

RAMSEY COUNTY
History
A Publication of the Ramsey County Historical Society

Architect to Kings:
Wigington and His Ice Palaces

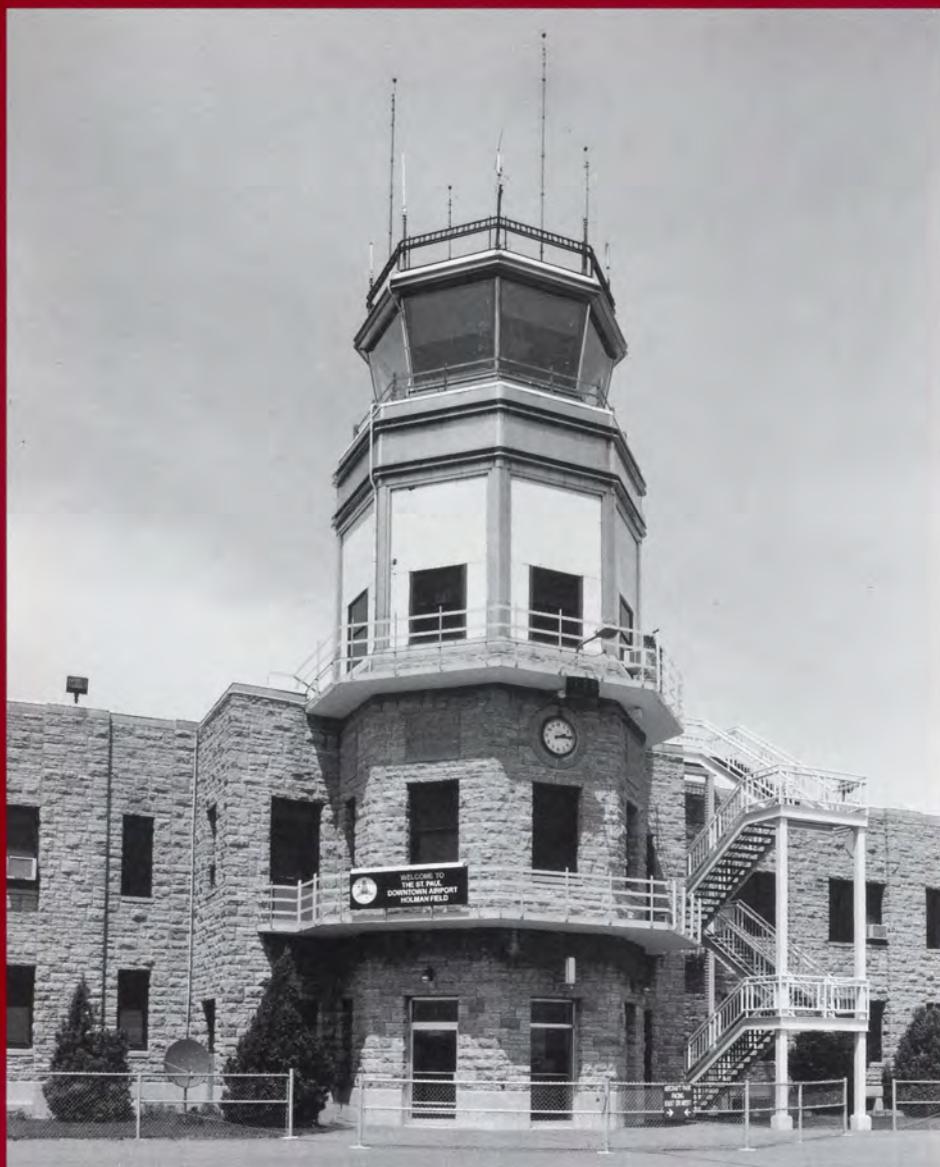
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Winter, 2000

Volume 34, Number 4

Three National Historic Sites
Clarence Wigington's Architectural Heritage

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The Holman Field Administration Building designed by Clarence W. Wigington in 1939 and built with resources provided by the Works Progress Administration (WPA). This is one of the three Wigington buildings that are listed on the National Register of Historic Places. Photograph by Don Wong, Don F. Wong Photography, Bloomington, Minnesota.

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RAMSEY COUNTY History

Volume 34, Number 4

Winter, 2000

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Message from Editorial Board

The Editorial Board of *Ramsey County History* is delighted to publish in this issue two fine articles on St. Paul's Clarence W. Wigington, who is believed to have been the first African-American municipal architect in the United States. Dr. David Taylor, dean of the General College at the University of Minnesota, is currently working on a biography of Wigington. His article gives us a sense of Wigington as an architect and as a pioneering civil servant at a time in this country when African-Americans faced many obstacles and handicaps to achieving professional careers. Wigington not only rose to a leadership position within the city's Office of Parks, Playgrounds, and Public Buildings, he also was a leader in the local African-American community throughout his working career.

Expanding upon David Taylor's discussion of Clarence Wigington's accomplishments as an architect of many St. Paul buildings, Bob Olsen, the author of our second piece on Wigington, examines the architect's work as a designer of St. Paul Winter Carnival Ice Palaces between 1926 and 1942. Both articles feature photographs of buildings Wigington designed. Olsen's article includes photos drawn from the author's own collection of Ice Palace memorabilia.

John M. Lindley, Chair, Editorial Board

A Water Tower, a Pavilion and Three National Historic Clarence Wigington and the Architectural Legacy He

David V. Taylor

On November 10, 1927, a building permit was issued in St. Paul for the construction of a 134-foot water tower located in Highland Park adjacent to an existing 1.8 million-gallon covered concrete reservoir built in 1923. The 200,000-gallon steel tank encased in random ashler Kasota stone, Bedford stone, and tan brick was completed in 1928 at a cost of \$69,483. Built on the second highest elevation in the city, the Highland Park water tower is the only architecturally significant water tower in the city designated by the American Water Works Association as a National Landmark. It is also listed on the National Register of Historic Places.¹

The City of St. Paul has been fortunate to have several of its public buildings placed on the National Register of Historic Places. Other examples include the Harriet Island Pavilion (1941) and the Holman Airfield Administration Building (1939), both built with resources provided by the Works Progress Administration (WPA). Constructed in the Moderne style typical of the depression era, the Harriet Island Pavilion is of concrete block construction with yellow Kasota stone veneer and terra cotta roof tiles.² The Holman Airfield Administration Building reflected significant collaboration between city government and the WPA. Also built in the Moderne style at a cost of \$269,000, the building featured a glass and stainless steel control tower attached to rectangular gray rock-faced limestone walls trimmed with yellow Kasota stone.³

Besides their listing on the National Register, these three structures share a common characteristic; all were designed by Clarence Wesley Wigington, senior architectural designer for the City of St. Paul. This remarkable achievement is credited to a man now recognized as the first African-American architect in the state of Nebraska, the first licensed African-American architect registered in the state of Minnesota, and possibly the first African-American municipal architect in the United States.



Clarence W. Wigington in 1940. Minnesota Historical Society photo.

Wigington received a temporary appointment on June 25, 1915 and was permanently hired on September 2, 1915. His career with the City of St. Paul spanned more than three decades. Although a significant body of his work was developed before 1933, the infusion of federal money into St. Paul between

1934 and 1943 provided Wigington with opportunities for creativity. Road construction, municipal buildings, and improvements to school buildings, parks, playgrounds, and recreation centers, and even several of the fabled St. Paul Winter Carnival Ice Palaces were PWA and WPA projects.⁴ With the support of Charles Bassford, the city architect, Charles Wigington indelibly stamped the character of the city of St. Paul. His work has been described as

classical in spirit, symmetrical in design, simple with respect to ornamentation and visually/aesthetically pleasing. He was a perfectionist who preferred understated detailing, yet some of his designs appeared strikingly bold. . . . Most of his buildings are still in use today—a testimony not only to the beauty and grace of form but also to the functionality that has allowed these structures, some spanning seven decades, to remain in use.⁵

The corpus of Wigington's work is divided into three distinct periods—early (1908–1921), middle (1922–1942), and late (1943–1960)—spanning approximately forty-five years and encompassing three states: Nebraska, Minnesota, and California. Wigington began his professional career in Omaha. It is known that he was not formally trained as an architect but came to the profession by way of art school and a six-year drafting apprenticeship in the architectural firm of Thomas R. Kimball, a nationally recognized architect and former president of the American Institute of Architecture (1902–1906). Upon leaving his apprenticeship, Wigington established his own office and is credited with designs for nine houses, and two apartment buildings. He remodeled one well-known Baptist Church and designed another after its destruction by a tornado. Additionally, he won a commission to design

Sites

Left to the People of St. Paul

a potato chip factory that was built in Sheridan, Wyoming. Later, while living in Sheridan, he designed two residence halls and an administration building for the National Religious Training School in Durham, North Carolina.⁶

A Rapidly Growing City

The reasons for his decision to relocate to St. Paul in 1914 at the age of thirty-one are unknown but may have been influenced by his brother Frank who already was living there. He also may have been attracted by the potential for professional work stemming from the rapid growth of the city before the outbreak of World War I. In 1914 the City of St. Paul had decided to expand the staff of the Office of Parks, Playgrounds and Public Buildings (PP&P) in response to the demand for design work associated with the proposed construction of new schools. In March 1915, the city posted a civil service examination notice with the intent of hiring two architectural draftsmen.⁷ Wigington sat for the examination in May, achieving the highest score on that particular test of skills of the candidates taking the examination. He was offered a temporary appointment in June and began work for the city on August 23.⁸

His relationship with the Office of Parks and Public Buildings was tenuous between 1916 and 1922. The promise of steady work evaporated with the onset of the conflict in Europe. As materials were requisitioned for the war effort, domestic construction ground to a halt and the city's plans for construction of new municipal buildings were temporarily shelved. The young architect turned entrepreneurial. In 1917 he accepted temporary employment with the Gordon Van Tyne Company in Davenport, Iowa. Later that year he returned to St. Paul,

having secured a position with T.D. McNulty, builder of homes. An advertisement Wigington placed in October 1918 in the *Appeal*, an African-American newspaper published in St. Paul, stated that he was designing modern bungalows for "reliable parties."⁹



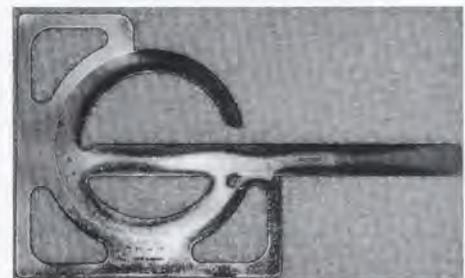
The Highland Park Water Tower. Star Tribune/Minneapolis-St. Paul photo.

With the end of the war in Europe and the return of relative prosperity, the city turned again to its pre-war plans. At some point the need for skilled draftsmen paved the way for Wigington's return to his former position sometime before 1920. He continued to maintain his private practice, a firm by the name of "The Complete Service Company."¹⁰ Although his considerable talents were recognized in the architectural drafting of-

ice, it is difficult to discern the extent of Wigington's influence because it was customary for the design work to be accredited to the city architect. The Highland Park Water Tower was an example. Although it was conceived and designed by Wigington, Frank X. Tewes, the city architect, was initially credited with the work. By 1922, Wigington's position was firmly established as the senior architectural designer in full charge of the drafting room.

An Influx of Money

Wigington's middle career period spanned the years 1922-1943. During this period he is credited with having designed approximately seven schools, nineteen municipal buildings, ten renovations, ten outdoor recreational facilities, and seven (of which six were built) Winter Carnival Ice Palaces.¹¹ Although extremely talented, he might have remained in relative obscurity had it not been for the appointment of John Bassford to the position of city architect in 1930 and the opportunity provided by an influx of federal relief program money. Bassford seemed to have encouraged and valued innovation, thereby allowing Wigington considerable latitude for creative expression. Although there were some limitations to creativity imposed



Drafting tool owned and used by Clarence Wigington. Photo from The Saint Paul Foundation.

upon architects designing buildings for public use at public expense, the more playful side of Wigington's nature can be found in his Ice Palace designs, which coincidentally were developed in this period of his career.

The late period encompasses Wigington's professional life between 1943 and 1960. World War II brought to an end the effort of the federal government to stimulate the economy through the Works Progress Administration. The demands of the war effort not only restored full employment, but also brought domestic construction to a standstill. It was not until 1946 that municipal construction began again.

In 1946 Wigington was nearing retirement age. Although still in charge of the drafting room, his professional interests drifted from the public to the private sector. With the end of the WPA program in 1943, the number of municipal projects

under his direct supervision dropped dramatically in number and in architectural significance.¹² Wigington probably realized that post-war demands for residential housing would lead to unprecedented opportunities for residential design work. He was particularly interested in the home designs coming out of California—so much so that during the winter of 1947–48 he spent five months in California studying the differences, trends, and procedures in West Coast residential design.¹³ At one point he explored opportunities to work for private up-scale homebuilders in Los Angeles. Wigington's research might have influenced two homes he designed for leading St. Paul businessmen: J.G. Butwin (1948) and Simon Klein (1950). The Butwin home at 357 Woodlawn was a four-level house constructed at a cost of \$40,000. Although externally modest by standards of the day, the floor plan encompassing 3,500 square feet is amazingly contemporary.¹⁴

Throughout the course of his professional career Wigington maintained his private practice. Some of his work appears to have been *pro bono*; for others he received handsome commissions. His work ranged through a wide spectrum from commercial businesses to religious edifices. Examples include the Catherine McVay House (St. Paul, 1917), the orig-

inal plan for the St. James AME Church in St. Paul (1922), the proposed Gopher Lodge #105, I.B.O.E.W. (St. Paul, 1925), the Sterling Club House (St. Paul, 1925), the Pyramid Realty and Investment Company (Minneapolis, 1923), Talmud Torah Academy (St. Paul, 1938), remodeling of the sanctuary of St. George's Greek Orthodox Church (St. Paul, 1947), Sons of Jacob Synagogue (St. Paul, 1947), the Butwin house, the Klein house, the James Griffin house (St. Paul, 1957), and the proposed home for Harvey Moss (Minneapolis, 1959).

Experiencing health problems, Wigington spent the winters of 1947, 1948, and 1949 dividing his time between Los Angeles and St. Paul. On formal leave from his position for most of 1949, he officially retired August 25, 1949, and moved to Los Angeles the following November. He continued to maintain a residence in St. Paul and an architectural consulting firm with his brother Paul for several years to come. He obtained a temporary non-resident certificate issued by the California Architectural Board for design work in 1950. As a semi-retired architect in Los Angeles, he continued to design homes, lodge buildings and commercial establishments in Los Angeles and San Diego until he relocated to Kansas City, Missouri, where he died in 1967.¹⁵

The Legacy Project

In 1996 The Saint Paul Foundation encouraged a group of historians, architects, and community representatives to develop a plan to celebrate the legacy Clarence W. Wigington left to the residents of St. Paul, to increase public awareness of that legacy, and to encourage others to help carry out the goals of this plan. The work of that group led to the creation of the Clarence W. Wigington Legacy Project.

Legacy Project partners include AIA Minnesota; Assembly of Architects; General College, University of Minnesota; Minnesota Historical Society; Northwest Architectural Archives, University of Minnesota; Ramsey County Historical Society; and Western State Bank. The articles by David V. Taylor and Bob Olsen, which are published in this issue of *Ramsey County History*, are a part of that project.



The Harriet Island Pavilion, designed by Wigington in 1941 and listed on the National Register of Historic Places. Photo from the Riverfront Development Corporation.

What Manner of Man?

Although many of his contemporaries are dead, recent research has been helpful in placing a public face on Wigington's personality. One of his grandchildren, Dr. Gayle Pemberton, wrote of her relationship with her grandfather in her book, *The Hottest Water in Chicago*, published in 1992. Interviews have been conducted with one of Wigington's daughters, most of his grandchildren and great-grandchildren, and James Griffin, Wigington's godson. Other information has come from magazine articles and newspaper accounts. On the surface Wigington appears to be somewhat enigmatic. This may be because of the complexity of his personality and the fact that he was a black man navigating the racially sensitive waters of his time. This enigma is best captured in a statement made in a letter to a friend where he professed not to have encountered any discrimination as a professional because of his color: "My entire life since high school days has been absolutely free from resentment on my part and free from slurs, unfairness, segregation or unwarranted actions by others."¹⁶

In another letter he said of his work experiences in St. Paul: "[I] . . . never knew that I was colored."¹⁷ However, acts of discrimination against African-Americans were common in St. Paul. Leading hotels and restaurants shunned their patronage and most businesses limited employment opportunities. Wigington was one of only a handful of African-American civil service employees working for the city. There is ample evidence to suggest that his promotion to a position of leadership in the city architect's office was not without effort. Paradoxically, during his entire adult life he voiced concern about discrimination toward African-Americans and supported organizations whose expressed concern was the elimination of barriers against African-Americans.¹⁸

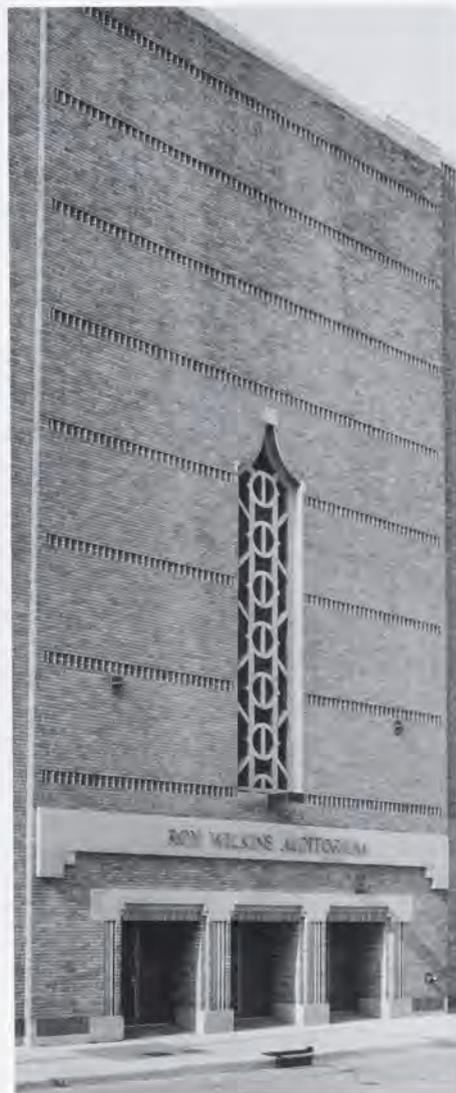
Born on April 21, 1883, after the Civil War post-reconstruction period, to parents of biracial heritage, Clarence Wigington came to epitomize W. E. B. DuBois' description of the "Talented Tenth." In an essay by that name, DuBois decried the

nature of persistent discrimination and prejudice towards African-Americans in the United States. However, he professed belief in the power of education through exceptional men to propel the race forward. DuBois wrote:

How then shall the leaders of a struggling people be trained and the hands of the risen few strengthened? There can be but one answer: The best and most capable of their youth must be schooled in the colleges and universities of the land . . . to be the group leader, the man who sets the ideals of the community where he lives, directs its thoughts and heads its social movements.¹⁹

Although he was not a classically trained scholar like DuBois, a Harvard graduate, Wigington's training and pre-eminence in the field of architecture was still a remarkable achievement for one of his background. It is even more remarkable in light of societal sanctions against the elevation of any African-American male to positions of responsibility and authority in the white social order. Sixteen years after his birth the United States Supreme Court decision *Plessy vs. Ferguson* (1896) officially sanctioned the physical separation of the races in public venues. Social separation was normal. It was not until another Supreme Court decision in 1954 (*Brown vs. Topeka Board of Education*) that the nation began to reconsider the enormous and deleterious cost of racial segregation. Clarence Wigington's life, professional and private, was framed within this context.

His arrival in St. Paul during the winter of 1914 was fortuitous. Although St. Paul did not have a history of racial segregation like Omaha, and discrimination in public accommodations was prohibited by state law and city ordinances, racial prejudice did exist but was not necessarily a barrier to success. The Twin Cities were home to many successful African-American professionals, many of whom were trained in colleges and universities established during the post-reconstruction period to educate African-Americans. By 1914 the core of that leadership, recruited to the cities before the turn-of-the-century, had begun to age. F. L. McGhee, the well-known criminal



The Roy Wilkins Auditorium in downtown St. Paul. Photo by Don F. Wong Photography.

lawyer and a charter member of the Niagara Movement,* had died in 1913. The newly established St. Paul branch of the National Association for the Advancement of Colored People (NAACP) was founded in his honor in 1915. John Quincy Adams, the editor of the *Appeal*, the dean of Twin Cities black newspapers, was sixty-six years old and still a vital force in the journalistic community. Dr. Val Do Turner was a physician and community leader; Mrs. Amanda Lyles

*The Niagara Movement was an attempt by the most progressive elements of the black protest tradition to project a voice apart from the leadership of Booker T. Washington. It ceased functioning about 1908-09.

a business woman and community activist. Others like Mrs. W. T. Francis, the Reverend A. H. Lealtad, Orrington C. Hall, and attorney William Morris were part of an aging cohort of leadership that welcomed, embraced, and nurtured the potential they saw in the young Wigington.²⁰ Adams often cited Wigington in his newspaper columns, holding the young man up as an example for the community. Wigington did not disappoint them. Within several years of his arrival, he had earned the respect of the community and had become a leader within the African-American community in St. Paul.²¹

A Separate Company

Clarence Wesley Wigington was better known to his friends as "Cap" Wigington, a reference to his rank as the captain of Company A, 16th Battalion, [Negro] Home Guard of Minnesota. Because racial prejudice prevented African-Americans from being admitted to the Minnesota Home Guard, Wigington petitioned the Adjutant General's office for the establishment of a separate military company. In April of 1918 Governor J. A. A. Burnquist approved the organization of four separate colored companies, two in St. Paul and two in Minneapolis. Later he approved the formation of a Medical Corps for the colored companies of the 16th Battalion under the leadership of Dr. Val Do Turner. Having accomplished this, Minnesota joined the ranks of New York and Illinois as the only states with African Americans serving in the Home Guard.²²

In November of that year, "Cap" Wigington was instrumental in the founding of the Sterling Club, consisting of railroad men, white-collar workers, and professionals in the African-American community who gathered for entertainment and socializing. The Sterling Club quickly became one of the preeminent black social clubs in the Twin Cities. Wigington, a charter member and member of the first Board of Directors, was elected vice president in 1925. He designed the organization's first clubhouse in 1924.²³ He also was a member of the Forty Club, another social organization founded in the early 1920s.



Wigington's Home Guard in 1918, with "Cap" Wigington standing on the right. Photo courtesy of James Griffin.

The St. Paul Urban League, established in 1924, attempted to ameliorate the living conditions of African-Americans by improving their opportunities for employment. It also promoted an understanding of the need for community health, welfare services, and interracial understanding. Although he was not identified as an original board member, Wigington was recognized as a driving

force within the St. Paul community who promoted the need for such an organization in the Twin Cities. Over the years he served the Urban League in several capacities. Between 1932 and 1938 he was the organization's executive secretary (CEO), and he apparently served on its Board between 1941 and 1947. He was listed as vice president of the Board in 1947, the year he took a medical leave



The Como Park Elementary School at 780 W. Wheelock Parkway, one of seven schools Wigington designed between 1922 and 1943. Photo by Don F. Wong Photography.

from his position with the city.²⁴ Wigington was also a member of the St. Paul chapter of the NAACP.

There were several fraternal lodges in the St. Paul African American community. They owe their origins to J. K. Hilyard, a renovated-clothing merchant, who brought black masonry to Minnesota in 1866. He organized the Pioneer Lodge No. 5, Prince Hall Masons, in St. Paul. By 1894 Minnesota boasted enough lodges to warrant the formation of an African Grand Lodge of Minnesota. Clarence Wigington was a member of a Masonic order. He was listed as a member of Gopher Lodge No. 105, I.B.P.O.E.W. in St. Paul. In 1925 he had completed a term as Exalted Ruler, and he designed the proposed lodge building that was to be constructed on Rondo near Mackubin Street.²⁵

Wigington also was interested in pro-

moting the African-American entrepreneurial spirit. In 1923 he drew plans for the Pyramid Realty and Investment Company, an African-American investment group in south Minneapolis. In 1932 the *Twin City Herald* mentioned Wigington's talk to a Minneapolis African-American Real Estate Group, but it is not known whether he held elective office in this organization.²⁶

Clarence Wigington, his wife Viola, and daughters Muriel and Mildred attended St. Philip's Episcopal Church, a small African-American congregation whose members made important contributions to the leadership of the African-American community in St. Paul.

Wigington's influence, however, was not confined to the African-American community. He enjoyed a favorable relationship with the building trades organization and on at least one occasion was a

guest speaker at the St. Paul Builders Exchange meeting.²⁷ He was involved in the Republican Party and seems to have had a personal relationship with at least three of Minnesota's governors, J. A. A. Burnquist, Edward J. Thye, and Luther W. Youngdahl. In 1948 Youngdahl nominated Wigington to the newly-established Federal Selective Service [draft] Board for the State of Minnesota.²⁸ Wigington was a City of St. Paul Special Civil Service Examiner in Architecture for ten years, and held a similar position in Minneapolis for three years.²⁹ In addition to being a registered architect in Minnesota, he was also a member of the American Institute of Architecture (AIA) and a revered member of the Minnesota Chapter.³⁰

St. Paul was fortunate to have secured the services of such a man, and Clarence Wigington was fortunate to have been at

the helm of the architectural drafting office at a time when federal resources were being used to artificially inflate employment opportunities while subsidizing neighborhood improvement building projects. St. Paul has historically been known as a city of neighborhoods. Many of St. Paul's residential neighborhoods still retain their charm and flavor due in part to the municipal structures designed by this man.

He, however, was not the first known African-American architect to practice in the Twin Cities. In the 1880s William A. Hazel, an artist, architect, decorator, and designer established residency in St. Paul. He received his architectural draughtsmanship training with leading architects in New York City, decorative arts training in Boston, and he became a specialist in stained glass windows. He presented papers before the Minneapolis Society of Fine Arts class in architecture at the University of Minnesota and before the Minnesota Chapter of the American Institute of Architects.³¹ Hazel also was well-known to the African-American community for bringing a lawsuit, which he eventually won, against the Clarendon Hotel in St. Paul in 1887 for discriminatory practices under the Minnesota Civil Rights Act of 1885.³² Hazel's most celebrated work was a \$3,000 stained glass window designed for a Catholic church in Austin, Minnesota.³³

One of William Hazel's contemporaries was Franklin Jefferson Roberson, who was born in St. Louis, Missouri and received his elementary education there. He attended Oberlin for his college preparatory work and college degree and studied art and architecture in Karlsruhe, Germany. In 1888 he moved to Minneapolis, where he was employed in the architectural firm of J. W. Healy and Sons. Hazel and Roberson collaborated on the design and construction of St. Peter's AME Church on 22nd Street between South 9th and 10th Avenues in Minneapolis. This was a gothic revival structure with stained-glass windows which Hazel designed. A drawing of St. Peter's AME church appeared in the August 11, 1888, issue of the *Appeal*.³⁴

Special mention should be made of William Godette, a close friend and col-



The Hamline Playground Stone Shelter at Lafond and Snelling Avenue, a Wigington-designed structure that is a candidate for listing on the National Register of Historic Places. Photo by Don F. Wong Photography.

league of Clarence Wigington in the architectural drafting office. Godette, an African American structural engineer, and Wigington collaborated on major projects for the city. Upon Wigington's retirement, Godette assumed the position of senior architectural draftsman for that office. He is credited with the design of St. Philip's Episcopal Church in St. Paul.

There are many examples of buildings with architectural significance designed by African-American architects in the

Twin Cities, past and present. We need to rediscover that portion of our architectural past and claim it as our legacy.

David V. Taylor, dean of the General College, University of Minnesota, has a doctorate in the history of the African people from the University. He has written two Growing Up in St. Paul memoirs for Ramsey County History and is now working on a biography of Clarence W. Wigington, which will be published by The Saint Paul Foundation.

Endnotes

1. National Register of Historic Places Inventory-Nomination Form, Highland Park Tower, June 1984, pp. 2-3; The National Register of Historic Places: Minnesota Checklist, (St. Paul: MHS State History Preservation Office), p. 71.

2. National Register of Historic Places Registration Form, Harriet Island Pavilion, May 12, 1992, p. 1—continuation sheet; National Register Minnesota Checklist, p. 71.

3. National Register of Historic Places Registration Form, Holman Field Administration Building, June 28, 1991, p. 1—continuation sheet; National Register Minnesota Checklist, p. 71.

4. *Ibid.*, pp. 2-3; *Appeal*, July 3, 1915, p. 3; *Ibid.*, September 18, 1915, p. 3.

5. *Architecture Minnesota* Vol. 25, No. 2, January/February 1999, p. 60.

6. *Ibid.* This school was the precursor to North Carolina Central University.

7. St. Paul Personnel Department Examination Announcements, 1914-1942—Civil Service Bureau, May 1915.

8. Letter, Clarence Wigington to Arthur A. Remington, May 15, 1964, p. 2; *Appeal*, September 18, 1915, p. 3.

9. *Appeal*, October 5, 1918, p. 3.

10. *Northwestern Bulletin*, August 19, 1922, p. 1.

11. Paul Larson, Compiler/research, "St. Paul City Building Projects Attributed to Clarence Wigington," October, 1999, pp. 1-4.

12. Larson, "St. Paul City Buildings Project," p. 3.

13. Form for Senior Classification—Experience and Record in Professional Practice, National Council of Architectural Registration Board (Los Angeles, California), July 31, 1950, pp. 2-3.

14. Letter to T.D. and John A. McNulty from Clarence Wigington, August 29, 1948.

15. Letter to Walter L. McDonald, Fidelity Lodge No. 10 F.&A.M. from Clarence Wigington, March 12, 1951; Letter to George G. Smith from Clarence Wigington, August 22, 1955; Letter to S. O. J. Evans, Pastor, Macedonia Baptist Church from Clarence Wigington, November 26, 1955; Contract for Services, Robert L. Roberson, Robert W. Williams, and Clarence Wigington, September 16, 1950; Architectural elevations on file at the Midwest Map Archive, Minneapolis.

16. Letter to Arthur Remington from Clarence Wigington, April 9, 1965, p. 1.

17. Letter to Arthur Remington from Clarence Wigington, May 15, 1964, pp. 2-3.

18. *Ibid.*; Letter to Arthur Remington from Clarence Wigington, May 4, 1964; *Ibid.*, April 9, 1965.



Fire Station #17 at 1226 Payne Avenue. Photo from Don F. Wong Photography.

19. W. E. B. DuBois, "The Talented Tenth," in Booker T. Washington & others, *The Negro Problem: A Series of Articles by Representative Negroes of To-day* (New York: James Pott & Company, 1903), pp. 33-75, passim.

20. David V. Taylor, "Pilgrim's Progress: Black St. Paul and the Making of an Urban Ghetto 1870-1930," Ph.D. Dissertation, University of Minnesota 1976, pp. 73-124.

21. *Appeal*, September 18, 1915, p.3; *Ibid.*, June 9, 1917, p. 3.

22. *Appeal*, April 6, 1918, p. 2; *Twin City Star*, April 13, 1918, p. 4; *Ibid.*, April 20, 1918, p. 5; *Ibid.*, May 11, 1918, p. 1; *Ibid.*, December 7, 1918, p. 2. It is interesting to note that on the stationary of the St. Paul Branch of the NAACP petitioning the appointment of Dr. Val Do Turner as physician to the 16th Battalion of the Home Guard dated, April 18, 1918, Governor J. A. A. Burnquist is listed as the local chapter president. In 1918 all state Home Guard units were changed to National Guard per federal law.

23. History of the Sterling Club, date unknown, Abram H. Weaver, archivist.

24. Whitney M. Young, Jr. "History of the St. Paul Urban League," Plan B Report. Masters Degree, University of MN, August, 1947, p. 27-28, 72; *Minneapolis Spokesman*, October 15, 1937, p. 1.; Clarence Wigington, "Do Negroes Face any Problems in Getting Jobs in Tax Supported Institutions, *You May Quote Us on This*, St. Paul Urban League, 1941.

25. Taylor, "Pilgrim's Progress," pp. 192-196; *Bulletin—Appeal*, January 17, 1925, p. 1.

26. *Minneapolis Messenger*, "The Proposed Pyramid Building," June 9, 1923, p. 1; *Twin Cities Herald*, Clarence Wigington addresses Builder Organizations, April 9, 1932, p. 1.

27. *Minneapolis Spokesman*, Guest at St. Paul's Builders Exchange, January 27, 1939, p. 3.

28. Letter from Governor Luther W. Youngdahl to Clarence W. Wigington, July 27, 1948, p. 1.

29. Letter to State Personnel Board, State of California from Clarence Wigington, April 28, 1949.

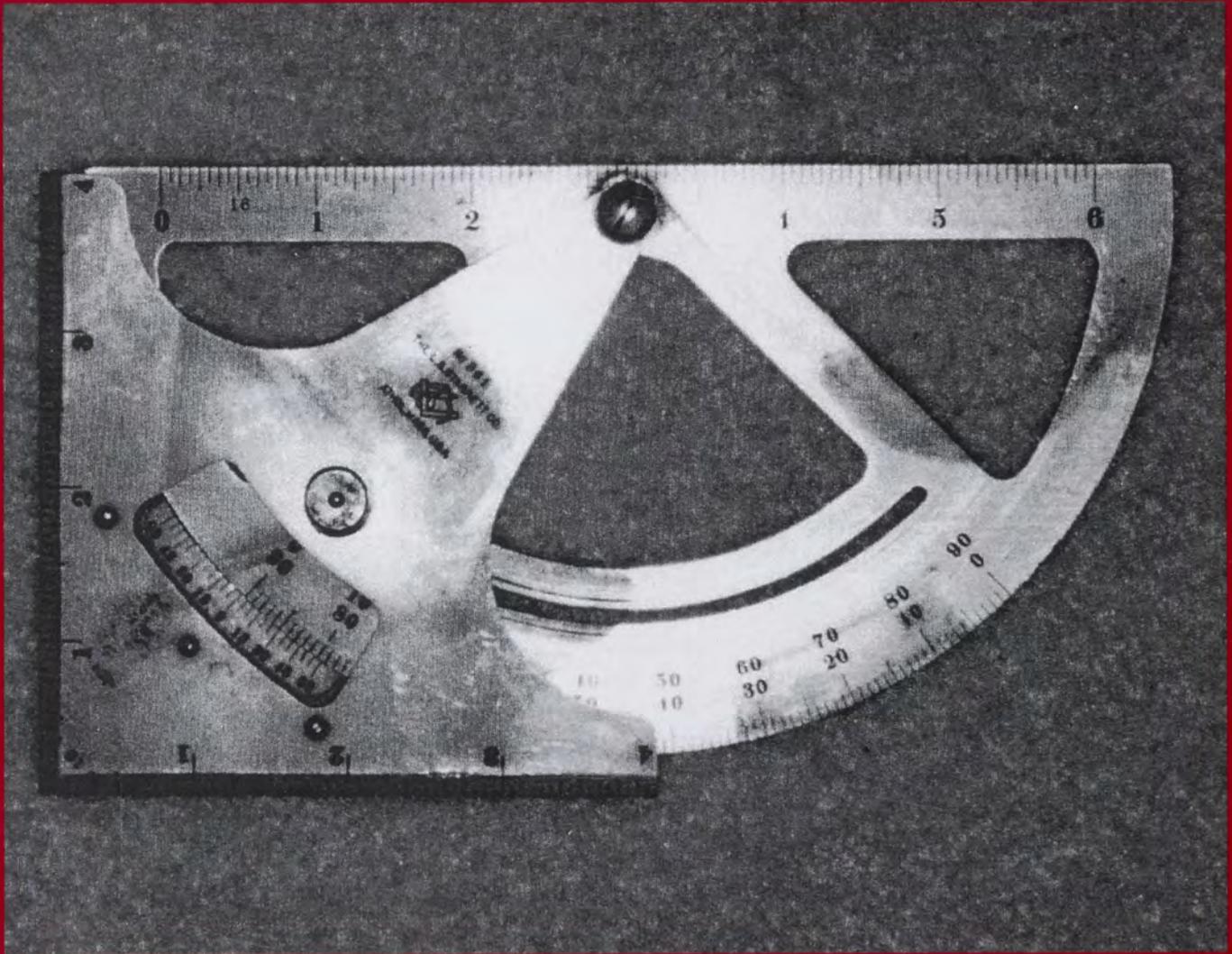
30. Certificate, The State Board of Registration for Architects, Engineers and Land Surveyors, February 24, 1937; Letter from Clarence Wigington to Mr. Donald White, Oct. 2, 1949; Letter from Clarence Wigington to Paul Wigington, March 5, 1965.

31. *The College of Life or Practical Self-Educator: A Manual of Self-Improvement for the Colored Race* (Chicago: Chicago Publication and Lithograph Company, 1895), reprinted First Mnenosyne Reprinting, 1969, pp. 157-58.

32. *The Western Appeal*, 21 May, 22 October 1887; *William A. Hazel v. Michael E. Foley & Thomas J. Foley* (Foley Brothers), 25515 Civil, Court of the Second Judicial District, State of Minnesota, Judgement, October 17, 1887, Ramsey County Court House, St. Paul.

33. *College of Life*, p. 157.

34. *Down Memory Lane: 50th Anniversary Celebration Class of June 17, 1909 Charles Sumner High School, St. Louis, Missouri*, pp. 22-25; *Cleveland Gazette*, February 18, 1888, p. 1; *Western Appeal*, March 3, 1888; *Western Appeal*, August 11, 1888, p. 1.



An architectural drafting instrument owned and used by Clarence W. Wigington, the first licensed African-American architect registered in the State of Minnesota. See the article beginning on page 4.

R.C.H.S.

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