

Tour Old Duluth

The Zenith City of the Unsalted Seas+

by Sheldon T. Aubut
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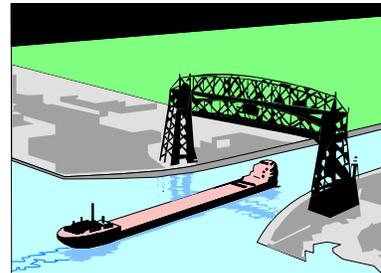
INTRODUCTION

With the opening of the canal at Sault Ste. Marie in 1855, Duluth was joined to the Atlantic Ocean by a highway of water. Jay Cooke, a Philadelphia land speculator, saw the value of this area just after the Civil War and constructed the Lake Superior and Mississippi Railroad and the Northern Pacific Railroads with their terminus at Duluth. With these routes open Duluth was ready to boom.

The first Newspaper published in Duluth, the "Duluth Minnesotian", April 24, 1869, contained a warning from the publisher, Dr. Thomas Preston Foster, to newcomers to Duluth. He said, "Newcomers should comprehend that Duluth is at present a small place, and hotel and boarding room accommodation is extremely limited. However, lumber is cheap and shanties can be built. Everyone should bring blankets and come prepared to rough it at first." Seemed to be the right thing to say at the time but things have changed. Lumber is no longer cheap although there still seems to be a shortage of hotel and boarding house rooms.

In 1860 there were only 80 Europeans living on Minnesota Point, but by 1873 the population had swelled to over 3000, and by 1890 to 30,000.

At a Fourth of July picnic on the Point in 1868, Dr. Foster made a speech which some have termed "historic". In that speech he called Duluth "The Zenith City of the Unsalted Seas" and went to say, "It would not be amiss to dwell mentally for a while upon the future of this region, which is even now looming up in the near distance, promising to pierce and lighten up these forests with roadways and farm homesteads, to mine these rocks into material wealth to whiten yon huge sea with clouds of canvas, or fret it with volumes of propelling steam, to cover the shores of these broad calm bays with mast-studded wharves and monster grain warehouses, and to erect within the sound of the surge of Superior's waves a great city, which shall be the abode of commerce and manufacturers, and refinement and civilization, here nearly midway between the two main oceans of the world! The dawn comes; the daylight is really breaking in the east, in the west, in the south; and soon the sun of our progress, keeping pace with the steam railroad car, will shed its effulgence upon these pine and birch-clad and rock-bound shores."



At the time of this speech there were only fourteen families living at the start of Minnesota Point, but by July 4, only a year after his speech, there were 3500 people, and they were just beginning to stream in.

This corner, Lake Avenue and Superior Street has always been the heart of Duluth:

Our tour starts at the corner of Lake Avenue and Superior Street with the Lake Superior Fountain. It then proceeds one-half block west along the lake side of Superior Street to view the upper side buildings. It then backtracks east on Superior Street to Second Avenue East where we cross to the upper side. Then one

block to Third Avenue East where we cross back to the lake side and move on to the end of the tour at Fourth Avenue East.

THE CITY GROWS

More and more immigrants arrived and those who came to town during 1869 called themselves the "Sixty-Niners". On June 16th 200 Swedish immigrants arrived and the whole town turned out to greet them. We built the Immigrant House below Michigan Street on Fifth Avenue West, and there were sometimes 700 men there in a day. There were so many people with no place to put them. There were no hotels built yet and every family took in as many as they could handle, yet thousands had no place to go. They were living in tents, put up shacks of boards and lived in the streets. Even before buildings were completed they were rented out for lodging. The building owner would mark a rectangle on the floor with chalk just big enough for a man to sleep in and number it. It was then rented before he would even go on to make the next mark. All tenants had to supply their own bedding and they would cook outside in the open air fires.

One of the immigrants gave this description of Duluth: "Superior Street was a continuous succession of hills and gullies, connected its entire length by a four foot plank sidewalk, with the planks laid endwise, bridging the ravines and tunneling the hills. To walk it was hazardous in the daytime, almost sure death after dark. To find a place for crossing the street was a question of great deliberation and caution, and to actually cross was an act of recklessness, forfeiting your life insurance... The haphazard, scraggly and repellent settlement, a mixed combination of Indian trading post, seaport, railroad construction camp, and gambling resort, altogether wild, rough, uncouth and frontier-like, bore not the remotest resemblance, physically or otherwise, to the city it now is. Nor did it seem within the range of the wildest imagination that a city could ever be built there. In only one particular did it then forecast its future - it was long and not wide - extending from the old Bay View House, then complete, on Fourth Avenue West, in a broken interval of buildings to Decker's Brewery back on the creek about Eighth Avenue East."

Sound Bleak? Well, picture this: Lake Avenue was all Swamp and couldn't be crossed. First Avenue East had a sidewalk that was made by driving stakes into the marsh and nailing planks to them. They were so uneven that a person walking them appeared to be drunk.

Entrance to LakeWalk, Lake Superior Fountain

Bradley Building (office building) 1924-1980

Fountain, 1989

Artist: Ben Effinger 1951-

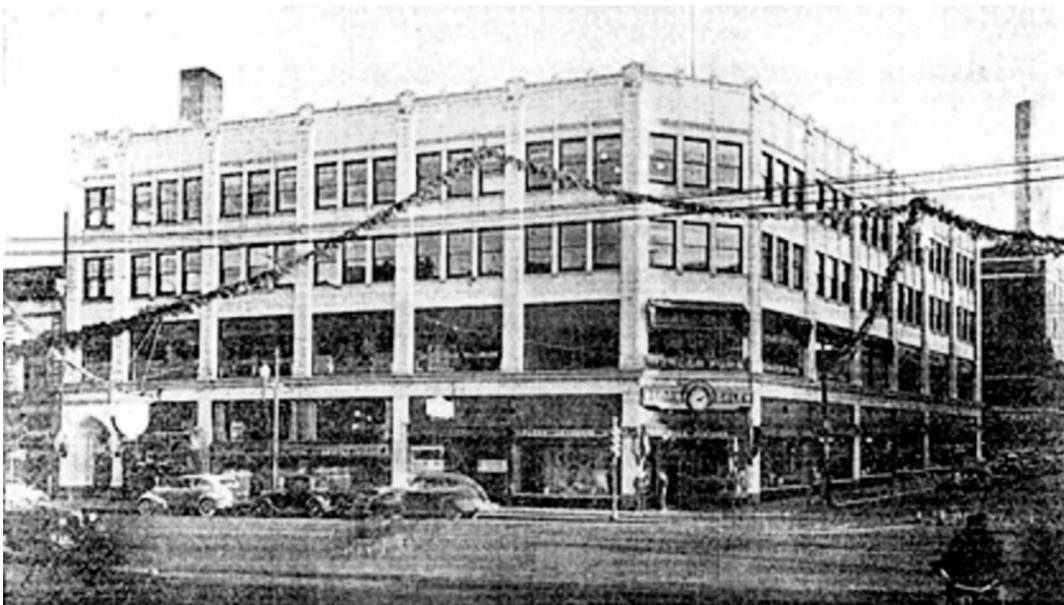
India Black Granite for Lake, Bronze for Dome under Lake

20' wide, 14.5' high weighing 40 tons.

“Black granite embodies the mystery, grandeur, and unyielding qualities of Lake Superior. The cut represents navigation on the Lake and creates visual energy between the rough outer edge and the smooth inner edge. Water sheeting over the stone from the top, then free falling to the bronze dome causes a resonant murmuring sound much like the Lake’s ceaseless action upon the shore. The water is caught in a circular basin of north shore stones and then the cycle starts over again.”

- Ben Effinger, Sculptor

Ben Effinger graduated from Duluth Cathedral High School in 1970. He studied design at San Diego City College, photography at the College of St. Scholastica, carpentry at the Duluth Technical Institute and Visual Art at the University of Wisconsin, Superior. Mr. Effinger has had exhibitions at UWS, the Tweed Museum of Art, Kruk Gallery, and the Duluth Art Institute. His work is represented in collections of First Bank Corporation, Tweed Museum and numerous private collections.



OUT OF THE GAIT

On January 6, 1872, the City Council imposed what turned out to be the first speeding ticket in Duluth. They had recently passed a law setting a speed limit of the walking gait of a man on Lake Avenue. A teamster named Trowbridge from Pratt & Co. was seen driving his team, on New Year's Day, at the breakneck speed of a fast walk. He was driving Mayor Clinton Markel, ex-mayor Culver, and William Nettleton on their New Year's rounds. When Officer Thompson saw this exhibition of speed he was greatly upset. Trowbridge was duly fined \$5, plus a hefty \$3 for court costs. That was one heck of a lot of money back then. Imagine what that would compare to today?

13 West Superior Street

Wirth Building, 1886

Oliver Traphagen & George Wirth

Richardsonian Romanesque Revival

One of Duluth's finest Romanesque Revivals is the small brown and cream stone building created for Max Wirth's Pharmacy. It included living quarters for the Wirth family on the upper floors. The facade is covered with rough-cut stone and features an oriel window topped with a wrought iron railing, a large recessed and arched window opening, small round turrets on top corners and a carved emblem with date of construction. After the Wirth pharmacy closed in 1940, Tru-Value Dress Shop did business here for twenty years. In the early 1990s, after years of neglect, the Wirth was restored to its original design with street level storefront and owners' living quarters upstairs.

1935 - ?

9-11 West Superior Street

Silverstein & Bondy Department Store, 1884

Oliver Traphagen & Georgh Wirth

Classical Revival

Another Traphagen/Wirth building, built in the Romanesque style, it was home to Silverstein and Bondy from 1884 until 1932. Then Duluth architects Giliuson, Ellingson and Erickson applied the classical facade. Look for wreaths, swags and Ionic capitals. Bud's Style Shop was here in the 1930s and 40s.

1935 - Bud's Style Shop?

5-7 West Superior Street

Presently :

Previously: Macdougall Block

Built: 1886

Architect:

Style:

This was severely remodeled at an unknown date. Past occupants have included milliners, an art school, Duluth Dancing School and an optical shop.

3 West Superior Street

Bell & Eysterø Block 1884

Oliver Traphagen & George Wirth

Richardsonian Romanesque Revival

Bell and Eysterø Bank was the first occupant and the depository for city funds. When the bank failed during the panic of 1891, Duluth's financial stability was threatened, but with the help of other banks the city managed to survive the crisis. The brick and brownstone structure has a pressed metal cornice.

1 West Superior Street

Presently :

Previously: Norris Block

Built: 1884

Architect: Frederick German & John de Waard

Style: Commercial Queen Anne

The four buildings on the upper side of Superior Street, west of Lake Avenue, make up the oldest section of Old Downtown, having all been built in the 1880s. This three story building has walls of patterned brick and window arches. Camille Poirier had a boot and shoe shop here in the early 1880s, where he invented and patented the Duluth Pack.

Autobiography of Camille Poirier

Poirier Tent & Awning Company

(Later: Duluth Tent & Awning)

Manufacturers of
Tents, Awnings, Wagon Covers
Pack Sacks, Sails and all kinds of Canvass Goods
(Makers of the world famous "Duluth Pack")

413 East Superior Street (in 1914)
Duluth Minnesota

(Note: This is exactly as Mr Poirier typed it, errors included)

Aug, 13/ 1914

I was born March, 3rd. 1838 of poor parents my mother died when I was young and - was taken care of by and Uncle God Father my home was St. Jacque lower Canada back of Montreal, no facility for education and had about two years from seven to nine and learn my prier that about all, worked very hard on the farm untill fourteen and there rebelled and went in to a sho shop to lean the trade I was three years at it working fifteen hours a day for ten Dollars a year after I got my papers as a full pledge shoe maker I worked for about a year at \$ 6.00 a month. When I look back at the change in a life time half of working time especially in the winter was by artifical light and had nothing but home made tallow candle and worked three around one candle. Almost every boy in lower Canada have visions of the U.S. as a land of wealth. I didn't escape the glamour so at eighteen I got the fever of the State and Boston was only a days ride from Montreal and not having only money to take me over the line I went to Manchester in 57 and not knowing a word of English I stayed three years vegating working at my trade a while and then at anything else brick layer, wood chopping and not making much head way in the mean time had an accident by cutting my knee with an axe and it turned out very bad, with partly stiff knee and had to walk with cruches for over a year and the doctors didn't seem to do me any good. I went back to my native land and had good deal of relief, I was five years in Canada and in the mean time I got married in 62 was married three years and had two children and my wife died in the fall of 64. Leaving poor, partly cripple and two children as I had looked at the State as the land of promise and having enough of the English language to help some in the Spring of 65 I came to St. Paul and my condition chnaged to the better, I got a good position when I left Canada I was working 12 hours a day at 75¢ and I was a fast workman, I got two and three dollars a day in St. Paul I tell you I was greatly surprise. I was formen for a large shoe shop at one thousand dollars a year, but having been raised on a farm had left some attraction for me and I bought 120 acre of land five mile from

Minneapolis thinking of farming soon as I could save money enough to start, but in 68 got married again and in 69 got a notion to start for my self I made a tour to find a suitable location, St. Peter, St. Cloud and other places but nothing to attract me in the mean time Duluth was talking about as the coming place, they had started to build St. Paul & Duluth Ry. and I decided to cast my lot at Duluth and I gathered my little stock of leather and tools took a shoe man with me and started the 10th. of Feb. 1870 leaving my wife to come later traveling as far as Hinkley on the new road and then by the stage the balance of the way to Duluth took four days of very cold and suffering but got here, there were few men working at the new dock at 3rd. Ave. E. and rough path of what is Superior is to-day with cordoroy bridge every block to take care of all the little riverlets that was coming from the hills. After registering at Cassey Boarding House at seven dollars a week and sleep on the floor after a week or so I got acquainted with Jeff. daniel and he had a bed which I got for he left the village and he gave his bed to me.

What struck me was a big pile of green wood 10 to 12 feet long right at the front of the door and the carcass of a cow or bull on top of it the cook would go out with an axe and chop good chunks of the frozen meat and that was our bouillion lots of onions and Duluth soil mixed in place of pepper. I met Col. Graves Spruce Young from the East as he had charge of good deal of Duluth property so I took a lease from him for 25 feet frontage between 1st. and 2nd. Ave. East upper side and there I cast my lot and started at once to clear about four feet of snow on my newly aquired property, bought couple thousand feet of 1/2 inch thick at one end and 1-1/2 at the other few rolls of tar paper, dont know but I bought them of W. Van Brunt as he was the head and tail of Nash Hardware Co. then. I started to look for carpenters none to be got few in Duluth and all busy. I meet couple and asked them what they were getting a day \$3.50 they said well I told them to come to me and I will pay them \$5.00 a day I had them and in five days got in to my new



house had paid \$5.00 to a teamster to go to Superior to get my doors and window, I moved in to my shop and was a boarding house inside of a week I then started to work night and day, I cooke dour own meal thats the reason that I am such a good cook to-day I had only few hundred dollars to my credit but nothing denied I started to trust very extensively as money was comming very freely and though everything was all right and was a good fellow and inside of six weeks I had six men working, and inside of six weeks and many times working part of the night to finish a job, the first bill of boot shoes I got was \$1200.00 on trust and after 45

yeears I am still dealing with the same people to day in the canvas line and hope to go so for some time yet to come. But in 72 - I found myself with about \$2000.00 worth of goods on my shelf and about \$7000.00 of book accounts and lost over one half of it but my creditor were very kind I told them to give me time and I would pay them and I did. Wife came in the 25th. of March with my children, they upset three times on the way but the passenger were very kind to her and helped her as much as they could. I had no place to put them but Mr. Sweeney then engineer for the Village was very kind he took me and my family in his small quarters and we stood four weeks with him good deal form a good man in the mean time I built an addition to the back of my store didn't excavate but put it higher to fit the incline of the hill then I bought my wife proud as a king to our new mansion the frost was covering the walls 1/2"inch thick in the morning, but bread frozen solid and every thing the same way. Teamster were felling green trees at the back and brining loads of wood 12 - 15 feet long and thats what we had to keep from freezing. I got a ton of coal from Stone at \$12.00 per ton I bought 2 bushels of potatoes small as marbles at \$3.00 bushel and paid \$12.00 for a barrel flour from Superrior. In the Spring of 70 was very latee and we were out of salt and sugar and lots of other necessary things for three weeks and boats that was our hope was stuck in the ice outside. In 77 I

had branched out very much had about 25 men working and boarding most of them help was very scarce and my dear wifeworked out I dont know but she did and she is in but strong and healthy at 70, accident that I forgot that I am very much interested as I claim that I was the first water corporation in Duluth we had to go to the Lake for water and as population increased it was very hard work and had large hogheads put on a cart, got a man to take charge and started the first waterdelivery in Duluth went very well but my servant proved unfaithful he ran away with about \$400 of my water money so I sold my outfit to the Collins Bros. and they did a good business for many years.

Insurance was very high in the poor kind of building we had, I had insurance on my stock for 7 and 8 per cent and got tired of same and discontinued it and six months after I burnt out clean and no in insurance of any kind nothing but my large account book. The fire started at my neighbors old Morinn and took me in, lose was about \$15000.00 had to start a new again, a few incidents of the fire are worth recalling I had a large coal stove up-stairs and every body was willing to help me so we decide to pass the stove out thought a front window, they attached some strong rope which they were to lower it down, in the excitement that they had in leting the rope down where they were said let go so the stove went and all to pieces on the walk. Father was with us and couldn't talk but a few words of English and he heard me say the we need more men to get the goods out so he ran to the other side of the street and cry out more men, more men. I then moved to the corner of Lake Ave. and Superior Street in an old frame that had been as a Court of Justus, the property was owned by the First National Bank then in Bankruptcy they done business weak and then wen under they had fifty feet including the corner it was to be sold and I was anxious to get it, as I was thinking that business was pushing that way before that 1st. and 2nd Ave. was the center of business nothing on the whole street till you got to where the Spalding is now the man Spalding had a store there run by Mr. Wilkenson but taht was way out of business center. I had 50 feet of old place but didn't care to rebuild there I had my eyes on lake Ave. no money but \$1000.00 but I hope to get, I sold 25ft. of my old place to Mr. Ople and 25 ft. later to Judge Stearn so the auction of the Bank came on and I bit 4800.00 for the property paid 1000.00 cash the next day. I sold the inside for 2700.00 to Mr. A.R.McFarland and got at once a cement house store and home 25 C 100 old Harmond done the job frame first and roll of cement one over the other that made a very good building and fire place for my family. I was doing a large business I was the only shoe man for years and had the trade from all the surrounding Country I opened the store at six and keep open from eleven to twelve every night and Sunday was a good day I would go up to my Sunday dinner and some body would ring the bell and had to go down again, my experience at the begining of Duluth was as sono as we could get some apropiation from the government the population would grow rapidly most from the copper country and would dwindled to normal again as soon as it was exausted and good may of them owed me and never paid me I made dollecion tour one year down the lake had about three thousand dollars of accounts and was twenty one days and came back with one hundred and sixty and was held at Isle Royal for seven days on a storm nothing to do but picking green stones. In about 83 McGegor & Morrision took fire and we got ready in case of danger but didn't think ti would reach, had only one window in the Ave. of my store and McGregoeer had a barrell of kerosene on the side walk and it caught fire and in the excitment it was rolled right in front of my store and explded out all my exit so waht I could save was by one window on the Ave. and had about 40 thousand dollar stock, so another start with almost nothing. I had \$5000.00 on the building but nothing on the stock another 15 or 20 thousand gone the fire was burning at the back and I had men digging and cleaning for a new building. The Duluth & Iron Range made an arrangement to have the upstairs of my building and had it fixed for there business, they paid me one years rent ahead 1200 to help me and I built the present building that stands



there now the Company stayed there five years in my building and I had one of the best stores in Duluth. Henry Bell offered me \$30,000.00 cash for the building and I was tired of the business and I thought I was rich and I took it. I then went in speculating bargains on property twenty years to soon went lumbering mining speculation and lost on every side I built what is now the Cately Store and couple years before the panic and when 94 came I went down like a rock stated again with nothing but I was getting old to, it has been slow but I have done it cheerfully and I am getting three meal a day and I am now nearly 77 years and I am waiting for the call I am not anxious I can wait I am proud to be one of the old settlers and I think that we are the people on earth so when I drop off they will be one less that call.

I was county commisioner of St. Louis Co. from 90-94.
C Poirier

Camille filed a patent Dec 12, 1882 for a "Pack Strap" that lead to a radical new design for pack sacks. His pack later came to be called the "Duluth Pack".
"Duluth Packs" have been made for the last 85 years by Duluth Tent & Awning, Inc. Check out their web site at <http://www.duluthpacks.com> and please request their catalog. It is a wealth of outdoor information in addition to offering the wonderful Duluth Pack products.

12 North Lake Avenue

Presently : Gardner Hotel

Previously: Tremont Hotel, 1890

Architect: Austin Terryberry

Style: Richardsonian romanesque Revival

An early downtown hotel, the Tremont's name was changed to Gardner Hotel in 1922. It was remodeled in the late 1980s and now serves as an apartment building.

1-9 East Superior Street

Presently : Vacant Lot

Previously: Benz Block, 1887 and the Long Block (#3-9 Herman Long, Attorney and Real Estate),
1889, Keiserhoff Hotel about 1909

Built: 1887

Architect:

Style:

In 1968 remodeled into the Cross Roads Inn Motel. Building had a fire on March 21st 1974, Demolished in 1988

Photos:

1. Benz Block, 1903 or 1904
2. 1909, Kaiserhoff after mud slide

11 & 11 ½ East Superior Street

Presently : Parking lot

Previously: 1880s and 90s #11 Witt Meat Market, 11 ½ Grocery Store. Piggly-Wiggly Northwest Inc. (Grocers & Meats 1935)

Built: prior to 1885

Architect:

Style:

Demolished in 1988

1935 - Piggly Wiggly
1950 - Bridgeman Creameries Inc. Ice Cream

12-14 East Superior Street

Presently: Electric Fetus

Previously : Bijou Theater, Empress Theatre, Famous Clothing Store

Built: 1903

Architect: Emmet Palmer and William Hunt

Style: Classical Revival

Painted brick face with stone trim, cast concrete keystones and an ornamental cornice.

Add Story of the fire

1935 - Famous Woolen Co. Sherman Radio Service
1950 - Famous Woolen Co. Alex J. Lurye Furniture

Photos: 1. The Empress in 1910 2. Fire in 1915
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16 East Superior Street

Present Owner: DEDA (Duluth Economic Development Agency)

Previously: Strand Theatre, originally built as Wittø Meat Market, St. Paul Restaurant.

Built: 1906

Architect: W.A. Hunt

Style: Commercial Queen Anne

There has been much talk about restoring and re-opening this theater in recent years but as of this time there have been no takers.

Pressed brick painted white with a metal cornice, dentils, brick corbels, flat arches with keystones on the upper windows. Storefront contains several cast iron columns manufactured by the Crown Iron Works of Minneapolis.

During the 1930s you could get into the movie by bringing in an empty ARCO coffee can, a locally packaged brand.

1935 - Branderø Music Shop Bellnet Furniture Strand Theatre
1950 - Strand Theatre

Photo: Show both photos of Empress, 1910 and 1915

13 East Superior Street

Presently : Wabasha Books
Previously: Moses Cook Clothing, 1939 Fisherman's Linen Shop
Built: 1911
Architect: Unknown
Style: Classical Revival

This is a flat-roofed two-story commercial style building with stone face, dentils on the cornice, classical detailing beneath the cornice, ribbon windows and a boarded storefront. The facade has been remodeled three times, in the 1920's by architects Giliuson and Ellingsen, Harold Starin in 1958 and Ferris Alexander, the porn king, during the 80's.

1935 - W. H. Bruen & Co. women's Furnishings

1950 - Fisherman's Quality Linen

15 East Superior Street

Presently : Wabasha Books Building (Eastern half of building)

Previously: 1925 Hudson Bay Fur Co., 1950 - Jolly Fisher Seafood Restaurant

Built:

Architect:

Style:

15 East Superior Street was the Eastern ½ of the present Wabasha Books building per 1954 Sanborn Map

18 East Superior Street

Presently : Vacant Lot
Previously: YMCA
Built: In 1880s demolished in 1960s
Architect:
Style:

1935 - Louis Danciger Clothing
18½ Mesabe Social Club
1950 - Crystal's Finer Foods - Grocers

Photo: is the one
when Crystal's,
about 1950. Should
be early one in
YMCA history.

17 East Superior Street

Presently : Tandy Leather / Downtown Antiques?
 Previously: Wright - Jones Block
 Built: 1892 and extensively remodeled in 1930
 Architect: German and de Waard, Francis Fitzgerald
 Style: Tudor Revival Style after remodeling, unknown before.

Remodeled by Frances Fitzgerald during 1930s in Tudor Revival Style. Two pediments with concrete coping and finials crown the two story-building. Note the diamond pane windows! (Typical Tudor) One of the two storefronts is now faced with wood siding.

1930 - Leon Aleram's women's furnishings
1935 - Dworshak's Studio Co. Photography 17½ Fisherman's Quality Linen Shop
1950 - Singer Sewing Machine
1965 - Singer Sewing Machine

21 East Superior Street

Presently : Collector's Connection
Previously: Singer Sewing Machine, 1935 - Central Fruit Market
Built : 1939
Architect: Harold Starin
Style : Vernacular

When this was a Singer Sewing Center it had a drive up facility in the alley. It is a one-story building with enameled steel facade and a storefront. There may have been an earlier building on the rear of the site as the back wall is of older brick.

23-25 East Superior Street

Presently : Music Center
Previously: H.A. Cohen Clothing
Built: 1912
Architect: William Bray & Carl Nystrom
Style: Commercial

1930 - Central Fruit Market
1935 - Alger Anderson Co. (Paints)

Remodeled several times, this building served as a restaurant and fruit market in the 1920s and 30s. Bray and Nystrom were Duluth architects who designed many fine houses in the East End. It has white painted brick with wood-clad windows on the second floor and a first floor storefront. Remodeled at an unknown date.

27 East Superior Street

Presently : Vacant Lot
Previously: Golden Buddha Restaurant
Built: ?
Architect:
Style:

This vacant lot once had a building which housed Sherø Plumbing in the 1950s. A Chinese restaurant was here in 1984 when it was destroyed by fire.

Burned down in 1984

1935 - Singer Sewing Machine Co. Office rentals upstairs
1950 - Sherø Plumbers Offices upstairs

22-24 E Superior Street

Presently: Abalans / Master's Piano Shop

Previously: John J. Costello Building, / Costello Hardware & Stoves / Rainey & French Furniture Company

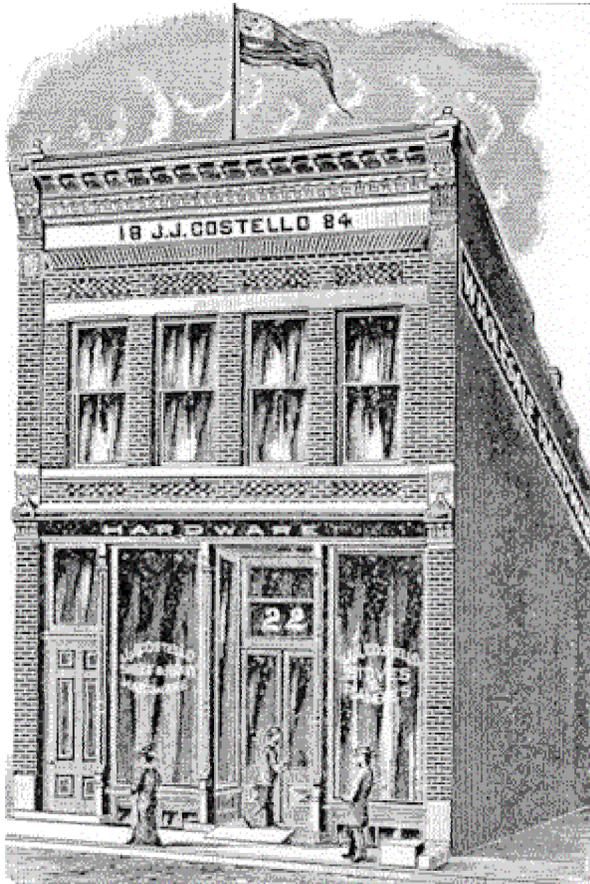
Built: 1884 & after 1887

Architect: Oliver Traphagen & George Wirth

Style: Richardsonian Romanesque Revival

The brownstone for this building was quarried at Ingalls Quarry in Fond du Lac.

Although this appears to be one building, the half at 24 Superior was built first in 1884 as John Costello's Hardware. Two years later, as the hardware business grew, the building's size was doubled. By 1897 Costello Hardware was gone. This building has red brick facing, a metal cornice with brackets and dentils. The storefront is aluminum clad with glass tile band (**YUCH!**).



1925 - News-Tribune Co., J.E. #20-22 then
1935 - Vacant
1940 - #22 Anderson Paints, #24 Downtown Table Tennis Courts
1950 - Credit Sales Co. - Elec. Appliances

THE NEWSPAPER “WARS”

During the early 1860s Dr. Foster published a newspaper in St. Paul called, “The St. Paul Minnesotian”. He moved to Duluth in 1869 and renamed it, “The Duluth Minnesotian”. The first issue was printed April 24, 1869, and he proceeded to annoy every politician and rich old goat in the area. Soon the new mayor, Joshua Culver, and the financier, Jay Cooke, invited Robert C. Mitchell to move his then new Superior Tribune to Duluth.

Some local Superior businessmen had no intention of letting Mitchell move, and he faced a possible court injunction stopping him. He decided to make the move when the two judges were too busy or out of town. The time came on May 4, 1870 when one of the judges was out presiding over a case. The other judge was sleeping off a drinking binge. Mitchell said later, “I did happen to know, before I started to move the plant, that he was dead to the world in the second story of Charlie Lord’s saloon, and that he could not write his name to a writ even if he should be found.”

That started a newspaper feud that lasted into the twentieth century. Foster seemed to really enjoy the war. **The Tribune was three blocks west of the Minnesotian.** They seemed to be done in on September 12, 1871 when they had a fire that destroyed their office and presses. The steam fire engine showed up but wasn’t able to get any water. The presses made a pretty big bang as they dropped through from the second floor, and Foster later wrote about this with relish. By then the Herald was in town and they helped get the Tribune out during their time of difficulty.

Mitchell lost all his records and couldn’t even bill for advertising, so he borrowed the records from the Minnesota Historical Society and for some years they were not successful in recovering them. They never were returned. Dr. Foster always claimed this was a fair representation of Mitchell’s character.

After being so very loyal to the people of Superior for some time it was a shock when the first issue of the Tribune came out in Duluth and Mitchell said, “we made up our mind that those who wished to hang by, and go down with a sinking ship, might do so, but that, for ourself, we preferred to carry on business in a growing, prosperous and flourishing city, rather than in a decaying or lifeless one; and so we made

arrangements to come to Duluth.” To make matters worse he gave the first copy struck to Jay Cooke. Our apologies to our Superiorite visitors for repeating this story.

The “newspaper war” wasn’t just Mitchell and Foster disagreeing on a few points. On January 6, 1872 Dr. Foster felt it was necessary to respond to some of his attacks, and felt the appropriate way was to print Mitchell’s slander in his paper. He wrote: “We take the following choice morsels of “elevated literature” at random, from different numbers of that sheet:

From the Tribune of Nov, 23, 1870 “Those what have ever seen the hideous and shapeless excrescence or protrubance with its miniature mountain peaks and caverns which he carries between his visual organs.”

That’s my nose he was talking about!

Dec. 7, 1870 “The old blatherskite of the MINNESOTIAN.” “The walking beer-barrel of the MINNESOTIAN that unscrupulous old creature.”

Dec. 21, 1870 “Cowardly cunning, sycophantical and hypocritical efforts which are now being made by the editor of the MINNESOTIAN dirt eater” “he is morbidly selfish and utterly unscrupulous” “old vulture” “old creature” “foul pen.”

Dec. 28, 1870 “The biggest hog in Duluth” “The grimaces and antics of a monkey” “the senseless cachinnations of an idiot.” “The ancient blatherskite of the MINNESOTIAN is in his dotage.”

July 20, 1871 “We find him engaged in dirt-eating and in endeavoring with all the disgusting and humiliating fawning and cringing of a sycophant” “ostensible penitence of this old creature” “abuses and slanders of his vile pen” “unscrupulous and vicious old disorganizer” “an unscrupulous and malicious wretch” “willful and deliberate liar.”

Dec. 28, 1871 “beastly and egotistical old blather-blatherskite” “goggle-eyed” “foul-mouthed editor.”

It was a war!

26 East Superior Street

Presently:

Previously: H.P. Wieland Block, Goodwill Industries

Built: 1889

Architect: Oliver Traphagen

Style: Richardsonian Romanesque Revival

The MINNESOTIAN newspaper was published on this spot, prior to the construction of the H.P. Wieland Block, which was originally a furniture store.

Later the DULUTH NEWS-TRIBUNE, a descendent of the MINNESOTIAN, and several foreign language newspapers were published here.

Pressed red brick and a metal cornice with four squat piers, carved brownstone arched window surrounds, and pilasters carved with foliated capitals adorn the fourth floor. The third floor has transom and stone headings and decorative band that splits the second and third floors. Second floor windows have segmental arches, third floor has flat arches and the fourth floor has round window arches. These are all characteristic of the Romanesque style as expressed by architect Traphagen. Also there is Carrerra glass on the current storefront which was 1930s Art Deco.

1935 - Duluth News Tribune Several publishing related businesses Several piano tuners
1950 - French-Bassett & Scott Co. - Furniture

29-33 E. Superior Street

Presently: Last Place on Earth
 Previously: Pastoret-Stenson Block (also called the Lowell Block)
 Built: 1888
 Architect: Oliver Traphagen - Duluth
 Style: Richardsonian Romanesque

The Pastoret-Stenson Block originally had six stories with arched windows on the top floor but the top three floors were removed about 1930 after a fire destroyed those floors. At that time it was called the Lowell Block. The fire began in the second story B and Y Cap Company factory on March 7th. The third through sixth floors had many small apartments, and four people were trapped and died in the fire. Victims were five and seven year old girls and two elderly women. Later, rumors circulated that an explosion of a still in the cap factory (this was during Prohibition) had caused the fire.

In June of 1930 the top three, heavily damaged floors were removed, a new roof was installed and the present, plain brick cornice was built.

Early occupants of the building included **Singer Sewing Machine**. During the 1940s and 1950s, the street level was home to Gotkins Greater Markets. During the 1960s, King Korn Stamps and Duluth Sewing Center were on the street level, and in the 1970s Radio Shack replaced the stamp store. By 1988 the present occupants, Johns Used Furniture and Last Place on Earth were on the street level. Since the 1960s the upper floors have been vacant or used for storage.

The original cornice was decorated with three rows of patterned brick and seven squat towers. Heavily carved bands of scrolls and leaves stretched over the third, fourth and fifth floors. A plain brick cornice was added to the remaining structure after the fire. You can still see the band of scrolls and leaves above the third floor. You can also see "O. Stenson" just to the west of the corner entrance and "M. Pastoret" on the southwest corner of the building. The date 1888 is carved over the third floor above the corner entrance. The brownstone used in this structure came from Mr. Ingalls quarry at Fon du Lac.

1899 - J. F. Tibbetts, undertaker
1925 - Singer Sewing Machine
1930 - (before fire) B & Y Cap Co., Ann Cargill, milliner
1940 - still vacant



30-38 East Superior Street

Presently: Joy Kops Gallery
 Previously: Hayes Building (Hayes Block) (Retro/Corner of the Lake/Journeys Marketplace)
 Built: 1870 but completely remodeled in 1906 when it was doubled in size, and again 1923
 Architect: (1906)Emmet Palmer and William Hunt
 Style: Vernacular

The original building on this site was built by Rutherford B. Hayes, future president of the United States. He did visit Duluth both before and during his presidency. The first meetings of the Ionic Chapter of the Masonic Lodge were held here in 1889.

A 1870 photograph shows this building to contain the Post Office, Dr. McCormick's office, W.G. Willis Co., and a lawyers office.

Brown pressed brick, a wide metal cornice with modillions, dentils, and decorative lion's heads, corbeled brick and a newer storefront.

(Under the Hayes Block was Shenburger and Cusham Ship Chandlery, corner of 1st Ave. E & Mich St.)

<p>Addresses in this block were changed: 28 Superior Street 1935 - Lake Theatre (Motion Pictures) Just another office building ? 30 Superior Street 1950 - Lake Theatre (Motion Pictures)</p>

101 - 105 East Superior Street

Grant Hotel, 1907

Classical Revival

The original use of the building is unknown, but by 1926 the Grant Hotel occupied the second story. The red patterned brick building was altered in 1938. It housed restaurants and meat markets in the 1920s and 30s and Coney Island has been at 105 since 1950. Note the stone trim, stone sills and corbels.

1935 -	101 = City Market Co.
	103 = Regas & Regas Restaurant
	105 = James Karidakisø Restaurant
1950 -	101 = Wallyø Liquor Store
	103 = N. Shore Cafe/Granada News
	105 = Coney Island lunch
1995 -	Coney Island / Coin & Stamp

“FISH EATERS”

In the early days of Duluth the poor people who lived South of Superior Street were known as “fish eaters”. Because fish were plentiful and inexpensive it was a very big part of their diet, and it was an honor to be called that. The rich folk could eat whatever they wanted but for the poor the saying went “eat fish or snowballs”. The fish business was one of the earliest in the city.

**(Elaborate on the fishing industry, great description in
“Recollections of Early Days in Duluth” by Jerome
Cooley**

102-108 East Superior Street

Presently: Unoccupied / Chinese Dragon Restaurant

Previously: Duluth Marine Supply meats and groceries until 1939 - 1910 the Hotel Astoria was on this site.

Built: 1932

Architect:

Style: Renaissance Revival

Had a major fire in 1993.

Two story building sheathed with pressed white brick.

1935 -	102 = Duluth Marine Supply - Grocers & Meats
	104 = Majestic Oderless Cleaners
	106-108 = Vacant
1950 -	102 = Sherwin Williams Paints
	104 = Majestic Cleaners & Dryers
	106 = Eddie Oswalds Bar & Grill
	108 = Ben Sunderlund Co. - Plumbers

107-109 East Superior Street

Presently: Fond du Luth Casino Parking ramp
 Previously: C.H. Oppel Block, a wonderful Romanesque Revival, which the city tore down despite opposition to prevent demolition.
 Granada News, Granada Theater, razed in 1987
 Built: 1987 (C. H. Oppel Block 1889)
 Architect: original building: Traphagen
 Style: Contemporary, but built of red brick, with pediments at the roof line, to help it blend with visual character of older buildings in neighborhood. It also has green metal roofs with open windows and some with glass and aluminum.

1935 -	107 = Hauck & Behning Barbers
	107-109 Granada Theatre Duluth - Talkies
	109½ = Granada Beauty Shop
1950 -	107 = Chris C. Pehning - Barber
	107-109 = Granada Theatre Duluth Talkies Inc.

112 East Superior Street

Presently: Muffler Clinic
Previously: Sears Automotive Repair, and parking lot.
1891 the Norris Hotel was on this site
Built: (1916, original building) 1930, new building
Architect:
Style: Vernacular

There was another building on the site on the west side. You can still see the outline on the other buildings.

1891 - Norris Hotel
1935 - Peter Marmas Restaurant
1950 - Sears Service Garage (110) Sears Roebuck Parking

118 East Superior Street

Presently: Duluth Area Chamber of Commerce
Previously: Peterson Buffet, just another name for saloon during prohibition. Plaza Hotel
Built: 1911
Architect:
Style: Renaissance Revival

Peterson Buffet here until 1915. In 1920s this was an auto supply company, in 1930s it became Granada Beer Garden, with Plaza Hotel upstairs.

Was also Carlson's Bar & Rest. and in 1984 Murphy's Restaurant & Bar

Stone facing, a cornice with decorative brackets and corner cartouches, and classical detailing on the cornice between the first and the second floors. Storefront has arched windows with leaded glass and classical detailing.

1935 - Granada Beer Garden Plaza Hotel
1950 - Granada Stage Bar Beverages Plaza Hotel

121-123 East Superior Street

Presently : Fond du Luth Casino Parking

Previously:

Built:

Architect:

Style:

1935 - Oscar Wine, Tailor
1950 - Blue & White Hamburger Shop
1976 - The Adult Book Store

Gold Mines?

In the early years there was some wealth in Duluth with the lumber, railroading, ships, and then the mining. In 1869 the gold and silver mines seemed to be doing well, as a matter of fact, Col. W.H. Nobles had stamped out about five tons of gold and silver quartz by June. Brownstone became a staple of the building industry in Duluth and by 1880 the brownstone mining industry became the second largest employer in the area.

120 East Superior Street

Presently: MicroNorth Corp.
Previously: Delray Hotel
Built: 1908
Architect:
Style: Commercial Queen Anne

Three story pressed red brick and stone building with a corbeled cornice, patterned brick arches and stone lintels and headings on the second and third floors.

1926 - Hotel St. Lawrence
1935 - P. K. Priest Auto Financing Delray Hotel
1950 - Nides Finance Co.
1994 - Superior Computer Supply

122-124 East Superior Street

Presently: Shel-Don Reproductin Centre, Inc.
Previously: Service Motor Company, Automotive Showroom
Built: 1908
Architect: Frederick German & A. Werner Lignell
Style: Classical Revival

The glass in the transom came from the Luxfur Glass Co. and **was designed (first used) by Frank Lloyd Wright**. Terra cotta facing, decorative cornice with egg and dart molding, classical detailing around second floor windows with a wood-clad storefront.

1925 -	Service Motor Co.
1935 -	Vacant
1950 -	Drives Union Hall Duluth General Truck Drivers & Helpers Local #36 Teamsters Local #46 Milk Drivers & Dairy Local #32
1965 -	Vacant

126 East Superior Street

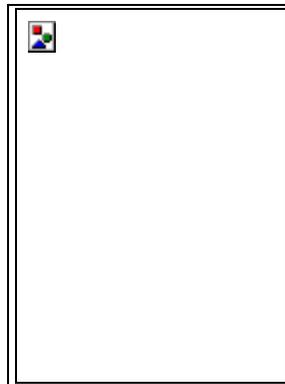
Presently: Architectural Resources Inc.
 Previously: Old Duluth City Jail
 Built: 1891, after city hall
 Architect: Oliver G. Traphagen, Duluth
 Style: Richardsonian Romanesque Revival

This building was restored by Architectural Resources in 1968-69. It is one of the best examples of this style of architecture in the area. Carved pediment, stone balustrade on the cornice, and wonderful brownstone carvings, including ðpoliceö, on the facade. The brownstone was quarried at Mr. Edward Ingallö Quarry at Fond du Lac. The first skywalk in Duluth is still between the Court House and City Hall. It was believed to have been installed sometime after 1910, maybe 1920. It was used to transport prisoners between the jail and court without going outside.

This is the Jail that was in use during the June 15th 1920 riots in which three black men, Elias Clayton, Elmer Jackson, Isaac McGhie, were hanged. If you wish to learn more about this infamous event in Duluth history please read the books on the subject by Micheal Fedo.

The building used as a jail until condemned by the state in 1941. During the 50ö it was a restaurant.

1935 - City Jail
1950 - The Southern Inc. (Restaurant)



132 East Superior Street

Presently: Northern Electric Supplies
Previously: Old City Hall, County Welfare, American Red Cross
Architect: Oliver G. Traphagen, Duluth
Built: 1889
Style: Richardsonian Romanesque

All brownstone on this and old jail was locally quarried, jail from Fond du Lac and City Hall from Flag River Wisconsin. Original cost of this building was \$45,000. The city offices including the police department moved in on January 30, 1889, and it was used until 1929 when the present City Hall was built. It was occupied by Northern Electric Supplies from 1946 to 1994.

Portions of the carved brownstone remain, but most has been covered with black Carrerra glass tile.

1930 - Zenith Artificial Limb Anton Ronning Furniture Mfg. Suomalaisen Metodisti Lketyksen Hall
1935 - Vacant
1950 - Northern Electric Supply
1994 - Northern Electric Supply

129 East Superior Street

Presently: Fond-du-Luth Casino

Previously: Sears, Roebuck & Company

1870s and 80s Burg-Kugler Block, Herman Berg, Butcher Shop

1888 Kugler Drug Store

Built: 1929

Architect:

Style: **Art Deco (Moderne??)**- Casino is increasing Art Deco theme with neon

Was built as the Sears Store which finally closed about 1984. Casino opened in 1986. Because of state gaming laws casinos may be built only on reservations. The City of Duluth turned over the land and the building to the Fond du Lac band of Objibwa/Chippewa Indians, so they could open a casino.

Cream brick walls, with geometric brick detailing at the cornice. Additional neon lighting was installed in 1994.

1935 - Not Listed (Sears)

1950 - Not Listed (Sears)

201 East Superior Street

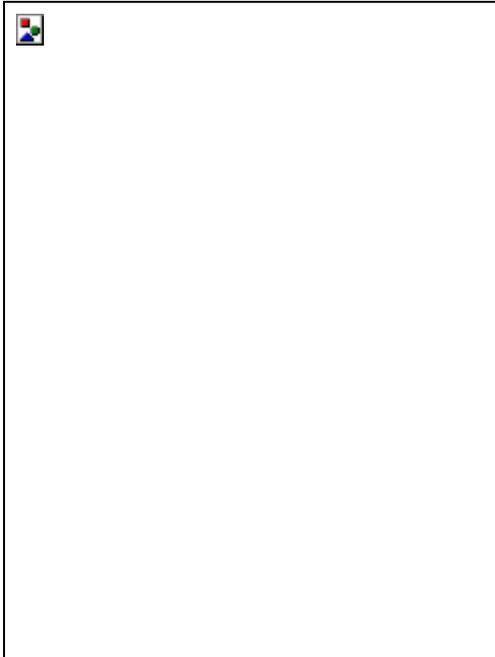
Presently: Masonic Building
 Previously: Masonic Temple (Temple Opera House)
 Built: 1889 (original wooden building 1869)
 Architects: Charles McMillen and E.S. Stebbins, Duluth
 Style: Richardsonian Romanesque with Moorish detailing

This building once contained the Public Reading Rooms which later became the Public Library. In 1942 the top three stories and the Moorish Tower were removed to free the view of the building up the hill from it which belonged to G.G. Hartley who also disliked the style contrast with his classical Orpheum Theatre.

Brownstone from the Amnicon River Quarries and red sandstone walls with carved capitals, faces and Celtic mazes. Above the entrance is a wrought iron balcony with a Syrian arch flanked by columns suggesting the mass of the much more Moorish style floors that had been removed.

The MINNESOTIAN of June 26, 1869 said of the original Temple Building, which cost \$200,000 to build: "A Masonic hall, being, of course, one of the indispensable institutions of a place of our destiny, Mr. William Nettleton has commenced the erection of a good sized building on the corner of Superior Street at East Second Avenue, the second story of which is designed for this special purpose. The building will be a substantial two-story frame, 22X50 feet, the lower story to be let for a store."

The Duluth Daily News of October 22, 1889 said, of the entrance that was on the avenue, "The foyer is richly dressed. The windows are curtained in gorgeous velours in old gold. Two of its fine doors are covered in velours in solid Spanish red and old gold valances, all hung on poles."



1930 -	13 music teachers and the Lochmund Studio of Musical Art
1935 -	Temple Building & Hall, Orpheum Pharmacy on 1 st floor and 31 apartments
1950 -	Same

12 N Second Avenue East

Presently: Back of Norshor Theatre
Previously: Orpheum Theater
Built: 1910
Architects: J.E.O. Pridmore, Chicago
Style: Classical Revival

Behind the Temple, was built by G.G.Hartley who also owned the Masonic Temple Opera Building at that time. Cost \$150,000 to build.

There is a large pediment ornamented with modillions, dentils and egg and dart banding. Construction is of red brick in a Flemish bond with stone and tile trim and ionic pilasters. The windows have classical surrounds.

In 1940 the entrance was switched to Superior Street and remodeled in Art Deco style. The newly remodeled building became the Norshor Theater.

The Duluth Transit Authority shelter was added in the 1980s.

1935 - Orpheum Theatre - Entrance had been moved to 207 E. Superior Street. No listing on avenue.

202 East Superior Street

Presently: Northwest Office Supply
Previously: Commercial Block, Folz Building, H.B. Knudsen Auto Company
Built: 1908, Commercial Building, 1919 rebuilt as the Folz Building in same style after major fire
Architect: Austin Terryberry
Style: Classical

Three story cream-colored pressed brick red stone at the cornice and four brick pilasters with stone capitals. The third floor has patterned brick panels and a wide wood cornice with modillions. The Folz Building was restored after a 1922 fire.

1918 - H.B. Knudsen Auto Company
1935 - 202-204 = Western Auto Supply
1950 - Western Auto Stores - Auto Accessories

(207-213) 211 East Superior Street

Presently: Norshor Theatre - Unoccupied
 Previously: Orpheum Theatre & Garage
 Built: 1910 as a "legitimate" theater and redesigned as an Art Deco movie house in 1940.
 Architect: 1940 Liebenberg and Kaplan, Minneapolis
 Style: Present: Art Deco

When this theatre reopened as a movie house in 1940 the theater had been turned 180 degrees. The old stage was where the popcorn stand is now. Also when it opened it contained the world's only "Milk Bar" in a theater. There also was a 64 foot high lighted tower which was demolished in 1967.

In the mid 1970's there was a screening of the movie *The Dove* which was directed by Gregory Peck. Mr. Peck was scheduled to attend the screening but was held up at a local television station. After frantic calls to his assistant he did come by and gave a short speech. A while after he had left the manager Don Hanson heard a knock on the side entrance. It was Mr. Peck coming back just to tell the manager how much he appreciated the opportunity to be there.

Last year of full time operation was 1982. Stone first floor and multi-geometric detailed brick second and third floors it also has a three-story stone shield marquee with a glass doored entrance.

1930 - Orpheum Garage
1935 - Orpheum Theatre
Orpheum Garage
Martha Strassburger Woman's Furnishings
Griffith Inc. - Rugs

206-212 East Superior Street

Presently: Carlson Bookstore / Balcum Appliance
Previously: Interstate Auto Company
Built: 1915
Architect:
Style: Classical Revival

White pressed brick building with seven brick pilasters and metal capitals between second floor windows.
Altered storefront with two store entrances and a garage door.

1930 - Reo-Duluth, Inc. & Kent Motors
1935 - 206-208 = Automobile License Agency Duco Duluth - Auto Painters Lange Motors 210-214 = Vacant
1950 - 206- 212 = Lange Motors P & M Finance Diamond T Arrowhead Trucks 214 = Kewpies Restaurant

216-218 East Superior Street
Gannon Auto Supplies, 1912
Vernacular

One of several supporting businesses for the many auto dealers, this later housed plumbers and restaurants. One story red brick with an altered storefront. The upper facade has reddish-brown patterned brick with a row of soldier brick overhanging a wood cornice.

Automobile Row

The first automobile came to Duluth in 1901, and by 1910 many of the buildings in the 200 and 300 blocks of East Superior Street were being remodeled or constructed as automobile showrooms or garages. In 1940 there were still fourteen auto showrooms, used car dealers or auto parts stores. It was still called Automobile Row into the 60s.

1935 - 216 = Exterminating Service Corp. 218 = Vacant
1996 - Perry Framing / Hanna Interiors

214 E. Superior Street

Presently: Lake Place Entrance

Previously: ?????

Built: 1990

Architect:

Style:

1930 - John Michelø's Tires
1935 - Vacant
1940 - Blue & White Hamburger Shop

220 East Superior Street

Presently: Red Lion Bar & Grill /Johnø Bar and Grill
 Previously: Albert Salter Buffet (nee Saloon). Franklin Duluth Auto Co. Maxwell-Chrysler Cars (1928)
 Architect: William A. Hunt.
 Built: 1910
 Style: Vernacular

Two-story creamery brick building now covered by black Carrerra glass and a first floor cornice of scroll ornament glazed terra cotta. Second floor has ornate metal cornice with dentils and brackets.

1925 - Maxwell Chrysler Cars
1930 - George Wilson, Auto Dealer
1935 - Jackø Tavern Restaurant

MARTIN KELLY'S FORTUNE

Eighteen hundred and sixty-nine was a wild year. Duluth wasn't tamed and didn't yet have a mayor. Many unusual events were taking place. During that summer a man named Martin Kelly came to town. He sometime chose to work, and then at what was called "fancy work" - digging ditches, wood sawing, and other of that sort of thing. It was said he "chose to work," but a better way of putting it would be to state that he worked whenever he was freed from the chains that bound him to the shrine of Bacchus.

He left a family behind in Michigan and always promised to bring them here. However, about the time his money reached the proportion necessary to accomplish this, his appetites got the better of him.

One night the steamer *Meteor* landed at the dock, and Captain Wilson went inquiring after Mr. Kelly. Following much hunting Wilson found him at one of the many saloons in the district and he was in great spirits. The good captain then imparted to him the surprising news that a rich uncle, a farmer, had died and left him \$25,000. *Twenty five thousand dollars!*

The captain offered to take Kelly back to Michigan without the usual fee, and thereupon, he was so excited he bought rounds for the entire bar. This farewell drink went on for some time until Captain Wilson persuaded him to board the *Meteor*. Later that evening he reappeared at his usual haunts and Captain Wilson worked very hard to have him again board the *Meteor*.

It was hoped that he would make better use of his fortune than he did of the money he earned here. However his friends feared that it may have been a curse to him. It is interesting that he is remembered in Duluth more for what he didn't do than what he did.

217 East Superior Street

Presently : Chinese Garden Parking

Previously: Used car lot during the 1950s

Built:

Architect:

Style:

What was here before?

1890 - Hoskin & Ross Grocery

1909 - Vacant till today

219-231 East Superior Street

Presently: Greysolon Plaza, Chinese Garden Restaurant, Romano's Grocery
 Previously: Hotel Duluth
 Built: 1925
 Architect: Martin Tullgren & Sons, Milwaukee
 Style: Classical Revival

Fourteen stories, 500 rooms. The Hotel Duluth had an elaborate bottom and top and plain middle, as a column would have. Also plenty of classical detailing, carved rosettes, shields, swags, Corinthian columns. Also wrought-iron framed windows in round arch surrounds between the second and third floor and wrought-iron lamps across the second story. In 1925 the management described it as "thoroughly Italian Renaissance in the Lobby and on the Mezzanine floor," which leads into a "typical Spanish dining room."

The formal opening was held May 22-23, 1925. Ninety per cent of the work on this \$2,400,000 structure was done by Duluth firms. The first person to sign the guest register was George H. Crosby, who has been called the "father of the Hotel Duluth" as he raised \$350,000 in subscription for the building. The first out of town guest was John F. Scott of St. Paul, who was the President of the Minnesota Building and Loan Association.

In 1981 it was converted to apartments and the wonderful ballroom and other rooms are available for special occasion rental. The Ballroom was used in 1993 for the filming of portions of the Disney movie *Iron Will*.

Celebrities who stayed here included Henry Fonda, Harry Jones, Charles Boyer, and Crown Prince Olav of Norway (1939), who was in Duluth to dedicate Enger Tower. In 1963 John F. Kennedy and his entourage took over the entire 14th floor, 2 months before his assassination.

1935 - 219-231 = Hotel Duluth 223 = Black Bear Lounge 225 = Postal Telegraph Cable Co. 231 = Hotel Duluth Pharmacy

THE BLACK BEAR LOUNGE

Early Sunday morning, August 18, 1929, Arvid Peterson was driving down London road at 26th Avenue East when he noticed a large black bear sauntering along behind his vehicle. Arvid was to deliver fresh North Shore fish to Duluth. The bear was obviously impressed with the smells coming from the back of his truck. Assuming the bear would tire soon and not follow, Arvid paid no more attention to the him until he arrived at the corner of Superior Street and Third Avenue East. As he turned up the hill next to the Hotel Duluth, he noticed the bear had followed him for miles. When the animal smelled the wonderful odors coming from the coffee shop in the hotel, he rose up on his hind feet and looked around as if greatly confused. Then, with one mighty blow of its paw, it smashed a fifteen foot tall plate glass window. Glass flew in every direction. The bear dropped to all fours and rushed through the window to the center of the coffee shop.

A local drunk, wandering the streets in a stupor, saw the whole episode. Somehow he got a hammer and leaped through the broken window after the bear. Screaming and waving the hammer he stood there in a Mexican standoff with this monster of the big game.

Upon hearing the shattering glass, and the drunks shouting, the night watchman, Albert Nelson, went to see what had happened. At first he assumed that an automobile had crashed through a window, or perhaps there had been a kitchen explosion. When he arrived he was amazed at the sight of the huge black bear standing in the middle of the floor. He ran to get the night clerk and the assistant manager, who then called the police.

The coffee shop had an upper level which Nelson entered by a side door. Taking note of the two short stairways leading to the mezzanine from the main floor, he realized that he had to protect himself in some way. He set to piling tables and chairs at the top of the stairs as barricades. The bear was not idle during this time. Pursued by the drunk waving the hammer, he first attacked one stairway and then the other. Nelson beat him off each time by throwing chairs and tables down each stairway adding to the *bearicades*.

This battle went on for some time, during which the guests of the hotel, aroused by the commotion, congregated in the lobby. Passersby on the streets started to gather at the windows. Soon there were large crowds watching the action.

The crowd grew larger and larger, pressing in on the coffee shop. With each new charge of the bear the onlookers surged back a few steps, only to press in again when the bear retreated. All the while the madman with the hammer continued his relentless pursuit.

At this point Sergeant Eli Le Bean and Patrolman John Hagen arrived. In an effort to capture the wild beast they obtained a length of rope which they made into a noose. Entering the coffee shop they began pushing tables and chairs towards the bear in an ever tightening circle. After several attempts to lasso the animal, they moved the circle closer until they were certain to succeed. Just as they were ready to throw the rope around his head, the bear lunged backward attacking the stairway once more. Smashing chairs and tables he appeared to be breaking his way toward Nelson when Sergeant Le Bean hoisted his rifle to his shoulder and fired a well placed round into the animal's head.

In mortal agony the bear raised up on its hind legs, stood wobbly for a moment, then fell down the stairs to the floor below. The crowd moved in closer, surrounding the dead bear. Silence reigned.

The magnificent animal was later sent to a local taxidermist and for many years was displayed in the front window of the hotel.

222 East Superior Street

Presently: St. Louis County Health Department
Previously: Rockhill Buick
Built: 1928
Architect:
Style: Neo Classical Revival

Two-story brick has continuous panels of unglazed terra cotta with shields, dragons, dentils and egg and dart molding surrounding the second story windows. Vertical cable molding decorates the second story windows.

1930 - Rockhill Buick
1935 - 222-226 = George H. Crosby Motors Co. & Garage Duluth!!! Sinclair Lewis and Hildegaard parked there often.
1952 - Duluth Garage

228-230 East Superior Street

Presently: KBJR - TV "Television Center Building"

Zenith Motor Co., small furniture store, 1926 228 was built as "Zenith Motor Company", 230 was built in 1955 when it became a television Studio.

Contemporary style

Before 1955 there were two buildings on this site, Zenith Motor Company and a small furniture store. The buildings were combined and extensively remodeled in 1955 when it became a television studio. It has painted brick, stone and concrete giving it the appearance of one building. Arched entrance is of interest.

1926 - Zenith Motor Company, Hudson & Essex Cars

1935 - 228 = Madame Elizabeth Warde - Millinery
230 = Louis Kandela Furniture

300 - (was 300-306 before address change) East Superior Street

Presently: Bresnan Cable
Previously: Mutual Auto Company
Built: 1915
Architect:
Style: Vernacular

One-story brick building with large plate glass windows in the original copper frames. A series of cast iron column adorn the facade and there is a large garage door on the left. To the right is an entrance covered by a rounded wooden hood supported by a pair of scroll brackets.

1930 - U. S. Rubber Co., Inc.
1935 - 302-304 = Fox Auto Supply
1940 - Lakeland Motors

A tourist once asked a street car motorman what the summers were like in Duluth. He replied, "I don't know, I've only lived here for fourteen months."
--

308 East Superior Street

Burell and Harmon Metal Work, 1905

Vernacular

Although originally a sheet metal business, by 1940 this one story building housed an auto supply store. The upper facade is of reddish-brown brick with a large central decorative panel of diaper work. (An architectural term for this unique pattern. **You have to wonder where that name came from**)

1930/35/40 - 308 = Johnson & Gustafson - Show
Case Mfg.

1996 - Art Options Framing

POLITICS

Politics in Duluth has always been questionable and Mayor Culver's election in **CHECK YEAR** was a bit on the free side of democracy. Seems that with a population of about 4,000 souls Duluth could get only 446 citizens to vote. Mayor Culver, a democrat, won by only 36. According to the Republican City Committee they had evidence that 50 of the votes for Culver were illegal. Seems that in the Bloody 2nd ward the election board had a supply of liquor in the stove at the back of the election polls. Seems they gave this away to influence votes to the side of the mayor. Of course the republicans adhered to the policy of legal voting in every instance. Well, the mayor won, but to this day there is doubt that he did it legally. Some things never ever change. Politics!

301-307 East Superior Street

Presently: Parking Lot
Previously: 1930 - 1964 United Electric Service Co.
Built: original building was built in 1909
Architect:
Style:

Presently a parking lot this building burned down in 1964. From 1930 until 1964 it was United Electric Service, a battery company.

1930 to 1964 - United Electric

“God’s Arm”

There have been people over the years that have made fun of our fair city. Granted we don't have the longest summers but they are beautiful. There is a story that George Sherwood, one of the old time real estate men took an Easterner up to the top of the hill to look out over the city. There he told him of all the advantages to investing in land in Duluth. He pointed to Minnesota Point and said: "There lies Minnesota Point. It looks like God's arm protecting the town of Duluth." To that the Easterner replied, "It looks to me more like God's finger pointing the way out of town."

309-317 East Superior Street

Presently: Arrowhead Medical Supply
Packard Service Co., 1911

Originally built as the Packard Service Company. It was remodeled many times, most recently in 1994. It acquired its stucco front in a recent incarnation. From 1911 to 1960 it was associated with automobiles, operating as a used car salesroom, an auto body shop, auto wrecking and Wilco Ambulance company.

Mark Twain was heard to say that "The coldest winter I ever spent was a summer in Duluth."

1930 - 309 = Economy Tire & Battery
315 = R & R Garage

1935 - 309 = Lake City Auto Wrecking
311 Northern Wheel & Rim
313 = Vacant
315-317 = Bolton-Swamby Co. Auto Body Mfg.

1940 - 309 = Verhovek Used Cars
315-17 = Ed Brandt's Body Shop

1970 - Wilco Ambulance

310-312 East Superior Street

Presently: Unoccupied
 Previously: Florman Hotel (1920s-80s), Joy Bros. Motor Car Company (1912)
 Built: 1900
 Architect:
 Style: Richardsonian Romanesque Revival

Two storefronts with one central entrance to hotel, facade sheathed with rusticated brownstone and four floriated capitals, with dentils on the central pediment and cornice.

1930 -	310 = Florman Hotel 312 = Hussey Motor Sales
1935 -	310 = Florman Hotel 312 = Northland Motor Sales - Used Car Dept
1940	310 = Florman Hotel 312 = Sterling Motor Co

Brothel? (not true, per Bozo Wilson, of Wilco Ambulance 09/12/97)

What is the truth?

From the 1920s to the 1960s this building was said to contain a brothel. One wife, on seeing her husband in a window, entered the hotel. In panic, he jumped from the window before she got to the second floor breaking both legs.

On hot summer days the very large, buxom ladies would hang their body parts out to air, and (Wilco Ambulance) men would line the other side of the street to watch. What a picture that made, adding color to the district.

During the 1870s and 80s the street was lined with bars and hotels, and just about any thing was available for the asking.

314 (was 320) East Superior Street

Presently: Vacant
Previously: (314-316)Northwestern Cadillac Company, Great Lakes Auto Parts
Built: 1920
Architect:
Style: Commercial Queen Anne

Two-story flat-roofed building with modernized storefront with four cast columns manufactured by National Company of Duluth. Window bays on second floor are recessed, divided by brick pilaster and highlighted by corbeled brick. The windows have cast concrete sills and lintels and there is a corbeled brick cornice.

1930 - Burseth Motor Co.

1935/40 - 314-316 = Bolton-Swanby Used Car Dept

318 East Superior Street

Presently: Duluth Vinyl Roofs, Arrowhead Hearing Aid Center
Previously: McNamara Automobile
Built: 1913
Architect: Frederick German
Style:

One-story building with a herringbone-patterned reddish-brown brick front which is almost entirely obscured by a metal sign. There is a central entrance with transom blanked on the right by a garage door. There is a vertical row of dogtooth brick on the front corners. Below the wood cornice are corbeled brick and dentils.

Per Bozo Wilson, 9/12/97, this building had an outside elevator lift to bring cars from Michigan Street Level.

1930 - Arper Tires
1935 - Motor Parts Company
1940 - American Body & Radiator Works

320 East Superior Street

Presently: Linder-Ward Piano & Organ

Previously: Buffalo Saloon - The owner says this was associated with

Built: 1881

Architect:

Style: Wood Frame Structure originally clapboard but now vinyl sided. The original wood scroll brackets are located beneath its cornice. This is an example of what most buildings on Superior Street looked like during the 1860s through the 1880s.

In 1888, only one building stood on the 300 block of Superior Street, The Buffalo Saloon, both sides were undeveloped otherwise.

1930 - Vacant

1935 - Emil Gatzke Radiator Repair

1940 - Metallizing & Engineering Co. (Welders)

319 East Superior Street

Presently: Hacienda Del Sol
Previously: Carlson Bakery
Built: 1909
Architect: Anthony Puck
Style: Vernacular

1930 - Bertha Bachman Restaurant
1935 - Willard B. Christopher Restaurant
1940 - June Lairitsen Restaurant

Two story commercial building with variegated tan brick, metal dentils and cornice.

After a winter carnival in Duluth, two men were discussing what should be done with the ice sculpture that was erected for the event. One of them wanted to tear it down, but the other insisted that they leave it up so it would be ready for next year's event.

321 East Superior Street

Presently: Vacant Lot (Owned by Hacienda del Sol)

Previously: Paul Bunyan Printing, Crosby Plumbing

Built: Original building built or moved to site in 1886

Architect:

Style: This was one of the earliest wood structure buildings in Duluth until it was torn down in July 1995.

Wood second floor with a bracketed wood cornice. Chipboard storefront was placed at an unknown date.

There is some question whether this building was built in 1870 and moved to the site in 1886.

1930/35/40 - Henry Gazett Plumber (Upstairs Tenant?)

323 East Superior Street

Presently: Duluth Oriental Grocery Store
Previously: Parker Millinery
Built: 1912
Architect: Frank L. Young
Style: Classical Revival

Cream brick with a bracketed cornice, 9/1 and 1/1 second floor windows with classical detailing and Luxfor patterned and tinted glass blocks.

1930 - Olga Parker Milliner
1935/40 - Antrobus Shop - Womanø Apparel

333 East Superior Street

Presently: Voyageur Motel

Previously:

Built: 1960

Architect:

Style: Believe it or not, it was modeled after a prison. Neo-Bastille??

The original owner had owned a car dealership across the street and was imprisoned during the 1950s for tax evasion.. He designed the building based on his experiences in prison. The new owners have recently discovered that he had a hidden hallway from the penthouse, where he lived, to the garage along the third floor. This was supposedly so that no one would see him coming and going but they suspect that he also had peep holes into the rooms. The hallway has since been boarded up and showers were installed where it had been.

1935 - No listing at this address

1940 - Isadore Albond tires
George & Henrey Auto Repairs

MINNESOTA POINT

Dr. Foster published his first newspaper from a tent in what is now Canal Park. Canal Park is located on what is now called Minnesota Point, and in the past was also called La Pointe, or Park Point. Over the years there has been much discussion as to how the Point was formed. Geologists explain how the silt from the St. Louis River built up and became the largest fresh water sandbar in the world. But what they fail to tell you is why. Why did it start to build up there? If you would like the real story you certainly won't get it from the geologists.

You must remember that this was Paul Bunyan country long before Duluth was settled. Old Paul logged in the areas West and North of the bay and also near the Amnicon River in Northern Wisconsin. Seems that to get to Amnicon, on the South Shore of Lake Superior, he had to walk the many miles to Fond du Lac and cross the river, then march all the way back along the South Shore. In those days we had trees here that touched the clouds.

Well, he tired of the walk and cut one of those trees down, had Babe drag it to the shore, stood it on end and plopped it into the lake. Next he walked all the way to Fond du Lac and all the way back to Amnicon for the last time. There he cut another log and again had Babe drag it to the lake. He raised it in the air and dropped it into the water just as he had the other. He miscalculated the distance and the two ends were several hundred feet apart. Still, it didn't seem to matter much to him because he had quite a stride and could jump vast distances. That is how the Superior entry got in the middle of the sand bar. Wasn't long before the sand and silt started to pile up and Minnesota Point was born. That old tree is probably still down there and some day an archeologist will surely find it. Some claim that when the canal was dug they had to cut through several yards of wood at the bottom

DULUTH SHIP CANAL

The Duluth Ship Canal is not a part of the Old Duluth Historic District but it is a big part of Duluth history. It was one of the greatest factors in the rapid growth of Duluth and the district.

Daniel Greysolon, Sieur Du Lhut landed where the channel is in 1679. There had always been a small creek at this point and it was the portage to the bay since time immemorial. The Chippewa occupied this area prior to the 1850s, and no one could cross the point without their permission. With the LaPointe Treaty of 1854 they gave up their right to the point and then started the fighting between Duluth and Superior that goes on to this day. Superior and Duluth have been called "Sister Cities" or "Twin Ports" for many years but for most of those years they carried on a sometimes vicious rivalry. They fought over which was to be developed as the port, they fought over the water levels in the bay. They fought over who would have access to the railroads. They fought over this and that and everything else, and they still do.

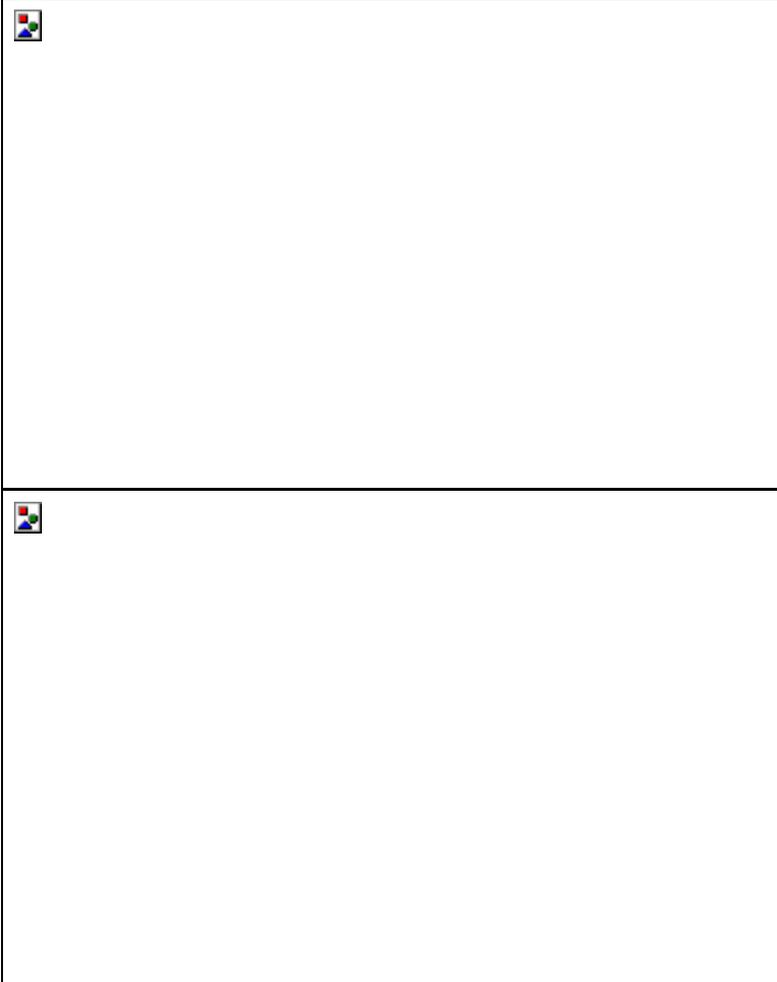
Some, but not all, of the citizens of Duluth wanted a channel dug where the bridge is now, but the Citizens of Superior, and some stuck in the mud Duluthians, opposed it. Digging of the channel had been commenced in the fall of 1870 but had to quit for the winter. In the spring 1871 digging resumed although the enemies of the project arranged for an officer from Fort Leavenworth Kansas to bring an injunction to Duluth, halting any dredging of the canal. During the night of June 9, 1871, a telegram alerted the mayor that the injunction was on its way. Soon after, a force of 50 volunteers with picks and shovels began a digging marathon. Others kept fires burning, and food and coffee cooking. It is believed that every person in Duluth who was for this project turned out to give their support. The digging continued all night Saturday. On Sunday, a group of Superiorites rowed over and couldn't believe their eyes. Some returned to Superior to gather more people and guns and others stayed, heckling the workers, but the digging continued unabated until dawn on Monday morning. Once they had the channel opened wide enough the force of the water rushing through collapsed the banks, expanding it further, and by the time the

injunction arrived the channel was already 30 feet wide. George Stuntz stood on the land with the injunction in his hand as the little ferry boat Fero was the first to traverse the Canal. Can't stop something that is already done. That Monday, the 12th of June, the Duluth Ship Canal was opened.

The people of Superior complained that the change in the course of the water was diverting water from the natural channel at their end of the bay and to appease them the City of Duluth built a dike to divert the water in their direction. Unfortunately this also cut them off from the rail service at Duluth. We felt very bad about that. In April of the next year the dike mysteriously exploded and storms and the Federal government got rid of the rest.

AERIAL LIFT BRIDGE

This is a postcard sent from Duluth in 1910. It shows the Aerial Lift Bridge before the lift was installed. At this time the bridge consisted of a frame with a suspended car which moved from one side to the other.



The text says:

May 11, 1910... "Hello Gena, We got here O.K. but I don't think this is a very pretty town. We are going out to North Branch to work only 5 stations from St. Paul. Not far from you after all. Will write again.
Nora"

Fourth Avenue East

The site of the former timber-crib breakwater that was built about 1870 to provide an outside harbor for Duluth. The Lake Superior and Mississippi Railroad built the breakwater out 400 feet and the Federal Government eventually took it out to 1030 feet.

Also at this location was the original Elevator ¯Aö.

Duluth's first Police Chief, Robert Bruce had an infamous part in the construction of this breakwater. He was appointed Chief on April 21st and in June he disappeared along with the pay for the construction crew of the breakwater. Major J.L. Smith succeeded him as Chief. Because police duties were somewhat light he also was poundmaster and lamplighter. The lamplighter job ended in 1888 when the first electric plant was built just west of Lake Avenue below Michigan Street.

City Parks

In 1888 the City Council created the first four city parks. Portland Square which was one city block at 10th Avenue East and Fourth Street, Chester Park was 69 acres, Cascade Park on Mesabi Avenue was 49 acres and was originally acquired by the city in 1869, and what was then known as Lincoln Bank which followed the Miller's Creek in the West End.

Chester Park was not named after Chester Congdon as many presume but rather after Charles Chester. He was one of the earliest homesteaders in the East side of town. Chester Bowl was owned by the Duluth Ski Club which was chartered in 1905 until later when they deeded it to the City of Duluth.

Duluth has one of the largest per-capita park and municipal areas in America.

Early 1900's there was a festival in Duluth each year called the Lark O'the Lake.

THE AIR-CONDITIONED CITY

In 1871 a delegation of journalists from around the country visited Duluth to record the area's growth. Charles A. Dana of the New York Sun wrote about the "Air Conditioned Weather" and the "Air Conditioned City" sticks to this day. He actually helped with the boom of the city by his story. He said, "The air on Lake Superior at seasons is surprisingly cheerful and embracing. This air is wonderful to breathe, and people who cannot live elsewhere find health and vigor in it. This Northland is a boundless sanitarium for weak lungs and all pulmonary and bronchial maladies." Well, the Duluthians expected to have every sick person in the country on their doorstep the next week but instead they ended up with a population of about 60 percent foreign-born immigrants and they were in fact a healthy lot.

Glossary

Romanesque Style: Massive brick, stone and rock faced masonry buildings with round arched entrances and windows, and rotund or square towers.

Richardson Romanesque Revival Style: Characterized by round arches, rock-faced stone, using brownstone in Duluth because it was locally available at Fon du Lac Minnesota and on the South shore of Lake Superior, brick and often towers or turrets. Old Central High School and First Presbyterian Church are Duluth's best examples. In the district the Wieland Block, old City Hall and the Jail are the best examples.

Traphagen, Oliver: Duluth's first architect who designed mostly in the Richardsonian Romanesque style either alone or with George Wirth, and later Francis Fitzpatrick. Born in Tarrytown New York on September 3, 1854 he soon moved to St. Paul where he grew up and eventually began work as a carpenter. By 1880 he had moved to Duluth where he was listed in the 1883 city directory as "Architect and Superintendent." His earliest designs in Duluth were in the Queen Anne style, but when he joined forces with George Wirth in 1884 the partnership began to produce Romanesque designs for commercial structures. Traphagen designed many important buildings in Duluth including Munger Terrace, Chester Terrace, the First Presbyterian Church and in the district he designed the old City Hall and Jail, Wieland Block, Costello Hardware and Pastoret & Stenson Block.

Wirth, George: Born in Germany in 1851 he studied architecture at Cornell University and conducted a large practice in St. Paul from 1879 to 1889. He also practiced alone in Duluth in the early 1880's

and may have been the first to design masonry buildings in the area. The earliest Romanesque Revival building in the district is the Bell and Eyster Block at 3 West Superior Street designed by Wirth in 1883. Traphagen and Wirth ended their partnership in 1886

Possible New Characters

Logger - "Tamarak Joe", worked last river run in Minnesota at Forest History Center in 1937. Liked pickles, never seen without them.

Jay Cooke -

Daniel Greysolon Sieur Dul Hut -

Madam -

Things to check out:

Classy Lumberjack Bar / Hibbing Hotel 6th Ave West was the main house of ill repute in Duluth

END