

The Schillinger-Brings House  
Photograph courtesy of Tom Schroeder

MINNESOTA CHAPTER  
OF THE SOCIETY OF  
ARCHITECTURAL HISTORIANS

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MNSA  
WITH RESPECT TO ARCHITECTURE | SEPTEMBER 2015



PLEASE JOIN US **Saturday | 3 Oct** **Fall Tour**

PIONEER ERA VERNACULAR LIMESTONE BUILDINGS



The Stone Saloon, also known as the Anthony and Wilhelmina Waldman House, shown with the restoration nearly complete. Photography courtesy of Tom Schroeder



Pioneer Era Vernacular Limestone Buildings of St. Paul's West Seventh Street Neighborhood

Saturday, October 3, 2015



MNSAH's Fall Tour features a fascinating collection of limestone buildings located in St. Paul's West 7th Street neighborhood. Limestone quarrying and construction were particularly prevalent in this neighborhood during the latter half of the 19th century.

This was due to the accessibility of building-grade deposits and the versatility of Platteville limestone and its durability as a building material. The intensive use of limestone during the Pioneer Era helped shape the physical and cultural identity of the neighborhood, and the city's few surviving limestone buildings comprise a particularly distinct set of historic resources.

The fall tour will consist of a presentation on the history of stone construction in the West 7th Street neighborhood and a walking tour that will include the interiors of several buildings.

Platteville LIMESTONE  
THE VERSATILITY AND DURABILITY OF



THE SKILLS AND AESTHETICS OF GERMAN stonemasons

The Martin and Catherine Weber House  
Photography courtesy of Tom Schroeder

One of the highlights of the tour will be the Anthony and Wilhelmina Waldman House, also known as the Stone Saloon. The Federal style building is an excellent example of a Pioneer Era vernacular house, and one of the city's earliest surviving examples of a mixed-use commercial/residential building. Built in 1857, it is the only surviving saloon building from the city's Territorial Period and illustrates the importance of saloons to the Territorial economy and of lager beer saloons to German immigrant culture.

The house is located along the original course of the (old) Fort Road linking St. Paul to the ferry at Fort Snelling, providing a reminder of one of the city's earliest land-transportation routes along the bluff of the Mississippi River.

Another important stone building is the Schillinger-Brings House, which was constructed in 1859. The house was first owned by John and Magdalene Schillinger and later purchased by Joseph and Lucia Brings. The house is unique in its degree of ornamentation, including corner quoins, modillions, stone cornice, and frieze, and its subtle blend of Federal, Greek Revival and Italianate styles. It represents the transitional phase in Minnesota architecture between the Federal and Greek Revival styles, and also hints at the Italianate style soon to follow. The house was regarded as "one of the old landmarks" of St. Paul even by the time of Joseph Brings' death in 1899.

Another highlight of the tour will be the Martin and Catherine Weber house, built in 1869. The builders were Jacob Amos and Christian Reinhardt, prominent local stonemasons during St. Paul's Pioneer Era. Their design for the Weber House contrasts with Amos' Federalist style design of the Waldman House built a decade earlier in 1857. As such, it is a rare, late example of the Greek Revival



style. Both Amos and Reinhardt were German stonemasons who settled in St. Paul during the 1850s, contributing their significant skills and understated design aesthetics to the city's Pioneer Era of construction.

The collection of vernacular limestone buildings in the West 7th Street neighborhood represents an important connection to the Territorial Period in St. Paul and their preservation provides a remarkable historical and architectural legacy.

Our guides will be Tom Schroeder, who meticulously researched St. Paul's stone buildings and restored the Stone Saloon, as well as a nearby Italianate style house, and historian Bob Frame, who owns the Schillinger-Brings House.

**DATE AND PLACE**

Saturday, October 3, 2015  
9:30-12:00 p.m.

Tour is rain or shine.

Be sure to dress appropriately and wear comfortable shoes.

**COST**

\$25 for MNSAH members  
\$35 for nonmembers

**REGISTRATION**

Deadline: Monday, September 28, 2015

Please register online at:

[www.mnsah.org/events/fall-tour-2015/](http://www.mnsah.org/events/fall-tour-2015/)  
or mail your check (payable to MNSAH) and registration form to:

MNSAH  
c/o Lock Bounds  
2072 Iglehart Avenue  
St. Paul, MN 55104

**PARKING**

Park in the lot at the Bad Weather Brewing Company at 414 West 7th Street in St. Paul, located one block south of Smith Avenue. Our tour will begin with a presentation in Bad Weather's community room.

**QUESTIONS**

For more information about the tour, contact Rolf Anderson at 612-824-7807 or [roanders6@aol.com](mailto:roanders6@aol.com).

the details

documenting modernism

**MNSAH RECEIVES MINNESOTA HISTORICAL AND CULTURAL LEGACY GRANT**

Minnesota has a remarkable history of Modernism. After WWII the state became the home for numerous superb modern designers. Their nationally recognized work appeared in schools, civic buildings, campuses, and churches throughout the state. How did this happen and why? MNSAH has received a Legacy Grant to document the history of Modernism in Minnesota through oral interviews. This project will help preserve our modern Minnesota architectural history, acknowledge the lasting contributions a handful of noted individuals made to the public realm, and document how Minnesota's once small profession grew into an important part of the state's economy.

Over the next year, eight Minnesota architects and architectural historians who were active in the second half of the twentieth century will be interviewed. A complete list of interviewees and interviewees will be available when all arrangements have been made. The interviews will be videotaped, and run about 90 minutes each unedited. A transcript and DVD of each will be given to the Northwest Architectural Archives (NWAA). Shortened versions of each interview will be produced and used on the MNSAH website and presented at MNSAH events.

This project will be completed in June 2016. It is anticipated that this is Phase I and that an additional eight interviews will be produced in Phase II and another eight in Phase III.



MNSAH recent events

Images top to bottom:

Jennifer Olivarez points out an architectural feature at Stewart Memorial Presbyterian Church by Purcell and Feick during the Spring Event.

John Stark discusses the restoration of the Pillsbury A-Mill from the rooftop overlooking the Mississippi River and the Minneapolis skyline.

MNSAH members on the terrace of the Ralph Rapson-designed home of Matt and Liz Tibbetts. Photography by Rolf Anderson

**SPRING EVENT** | MNSAH's Spring Event focused on the story of the efforts to save and restore Frank Lloyd Wright's National City Bank and Hotel in Mason City, Iowa. MNSAH members Jane King Hession and Bill Olexy produced a documentary that described the story of one of Wright's most distinctive commissions and the efforts to save it. Following a discussion about the history of the bank and hotel and their restoration, MNSAH members viewed the documentary. The event was held at the New Oil Church, originally known as the Stewart Memorial Presbyterian Church. The building was designed by William Gray Purcell and George Frick. Completed in 1909 just before Wright's National City Bank and Hotel, the building provided an ideal Prairie style setting for the event. After viewing the documentary, MNSAH past president Jennifer Olivarez discussed the history and design of the church.

**POP-UP TOUR** | In June, MNSAH introduced a new addition to its programming, the Pop-Up Tour. Pop-Up Tours take advantage of a limited opportunity to tour an important property. The first Pop-Up Tour featured the Pillsbury A-Mill located along the Mississippi River in Minneapolis. Built in 1881, the A-Mill is a National Historic Landmark designed by architect LeRoy Buffington. For over 40 years the building was the largest flour mill in the world. MNSAH members were given a behind-the-scenes tour of the property just as the restoration of the building was being completed and before residents began to move in. Now known as the A-Mill Artist Lofts, the building was restored by Dominion, a Minneapolis-based developer. Our tour guide was architect John Stark of the BKV Group.

**SPONSOR EVENT** | In July, MNSAH sponsor, benefactor, and corporate-level members were invited to a special event at the Ralph Rapson-designed home of Matt and Liz Tibbetts. Built in 1958 on a dramatic site overlooking Lotus Lake in Chanhassen, the house features walls of glass and white brick. Members enjoyed wine, hors d'oeuvres, and conversation at the Tibbetts' beautiful modernist home.



Hitting the Ground Running!  
Photography by Rick Olson, Minnesota Twins



## We hit the ground running!

MNSAH is proud to be the first chapter of the Society of Architectural Historians to organize a youth tour for SAH's Hit the Ground Running program. SAH celebrates its 75th anniversary this year, and a generous donor has provided funds to "hit the ground running" by bringing children and youth on architecture tours.

This group of 50 second-graders from the Summer Academy toured Target Field in June. We also walked to the offices of HGA in the neighboring Ford Center and met architects Michael Bjornberg, FAIA, and Dustin Harford. They talked about their education and their work, about the Ford Center, and about HGA. After their tours, the kids had lunch on the Target Field Station plaza. What a fun day – thanks, SAH!

## Gebhard Award – call for entries

Every two years, MNSAH awards a prize for the best book and the best article focusing on some historical aspect of the Minnesota built environment.

If you or a friend have written a book or article that should be in consideration, take a look at the News section on [mnsah.org](http://mnsah.org) for details. We're open for entries until October 15, 2015.

### SAVE THE DATE FOR WORKS IN PROGRESS: TUESDAY, DECEMBER 1, 2015

MNSAH's annual Works in Progress program will be held on Tuesday, December 1, 2015 at 7:00 p.m. at the Hamline-Midway Library in St. Paul. The library is located at 1558 W. Minnehaha Avenue, just east of Snelling Avenue. The 1930 Tudor Revival style building is adjacent to the Prairie style Knox Presbyterian Church.

Works in Progress provides an opportunity to learn about recent architectural scholarship. This year's program will include presentations on the Art and Architecture of the Duluth Masonic Temple, MNSAH's Modern Masters Program, and Constructing an Unexecuted Design for a Lamp by Frank Lloyd Wright.

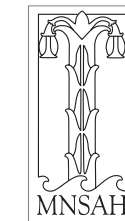
Works in Progress is free and open to the public!

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Please direct comments or concerns about the newsletter to With Respect to Architecture at the MNSAH address, or to [jo.davisondesigner@gmail.com](mailto:jo.davisondesigner@gmail.com)

Please direct membership inquiries to Kristin Anderson, 612.330.1285 or [anderso3@augsborg.edu](mailto:anderso3@augsborg.edu). For general comments or program and tour suggestions, contact Kristin Anderson.



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