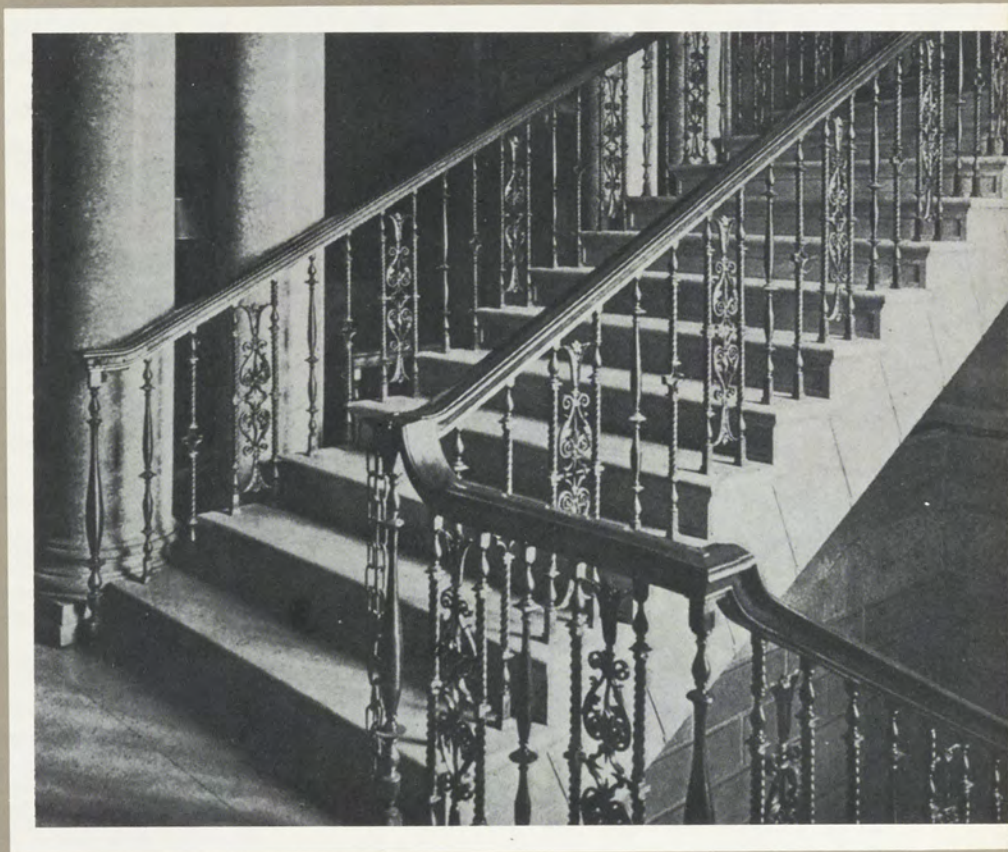




Ramsey County Historical Society
"History close to home"
Landmark Center, 75 W. 5th St.
St. Paul, MN 55102

RAMSEY COUNTY HISTORY

**The St. Paul
Public Library's
100 Years**



Volume 18
Number 1

Ramsey County History

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ON THE COVER: Detail of a stairway — St. Paul Public Library. This photograph by Kenneth Clark appeared originally with an article on the St. Paul Public Library and its architect, Electus Litchfield, published in the January, 1920, issue of *The Architectural Record*, a monthly magazine published in New York.

ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS: Photographs on pages 3, 5, and 11 are from the collections of the Minnesota Historical Society. The panorama of St. Paul on page 6 is from the Ramsey County Historical Society photographic collection. Photographs on pages 7, 8, 14, 16, 18, 19, and 20 are from the St. Paul Public Library. The picture on page 15 is also from the January, 1920, issue of *The Architectural Record*. The sketch of the library's interior on page 12, also from the Minnesota Historical Society, originally accompanied an article by William Dawson Johnston, entitled "The New St. Paul Public Library" and published in the February, 1918, issue of *Western Magazine*.

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THE GIBBS HOUSE

at 2097 West Larpenteur Avenue, Falcon Heights, is owned and maintained by the Ramsey County Historical Society as a restored farm house of the mid-nineteenth century period.

The Ramsey County Historical Society was founded in 1949. Its chief function is to collect and preserve the history of the city and the county and share that history with the people who live here. The Society is the county's historian. It preserves those things from the past that are the community's treasures — its written records through the Society's library; its historic sites through establishment of the Irvine Park Historic District and its successful efforts to help prevent destruction of the Old Federal Courts Building, now Landmark Center. It shares these records through the publishing of its magazine, brochures, pamphlets, and prints; through conducting historic sites tours of the city, teaching classes, producing exhibits on the history of the city, and maintaining its museum on rural county history. The Gibbs Farm Museum, the oldest remaining farm home in Ramsey County, was acquired by the Society in 1949 and opened to the public in 1954 as a museum which would depict the way of life of an early Minnesota settler. In 1966 the Society moved onto the property a one-room rural country schoolhouse dating from the 1870s. Now restored to the period of the late 1890s, the school is used for classes, meetings, and as the center for a summer schoolhouse program for children.

Society headquarters are located in Landmark Center, an historic Richardsonian Romanesque structure in downtown St. Paul, where it maintains the center's only permanent exhibit, a history of the building during the seventy-five years it was the federal government's headquarters in St. Paul.

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