

# Mantorville, Minnesota

Though it is true that no major battles were fought here and no great treaties that shaped the history of the state were signed here, there is a wealth of architectural heritage preserved in this quaint hamlet. It is for this reason that the National Park Service named Mantorville to the National Register of Historic Places in 1975. This status is shared with such places as Williamsburg, Gettysburg, and Freedom Square in Philadelphia. Nestled in a picturesque setting in a valley along the Zumbro River, generations of Mantorville citizens have been careful to record and preserve the abundance of Minnesota and U.S. History left in their care.

Named after the Mantor brothers, Peter and Riley, who arrived in 1853, the entire twelve blocks of the downtown area is listed on the National Register of Historic Places. "National Register of Historic Places Mantorville Limestone" is probably as responsible as anything for the town surviving for over 160 years. The abundance of this quality building material was a determining factor in the Mantor brothers selection of this place to settle. The quarries not only provided raw materials for the building but also required a large work force to keep the quarries in operation.



*Trail to the Past. Road to the Future.*

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For more information on guided and special tours,  
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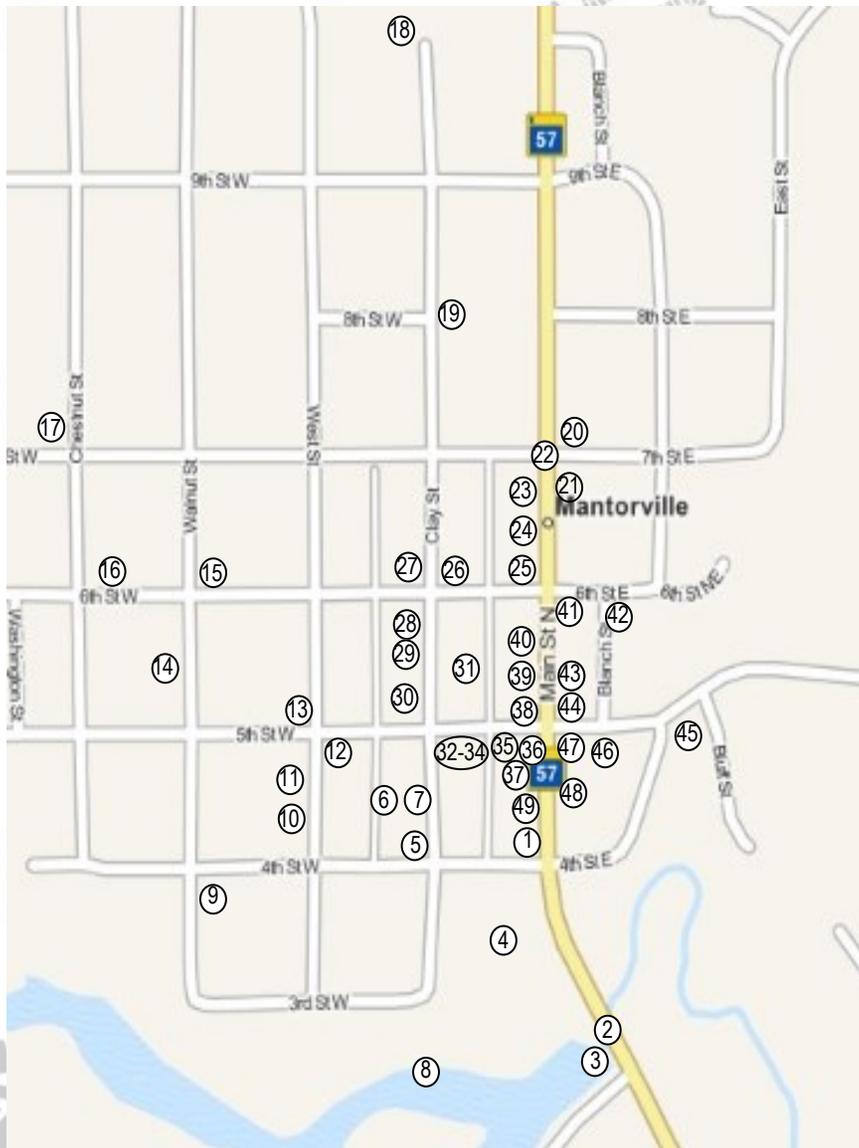
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## HISTORIC WALKING TOUR



## The Limestone Story



Mantorville limestone was in high demand for its beauty and because of its unique response to the weather. When mined, the stone was very soft and easily worked into buildings, bridges and roads but, as it endured the elements, the stone became increasingly harder with each passing year. For these reasons the "Mantorville stone" was shipped to many parts of the country. It exists to this day as an integral part of the structure and beauty of a variety of important buildings. Some of the most famous of the local "Mantorville stone" buildings still in use are the Dodge County Courthouse, built in 1871, (the oldest working Courthouse in Minnesota); and the Hubbell House, built in 1856, an elegant restaurant of Early American and Civil War era atmosphere and St. Mary's Hospital Rochester. An abundance of commercial, civil and residential buildings of historic consequence await your visit.

## 47. The Chocolate Shoppe

420 N. Main Street

Said to be the “sweetest place in town,” this shop specializes in hand dipped chocolates and homemade caramels. It has been The Gilded Cage Gift Shoppe and Irene’s (Pappas) Beauty Shop.



## 48. Mantorville Square

416 N. Main Street



Once the site of Stussy’s Garage, this multi-dealer store features a wide variety of antiques, and collectables. The former garage was not salvageable,

but with the Square’s façade, awnings and large front windows, we are reminded of the old building.

## 49. Dodge County Sheriff Garage

415 N. Main Street

On this site was once a pool hall run by Elmer Greeny and Baltz Scheisser. Elmer died in 1958 after a long illness, Baltz died the same day from grief over the death of his friend. This building now serves as the Dodge County Sheriff’s garage while the offices are located in the courthouse annex.



<sup>1</sup>Private Residence

<sup>2</sup>Said to be haunted

## 1. Mantorville Welcome Center

407 N. Main Street



Volunteers at this cottage serve as your hosts while you are visiting Mantorville. Here you will find information on sites and activities throughout the area. No one seems to know what the original purpose of this 1920’s building was. It has been a private residence and an antique shop before being and in 2007.

## 2. Bridge

This is one of several bridges to span the Zumbro River and lead into Mantorville from the south. The first large bridge that linked early businesses south of the river with the main part of town was built in 1859. A second cast iron bridge, built in 1882, was destroyed by high water and ice in 1888. In 1931, the WPA (Works Progress Administration) completed the truss bridge that served Mantorville until 1996. In 1997, the current concrete bridge was completed. Its design is based on the architecture seen in the limestone buildings in town.



## 3. Dam



Originally built in 1855, this dam provided power for a flour mill that was situated on the west side of the dam. The effect of the dam on the flow of the river has created “Goat Island” (the point of land to the west). Flooding and ice damage have necessitated repairs over the years.

<sup>1</sup>Private Residence

<sup>2</sup>Said to be haunted



#### 4. Riverside Park

Originally, this park area was the site of the Chicago Great Western

Railroad depot, the turntable for the Mantorville Railroad System and a lumber mill, Riverside Park was dedicated in 1969. The depot stood about where the southernmost picnic shelter is now. The first train left Mantorville on December 8, 1896 and the last train left in 1935.

#### 5. Cordenio Severance House <sup>2</sup> <sup>1</sup>

401 Clay Street

Built in 1863, this Italianate Victorian house was the childhood home of Cordenio Severance (1862-1925), a US senator and president of the American Bar Association. On the south side of this house is a single panel of cobalt glass in one of the first floor windows. The “Blue Glass Fad” made its appearance in Dodge County in 1877. The promoter of the theory advanced the idea that invalids, by remaining in a room lighted by blue glass windows would speedily recover.



#### 6. Severance Carriage House

411 Clay Street

Once part of the Severance residence, this limestone barn is now owned and maintained by the Mantorville Restoration Association and houses an exhibit of farm and horse equipment. The worn feed bins in the smaller “stable” side of the barn show decades of use by horses. The loft on the “carriage” side of the barn was rebuilt in the early 1990’s by the Mantorville Restoration Association. Because this is a true north-south building, the carriage house has been used as surveyors’ landmark.



<sup>1</sup>Private Residence

<sup>2</sup>Said to be haunted



#### 44. Hubbell House <sup>2</sup>

502 N. Main Street

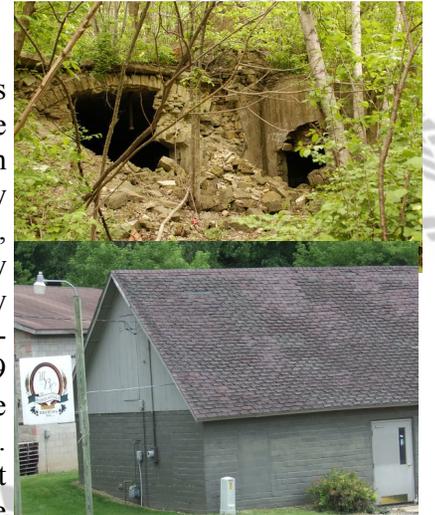
In 1854, four years before Minnesota became a state, a single story log hotel was opened here. It was known by mail carriers and stagecoach travelers as a rest stop along their path from East to West. In 1856, the hotel was replaced by this three story limestone structure. Since then, the Hubbell House has achieved worldwide

recognition as a fine restaurant. Evidence of its earlier life can be seen in the carved lintels of the exterior windows.

#### 45. Brewery Ruins

E. 5th Street

The Mantorville Brewery was founded in May of 1857 as the Dodge County Brewery by John Herschi. One year later the brewery was purchased by Peter Ginsburg, who, in 1864, built a larger facility of native limestone on Brewery Creek. The brewery continued under successive owners until 1939 when it closed and its copper kettle was scrapped for the war effort. Unfortunately, the ruins are all that remain of the old brewery and are quite dangerous and best observed from the road. Now Stagecoach



Ale is brewed just across the creek from the old ruins and is available at local restaurants, bars and liquor stores.

#### 46. 9 East 5th Street

9 E. 5th Street

This building was originally a blacksmith shop, then a paint store, a glass etching business, flower shop and an artist’s gallery/studio. It is currently occupied by Lake State Insurance and Finance.



<sup>1</sup>Private Residence

<sup>2</sup>Said to be haunted

## 41. Restoration House <sup>2</sup>

540 N Main Street

Built in 1856, this house was leased by the county commissioners in 1858 to serve as the first court house in Dodge County. In the basement is the jail cell that was used at the time. In 1963, the Mantorville Restoration Association acquired the house and restored it as a late 1880's residence.



Tours of the house are conducted for a small fee from May through October or by appointment.

## 42. Cooper's Log House



E. 6th Street

This log house was built in the 1850's. It was the home of the barrel maker (or cooper) who made barrels and kegs for the original Mantorville Brewery. In the basement of the cabin is a collection of brewery items and cooper's tools. The Mantorville Restoration Association acquired and restored this building in 1987.

It is open during the summer and

by appointment. Tours are conducted May through October or by appointment in conjunction with the Restoration House tour.

## 43. Creative Change

516 N. Main Street

Another example of the "Old West," this has been a cheese shop, a café and a candy shop. Recently expanded, it is currently a full service hair and nail salon.



<sup>1</sup>Private Residence

<sup>2</sup>Said to be haunted

## 7. Greek Revival House

411 Clay Street

Built in the 1860's, this simple frame house is one of the first structures built in Mantorville. It is said to be a fine example of the Greek Revival style with pilasters at the corners. Placement of the doors and windows is unusual indicating perhaps its original use may have been as a business.



## 8. Covered Bridge/Goat Island

Each spring during the 1950's, the local dog catcher would ferry 6-8 goats to this island by rowboat! The goats were pastured there for



the summer months to keep the weeds and tall grass under control. The covered bridge connecting the island and the park is 1 of 2 in the state to be logged by the National Covered Bridge Society. Silt build up over the years has changed the character of the island.

## 9. Mantor House <sup>1</sup>

121 W. 4th Street

Built in 1876, this was the home of Peter Mantor, one of the founders of Mantorville. This home is popular for having one of the few hitching posts left in town.



<sup>1</sup>Private Residence

<sup>2</sup>Said to be haunted

## 10. M<sup>c</sup>Donoughy House <sup>1</sup>

415 West Street

Built in 1910, this house originally had a special window built on the south side to talk to the neighbor in the Robinson House.



## 11. Robinson House <sup>1</sup>

407 West Street



Built in 1896, the house to the left was the servants' house for the Robinson House.

## 12. Arnold Blanch House & Barn <sup>1</sup>

121 W. 5th Street

Built in 1872, this Queen Anne style house with its turret construction was the childhood home of Arnold Blanch, an American artist (1896-1968). Now a private home, this residence has been a tea room and a gift shop. The roof line of the barn in the back of the lot is decorated with Widow's lace.



## 13. Slingerland Park

W. 5th and West Streets

This land was donated to the people of Mantorville by Teunis Slingerland, Jr. for their recreational enjoyment. Mr. Slingerland also provided the funds for its original limestone and ironwork entrance and a plaque listing local World War I veterans.



Private Residence

<sup>2</sup>Said to be haunted

## 38. Mantorville Saloon

501 N. Main Street

Built in 1918, this was once Bolander's Dry Goods, Erdman's Second Store, Herbert Child's Mercantile, the Mantorville Express (basement), and now the Mantorville Saloon. The second floor of this once two story building was destroyed by fire and never rebuilt.



## 39. The Bridge

509 N. Main Street



Another example of the use of limestone here in Mantorville, the First State Bank of Mantorville was built in 1895. Because of the Great Depression, the bank closed in 1932 and never reopened. Recently the home of McGinley-Rasmussen Veterans of Foreign Wars Post #4555. This is the area's best example of the Romanesque style, with its heavy stone arches. Currently, it is the home of The Bridge.

## 40. Mantorville Art Guild/Log Cabin

521 N. Main Street



Established before Minnesota achieved statehood, this building, under a variety of names, is the oldest continuously running retail business in

Dodge County. It has been the meeting place for Masonic Lodge #11, a furniture store, a funeral parlor, and antique store. Today it houses the Mantorville Art Guild, where local artists display and sell their work. The log cabin was moved from its original site two miles north of town. It once housed an entire pioneer family. The risers to the front porch were once part of the Mantorville "boardwalk" and names can still be read.



<sup>1</sup>Private Residence

<sup>2</sup>Said to be haunted

## 35. Heinz House

3 W. 5th Street

Built in 1865, this frame building has been a harness maker's shop, a poultry store, an insurance office, a gift store, a pet shop, a costume studio and is currently Finds on 5th where you can find a variety of unique handcrafted or repurposed items, antiques and mosaics.



## 36. The MTC Scene Shop

Behind 3 W. 5th Street

This wood frame carriage house, known as the Folkstad Garage, was donated to the Mantorville Theatre Company by the City of Kasson to be used for storage and the building of sets. In December of 2013, it was moved from Kasson to Mantorville and continues to be under repair and restoration.

The history of the building is sketchy, but, with its variety of dormers and detail work, it may have been built by a carpenter to show examples of his work.

## 37. County Seat Coffee house

1 W. 5th Street

Many folks remember this corner as Spillman's corner. This is where Don & Doris Spillman had their barber and beauty shop business. Prior to that, this was the site of Eggenperger's, an ice cream parlor and drug store at which you could purchase anything from thread to tobacco to ice cream treats. Today, we are tempted to try a variety of espresso drinks, gourmet coffees and home baked pastries.



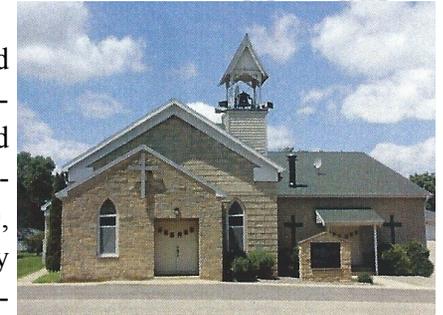
<sup>1</sup>Private Residence

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## 14. First Congregational Church

500 Block of Walnut Street

The original foundation was laid in 1858 at the location of the Normal School, but because of hard times, was abandoned. The Methodists resumed the work in 1860, but the building was finished by the Congregationalists who purchased it in 1875. In 1895, the congregation improved the building, adding a new entrance, a bell tower and a small parish hall. In 1951 a substantial annex added. Most of the stained glass windows date from 1905, a gift from Mrs. Lucy Wilson.



## 15. Parish House <sup>1</sup>

220 W. 6th Street

This house once served as the parish hall for the First Congregational Church.

## 16. Brannan House <sup>1</sup>

314 W. 6th Street

Built in 1876, this home has five stained glass windows. Also known as the Currier House.



<sup>1</sup>Private Residence

<sup>2</sup>Said to be haunted

## 17. Mantor field

*W. 6th and Walnut Street*

This is the new Mantor Field. Old Mantor Field is located 2 blocks north of the Normal School.



## 18. Parsonage <sup>1</sup>

*923 Clay Street*

Built in 1900, this was the parsonage for the First Congregational Church until it was moved to its present location. It now serves as a private residence.

## 19. Normal School

*721 Clay Street*

Just north of the former Kasson Mantorville Middle School, and constructed of Mantorville limestone is the Mantorville Normal School, a facility for training teachers for rural schools. A minimum of three years of high school was required of applicants to the 1911 teaching program. The building was later used for manual training of boys. The building was placed on "Ten Most Endangered Historic Places" list of the Minnesota Preservation Alliance in 2008. Restoration is in progress.



<sup>1</sup>Private Residence

<sup>2</sup>Said to be haunted

## 32. Post Office

*21 W. 5th Street*

Built in 1896 and once Blummer's Saloon, the post office is the only brick building in Mantorville. Because Mantorville has never had residential mail delivery for many years, the post office is a busy place. Proof of generations of residents collecting their mail can be seen in the worn front step of the main entrance.



## 33. Memorabilia Antiques

*9 W. 5th Street*

As part of the original 1866 "Business Block," this shop was once a hardware store, a butcher shop and a grocery store. Today, this shop offers a wide array of quality antiques. The Masonic Lodge is upstairs.



## 34. Opera House <sup>2</sup>

*5 W. 5th Street*

Built in 1918 after fire destroyed the original Kundert's Mercantile, this building has served as City Hall, a bingo parlor, movie theater (for silent films), a dance hall, and a roller rink. For more than 40 years, the Opera House, through the combined efforts of the Mantorville Restoration Association and the Mantorville Theatre Company, is once again a thriving theatrical concern with live performances and concerts throughout the year and melodramas during the summer months. Come boo & hiss at the villain and cheer & sigh for the hero.



<sup>1</sup>Private Residence

<sup>2</sup>Said to be haunted



### 29. 1855 Cabin <sup>1</sup>

511 Clay Street

This log cabin was moved here from Salem Corners by Irene Felker Pappas in 1963. She said, “They were tearing down an old house and found that inside the frame building was a log building.” It was reportedly

located for several years on the south side of E. 5th Street and has been moved at least twice. It finally came to this site in 1976.

### 30. Grand Old Mansion <sup>1 2</sup>

501 Clay Street

Built in 1899, this classic Victorian frame house is one of Mantorville’s best known landmarks. It was originally the home of Teunis Slingerland, Jr. Teunis Slingerland Sr.



was a banker, one of the largest landowners in Minnesota and the richest man in the Dodge County. Once a bed & breakfast, currently, it is a private residence and is in the process of being restored.



### 31. Ford Blanch House

508 Clay Street

Built in 1870, this was a private residence for many years, then an antique shop and the former location of the Mantorville Art Guild.

<sup>1</sup>Private Residence

<sup>2</sup>Said to be haunted



### 20. Derby’s Oil Station <sup>1</sup>

700 N. Main Street

Established in the 1930’s, the original oil station is no longer there, now a garage takes its place. The

station was a full service oil station with 2 pumps. The private residence is still the original structure.

### 21. Dodge County Court House

22 E. 6th Street

This building houses Dodge County offices. The construction of the limestone structure with its 40 inch thick walls was begun in 1865 and completed in 1871. Repairs were needed in 1890 after a windstorm tore off part of the roof. Additional office space was added in 1990. Today, it is the oldest working courthouse in Minnesota.



### 22. Retaining Walls

600 Block of Main Street

The stone retaining walls on either side of Highway 57 were built in 1932 by Ole Stensted, a contractor from Kasson. Most of the lime-



stone is tan, but the walls are capped by a coarse gray limestone. The eastern wall is roughly 340 feet long and the western wall is about 360 feet.

The walls are about 18 inches wide. Each end is marked by a stone pier. There are staircases on the north ends of both walls and the south end of the western wall. In 2016, the

Minnesota Department of Transportation reconstructed and restored the wall using the original limestone. Each stone was removed, numbered, mapped, and replaced to its original position.

<sup>1</sup>Private Residence

<sup>2</sup>Said to be haunted



## 23. Dodge County Historical Society Museum <sup>2</sup>

615 N. Main Street

Work on St. John's Episcopal Church was complete enough to begin holding services in

1869. Before the church was actually completed, Reverend Peter Stout Ruth carried out the last wishes of his wife Sarah Ann and had her remains moved from Evergreen Cemetery to the church. A memorial marker was placed in the southwest wall of the church in 1888 near where she was buried. The last service was held in the church in 1928. In 1933, the Dodge County Old Settlers and the Wasioja Grange restored the building and held their meetings in it. It now houses the Dodge County Historical Society.

## 24. Schoolhouse

615 N. Main Street

This building was moved from Ashland Township in 1964. The original schoolhouse was built of limestone in 1883 but was destroyed by a tornado the same year. The current frame building was built in its place. It now sits on the grounds of the Dodge County Historical Society.



## 25. Bourdon House

615 N. Main Street



Also known as the Little House on the Hill. Built in 1856, this house has been home to many Mantorville families over the years. It was most recently Bourdon's antique shop. It was purchased in 1990 by the Dodge County Historical Society.

<sup>1</sup>Private Residence

<sup>2</sup>Said to be haunted

## 26. Beaver House <sup>1</sup>

602 Clay Street

This Queen Anne style home retains much of its original look and feel. Particularly striking is the cross-gabled roof with spindle work in the gable ends. This is augmented by the use of fish scale shingling in the gable ends.



## 27. Senior Citizen Center

601 Clay Street

This 1862 building was originally meant to be a church. It was first used as a private home, and has also been the Itasca House Hotel, the office of the Mantorville Express newspaper, St. Margaret's Catholic Church, and, since 1983, the Mantorville Senior Citizen's Center. The stained glass windows were installed prior to the dedication of St. Margaret's Church in 1910.



## 28. Old School Café

515 Clay Street

Moved from Roscoe Township near Zumbrota, MN by Ed & Sheryl Gallina in 1979, this rural school building was their home and art studio. Now it has been restored to its original state by Doug & Linda Schmidt and her parents Sally & Henry Schleter. They offer a breakfast and lunch menu of good home cooked Minnesota fare.



<sup>1</sup>Private Residence

<sup>2</sup>Said to be haunted