

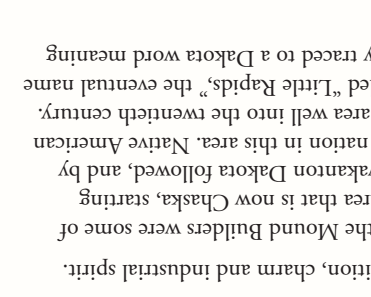
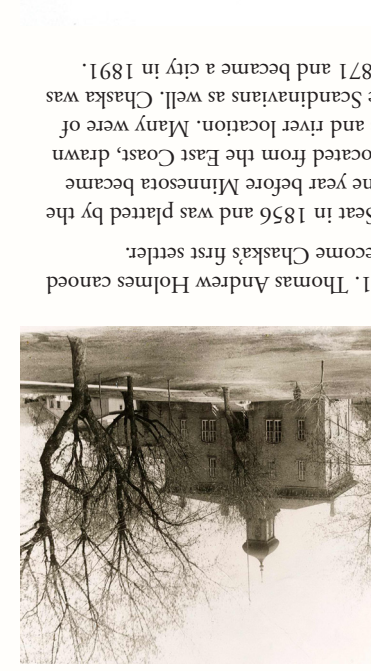


Chaska remained a small town just outside of the Twin Cities metropolitan area, until the 1960s, when suburban expansion reached the city and the establishment of Jonathan. Despite amazing growth and development, the city has managed to maintain the heritage and community spirit of a "Quality Small Town," due in large part to its historic downtown.

The town quickly grew into an industrial leader due to its connection to the river and two railroads, its position as the County Seat, and its rich natural resources – making bricks from clay deposits, cutting timber from the remaining Big Woods, and processing agricultural products such as milling flour, refining beer sugar, canning, and pickling. Today, Chaska is home to many nationally known industries.

Chaska became the County Seat in 1856 and was platted by the Shaska Company in 1857, one year before Minnesota became a state. Most early settlers relocated from the East Coast, drawn by the area's fertile farmlands and river location. Many were of German ethnicity, with some Scandinavians as well. Chaska was incorporated as a village in 1871 and became a city in 1891.

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Chaska has had a century-long romance with brick. Lucien Howe, an immigrant from Vermont, started producing brick sometime around 1857, just three years after incorporation of the City. Production of brick continued until the early 1960s. During that 100 year period, brick manufacturing was the city's leading industry for eight decades (the last four decades during the nineteenth century for the brickyard). Chaska's residents eagerly awaited the employment in the brickyards. Chaska's first settler, Thomas Andrew Holmes canoed up the Minnesota River to become Chaska's first settler.

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Chaska's prominence in the brick industry is still physically evident in the entire state, churning out 40 to 60 million bricks per year. In 1907, Chaska produced 30% of all the brick made in a brick center. In 1907, Chaska produced 30% of all the brick made in a brick center. In 1907, Chaska produced 30% of all the brick made in a brick center.

HISTORY OF BRICK

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PRESERVATION EFFORTS

K. Linenfels & Faber Building -- 116 E. 2nd Street (1858)
Paul Faber convinced his younger brother George and Florian Linenfels to consider starting a business in Chaska. They came from California in 1857 and the next year built this brick general store across from the Chaska House. The families of the partners lived on the second floor. This is now the oldest business building in Chaska.

J. Carver County State Bank -- 112 E. 2nd Street (1884)
Getting into the banking business, George A. DuToit rented space at the rear of the Franken Pharmacy in the Faber Building in 1874. By 1884 DuToit's bank was so well established that he built this building. In 1904 the bank moved to a new building on Chestnut Street. Four generations of the DuToit family were in banking in Chaska.

I. Philip Henk Building
Philip Henk erected this two-story building, with the first floor used for dry goods and the second floor for meetings and social events. Through several decades it also was the quarters of the Modern Woodmen of America, Masons, Grand Army of the Republic, American Legion and V.F.W. For more than seven decades it was a tavern and restaurant operated by the Diedrick family.

H. Oesterreich Hardware
Three Oesterreich brothers were brick masons. One of them, Ewald, decided to go into hardware. He constructed this building in 1903. Through successive owners it remained a hardware store for several decades. Noteworthy on the building is the mason's artistic adornment.

G. Diacon Building
In 1883 Nicholas Schoenborn started a saloon in this building. Lucian Diacon, Swiss watchmaker, bought the building in 1900 to conduct his jewelry business and live in it with his two daughters. He trained one of them in watch making and jewelry, and she operated the store until the 1930's. This is another example of replication of the original front.

F. Deuhs-Baxter Buildings
This is a combination of two buildings with replicated old fronts. In 1886 it was purchased by Gerhard Deuhs, who started a confectionery store. When he added groceries, the business required erecting the brick building on the right in 1899, joining the two. Mr. Deuhs's daughter, Elizabeth Baxter, took over the business after his death, continuing it for several decades.

This project has been made possible by the Arts and Cultural Heritage Fund through the vote of Minnesotans on 11/4/08. Administered by the Minnesota Historical Society.

Designed and Produced by the City of Chaska, the Chaska Historical Society, the Chaska Heritage Preservation Commission, MFRA, MacDonald & Mack Architects and Patrick Smith Consulting.



A Walking Tour of Historic Downtown Chaska

A. National Hotel Building
Paul Faber had a two-story frame hotel constructed on this site in 1855. It was named the Chaska House which it remained through a series of owners and managers. One of them was Ferdinand Hammer, who replaced the frame structure with this brick building in 1891. After the original National Hotel on Chestnut street ceased business, the name was transferred to this building.

B. Hammer & Beierstetel Building
Mike Hammer and John Beierstetel, both of pioneer families, built this structure as a saddle and harness shop with residence rooms on the second floor. In the following years it operated as a saloon, tavern and restaurant, jewelry store and salon.

C. Young Family House
Henry Young, an immigrant from Germany, was one of the earliest settlers and merchants. He built this home for his family. Four generations of the family lived there. It continued as a residence and in more recent years has also housed an antique shop.

D. Gehl's Meat Market
Henry Gehl Sr. built a frame butcher shop in Chaska in 1881. That structure was destroyed by a 1900 fire which ruined other buildings along West Second Street. This brick structure replaced the old shop soon after the fire. The butcher shop was on the first floor and Gehl residence above. The meat business continued there until the 1960's.

E. Chaska Herald Building
Housing the longest running business in Chaska, dating back to 1862, the Chaska Herald building depicts a simplified version of the Italianate style. Prominent features of this brick structure include dentil course-work at the cornice, elongated windows with round arches above, and the arched front entrance with prominent stone keystones and impost blocks supporting cast iron columns. NATIONAL REGISTER



Chaska Blvd & Hwy 41

1 Fireman's Park
This Clayhole, along with two others still existing in Chaska, were mined for clay during the brick making years. The Chaska Fire Department historically maintained and helped finance park improvements. In 1961, the owners of the property, the Klein family, donated the park to the City.

2 Riedele House

Andreas Riedele farmed, ran a Chaska grist mill, and operated the Railroad Hotel near the M & St. L Depot. His interests spread to a partnership in a brick yard west of his hotel. In 1884 he built this home adjacent to his brick yard. Two generations of the Riedele family lived here. When the Klein brothers bought Riedele's brick business, they acquired the house.



1884
122 W. 6th Street

3 Scott House

William Scott constructed this house for his family after moving from Cannon Falls. Scott first leased then bought the Chaska Mill in 1905 and operated it until his death in 1933. Defined by its large wraparound porch with turned columns, the Scott House depicts the Craftsman style. This house also features wide, overhanging eaves and low-pitched gables with imbricated wood shingles, both common for this style.



1903
516 Pine Street

4 Chaska Flour Mill

The brick portion on the right was built by John Frank, merchant miller, as a steam-operated mill, as contrasted to mills a few blocks away which had been powered by the flow in Chaska Creek. An addition on the left was built in 1905. The mill operated until 1933, when the big mills were taking over the market.



1900 & 1903
500 Pine Street

5 Minneapolis House Livery Stable

(Brinkhaus Saloon Livery Barn). Customers of Herman Brinkhaus' Minneapolis Hotel and Saloon were provided a barn and shed for their horses on this site. The outlaw Jesse James is said to have kept his horse there in 1876 when he visited Chaska. That frame building burned in 1889 and the present livery stable was built in 1890-91. It now houses the Chaska History Center. NATIONAL REGISTER



1890's
112 W. 4th Street

6 Teske Mill -- 102 W. 5th Street (1946)

Emil Teske constructed this building in 1946 for a feed grinding mill across the tracks from the Chaska Mill, which he purchased from William Scott. This may be the last large use of Chaska brick in the city since traditional Chaska brick making ended circa 1950.

7 Minneapolis & St. Louis Depot

The Minneapolis and St. Louis Railroad company built a simple frame building in 1871 for freight, passenger and telegraph service. Forty years later, citizens put pressure on the company because of the inadequacy of the original building, resulting in this more spacious brick building. After being vacated, the building has been altered to accommodate various business, but the basic building remains the same.



1911
3115 Chaska Boulevard

8 Chaska Bakery -- 500 Chestnut Street

A one-story building was built in 1884 by Gottlieb Eder as a bakery with living quarters in the rear. A second story was added for residential use. The Chaska Bakery was operated by the Linne family for 50 years.

9 Casper Schmidt House

Casper Schmidt, German immigrant, built this brick house occupied by four generations of that family. Casper's son, J. August Schmidt, and grandson, Irwin, were owners of Chaska's large general store, the Glass Block for more than 50 years.



1876
415 Walnut Street

10 Row Houses

While row houses accommodated dense population in large cities, this property in Chaska (early version of the town house) was unique in Chaska when Orville Goodrich built them for laborers in the nearby brick yards.



1888
414 - 422 Walnut Street

11 Chaska Moravian Church

In January, 1858, several Moravian families from western Pennsylvania and others organized Chaska's first religious congregation. They built a smaller brick church in 1860. This building replaced the original church. It has physically remained the same except for moving the entrance.



1889
115 E. 4th Street

12 C.P. Klein Mansion

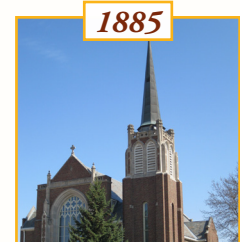
Christian P. Klein, whose family was identified with the brick and banking businesses in Chaska, built this mansion in 1911. After the family relocated, the building became Chaska's City Hall from 1967 to 1988. The brick mansion with its red clay tile roof was built in the Italian Renaissance style as can be seen through its low-hipped roof, balustraded porches with paired classical columns defining the main entrance, and upper story windows that accent the symmetrical facade design.



1911
205 E. 4th Street

13 St. John's Lutheran Church

The Evangelical Lutheran St. John's congregation built their first brick church on this site in 1885 only to see it lost to fire in 1921. Fortunately, the congregation had been contemplating a new building, which made it possible to complete the existing church in 1922. Associated school facilities have continued to grow through the years.



1885
300 E. 4th Street

14 Taylor House

Edwin A. Taylor was principal of the Chaska schools, later Carver County superintendent of schools and then postmaster from 1897-1899. After his death his widow, formerly Emma DuToit, became postmistress and served for ten years.



1860's
403 E. 3rd Street

15 Greiner House

Frederick Greiner Jr. was the second generation of a family which came to Chaska in 1855. Like his father, the junior Greiner served the public as village clerk, a council member, an H & D Railroad depot agent, and as a member on the state board of equalization. He took over one of Chaska's earliest brick yards, and in preparation for his wedding, used his brick to build this home and a coach house in 1883. It was occupied by the Greiner families until 1911. NATIONAL REGISTER



1883
319 E. 3rd Street

16 Nobel-Sell House

This house has been occupied by two families important in local history: the Lyman W. Nobel family in the 19th century and the H. R. Sell (county treasurer) family from 1915 to 1996. The rectangular section on the left was built in the late 1850's, and the ell to the right was added later.



1858
301 E. 3rd Street

17 C. H. Klein Mansion

Charles H. Klein, one of Chaska's most widely known citizens, bought a frame house on this site in 1903. After becoming well established in the brick and banking businesses and as a legislator from 1903-1912, he replaced that house in 1910 with this mansion. He also was chairman of the school board for 20 years. After his death, the Klein family deeded the mansion to the City with the provision that it be used for public purposes. In 1967 it became the library until that moved to the new City Hall in 1988. In recent years, it has been used as a bed & breakfast.



1910
314 Walnut Street

18 Stege-Klammer House

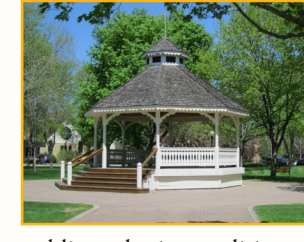
The widow of Peter Iltis, long time operator of the National Hotel, married Julius Stege. They built this Queen Anne style house, with its prominent turret, wraparound porch, modillions under the eaves, and wood fish scale shingles at the gables. Mrs. Stege's daughter, Caroline Iltis, married Kalmer K. Klammer, long time officer of the Carver County State Bank. Five generations of that family lived in the house.



1902
302 Walnut Street

19 City Square Park

City Square Park has historically been the heart of the city as civic structures, including the original County courthouse, were generally located on City Square. The first bandstand was constructed in 1890, and this public-gathering tradition survives today with music in the park on Friday evenings. Three burial mounds from the American Indian tribe known as the Mound Builders remain in City Square Park.



20 Joseph Ess House -- 217 Walnut Street (1886)

Joseph Ess acquired a blacksmith shop on the southeast corner of Third and Walnut St and added an iron foundry to meet the machinery needs of the brick yards. This business has lasted through five generations. The foundry building was replaced in 1989 by an apartment building. Ess built this house in 1886 across the street from his foundry. Identifiable by the porch tucked into the corner of the L-shaped plan, this house represents a Gabled-Ell Cottage. The simplicity of this house contrasts with the decorative Queen Anne homes found elsewhere in Chaska.



1886
206 Walnut Street

21 Mieseler House

Frank Mieseler, local blacksmith, built this house, which is one of the oldest Chaska brick residences in downtown Chaska and has retained a significant degree of the original design integrity.



1872
202 Walnut Street

22 Faber Building

Paul Faber built this two-story building, with the Fabers living on the second floor and the Joseph Franken pharmacy on the first floor. Over the years it has been a bank, post office, grocery store, candy factory, chicken hatchery, mortuary and beauty shop.



1907
214 Chestnut Street

In 1967 a third bank was constructed on the north side of Third Street. The original bank has housed a tavern, restaurant, offices and currently, a beauty shop.

27 George A. DuToit House

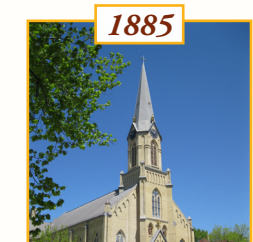
The original brick house was built by George A. DuToit, prominent area banker and civic leader. The 1902 church fire across the alley had the tower crashing on this house. The house was partially rebuilt and expanded. Four generations of DuToit's lived in the house until 1990.



1879
208 W. 2nd Street

28 Guardian Angels Catholic Church

As a beacon building in this area of Chaska, this church, along with St. John's Lutheran Church, illustrates Gothic Revival architecture. The steep gable roof, prominent tower, buttresses, and pointed arches are characteristics of this style. This is the third church for this parish. Reconstruction of the inside was completed in 1903 to restore fire damage.



1885
215 W. 2nd Street

29 Lewis-Faber House

After the Civil War, Dr. Elim H. Lewis came from the District of Columbia and set up his medical practice in Carver, and also began to care for Chaska patients. In 1895 the Lewis' daughter, Clara, married George F. Faber, a prominent businessman and twice postmaster. Members of the Faber family resided in this house until the 1920's. NATIONAL REGISTER



1880
321 W. 2nd Street

30 Oesterreich House

Helmuth Oesterreich, brother Ewald and father Ferdinand formed the contracting firm Oesterreich Brothers, responsible for the masonry work on the Catholic and Moravian Churches and the Oesterreich Hardware Store building. Helmuth Oesterreich constructed this house, which is an excellent example of a Chaska brick residence constructed in the Queen Anne style.



1885
115 Elm Street

31 Conrad Fink House

This house, constructed by Conrad Fink, was the homestead of a farm that stretched to the south in pasture and crop land. The cubic shape and hipped roof of this brick house help define the structure as an example of the Italianate style. Also, noticeable are the arched corbelled bricks that top the window openings.



1883
322 W. 1st Street

32 Eder-Baer House

Henry C. Eder, member of a large pioneer family, built this impressive house. After 15 years of Eder occupancy, it was sold in 1904 to Henry Baer. Members of his family occupied it until the 1940's. With its round turret featuring a dentil cornice, fan motif gables, and thin, Eastlake, turned porch columns, this Chaska brick house exemplifies the Queen Anne style. Also, characterized by a wraparound porch and irregular masonry, Queen Anne style homes can be found throughout Chaska. NATIONAL REGISTER



1889
105 Elm Street

33 Casper Teipel Building

Caspar Teipel built a saloon on the street side and residence behind and above. He called his saloon the "Last Chance", because on Hickory Street the Chaska-Carver road went south and west, and the Chaska-Cologne road went north, the first and last chances for refreshments.



1883
125 Hickory Street

34 F.E. DuToit Sr. House

For 21 years, F. E. DuToit residing in the sheriff's residence attached to the court house. After retiring as the County sheriff, he built this house in the Queen Anne Style. Made of Chaska brick, the home features an asymmetrical design, wood fish-scale shingles at the roof gables, and dentil brick detailing at the two-story bay window. DuToit Sr. had also been county superintendent of schools, town clerk, publisher of the Chaska Herald, served in both houses of the legislature and later was mayor of Chaska. NATIONAL REGISTER



1895
121 Hickory Street

35 T.D. Smith Mansion -- 512 W. 1st Street (1863)

Thomas D. Smith, one of the earliest merchants and postmasters, went "way out in the country" in 1863 to build an impressive brick house, which was referred to as a mansion at that time. From a glass enclosure atop the house, Smith could watch steam boats landing at Walnut Street, often bringing goods to his store or the mail from St. Paul. It is one of the oldest residential structures in Chaska.



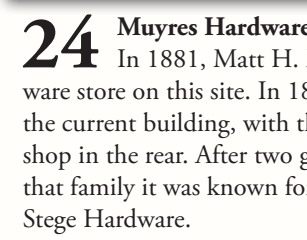
1888
218 Pine Street

36 Athletic Park -- 725 W. 1st Street (1950)

Athletic Park was constructed in 1950. Residents selected this site so local fans could walk to the games. The Weekly Valley Herald described the 900 seat grandstand "as fine a grandstand as any town of our size in the state can boast". An electric scoreboard, "the only one of its kind in the state" was donated by a local business. Town ballfields from this era are characterized by a wood and cinderblock grandstand with wood bleachers, chicken wire screen, announcer's booth, concession stand, and cinderblock dugouts.

24 Muyres Hardware -- 210 Chestnut Street (1892)

In 1881, Matt H. Muyres established a lumber yard and hardware store on this site. In 1892 he razed the old store and replaced it with the current building, with the hardware business in the front and tin shop in the rear. After two generations in that family it was known for many years as Stege Hardware.



1888
210 Chestnut Street

25 Simons Livery Stable

This livery's location was convenient for stabling horses of those coming to the old Court House for court trials or other county business. NATIONAL REGISTER



1888
123 W. 3rd Street

26 Simons Building

Although Anton Simons, a farmer, built this brick building, it was known as the Courthouse Saloon because of its proximity to the Court House. This structure depicts a brick Italianate commercial building, noticeable through the corbelled cornice with center parapet plaque, arched window openings and use of brackets supporting a shallow, full-width, second floor balcony with cut-work rail. An ell addition on the left was built as a hotel in 1903. The east portion has been a saloon, millinery, beauty shop and post office. NATIONAL REGISTER

