



HISTORIC BUILDINGS

4-H Building

Located at the intersection of Cosgrove Street and Wright Avenue
Built during 1939 and 1940, the 4-H Building was formally presented to the fair in a ceremony on Aug. 29, 1940. Home to thousands of youth during the fair's 12-day run, the first-level kitchen serves over 40,000 meals throughout the fair.



Agriculture Horticulture Building

Located between Judson Avenue and Carnes Avenue on Underwood Street
This octagon shaped building hosts competitions, demonstrations, exhibits and concessions related to agriculture and horticulture. In 1885 a wooden-domed building was constructed as the "main building," but was also used as the Agriculture Building for a time. In 1901, a new Agriculture Building was built, and with an addition to this building in 1912, Minnesota could boast the largest permanent building devoted to the exhibition of agricultural products in the world. The modern Agriculture Horticulture Building opened in 1947, its architecture mirroring the nearby 4-H Building with the same lit tower, vertical thrust and streamlined shapes.



Cattle Barn

Located on Judson Avenue
The Livestock Pavilion, or Cattle Barn, was built in 1920. The massive brick structure covers 117,450 square feet with sufficient housing for 560 cattle stalls. The structure has changed several times in its 86 years, most notably serving in WWII as a home for the stamping operations of the A.O. Smith Corporation.



Lee & Rose Warner Coliseum

Located on Judson Avenue
The first coliseum, called the Hippodrome, was built in 1906 and was used for horse shows and livestock judging. From 1909 to 1942, the building was used as the Hippodrome Ice Rink during the winter months and was considered, at the time, to be the largest in the world. In 1942, the Hippodrome was razed after government use during World War II had rendered it unsafe. In 1950 and 1951 the present Hippodrome was erected. At first, the building was called the Coliseum. To avoid confusion, it was later changed back to the Hippodrome. There had been no building since WWII in which horse shows could be held. Thus, when the Hippodrome was completed in 1951, horse shows were reinstated. In 1975 the name was again changed back to the Coliseum. In 2006, it was named in honor of Lee and Rose Warner. Lee helped shape the fairgrounds and its horticulture displays while Rose showed support through her philanthropy and community activism.





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Commissary Building

North of the Sheep & Poultry Barn

Erected by WPA workers in 1938, this building's purpose is to give a central location to concession services and supply houses. From June 1943 until May 1946, this building was used as a war plant, housed the cafeteria and plant protection section of the A.O. Smith propeller plant. In 1946, the building was reconverted to fair use and on Aug. 23, 1946, the west half of the superstructure burned and was replaced by the present concrete block, steel and wood structure.



Creative Activities and Annex

Located on the corner of Cosgrove Street and Dan Patch Avenue

The original building on this site was erected in 1904 to serve as a manufacturer's building. After only a few years it was changed to the Women's Building. In 1913, an annex was built onto the Women's Building to form a link with the art exhibit. Its purpose was to provide commercial exhibits to women. In 1970, the Women's Building was razed and the present-day Creative Activities Building was built.



Fine Arts Center

Located on the corner of Cosgrove Street and Randall Avenue

Built in 1907, the Fine Arts Center served as the original Dairy Building, and eventually became Machinery Hall. It became home to the fair's Fine Arts competition, Minnesota's largest juried art show, in 1980. Before finding a permanent home in the old Dairy Building, the Fine Arts Exhibition was held on the third floor of the Grandstand.



Grandstand

Located on Dan Patch Avenue

The Minnesota State Fair Grandstand is known as the historic heart of the fairgrounds. The original two-decked wooden Grandstand, built in 1885, was razed after the 1908 State Fair. The current Grandstand, much larger than the original, was built in 1909. Large bleacher structures were added in the late 1930s. In November 2002, the fair began a two-year, \$18 million project to renovate the structure, adding new stairways, elevators, restrooms and seats, and removing the deteriorating bleachers. The State Agricultural Society has committed substantial resources to the renovation of this historic building to preserve it for future generations of fair visitors. The area underneath the Grandstand currently houses nearly 200 product vendors. In the past, it has also been utilized as an art gallery and automobile show space. The Grandstand has always hosted a variety of entertainment including horse and auto races, military spectacles, concerts, fireworks, staged train wrecks, livestock parades, motorcycle races, stunt flying shows, beauty pageants and speeches, including president Teddy Roosevelt's "Speak Softly and Carry a Big Stick" speech.





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Horse Barn

Located on Judson Avenue and Liggett Street

The first Horse Barn was originally built in 1940 by WPA workers. From June 1943 until May 1946 the Horse Barn served the war effort by housing the machine shop of the A.O. Smith Co. military aircraft propeller plant. Some modifications were made after WWII, and in 1948, horses, sheep and 4-H'ers returned for competition.



J.V. Bailey House

Located on Cosgrove Street south of the Space Tower

This residence was home to greenhouse superintendents and groundskeepers from the 1920s to 2004. It was also the fair-time home for State Agricultural Society board members from the 1920s through 1969. On Aug. 27, 2006, the property was named in honor of J.V. Bailey, founder of Bailey Nurseries. Mr. Bailey served the Minnesota State Fair as superintendent of horticulture (1912 - 1932), member of the Agricultural Society board and President of the board (1933 - 1934). Restored with gifts to the Minnesota State Fair Foundation from Bailey Nursery Foundation and the Gordon and Margaret Bailey Foundation, the property now provides community meeting space and offices for the Minnesota State Fair Foundation.



Progress Center

Located on the east end of Randall Avenue

Built in 1907, the Progress Center is one of the oldest buildings on the fairgrounds. Originally constructed as the Poultry Building, it has also been home to State Exhibits, Wonders of Technology, and now, the Eco Experience.



Sheep & Poultry Barn

Located on Judson Avenue and Clough Street

The current Sheep & Poultry Barn was built by the Works Progress Administration (WPA) in the 1930s. As with many fair buildings, it was used by the A.O. Smith Corporation from 1943 to 1945 for WWII manufacturing. In 1945, when the war effort ended, sheep and poultry were combined in the current building.



Swine Barn

Located Judson Avenue and Stevens Street

Swine Barn construction was completed by WPA workers in 1936. From 1938 to 1943, swine shared their building with sheep. Like many other fair buildings, it served the war effort in WWII, when the A.O. Smith Corporation used the building for the grinding and shipping operations of its propeller plant.