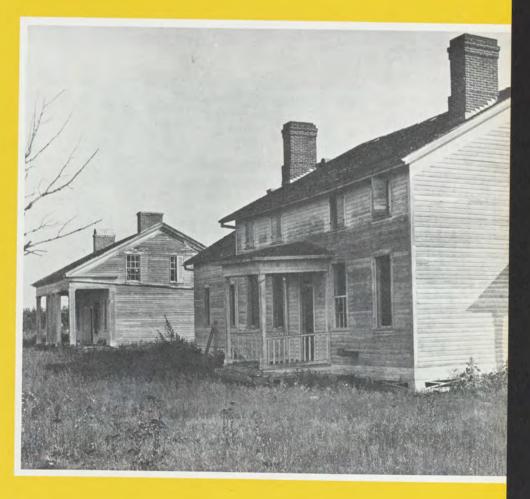
RAMSEY COUNTY HISTORY



Spring

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welcomed but, since the Society is an eleemosynary

institution, no payment can be made for contributions.

All articles and other editorial material submitted will

be carefully read and published, if accepted, as space

ON THE COVER: The officers quarters at Fort Ripley had long since been deserted when Edward A. Bromley, the Minneapolis photographer and collector published this brooding picture of the old fort in 1906. He may

ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS: Unless otherwise indicated, pictures used in this issue are from the audiovisual library of the Minnesota Historical Society. The editor is indebted to Eugene Becker and Dorothy Gimmestad, of the state historical society's audiovisual staff, for their help.

have taken the picture himself.

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permits.

IRVINE PARK - And Its Faded But Splendid Man



Eighty years ago Irvin lovely homes with space Today the little park a ing it make up a sp downtown. A cluster architecturally signifi found in the area. Bu interest and importan dating from 1849, and St. Paul parks — a d mansions near it. The of the state's second g by the Minnesota H block off the park. T which face the par and below.









ansions

o Irvine Park was an area of h spacious lawns and gardens. bark and the blocks surrounda special enclave close to cluster of historic sites and significant buildings can be a. But what may be of most bortance is the park itself — 9, and one of the three oldest - and the splendid but fading t. The Ramsey House, home configovernor and now owned ota Historical Society, is a ark. Two magnificent houses a park are shown at right



Horace R. Bigelow's house, shown below at far left, stood on the corner of Walnut and Exchange streets, across Walnut from Governor Ramsey's house. A smaller, earlier Bigelow house originally stood on the Ramsey House site, then was moved across the street and incorporated into the Bigelow mansion. The house has been torn down and a manufacturing firm occupies the site, as shown by the photo, below, of Irvine Park today. The fountain also has disappeared but is said to be stored away in a garage somewhere in St. Paul.





THE GIBBS HOUSE

Headquarters of the Ramsey County Historical Society, 2097 Larpenteur Avenue West, St. Paul, Minnesota.

T HE Ramsey County Historical Society was founded in 1949. During the following years the Society, believing that a sense of history is of great importance in giving a new, mobile generation a knowledge of its roots in the past, acquired the 100-year-old farm home which had belonged to Heman R. Gibbs. The Society restored the Gibbs House and in 1954 opened it to the public as a museum which would depict the way of life of an early Minnesota settler.

In 1958, the Society erected a barn behind the farm house which is maintained as an agricultural museum to display the tools and other implements used by the men who broke up the prairie soil and farmed with horse and oxen. In 1966, the Society moved to its museum property a one-room rural schoolhouse, dating from the 1870's. The white frame school came from near Milan, Minnesota. Now restored to the period of the late 1890's, the school actually is used for classes and meetings. In the basement beneath the school building, the Society has its office, library and collections. In 1968, the Society acquired from the University of Minnesota the use of the white barn adjoining the Society's property. Here is housed a collection of carriages and sleighs which once belonged to James J. Hill.

Today, in addition to maintaining the Gibbs property, the Ramsey County Historical Society is active in the preservation of historic sites in Ramsey county, conducts tours, prepares pamphlets and other publications, organizes demonstrations of pioneer crafts and maintains a Speakers' Bureau for schools and organizations. It is the Society's hope that through its work the rich heritage of the sturdy men and women who were the pioneers of Ramsey County will be preserved for future generations.