

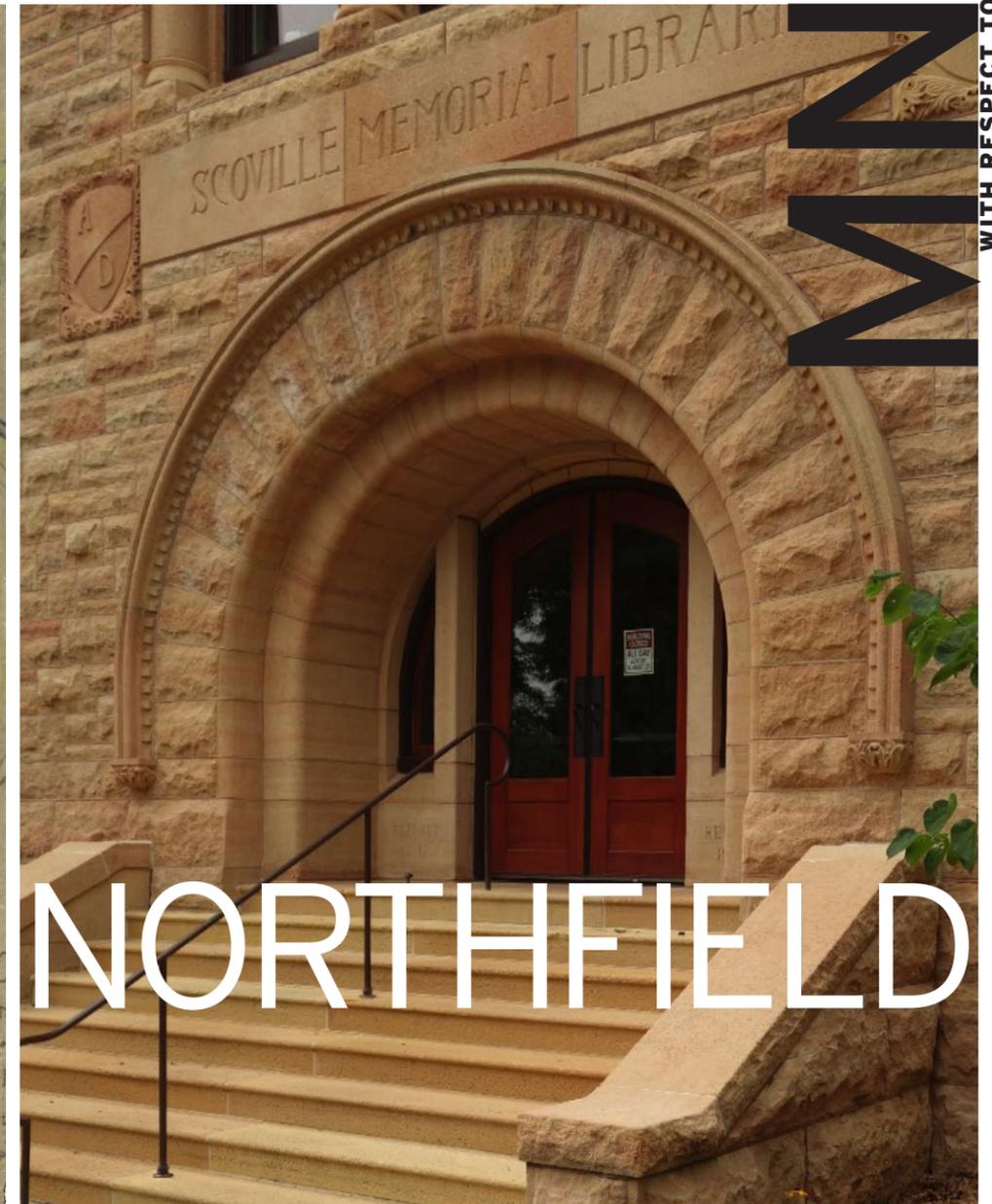
MINNESOTA CHAPTER
OF THE SOCIETY OF
ARCHITECTURAL HISTORIANS

275 MARKET STREET
SUITE 54
MINNEAPOLIS, MN 55405

Scoville Memorial Library (1896)
by Patton and Fisher

Lyman Lakes Landscape (1918)
by Morell and Nichols
Drawing courtesy
Carleton College Archives

MINNESOTA CHAPTER
OF THE SOCIETY OF
ARCHITECTURAL HISTORIANS



NORTHFIELD

MN SAH
WITH RESPECT TO ARCHITECTURE | SEPTEMBER 2018

The Garden of Quiet Listening (1976) by David Slawson

MNSAH Fall Tour
 Carleton College & Northfield
 Saturday, October 13, 2018

Goodsell Observatory (1887) by Harvey Ellis



Photos by Rolf Anderson

The MNSAH Fall Tour: An Exploration of Northfield

MNSAH's Fall Tour features Carleton College and historic sites in Northfield. The tour was inspired by our late MNSAH member Jeff Van Schoick, who suggested we organize a tour of the Carleton College campus.

During the course of the day, a distinguished group of experts will serve as our guides and speakers, including Barbara Evans, MNSAH member and local historian, Tom Lamb, College Archivist at Carleton, Clifford Clark, Professor of History at Carleton, and Ross Elfine, MNSAH member and Associate Professor of Art History at Carleton.

Our day begins at the **Northfield Depot**, constructed in 1888-1889. We will tour the extensive restoration that is currently underway as a result of the efforts of Save the Northfield Depot, a group that was organized to save the building.

The tour then proceeds to Carleton College, which was founded in 1866. We will tour the oldest buildings on campus including **Willis Hall** (1866-1872) designed by the Minneapolis firm of Alden and Howe; **Scoville Memorial Library** (1896) designed by the Chicago firm of Patton and Fisher; and **Goodsell Observatory** (1887) attributed to

Harvey Ellis while he was working for J. Walter Stevens of St. Paul. We will also visit **Skinner Memorial Chapel** (1916) designed by the successor firm to Patton and Fisher.

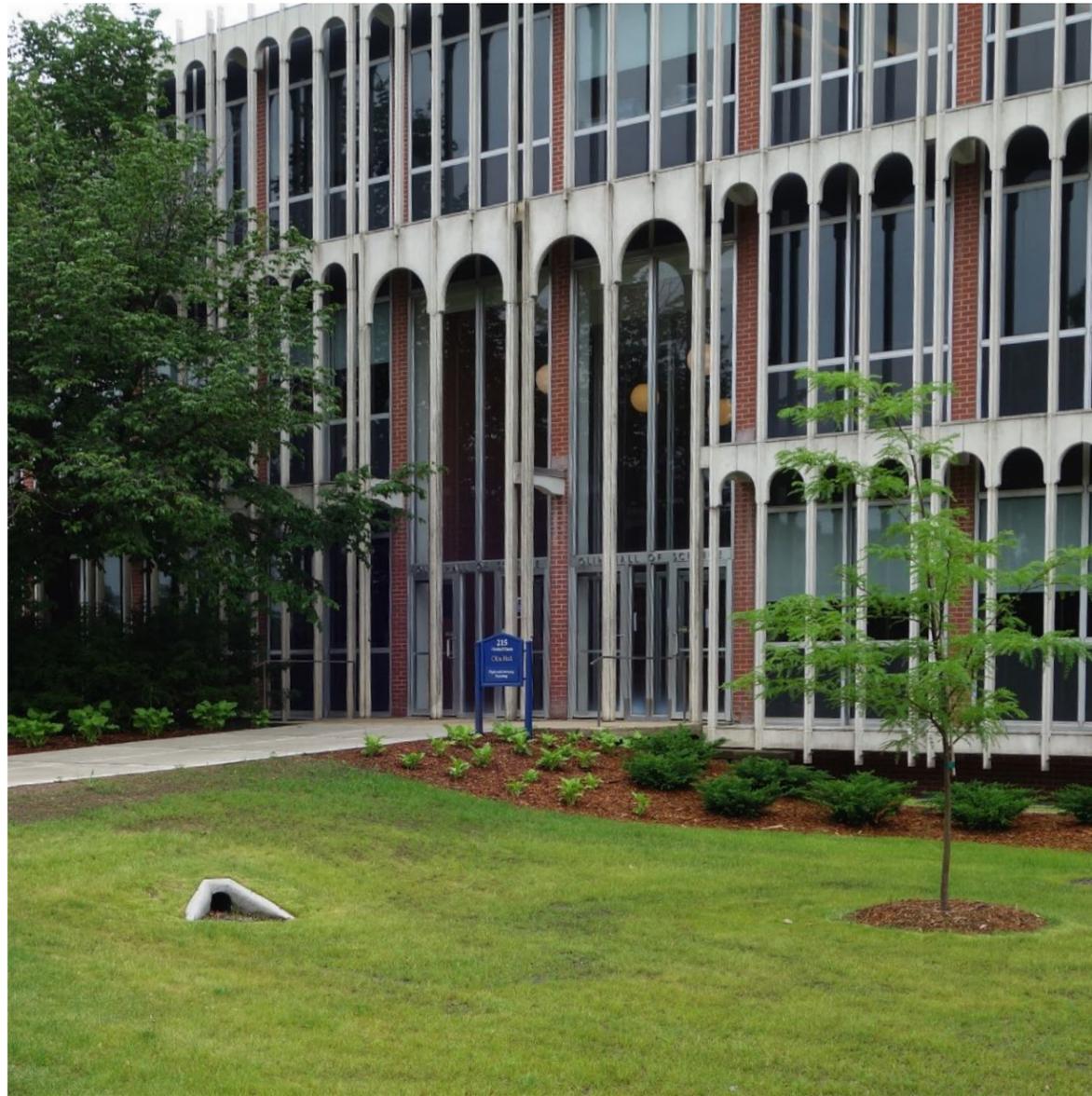
We then shift our attention to the modernist buildings on campus. The first modern building was **Boliou Hall** (1949) designed by Magney, Tusler, and Setter of Minneapolis. We will also see a number of buildings designed by Minoru Yamasaki of Birmingham, Michigan, including the **Olin Hall of Science** (1961), the **West Gymnasium** (1964), **Cowling Recreation Center** (1965), and **Watson Hall** (1966). The campus also includes buildings by Harry Weese of Chicago, and Sovik, Mathre, Sathrum, and Quanbeck (SMSQ) of Northfield.

We will also tour two landscapes on campus: **Lyman Memorial Lakes** (1915-1918), a water-based landscape designed by the landscape architectural firm of Morell and Nichols, and **The Garden of Quiet Listening** (1976) designed by David Slawson, which in 2000 was named one of the 10 highest-quality Japanese gardens outside of Japan.

Northfield

CARLETON COLLEGE &

Olin Hall of Science (1961) by Minoru Yamasaki



West Gymnasium (1964) by Minoru Yamasaki

Following lunch at Carleton's renovated **Weitz Center for Creativity**, we will proceed to Northfield's historic downtown. On the way, we will see the **Nutting** and **Lord houses**, both on the National Register, as well as the **Carnegie Library**. As part of our downtown tour of the **Northfield Historic District**, which includes 69 buildings, we will visit the **Nutting Block**, and also receive a behind-the-scenes tour of the soon-to-open **Reunion Restaurant**, which is currently being renovated and will incorporate three historic buildings into an entertainment venue.

At our final stop, we will tour the **State Bank** (1910), an Egyptian Revival style building designed by Harry Wild Jones of Minneapolis. The owner will discuss the restoration of the building, which includes a stained-glass dome and original interior furnishings.

Following the tour, you'll be perfectly positioned to choose from a number of locations along the Cannon River to relax and enjoy a libation!

THE details

DATE AND PLACE

Saturday, October 13, 2018, 9:00 a.m. - 4:00 p.m.

Attendees must make their own arrangements to meet in Northfield. If you need assistance with transportation, contact Rolf Anderson at roanders6@aol.com or 612-824-7807.

We will meet and park at the Northfield Depot, located on 3rd Street West, just a short distance west of Highway 3, and behind the Quarterback Club restaurant.

From Highway 35W, proceed into Northfield on Highway 19; turn left, or north, onto Highway 3; proceed to the next intersection and turn left onto 3rd Street West; proceed a short distance and the depot will be on your right.

NOTE

This is a bus tour with some lengthy walking segments. The tour will take place rain or shine so plan accordingly.

COST

\$50 for current MNSAH members

\$60 for nonmembers

Includes lunch

Join or renew at mnsah.org/join

REGISTRATION

Online at www.mnsah.org/events/fall-tour-2018/ or send check and names of those attending to Lock Bounds, 2072 Iglehart Avenue, St. Paul, MN 55104. All participants will be asked to sign a hold-harmless agreement prior to boarding the bus.

The registration deadline is Friday, October 5, 2018

QUESTIONS

Contact Rolf Anderson at 612-824-7807 or roanders6@aol.com

**“We Can Do Better with a Chisel or a Hammer:
Appreciating Mary Colter and Her Roots in St. Paul”**

Ramsey County History magazine,
Winter 2011, V. 45, No. 4

**“Emma F. Brunson: The First Woman Registered
as an Architect in Minnesota”**

Ramsey County History magazine,
Fall 2017, V. 52, No. 3

*We Can Do Better with a Chisel or a Hammer:
Appreciating Mary Colter and
Her Roots in St. Paul*

Architect Diane Trout-Oertel has written these articles about two women who practiced architecture in the early years of the twentieth century. The author’s copious research in original sources has provided much-needed insight into the lives and work of the two women, Mary Jane Colter (1869-1958) and Emma F. Brunson (1887-1980). Both women’s roots were firmly planted in the city of St. Paul, and both took very different paths in the pursuit of their careers.

These stories are so well-written that we find ourselves immersed in the details of the two lives. What is interesting, and not surprising, about their lives is in the work they had to do in order to pursue these careers, and how radically different these pioneers’ experiences were in contrast to the current educational and professional arcs in the careers of current practitioners.

Colter’s family moved around the “wild west” when she was very young, these moves giving her a chance to see and experience a culture and climate quite distinct from that of St. Paul, where her family finally settled. The author traces Colter’s educational background in the city, her work as a teacher at the Mechanic Arts High School, and as a popular lecturer in the arts.

To quote from the article, “1902 was a turning point in Mary’s life. Seemingly out of nowhere, she was given the opportunity to design the museum and sales spaces for the interior of the ‘Indian Building’ adjacent to the Alvarado Hotel in Albuquerque, NM, her first paid commission for the Fred Harvey Company.” It is at this point that most of us have picked up knowledge of her work as the architect for the various Fred Harvey enterprises in the West and Southwest. It is her early work and life that is the focus of the article, which brings a welcome view of the path she took from the very beginning of her career.

Desert View Watchtower designed by Colter
Grand Canyon National Park
NPS photo by Michael Quinn



*Emma F. Brunson: The First Woman Registered
as an Architect in Minnesota*

Emma F. Brunson was born in Stillwater, MN, but her family moved that same year to St. Paul, where she remained the rest of her life. She attended public schools in St. Paul and by 1905 was working as a draftsman in the offices of Augustus Gauger, by then a prominent St. Paul architect. Brunson worked for Gauger for 15 years and was likely encouraged by him to register as an architect as soon as the State Board of Registration for Architects, Engineers, and Landscape Surveyors was formed in 1923.

Brunson was not only the first woman to register with the Board, but was also the only woman registered as an architect for many years. Brunson’s practice was firmly rooted in the belief that residential architecture should be geared, primarily, for the “woman of the house,” asserting in a 1923 article that “A man overlooks the little things which a woman needs in her home and they [men] seem to forget that it is the woman, always the woman who really chooses the home.”

continued on next page

Three homes designed by Brunson
Photos by Diane Trout-Oertel



Again, using primary sources as the foundation of the article, Trout-Oertel traces the dozens of commissions received and completed by Brunson in her practice. Most of these residences are still standing and are described as livable, practical, attractive, and efficient. Until the early 1930s, the bulk of these houses were in the Bungalow style; later she began to bend to the popularity of the return to Colonial Revival styles, with some Art Deco interior design included in them.



Continuing her architectural registration until 1967, it is likely that Brunson also continued her practice, though the author notes that there is no documentation that has yet been discovered regarding this much later work. However, the current owners of Brunson's own house (purchased by one of the owner's parents shortly after Brunson died) are delighted by the many built-ins and the deft, useful details that were included in the original design.



Both articles are well-illustrated from original sources and include plans and photographs. For anyone seeking information and illumination regarding the work of early women who practiced architecture in Minnesota, these articles will be invaluable — not just for the information and insight, but for the research sources cited in the notes.

ONLINE RESOURCES FOR Architecture Lovers BY GREG GAUT

MNSAH has no trouble finding tastefully designed and well-researched books to honor with its Gebhard Award. At the same time, expert information about Minnesota's built environment is increasingly available online. Books are tools that continue to serve us well many centuries after their invention. But it's hard to beat one-click access to dependable information and color images about important buildings. Here are some of those resources.

The biggest on-line source is the Society of Architectural Historians (SAH) *Archipedia* which now has about 20,000 entries. Started in 2013, this digital encyclopedia grew out of the SAH *Buildings of the United States* book series. SAH plans to make the site completely free and open in 2019, but for now it is accessible only to members. In the meantime, the SAH has created an open access portion called *Classic Buildings*, which will include about 100 notable buildings from each state.

Former chapter president and current SAH First Vice President Victoria Young teamed up with Frank Edgerton Martin to coordinate the Minnesota section of *Classic Buildings*. They wrote some of the entries and assembled a state-wide team of authors for the rest. Several other MNSAH members contributed, including, for example, former chapter presidents Jennifer Komar Olivarez (Purcell-Cutts House) and Kristin Anderson (Target Field). The Minnesota entries, which went live earlier this year, range from vernacular buildings of the 1850s to postmodern buildings of the last decade. There is a strong geographic spread, with buildings from Worthington to Warroad to Winona, with Minneapolis coming in first with 24 entries. Search for "SAH *Archipedia*" and then go to *Classic Buildings*. Click the Minnesota section of the map and you are there.

The Minnesota Historical Society has also entered the online encyclopedia business. Over a decade ago MHS staff created *Placeography*, a wiki experiment in recording information about the built environment. The organizers hoped that individuals and community groups would share stories about buildings and encourage their preservation. To some extent that happened, and the site has also been used by teachers. Although users occasionally still add content, the site needs technical upgrading and community outreach. It may be that the future of *Placeography* hinges on its adoption by a new sponsor which can find funding to support it.

Meanwhile, MHS developed *MNOpedia*, a curated encyclopedia of Minnesota history including its architecture. Begun in 2011, the site has established its content organization protocol and editorial style and is now working to expand its coverage in all areas. At this point, it has 62 entries on structures and seven on architects, including Cass Gilbert, Clarence Johnston, and Clarence Wigington. MNSAH members interested in contributing an article will likely find — as I recently did — that the editors are open and helpful.

This does not exhaust the possibilities. Some Heritage Preservation Commissions have helpful websites, and then there is Wikipedia itself, which has handy lists of National Register properties for each county with photos and links to the nomination forms on the National Park Service website. No doubt online resources will continue to grow, but I for one will continue to keep my architectural guide books close at hand.

MNSAH BOARD

- PRESIDENT *Rolf Anderson*
- VICE PRESIDENT *Dennis Gimmestad*
- TREASURER *Robert Frame*
- SECRETARY *Deb Ford*

- AT LARGE *Barbara Bezat*
- Jo Davison*
- Greg Gaut*
- Jonathan Moore*
- Gary Reetz*

John Cuningham speaking to MNSAH members at the Spring Event. Photo by Rolf Anderson



Beginning with this issue, the newsletter will feature a new column from the MNSAH board of directors. The column will provide an opportunity to better inform our members about news and activities of the organization.

A highlight of the year was the 71st Annual International Conference of the Society of Architectural Historians that was held in St. Paul in April. MNSAH members performed various roles at the conference that ranged from presenting papers to serving as expert tour guides. Special thanks go to Kristin Anderson and Kate Solomonson, the local co-chairs of the conference.

One of MNSAH’s most important contributions to the conference was our workshop that served as a training session for producing oral and video histories, which was based on MNSAH’s Modern Masters program. We also learned that our interview program with architects and others who have made significant contributions to modernism in Minnesota is the only program of its kind among SAH chapters.

A session of particular interest was the SAH Chapter Delegates Meeting where MNSAH board members met delegates from other chapters. We had the opportunity to discuss our various programs and share experiences. It was notable that there are considerable differences in the activities and areas of focus among the chapters. The meeting also provided a forum for discussing relationship-building opportunities between the local chapters and SAH.

Pauline Saliga, the executive director of SAH, stated, “The SAH international conference, held in Saint Paul in April of this year, was a resounding success thanks, in large part, to a terrific Local Committee and the Minnesota Chapter of SAH. I sincerely thank the many local volunteers who helped us organize a truly memorable conference by leading tours, welcoming international visitors, helping to underwrite the conference so we could keep costs low, and sharing their enthusiasm for the history of Saint Paul and its built and natural environments. Thank you Minnesota SAH Chapter members! We literally could not have put on the conference without you.”

We are also pleased to report that the Minnesota Historical Society approved the Modern Masters interviews that were conducted with funding from our second Legacy Grant. Our intent has been to apply for a total of three grants, and the Modern Masters committee is preparing to apply for the third grant this fall.

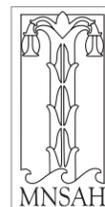
Modern Masters is also impacting our programming as seen in the spring event, which featured John Cuningham, one of the interviewees. John invited MNSAH to his offices overlooking the Mississippi River for a talk about his career and Cuningham Group Architecture. As an added bonus, MNSAH member Anders Christensen spoke about well-known Minneapolis builder T. P. Healy, who is John’s great-grandfather. MNSAH would like to continue to offer this type of opportunity where members can experience first-hand engagement with the architecture community.

We hope you enjoyed our new column! We look forward to seeing you on MNSAH’s fall tour of Carleton College and Northfield!

Rolf Anderson
President

OUR PURPOSE IS TO:

- Promote and advance research of Minnesota’s architectural history
- Broaden awareness of the state’s architectural heritage through meaningful scholarly and public engagement with the history of the built environment
- Offer opportunities to experience significant architectural sites, structures, and landscapes
- Advocate for and promote the documentation, preservation, and conservation of the built environment
- Engage and cooperate with learned and professional societies in the pursuit of common objectives



MINNESOTA CHAPTER OF THE SOCIETY OF ARCHITECTURAL HISTORIANS

275 MARKET STREET
SUITE 54
MINNEAPOLIS, MN 55405

MNSAH.ORG