

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places Inventory—Nomination Form

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

For NPS use only

received JAN 19 1984

date entered

1. Name

historic Olaf Lee House

and/or common N/A

2. Location

street & number 955 N. Jessie Street N/A not for publication

city, town St. Paul N/A vicinity of

state Minnesota code 22 county Ramsey code 123

3. Classification

Category	Ownership	Status	Present Use
<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	Public Acquisition	Accessible	<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 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 Gary Sipes

street & number 955 North Jessie Street

city, town St. Paul N/A vicinity of state MN 55101

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 and 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., #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 Olaf Lee House is located at 955 N. Jessie Street in a residential neighborhood a few blocks west of Payne Avenue, a major commercial street in St. Paul's Payne-Phalen neighborhood. The two-and-one-half story woodframe house is 32' wide by 44' long by 34' tall. It sits on a limestone block foundation. The first two floors of the exterior are clad in narrow clapboardsiding while the attic level is faced in stucco with inlaid wood boards creating a half-timbered, zigzag effect. The house has a jerkinhead roof with intersecting gables. It has wide, overhanging eaves supported by huge, ornately carved drooping wood brackets. On the three bay main facade, the jerkinhead roof shelters a recessed, attic level balcony which has a balustrade of vertical wood slats with cut out patterning. On the main facade the attic story juts out over the second and is supported by huge, ornately carved brackets. A one story porch spans the main facade. It has a limestone base, and square piers with carved brackets. On the north side of the main facade there is a two story, three-sided bay window--the only feature of the main facade which is not a symmetrical element. The north side wall also has a three-sided bay window--it extends up to the gable end. A large band of wood molding divides the first and second stories on the side and rear walls. At the back of the house there is a one story, flat roofed wing. The house retains almost all of its original window sash, and has several very ornate stained glass windows with detailing reminiscent of the Art Nouveau style. The house has undergone few exterior alterations, though its front porch has been screened in, and the house was converted to a duplex in the 1930's. Though the foundation of the house appears to be in need of repair, the house is in otherwise good exterior condition. It features a dark red, evergreen and cream paint color scheme which seems quite sympathetic to the original design and may well be original.

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 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 type="checkbox"/> education	<input type="checkbox"/> military	<input type="checkbox"/> social/
<input type="checkbox"/> 1700–1799	<input type="checkbox"/> art	<input type="checkbox"/> engineering	<input type="checkbox"/> music	<input type="checkbox"/> humanitarian
<input type="checkbox"/> 1800–1899	<input type="checkbox"/> commerce	<input type="checkbox"/> exploration/settlement	<input type="checkbox"/> philosophy	<input type="checkbox"/> theater
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 1900–	<input type="checkbox"/> communications	<input type="checkbox"/> industry	<input type="checkbox"/> politics/government	<input type="checkbox"/> transportation
		<input type="checkbox"/> invention		<input type="checkbox"/> other (specify)

Specific dates 1905 **Builder/Architect** architect: Clarence H. Johnston, Sr.
builder: Fred C. Norlander

Statement of Significance (in one paragraph)

The Olaf Lee House, built in 1905, is architecturally significant for its unusual, eclectic design which combines Swiss Chalet, Craftsman and other elements into a convincing composition, making it the most sophisticated turn of the century house in the Payne Phalen neighborhood. The house is also one of few designs in this part of St. Paul by one of the city's most prominent and prolific architects, Clarence H. Johnston, Sr. (1859-1936) who designed dozens of houses in St. Paul's Ramsey and Summit Hill neighborhood, numerous commercial buildings in St. Paul and many school and public buildings throughout the state. The house was built at an estimated cost of \$5,000, according to the building permit, and its original owner and occupant was Olaf Lee, a druggist who owned two pharmacies near his house--one at 908 N. Payne Avenue; the other at 966 N. Arcade Street. The Lee family lived in the house until Olaf Lee's death (4/9/1937). Lee's widow then moved to 988 Fairmount Avenue and sold the house to Fred Schwartz, a salesman for the East Side Motors Company. Members of the Schwartz family owned the house until 1982.

Entered in the
National Register

9. Major Bibliographical References

City of St. Paul Building Permits Division, Permit #44850.

Polk's St. Paul City Directories, 1905-1939.

Historic Sites Survey of St. Paul and Ramsey County Architect & Contractor File, survey form on 955 N. Jessie Street.

10. Geographical Data

Acreeage of nominated property less than 1 acre

Quadrangle name St. Paul East

Quadrangle scale 7.5

UTM References

A

1	5
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4	9	3	6	8	0
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4	9	7	9	3	8	0
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Zone Easting Northing

B

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Zone Easting Northing

C

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F

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H

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Verbal boundary description and justification
Addition.

Lots 11 and 12, Block 13, Edmund Rice's First

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, Director, Historic Sites Survey of St. Paul & Ramsey County

organization Ramsey County Historical Society

date 6/1983

street & number 75 W. 5th Street, Room 323

telephone (612) 222-0701

city or town St. Paul

state Minnesota 55102

12. State Historic Preservation Officer Certification

The evaluated significance of this property within the state is:

 national state X 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

Russell W. Fridley

title Russell W. Fridley
State Historic Preservation Officer

date 1/11/84

For NPS use only

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

Entered in the
National Register

date 2/6/84

for *Melrose Byers*
Keeper of the National Register

Attest:

date

Chief of Registration

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
EVALUATION/RETURN SHEET

Lee, Olaf, House
Ramsey County
MINNESOTA

Working No. JAN 19 1984

Fed. Reg. Date: 2-5-85

Date Due: 2/16/84 - 3/4/84

Action: ACCEPT 2/16/84

Entered in the RETURN
National Register REJECT

Federal Agency: _____

- ☐ 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

- ☐ excellent
☐ good
☐ fair

- ☐ deteriorated
☐ ruins
☐ unexposed

Check one

- ☐ unaltered
☐ altered

Check one

- ☐ original site
☐ moved date _____

Describe the present and original (if known) physical appearance

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

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

9. Major Bibliographical References

10. Geographical Data

Acreage of nominated property _____

Quadrangle name _____

UTM References _____

Verbal boundary description and justification _____

11. Form Prepared By

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

13. Other

- ☐ Maps
- ☐ Photographs
- ☐ Other

Questions concerning this nomination may be directed to _____

Signed _____ Date _____ Phone: _____

Comments for any item may be continued on an attached sheet



06059#15

Olaf Lee House
St. Paul, MN; Ramsey County
1983
Susan Roth
Minnesota Historical Society, 690
Cedar Street, St. Paul, MN 55101
Looking northwest
06059/15

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06059# 13

Olaf Lee House
St. Paul, MN; Ramsey County
1983
Susan Roth
Minnesota Historical Society, 690
Cedar Street, St. Paul, MN 55101
South (front) elevation
06059/13

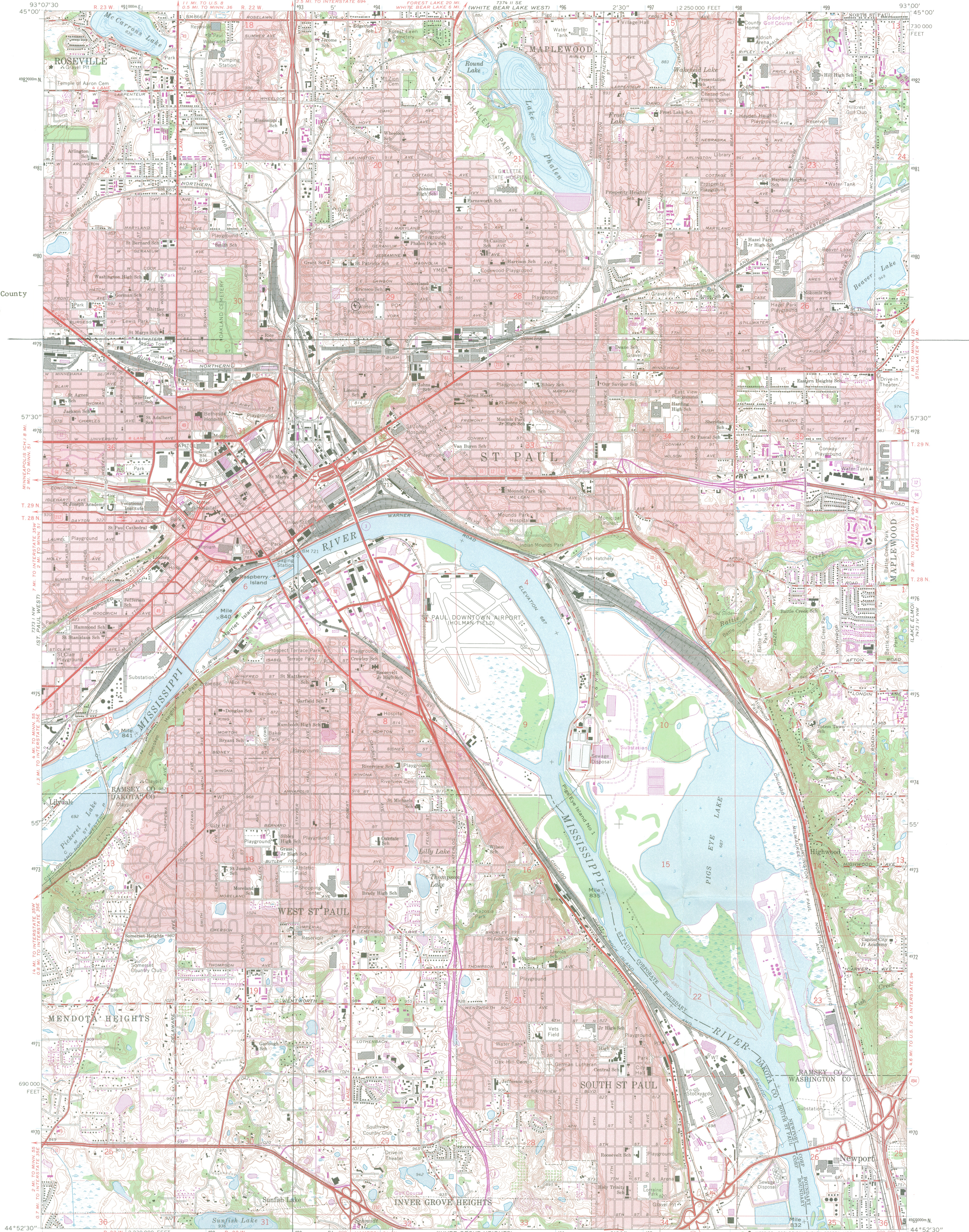
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UNITED STATES
DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
GEOLOGICAL SURVEY

ST. PAUL EAST QUADRANGLE
MINNESOTA
7.5 MINUTE SERIES (TOPOGRAPHIC)
NE/4 ST. PAUL 15' QUADRANGLE

Olaf Lee House
St. Paul, MN; Ramsey County
UTM References
15 / 493680 / 4979380



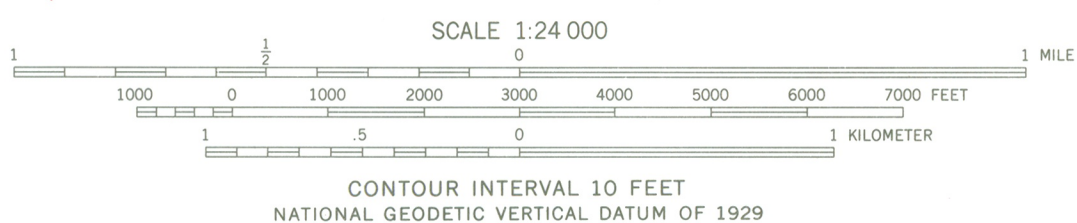
Mapped, edited, and published by the Geological Survey
Control by USGS, USC&GS, and USCE

Topography by photogrammetric methods from aerial photographs
taken 1947. Field checked 1951. Revised 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
To place on the predicted North American Datum 1983
move the projection lines 7 meters north and
17 meters east as shown by dashed corner ticks



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



ST. PAUL EAST, MINN.
NE/4 ST. PAUL 15' QUADRANGLE
N4452.5—W9300/7.5

1967
PHOTOREVISED 1972 AND 1980
DMA 7373 I NE—SERIES V872

THIS MAP COMPLIES WITH NATIONAL MAP ACCURACY STANDARDS
FOR SALE BY U.S. GEOLOGICAL SURVEY, RESTON, VIRGINIA 22092
A FOLDER DESCRIBING TOPOGRAPHIC MAPS AND SYMBOLS IS AVAILABLE ON REQUEST

Revisions shown in purple compiled from aerial
photographs taken 1972 and 1977. Map edited 1980
This information not field checked
Purple tint indicates extension of urban area

A103