

19 Schumacher Boots and Shoes
c.1887
611 West St. Germain St.



This building was originally a simple single-story structure which contained the Schumacher Boots and Shoes store founded by John Schumacher in the 1880's. This family business finally sold out in 1933. Built in the Commercial Style, notable exterior details include a curvilinear parapet wall and three rectangular window openings at the second story level.

St. Cloud Fact:
When Samuel Pandolfo decided to locate the Pan Motor Company in St. Cloud, it created so much local excitement then when the United States declared war on Germany in June 1917, that news shared the front page with details about Pan Motor.

20 Daniel Building & Annex
1915 & 1932
11 & 27 Seventh Avenue North



Originally the A.J. Daniel Furniture business, this building was contracted out to Carl Kropp for its construction. It was built of tapestried brick with granite trimmings, and had two floors devoted to furniture and the top floor focused on Daniel's other business, undertaking. The 1980 renovation process was overseen by Gene Kropp, grandson of the original builder. The Annex was originally built for the funeral side of the business, and served mainly for chapel funeral services. Built in the Mediterranean Revival style, it features bouquet-faced brick and granite, as well as Ionic columns of rainbow granite. It had stained glass windows, oak pews with seating for 125, as well as a new pipe organ and a fresh-air ventilation system. The original metal address sign still hangs on the building. The Daniel family still continues in the funerary business three blocks away.

32 Oster & Peters Building
1919
809 West St. Germain St.

John Oster and Ferdinand Peters were officers of the Cold Spring Brewery. "Absolute cleanliness and purity" was their slogan. The building features a more subdued commercial style that became fashionable in the 1920's, with brown brick construction and diamond-patterned granite adorning the facade. Ironically, this building was erected the same year prohibition started.



St. Cloud Fact:
The Red River Trail passed right by St. Cloud. Used to transport furs pelts from Fort Gary (now Winnipeg) to Fort Snelling, ox carts created such a high-pitched shrill that could be heard from miles away that all activity, including church services, had to stop until the noise passed. Because of this, the trail was often referred to as the Big Squeak.

33 Wegler Cigar Factory
c.1895
813-815 West St. Germain St.



Cigar making was a family affair for Frank X. Wegler and his brother Joseph, and this building housed their business for some time. A Romanesque Revival design, it had a seven bay main facade as well as second story segmented arched window openings which lay beneath a simple brick decorative cornice. Frank learned the trade from the company Marks and Wire, and later worked in the cigar business with his father at their original location at 829 Ninth Avenue North, until he eventually took on his brother as a business partner and moved to this building. Their popular cigars included the Le Flora, City Cousin, La Vina, and the namesake De Wegler.

21 Edelbrock Block
1904
701 West St. Germain St.



Brothers August and Theodore Edelbrock were clothing and shoe merchants, and this building displays their success in early St. Cloud. Designed by architect A.J. Blik, it features red-pressed brick with granite trim. It is one of the corner commercial buildings on West St. Germain that has been maintained in excellent condition. Abbot Alexis Edelbrock, cousin to August and Theodore, built nearby St. John's University.

St. Cloud Fact:
St. Cloud's oldest building currently resides at the Stearns History Museum. Built in 1855 on Sixth Avenue South, the log cabin has served as a home, hotel, fort, jail, courthouse, and claim office, sometimes several of these at the same time. Prisoners would be put in the cellar and hotel guests in the loft.

22 Thielman Hardware
c.1895
703 West St. Germain St.

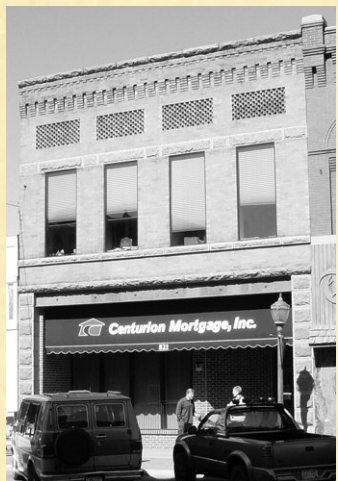
The Thielman Hardware building is a good example of modernization carried out within the spirit of the original facade, featuring yellow brick construction with granite trim. Leonard Thielman started his hardware store in 1881, and it continued on as a family business for over 100 years.



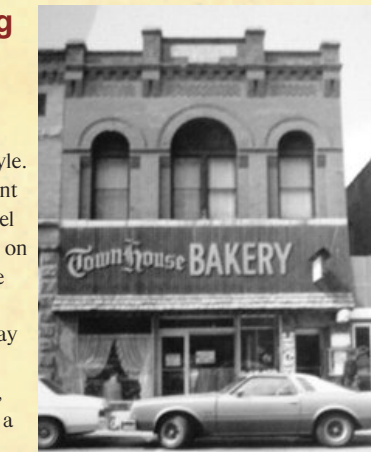
34 Hunstiger Building
1888
819 West St. Germain St.

This building was designed by Allen E. Hussey in the Romanesque Revival style. It was constructed with a red brick front and gray stone sills on three upper level windows, as well as decorative granite on the street-level entranceway. Note the rare second story window frames with incised carving that has managed to stay intact over the years. It has housed a wide variety of tenants over the years, including the Hunstiger Meat Market, a Piggly Wiggly store, a sport shop, and bakeries, including the Townhouse Bakery which resided in the building from 1971 to 2004.

St. Cloud Fact:
Monumental Sales Granite Company, founded in 1917, is a local wholesaler of granite monuments. Employing around 45 people, the company buys granite blocks the size of an average car and carves them into headstones, granite countertops, and landscaping ornaments such as bird baths.



This building was built by Carl Kropp, and was to be "modern in every respect," complete with granite front, and promised to be "superior to anything in the city." Built in the Romanesque Revival Style, it is unique with its orange-brown brick with rock-faced gray granite trim and corbelled brick cornice above four panels of decorative brickwork. The 1904 city directory lists "John Lahr, dealer in Fancy and Staple Groceries, Foods, Candies, Tobaccos, and Cigars."



23 Kusterman Saloon
c.1900
710 West St. Germain St.

This Commercial Style structure includes a painted brick facade which had been noted for its intricate and colorful geometric brickwork that included inlaid tiles and stones. It also features ornate iron balconettes at the windows, as well as a granite coping. It has been described as being "more delicate, though no less ornate, than the heavier, stronger Romanesque-inspired facades elsewhere on West St. Germain." Its namesake business, the Kusterman saloon, was located here until 1908.



24 Julius Adams Building
c.1902 & 1910
712-714 West St. Germain St.

Employing thirty-eight people, German immigrant Julius Adams manufactured cigars (among them the "Belle of St. Cloud") in this building until 1928. Designed by architect Samuel H. Haas, the Julius Adams building features unique terra cotta Ionic Capitals on the second-story level. Adams used tobacco raised around St. Cloud, and old tobacco barns can still be found south of the City. This factory was able to produce over one million cigars in 1903.



25 Hillenbrand Bakery
c.1903
713 West St. Germain St.

A Commercial Style retail building, the Hillenbrand Bakery features a light brown brick exterior with medium brown brick trim, as well as a simple decorative brick cornice, and raised brick rectangles that lie above the second-story windows and frame them. The Hillenbrand Bakery is regarded as one of the more modest buildings on West St. Germain that is still reflective of the typical commercial design of the period. George and Barbara Hillenbrand ran this store providing bakery goods, groceries, and candy.



36 Breen Hotel & Sherman Theatre
1921
901-913 West St. Germain St.



Designed by architect Leo Schaefer, the Sherman Theatre, now the Paramount, has had a long history as vaudeville, film, and legitimate theater. Opening Christmas Eve 1921, it has been referred to as "St. Cloud's largest and finest playhouse," with seating for 1,700 people. The vintage auditorium has been remodeled for contemporary use. Academy Award winning actor Gig Young, who was actually St. Cloud native Byron Barr, once worked in the theater as an usher. The Breen Hotel, now the Germain Towers, features cream-colored enameled tile ornamentation which enhances the interior. Henry Breen built the hotel for \$600,000, and his son Robert went on to become a Broadway actor.

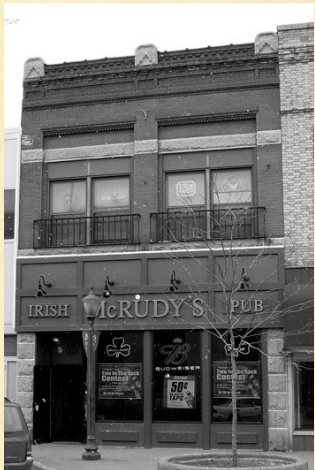
37 Knights of Columbus Building
1921
915-923 West St. Germain St.



Designed by Leo Schaefer and sharing an entrance with the Sherman Theatre, this building features brick outer walls, terra cotta trimming, and reinforced concrete construction. A three-story building, it was touted for its fireproof design and full basement. The lower floors contained shops, club rooms, and offices, while the third floor was devoted as a "spacious lounge room" measuring 95 feet long by 48 feet wide.

26 Shmallen Saloon
c.1892
715 West St. Germain St.

This building has its history firmly set in its roots of saloons and cafes. While Joseph Tessendorf, a bottler, was the earliest known tenant, it became the Shmallen Saloon in 1893 and continued as such until 1903. Other notable tenants included Wendt's Buffet and Restaurant, which had the slogan "Steaks and chops - our specialty," the Palace Candy Company, and Lahr's Chuckwagon, famous for having roast beef sandwiches patrons would form lines out the door for.



St. Cloud Fact:
Even though John Wilson is considered the Father of St. Cloud, for over 100 years there was nothing named after him. Both Wilson Park and Wilson Avenue are named after his brother Joseph, a founding member of Lower Town.

27 Federal Building
1937
720 West St. Germain St.



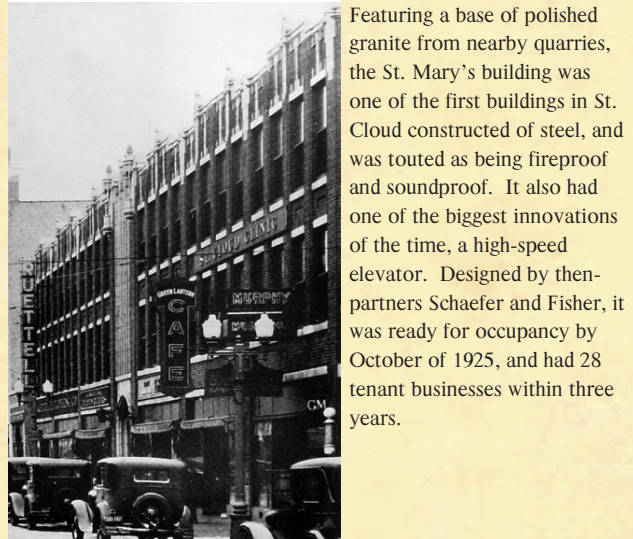
Originally built as St. Cloud's Post Office, this building retains its original WPA Modern features, including columnar windows set in bronze frames, polished granite walls, and the paired entrance light columns capped with pineapple motifs. Originally, the lobby contained a mural by artist David Granham which depicted scenes from St. Cloud's granite industry (it has since moved to the Stearns History Museum). In the 1850's, before the Federal Building was built, this was the site of the St. Benedict's Convent, which moved to St. Joseph in 1864.

38 Sivinski Furniture
1925
912 West St. Germain St.



Since its construction, the Sivinski building has been an anchor of the downtown, especially since it marks the edge of the Commercial Historic District. Having been designed by Leo Schaefer in the fashionable Commercial Style of architecture, it features a brick and ceramic tile exterior, and rectangular Chicago-style windows. The original owner was Theodore Sivinski, who used the building as a large furniture store.

39 St. Mary's Office Building
1925
830-900 West St. Germain St.



Featuring a base of polished granite from nearby quarries, the St. Mary's building was one of the first buildings in St. Cloud constructed of steel, and was touted as being fireproof and soundproof. It also had one of the biggest innovations of the time, a high-speed elevator. Designed by then-partners Schaefer and Fisher, it was ready for occupancy by October of 1925, and had 28 tenant businesses within three years.

28 Stearns County Courthouse
1921
801 First Street North



The Stearns County Courthouse, inspired by the City Beautiful movement, was restored to its original splendor in 1991. The structure reveals handsome brickwork, terra cotta banding, and polished granite columns. Inscribed in the locally-procured granite above these columns is the phrase "A landmark to civic progress, a memorial to sturdy pioneers". Also, the sculpted steer heads above the windows are a unique architectural feature unto themselves. Visitors are encouraged to view the grand staircase, marble furnishings, and the murals on the interior of the rotunda depicting Native American scenes. This building was constructed on the site of a previous red brick courthouse on land donated by St. Cloud's founder, John L. Wilson. Dwight Eisenhower spoke on the courthouse steps while campaigning for president in 1952, and scenes from the Disney movie "The Mighty Ducks" were filmed in the main courtroom.

29 Vossberg Building



For years, this saloon was known as Brauch & Uberecken's, famous for its beer and beef sandwiches. Designed by A.E. Hussey, this yellow brick building features a corbelled parapet and four arched windows that mark the facade at the second-story level.

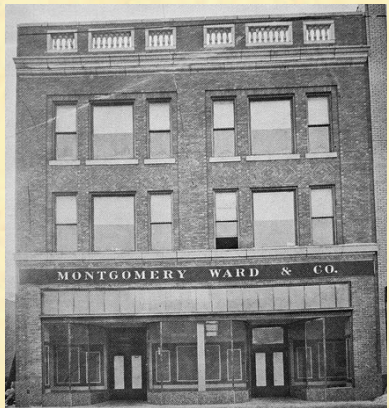
40 Granite Exchange
1929
816 West St. Germain St.



Built in conjunction with the Montgomery Ward store, the Granite Exchange was the pricier of the two, costing \$100,000 to build. Construction was funded by the Diocese of St. Cloud, and the building held offices for the Church, doctors, and local granite companies (hence the name). Designed by Louis Pinault, the Granite Exchange embodied the "latest ideas in business blocks," including a manually operated elevator and a classic granite arcade.

St. Cloud Fact:
Sauk Rapids was actually the major city in the area and a popular vacation spot for Southern sportsmen until April 14, 1886, when a twister smashed into the city, leaving one public building standing. Before that day, St. Cloud had been referred to as a "small but pretentious suburb of Sauk Rapids."

41 Montgomery Ward Building
1929
810 West St. Germain St.



Opened on January 25th, 1929, this building marked the arrival of the Montgomery Ward chain to St. Cloud and the surrounding area. It was built at a cost of \$50,000 and held an inventory valued over \$100,000 (which was very large for the time). This store was constructed by the St. Cloud Development Company, and was managed by Phil Golden, a former St. Cloud native. It sustained heavy damage in a fire in 1948.

30 Bruener Building
1892
803 West St. Germain St.

This red-pressed brick building, designed by A.E. Hussey, has one of the most distinctive second-story facades on West St. Germain, featuring leaded glass windows set in arched moldings with adorning brickwork. Theodore Bruener served as county attorney and judge of probate court. His home at 404 9th Avenue South is also listed on the National Register of Historic Places.



St. Cloud Fact:
After St. Cloud's library, which was three rooms of the West Hotel, burned down in 1901, funding for the first library building came from appeals made to such figures as James J. Hill and Andrew Carnegie. The St. Cloud Public Library opened on October 13th, 1902 and was used for over 80 years.

31 Heimann Building
1892
805 West St. Germain St.

Marked by a fine red-pressed brick cornice and parapet, this is another building designed by A.E. Hussey. An interesting feature is the granite stringcourse that ties it together with the Vossberg and Bruener building facades.



42 Northern States Power Building
1925
800 West St. Germain St.



Originally the St. Cloud Public Service Company (a division of the NSP company), this is a two story structure designed by Naimie Fisher to evoke a feeling of "welcome" to the public. It has an exterior with a polished granite base and face brick of cream and tan colors, and was trimmed with "Pulsechrome" terra cotta. The main floor originally was "entirely of Terrazzo, which is colored with black and white marble chips, divided into equal squares with black Belgian marble." It was designed from the onset with the intent of adding additional stories later, and special care was taken to use St. Cloud builders and materials whenever possible.

43 St. Mary's Cathedral
1930
25 Eighth Avenue South



This classic Basilica style church replaced a structure built in 1865 that had been destroyed by fire in 1920. St. Mary's was established for German-speaking Catholics and has been staffed by Benedictine monks from St. John's Abbey since its founding. A Byzantine-inspired church designed by architect Naimie Fisher, St. Mary's Cathedral is distinguished by such features as its tiled roof, polished granite columns, highly-crafted wooden doors, and intricate ironwork. The stained glass window in the apse features blue and white patterns from the Bavarian flag, and serve as a tribute to Bavarian King Ludwig I for his contribution to the founding of St. John's Abbey in Collegeville. Visitors might notice the appearance of a swastika on the First Street side of the church, but this is actually an ancient symbol for life and good fortune.