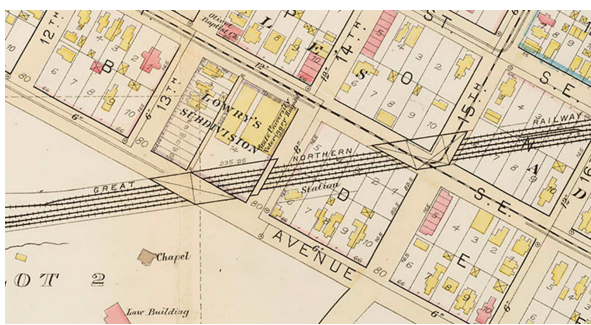


INTRO TO HISTORIC AREA



Sandborne Map from 1892 depicting what would become the area known as Dinkytown. The rail station is noted on the map.

When Minneapolis was established in 1856, the future area that we now call Dinkytown was undeveloped land with an ox cart path and a little creek running through it. Two decisions made in the early years of the area's settlement set the stage for Dinkytown's destiny:

- First, in 1858, the nascent University of Minnesota built its Old Main building on a hill on the banks of the Mississippi, and
- Second, the St. Paul & Pacific Railroad (the predecessor of the Great Northern railroad) built the first railroad along the route of the creek in 1862, connecting St. Paul with St. Anthony Falls.

By the early 1880s, Minneapolis was on its way to becoming the milling capital of the world, the University of Minnesota was graduating students with four-year college degrees, and the Great Northern had begun running hourly local trains between Minneapolis and St. Paul, including a station stop for the U of M at this location.

DRAFT 7/27/17

WHERE DID THE NAME "DINKYTOWN" COME FROM?

No one knows for sure where the name "Dinkytown" comes from, but there are many theories:

- The first theory is that Dinkytown got its name because, well, it's like a small urban village.
- Someone reported that the name possibly came from a local merchant who declared one day that "this is getting to be a real dinky town!"



The Dinky Town Dime was on 14th Avenue between Gray's Campus Drug & Discount records. The Loring Pasta Bar is located here today.

- Another theory suggests it came from the name of the long-standing dime store in the area, the Dinky Town Dime.
- Another theory reports that it came from one of the area's early theaters only had four rows of seating, and was therefore, well, dinky.

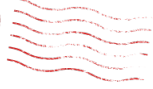
WELCOME TO THE UNIVERSITY OF DINKYTOWN

Dinkytown was "important as an independent community, tied to the University, serving it, but free and entrepreneurial, and its bookstores... coffee house... it's odd little shops... were adjuncts of the school and places where students freely mingled with interesting characters, unrecognized intellectuals, free spirits... What you learned in Dinkytown is that it is possible to be true to your own passion."

--As Garrison Keillor describes Dinkytown, which he was introduced to as a freshman at the University of Minnesota in 1960

Good Neighbor Fund

UNIVERSITY OF MINNESOTA
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Project funding provided by:
The University of Minnesota's
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*Project support provided by
Preserve Historic Dinkytown and the
Dinkytown Business Alliance*



TOUR STOPS

1. Pillsbury Gates at 14th Ave SE and University
2. Stiffy's Gopher Inn (313-315 14th Ave SE)
3. Dayton's (321 14th Ave SE)
4. College Inn (1314-1320 4th St SE)
5. Varsity Theater (1308 4th St SE)
6. Loft Literary Center (1302 4th St SE)
7. Brown Jug restaurant (1303 4th St SE)
8. Red Barn protest/Peace Park (13xx 4th St SE)
9. Vescio's (406 14th Ave SE)
10. Al's Breakfast (413 14th Ave SE)
11. House of Hanson (433 14th Ave SE)
12. Marshall High (1313 5th St SE)
13. 10 O'clock Scholar (4xx 14th Ave SE)

**darker grey shaded buildings on map are historically protected*

DINKYTOWN HISTORIC BUSINESS DISTRICT SELF GUIDED HISTORY TOUR



Dinkytown became an established commercial district in the years between 1899-1929, and was a dynamic hotbed of student activism and the counterculture through the 1970s. This tour tells the story of Dinkytown as a place where academia and co-ed life spill into and interact with "real life" that allows new ideas to emerge: The University of Dinkytown.

Dinkytown was officially designated a Historic District by the City of Minneapolis in 2015.

More detail of the tour stops and additional information, please visit:
www.dinkytownusa.org/history

- Another theory ties the name to the Grodnik Building, the building in which the Dinky Town Dime was located. "Grodnik" meaning "little village" in Russian.

- Another possibility ties the name to its connection to the railroads: "Dinkeys" are small locomotives used for hauling freight, logging, and shunting. Dinkytown was close to the University Station on the Great Northern railroad, which served the University of Minnesota and Dinkytown areas (though it was removed in 1901). It may have had been known as the "Dinkytown" station.

Regardless of its origins, the name became official when in 1948 local businessmen formed a group called "The Dinky Town Businessmen's Association."



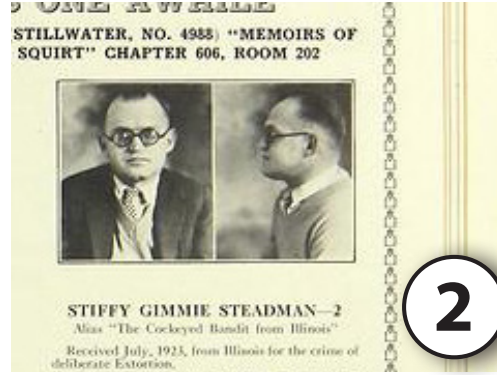
Photo: Katie Thering

The Grodnik building placard can still be seen today over the doorway of the Loring Pasta Bar on 14th Avenue.



1

Stop #1: The Pillsbury Gates at 14th Ave SE and University mark the longstanding front entrance of the U. Long before Stadium Village, Washington Avenue, Coffman Union, even the West Bank existed, students, professors, university staff entered campus here, traveling through Dinkytown from their homes and rooming houses, often via railroad, horse-drawn street car, and by the early 1890s, by electrified street car.

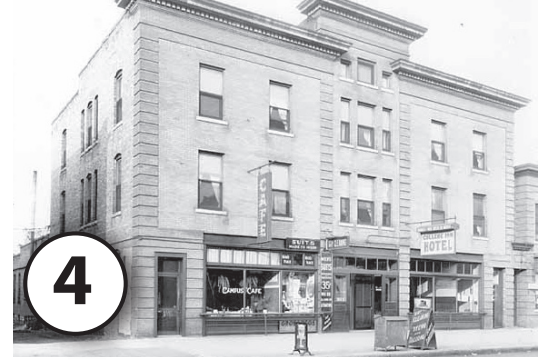


2

Stop #2: Stiffy's Gopher Inn (1313-315 14th Ave SE) William Harrison "Stiffy" Steadman opened the Gopher Inn in 1923. Stiffy's establishment was a popular hangout for the area's growing Greek fraternities and sororities. Stiffy was a huge Gophers football fan, sharing the game day spirit with his customers.

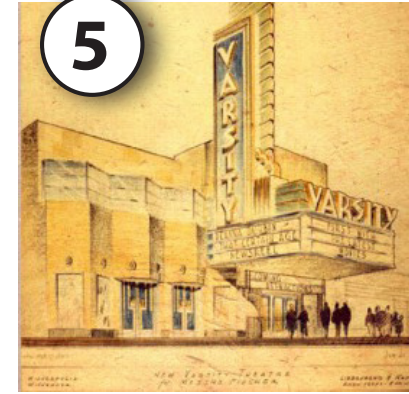
3

Stop #3: Dayton's (321 14th Ave SE) In 1927, Dayton's Department Store opened up its "University Branch" at this location, its first expansion from its flagship store in downtown Minneapolis. It catered to the University clientele, even providing jobs for University students. It closed in the early 1950s, but its spirit lives on in the painted sign on the north side of the building.



4

Stop #4: College Inn (1314-1320 4th St SE) As today, Dinkytown included many housing options for students to live, and the College Inn, built at 1314-1320 4th St SE in 1902, was an early example. It had rooms for students, a dining hall, hotel rooms, and retail space on the first floor. The College Inn closed in 1973 and was redeveloped as the current Dinkydale, which was designed to be an antidote to the



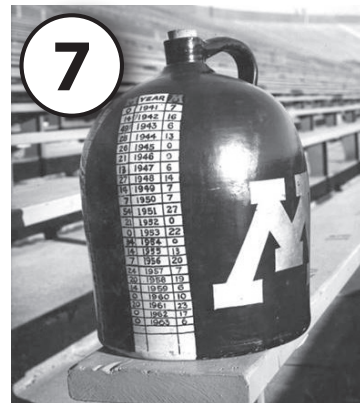
5

Stop #5: Varsity Theater (1308 4th St SE) The Varsity Theater opened as the 400-seat University Theater in 1915 and served as one of the city's last vaudeville houses. It also hosted a variety of University performances, both for film and for live productions.



6

Stop #6: Loft Literacy Center (1302 4th St SE) The Loft, one of the nation's largest literary centers was founded here in 1974, above one of the many bookstores that operated in Dinkytown because of its proximity to the U. The Loft, and the literary arts community in Dinkytown that spawned it, helps make Minneapolis the literary center that it is, second only to New York in the number of small press publishers per capita.



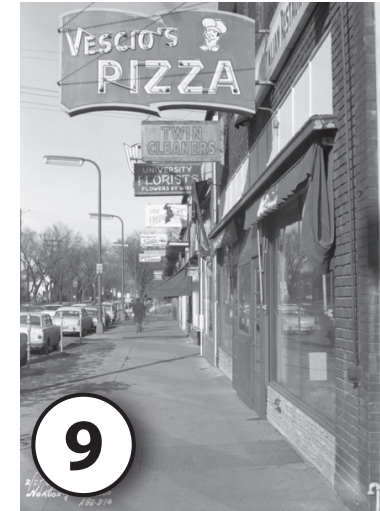
7

Stop #7: Brown Jug Restaurant (1303 4th St SE) In the 1930s, the Brown Jug restaurant was located in a building on this site at 1303 4th St SE. The restaurant was named for the famed University of Minnesota - University of Michigan rival football trophy. The rivalry over the Little Brown Jug began in 1906 and remains the longest running rivalry trophy match-up in college football. Famed 1930s Gopher Football coach Bernie Bierman frequented the restaurant with his players.



8

Stop #8: Red Barn protest/Peace Park (13xx 4th St SE) At this site in April 1970, a group of students and allies occupied a row of vacant buildings in an effort to stop them from being razed for a Red Barn fast food restaurant. After holding the site for over a month, local police and sheriff's deputies stormed in and removed them, and demolished the buildings. The next morning the students retook the site and built a makeshift Peace Park. In the end, the Red Barn was not built.



9

Stop #9: Vesco's (406 14th Ave SE) Frank T. Vesco, second oldest son of first generation Italian immigrants, founded Vesco's Restaurant at this location on 14th Ave SE in 1956. Frank started as a grocer, then started selling homemade pizzas and pasta with recipes he worked with his mother. The family opened additional locations, but Dinkytown remains its flagship store.



10

Stop #10: Al's Breakfast (413 14th Ave SE) In 1950, Al Bergstrom purchased this "building" in Dinkytown for \$600 for his new restaurant, Al's Cafe. The building dates to 1937, when the neighboring hardware store erected a shed in the alleyway to hold sheet metal and plumbing parts. The tiny diner became "Al's Breakfast," after Al's doctor told him to take it easy and stop working so hard. He reportedly asked customers which meal of his they liked better, breakfast or lunch, and voila.

11

Stop #11: House of Hanson (433 14th Ave SE) Henry Oscar Hanson bought the property at the southwest corner of 14th Ave SE and 5th Street SE in 1932. In addition to the four retail spaces along 14th, the property also included several houses and a barn along 5th Street SE. Over the years changes were made to structures on the property. In the 1970s, a family member had a proposal to build condos to replace the three houses along 5th Street. The site was cleared. But finances fell through, so the property was used as a surface parking for several decades. A new House of Hanson building was built in 1973



12

Stop #12: Marshall High (1313 5th St SE) In 1924, Minneapolis Public School built John Marshall High School on this site to serve the burgeoning neighborhood population. High school students walked the streets of Dinkytown alongside university students and Dinkytown characters. The school merged with the on-campus high school in 1967 to become "Marshall U", then closed in 1982 due to dropping enrollment. The building served as an office incubator until 2013 when it was torn down for a housing and retail project. The Marshall was built in it's place.



13

Stop #13: 10 O'clock Scholar (4xx 14th Ave SE) In the fall of 1959, a young Robert Zimmerman arrived in Dinkytown from Hibbing, MN looking for a Jack Keourac "On The Road"-inspired experience. As his biographer put it: "Although Dylan enrolled at the Liberal Arts college in September 1959, within a few months he was really at the University of Dinkytown, majoring in music with advanced seminars in coffeehouses." He found the 10 O'Clock Scholar and along with it, his like-minded mates. He traded in his electric guitar for an acoustic in Dinkytown and did shows there for \$3/night.



The future Bob Dylan lived in a couple of locations during his time in Dinkytown, including above Gray's Drug (now the Loring Pasta Bar). In January 1961, after living in Dinkytown for 15 months, Dylan headed straight to Greenwich Village, and the rest they say, is history.