



Courtesy of the Hennepin County Library, Minneapolis Collection, R157 (ca. 1930s)

# VISIT THE HERITAGE OF LAKE STREET

When the City of Minneapolis was established in 1856, Lake Street was a mile beyond the southern boundary of the city.

Early Lake Street was home to dance halls, lumberyards, churches, horse sheds, blacksmiths, tin shops, drug stores, laundries, and boarding houses—providing a glimpse of the future commercial and industrial corridor that was to come.

Two major forms of transportation spurred the area's growth: Chicago, Milwaukee and St. Paul Railroad (CM&StP) tracks laid one block north of Lake Street between 1879 and 1881, and streetcar lines, which reached Lake Street in the 1880s.

Lake Street's future as an important corridor was secured when, in 1888, it was chosen as the route on which to construct the cross-river bridge linking Minneapolis and St. Paul.

**THE MUSEUM IN THE STREETS®** is designed as a bilingual history and cultural walking tour. Spanish was chosen as the second language in recognition of the substantial population of Hispanics and Latinos who live in and visit our area.

**PROJECT GENEROUSLY SUPPORTED BY:**



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# THE MUSEUM IN THE STREETS® MINNEAPOLIS, MINNESOTA LAKE STREET



*A Heritage Walking Tour of  
Lake Street*



*Visit Lake Street*

The Museum in the Streets® installations were created and organized by the Lake Street Council.

For further information, please go to the following websites:

- [www.LakeStreetCouncil.org](http://www.LakeStreetCouncil.org)  
[www.VisitLakeStreet.com](http://www.VisitLakeStreet.com)



# 27TH AND LAKE: INDUSTRY AND TRANSPORTATION INFRASTRUCTURE

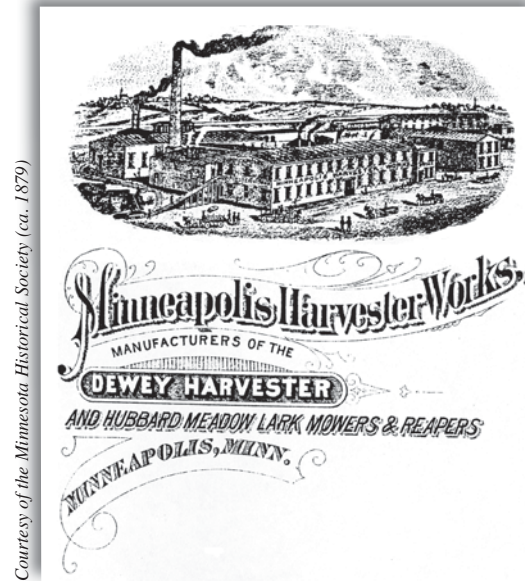
Before settlement, American Indians, and later soldiers from Fort Snelling, passed through this area as they traveled between the confluence of the Mississippi and Minnesota Rivers and the Falls of St. Anthony. Two events early in the development of the City of Minneapolis set the stage for the area's future: First, in 1865 the Minneapolis and Cedar Valley Railroad Company—forerunner to the Chicago, Milwaukee and St. Paul Railroad (CM&StP)—chose to lay its railroad



Courtesy of Loucks Associates

1839 map of the Fort Snelling Military Reservation area, hand-copied by Paul R. McLagan from an original map filed in the Library of Congress, Washington D.C.

tracks parallel to Fort Snelling Road. Second, in 1873 Minneapolis Harvester Works established the first of several industrial manufacturing companies that existed near what is now the intersection of Minnehaha and Lake.

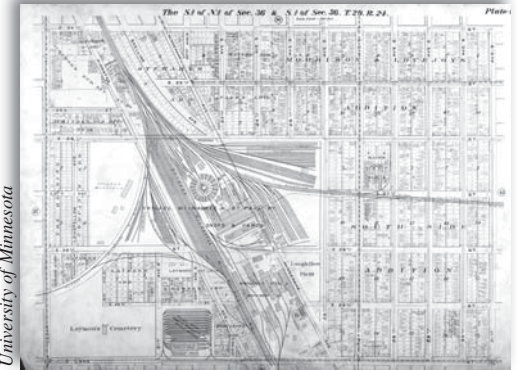


Courtesy of the Minnesota Historical Society (ca. 1879)

Two years after the City of Minneapolis annexed the area in 1883, 27th and Lake had emerged as a center of commercial and retail activity, with six stores centered in the area. In 1886, the streetcar line from downtown reached Lake Street along 27th Avenue, and even though “Lake Street was a rutted path and the cows outnumbered the people,” the area was growing so rapidly that additions were required to the local public school.

Between 1900 and 1920, the area boomed. The Minneapolis Steel and Machinery Company (later Minneapolis-Moline), the Twin City Rapid Transit Company Car Yard, and Toro Manufacturing Company joined the CM&StP Railroad in providing sources of employment to the growing neighborhood.

Courtesy of John R. Borchert Map Library, University of Minnesota



By 1914, intense industrial uses existed around the area where Hiawatha Avenue, the CM&StP railroad, Minnehaha Avenue crossed Lake Street and Minnehaha.

These years also saw the construction of several buildings at 27th and Lake that would anchor the area's commercial and retail activity for the next century, including the International Order of Odd Fellows Building (1909) and the Coliseum Building (1917).

The housing and population boom went hand-in-hand with the tremendous growth of the 27th and Lake commercial district, and by the end of the 1920s, nearly 80 percent of the present housing stock was built. This once sleepy, farm-dominated township had become a bustling community of industry and vibrant commercial and residential districts.

Courtesy of the American Swedish Institute



Axel's Lunch Room





**1** 2019 EAST LAKE:  
BURMA SHAVE



**2** 2108-30 EAST LAKE:  
TWIN CITY RAPID TRANSIT  
LAKE STREET STATION  
AND CAR YARD



**3** 3042 SNELLING  
AVENUE: THE TORO  
COMPANY



**4** SNELLING AVENUE:  
AFRICAN AMERICAN  
COMMUNITY



**5** 3012 MINNEHAHA  
AVENUE SOUTH:  
LAURITZEN  
WAGON AND  
BLACKSMITH SHOP



**6** 3010  
MINNEHAHA  
AVENUE SOUTH:  
FIRE STATION  
No. 21



**7** LONGFELLOW SCHOOL



**8** 2700 EAST LAKE:  
COLISEUM BUILDING/  
FREEMAN'S  
DEPARTMENT STORE



**9** 2716 EAST LAKE:  
LAKE STREET  
STATE BANK



**10** 2730 EAST  
31ST STREET:  
HOLY TRINITY  
LUTHERAN CHURCH



**11** 2916 EAST LAKE: EAST  
LAKE BRANCH LIBRARY



**12** WONDERLAND  
AMUSEMENT PARK



**13** 2721-23 EAST LAKE:  
LAKE THEATER



**14** 2629 EAST LAKE:  
MINNEHAHA GRILL



**15** 2701 EAST LAKE:  
INTERNATIONAL ORDER  
OF ODD FELLOWS



THE MUSEUM IN THE STREETS®  
MINNEAPOLIS, MINNESOTA  
**27TH AND LAKE: INDUSTRY  
AND TRANSPORTATION  
INFRASTRUCTURE**



**16** MINNEAPOLIS-MOLINE



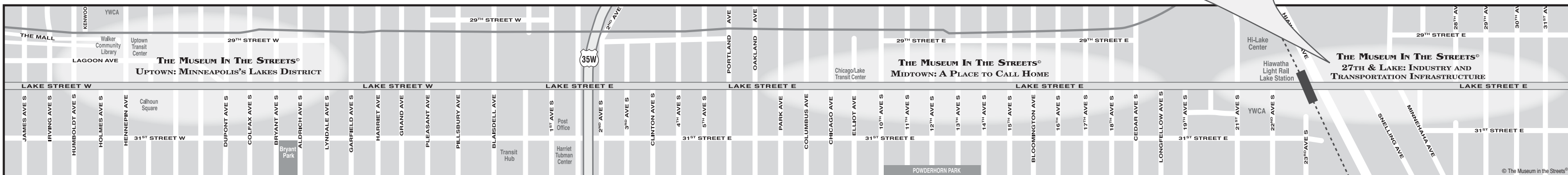
**17** HIAWATHA-MINNEHAHA  
CORRIDOR



**18** 2217 EAST LAKE:  
AXEL'S LUNCH ROOM



**19** 2107 EAST LAKE:  
PORKY'S DRIVE IN



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27TH & LAKE: INDUSTRY AND  
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