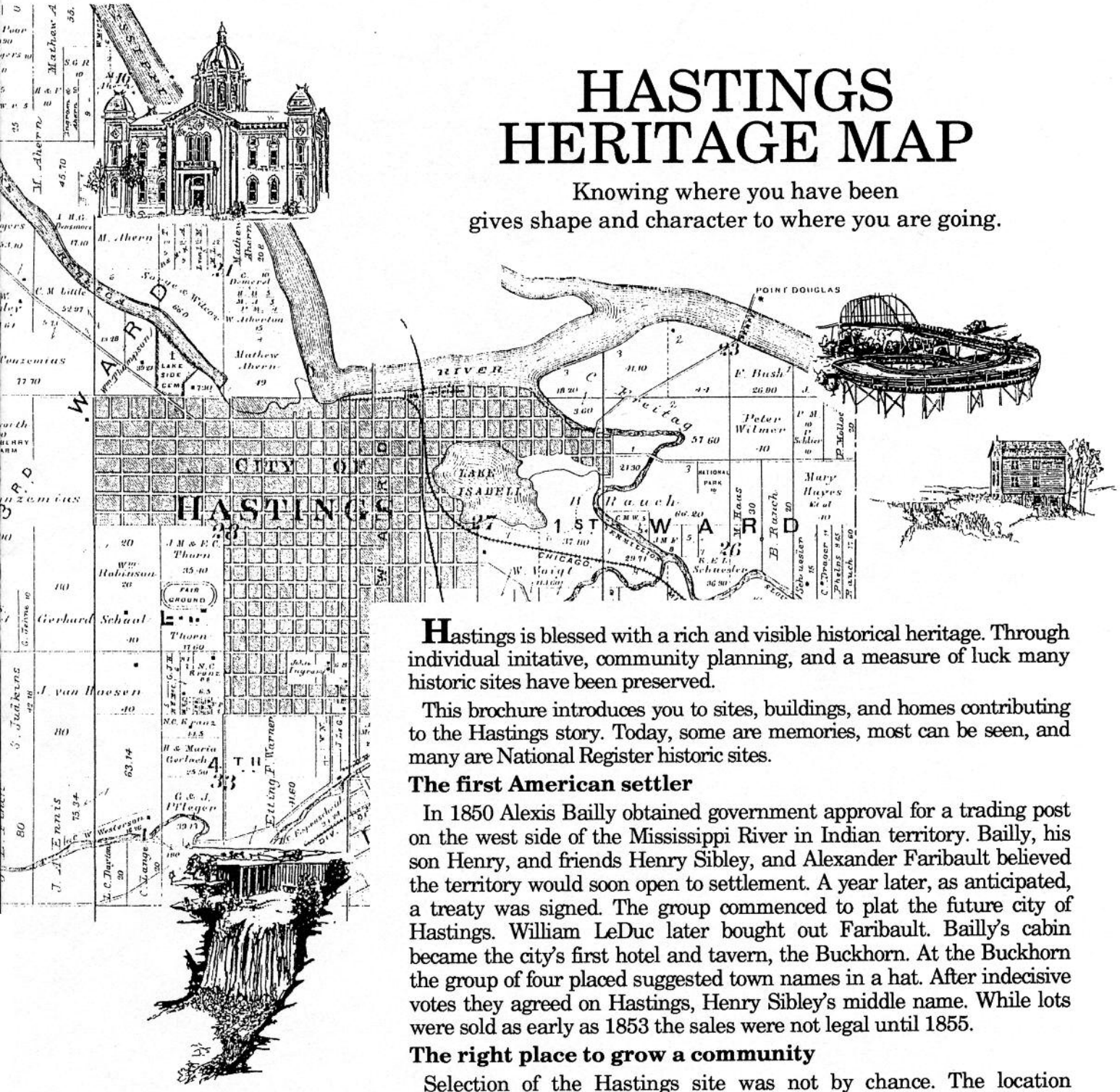
HASTINGS HERITAGE MAP

Knowing where you have been
gives shape and character to where you are going.



Map of the City of Hastings, 1896

Hastings is blessed with a rich and visible historical heritage. Through individual initative, community planning, and a measure of luck many historic sites have been preserved.

This brochure introduces you to sites, buildings, and homes contributing to the Hastings story. Today, some are memories, most can be seen, and many are National Register historic sites.

The first American settler

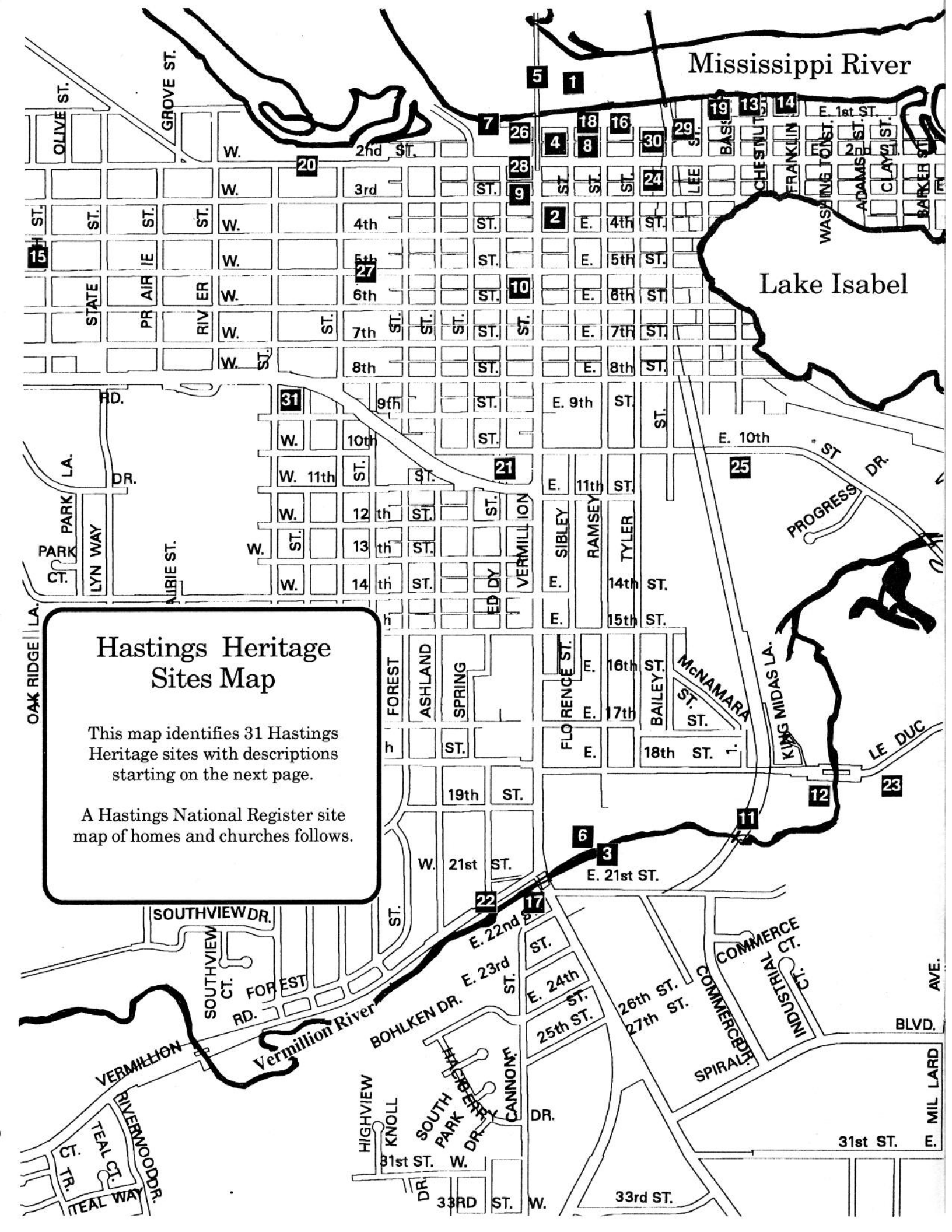
In 1850 Alexis Bailly obtained government approval for a trading post on the west side of the Mississippi River in Indian territory. Bailly, his son Henry, and friends Henry Sibley, and Alexander Faribault believed the territory would soon open to settlement. A year later, as anticipated, a treaty was signed. The group commenced to plat the future city of Hastings. William LeDuc later bought out Faribault. Bailly's cabin became the city's first hotel and tavern, the Buckhorn. At the Buckhorn the group of four placed suggested town names in a hat. After indecisive votes they agreed on Hastings, Henry Sibley's middle name. While lots were sold as early as 1853 the sales were not legal until 1855.

The right place to grow a community

Selection of the Hastings site was not by chance. The location offered an excellent Mississippi River landing for steamboats and a good crossing point for a future ferry or bridge. The terrain rose gradually from the river with timber, limestone outcroppings, and beds of clay for constructing buildings. To the west and south lay rich farmland along the Vermillion River trail. The Vermillion River crossed through Hastings dropping 100 feet in a series of rapids and falls promising ample water power to turn mill wheels and stones.

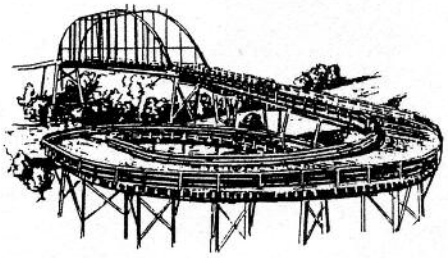
A point of entry for people, business, and skills

Hastings was a natural entry point for pioneers of Dakota County's fertile heartland and it became their commercial center. Hastings mills ground the grain and merchants supplied products and services. Industries soon formed attracting skilled tradespeople. In 1857 Hastings became the Dakota County seat of government.


Mississippi River
Lake Isabel
Hastings Heritage Sites Map
This map identifies 31 Hastings Heritage sites with descriptions starting on the next page.
A Hastings National Register site map of homes and churches follows.
GROVE ST.
OLIVE ST.
W. 2nd ST.
E. 1st ST.
E. 2nd ST.
3rd
4th
5th
6th
7th
8th
9th
10th
W. 11th
12th
13th
14th
E. 9th ST.
E. 10th ST
E. 11th ST.
14th ST.
15th ST.
16th ST.
17th
18th ST.
19th ST.
W. 21st ST.
E. 21st ST.
E. 22nd ST.
E. 23rd ST.
E. 24th ST.
25th ST.
26th ST.
27th ST.
31st ST. W.
31st ST. E.
33RD ST. W.
33rd ST.
STATE ST.
PRAIRIE ST.
RIVER ST.
PARK LA.
PARK CT.
LYN WAY
DR.
RD.
ALBIE ST.
OAK RIDGE LA.
FOREST ST.
ASHLAND ST.
SPRING ST.
VERMILLION ST.
SIBLEY ST.
RAMSEY ST.
TYLER ST.
FLORENCE ST.
BAILEY ST.
McNAMARA ST.
KING MIDAS LA.
PROGRESS DR.
LE DUC
SOUTHVIEW DR.
SOUTHVIEW CT.
FOREST RD.
Vermillion River
BOHLKEN DR.
VERMILLION
RIVERWOOD DR.
TEAL CT.
TEAL CT. TR.
TEAL WAY
HIGHVIEW KNOLL DR.
SOUTH PARK DR.
CANNON DR.
COMMERCE DR.
COMMERCE CT.
INDUSTRIAL CT.
SPIRAL BLVD.
MILLARD AVE.
1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 10 11 12 13 14 15 16 17 18 19 20 21 22 23 24 25 26 27 28 29 30 31

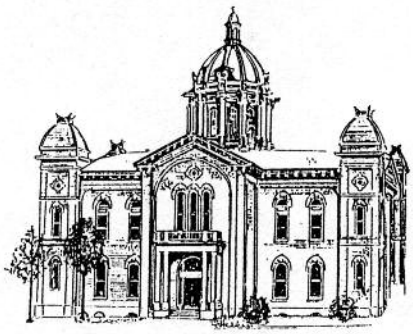
Three Symbols of Hastings Heritage

A memory, a beautiful structure, and nature's gift



1 The Spiral Bridge

Built for wagons in 1895, the bridge crossed the Mississippi River spiraling down to the alley before 2nd Street, the business street of Hastings. The spiral bridge carried horse and engine powered traffic for over fifty years. Many claimed they designed it. Many travelers went out of their way to cross over it. The landmark was replaced with a straight bridge in 1951.



2 Hastings City Hall - former Dakota County Courthouse

The Dakota County Courthouse, built in 1871, is Minnesota's second oldest county courthouse building. A major structural modification was made in 1912. In 1974 Dakota County built a new government center. However, a portion of the county court system occupied the old courthouse from 1975 through 1989. The City of Hastings puchased the property in 1991 and following a beautiful restoration it was rededicated as the Hastings City Hall on December 11, 1993. The building is a National Register site.

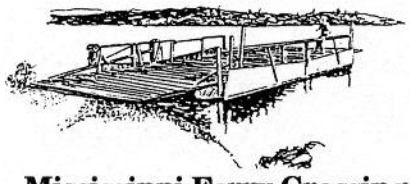
3 Vermillion River and Falls

Named for its red clay banks, the Vermillion River crosses Dakota County's farmlands entering the Mississippi below Hastings. The river provided water power for three Hastings mills at the end of the "Pioneer Wheat Trail" which extended to Northfield. Today, the Vermillion's falls and rapids are settings for Hastings city parks including the Vermillion Falls Park.

Places, Products, and People in the growth of Hastings

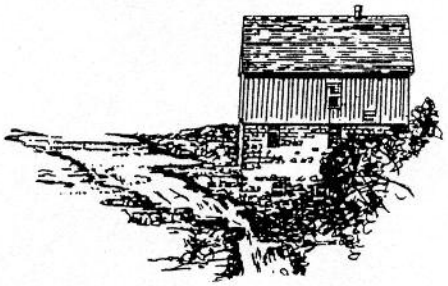
4 Bailly's Trading Post

Site of H. G. Bailly's 1850 trading post near the intersection of today's Vermillion and 2nd Streets. Bailly's log cabin became the city's first hotel and tavern, the Buckhorn.



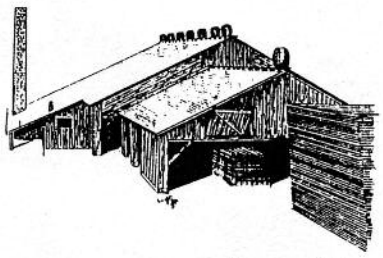
5 Mississippi Ferry Crossing

The ferry connected Hastings, at the foot of Vermillion St., with Washington County, Denmark Township in 1854. A toll for horse and rider was ten cents. The city made it "toll free" in 1867. It closed when the spiral bridge was completed.



6 Early Gardner Mill

Harrison Graham built a mill at Vermillion Falls in 1854. After ownership by LeDuc in 1856, and the Harrison Brothers in 1860, it became the Gardner Mill in 1863. Master miller, Stephen Gardner, installed America's first "all roller" mill. His "Patent Flour" became an industry standard. More recent owners have been King Midas, Peavey, and Con Agra.



7 Libbey Steam Sawmill.

Founded by LeDuc and Stowell in 1855, the mill passed through several hands until acquired by R. C. Libbey in 1873. In 1865, lumber production reached 100 wagon loads per day. The mill closed in 1909 when the timber stands of central Minnesota were lumbered out.

8 Pringle Hardware Bldg.

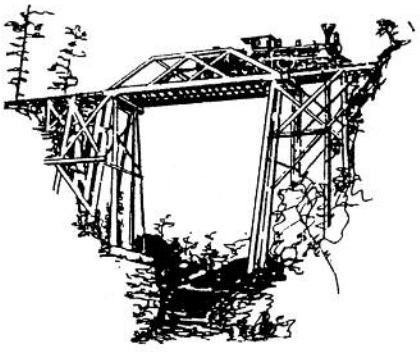
Established in 1856, the current Pringle building was constructed in 1863, and a third floor added in 1901. It is believed to be the oldest hardware business in continuous operation in the state.

9 First National Bank

The bank was founded in 1856 and is the second oldest National bank in the State of Minnesota.

10 Estergreen & Sons

The John Estergreen wagon business, formed in 1859, was the largest in Hastings selling up to 400 wagons, carriages, and sleighs annually. He learned his trade in Sweden where he had been commissioned to make the first carriage for King Karl XV.



11 Hastings and Dakota RR

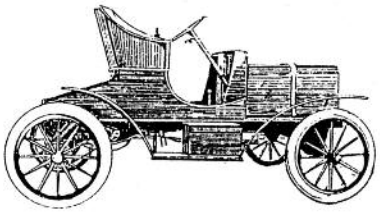
Affectionately called the "High and Dry" line. Incorporated as the Minnesota River & Red River of the North RR in 1857 the name was changed to the H & D in 1867. The H&D rail line extended to Montevideo just short of the South Dakota border.

12 Ramsey Mill

The Alexander Ramsey and Dr. Thomas Foster flour mill built in 1857 at the lower Vermillion Falls, attained 100 barrels per day. Fire destroyed the mill in 1894. The charred stone walls were made a Minnesota Historic Site in 1958.

13 Hastings Foundry

The 1859 foundry became a leader in the region. In 1866, as the Star Iron Works, it became known for quality ornamental grill work and in 1868 for reinforcing tie beams with cast star ends. A National Register Site.

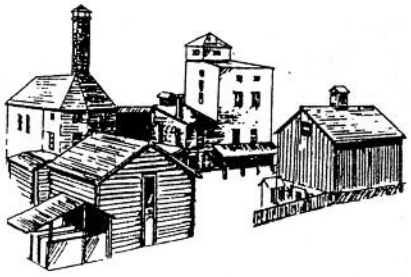


14 Stroud Humphrey Mfg. Co.

Formed in 1885, Stroud purchased the Star Iron Works in 1904. Products included boats, motors, marine engines, pumps, and automobiles. In 1906 Charles Stroud paid $2.00 for a permit to operate his Stroud in Hastings.

15 W. Sondermann Brickyard

Sondermann opened the business in Prescott, Wisconsin, and moved to Hastings about 1870. The largest brickyard in the area, it made the salmon colored bricks for the County Courthouse and other local landmarks. It closed in the 1890s when clay deposits ran out.

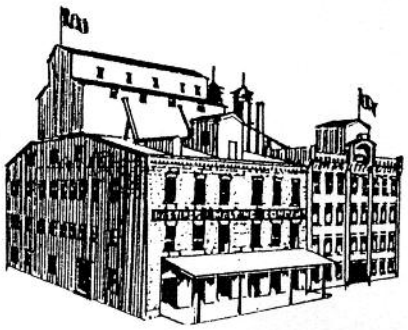


16 Kuenzel Brewery

Bat Steffan opened the brewery in 1885 and sold it to Austrian Master Brewer Adolph Kuenzel in 1902. His Hastings Brewing Co. dominated the city breweries.

17 Covered Bridge

The covered bridge replaced an earlier Vermillion River bridge in 1867. Two years later the bridge, dislodged by an ice jam, floated down river and over Vermillion Falls.

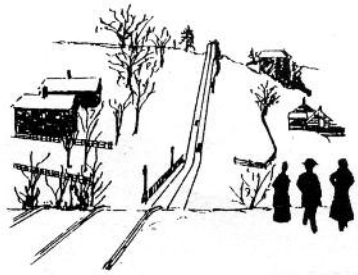


18 Hastings Malting Company

In 1862 A.W. Gardner built a 30' by 120' stone grain warehouse. In 1885, after several additions, it was converted into a malting company providing malt to the brewing industry. Prohibition forced its return to use as a grain elevator until demolition in 1965.

19 Diamond Starch Company

Diamond operated in the Whaley warehouse on East First St. from 1889 to 1898 producing starch from locally grown potatoes. The first year 60 thousand bushels, purchased at 20 cents per bushel, produced 250 tons of starch.



20 2nd St. Toboggan Slide

Tobogganing was an early 1900s fashionable Hastings sport. The city built several slides including a lighted run down the center of 2nd Street from atop Swede Hill into town. Well packed side-by-side tracks carried challenging clubs.

21 Todd Field

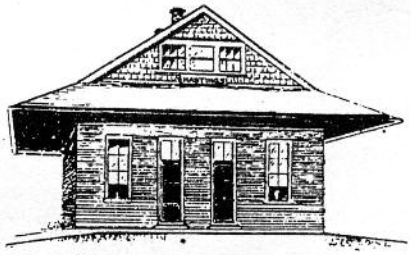
Originally a limestone quarry and gravel pit the site eventually became a watering hole for cattle. In 1932 the city filled and leveled the area for a high school athletic stadium. The WPA added stone work in 1934.

22 Vermillion Linen Mill.

This building housed the Linen Mill on Eddy Street in 1899. Originally the building was part of the Ennis Flour Mill moved down river for the Cadwell Grist Mill. In 1911 the building moved down river, again, becoming part of the Gardner Mill.

23 Hastings State Hospital

The 1900 hospital included large brick buildings housing up to 900 patients. It was known as the Insane Asylum. On the complex's 460 acre farm patients produced garden and dairy products for the hospital. In 1979 it became the Minnesota Veterans Home.



24 Milwaukee Road Depot

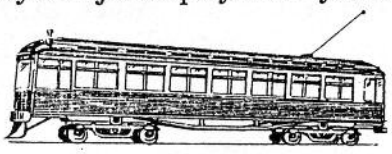
The depot, built in 1904, replaced a wooden depot razed by fire.

25 Smead Mfg. Co.

Smead started in St. Paul in 1906 and moved to Hastings in 1907 renting a second floor room in the Gazette building on 2nd St. It had developed a unique "bandless" file for documents. The company grew, acquiring buildings along the block. In 1962 Smead purchased acreage and relocated on East 10th Street. Smead has become the world's largest manufacturer of diversified office filing products.

26 H.D. Hudson Company

The Brandt Mfg. Company, owned by Hudson and Thurber, moved to Hastings in 1909 changing its name to the H. D. Hudson Mfg. Co. in 1916. At one time the company supplied 90% of the sprayers and dusters used in the world. Hudson was the city's major employer for years.

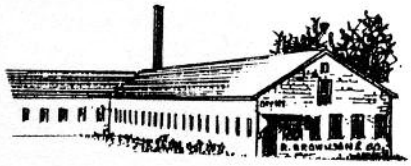


27 St. Paul Southern

The St. Paul Southern electric RR connected Hastings and St. Paul from 1914 to 1928. Stops included Spring Lake, Pine Bend, Inver Grove, and South St. Paul. The Hastings to St. Paul fare was 50 cents.

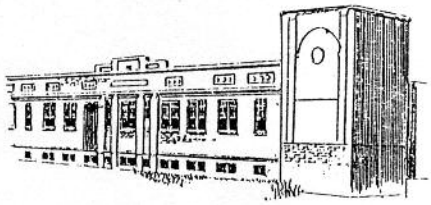
28 Standard Engraving and Cut Glass

Standard operated from 1919 to 1923 in the city's First National Bank Building. A.W. Goranson, owner, apprenticed at Sweden's famous Orrefors glassworks.



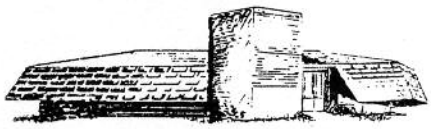
29 R. Brownson Company

Brownson started making horse collars, in 1915, followed by a variety of products until closing in the 1950s. Many were company inventions. Brownson's catalog included horse sweat pads, nose guards, feed baskets, dust mops, ash sifters, paper weights, shovels, fly swatters, can openers, fly nets, paper shopping bags, and pre-cut houses.



30 C.A. Lund Co.

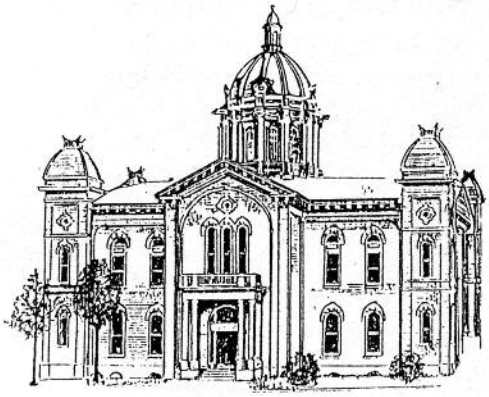
Manufacturer of skies and birthplace of the modern hockey stick. During World War II the Army asked Lund to produce snowshoes. Over 400 pairs were produced daily. Fire destroyed the plant January 6, 1945.



31 Fasbender Clinic

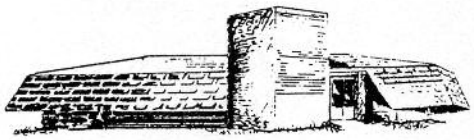
Thomas H. Olson, in 1957, asked Frank Lloyd Wright to design this clinic for his friend Doctor Herman Fasbender, Jr. The design features a copper clad roof with wide eaves. Construction was completed in 1959 after Wright's death. A National Register Site.

The City of Hastings National Register Sites of Homes, Churches and Districts

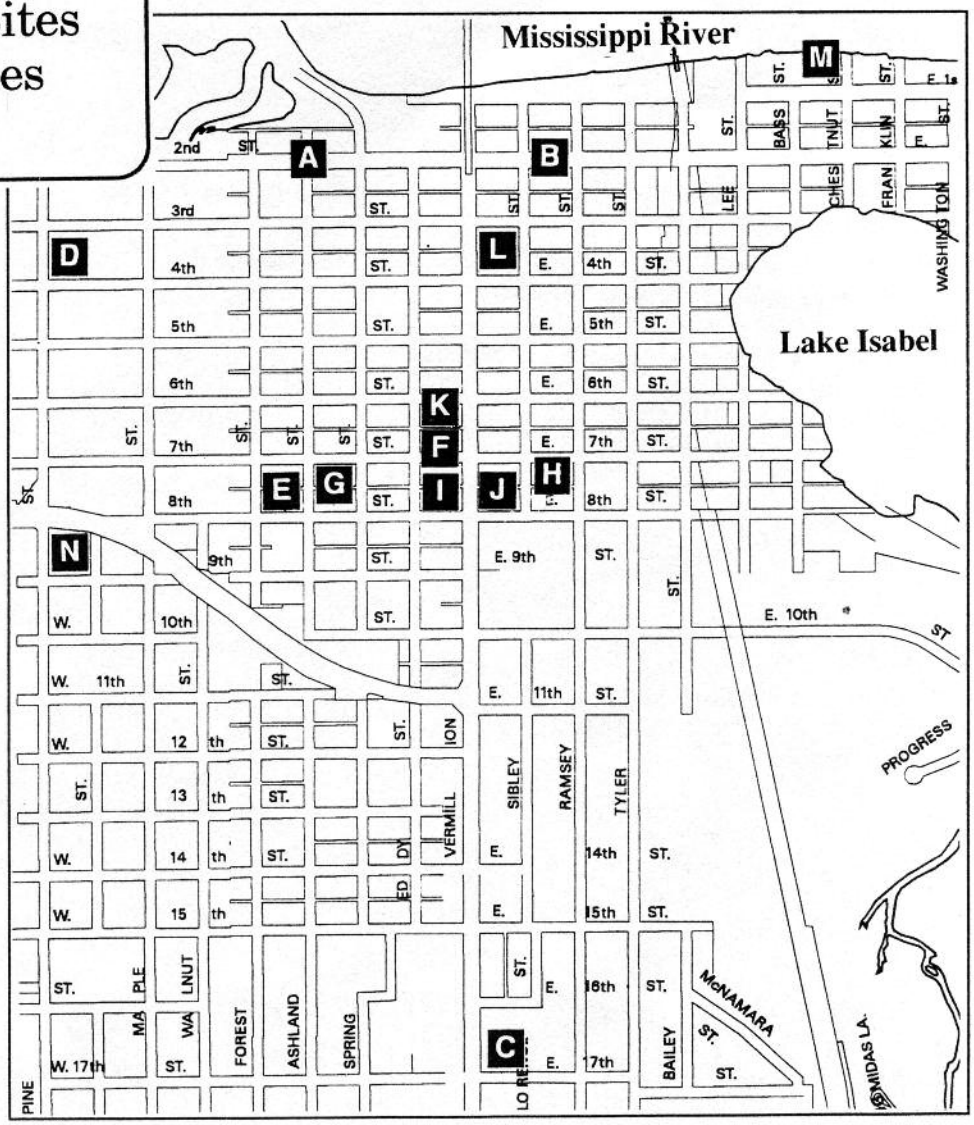


L Hastings City Hall, the former Dakota County Courthouse

M Hastings Foundry



N Fasbender Clinic



A total of twelve homes, two churches, and eighteen Hastings buildings have received recognition as National Register Historic Sites. Three were described in the preceding pages; the Dakota County Courthouse, the Hastings Foundry, and the Fasbender Clinic. The other registered buildings comprise the East 2nd Street Commercial District. The West 2nd Street Residential District includes six registered homes.

For the visitor a stroll along 2nd Street is a step back in time.

A West 2nd Street Residental District

The Residential District includes the Strauss, Norrish, Thorne, Pringle, Pringle-Simmons, and Olson homes. The Olson and Norrish homes date from 1857 when Hastings became the Dakota County seat. Part of the Olson home is older, having been moved from Nininger.

B East 2nd Street Commerical District

The Commercial District presents a variety of buildings in many architectural styles. Included are the Mississippi Belle, Adsit Hospital, Ye Olde City Hall, Masonic Block, Gardner House, and commercial businesses known as the Michael Schaller, Jacob Schaller, Griffin, Hageman-Humm, Pitz, Mertz, Reissner, Bathrick, Pringle, and Finch buildings

C LeDuc-Simmons Mansion
1629 Vermillion Street

The Gothic Revival style mansion was completed in 1865 by William Gates LeDuc. He was a lawyer, businessman, author, soldier, and Commissioner of Agriculture in the Rutherford B. Hayes cabinet.

D Thompson-Fasbender House
315 Pine Street

William Thompson, grain dealer and lumber miller, built this house in 1880. In 1929 it became St. Raphael's Hospital under Dr. Herman Fasbender, Sr. It is now the Thorwood Bed and Breakfast.

E Wright-Eckert House
724 Ashland Street

Constructed in circa 1857 as a parsonage by G.W.T. Wright, pastor of the Methodist Episcopal Church. Designed entirely in wood, this Italian Villa style features a cupola and front porch.

F Van Dyke-Libbey House
612 Vermillion Street

This imposing Second Empire style mansion was built by banker W.J. Van Dyke in 1862. Lumber mill owner R.C. Libbey lived here from 1880 to 1911.

G McDonald-Todd House
309 West Seventh St.

A.W. McDonald, staff member of *Scientific American Magazine*, also edited the *Emigrant Aid Journal* in this house when it was located in Nininger. It was moved to Hastings in 1868 by Irving Todd, Sr.

H Latto House
620 Ramsey Street

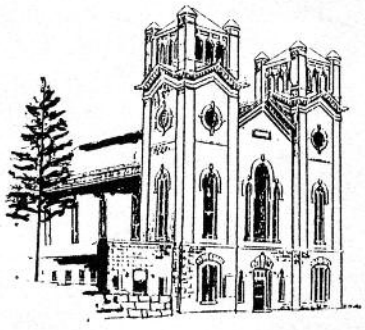
Rudolph Latto, brewer and president of the German American Bank, built this Victorian mansion in 1880. The house was left to the city in 1914 to establish a hospital. It is now the Rosewood Bed and Breakfast.

I Howes-Graus House
718 Vermillion Street

An 1860s Italianate style mansion built by Byron C. Howes. The three story tower is known as a "campanile."

J Methodist Episcopal Church
8th and Vermillion Streets

The design combines Greek Revival, Gothic Revival, and Italianate styles. It was constructed in 1862 on 5th Street and moved to the present location in 1871.



K First Presbyterian Church
6th and Vermillion Streets

Organized in 1856 the church's congregation moved to its present location and building in 1876. Lightning ignited a fire in 1907 destroying the roof but the walls were saved by rain. Reconstruction was finished in 1909.

A Timeline of Hastings History

1849 Minnesota Territory created on Mar. 3, 1849.
Dakota County established October 27, 1849.

1850 Henry G. Bailly opened trading post near Vermillion and 2nd Streets.
The first territorial road, authorized from Mendota to Wabasha, through Hastings.

1851 Signing of Treaty of Mendota opening Dakota lands west of Mississippi River to settlement.
Bailly's Trading Post became the Buckhorn Tavern and Hastings' first hotel.

1853 The future town of Hastings was platted.

1854 Hastings selected as town name at Buckhorn.
First school house built on Spring Street.
Harrison Graham builds the first of three mills on the Vermillion River.

1855 LeDuc and Stowell establish the first sawmill.
Pringle Hardware store established; probably oldest in Minnesota.

1856 Hastings first newspaper, the *Dakota Weekly Journal*, published.
First National Bank founded; second oldest National Bank in Minnesota.
First Presbyterian, St. Lukes Episcopal, and Guardian Angels Catholic churches built.
Masonic Dakota Lodge #7 chartered.

1857 Hastings incorporated as a city.
Estergreen Wagon Works established, largest in Dakota County.
Hastings, Minnesota River and Red River of the North Railroad Company chartered. Became the Hastings and Dakota Railway Company.
Hastings selected as Dakota County seat.

1858 Numerous elevators constructed on the river front at the end of the Pioneer Wheat Trail.

1859 German Teutonic Society establishes a theater group; later builds an opera house.

1861 Hastings men volunteer for First Minnesota Regiment answering President Lincoln's call.

1867 "Covered bridge" spans Vermillion River.

1871 Dakota County Courthouse completed.

1878 President Rutherford B. Hayes visits Hastings as guest of William G. LeDuc.

1880 Hastings Union Industrial Assoc. established.

1888 First electricity in Hastings.

1895 Completion of Spiral Bridge across Mississippi.
Albert Jacobson became first city policeman to lose his life in the line of duty.

1898 Meloy Park, dedicated as first Hastings park.
Telephone Company founded with 27 patrons.

1899 Christmas Day fire proves most destructive in city's history.

1900 Construction begun on State Insane Asylum.
Beethoven Club organized.

1907 Smead Company moves to Hastings to produce "bandless" file started in St. Paul in 1906.
Construction underway on Hastings' first sewer and water system.

1909 H.D. Hudson Company starts sprayer production.

1914 St. Paul Southern Electric RR begins service between St. Paul and Hastings.

1915 Brownson opens horse collar factory.

1919 PTA organized; drafts constitution.

1927 Lock and Dam #2 construction begins.

1934 WPA completes Todd Field.

1940 Public school hot lunch program begins on trial basis

1948 Mississippi River nine foot channel completed at Hastings.

1951 High Bridge, replacing Spiral Bridge, opened to traffic; Spiral Bridge demolished.

1953 Regina Memorial Hospital opened.

1955 First sewage treatment plant goes on line.

1957 Hastings celebrates centennial year.

1958 Hospital Auxiliary organized.

1963 Radio Station KDWA began broadcasting.

1965 Year of record flood.

1968 Chamber of Commerce organized.

1970 Hastings Family Service incorporated.

1971 City establishes 109 acre Industrial Park.

1974 New Dakota County Government Center completed.

1979 Minnesota Veterans Home opened.

1987 Hydro Electric Power Dam dedicated.

1993 Old Dakota County Courthouse building renovated as Hastings City Hall.

Produced by Bill Wolston, Dakota County Historical Society, in cooperation with Dick Darsow, Hastings Pioneer Room.

Funded by the Hastings Area Tourism Bureau

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5-0496