

Jackson Street Shops,
Pattern Shop
Jackson Street, Pennsylvania Avenue
St. Paul
Ramsey County
Minnesota

HABS No. MN-67-E

*HABS
MINN,
62-SAIPA,
17-E-*

PHOTOGRAPHS

WRITTEN HISTORICAL AND DESCRIPTIVE DATA

Historic American Buildings Survey
National Park Service
Rocky Mountain Regional Office
Department of the Interior
P.O. Box 25287
Denver, Colorado 80225

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HISTORIC AMERICAN BUILDING SURVEY

JACKSON STREET SHOPS
PATTERN SHOP

HABS No. MN-67-E

Location: Jackson Street and Pennsylvania Avenue, St. Paul,
Ramsey County, Minnesota.

USGS St. Paul East Quadrangle, Universal
Transverse Mercator Coordinates: Zone 15;
491920.4878640; 492560.4878640; 492560.4878540;
492300.4878540; 492140.4878400; 491920.4878400

Present Owner: Burlington Northern Railroad Company

Present Occupant: Vacant.

Present Use: Vacant.

Significance: The Jackson Street shops are the oldest standing stone railroad shops in Minnesota. The shops were built for the St. Paul, Minneapolis and Manitoba Railway, precursor of the Great Northern Railway, owned and operated by James J. Hill and are one of the few remaining examples of "machine shop" limestone architecture.

PART I. HISTORICAL INFORMATION

A. Physical History:

1. Date of erection: 1885-91. There were no records found which indicate the exact date of the building's construction. However, because the Shop building is not indicated on the Hopkin's Real Estate map of 1885, it is assumed the building was not a part of the original Jackson Street Shop complex built between 1882-84. The Pattern Shop does appear in the 1891 Rascher Insurance Atlas, and the building is listed on the 1915 Report to the Interstate Commerce Commission as being constructed in 1891.
2. Architect: Nelson Dana Miller. Mr. Miller was Chief Engineer for the Railroad from 1885-95. From 1879-85, he was Superintendent of track, bridges, and buildings for the Railroad. It is assumed from his previous experience and his authority over the construction of railroad support facilities that the Pattern Shop was built under his direction.
3. Original and Subsequent Owners:
 - a. St. Paul, Minneapolis and Manitoba Railway.
 - b. Great Northern Railway (name change 1890)
 - c. Burlington Northern Railroad Company (merger)

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4. Builder, Contractor, and Supplier: Because the building's function was so closely related to the operation of the railway, it is assumed the building was constructed by railroad personnel, with local timber and locally quarried Platteville limestone.
5. Original Plans and Constructions: No plans have been found to indicate the building's original construction. All materials and construction data have been established by use of the Rascher and Sanborn Insurance Atlases, and by thorough examination of the building itself.
6. Alterations and Additions: The changes to the original structure are listed below in reference to the Rascher and Sanborn Insurance maps.

(1891) Shows single story, stone construction, frame cornice around the perimeter, composition roof, two windows each with iron shutters on the East and West sides, and a small extension with shed composition roof to the southwest of the main structure.

(1903) Essentially the same information shown as described above.

(1926) Shows a change in name to the "Tin Shop," the addition of two windows to the North face, the removal of the frame cornice from the North and South facades, the removal of the iron shutters from the East and West windows, small metal clad addition to the south adjacent to the extension.

(1956) (Includes numerous paste-ups to map) Shows the name change to "Recreation Hall."

- B. Historical Context: The Pattern Shop is a part of the complex of machine shops built to service the trains of the railroad. The Great Northern Railroad played an important part in linking the eastern trade markets and culture with the agricultural frontier to the West.

PART II. ARCHITECTURAL INFORMATION

- A. General Statement: The character of the Pattern Shop has been preserved in its limestone walls which support the roofing as well as shelter the interior. Presently, the building is structurally sound, although it requires protection from further weathering and vandalism. Of particular note is the small Fire Engine room, which still has some of its original paint and lettering on the wooden doors. Some of the hose hanging hardware remains attached to the walls on the interior.

B. Description of the Exterior:

1. Overall Dimensions: 30 ft. by 80 ft.; with addition, 16 ft. by 26 ft.; 12 ft. overall height of stone walls, with wood frame gable roof above.
2. Foundation: footings for load bearing walls.
3. Walls: Platteville limestone with mortar joints.
4. Structural Systems: load-bearing walls with wooden roof trusses.
5. Openings: - Single wooden door on west face.
- Ten window openings, all boarded over.
6. Roof: Asphalt shingles over wood plank, wooden truss system, with joist resting on top of the wall, two skylights (10 ft. by 16 ft.) in center.

C. Description of the Interior:

1. Floor Plan: Simple one room interior with small area partitioned off in wood and glass to the East end.
2. Flooring: concrete slab floor, with wood plank and linoleum in partitioned area.

PART III. SOURCES OF INFORMATION

A. Bibliography:

Hopkins Real Estate Atlas, 1885, plate 8.

Rascher Insurance Atlas, 1891, vol. 1, plate 59.

Sanborn Insurance Atlas, 1903, vol. 3, plate 468.

Sanborn Insurance Atlas, 1926, vol. 1, plate 46.

Sanborn Insurance Atlas, 1956, vol. 1, plate 46.

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- B. Likely Sources Not Yet Investigated: Because the information on this particular building is scattered and often contradictory, further investigation is advised among the files of the Great Northern Railway Co., at the Minnesota State Historical Society, Division of Archives and Manuscripts, and in the personal Library of James J. Hill.

Prepared by:
Kurt Dubbe and
Richard McLaughlin
University of Minnesota
March 1985

PART IV. PROJECT INFORMATION

This project was prepared as a class project for Architecture 5142, Historic Building Research and Documentation, a class offered in the School of Architecture and Landscape Architecture at the University of Minnesota, Minneapolis, Minnesota. The class project was prepared under the direction of Professor Foster W. Dunwiddie and was funded by a grant from the State Historic Preservation office of the Minnesota Historical Society, Saint Paul, Minnesota. Historical data compiled and measured drawings prepared by Kurt Dubbe and Richard McLaughlin, University of Minnesota, March, 1985.

ADDENDUM TO:
JACKON STREET SHOPS, PATTERN SHOP
Jackson Street, Pennsylvania Ave.
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REDUCED COPIES OF MEASURED DRAWINGS

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