

Yoerg's Bluff

West Side

St. Paul's West Side is dominated by the Mississippi River bluffs, which provide spectacular views of the rest of the city. The view includes a panorama of the area known as the Lower West Side, or the West Side Flats. This neighborhood, home to generations of St. Paul German, Irish, Danish, Eastern European, Syrian, and Mexican immigrants, was leveled in the early 1960's to make way for the Riverview Industrial Park.

Many early St. Paul businesses were located on the "flats" or in the many naturally-formed and man-made caves at the base of the bluff.

At least a few, including the Yoerg (Yoerg Brewery) and Villaume (Villaume Box and Lumber) families made their homes in the neighborhood atop the bluff. Long-time neighborhood residents claim that that Yoerg home and brewery were connected by a tunnel. The brewery itself, which closed in 1958 and was torn down several years later, included more than one mile of hand-dug sandstone caves.

Had circumstances been different in the mid-1880's, your West Side walk might instead be through the northern part of Dakota County. What we know as St. Paul's West Side was founded in March, 1858 as the City of West St. Paul. This early city, which was part of Dakota County, had elected officials and issued its own scrip or paper money. But destructive floods and the costs related to maintaining the community forced the city business to cease in the summer of 1861. The community became part of St. Paul and Ramsey County in 1874. One impetus for the annexation was to repeal the tolls on the St. Paul Bridge (the forerunner of the Wabasha Bridge). Dakota County farmers disliked paying toll, as did other residents.

On the bluff and in the surrounding neighborhood, you'll see old homes, churches, schools and business buildings. Many have been the focus of restoration and preservation efforts.

For more info on the Yoerg's Bluff neighborhood call the West Side Citizens Organization:

651-224-0757

BridgeTrail brochure, text and illustrations

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Bridge Trail



Tour St. Paul's
Scenic & Historic
**UPPERTOWN
&
YOERG'S BLUFF**
Neighborhoods

WALK • JOG • BIKE

Uppertown

West Seventh

Uppertown was the early settlement of St. Paul which grew around the Upper Landing for the steamboats and other river traffic at the foot of Eagle/Chestnut Street. Businesses and homes sprung up along the Mississippi River and bluff. The eastern (downtown) boundary was the hill at today's Wabasha Street. The western area included many residential and commercial buildings along Fort Street (Fort Road/West Seventh), the trail leading to Fort Snelling.

Aside from street patterns, very little remains of the pre-1880's Uppertown business buildings in today's St. Paul.

Even "Seven Corners" intersection at Kellogg and Fort Road has been greatly modified in modern times. However, the residential neighborhood, beginning with pre-Civil War homes is largely intact and cared for by a active community seeking designation as the Uppertown Historic District.

Early arrivals to the area lived and worked near the Upper Landing that began with John Irvine's steamboat trade in the early 1850's. A comparable, but no longer existing community developed around the Lowertown river landing downstream at Jackson Street and Shepard Road. That area is now residential and commercial space in warehouse and office buildings.

The large older homes built around Irvine Park just above the original Upper Landing underwent restoration in the 1970's. A strong neighborhood association has protected the area through designation as a National Historic District.

Little Sisters of the Poor Home, on its site at Exchange and Wilkin since 1855, separates the mansions of the Irvine Park district from the rest of Uppertown that extends west. A mixture of large and small homes reflect the diversity of the early city.

For more info on the Uppertown neighborhood call the West Seventh-Fort Road Federation:

651-224-3019

Welcome to Bridge Trail

Bridge Trail is a self-guided walking tour through the Uppertown and Yoerg's Bluff neighborhoods. The trail, which is about four miles long, includes Mississippi River crossings at the High Bridge, Wabasha Bridge and Robert Bridge.

You may start at Wabasha Street. and Kellogg Blvd. or Kellogg St. and West Seventh Street. or even at Robert Street. and Kellogg Blvd.

As you walk, bicycle, or jog along Bridge Trail, you'll enjoy a panoramic view of two of St. Paul's most historic neighborhoods, as well as a look at the downtown area. The Mississippi River is the centerpiece for this tour, and both neighborhoods' historic names are directly linked to their river locations.

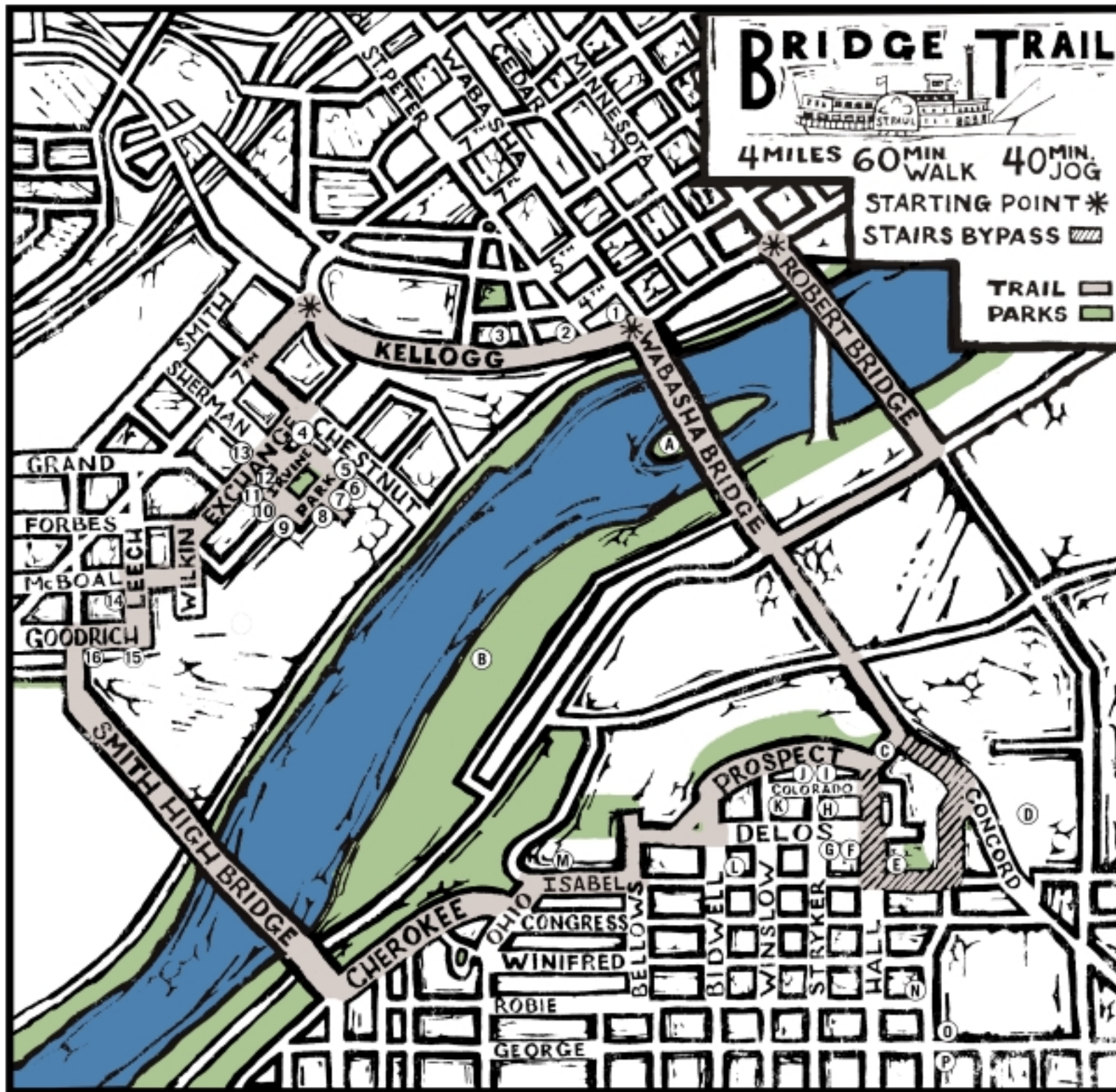
Uppertown refers to the river's upper landing, while the West Side, even though it is south of downtown St. Paul, is on the west bank of the Mississippi River.

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Illustrations
and brochure
design by



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Uppertown Yoerg's Bluff

West Seventh
(including Downtown)

West Side

1). St. Paul City Hall and Ramsey County Courthouse — 1932, Holabird and Root, Ellberree, architects; Lee Lowrie, entrance bas relief, Carl Milles, God of Peace sculpture.

2). Women's City Club — 1931.

3). St. Paul Public Library and James J. Hill Library — 1916, Electus Litchfield, architect.

4). 226-234 S. Exchange St. — 1886, Panama Flats.

5). 59 Irvine Park — 1889, Dr. Justus Ohage house.

6). 53 Irvine Park — 1853, Federal style.

7). 50 Irvine Park — 1869 & 1881, Victorian Eclectic.

8). 223 Walnut St. — 1851 & 1906, Greek Classical with Neoclassical additions.

9). 35 Irvine Park — 1886, Queen Anne style.

10). 30 Irvine Park — 1852, Greek Revival style.

11). 26 Irvine Park — 1870, Gothic Revival style

12). 276 S. Exchange St. — 1870, Forepaugh mansion, now Forepaugh's Restaurant.

13). 265 S. Exchange St. — 1872, Alexander Ramsey House, home of pioneer governor.

14). 91-97 Leech St.

15). 178 Goodrich St. — 1862, (moved to site in 1989).

16). 218 Goodrich St. — 1886.

A). Raspberry Island, Minnesota Boat Club — 1910.

B). Wigington Pavilion — 1941, Architect: Clarence Wigington. (Earlier, the island was the site of public Baths and a zoo).

C). Wabasha Street, base of bluff: Castle Royale (a notorious nightclub in St. Paul's gangster days). Green Steps — 1916.

D). St. Michael's Catholic Church Tower — 1868.

E). 23 W. Isabel St. — 1890, Dr. Octavius Beal house.

F). 46-52 W. Delos — 1890, Grady Flats.

G). 64 W. Delos — ca. 1885, Edward Heibach house, Eastlake style.

H). 390 Stryker Ave. — ca. 1884, Henry Heinsch house, Victorian workers' duplex.

I). 58 Prospect Blvd. — ca. 1870, Durkee house, French Second Empire style.

J). 361 Stryker Ave. — ca. 1875, James Melady house.

K). 382-384 Winslow Ave. — 1886, John Minea house.

L). 123 W. Isabel St. — 1886, Eugene Villaume home.

M). 215 W. Isabel St. — 1875, Anthony Yoerg house.

Also worth a look...

N). 1 W. Robie St. — 1901, St. Matthew's School.

O). 1 E. George St. — 1901, Riverview Library.

P). 2 E. George St. — 1870, Rau-Strong house.