been involved in the fur trade. Others were former soldiers from Ft. Snelling who took up claims and started farming.

As the city grew, the agricultural land was divided into lots for homes. Among the early arrivals were Lyman and Maria Dayton, for whom the neighborhood is named. They came in 1849 and built an elegant frame home on the crest of the bluff.

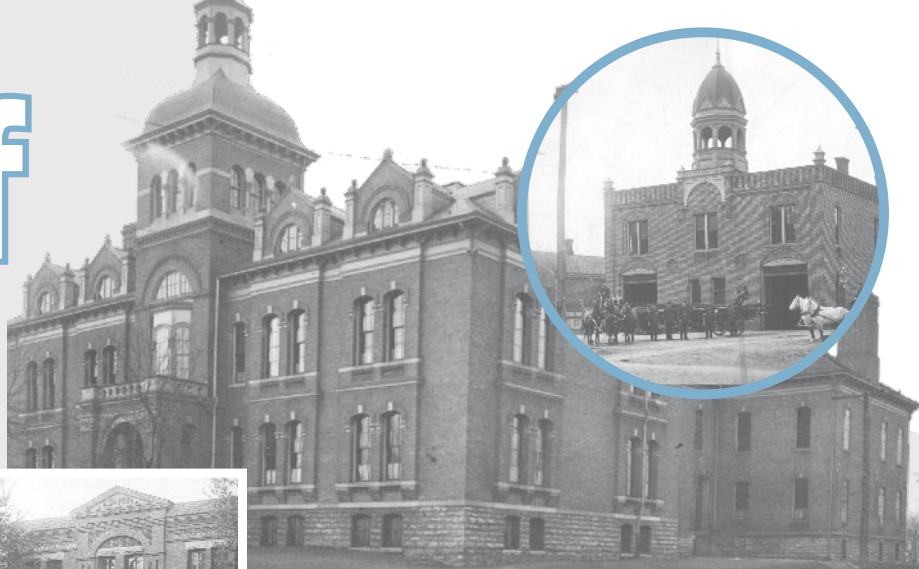
Background: View of Saint Paul looking down 3rd Street, ca. 1870, Charles Zimmerman



Dayton's Bluff... is one of the pleasantest situations for private residences within the city limits. The celebrated Carver's Cave is at the foot of this bluff... Visitors to the Territory should not fail to pay a visit.

A.D. Munson, *The Minnesota Messenger*, 1855

ff



Top Right: Hook & Ladder No. 4, ca. 1900

Above: Van Buren School, ca. 1905

Left: Margaret Street Police Station, ca. 1902, Hass & Wright



the birth of a neighborhood

Dayton's Bluff was separated from downtown St. Paul by a huge wetland formed by the merging of Phalen Creek and Trout Brook. Eventually roads and two bridges permitted easier access and the neighborhood became part of what historians call "the walking city."

New people began moving into the area starting in the 1860s. Large communities of German and Irish immigrants, along with older "Yankee" stock, established businesses, churches, and cultural institutions. As police stations, fire stations, and schools were built, the residents began demanding better roads, streetlights, and other city services.

Steady growth between the 1880s and 1920s created homes for both wealthy and working-class families. There was a wide variety of retail outlets including grocery and meat markets, taverns, barber shops, restaurants, department stores, gas stations and movie theaters.

The general prosperity lasted until the 1930s when the Depression hit hard. Further changes occurred in the 1940s and 1950s as the community aged, housing stock deteriorated, and long-time residents left the area.

the industrial heritage

The railroad tracks north of Seventh Street attracted early business and industry. The St. Paul Plow Works and the Wood Harvester plant made agricultural implements. Minnesota Terra Cotta, near Seventh and Earl, made unique kiln-fired products for building ornamentation. The following are among the most notable businesses in Dayton's Bluff:



HAMM'S BREWERY

German immigrant Theodore Hamm bought a struggling brewery in 1865 and slowly turned it into one of the largest such businesses in the country, producing beer for almost a century. The last brewing company on the site was Stroh, which operated the brewery until 1997.

SEEGER REFRIGERATOR

Seeger Refrigerator began manufacturing on the edge of the community in the early 1900s. In 1910, they purchased an old sash-and-door factory at Arcade and Wells and remained there until 1984, by which time they were known as Whirlpool.

3M

Minnesota Mining and Manufacturing, as 3M was originally named, moved from Two Harbors, MN, to St. Paul in 1910. The company started with sandpaper and eventually became a major international corporation, making a wide variety of products. 3M closed all operations on St. Paul's Eastside in 2009.



Top: Hamm's Employee Picnic, ca. 1890

Above: 3M cellulose tape, ca. 1931



below the bluff

STATE FISH HATCHERY

Located at the foot of Mounds Park, Willowbrook Hatchery was started in 1878 by the newly formed State Fish Commission. Raising fish for the state's lakes, it utilized ponds to catch the waters of Willow Creek flowing out of the bluffs. The hatchery is still there, but with reduced operations.

NORTH STAR BREWERY

The North Star Brewery, located at the corner of Commercial Street and the old Hudson Avenue, began operation in 1855 in two buildings and a cave. Jacob Schmidt began his beer-making career in 1884 by buying a half-interest in the plant, which was destroyed by fire in 1900.

BRUCE VENTO NATURE SANCTUARY

The Bruce Vento Nature Sanctuary is a twenty-seven acre landmark in the Mississippi flood plain that combines restoration of riverfront habitat with public access. The land was purchased from the railroad in 2003 and clean-up and ecological development work began. Community members are now looking forward to the future interpretive center adjacent to the park.

CARVER'S CAVE

Dakota people called this cave "Wakan Tipi", or "House of the Spirits." In 1766, explorer Jonathan Carver was shown the cave and his writings made it famous. The cave was sometimes "lost" when falling limestone and debris covered its entrance, but it is now uncovered and visible from the park trail.

CONNEMARA PATCH

Many immigrants from the Connemara area of Ireland settled along the banks of Phalen Creek between Third and Seventh Streets. Many were persuaded to come to Minnesota in the 1880s by Archbishop John Ireland. Railroad construction around 1908 destroyed many of their homes, but a few under the Third Street Bridge remained until the 1950s.

Right: St. Paul Harvester Works, ca. 1874





three justices park

This site, located at Third and Maple Streets, honors three prominent jurists who grew up in Dayton's Bluff and attended Van Buren Elementary School, now Dayton's Bluff Elementary.

WARREN BURGER (1907-95)

Warren Burger served as Chief Justice of the U.S. Supreme Court from 1969 to 1986. He was responsible for many reforms and improvements in the judicial process, and at his suggestion, many courts began to employ professional administrators. Burger's boyhood home from 1914 to 1933 is located at 695 Conway Street.

HARRY BLACKMUN (1908-99)

Harry Blackmun served on the U.S. Supreme Court from 1970 to 1994. He gave great importance to the Fourth Amendment, seeing in it a right to privacy. Blackman grew up at 847 East Fourth Street, in a home that still stands.

EDWARD DEVITT (1911-92)

Edward Devitt was a U.S. district judge from 1958 to 1981. His notable cases were the racketeering trial of gangster "Kid" Cann and the Reserve Mining trial. Devitt's home, formerly at 716 Van Buren Place (today's Surrey Avenue), is no longer there.

historic homes

Dayton's Bluff is filled with a rich variety of homes ranging from 19th-century Victorian structures to 1920s bungalows and postwar ranch houses. The Dayton's Bluff Historic District, created in 1992, has been an important factor in community revitalization. The three homes below are all on the National Register of Historic Places.



ADOLPH MUENCH HOUSE: 653 EAST FIFTH STREET

This 1884 house on the edge of the bluff was designed in the fashionable Queen Anne style by architect Emil Ulrici for Adolph Muench, a lumberman and president of the *Die Volkszeitung*, a local German-language newspaper.

GIESEN-HAUSER HOUSE: 827 MOUND STREET

This Queen Anne structure, designed in 1891 by architect Albert Zschoke, was built for Peter Giesen. He owned a bookbinding business and his wife Marie started a long-lived costume shop. The next inhabitant was Eric Hauser, a railroad contractor.

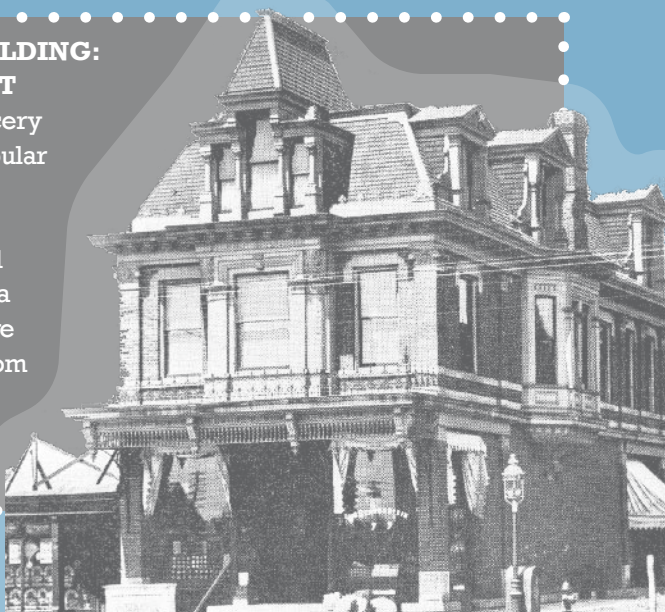
Left: Arbor Day tree planting, 1952, St. Paul Dispatch & Pioneer Press

Above: 5th and Mounds, Muench House, ca. 1977, Gary Egger, block print

Below: Schornstein Building, ca. 1905

SCHORNSTEIN BUILDING: 707 WILSON STREET

The Schornstein Grocery and Saloon was a popular establishment in the German-American community. Designed by August Gauger in a French Second Empire style, it had ample room for receptions, dances, and gatherings.





1 3M Campus

2 Hamm's Brewery

3 Metropolitan State University

4 Dayton's Bluff Heritage Preservation District

5 Bruce Vento Nature Sanctuary

6 Indian Mounds Park

This guide was developed by Historic Saint Paul as part of the "Tour Saint Paul" interpretive guide series highlighting the cultural and historic resources of the city's neighborhoods. See www.historicsaintpaul.org for more information and to download an audio walking tour and map.

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Cover Background: View of Saint Paul looking down 3rd Street, ca. 1870, Charles Zimmerman

Cover Top Left to Right: Klinkerfues Brothers employees, ca. 1910

Donndelinger Saloon, ca. 1910

Twin City Rapid Transit East Seventh Station, ca. 1915

Milk delivery wagons, ca. 1910

indian mounds park

Indian Mounds Park is named for the six burial mounds that are believed to have been made more than a thousand years ago. The first land parcels for the 17-acre park were purchased by the city in 1892 and added to for over a century. Its trails, picnic and recreation areas, and breathtaking views attract people from around the region.

PARK PAVILION

This Prairie style structure, with its low-hipped roof and horizontal feel, was designed by Charles Hauser and built in 1916. It is a rarity in the Twin Cities since most other Prairie style buildings are houses or commercial buildings.

AIRWAY BEACON

This steel tower, erected in 1929, is 110 feet high. The rotating light on top was used for visual navigation by pilots flying along an air corridor. Out of more than 600 built in the United States, this one is believed to be one of the few still standing in its original location.

ST. PAUL MUNICIPAL FOREST

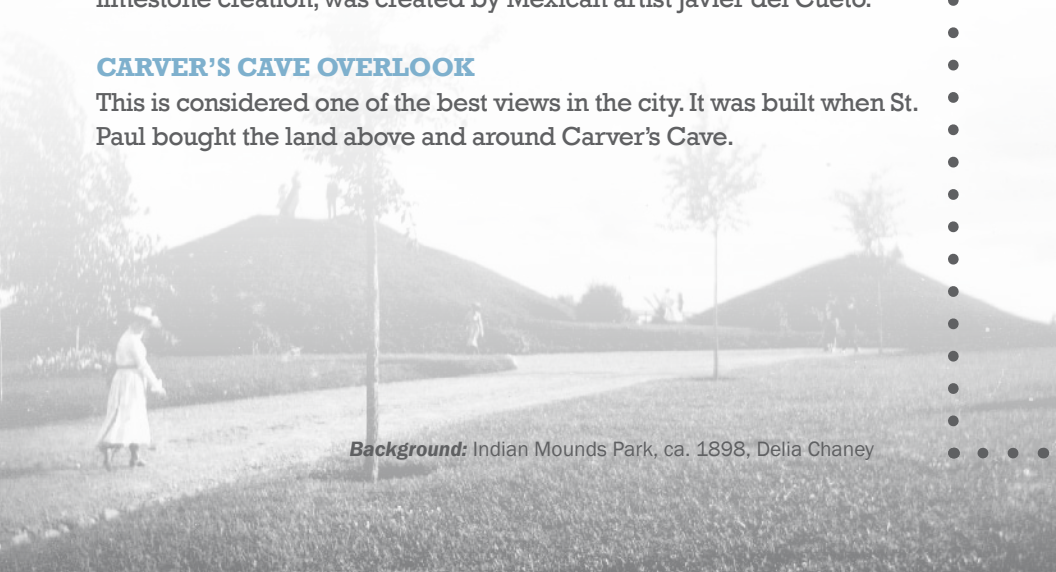
Most of the twenty-acre forest between Johnson Parkway and Birmingham Street was given to the city by the state in 1920. It had been part of the fish hatchery property but it was too hilly to be useful.

TWO SCULPTURES

Duane Goodwin, an Ojibwe sculptor, created *The Sacred Dish* in 2006. The figure of a Native woman is made of limestone accented with pipestone inlays. *Usumacinta River Visits the Mississippi*, also a 2006 limestone creation, was created by Mexican artist Javier del Cueto.

CARVER'S CAVE OVERLOOK

This is considered one of the best views in the city. It was built when St. Paul bought the land above and around Carver's Cave.



Background: Indian Mounds Park, ca. 1898, Delia Chaney

along east 7th street

Seventh Street has been the neighborhood's main artery since its origin. Starting in the 1880s, a streetcar ran along Seventh, attracting businesses on each side for many blocks. Most of the old companies are gone and their places have been taken by a diverse mix that includes a strong Latino and Asian presence.

SEVENTH STREET IMPROVEMENT ARCHES: PAYNE AND EAST 7th STREET

This rare double-arched structure at the foot of the neighborhood is significant because of the technical demands of its helicoidal spiral construction. Originally spanning railroad tracks, the arches today shelter a bike and pedestrian path. It was listed in the National Register of Historic Places in 1989. To view them, you need to take the path that leads down from the small parking area.

DAYTON'S BLUFF COMMERCIAL CLUB: 770 EAST 7th STREET

The Commercial Club, started in 1905, was created to provide social exchange and community leadership. A clubhouse was built in 1905 for meetings and socializing. Later expansions added bowling lanes, private dining rooms, a men's smoking room, a billiard area, and a banquet hall and dance floor.

OLD PROTESTANT HOME: 735 EAST 7th STREET

The "Home for the Friendless" was founded in 1867 to provide for destitute women and children. In 1915, the Home purchased this property and replaced the original stone mansion with the south part of the building that still stands today. They later changed the name to the Protestant Home.

W.P. STUTZMAN BLOCK: 721-733 EAST 7th STREET

This Victorian commercial block was designed by A. F. Gauger and constructed in stages from 1885 to 1889. The Upper Swede Hollow Neighborhood Association purchased the block in 1994 and restored it. On the west end of the property is Gauger Park, named for the German-American architect who designed this structure. The Stutzman is now home to several community groups and the popular Swede Hollow Café.



the hamm's heritage

HAMM PARK: EAST 7th AND GREENBRIER STREET

William Hamm donated this park to the city in 1910 in memory of his father Theodore Hamm, founder of the brewery. William Hamm served on the City Park Board and the City Council. The rock circle was part of the original plan.

UPPER SWEDE HOLLOW PARK

This small park was once the site of the Theodore Hamm mansion, which burned down in the 1950s. Thanks to efforts made by the St. Paul Garden Club and others, the site was made into a city park.

WILLIAM AND MARIE HAMM: 668 GREENBRIER STREET

This home was built in 1892 for William Hamm, Sr. as a wedding gift for his bride Marie Scheffer Hamm. They later moved across the street into the old Theodore Hamm home.

OTTO AND MARIE HAMM MUELLER: 672 GREENBRIER STREET

Built in 1891 for Otto Muller and his bride Marie Hamm, the house was designed by architect A. F. Gauger. John Flanagan, an occasional employee of the brewery, moved into the house in 1904 with his wife Emma Hamm Flanagan.

PETER AND EMMA CLAUSSEN HOUSE: 680 GREENBRIER STREET

This 1887 Queen Anne house with a Classical Revival touch was designed by architect Edward P. Bassford for Peter and Emma Classen. Peter worked for Hamm's and Emma had a fancy-goods shop downtown.

PETER AND LOUISA JOHN HOUSE: 373 MAPLE STREET

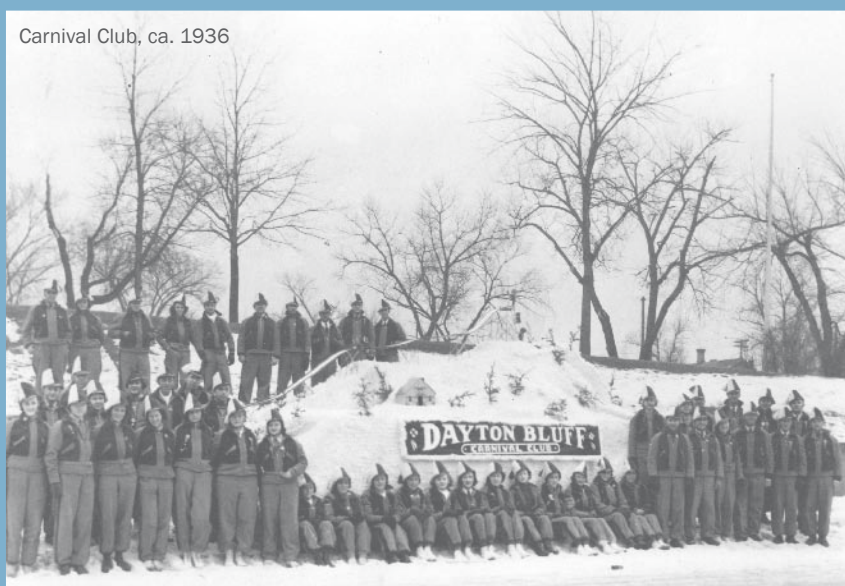
Peter John was a prominent shopkeeper and saloon owner in Dayton's Bluff. After marrying Louisa Hamm, they lived in this 1906 Colonial Revival house designed by Buechner & Orth.

ALBERT AND WILHEMINA KOEHLER: 170 MARIA STREET

Albert Koehler, a foreman at Hamm's Brewery, married Wilhemina Hamm. Their home nearly filled the entire block, its gardens tended by Wilhemina. This 1912 Georgian Revival house was designed by Thomas Holyoke.

Top to bottom: Mounds Park Sanitary Bakery, ca. 1915
Theodore Hamm Brewing Company, original plant, ca. 1875
Neighborhood sleigh ride, ca. 1930
Flag raising ceremony, ca. 1953, St. Paul Dispatch & Pioneer Press

Carnival Club, ca. 1936



new neighbors

Dayton's Bluff saw great changes starting in the 1980s. The white ethnic community began to be joined by Asians, Latinos, and African Americans, bringing a new diversity to an old neighborhood.

METROPOLITAN STATE UNIVERSITY: 700 EAST 7th STREET

In 1992, Metro State moved into the former St. John's Hospital complex. Its New Main building, facing Mounds Boulevard, replaced the original 1911 hospital; major remodeling took place on two other wings.

CLUES AND MEXICAN CONSULATE: 797 EAST 7th STREET

CLUES is a vital institution in the city's Latino community, providing services that focus on health and wellness, education, and employment. A Mexican Consulate, the first in the state, was opened in the building in 2005.

CHADANG BUILDING: 796 EAST 7th STREET

Two pioneer professionals from the growing Asian community in St. Paul office out of this brick structure. It is named for the father of Dr. Xoua Thao, a pioneering Hmong medical doctor who practices there. It also contains the office of See Vang, Dr. Thao's wife, one of the first Hmong women to graduate from law school in Minnesota.