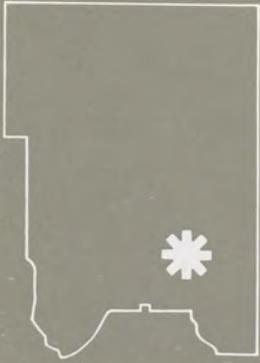


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Ramsey County Historical Society
"History close to home"
Landmark Center, 75 W. 5th St.
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RAMSEY COUNTY HISTORY



Volume 16
Number 1

Ramsey County History

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Cover Photo: David B. Shepard's mausoleum, the first built at Oakland Cemetery. With the earth mounded up behind it, the mausoleum violated neither the spirit nor the intent of the cemetery's policy concerning burials. This and all other photographs in this issue are by Jim Fridley, staff photographer for the Ramsey County Historical Society.

Cemetery Art . . .

. . . has graced burial sites since ancient man first began to adorn the tombs of his dead. Even today nearly every community possesses a collection of sculpture within the grounds of its cemetery. Most forms of memorial art can be found at Oakland, from simple Grecian "milestones" to classic temples and shafts. Below is the Benz family plot marked by a pensive angel.



Gnarled "trees," captured in stone, were a favorite form during the Victorian era, as was the grieving figure, clad in flowing robes, surmounting the Lambrecht family's monument.





Classic lines of the monument marking the graves of members of the International Order of Odd Fellows contrast with the simplicity of the public memorial, below, showing Christ as a shepherd and the Twenty-third Psalm.





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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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