

United States Department of the Interior  
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places  
Inventory—Nomination Form

For NPS use only  
received **SEP 7 1983**  
date entered

See instructions in *How to Complete National Register Forms*  
Type all entries—complete applicable sections

1. Name

historic William A Catherine Davern Farm House

and/or common N/A

2. Location

street & number 1173 S. Davern Street N/A not for publication

city, town St. Paul N/A vicinity of

state Minnesota code 22 county Ramsey code 123

3. Classification

<b>Category</b>	<b>Ownership</b>	<b>Status</b>	<b>Present Use</b>
<input type="checkbox"/> district	<input type="checkbox"/> public	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> occupied	<input type="checkbox"/> agriculture
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> building(s)	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> private	<input type="checkbox"/> unoccupied	<input type="checkbox"/> commercial
<input type="checkbox"/> structure	<input type="checkbox"/> both	<input type="checkbox"/> work in progress	<input type="checkbox"/> educational
<input type="checkbox"/> site	<b>Public Acquisition</b>	<b>Accessible</b>	<input type="checkbox"/> entertainment
<input type="checkbox"/> object	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> in process	<input type="checkbox"/> yes: restricted	<input type="checkbox"/> government
	<input type="checkbox"/> being considered	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> yes: unrestricted	<input type="checkbox"/> industrial
		<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> no	<input type="checkbox"/> military
			<input type="checkbox"/> museum
			<input type="checkbox"/> park
			<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> private residence
			<input type="checkbox"/> religious
			<input type="checkbox"/> scientific
			<input type="checkbox"/> transportation
			<input type="checkbox"/> other:

4. Owner of Property

name Mr. & Mrs. Michael A. O'Brien

street & number 1173 S. Davern Street

city, town St. Paul N/A vicinity of state Minnesota

5. Location of Legal Description

courthouse, registry of deeds, etc. Ramsey County Courthouse

street & number 15 W. Kellogg Boulevard

city, town St. Paul state MN. 55102

6. Representation in Existing Surveys

title Historic Sites Survey of St. Paul & Ramsey County has this property been determined eligible?  yes  no

date 1980-1982  federal  state  county  local

depository for survey records Ramsey County Historical Society, 75 W. 5th St., Room 323

city, town St. Paul state MN. 55102

## 7. Description

### Condition

excellent  
 good  
 fair

deteriorated  
 ruins  
 unexposed

### Check one

unaltered  
 altered

### Check one

original site  
 moved date N/A

### Describe the present and original (if known) physical appearance

The Davern farm house is an Italianate style, woodframe house built ca. 1862. It is located on a large lot along the bluffs in the Highland Park neighborhood of St. Paul and is surrounded by many large middle class houses which date from ca. 1950. The main facade now is five bays wide, the northern two of which were added in 1929. The house features a basic box-like form. It has an ornate cornice with dentils and large brackets and has fairly tall, narrow rectangular windows with 2/2 and 4/4 sash and louvered shutters. A historical photograph of the house taken before the northern two bays were added reveals that the house originally had double leaf doors, rather than the present wide, panelled door which has thin sidelights and a transom. Other alterations made since that time have included removing and replacing the original chimneys, installing a rear addition and numerous interior alterations. The interior of the house does retain many of its original hardwood doors which have heavy raised panelling. The original floor plan can still be detected and the original staircase with its wide, polygonal newel post is has survived though now it is roughly at the center of the 1st floor due to the addition of the northernmost two bays (originally the staircase was along the northern side wall). The dining room has a delicately carved marble mantelpiece which was installed in 1929 when the house was owned by Clinton C. Dailey, the secretary of the Drake Marble Company. Despite the aforementioned alterations, the house retains much of its original integrity and it is in excellent condition. None of the original farm outbuildings have survived.

# 8. Significance

Period	Areas of Significance—Check and justify below			
<input type="checkbox"/> prehistoric	<input type="checkbox"/> archeology-prehistoric	<input type="checkbox"/> community planning	<input type="checkbox"/> landscape architecture	<input type="checkbox"/> religion
<input type="checkbox"/> 1400–1499	<input type="checkbox"/> archeology-historic	<input type="checkbox"/> conservation	<input type="checkbox"/> law	<input type="checkbox"/> science
<input type="checkbox"/> 1500–1599	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> agriculture	<input type="checkbox"/> economics	<input type="checkbox"/> literature	<input type="checkbox"/> sculpture
<input type="checkbox"/> 1600–1699	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> architecture	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> education	<input type="checkbox"/> military	<input type="checkbox"/> social/ humanitarian
<input type="checkbox"/> 1700–1799	<input type="checkbox"/> art	<input type="checkbox"/> engineering	<input type="checkbox"/> music	<input type="checkbox"/> theater
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 1800–1899	<input type="checkbox"/> commerce	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> exploration/settlement	<input type="checkbox"/> philosophy	<input type="checkbox"/> transportation
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 1900–	<input type="checkbox"/> communications	<input type="checkbox"/> industry	<input type="checkbox"/> politics/government	<input type="checkbox"/> other (specify)
		<input type="checkbox"/> invention		

Specific dates ca. 1862

Builder/Architect unknown

## Statement of Significance (in one paragraph)

The William and Catherine Davern Farm House is historically and architecturally significant as a rare, surviving farm house in an area of post-World War II homes, as the home of one of the first farm families to settle in the area of St. Paul which was originally known as Reserve Township, and as one of the oldest and most intact, Italianate style farm houses still standing in Ramsey County.

William Davern received a government grant of 160 acres in the old Reserve Township and built his farm house on this site ca. 1862. Davern was an Irish immigrant who came to the United States in 1848. After settling in St. Paul he became active in organizing some of the first schools in Reserve Township and was one of the original members of the Minnesota Territorial Legislature in 1849. Davern married his second wife, Catherine Ryan, in about 1860, and he was the father of thirteen children. One of Davern's main crops was barley which he sold to the local breweries. The Davern family lived in this house until 1919 when he sold it to H.B. Fuller, Jr. who was then the president of the H.B. Fuller Company. By 1929 the house was owned by Clinton C. Dailey, the secretary of the Drake Marble Company. In that year he spent \$7,000 to add two bays to the north side of the house, bringing the house to its present appearance.

*Handwritten signature and date: 2/2/5/8*

## 9. Major Bibliographical References

Empson, Donald. "Highland, Groveland, Macalester Park: The Old Reserve Township." Ramsey County History, vol. 10, no. 2, 1973.

St. Paul City Directories, 1919-1929. St. Paul: R.L. Polk & Company.

Ramsey County Historical Society Photo Collection, photo of Davern House.

## 10. Geographical Data

Acreeage of nominated property less than one

Quadrangle name St. Paul West Quad, Minnesota Quadrangle scale 7.5

### UTM References

A	1 5	4 8 6 3 6 0	4 9 7 2 3 0 0	B			
	Zone	Easting	Northing		Zone	Easting	Northing
C				D			
E				F			
G				H			

### Verbal boundary description and justification

Unplatted lands subject to Davern Street and easements, and except west 65 feet of the south 417 48/100ths feet south to 417 29/100ths feet of east 1/4 of the SW 1/4 of the SE 1/4 of Section 16, Twp 28, Range 23.

### List all states and counties for properties overlapping state or county boundaries

state	N/A	code	N/A	county	N/A	code	N/A
state	N/A	code	N/A	county	N/A	code	N/A

## 11. Form Prepared By

name/title Patricia Murphy, Survey Director

organization Historic Sites Survey of St. Paul & Ramsey County date Dec., 1982

street & number Ramsey County Historical Society, 75 W. 5th St., Room 323 telephone (612) 222-0701

city or town St. Paul state MN. 55102

## 12. State Historic Preservation Officer Certification

The evaluated significance of this property within the state is:

national  state  local

As the designated State Historic Preservation Officer for the National Historic Preservation Act of 1966 (Public Law 89-665), I hereby nominate this property for inclusion in the National Register and certify that it has been evaluated according to the criteria and procedures set forth by the National Park Service.

State Historic Preservation Officer signature

title Russell W. Fridley  
State Historic Preservation Officer

date 9/2/83

For NPS use only

I hereby certify that this property is included in the National Register

John Melvyn Byers  
Keeper of the National Register

Entered in the  
National Register

date 10/6/83

Attest:

date

Chief of Registration

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES  
EVALUATION/RETURN SHEET

Davern, William and Catherine, Farm House  
Ramsey County  
MINNESOTA

Working No. SEP 7 1983  
Fed. Reg. Date: 2.5.85  
Date Due: 10/6/83 - 10/22/83  
Action:  ACCEPT 10/6/83  
 RETURN  
 REJECT  
Federal Agency: \_\_\_\_\_

Entered in the  
National Register

- resubmission
- nomination by person or local government
- owner objection
- appeal

Substantive Review:  sample  request  appeal  NR decision

Reviewer's comments:

Recom./Criteria \_\_\_\_\_  
Reviewer \_\_\_\_\_  
Discipline \_\_\_\_\_  
Date \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_ see continuation sheet

Nomination returned for: \_\_\_\_\_ technical corrections cited below  
\_\_\_\_\_ substantive reasons discussed below

1. Name \_\_\_\_\_

2. Location \_\_\_\_\_

3. Classification

Category	Ownership	Status	Present Use
	Public Acquisition	Accessible	

4. Owner of Property \_\_\_\_\_

5. Location of Legal Description \_\_\_\_\_

6. Representation in Existing Surveys

Has this property been determined eligible?  yes  no

7. Description

- |                                    |                                       |   |
|------------------------------------|---------------------------------------|---|
| Condition                          | Check one                             | Check one                                 |
| <input type="checkbox"/> excellent | <input type="checkbox"/> deteriorated | <input type="checkbox"/> original site    |
| <input type="checkbox"/> good      | <input type="checkbox"/> ruins        | <input type="checkbox"/> moved date _____ |
| <input type="checkbox"/> fair      | <input type="checkbox"/> unexposed    |   |
|                                    | <input type="checkbox"/> unaltered    |   |
|                                    | <input type="checkbox"/> altered      |   |

Describe the present and original (if known) physical appearance

- summary paragraph
- completeness
- clarity
- alterations/integrity
- dates
- boundary selection

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**8. Significance**

Period \_\_\_\_\_ Areas of Significance—Check and justify below

Specific dates \_\_\_\_\_ Builder/Architect \_\_\_\_\_

Statement of Significance (*in one paragraph*)

- summary paragraph
- completeness
- clarity
- applicable criteria
- justification of areas checked
- relating significance to the resource
- context
- relationship of integrity to significance
- justification of exception
- other

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**9. Major Bibliographical References**

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**10. Geographical Data**

Acreege of nominated property \_\_\_\_\_

Quadrangle name \_\_\_\_\_

UTM References \_\_\_\_\_

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Verbal boundary description and justification

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**11. Form Prepared By**

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**12. State Historic Preservation Officer Certification**

The evaluated significance of this property within the state is:

\_\_\_\_ national      \_\_\_\_ state      \_\_\_\_ local

State Historic Preservation Officer signature

title \_\_\_\_\_ date \_\_\_\_\_

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**13. Other**

- Maps
- Photographs
- Other

Questions concerning this nomination may be directed to \_\_\_\_\_

Signed \_\_\_\_\_ Date \_\_\_\_\_ Phone: \_\_\_\_\_



MR2.9  
SP3.2h

r2

16144

William & Catherine Davern  
Farm House  
St. Paul, Ramsey County, MN  
Photographer: unknown  
1929  
Minnesota Historical Society, 690  
Cedar St., St. Paul, MN 55101  
Looking northwest  
16144



16143

MRA.9  
SP3.2h

r1

William & Catherine Davern  
Farm House  
St. Paul, Ramsey County, MN  
Photographer: unknown  
1929  
Minnesota Historical Society, 690  
Cedar St., St. Paul, MN 55101  
Looking northwest  
16143

FROM THE COLLECTIONS OF THE  
MINNESOTA HISTORICAL SOCIETY  
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(Title 17 U. S. Code)



William & Catherine Davern  
Farm House  
St. Paul, Ramsey County, MN  
Susan Roth  
1983  
Minnesota Historical Society, 690  
Cedar St., St. Paul, MN 55101  
Looking northwest  
05863/12



William & Catherine Davern  
Farm House  
St. Paul, Ramsey County, MN  
Susan Roth  
1983  
Minnesota Historical Society, 690  
Cedar St., St. Paul, MN 55101  
Looking southwest  
05863/16



William & Catherine Davern

Farm House

St. Paul, Ramsey County, MN

Susan Roth

1983

Minnesota Historical Society, 690

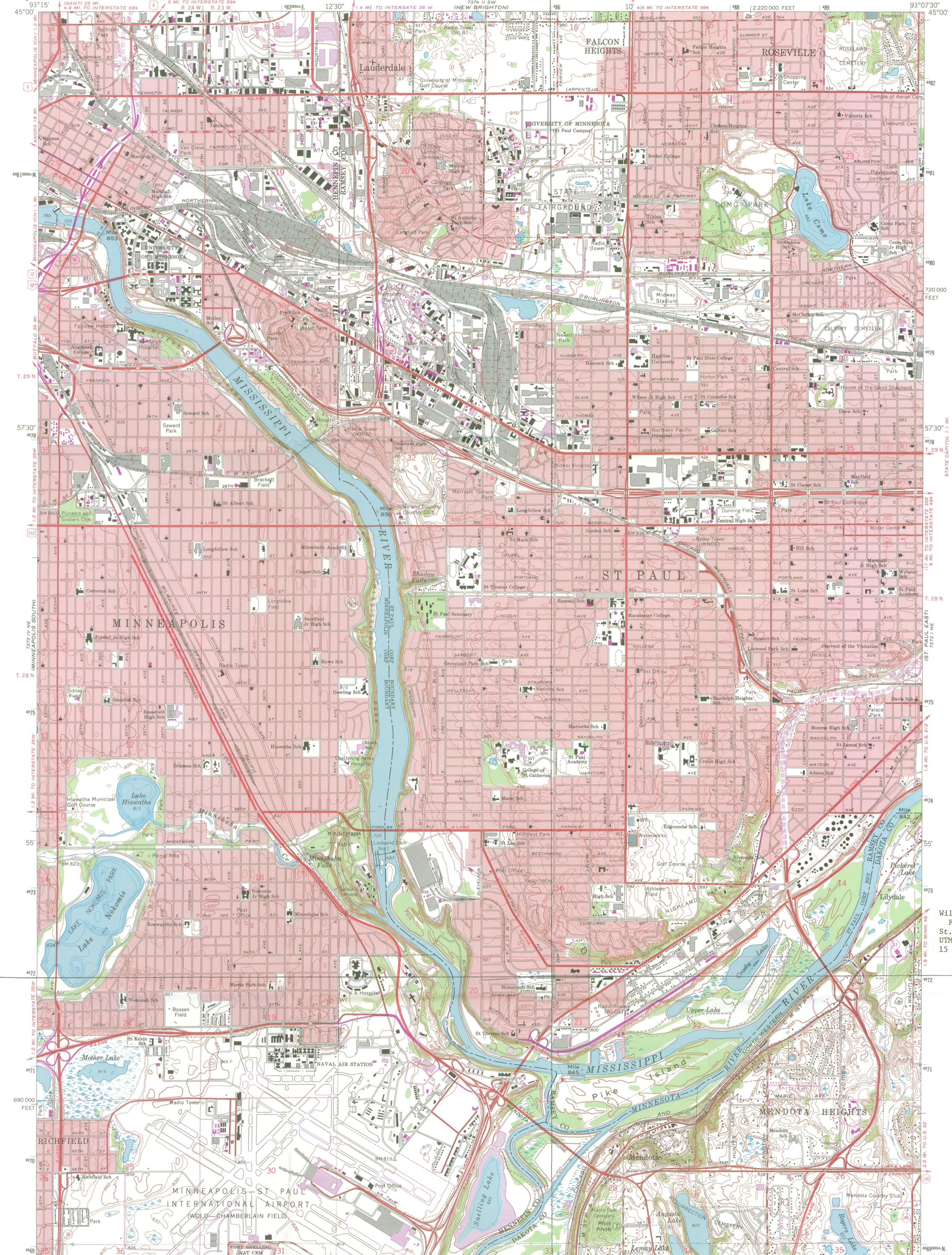
Cedar St., St. Paul, MN 55101

Looking southeast

05863/18

UNITED STATES  
DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR  
GEOLOGICAL SURVEY

ST. PAUL WEST QUADRANGLE  
MINNESOTA  
7.5 MINUTE SERIES (TOPOGRAPHIC)  
NW/4 ST. PAUL 15' QUADRANGLE



Mapped, edited, and published by the Geological Survey

Control by USGS and USC&GS

Topography by photogrammetric methods from aerial photographs taken 1947 and planetable surveys 1951. Revision from aerial photographs taken 1966. Field checked 1967

Hydrography compiled from information furnished by Minnesota Department of Conservation

Polyconic projection... 1927 North American datum 10,000-foot grid based on Minnesota coordinate system, south zone 1000-meter Universal Transverse Mercator grid ticks, zone 15, shown in blue

Red tint indicates areas in which only landmark buildings are shown

Dotted land lines established by private survey



CONTOUR INTERVAL 10 FEET  
DATUM IS MEAN SEA LEVEL

ROAD CLASSIFICATION

Heavy-duty	Light-duty
Medium-duty	Unimproved dirt
Interstate Route	U. S. Route
	State Route



QUADRANGLE LOCATION

ST. PAUL WEST, MINN.  
NW/4 ST. PAUL 15' QUADRANGLE  
N4452.5—W9307.5/7.5

1967  
PHOTOREVISED 1972  
AMS 7371 NW—SERIES 9872

THIS MAP COMPLIES WITH NATIONAL MAP ACCURACY STANDARDS  
FOR SALE BY U. S. GEOLOGICAL SURVEY, DENVER, COLORADO 80225, OR WASHINGTON, D. C. 20242  
A FOLDER DESCRIBING TOPOGRAPHIC MAPS AND SYMBOLS IS AVAILABLE ON REQUEST

Revisions shown in purple compiled from aerial photographs taken 1972. This information not field checked

William & Catherine D'Avern  
Farm House  
St. Paul, MN; Ramsey County  
UTM References  
15 / 486360 / 4972300

B108