Rice Park Historic District

Prepared by
Landscape Research
and
BRW / URS

for the
St. Paul Heritage Preservation Commission
St. Paul, Minnesota

November 2001

Draft for Review and Comment

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Part I

District Description

The Rice Park Historic District includes Rice Park and the buildings that border the park on all sides. Buildings that meet designation criteria and modern buildings are included within this district to provide design review on any activities surrounding the park. In addition to the park, historic buildings that meet designation criteria surrounding the park include the Minnesota Club, the St. Paul Public Library and James J. Hill Reference Library, the Tri-State Telephone Company building (1936 building), the St. Paul Hotel, and the U.S. Courts/ Post Office (Landmark Center) building. Modern buildings proposed for inclusion within the district include The St. Paul Companies Building, the Ordway Music Theatre, and the St. Paul Hotel Garage. The triangular block east of Market Street and the Landmark Center and north of 5th Street and the St. Paul Hotel should be included for design review purposes because of its proximity, as a logical connection between the park and St. Peter Street, and because of its current use as a park adjacent to Rice Park.

The district is comprised of the park, office and civic-use buildings in a busy downtown setting. Within a block of the district are the River Centre complex on the west, the Science Museum of Minnesota on the south, the Ramsey County Courthouse and St. Paul City Hall on the east, and downtown office buildings such as Lawson Commons and the NRHP-eligible Hamm Building to the northeast. Fifth Street, running between Rice Park and the Landmark Center, is the extension of an I-94 exit and carries heavy traffic as one of the primary one-way pairs in downtown St. Paul.

There are a total of nine properties in the proposed local heritage preservation district. Three properties, The St. Paul Companies, the Ordway Music Theatre and the triangular block east of Market Street are non-contributing because of modern (although complimentary) construction and the non-historic use of the triangular block. The area is in Planning District 17.

Properties in Rice Park were included in the St. Paul Historic Sites Survey (1983). Based on the survey findings, a Rice Park District was studied by the Heritage Preservation Commission but apparently not adopted. A Rice Park National Register District, comprised of Rice Park, the Minnesota Club, the St. Paul Public Library/James J. Hill Reference Library, the Tri-State Telephone Company Building, and the Landmark Center, was declared eligible in 1979. The district has not been formally nominated to the NRHP despite the eligibility declaration by the Keeper of the National Register.

Designation Criteria

The St. Paul Heritage Preservation Commission Ordinance provides the criteria for local heritage preservation designation of individual properties and districts. Properties in the Rice Park Historic District meet designation criteria 1, 5, and 7.

Designation Criterion 1 states that the Commission shall consider the following about the district:

Its character, interest or value as part of the development, heritage or cultural characteristics of the city of Saint Paul, State of Minnesota, or the United States.

Designated a "public square" in Rice and Irvine's 1849 plat of St. Paul, Rice Park has remained a significant open space in downtown for 150 years. Despite repeated attempts to change the park's use, from allowing market stalls in the nineteenth century, to proposals for a bus station in the 1920s, the park has survived as an urban green space. Its role in the city's history has been highlighted by its use for civic celebrations, from the 1883 Northern Pacific Railroad celebration to annual ice carving contests and other Winter Carnival activities. Rice Park has been an anchor that has attracted to downtown redevelopment in the early twentieth century and in recent decades as well.

Designation Criterion 5 states that the Commission shall consider the following about the district:

Its identification as the work of an architect, engineer or master builder whose individual work has influenced the development of the City of St. Paul.

The historic buildings surrounding Rice Park are significant examples of the work of the St. Paul architectural firms of Clarence H. Johnston and Reed and Stem, along with the work of the supervising architect of the U. S. Treasury (Federal Courts Building) and New York-based library specialist Electus D. Litchfield, designer of the Public Library. Although not acting in concert in their work and accomplishing this work over almost forty years, the architect's works represent Romanesque, Renaissance Revival and Art Deco architectural styles that complement each other and provide an appropriate urban setting that encloses Rice Park and contributes to its feeling of a civic space.

Designation Criterion 7 states that the Commission shall consider the following about the district:

Its unique location or singular physical characteristic representing an established and familiar visual feature of a neighborhood, community of the City of Saint Paul.

The combination of an urban park with a sense of visual enclosure provided by significant buildings has made Rice Park one of the most photographed and identifiable of St. Paul sites. Numerous photographs picture the Rice Park fountain viewed against the Federal Courts Building in all seasons. As a symbol of St. Paul, Rice Park and its surroundings have become the most popular of views. The interplay of the park and its surrounding buildings, many of which cater to visitors and public usage, have been a strong anchor in this neighborhood.

Period of Significance

The period of significance for the Rice Park Historic District is 1849 to 1936. These dates encompass the original platting of Rice Park in 1849 to the construction of the Tri-State Telephone Company Building, the latest construction of a contributing building within the proposed district.

Part II

District Significance

The Rice Park Historic District is significant as one of St. Paul's most recognizable and well-known settings. As a district with two buildings already locally designated and on the National Register, the district includes both an historic open space and a variety of significant civic and office buildings that frame it. Rather than representing a singular type of building or type of use, the Rice Park District is significant because its diverse group of buildings contribute to the whole of the urban setting with Rice Park at its center.

Although Rice Park has undergone many landscape design changes over time, its fundamental significance for this district is as a surviving urban open space. The location of the park, rather than its changing landscape, has made the park a backdrop for civic celebrations. The park has also served as a courtyard for the distinguished buildings that rose around it, and has been a factor in contributing to redevelopment of the surrounding area In the first two decades of the twentieth century, business leaders worked toward enhancing St. Paul's attractiveness for business. Three buildings within the Rice Park District, the St. Paul Hotel, the Minnesota Club, and the St. Paul Public Library/James J. Hill Reference Library, were all constructed on Rice Park in the years between 1910 and 1920. Business leaders, including James J. Hill, were active in focusing downtown development on the Rice Park area and ensuring that architecturally designed buildings enhanced the vision they promoted.

In more recent years, the Rice Park area has experienced renewed redevelopment. Once proposed for demolition, the Federal Courts Building's renovation and transformation into Landmark Center has long been noted as the beginning of St. Paul's preservation activities in the 1970s. The renovation of the St. Paul Hotel in the mid-1980s coincided with construction of the Ordway Music Theatre and its glass lobby focused on Rice Park. Since that time, construction of the Excel Energy Center and other proposed construction of facilities connected with River Centre a block away from Rice Park havegiven the entire area an entertainment focus. In the first two, as well as the last two decades of the twentieth century, Rice Park has been an instrumental central place for focusing redevelopment in downtown.

While the park has been at the center, each of the buildings surrounding the park are complimented by its location as a courtyard, or front yard, for each of them. Most of the buildings have civic uses, or are somewhat accessible to the public as office buildings. The surrounding buildings range in age from the Federal Courts Building (1894-1901) to the St. Paul Hotel (1910), Minnesota Club (1914) and St. Paul Public Library/James J. Hill Reference Library (1917) all constructed within one decade, to the 1936 Tri-State Telephone Company Building. While representing a range of styles, the buildings complement each other and the park. The St. Paul Hotel, Minnesota Club and the Library all represent facets of the Renaissance Revival style, and along with the Federal Courts Building, all exhibit a motif of round-arched window openings or arches within their facades. Similar materials were used for several buildings, including brick and limestone detailing for the St. Paul Hotel and Minnesota Club and Kasota limestone for the Tri-State Telephone building. Architectural detailing and materials provide design elements that contribute to the setting and provide some sense of relationship among a diverse group of buildings.

The sense of enclosure provided by buildings fronting on the park is also important in downtown. Rice Park has remained a pedestrian space and retains a sense of ambience because of the enclosure provided by surrounding buildings. New construction as exemplifed by the Ordway Music Theatre and The St. Paul Companies has reinforced this element by maintaining strong edges around the park. While a block away from Rice Park there are vistas of the Mississippi River, the importance of Rice Park is in retaining a compact, enclosed urban setting that has enhanced both the park and the buildings around it.

Rice Park and the surrounding district provide a social, cultural and public space for downtown St. Paul that has become a significant identity for the city. It is a "civic center" in both the provision of open space and in the location of civic institutions.

A brief description of individual properties follows. Additional individual designation studies have been prepared for Rice Park, the Minnesota Club, the Tri-State Telephone Company Building and the St. Paul Hotel. Each of these are contributing properties that have not previously been designated, unlike the Federal Courts Building and the St. Paul Public Library/James J. Hill Reference Library, which have been well-documented. The individual designation studies provide a foundation for the summaries presented below.

Rice Park
Market & Fifth Sts.
1849
St. Paul Historic Contexts: Downtown St. Paul, 1849-1975
St Paul Heritage Preservation Criteria/Criterion: 1, 7

Rice Park is located on block 11 of Rice and Irvine's Addition, a trapezoid-shaped parcel. The block is 1.6 acres and measures approximately 300 feet in length , 200 feet wide along Fifth Street and 275 feet along Fourth Street. The park is landscaped with deciduous trees and shrubs. A large fountain, 50 feet in diameter, is surrounded by a paved area and seating, and located at the north end of the park. Paths radiate from the paved area to each of the four corners. The park has been redesigned several times since it was donated to the city in 1849.

Rice Park was donated to the city for use as a "public square" by Henry M. Rice and John R. Irvine as part of Rice & Irvine's Addition to the city in 1849. It is significant for its survival as a park, despite numerous landscape changes, throughout the history of St. Paul and its use as a meeting place and location for numerous civic celebrations. As a public space that is often used to represent the city in photographs, Rice Park is at the center of St. Paul's downtown civic uses. The park is an integral part of the setting of the important surrounding civic buildings such as the Minnesota Club, the St. Paul Public Library and Hill Reference Library, the Federal Courts Building (Landmark Center) and such modern additions as the Ordway Music Theatre and the River Centre. Rice Park meets St. Paul Heritage Preservation Criterion (1) and (7).

Minnesota Club
1914-15
317 Washington St.
C. H. Johnston, Sr.
St. Paul Historic Contexts: Downtown St. Paul, 1849-1975
St Paul Heritage Preservation Criteria/Criterion: 1, 5, 7

The Minnesota Club had been in several locations prior to moving to 317 Washington--previously at 4th and Cedar for some years before building this building. Designed by Clarence Johnston Sr. in the Renaissance Revival style, of dark red brick with limestone trim. For most of the century, it was the club of the city's business and civic leaders; a private social club for conducting business in St. Paul. No longer a club, it is owned by the Minnesota Wild, which has its offices in the building.

The Minnesota Club is located at the southwest corner of Rice Park. Designed by Clarence H. Johnston, Sr. in the Renaissance Revival style, the dark red brick structure has a symmetrical facade trimmed in Bedford limestone. A central entry is framed by two projecting pavilions outlined with limestone quoins. The building rests on a limestone raised basement and is framed by a modillioned cornice. Round-arched openings frame the first floor windows and central entrance.

The Minnesota Club is significant as a symbol of St. Paul's early business leaders and their efforts to create an institution for social and business interaction. The building is also important as an excellent example of Renaissance Revival architecture in downtown St. Paul. In addition, the Minnesota Club is one of the significant buildings that provide the backdrop for, and contribute to, the public and civic space that make Rice Park and its surroundings significant as a local landmark heritage preservation district. It meets St. Paul Heritage Preservation criteria 1, 5 and 7. The building has been purchased by the Minnesota Wild hockey team and renovated for offices.

St. Paul Public Library and James J. Hill Reference Library
80-90 W. 4th St.
1917
Electus D. Litchfield
(NRHP-listed and locally designated)

The St. Paul Public Library and the James J. Hill Reference Library are located directly south of Rice Park. Built in 1917 as one building housing two libraries, the Renaissance Revival building was designed by Electus D. Litchfield of New York City with the assistance of Charles C. Soule, a national library expert.

The building facade has a symmetrical design with seven bays and two pavilions and is faced in Tennessee marble. The facade is defined by Palladian entries, arched windows, dentilated band courses, garland and swag freize and a dentilated cornice, all of which reinforce the Renaissance Revival style. The building is currently undergoing interior renovation.

The St. Paul Public Library and the James J. Hill Reference Library are significant for their association with James J. Hill, whose philanthropy enabled the construction of the reference library and contributed to the construction of the new public library. This building and its location across from the Federal Courts building and Rice Park created an important visual element in downtown St. Paul and a "civic center" supported by the

city's business and civic leaders. In addition the library is an important example of Renaissance Revival architecture in downtown St. Paul. It meets St. Paul Heritage Preservation criteria 1, 3, 5, and 7.

Tri-State Telephone Co. Bldg.
59 Kellogg Blvd. W.
1936
C. H. Johnston, Jr.
St. Paul Historic Contexts: Downtown St. Paul: 1849-1975
St Paul Heritage Preservation Criteria/Criterion: 1, 5, 7

The Tri-State Telephone Company building is located in Downtown St. Paul at the southeast corner of Rice Park. The historic building is adjacent to two newer telephone company office buildings on the west (not included in the designation).

The Tri-State Telephone Company building was designed in a restrained version of the Art Deco style by Clarence Johnston, Jr. The building is faced in Kasota limestone, accented with polished marble at the first floor base. Measuring 100 feet by 140 feet and rising 127 feet high, the building displays the characteristic Art Deco stepped-back roofline. Vertically aligned windows are separated by fluted and smooth stone piers. Double-hung sash are divided by black metal spandrels with floral and geometric motifs and terminate in a stone geometric frieze at the roofline. Entrances on Market and on Fourth Street West are recessed within the polished granite and famed with a projecting granite keystone. The double-leaf entry doors are surmounted by a transom with a metal grill. Circular stone medallions appear above the second story on either side of both entrances.

The Tri-State Telephone Company Building is a symbol of the development of the telephone industry in St. Paul and its growth and centralization in the city. When constructed, the building was an important engineering advance in concentrating service downtown from a number of exchange buildings. The Tri-State Telephone Company Building is also an excellent example of Art Deco architecture and one of the office buildings in downtown St. Paul that display this style representative of construction in the 1930s. In addition, the Tri-State Telephone Company building is one of the properties that provide a backdrop for, and contribute to, the public and civic space that make Rice Park and its surroundings significant as a local landmark heritage preservation district. It meets St. Paul Heritage Preservation criteria 1, 5, and 7.

St. Paul Hotel
363 St. Peter St.
1910
Reed & Stem
St. Paul Historic Contexts: Downtown St. Paul, 1849-1975
St Paul Heritage Preservation Criteria/Criterion: 1, 5, 7

The St. Paul Hotel is located directly east of Rice Park. The 11-story St. Paul Hotel was designed by Reed and Stem in the Renaissance Revival style, a popular choice for major publi c and semi-public buildings in the first two decades of the twentieth century. The St. Paul Hotel was built in a broadened U-shape to take advantage of its street frontage at the corner of 5th and St. Peter streets. The original building entrance is centered in a projecting bay canted toward 5th Street and downtown businesses, with the building's back toward Rice Park. Although the Hotel retains the historic 5th Street entrance,

renovation in the 1980s created a new entrance, restaurant and gardens that focus west toward Rice Park and change the relationship of the hotel to its surroundings.

The hotel was constructed on a steel frame and faced in brown brick and limestone. The building facade is divided into a rusticated limestone base, brick facing on the third through ninth stories and a two-story attic and penthouse. Galvanized iron pilasters painted to look like stone are on the two-story attic and penthouse. The rusticated base contains large round-arched windows with wrought iron balconies that line the 5th Street and St. Peter facades on the first floor. The third through ninth floors contain double-hung sash with decorative wrought-iron balconies appearing at the sixth floor. The two attic stories are set off from the building by a projecting molding. This two-story segment includes double-hung sash separated by engaged pilasters capped with decorative capitals. A projecting cornice supported by large modillions support several balustraded rooftop pavilions sheltered by wide overhanging eaves.

The first St. Paul Hotel Garage at the corner of Market and Fourth streets adjacent to the hotel,
was a four-story building converted to a parking garage in 1937 with capacity for 250 automobiles. It was razed ca. 1976. A new garage was constructed in the early 1980s in conjunction with the hotel renovation. The garage entrance and exit are on Market Street. The Market Street facade is primarily brick.
(CHECK GARAGE OWNERSHIP)

The St. Paul Hotel is significant as a symbol of St. Paul's business community in the first decade of the twentieth century and its efforts to make the city attractive for business. It was built by Lucius P. Ordway with the support of the city's Business League, which raised funds to purchase the property. The building is also important as an excellent example of Renaissance Revival architecture in downtown St. Paul. In addition, the St. Paul Hotel is one of the significant buildings that provide the backdrop for, and contribute to, the public and civic space that make Rice Park and its surroundings significant as a local landmark heritage preservation district. It meets St. Paul Heritage Preservation criteria 1, 5, and 7.

Old Federal Courts Building (Landmark Center)
109 W. 5th St.
1894-1901
Willoughby J. Edbrooke/James Knox Taylor
(NRHP-listed and locally designated)

The Old Federal Courts Building, now known as Landmark Center, is directly north of Rice Park along West Fifth Street. Designed by Willoughby J. Edbrooke, supervising architect of the U.S. Treasury, the building exhibits an eclectic combination of the French Renaissance or Chateauesque and Romanesque elements, as displayed by the abundant use of corner turrets, gables, and two clock towers. Landmark Center is constructed of pinkish granite with a clay tile roof.

The old Federal Courts Building is the last federal building of this once-popular style in the Twin Cities. As a seat of government, the building was designed to house the federal courts, the customs office and the post office. It was the first of the extant civic

buildings constructed around Rice Park when completed in 1901, and its architectural style helped to set a level of design calibre for the new buildings that followed in the next decade. It meets St. Paul Heritage Preservation criteria 1, 5, and 7.

The St. Paul Companies (non-contributing)
385 Washington St.
1961/1981/1991
Childs and Smith/ Ellerbe and Associates/ Kohn, Pedersen, Fox

Originally constructed in 1961 as a five-story International style office building with glass curtain walls and aluminum windows, this building was renovated in 19__ in conjunction with the new St. Paul Companies headquarters building built north of Sixth Street. The renovated exterior consists of vertical bands of windows separated by projecting stone pilasters. The windows reflect the images of the Federal Courts Building to the east and the Ordway Music Theatre on the south.

The St. Paul Companies began business in St. Paul as St. Paul Fire and Marine Insurance Company in 1853. The company was first located at Third and Jackson streets, but built a new Classical-style headquarters at Fifth and Washington in 1909 as other institutions were also making plans to build on Rice Park. That building was replaced with the 1961 headquarters building, which has since been renovated. The St. Paul Companies has been a significant economic force in St. Paul since its founding with world-wide business activities. It remains one of the city's oldest businesses and important for its identification with the city.

Ordway Center for the Performing Arts (non-contributing)
345 Washington St.
1985
Ben Thompson & Associates/ Ellerbe Associates

The Ordway Center for the Performing Arts opened in 1985 on the site of the Wilder Center and Wilder Office Building, both built in 1911. The contemporary Ordway building is constructed of dark red brick (similar to the Minnesota Club) but identified by its glass lobby that comprises most of the Washington Street facade. A first floor entry plaza is recessed beneath the projecting walls of glass that reveal a large spiral staircase inside, and reach up three levels. The facade is arranged in a stair-step fashion, with the various wall sections stepping back from the center. The Ordway has been described as a "sparkling prism of glass and light" for its facade overlooking Rice Park.

The Ordway Music Theatre takes its name from Sally Ordway Irvine (the granddaughter of Lucius Ordway who was instrumental in building the St. Paul Hotel), whose family donated fifteen million dollars for construction of the theatre, along with other civic leaders who contributed to the building. The building is an example of late twentieth century investment in downtown by its business leaders, similar to the support for the library, Minnesota Club and St. Paul Hotel some 80 years previously.

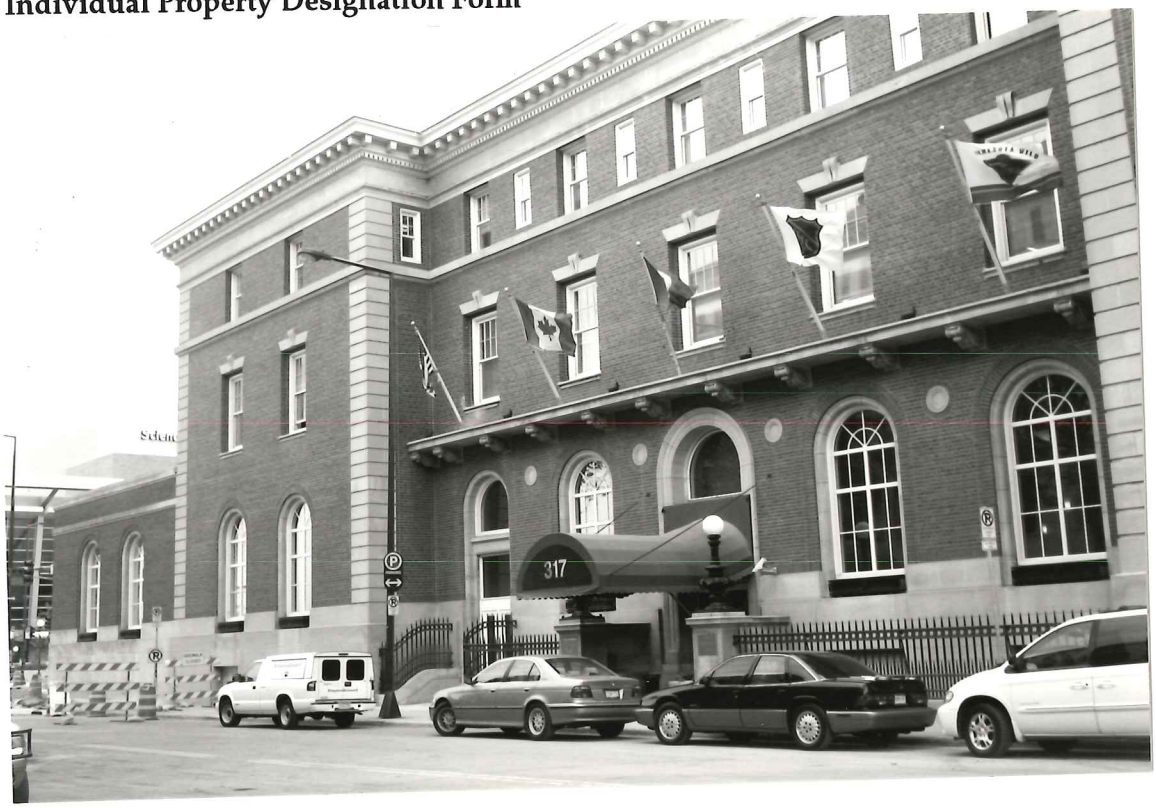
The placement of the Ordway on Rice Park was recommended by in a Rice Park Theatre Study conducted in 1980, which urged that a theatre be placed on Washington and that it consider the urban design relationships to the historical buildings fronting on the park. The Ordway is an important civic use fronting on Rice Park and attracts numerous patrons to its musical and theatrical events.

Triangular parcel (non-contributing)

The triangular parcel lying between St. Peter, Market Street and north of Fifth Street was once the location of the Orpheum Theatre, and held Commercial State Bank from 1959 until ca. 1999. It has been used as a parking lot since that time. Recently plans have been announced to construct a park for housing the Charlie Brown statues that appeared around the city in 2001 in homage to the late cartoonist Charles Schulz.

The parcel is included within the district because of its high visibility from Rice Park. In addition, the proposed park should be designed to be compatible with Rice Park. Together, both Rice Park and this property will be not only a visual connection but a likely pedestrian connection between Rice Park and the St. Peter Street office buildings and restaurants.

St. Paul Heritage Preservation Commission
Individual Property Designation Form



Address: 317 Washington Street

Historic Name: Minnesota Club
Common or Current Name: Minnesota Club

PROPERTY IDENTIFICATION

PIN:

SHPO Inventory #: RA-SPC-5485
Property Type: Private Club
Current Owner:
Legal Description: Rice and Irvine's Add., Block 17, Lot s 1, 8 and 9
Ward:
Planning District: 17

St. Paul Heritage Preservation Commission
Individual Property Designation Form

HISTORICAL ABSTRACT

Building Permit #: 62876

Construction Date: 1914
Subsequent: 1969

Architect: Clarence H. Johnston, Sr.
Engineer:
Builder: Butler Brosters Construction Co.
Moved: NA
Original Address:

Original Owner: Minnesota Club
Subsequent: Minnesota Wild

Historic Uses: Private social and residential club

DESCRIPTION

Style: Renaissance Revival
Building Type: civic
No. of Stories: 3
Plan: rectangular
Roof Type: flat
Roof Material: asphalt
Structural System:
Foundation: limestone
Facade Material: brick
Additional: limestone

Outbuildings: none
Other contributing features:

VISUAL ASSESSMENT

Exterior Condition: good
Exterior Historic Integrity: good
Surrounding Land Uses: urban civic/office

St. Paul Heritage Preservation Commission
Individual Property Designation Form

DESCRIPTION STATEMENT

The Minnesota Club is located in Downtown St. Paul at the southwest corner of Rice Park. The building occupies parts of lots 1 and 8 and lot 9 of Block 17, Rice and Irvine's Addition. It is surrounded by civic and office uses, facing the St. Paul Public Library to the east, kitty-corner from Rice Park, the Ordway Music Theatre to the north, and the Xcel Energy Center to the west.

The three-story, flat-roofed building was designed in Renaissance Revival style. The building's symmetrical composition is comprised of a shallow recessed central entry framed by two large projecting pavilions. It is clad in dark red brick, with Bedford limestone used for the raised basement story, the corner quoins accenting the projecting pavilions, the stringcourse between the second and third floors and the modillioned cornice. Round-arched openings frame the first floor windows and central entrance. The recessed central section containing the entry, a secondary entry and three arched windows, is defined by a bracketed projecting cornice above the first story.

The entry is flanked by limestone piers with globe light fixtures and shaded by a rounded awning. Wrought iron fence extends from the entry piers to the projecting pavilions. Wrought iron window boxes line the first floor windows on the facade. Upper level windows openings have stone sills, lintels with projecting keystones and double-hung sash.

A one-story addition built in 1964 replaced an open courtyard on the south end of the building adjacent to Kellogg Boulevard. The building has been purchased by the Minnesota Wild hockey team and renovated for office space.

SIGNIFICANCE STATEMENT

St. Paul Historic Contexts: Downtown St. Paul, 1849-1975
St Paul Heritage Preservation Criteria/Criterion: 1, 5, 7

The Minnesota Club

The Minnesota Club is significant as a symbol of St. Paul's early business leaders and their efforts to create an institution for social and business interaction. The building is also important as an excellent example of Renaissance Revival architecture in downtown St. Paul. In addition, the Minnesota Club is one of the significant buildings that provide the backdrop for, and contribute to, the public and civic space that make Rice Park and its surroundings significant as a local landmark heritage preservation district. It meets St. Paul Heritage Preservation criteria 1, 4, and 7.

The Minnesota Club began a long tradition with its 1869 creation as a "gentlemen's social club in this city." The club was first located in the Presley Mansion at 25 E. Eighth Street in what was then a fashionable residence district near First Baptist Church. The 75 members of the club were led by President Henry Hastings Sibley, early Mendota fur trader, territorial representative to Congress and first governor of the state. Wescott Wilkin, a local judge, served as vice-president, with Norman W. Kittson, fur trader and sometime partner of James J. Hill, as treasurer. Stanford Newel, the secretary, was an attorney, president of the *Pioneer Press* Company and best man at James J. Hill's

wedding. The new club offered a reception room, a refreshment room and card and billiard tables upstairs. The club provided a retreat from the city for men of refinement, as well as the location for St. Paul's most "glittering social events," such as the reception held for General Winfield Scott Hancock on August 27, 1869, that attracted some 250 participants.

The Minnesota Club, as a social club, represented one of three primary types of men's clubs that operated in the late nineteenth and early twentieth centuries. Other types of clubs included fraternal organizations such as Freemasons and Odd Fellows that provided camraderie, and recreational/athletic clubs for yachting or rowing. St. Paul had other clubs, but the Minnesota Club, like its counterpart the Minneapolis Club (founded 1883), were organized primarily to provide a private setting for relaxation or business endeavors with one's social peers.

The young Minnesota Club experienced financial difficulties after the Panic of 1873, and closed its doors. It was reorganized in 1883 at the urging of Stanford Newel, and soon erected a new clubhouse building at the southeast corner of Fourth and Cedar. This vaguely Queen Anne-style building with its distinctive corner tower served as the club's home for approximately 25 years. The reorganzation and financial support again was led by the city's major business leaders, including Amherst H. Wilder, entrepreneur and capitalist; Lucius P. Ordway, president of Crane and Ordway and a later investor in 3M; James J. Hill, and Norman W. Kittson.

The club also created a non-resident membership for those gentlemen who lived outside the capital city. Among the prominent members from Minneapolis were Thomas Lowry, Clinton Morrison, Charles A. Pillsbury and W. D. Washburn. By the mid-1890s, the club had 85 non-resident members in its total membership of 341.

The building was expanded twice to accommodate new membership and to provide larger social spaces, but decided to erect another new building by 1909. The Metropolitan Hotel at Fourth and Washington was purchased, and demolition began in May 1913 to clear the site for the new Minnesota Club. The new building, designed by Clarence H. Johnston, Sr., opened in 1914. The Pioneer Press noted that the "wealthy club" gave added distinction to the locality, which would also have the new public library across the street.

In addition to the main floor dining room, the club offered a dining room and lounge on the second floor (with a separate entrance) for women, although they were not allowed as members. There were two billiard rooms in the basement, a squash ball and handball court, and two dozen sleeping rooms on the third floor.

The club continued to serve the business community through the twentieth century. In the years following World War II, Saturday business lunches sponsored by leading corporations became a tradition. The luncheons were noted as an opportunity for informal business networking. In the 1960s, the club expanded the dining room by building over the terrace on the south elevation. A decade later, the club finally opened membership to women. Despite numerous changes, club membership declined through the 1990s and the Minnesota Club as an organization was dissolved in 2000. The building has been purchased by the Minnesota Wild hockey team, which has restored the building for offices.

The Minnesota Club is significant in St. Paul's social history as a meeting place for the city's influential businessmen. Although begun as a social club, the Minnesota Club

hosted receptions for visiting dignitaries, and served as a semi-private location for early-day business networking. Its founding members, and those who supported the club through its first half-century were among the city's most enterprising businessmen, such as James J. Hill, Norman Kittson, and Henry Sibley. Although both Sibley and Kittson had died before the building at 4th and Washington was constructed, James J. Hill was still active and provided some continuity from the club's earliest beginning on East Eighth Street to a new civic location on Rice Park. The extant building is a reflection of the social life of the city's earliest business leaders.

The Minnesota Club is an important landmark among the various significant buildings fronting on Rice Park. Its subdued Renaissance Revival style blends with the other civic buildings and contributes to the public space surrounding Rice Park.

Clarence J. Johnston, Sr.

The prolific work of Clarence H. Johnston, Sr. was prominent in St. Paul and throughout the state from the 1880s until the 1930s. Educated at Massachusetts Institute of Technology, Johnston established a practice in the city in 1882. Johnston's early work included houses on Summit Avenue and a four-year partnership with William Willcox from 1886-1890. Johnston's firm was responsible for residential buildings, churches, and many institutional buildings. Among the many examples of Johnston's work are the Minnesota Historical Society (1917); the Minnesota Club(1914); buildings at St. Mary's Hospital in Rochester; buildings at the Shattuck School, Faribault; the Manhattan Building (1890-91); the Louis Hill House (1902-02); St. Mary's Chapel at St. Paul Seminary (1902-03); Church of St. John the Evangelist (1902-03, 1919); the Chester Congdon estate in Duluth (1905-08); Olivet Congregational Church (1907); and University Avenue Congregational Church (1907). Johnston became the architect for the Minnesota State Board of Control, or the state architect, in 1901 and remained in that position until 1931. Johnston's firm thus designed the buildings for state hospitals, the University of Minnesota and other state colleges, schools and institutions in an era of major construction and expansion. Johnston's firm maintained a high level of productivity and produced buildings that admirably met the requirements of their clients and in his public buildings, provided excellent institutional structures that have served the state well.

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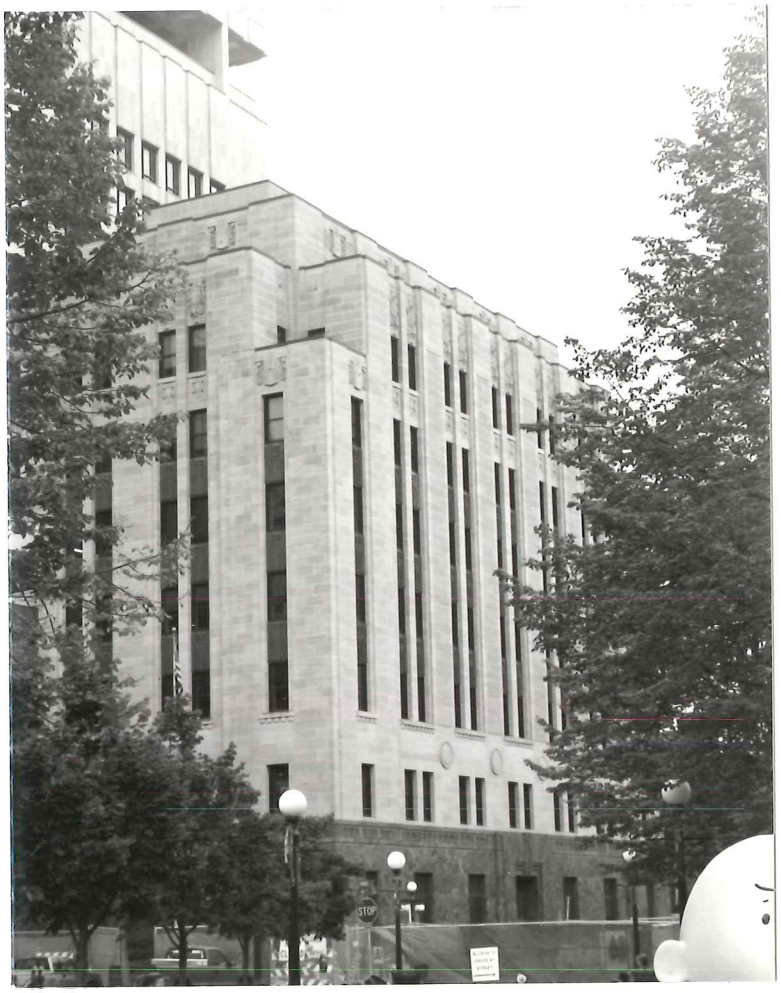
DATE OF FORM: October 2001
PREPARED BY: Garneth O. Peterson, AICP/ URS/BRW, Inc. for the St. Paul Heritage Preservation Commission

PHOTO I.D.:
Roll: 4
Frame:

St. Paul Heritage Preservation Commission
Individual Property Designation Form



Address: 59 West Kellogg Boulevard

Historic Name: Tri-State Telephone Co. Building/Northwestern Bell Telephone Co.
Common or Current Name: Qwest
PROPERTY IDENTIFICATION
PIN:
SHPO Inventory #: RA-SPC-4532
Property Type: office/commercial
Current Owner:
Legal Description: Lots 3, 4, 5, Block 19, Rice and Irvine's Addition
Ward:
Planning District: 17

St. Paul Heritage Preservation Commission
Individual Property Designation Form

HISTORICAL ABSTRACT

Building Permit #: 59050, 62852

Construction Date: 1936
Subsequent: one story addition, 1970

Architect: Clarence H. Johnston, Jr.
Engineer:
Builder: Paul Steenberg Construction Co.
Moved:
Original Address:

Original Owner: Tri-State Telephone Co.
Subsequent: Northwestern Bell Telephone Co.

Historic Uses: Office Building

DESCRIPTION

Style: Art Deco
Building Type: Commercial/office
No. of Stories: 7, (height of 9 stories)
Plan: square
Roof Type: Stepped back
Roof Material:
Structural System:
Foundation:
Facade Material: Kasota limestone
Additional: polished granite

Outbuildings:
Other contributing features:

VISUAL ASSESSMENT:

Exterior Condition: Good
Exterior Historic Integrity: Good
Surrounding Land Uses: urban civic and commercial

St. Paul Heritage Preservation Commission
Individual Property Designation Form

DESCRIPTION STATEMENT

The Tri-State Telephone Company building is located in Downtown St. Paul at the southeast corner of Rice Park. The building occupies lots 3, 4, and 5 of block 19, Rice and Irvine's Addition. It is surrounded by civic and office uses, facing the St. Paul Public Library to the west, kitty-corner from Rice Park, the St. Paul Hotel garage on the north, and two newer telephone company office buildings adjoining on the west.

The Tri-State Telephone Company building was designed in a restrained version of the Art Deco style. The building is faced in Kasota limestone, accented with polished marble at the first floor base. Measuring 100 feet by 140 feet and rising 127 feet high, the building was constructed to be as high as a nine-story building although it only contained seven stories sized with larger heights to house telephone equipment.

The building displays the characteristic Art Deco stepped-back roofline. Vertically aligned windows are separated by fluted and smooth stone piers. Double-hung sash are divided by black metal spandrels with floral and geometric motifs and terminate in a stone geometric frieze at the roofline. Entrances on Market and on Fourth Street West are recessed within the polished granite and famed with a projecting granite keystone. The double-leaf entry doors are surmounted by a transom with a metal grill. Circular stone medallions appear above the second story on either side of both entrances.

A one-story addition was built in 1970. A second telephone company building, also faced in Kasota limestone, was constructed in 1965. The 13-story building, designed by Ellerbe and Company, was built immediately east of the 1936 building. A third building, also designed by Ellerbe and Company was constructed east of the previous two buildings in 1978.

SIGNIFICANCE STATEMENT

St. Paul Historic Contexts: Downtown St. Paul: 1849-1975
St Paul Heritage Preservation Criteria/Criterion: 1, 5, 7

The Tri-State Telephone Company Building is a symbol of the development of the telephone industry in St. Paul and its growth and centralization in the city. The building is also an excellent example of Art Deco architecture and one of the office buildings in downtown St. Paul that display this style representative of construction in the 1930s. In addition, the Tri-State Telephone Company building is one of the properties that provide a backdrop for, and contribute to, the public and civic space that make Rice Park and its surroundings significant as a local landmark heritage preservation district. It meets St. Paul Heritage Preservation criteria 1, 4, and 7.

Telephone service was organized in St. Paul in 1878 with the creation of the Northwestern Telephone Exchange Company. The first year the company provided service to 37 local customers and established a connection with Minneapolis; by 1880, long distance service was also available to Fort Snelling and Stillwater. The first telephone service room was located in a building at Third and Minnesota. In 1898, the

Mississippi Valley Telephone Company was established as an independent company to provide service to St. Paul. Later reorganized as the Twin City Telephone Company and by 1906 merged into the Tri-State Telephone and Telegraph Company, the firm served areas in Minnesota, Wisconsin and North Dakota. By 1910, when Tri-State Telephone and Telegraph Company provided telephone service to the new St. Paul Hotel, the firm boasted over 11,000 telephones in St. Paul and over 51,000 telephones owned and controlled by the company on its local and long distance lines.

Another independent company, Northwestern Telephone, also continued to operate and provided service in Minnesota, Iowa and Nebraska. Northwestern and Tri-State divided the state of Minnesota in 1918, with Tri-State serving St. Paul and the southern portion of the state and Northwestern serving Minneapolis and the northern portion of the state. In 1933 Northwestern acquired Tri-State, although it remained as an independent subsidiary. This merger led to the creation of Northwestern Bell by 1942 with all operations combined into one company.

In late 1935, Tri-State Telephone Company announced the construction of their new telephone building as a means of providing St. Paul with the latest developments in the telephone industry. The new building allowed the consolidation of the city's service from 12 telephone exchanges in ten separate buildings into six buildings. The new building at 4th and Market streets was planned to serve a larger area than the previous exchange and to prepare for the city's anticipated growth. The downtown facility was taking the place of the Cedar, Garfield, Dale, Elkhurst and Riverview exchanges and assuming the long distance business previously housed in the Merriam Park Exchange.

The Tri-State Telephone Company building represented a major stage of development for the telephone industry in St. Paul and the state as the independent companies that had developed in the expansion years began to consolidate and provide more efficient service. Similarly, within St. Paul, Tri-State constructed this building to provide better service and updated equipment to replace a system of 12 exchanges that had grown with the city into six buildings. The centralization into the new building was a mark of progress in the industry and representative of the telephone company's growth in St. Paul.

Tri-State Telephone Company hired the firm of Clarence H. Johnston to design the new building for an approximate cost of $1,500,000. Johnston had designed a previous building for Twin City Telephone at 45 E. 8th Street in 1901. In 1936, Clarence H. Johnston, Sr. died and the firm was being run by Clarence H. Johnston, Jr., who was responsible for the 1936 building's design.

The Tri-State Telephone Company building is one of several Art Deco buildings built in downtown St. Paul in the 1930s. Along with the Northern States Power Building (360 Wabasha, ca. 1930); the St. Paul Women's City Club (305 St. Peter, 1931); the St. Paul City Hall/Ramsey County Courthouse (15 Kellogg Blvd. West, 1930-32); and Field-Schlick (Lowry Garage, 349 Wabasha, 1935), the Tri-State Telephone Company Building contributes to an excellent grouping of civic and office buildings representing Art Deco style.

Clarence H. Johnston

The prolific work of Clarence H. Johnston, Sr. was prominent in St. Paul and throughout the state from the 1880s until the 1930s. Educated at Massachusetts Institute of Technology, Johnston established a practice in the city in 1882. Johnston's early work

included houses on Summit Avenue and a four-year partnership with William Willcox from 1886-1890. Johnston's firm was responsible for residential buildings, churches, and many institutional buildings. Among the many examples of Johnston's work are the Minnesota Historical Society (1917); the Minnesota Club(1914); buildings at St. Mary's Hospital in Rochester; buildings at the Shattuck School, Faribault; the Manhattan Building (1890-91); the Louis Hill House (1902-02); St. Mary's Chapel at St. Paul Seminary (1902-03); Church of St. John the Evangelist (1902-03, 1919); the Chester Congdon estate in Duluth (1905-08); Olivet Congregational Church (1907); and University Avenue Congregational Church (1907). Johnston became the architect for the Minnesota State Board of Control, or the state architect, in 1901 and remained in that position until 1931. Johnston's firm thus designed the buildings for state hospitals, the University of Minnesota and other state colleges, schools and institutions in an era of major construction and expansion. Johnston's firm maintained a high level of productivity and produced buildings that admirably met the requirements of their clients and in his public buildings, provided excellent institutional structures that have served the state well.

REFERENCES

Virginia Brainard Kunz, *A Modern Renaissance: St. Paul.* Northridge, CA: Windsor Publications, Inc., 1986.
Paul Clifford Larson, *Minnesota Architect: The Life and Work of Clarence H. Johnston* . Afton, MN: Afton Historical Society Press, 1996.
Paul Clifford Larson, "History and Architecture of St. Paul, 1840-1985." Prepared for the St. Paul Heritage Preservation Commission, 1988.
Tri-State Telephone and Telegraph Company, "A New Telephone Building to Serve St. Paul." Brochure,1935. (in files of Landmarks Heritage Preservation Commission).

DATE OF FORM: October 2001

PREPARED BY: Garneth O. Peterson, AICP/ URS/BRW, Inc. for the St. Paul Heritage Preservation Commission

PHOTO I.D.:
Roll: 4
Frame:

St. Paul Heritage Preservation Commission
Individual Property Designation Form

Address: 363 St. Peter Street
Historic Name: St. Paul Hotel
Common or Current Name: St. Paul Hotel
PROPERTY IDENTIFICATION
PIN:
SHPO Inventory #: RA-SPC-3493
Property Type: Commercial/ Hotel
Current Owner:
Legal Description: Lots 3,4, 5, 6, 7, n.part lot 8 of Block 10, Rice and Irvine's Addition
Ward:
Planning District: 17

St. Paul Heritage Preservation Commission
Individual Property Designation Form

HISTORICAL ABSTRACT

Building Permit #: 53121

Construction Date: 1910
Subsequent: 1934, 1947, 1982

Architect: Reed & Stem
Engineer:
Builder: W. J. Hoy Construction Co.
Moved:
Original Address:

Original Owner:
Subsequent:

Historic Uses: Commercial/ Hotel

DESCRIPTION

Style: Renaissance Revival
Building Type: commercial
No. of Stories: 12
Plan: U-shaped
Roof Type: flat
Roof Material:
Structural System:
Foundation: limestone
Facade Material: brown brick
Additional: limestone, terra cotta

Outbuildings:
Other contributing features:

VISUAL ASSESSMENT:

Exterior Condition: Good
Exterior Historic Integrity: Good
Surrounding Land Uses: Urban commercial, civic

St. Paul Heritage Preservation Commission
Individual Property Designation Form

DESCRIPTION STATEMENT

The St. Paul Hotel is located in Downtown St. Paul directly east of Rice Park. The building occupies lots 3,4, 5, 6, 7, and the north part lot 8 of Block 10, Rice and Irvine's Addition. It is surrounded by civic and office uses, facing Rice Park to the west, with the St. Paul Public Library to the southwest, and Landmark Center to the northwest.

The 11-story St. Paul Hotel was designed in the Renaissance Revival style, a popular choice for major publi c and semi-public buildings in the first two decades of the twentieth century. The St. Paul Hotel was built in a broadened U-shape to take advantage of its street frontage at the corner of 5th and St. Peter streets. The original building entrance is centered in a projecting bay canted toward 5th Street and downtown businesses, with the building's back toward Rice Park. Although the Hotel retains the historic 5th Street entrance, the renovation in the 1980s created a new entrance, restaurant and gardens that focused west toward Rice Park and changed the relationship of the hotel to its historic surroundings.

The hotel was constructed on a steel frame and faced in brown brick and limestone. The building facade is divided into a rusticated limestone base, brick facing on the third through ninth stories and a two-story attic and penthouse. The rusticated base contains large round-arched windows with wrought iron balconies that line the 5th Street and St. Peter facades on the first floor. The third through ninth floors contain double-hung sash with decorative wrought-iron balconies appearing at the sixth floor. The two attic stories are set off from the building by a projecting molding. This two-story segment includes double-hung sash separated by engaged pilasters capped with decorative capitals. A projecting cornice supported by large modillions support s several balustraded rooftop pavilions sheltered by wide overhanging eaves. A pergola between the pavilions once provided a roof garden; it has been removed. There appears to be an enclosed section forming a twelfth story on the Market Street side.

The St. Paul Hotel was renovated in the early 1980s and a new entrance and restaurant built facing Rice Park along Market Street. The new construction includes a one-story extension built inside the "U" of the building. The restaurant that fills much of the new area has large, flattened-arched windows that cover much of the first floor and overlooking the park. A new hotel entrance was created with a modern porte-cochere that is accessed by a circle drive. Wrought iron fencing is used to define the entrance area and enclose the extensive gardens on the redefined Market Street facade.

The first St. Paul Hotel Garage at the corner of Market and Fourth streets adjacent to the hotel, was a four-story building converted to a parking garage in 1937 with capacity for 250 automobiles. It was razed in 1976? A new garage was constructed in the early 1980s in conjunction with the hotel renovation.
(CHECK GARAGE OWNERSHIP)

SIGNIFICANCE STATEMENT

St. Paul Historic Contexts: Downtown St. Paul, 1849-1975
St Paul Heritage Preservation Criteria/Criterion: 1, 5, 7

The St. Paul Hotel is significant as a symbol of St. Paul's business community in the first decade of the twentieth century and its efforts to make the city attractive for business. The building is also important as an excellent example of Renaissance Revival architecture in downtown St. Paul. In addition, the St. Paul Hotel is one of the significant buildings that provide the backdrop for, and contribute to, the public and civic space that make Rice Park and its surroundings significant as a local landmark heritage preservation district. It meets St. Paul Heritage Preservation criteria 1, 5 and 7.

The St. Paul Hotel and its construction in 1910 represented an important effort by business leaders to upgrade downtown's image and make it attractive to investors and travelers. Many of downtown's signature buildings had been constructed in the 1880s, a period of major growth and development that reflected the fruits of St. Paul's initial railroad construction. Construction slowed in the mid-1890s and did not pick up again for another decade. By that time, the new Minnesota Capitol building was under construction, the Federal Courts Building had been completed, and new architectural designs made the heavy Romanesque quality of many of the earlier buildings look outdated. In addition, sanitary and client demands called for up-to-date hotels with bathrooms for each room, a requirement that few hotels met prior to 1900.

The St. Paul Hotel had its beginnings in the efforts of the Business League, a forerunner of the Chamber of Commerce. Under the leadership of John I. H. Field of the Field, Schlick and Co. department store, the League had begun to raise funds in 1908 and eventually contributed $125,000 to purchase a site. The location chosen at 5th and Market streets was the site of the 1871 Greenman House and by 1900, the Windsor Hotel. Businessman Lucius P. Ordway, owner of Crane and Ordway and an investor in Minnesota Mining and Manufacturing (3M), established the corporation that built and owned the hotel.

When it opened on April 18, 1910, the hotel was described as "one of the most important events that have taken place in the city for many years" from a commercial and social standpoint (St. Paul Pioneer Press, April 17, 1910). The Business League's intention to have a secure and modern hotel was carried out by several hotel amenities: a floor plan that allowed every room to face outward rather than on an inner courtyard; provision of water and bathrooms with each room; and desk telephones provided by Tri-State Telephone Company in each room.

The hotel had numerous other features. The grill boasted a mural of Rip Van Winkel painted by Lauros Monroe Phoenix, evidently following the style of new York's Knickerbocker Hotel which had a mural of Old King Cole in its grill. The Palm Room was a large ballroom with a fountain on the main floor, where the opening banquet was held. A rooftop promenade featured a pergola located between the pavillions on the roof. The promenade was offered for public access to provide splendid views of the city.

The grand opening of the hotel was characterized as an event with a bearing on the "opening of the Great West, of which St. Paul is a part" (St. Paul Pioneer Press, April 17, 1910). Speakers included the governors of North Dakota and Minnesota, the mayors of Minneapolis and St. Paul, James H. Hill, Archbishop Ireland and Lucius P. Ordway. Pierce Butler served as master of ceremonies. Among the city's notables in attendance

were Frank B. Kellogg, later U.S. Secretary of State; Kellogg's law partner, Cordenio A. Severance; brewer William Hamm; William D. Mitchell, for whom William Mitchell College of Law was named; and Frederick and Fred E. Weyerhaeuser. Clearly the opening of the hotel was viewed with some importance to have attracted so many of St. Paul's major business leaders as well as the region's governmental representatives.

The St. Paul Hotel served as the city's grandest from its opening in 1910 until the construction of the St. Paul Hilton (now the Radisson) in the 1960s. In 1932, President Herbert Hoover stayed at the second floor presidential suite, as had presidents Theodore Roosevelt, William Howard Taft, Calvin Coolidge, and Woodrow Wilson. In 1928, KSTP radio began broadcasting from studios at the St. Paul Hotel.

The Hotel was held by the Ordway family until the early 1970s and then sold. It closed for a period until 1982 when a renovation began to restore the building to the level of opulence it had displayed at its opening. Since its reopening the St. Paul Hotel has reclaimed its role as a leading hotel by serving visiting presidents and other distinguished guests in the city.

The renovation altered the orientation of the building by creating a new entrance fronting on Market Street and Rice Park. The historic entrance at 5th and Market remained, but the new drop-off entrance, as well as the St. Paul Grill overlooking the park made an asset of the rear of the hotel. The Hotel became a complimentary use that engaged with the park. The hotel's renovation occurred in tandem with the construction of the Ordway Music Theatre on the west side of the park. The creation of the theatre and its support by Sally Ordway Irvine, a granddaughter of Lucius P. Ordway, provided a balance of civic buildings that reinforced Rice Park's location as a center of civic and public life in St. Paul.

Reed and Stem

Allen H. Stem (1856-1931) came to St. Paul in 1880 from Indianapolis, where he had received his education. Stem was noted for his artistic talents and "imaginative sense of form," as displayed in several St. Paul dwellings designed in the Shingle and Colonial Revival styles in the 1880s and 1890s. Stem partnered with Charles Reed, an engineer, in 1891. Their work began to focus on railway and hotel projects, in particular, stations for the Northern Pacific and New York Central Railways. The firms developed their expertise in planning large spaces; they were responsible for the 1907 St. Paul Auditorium between 4th and 5th west of Rice Park that stood until construction of the Ordway Music Theatre in 1982. The firm also designed the Crane Building at 281-287 E. 5th Street in Lowertown.as a warehouse for Crane and Ordway Company. Crane and Ordway was a manufacturer of valves, fittings, and steam supplies, and had been established by Lucius P. Ordway and R. T. Crane of Chicago. Reed died in 1911; Stem later went on to design the St. Paul Athletic Club in 1918.

REFERENCES

Paul Clifford Larson, "History and Architecture of St. Paul, 1840-1985." Prepared for the St. Paul Heritage Preservation Commission, 1988.
Larry Millett, *Lost Twin Cities* St. Paul: Minnesota Historical Society Press, 1992.
St. Paul Pioneer Press, April 17, 1910.

DATE OF FORM: October 2001
PREPARED BY: Garneth O. Peterson, AICP/ URS/BRW, Inc. for the St. Paul Heritage Preservation Commission

St. Paul Heritage Preservation Commission
Individual Property Designation Form

Address: Market and West 5th Street

Historic Name: Rice Park
Common or Current Name: Rice Park

PROPERTY IDENTIFICATION

PIN:

SHPO Inventory #: RA-SPC-4423

Property Type: Civic/ park
Current Owner: City of St. Paul
Legal Description: Block 11, Rice & Irvine's Addition

Ward:
Planning District: 17
St. Paul Heritage Preservation Commission
Individual Property Designation Form

HISTORICAL ABSTRACT

Building Permit #:

Construction Date: 1849 donation to City
Subsequent:

Architect:
Engineer:
Builder:
Moved:
Original Address:

Original Owner: City of St. Paul
Subsequent:

Historic Uses: park, open space

DESCRIPTION

Style:
Building Type:
No. of Stories:
Plan:
Roof Type:
Roof Material:
Structural System:
Foundation:
Facade Material:
Additional:

Outbuildings:
Other contributing features:

VISUAL ASSESSMENT:

Exterior Condition: Good
Exterior Historic Integrity: Poor
Surrounding Land Uses: Civic, office

St. Paul Heritage Preservation Commission
Individual Property Designation Form

DESCRIPTION STATEMENT

Rice Park is located on block 11 of Rice and Irvine's Addition, a block shaped like a trapezoid. The block is 1.6 acres and measures approximately 300 feet in length , 200 feet wide along Fifth Street and 275 feet along Fourth Street. The park is landscaped with deciduous trees and shrubs. A large fountain, 50 feet in diameter, is surrounded by a paved area and seating, and located at the north end of the park. Paths radiate from the paved area to each of the four corners. The park has been redesigned several times since it was donated to the city in 1849.

Rice Park is surrounded by a variety of civic and office buildings that provide a sense of enclosure for the park and compliment the park's use for many public events. Surrounding buildings include: (beginning at the southwest corner) the Minnesota Club, the St. Paul Public Library and James J. Hill Reference Library, the Tri-State Telephone Company building, the St. Paul Hotel garage and the St. Paul Hotel, a vacant lot planned as a park, the Federal Courts Building (Landmark Center), the St. Paul Companies, and the Ordway Music Theatre.

SIGNIFICANCE STATEMENT

St. Paul Historic Contexts: Downtown St. Paul, 1849-1975
St Paul Heritage Preservation Criteria/Criterion: 1, 7

Rice Park was donated to the city for use as a "public square" by Henry M. Rice and John R. Irvine as part of Rice & Irvine's Addition (1849). It is significant for its survival as a park, despite numerous landscape changes, throughout the history of St. Paul and its use as a meeting place and location for numerous civic celebrations. As a public space that is often used to represent the city in photographs, Rice Park is at the center of St. Paul's downtown civic uses. The park is an integral part of the setting of the important surrounding civic buildings such as the Minnesota Club, the St. Paul Public Library and Hill Reference Library, the Federal Courts Building (Landmark Center) and such modern additions as the Ordway Music Theatre and the River Centre. Rice Park meets St. Paul Heritage Preservation Criterion (1) and (7).

There were few improvements in the early years. A fence was constructed around the park in 1858, and two years later the first trees were planted. The trees were donated and the planting carried out by off-duty policemen. In 1867, the St. Paul Common Council created a Parks Committee, chaired by William A. Van Slyke, to oversee maintenance of the city parks. In 1872, the Common Council purchased an ornamental fountain of a boy with a swan that remained in the park until 1925.

Photographs provide some indication of the park in these years. An 1875 photograph shows the fountain located in the center of the park with flower beds surrounded by low simple pipe fences on two sides. Although only a portion of the park is shown, it appears that the walks radiate out to the corners. A major remodeling occurred in 1899, when the system of walks was changed and 68 new trees and shrubs were planted. Postcards ca. 1910 show the center fountain surrounded by flower beds, walks and benches for seating. The walks on the Fourth and Fifth Street sides break into two paths in the center of the block, circling around an area of trees and shrubs. As late as 1924, a

large number of walks remained in the park: two diagonal to each corner and the two circular walks from Fourth and Fifth streets.

In 1922, a drinking fountain was placed in the park honoring Eva Jones, founder of the Ramsey County Women's Christian Temperance Union. A 1924 Pioneer Press article discussed a redesign of the park as proposed by the St. Paul chapter of AIA. The redesign focused on creating a major axis from the Public Library to the Federal Courts building, with diagonal walks to each corner meeting at a fountain in the center. Even in 1924, it was recognized that the park, the library, and Federal Courts building contributed to a park square that would receive heavy public use.

Some aspects of the project were carried out. The boy-and-swan fountain was removed by the City in 1925. In 1927, the park received new paths and plantings. That year also saw a proposal to construct a bus depot in Rice Park, a proposal that met with criticism and was quickly dropped. Beginning in the 1930s until the surge of new development in downtown in the 1960s, Rice Park suffered from a period of neglect. In 1942, a boulder bearing the names of policemen and firemen who had died in the line of duty, was placed in the park and surrounded by a fence. The park was also subject to another insensitive scheme in 1953: a proposal to construct an underground parking ramp beneath the park. This idea was stopped by a City legal opinion that stated that the City did not have the right to divert the park to a use inconsistent with its original designation as a "public square."

As downtown experienced a rebirth in the 1960s with the Capital Center redevelopment, the new Dayton's store, and Hilton (Radisson) Hotel, the St. Paul Women's Institute raised funds to improve the park. Hammel and Green, Inc. completed a renovation including new sod, trees and shrubs, and changes to the walkways. Alonzo Hauser, a St. Paul sculptor, designed a 7 1/2 foot statue, "the pioneer spirit of women," that was placed in the center of a fountain 50 feet in diameter. The fountain area, surrounded by a large cement apron was moved farther north in the park, leaving most of the lawn in the southern portion. The historic site marker was erected by the Ramsey County Historical Society in 1969. A statue of F. Scott Fitzgerald, a St. Paul native, was placed in the park in 1996 on the 100-year anniversary of the author's birth.

Rice Park has hosted numerous civic celebrations. Among the largest was the 1883 celebration of the completion of the Northern Pacific Railway, a major economic event in determining St. Paul's future. The park has held various rallies, from women's suffrage in 1914, to Bicentennial events in 1976. Rice Park is central to Winter Carnival activities as well. The Ice Palace was built in the park as early as 1917, and in recent years has hosted the ice carving contest.

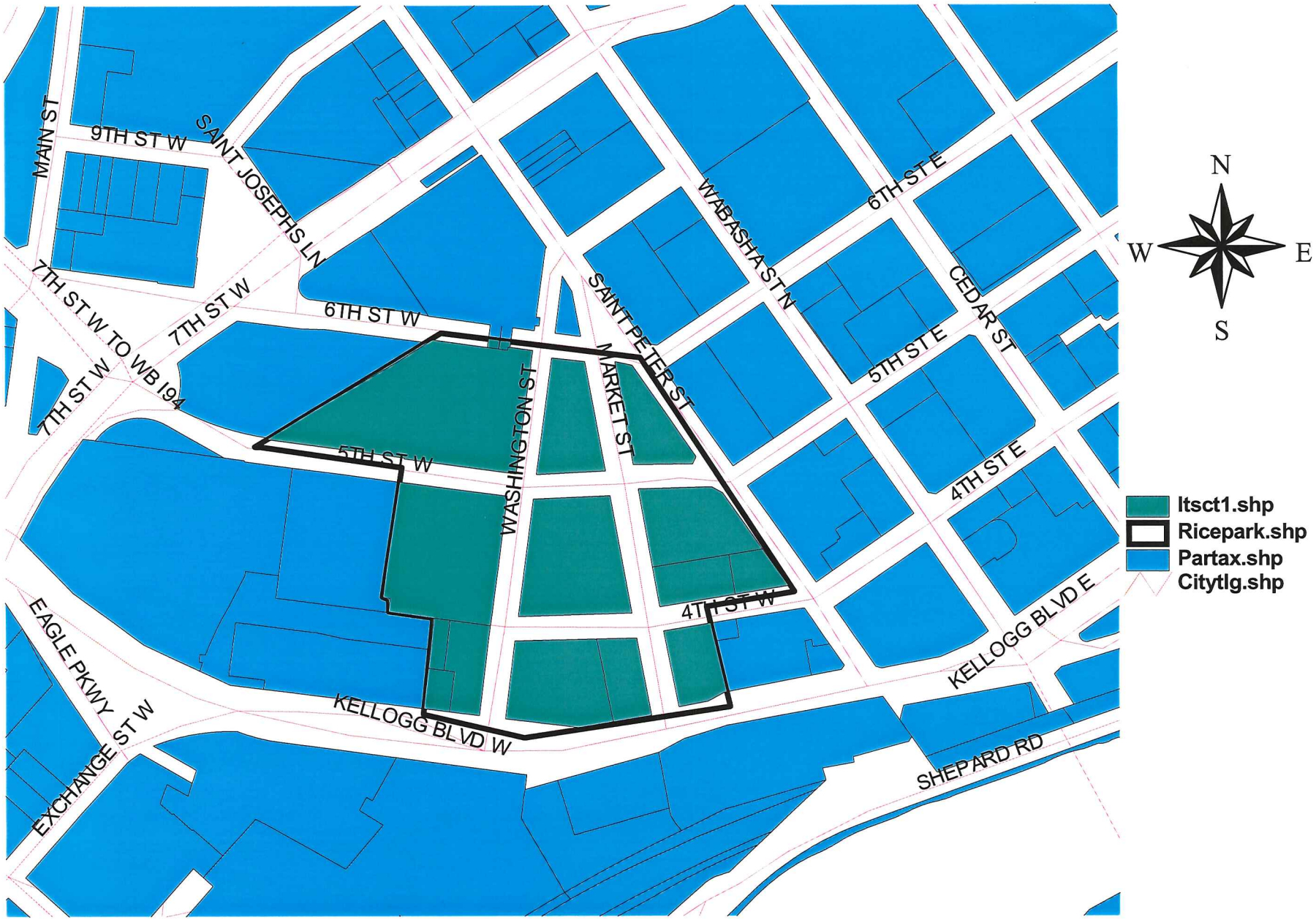
REFERENCES

Charles W. Nelson, Rice Park Historic District, National Register of Historic Places district nomination, 1979.
Landmarks Heritage Preservation Commission, Rice Park district files.
"Rice Park Design is Submitted by St. Paul Architects Chapter," *St. Paul Pioneer Press,* 22 Feb. 1925.
"Rice Park, Beauty Spot of Loop, Once was a Truck Farm," *St. Paul Dispatch,* 25 May 1924.
"Rice Park--How It Changed!" *Ramsey County History* 8/2 (Fall 1971): 21.

DATE OF FORM: October 2001

PREPARED BY: Garneth O. Peterson, AICP/ URS/BRW, Inc. for the St. Paul Heritage Preservation Commission
PHOTO I.D.:
Roll: 4

Rice Park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