INTRODUCTION
North St. Paul was a planned "workmen's community with industries and housing in a neat atmosphere." It was the brainchild of Captain Henry Castle, a Civil War veteran, editor of the St. Paul Dispatch and the owner of a 1500 acre farm on the south and east shores of Silver Lake. He harvested his last crop in the fall of 1886 and had 11 industries, 100 cottages and numerous stores built between May and December of 1887. His dream of a large city died in the depression of 1893, but the town survives.

1. 2564-66 EAST SEVENTH AVENUE
This was the first city hall, built in 1888. It's three stories housed the fire department, police department and other city functions. Later, they were all located at 2358 E. Seventh Ave., which was razed after a new city hall was dedicated on Oct. 14, 2004 at 2400 Margaret Street.

2. 2525 EAST SEVENTH AVENUE
The office with its Unique Cupola was built in 1935. Inside it has a three-panel mural depicting stately rural figures of farm chores. It was created during the 1930's Hoot Street Depression when the federal government's WPA program hired a national art competitor to paint the mural called "49 All Stakes." The North St. Paul Post Office was chosen as the location for Minnesota's commission. The mural was painted by Donald Humphrey, whose works also are on permanent exhibition at New York's Metropolitan Museum.

3. 2563 EAST SEVENTH AVENUE
Mac's Dinettes, built in 1937. Started out as "The Barn," a small restaurant. It was purchased in 1948 by Halen and Mac Mcrath and renamed "Mac's." In American diner style, it has retained its original design. For many years it was located just north of the railroad crossing and was called the "eyes and ears" of North St. Paul. The building is now vacant.

4. 2554 EAST SEVENTH AVENUE
This building has served North St. Paul in many ways during the last century. It was built in 1887. It was purchased by John H. and Nancy Oates. It became the "The Barn," which was a popular restaurant and bar.

5. 2575 EAST SEVENTH AVENUE
Neumann Bar is a direct link to North St. Paul's first days of existence. Built in 1887, it claims to be the "oldest bar in continuous operation in Minnesota." It began as a workmen's bar (one of many in the town) and three generations of the Neumann family have placed memorabilia here. Generations of North St. Paul's have spent time here drinking and having fun. The bar has a unique architecture with a tin roof and a brick wall. It is open to the public until 3 a.m. on weekends.

6. 2612 EAST SEVENTH AVENUE
The Antique Hotel is located at 2612 East Seventh Avenue. It is one of the few remaining antique hotels in the area. It is located on the corner of 14th Avenue and Seventh Street. The hotel was built in 1887 and has been in continuous operation ever since. It is known for its old-fashioned charm and is a popular destination for tourists and locals alike.

7. SEVENTH AVENUE AND CHARLES STREET (SOUTHEAST CORNER)
The Morton House which was the town's grandest residential hotel, was on this corner. It was the scene of gala balls and dinners. In 1911, it was demolished and the land was used to construct homes. In 1930 the Masonic Temple was built on the site and the home of the Fellowship Lodge until 1999. It was demolished in 2000.

8. 2710 EAST TENTH AVENUE
The Plotz home was built in 1892 by Herman Plotz, a German cabinetmaker who moved to North St. Paul from Wisconsin to work in the Luger Furniture factory. The brick Victorian style home has been restored and is currently available for rent.

9. THE EIGHTH AVENUE COTTAGES
These cottages were built in 1889 and 2697 and 2701 were built by the Luger family for their personal use. The buildings on Eighth Avenue are some of the oldest houses in North St. Paul, built by the North St. Paul Land Co. in 1887.

10. 2566 EAST FIFTH AVENUE
The Roy Kink home is another example of the town's early homes. Built in 1890, it has the slab house made of bricks patterned on the gable ends. The owner was an employee of the North St. Paul Gas Company.

11. SEPPALA BOULEVARD
Originally, this was the location of the streetcar line that linked North St. Paul to St. Paul and Stillwater.

For more than 50 years, the cars crossed Cobly Ave, turned sharply around the corner by Standard Lumber and traveled back on the main street to avoid crossing the railroad tracks. At Charles Street the cars turned north, then went again on the present Eighteenth Avenue entrance to Stillwater Amusement Park.

12. MARGARET STREET AND HIGHWAY 36 (SOUTHWEST CORNER)
Standing next to the snowman, one must think of the folklore of the Wisconsin Central Railroad, which was a line in early days. Hours are available now using the trail system which follows the old railroad line. The former house on the northeast corner is now the headquarters of the park, now located in the beautiful parkland at the State Fairgrounds. Across Highway 36 is Central Park, where a bandstand was the scene of socials and concerts. To this day, the park is the scene of many local events.

13. TWELFTH AVENUE AND HELEN STREET (NORTHWEST CORNER)
Today St. Mark's Lutheran Church stands on the site of North St. Paul's first all-grade school. It was the first church built in the area, and it served the community well until 1919. The building is currently being used as a community center.

14. NORTHEAST CORNER MARGARET AND FOURTEENTH
This church was the original home of St. Mark's Lutheran Church, built in 1890. It was dedicated on April 14, 1916. The church was the first of its kind in the area, and it served the community well until 1950. The building is currently being used as a meeting place for various groups.

15. 2630 EAST HIGHWAY 36
On the northwest corner of Highway 36 and Charles St is North Presbyterian Church. The church was organized in 1887 and a year later the North St. Paul Land Company dedicated its first church on the property. The congregation stayed at that location until the present building was completed in 1959.

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16. 2058 NORTH MARGARET STREET
   After celebrating Mass in rented buildings, St. Peter’s Catholic Church incorporated in 1888 and purchased the defunct Congregational Church building at Eighteenth and Margaret. In 1915, a brick church was built and the older building was remodeled into the town’s first parochial school. A new school and convent were built in 1928. On Sept. 7, 2008 a new church was dedicated. It seats 1,100 people. The new building is attached to the old brick church to make a unique structure.

17. NORTH SIDE OF SEVENTEENTH, BETWEEN MARGARET AND CHARLES
   Long ago this area was the woodland and meadows home of Dakota Indians. A giant tree directly across from the Silver Lake Market was deliberately defoliated so that it could be used as a trail marker. Silver Lake was an annual stopover for the Indians on their way to the St. Croix River. Only a big stump remains, but this is probably the oldest known historical site in town.

18. 2601 SEVENTEENTH AVENUE
   This was once the Fordland Kolin home where Christ Lutheran Church was founded. The first church was built at Sixteenth and Helen on land donated by the North St. Paul Land Co. It grew rapidly and had to move several times. Today it occupies the brick building on the north side of Seventeenth near Helen.

19. 2649 EAST EIGHTEENTH AVENUE
   The famous Octagon house was originally built in 1877 as a summer home for J.E. Cobbett, a member of the North St. Paul Land Co. It was designed with four porches and several marble fireplaces, and the interior woodwork was handpainted by an employee of the North St. Paul Casket Co. Ernest C. Fieh, president of the Casket Co., bought the house for his family. This is the only octagon house in Ramsey County today.

20. 2575 EAST EIGHTEENTH AVENUE
   This was the home of Charles and Bertha Stevens, probably the most intact and ornate Victorian house in North St. Paul. A ‘Queen Anne’ style house with 1½ scale shingles and caved balusters, it was built circa 1897. Its owner was a well-known North St. Paul contractor who built many of the homes and commercial structures here.

21. 2659 EAST EIGHTEENTH AVENUE
   This clapboard house was built in the fall of 1897 for Charles R. McKinney and his wife, Marie. He was the town’s first mayor and owner of the Sentinel, the town’s first newspaper. In ‘Queen Anne’ style, it has its original three-story round corner turret and was built on a terraced hill. A huge rock formerly located on the boulevard on the west side of the house was the meeting place for local teenagers in the early 1900s. Today, the rock rests south of the tennis courts in Silver Lake Park and is still a congregating place for the young.

22. 2649 EAST NINETEENTH AVENUE
   This is the original farmhouse built in 1874 for Captain Castle. The family lived here in the summer and operated the North Star Seed Farms, which produced experimental hybrid seeds for northern climates, from 1879 to 1890. Castle marketed the seeds nationally from St. Paul. In 2000, a two-story addition was added to the original farmhouse which remains. In 1899, Castle and his family moved into a newly constructed three-story summer home, where Castle died in 1916. The house was razed in 1950 and the lumber was used to make bleachers at Franklin Field.

Henry Castle’s Villa

23. CHARLES STREET AT THE LAKEFRONT
   Silver Lake has played a major role in North St. Paul’s history. Looking north across the lake you view the site of the Northwestern Kennel Club, an 1890s dog-fancier’s paradise. A large two-story building, it had massive porches where the wealthy of the Twin Cities came to lounge. Club members took the train to town, hiked to a dock located here, boarded the W.S. Morton, a small steamboat, which carried them across the lake for 25 cents. The clubhouse grounds are now known as Joy Park. Looking east, but out of sight, is the original bathing beach which was destroyed with Highway 100’s construction. On the present beach (to the west) is the popular children’s slide, which was the fire escape at Standard Conveyer, one of North St. Paul’s former industries.

We hope you enjoy a glimpse of North St. Paul’s history through this tour.
Our thanks to Rosemary Palmer and the Ramsey County Historical Society.

An Historical Tour:

NORTH SAINT PAUL

Sponsored by:
North St. Paul Historical Society
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“North St. Paul – City on the Heights – Where last May there was nothing but rolling prairie, here is now a busy city” North West Magazine – 1897.