

SAINTPAULMINNESOTA

The most livable city in America



BACKGROUND INFORMATION

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Saint Paul History

In 2008, Minnesota is celebrating its sesquicentennial. At the center of this celebration is Saint Paul, the capital city, which has proudly preserved its historic landmarks and identity for the world to enjoy.

History:

- Saint Paul was previously known as Pig's Eye. The Chapel of Saint Paul, which was built in the growing settlement in 1841, became the city's namesake.
- Saint Paul was formally established as a town in 1849 and a city in 1854.
- Saint Paul became Minnesota's territorial capital in 1849 and the state capital in 1858.
- In 1849, the *Minnesota Pioneer* became the first newspaper in Minnesota Territory. It continues operating today as the *Saint Paul Pioneer Press*.
- Saint Paul is home to Summit Avenue, the longest residential stretch of preserved Victorian architecture in the United States. In addition to being the site of the Governor's residence, authors F. Scott Fitzgerald and Sinclair Lewis both lived on Summit Avenue at one time.

City landmarks:

- Saint Paul's colleges and universities include:
 - College of Saint Catherine (Roman Catholic; 1905)
 - University of Saint Thomas (Roman Catholic; 1885)
 - Hamline University (Methodist; 1854)
 - Macalester College (1874)
 - Bethel University (Baptist; 1871)
 - Luther Seminary (Lutheran; 1869)
 - Concordia University (Lutheran; 1893)
 - A campus of Metropolitan State University (1971)
 - Part of the University of Minnesota, Twin Cities campus (1851)

- more -

- The current state capitol, Minnesota's third, was designed by architect Cass Gilbert and opened to the public in 1905.
- Dominating the concourse of the 20-story city hall and county courthouse (1931) is *Vision of Peace*, a 36-foot statue made of white Mexican onyx and created by Swedish sculptor Carl Milles.
- Other historic buildings include:
 - Saint Paul Hotel (1910), Minnesota's icon hotel located in the downtown district
 - Landmark Center (1902), which originally served as a federal courthouse and now serves as a cultural center for music, dance, theater, exhibitions, public forums, and special events
 - Cathedral of Saint Paul (1915), one of the nation's most impressive cathedrals
 - James J. Hill House (1891), home of the founder of the Great Northern Railroad
 - Sibley House (1836), home of Henry Sibley, Minnesota's first governor
 - Alexander Ramsey House (1872), home of Minnesota's first territorial governor

The city today:

- With a population of 287,151, Saint Paul is Minnesota's second most populous city.
- Saint Paul's population is 64.3% white/non-Hispanic, 13.4% Asian, 12.6 % African American and Pan African, 8.5% Hispanic, and 1.2% American Indian.
- More than 80 languages are spoken in Saint Paul's public schools.
- Saint Paul is governed with a strong mayor-council form of government.

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