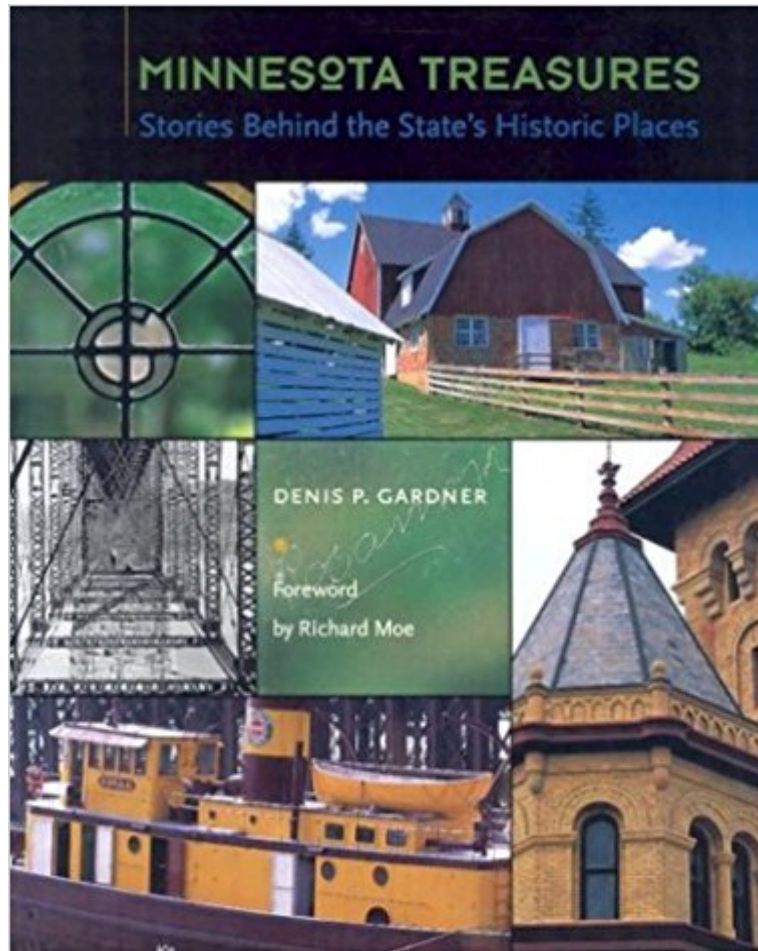




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Minnesota Treasures: Stories Behind The State's Historic Places



Synopsis

Why should we save the historic buildings in our cities and towns? What makes a building a historic landmark? What can we uncover of Minnesota's history by studying its historic structures? What do building and sites tell us about time and place, experience and memory, people and their needs? Historian Denis P. Gardner beckons us to learn about the profound value of historic buildings and places in this engaging collection of essays. His stories, accompanied by gorgeous color photographs, tell the very human side of our state's history by showcasing some of the state's gathering places, houses, commercial hubs, industrial and agricultural properties, and Native American sites that hold our collective history. Read about Guri Endreson, a Norwegian immigrant widow who defiantly returned to the family's small log cabin near Willmar after her husband and son were killed in the U.S. - Dakota Conflict - and see the evocative photograph of the log structure as it stands today. Or hear of the second-most famous aviator in Minnesota history, Bernard H. Pietenpol, who built airplanes in his garage/workshop in the heart of Cherry Grove, and see one of his prototype airplanes preserved for display. Learn of the wood-framed Classical Hennepin County house of one of Minnesota's most prominent African Americans, Lena Olive Smith, and hear how Smith, the first African American woman licensed to practice law in Minnesota, was a tireless crusader for equal rights.

Book Information

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Customer Reviews

"Minnesota Treasures is an engrossing book . . . the stories of the personalities behind each historic place are a powerful reminder that culture is created by people; the buildings and environments are

simply a palimpsest of those individual spirits and cultural experiences that have shaped our state from its beginning, and before."-- Bruce N. Wright, co-author of *Ralph Rapson: Sixty Years of Modern Design* "What a marvelous book! Gardner's work has a human, almost spiritual perspective. Anyone whose curiosity has been aroused by an old homestead, a walk through a small town, or a feature on the landscape, quickly realizes that there to be discovered is an essence that transcends mere physical attributes. Minnesota Treasures celebrates these discoveries as the spirit of a heritage that is not only all around us, but is a part of us: a treasure we cannot afford to lose." -- Charles W. Nelson, Minnesota State Historical Architect

Denis P. Gardner is a historian, writer, and photographer who has documented properties for the National Register of Historic Places and the Historic American Engineering Record. He contributes to the feature "LandMarks" in Minnesota History magazine.

You can tell the author put a lot of research into this book. He assembled an interesting - often fascinating - story behind each subject. This isn't a bunch of crummy pictures with captions you or I could glean from two minutes on Google. If you like Minnesota or architectural history, this book is well worth the investment.

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