

HISTORIC DOWNTOWN WINONA

EAST SECOND STREET COMMERCIAL HISTORIC DISTRICT

Get in on the ground floor.

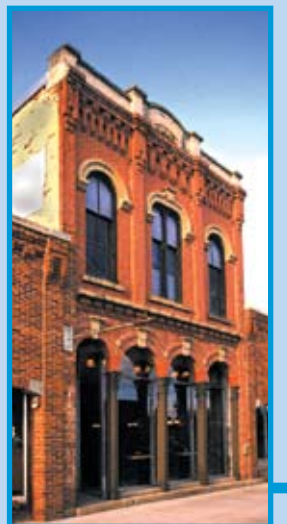
On July 5, 1862, Second Street looked dramatically different than it had on July 3rd. A massive fire on Independence Day destroyed virtually all the buildings in Winona's downtown. Yet despite this devastation, Winona rebuilt itself from the ground up. The city's first rail line was completed in that year, connecting Winona with Stockton, five miles to the west. By 1870, Winona was the fourth largest primary grain market in the country. And in 1876, over 250 businesses were located on Second Street.

The stone structures built along Second Street after 1862 recall the key role that Winona played in Minnesota's expanding economy. Today, the Second Street Commercial Historic District boasts some of the state's oldest surviving river-city commercial buildings. The architecture reflects the popular Italianate style of the period, but the buildings' construction is distinctly Minnesotan—from the limestone quarried nearby to the bricks baked at kilns just outside Winona.

The district was added to the National Register of Historic Places (NR) in 1991. Portions of the East Second Street Commercial Historic District were locally designated in January 2008.



First National Bank
58-60 E. 2nd St.
Built: 1867 **NR:** 1991
This Italianate-style bank symbolizes the importance of early finance. The prominent date stone in the cornice documents its status as one of Winona's oldest buildings.



C.M. Gernes Building
74 E. Second St.
Built: 1868 **NR:** 1991
The prosperity of downtown commerce is shown in the ornate cornice and the large glass display windows set between cast iron columns.



Second National Bank
50 E. Second St.
Built: 1871-72 **NR:** 1991
This striking Victorian Gothic bank on a prominent corner firmly anchors the district's west end.



J.R. Watkins Medical Products Co.
150 Liberty St.
Built: 1911, 1913 **NR:** 1984
Architect: George W. Maher
Chicago Prairie School architect George W. Maher designed the elegant administration building in 1911, the same year that company founder J.R. Watkins died. In 1913 Maher designed the manufacturing plant that completes the block.



CENTER

SECOND

LAFAYETTE

WINONA COMMERCIAL HISTORIC DISTRICT

National Register: 1998 Local Heritage: 2008



Verkins Building
214 E. Third St.
Built: 1890s **NR:** 1998
This striking building features an elaborate, ornamental, stamped-iron cornice.



J.A. Merigold and Co. Dry Goods
59 W. Third St.
Built: ca. 1868 **NR:** 1998
Stone rosettes and a stamped copper cornice ornament this three-story brick building.

Most of the buildings in the Winona Commercial Historic District represent commercial adaptations of Italianate and Queen Anne architectural styles that were designed to accommodate commerce on the first floor and residences on the upper floors. For more on this district, turn the map over.
Visit the interpretive signs on the corner of Third St. and Walnut St. for more information about historic downtown Winona.



Winona & St. Peter Railroad Freight House
58 Center St.
Built: 1883 **NR:** 1984
Architect: W&StP Chief Engineer John Blunt
This is a rare survivor of the Winona & St. Peter (later Chicago & Northwestern), the railroad that helped build the city's grain and lumber industries.



Kirch-Latsch Building
120 (114-122) E. Second St.
Built: 1868 **NR:** 1975
This Italianate block, with its colonnade of 17 arches, originally housed a farm implement dealer, J.B. Kirch & Co.



Winona County Courthouse
171 W. 3rd St.
Built: 1888 **NR:** 1970
Architect: Maybury & Son
A Richardsonian Romanesque landmark in Minnesota. Winona carpenters, stone masons, and iron workers used regional buff-colored sandstone with trim in Lake Superior brownstone. The main tower rises 136 feet.



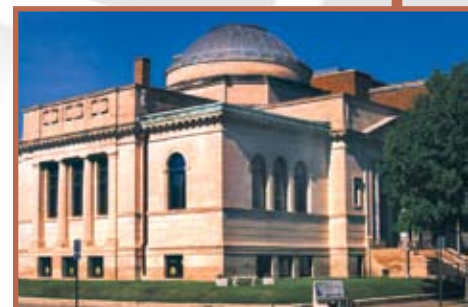
Armory (Winona Co. Hist. Soc.)
160 Johnson St.
Built: 1914 **NR:** 1998
Styled after a medieval fortress, the Armory served the Minnesota National Guard until the 1960s. Today it is home to the Winona County Historical Society.



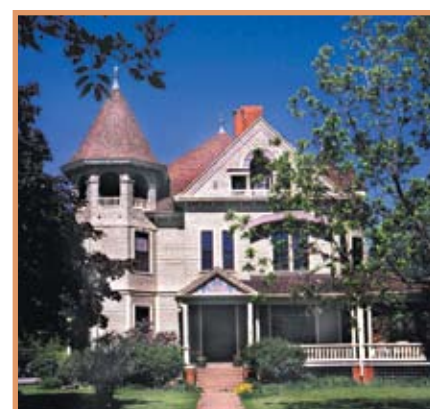
Huff-Lamberton House
211 Huff St.
Built: 1857 **NR:** 1976 **LH:** 2006
Built for Winona pioneer Henry D. Huff and later sold to lumberman Henry W. Lamberton, this is one of the earliest and best-preserved Italian Villa style houses in Minnesota. Notable are the dominant tower and Moorish porch.



Winona Masonic Temple
251 Main St.
Built: 1909 **NR:** 1998
Architects: Warren Powers Laird & C.F. Osborne
Philadelphia architects Laird and Osborne designed the Winona Lodge No. 18 building in the Beaux Arts tradition of the Classical Revival style.



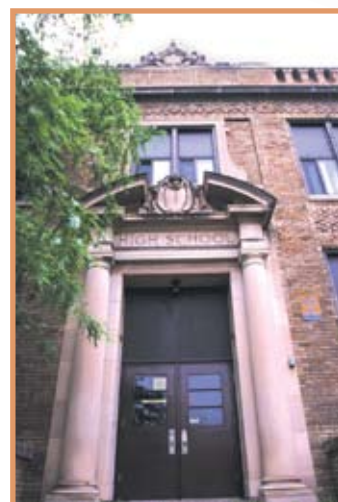
Winona Free Public Library
151 W. Fifth St.
Built: 1899 **NR:** 1977 **LH:** 2001
Architects: Warren Powers Laird, Edgar V. Seeler
Winona lumberman William H. Laird funded the handsome Neo-Classical library. His nephew, dean of the University of Pennsylvania architecture school in Philadelphia, was one of the architects.



Hodgins House
275 Harriet St.
Built: 1890 **NR:** 1984
Architect: Charles G. Maybury
Lumberman Abner Hodgins had his own firm—Yeomans Bros. & Hodgins—mill the lumber for his Queen Anne style house, which survives unaltered.

KEY

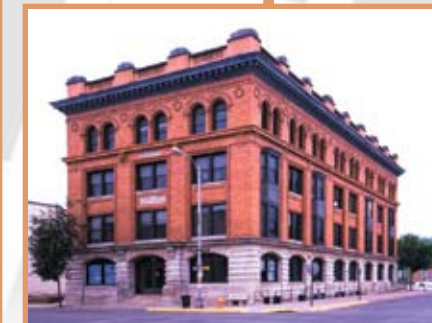
- East Second Street Commercial Historic District
- Winona Commercial Historic District
- Local Heritage Preservation Site/District
- On National Register of Historic Places
- NR Year placed on National Register of Historic Places
- LH Year designated as a Local Heritage Preservation Site or District



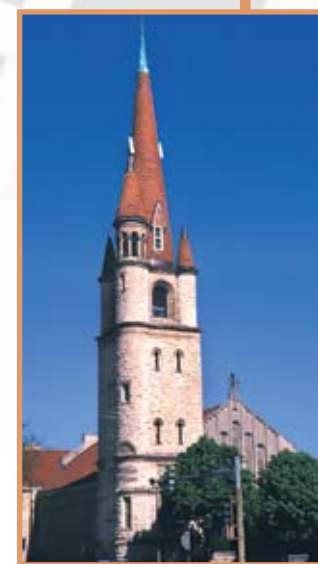
Central United Methodist Church
114 W. Broadway
Built: 1896, 1963-64
Architect: Charles G. Maybury
Only the superb Romanesque Revival tower and arched entry survived a 1961 fire. The rest was rebuilt in a complementary style.



Winona Savings Bank
204 Main St.
Built: 1916 **NR:** 1977
Architect: George W. Maher
This Egyptian Revival design by Prairie School architect George Maher is one of his major Minnesota works. Glass and fixtures are by Tiffany.

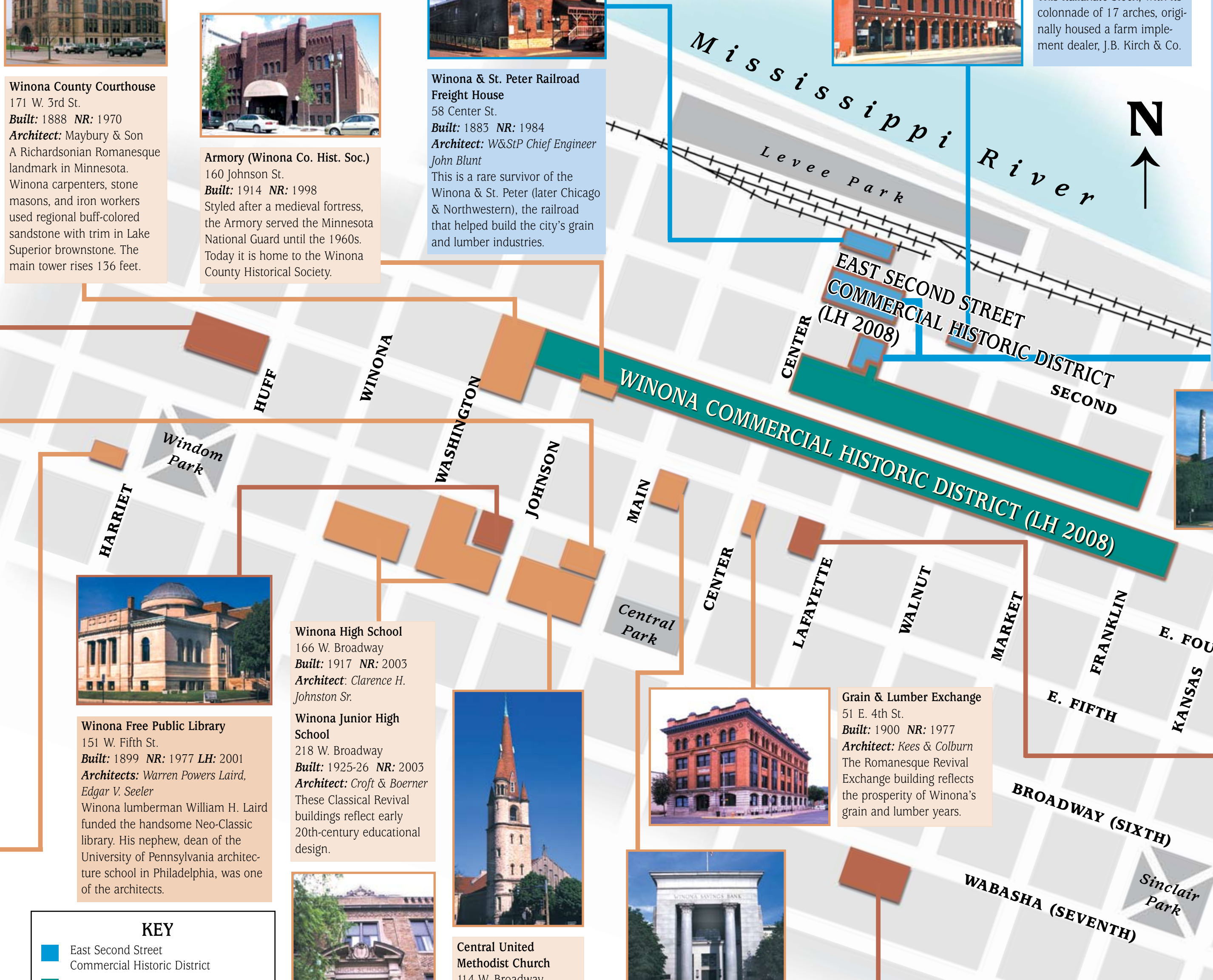


Grain & Lumber Exchange
51 E. 4th St.
Built: 1900 **NR:** 1977
Architect: Kees & Colburn
The Romanesque Revival Exchange building reflects the prosperity of Winona's grain and lumber years.



Winona Junior High School
218 W. Broadway
Built: 1925-26 **NR:** 2003
Architect: Croft & Boerner
These Classical Revival buildings reflect early 20th-century educational design.

Winona High School
166 W. Broadway
Built: 1917 **NR:** 2003
Architect: Clarence H. Johnston Sr.

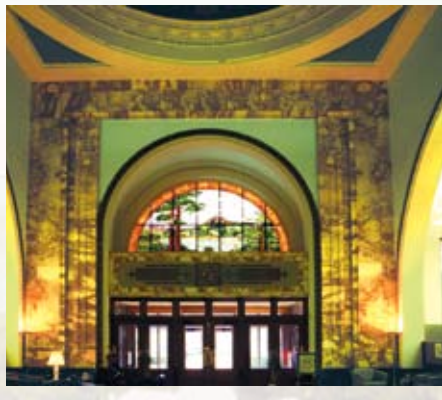
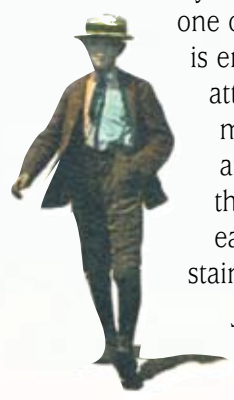


Stroll back in time.

Imagine yourself walking along Third Street in the middle of the day in 1890. People are bustling all around you, hopping off the streetcar, window-shopping at Choate's, and hurrying to business lunches at the newly built Winona Hotel. When you hear a train whistle, you remember why Winona is such a busy city: it is a national leader in flour milling and lumber, using the railroad to bring in grain for processing and to carry lumber to farmers building homes on the prairie. Winona residents have made their fortunes in these trades. Popular in the later part of the nineteenth century, the Italianate and Queen Anne architecture that dominate the Third Street Commercial Historic District are symbols of this prosperous time. While the decline in the flour-milling and lumber industries would soon divert commerce to other parts of the city, the buildings remain to give us a glimpse into Winona's past.

A window to a colorful world.

As you'll see, Winona's architecture may be considered one of its defining characteristics. Its beauty is enhanced by another of Winona's notable attractions, its stained glass windows. With several major studios devoted to stained glass restoration and repair, Winona is an unusual resource for this highly skilled work. While several of Winona's early 20th-century buildings boast remarkable stained glass installations, it wasn't until 1946, when James E. Hauser opened his studio, that stained glass restoration and repair became a trademark of Winona.



Interior of Watkins Administration Building

Find your favorite spot in Winona.

Whether you're a history buff or a bluff climber, Winona will make you feel right at home. It's what we've been doing for over 150 years. Visit the interpretive signs on the corner of Third St. and Walnut St. for more information about historic downtown Winona.

Welcome to the Island!

Although you won't be greeted with a Hawaiian lei, the "Island City" of Winona has made hospitality a tradition since the mid-19th century. Over time, it has welcomed steamboats (Captain Orrin Smith founded the city in 1851), trains (the Winona and St. Peter Railroad was the longest in the state in 1870) and, more recently, automobiles. River navigators in particular have viewed Sugar Loaf, the distinctive rock formation atop Winona's bluffs, as a welcoming sign, a guide through a part of the Mississippi that Mark Twain called "The Thousand Islands."

If you lived here, you'd be home now.

Winona has always drawn a diverse group of people to its shore, attracted by the lumber and flour-milling industries that made Winona a booming town in the late 19th century. Notable citizens included John D. Ford, a physician who helped establish the first State Normal School in Winona in 1860; J.R. Watkins, whose pharmaceutical company continues to operate today; and Charles G. Maybury, an early settler and architect who designed many of Winona's now-historic buildings. And, yes, the parents of future Hollywood celebrity Winona Ryder were so taken with the town that they named their daughter after her birthplace.



Lumber magnate Abner Hodgins

WINONA COMMERCIAL HISTORIC DISTRICT (NORTH SIDE)



Historical postcard of Winona Hotel dining room



Hannibal Choate

Odd Fellows Block
78 E. Third St.
Built: 1884 **NR:** 1998
Architect: C.G. Maybury
Winona Odd Fellows organized as the Humboldt Lodge and met on the third floor of this Queen Anne brick commercial block.



Merchant's National Bank
102 E. Third St.
Built: 1912 **NR:** 1974
Architect: Purcell, Feick & Elmslie
This architectural landmark of the Prairie School style is by one of its finest practitioners, the Minneapolis firm of Purcell, Feick & Elmslie, who designed 18 banks in the Midwest. The design is rooted in the concepts of Louis Sullivan and Frank Lloyd Wright, whose colleague-George Grant Elmslie-designed the ornate terra cotta and stained glass. Rescued from demolition in 1969, an addition in 1971 allowed the interior to be saved and restored from original drawings.

Anger's Block
116-120 Walnut St.
Built: 1872 **NR:** 1978
Architect: C.G. Maybury
Built for meatpacker Gustave Anger, this Italianate block is one of the earliest downtown buildings with surviving architect's plans.



Explore HISTORIC DOWNTOWN WINONA Minnesota

You'll see

- Soaring spires!
- Landmark banks!
- Handsome hotels!

And so much more...

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Architectural Styles and Details in Downtown Winona

One of the pleasures of walking through historic downtown Winona is noticing the diversity of architectural styles and ornamentation of the buildings. Many of the buildings in the city's commercial historic districts were built in the second half of the 19th century, when Winona was becoming a center of trade, industry and wealth.

After the fire of 1862, which destroyed much of the downtown, property owners rebuilt using brick and stone. They hired architects to design distinctive buildings in a variety of styles that were popular at the time, including Italianate, Queen Anne and Romanesque Revival. With plentiful raw materials, builders and craftspeople created a wealth of detail and ornamentation in stone, metal and brick.

Architectural style and detail turns a walk through downtown into a treasure hunt. Every time you venture out, you see something you didn't notice before.



WINONA COMMERCIAL HISTORIC DISTRICT (SOUTH SIDE)

Winona Hotel
157 W. Third St.
Built: 1889 **NR:** 1985
Architect & Builder: George B. Ferry
A brick and stone block, designed in the Romanesque Revival style. Renovated in the 1980s.



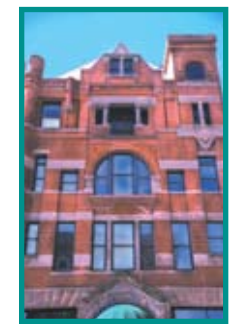
Schlitz Hotel
129 W. Third St.
Built: 1892 **NR:** 1982
Commissioned by Milwaukee's Schlitz Brewing Company, the brick Romanesque Revival hotel had a \$1 million renovation in 1979.



Slade Block
101 W. Third St.
Built: 1886 **NR:** 1998
Architect: C.G. Maybury
Romanesque Revival commercial block.



Choate Department Store
51-55 E. Third St.
Built: 1888, 1895 **NR:** 1976
Architect: A.E. Myhre
Built for Hannibal Choate, "the merchant prince of southeastern Minnesota." The 1888 building was expanded with the "Annex" in 1895.



Beck Building
109 E. Third St.
Built: 1886 **NR:** 1998
Romanesque Revival commercial building for the C.C. Beck Hardware firm.



German-American Bank
129 E. Third St.
Built: 1890 **NR:** 1998
Architect: C.G. Maybury
Highly ornamented Richardsonian Romanesque.



THIRD STREET