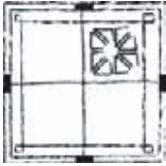


# UNIFIED VISION

THE ARCHITECTURE AND DESIGN OF THE PRAIRIE SCHOOL



## ARCHITECTURAL TOUR:



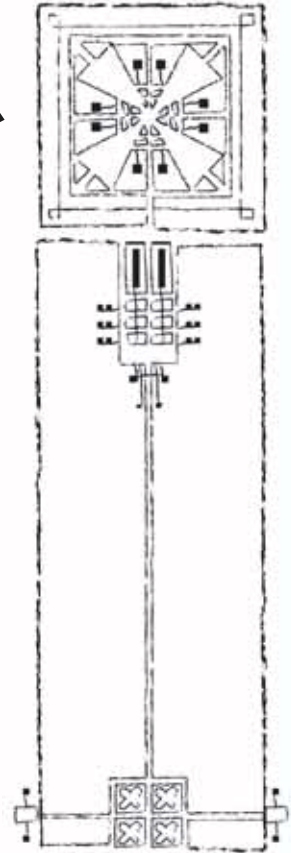
# GREATER MINNESOTA

The nine buildings in the Greater Minnesota tour include three examples of the great Midwestern Prairie School bank type, with opulent structures by Louis Sullivan (considered the father of the Prairie School), George Washington Maher, and the team of Purcell, Feick, and Elmslie. The terrain covered includes St. Paul, Red Wing, Winona, and Owatonna.

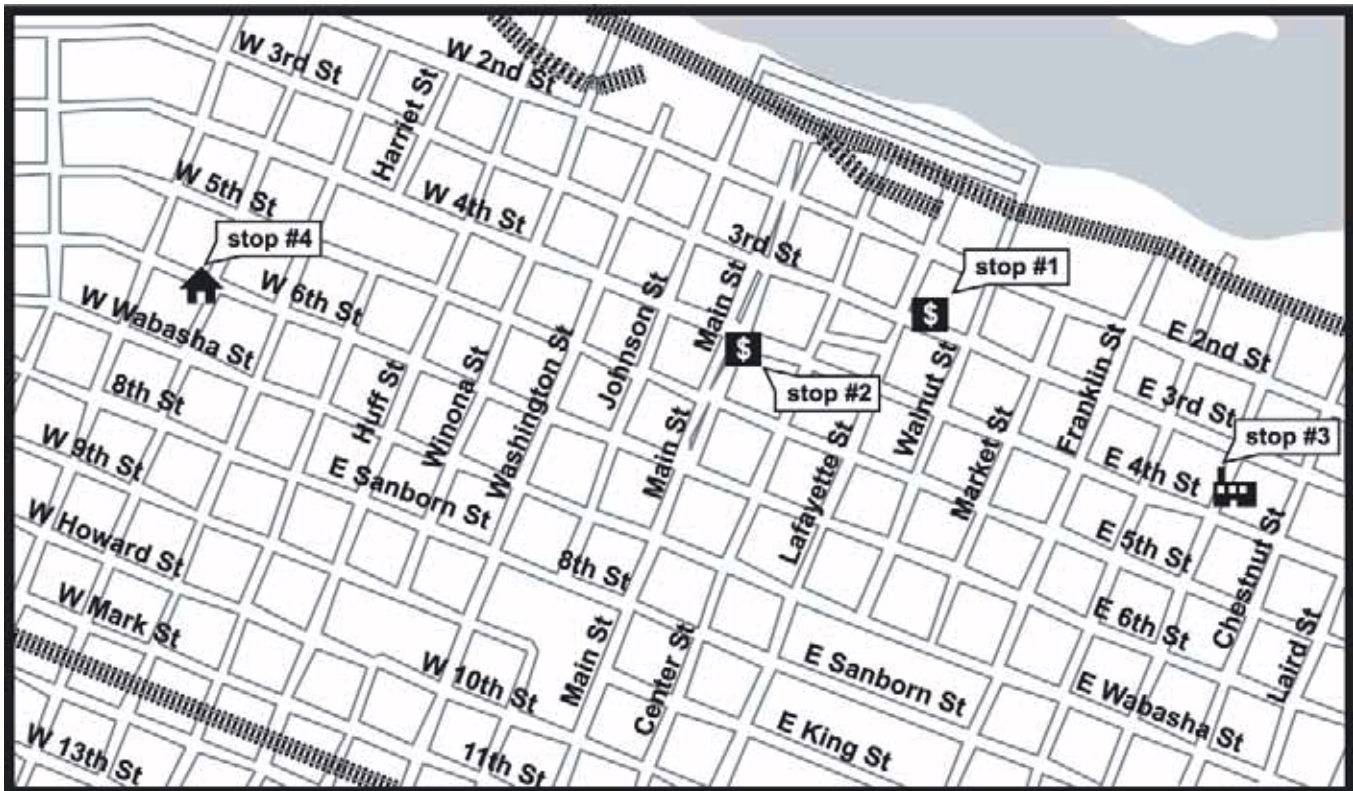
Some of these stops are enhanced with audio interviews.

This printed tour guide will tell you when to call (612) 870-6446 to hear the recordings on your cell phone.

Look for this icon:



## WINONA



# MERCHANTS NATIONAL BANK



Stop #1

102 East 3rd Street  
Winona

The Merchants National Bank is located on the corner of E 3rd Street and Lafayette Street in Winona.

**Merchants National Bank Lobby Hours:**  
Monday - Thursday: 9am to 4pm  
Friday: 9am to 5pm



Architects: Purcell, Feick, and Elmslie  
Year: 1911 - 12



Call (612) 870-6446 and press 5 to hear a recorded interview with Mary Gordon from Merchant's National Bank Marketing Department. (1 minute, 18 seconds)

# MERCHANTS NATIONAL BANK

Purcell and Elmslie designed several Midwestern banks; these square, brick buildings with art-glass windows embodied the qualities of solidity and stability important to bankers and their customers. Purcell and Elmslie's largest and most elaborate bank was the Merchants National Bank of Winona, which still functions as a bank. As in many of their banks, local agriculture is represented on the exterior by stylized grain motifs executed in glazed terra cotta, while murals of farm scenes adorn the inside walls. The iconography of American business and values continues in the elaborate glazed terra-cotta decoration over the entrance, featuring an American eagle. Piers, a somewhat classical architectural detail that signifies strength and solidity, are part of the facade, where they are capped with the organic ornament typical of progressive architecture.

The unified design continues on the inside. Light from the art-glass window walls and skylight brings the outside in. Vertical light standards with round globes, similar to those used in the Purcell-Cutts House a year later, echo the geometry of the building. Albert Fleury, a Chicago artist patronized by Sullivan as well as Purcell and Elmslie, painted the mural. (Purcell purchased Fleury's painting *Chicago River* for his own house in Minneapolis.) Even the chairs for the bank directors' boardroom are cubelike, a reference to the building's shape; two of these chairs are in the collection of The Minneapolis Institute of Arts. The building's interior had been "modernized" over the years, and in 1972, it was extensively restored to replace and uncover interior elements such as the skylight, which had been covered over, and the light standards, which had been removed. In the 1990s, the bank was expanded to the rear in a manner that maintained the spirit of the original building.

When looking at any of these buildings in person, please respect the privacy of the people who live and work in them.

## HISTORIC PHOTOS:



Merchants National Bank,  
Winona  
Photo: Northwest Architectural Archives



Lobby  
Merchants National Bank,  
Winona  
Photo: Northwest Architectural Archives

# WINONA NATIONAL AND SAVINGS BANK

Stop # 2

204 Main Street  
Winona



The Winona National and Savings Bank is located on Main Street between West Fourth Street and West Fifth Street in Winona.



## Winona National and Savings Bank Hours of Operation:

Monday - Friday: 8:30am to 5pm  
Saturday: 9am to noon



Architect: George Washington Maher  
Year: 1914



Call (612) 870-6446 and press 8 to hear a recorded interview with Jack Richter, Chairman and CEO of the Winona National and Savings Bank. (3 minutes, 37 seconds)

# WINONA NATIONAL AND SAVINGS BANK

The Watkins Company, which had commissioned Maher to design its headquarters in 1911 (see next stop), controlled the Winona National and Savings Bank. It is instructive to compare Maher's bank design to Purcell and Elmslie's Merchants Bank of Winona (previous stop). The Winona National and Savings Bank conveys solidity through a symmetrical stone façade and three-story portico with monumental columns flanked by pylons. Although the pylons and the lotus decorative motif used inside are characteristics of the Egyptian-revival style, the overall decor of the bank and the luxurious materials used (imported marbles and bronze on the interior) are typical of Beaux-Arts classicism. The unified organic design of the windows and railings, however, is a hallmark of the Prairie School. Tiffany produced the glass as well as the bronze railings and other decorative elements.

When looking at any of these buildings in person, please respect the privacy of the people who live and work in them.

## HISTORIC PHOTOS:

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Winona National and Savings Bank,  
Winona

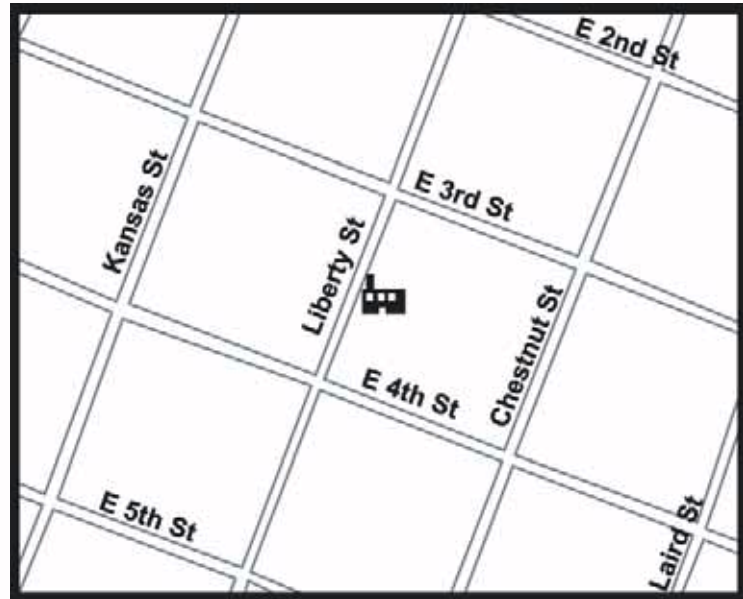
# J.R. WATKINS MEDICAL PRODUCTS COMPANY

Stop #3

150 - 178 Liberty Street  
Winona



The J.R. Watkins Medical Products Company is located on Liberty Street between E 3rd Street and E 4th Street in Winona.



**Watkins Heritage Museum**  
150 Liberty Street

Monday - Friday: 10am to 4pm  
Saturday: 10am to 2pm



Architect: George Washington Maher  
Year: 1911 - 13



Call (612) 870-6446 and press 6 to hear a recorded interview with Mark Jacobs, President and CEO of J.R. Watkins Medical Products Company. (2 minutes, 53 seconds)

# J.R. WATKINS MEDICAL PRODUCTS COMPANY

This was the first of three progressive commissions Maher carried out in Winona for the Watkins family, one of his wealthiest clients; they also commissioned him to design a house, Rockledge (since razed, see Razed Structures Tour), and the Winona National and Savings Bank (see previous tour stop). The Watkins Company, founded in 1868 as a manufacturer of patent medicines, continues to occupy the office and manufacturing buildings; the former was designed in 1911, the latter in 1913. The luxurious main offices, finished in 1912, were executed in Maher's trademark classical-modern style. Highly symmetrical, the marble-clad building has a central domed entrance hall that features a large art-glass window depicting Sugar Loaf Mountain, a Winona landmark; gold leaf covers the dome's interior. Art-glass lunettes adorn the north and south entrances, and art-glass skylights illuminate the office spaces. Maher and Louis J. Millet, who worked with Sullivan and Elmslie on the glass for the National Farmers' Bank in Owatonna, collaborated on the window design. The building houses a small museum that tells the history of the company.

When looking at any of these buildings in person, please respect the privacy of the people who live and work in them.

## HISTORIC PHOTOS:



J.R. Watkins Medical Products Company,  
Winona



Interior  
J.R. Watkins Medical Products Company,  
Winona

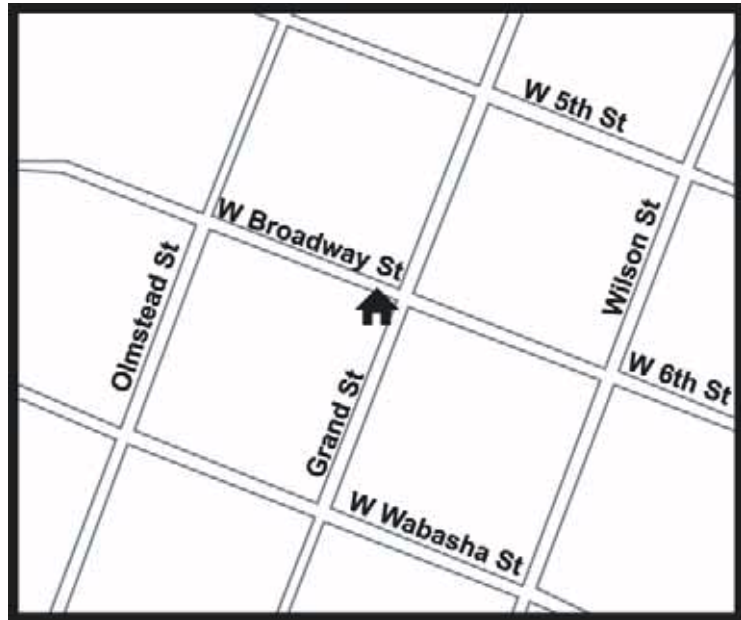
# GALLAGHER HOUSE

Stop # 4

451 Broadway West  
Winona



The Gallagher House is located on the corner of W Broadway Street (W 6th Street) and Grand Street in Winona.



Architects: Purcell, Feick, and Elmslie  
Year: 1913



# GALLAGHER HOUSE

The firm designed this side-gabled house with some nice details, such as a five-sided corner bay window for the living room, exterior trim detailing including organic sawed wood decoration, several leaded glass windows, and a planter at the entry. The "living porch" extending to the left has been enclosed.

When looking at any of these buildings in person, please respect the privacy of the people who live and work in them.

## HISTORIC PHOTOS:



Gallagher House,  
Winona  
Photo: Northwest Architectural Archives



Gallagher House,  
Winona  
Photo: Northwest Architectural Archives



Entryway  
Gallagher House,  
Winona  
Photo: Northwest Architectural Archives