

# THE STREETS OF ST. ANTHONY PARK

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**ST. ANTHONY PARK** This railroad suburb of the 1880s encompasses the area roughly between Hoyt Avenue and Territorial Road, and between Eustis and Cleveland/Raymond Avenues. The name was adopted from the village of St. Anthony (named for the falls), a small town long since integrated into south-east Minneapolis. The St. Anthony Park Company, incorporated in 1885, spent over \$300,000 in the next five years improving the property and building homes in their two plats: St. Anthony Park North and South St. Anthony Park. It was designed as a middle-class community, and, typical of that period, the irregular lots and blocks were laid out according to the topography. Over the years, the park has been influenced and affected by the industrial area on the south and west, the University of Minnesota St. Paul campus on the east, and the adjacent Minnesota State Fairgrounds. Quite a bit has been written about this desirable residential enclave. See also Alden Square, Breda Avenue, Doris Square, Everett Court, Sarita Wetlands.



**ALDEN SQUARE** A romantic gazebo is at the heart of this small, one-third-acre park at the corner of Brewster Street and Gibbs Avenue in St. Anthony Park. Originally what is now Brewster Street had been Alden Street and Alden Place. John Alden was married to Priscilla (the name of an adjacent street) Mullens. Their names are immortalized in *The Courtship of Miles Standish* (also an adjacent street name) by Henry Wadsworth Longfellow, a popular poem when this park was platted in 1885. See also Priscilla Street, St. Anthony Park, Standish Street.

**BLAKE AVENUE** Anson Blake, his nephew, Charles H. Pratt, and also William R. Marshall were principal owners and agents of the south part of St. Anthony Park, platted in 1885. All three were incorporators of the St. Anthony Park Company, and Blake served for a time as secretary and treasurer. He died in 1906 at the age of eighty-seven. His prominent home, built in 1886, remains at 2205 Scudder Street. See also Gordon Square, Marshall Avenue, Raymond Avenue, St. Anthony Park.

**BOURNE AVENUE** Walter B. Bourne, a clerk for the sale of lots, notarized this St. Anthony Park North plat in 1885. He lived in St. Paul until his death in 1916, at age fifty-seven. The Bourne Hill was a popular sliding and tobogganing spot around the turn of the century. See also St. Anthony Park.

**BRANSTON STREET** The English village in Lincolnshire provided this name on the St. Anthony Park plat in 1885. British names have always been a fertile source of inspiration and nostalgia. See also St. Anthony Park.



**BREWSTER STREET** Previously Alden Street and Alden Place, this St. Anthony Park name was changed by the city council May 4, 1940. William Brewster (1567–1644) was an elder of the Pilgrim Church who came to America on the *Mayflower*. See also Alden Square, Bradford Street.

**BROMPTON STREET** This street was named in 1885 in St. Anthony Park for Brompton, a district of London, England. See also St. Anthony Park.

**BUFORD AVENUE** This street was named in 1885 in St. Anthony Park to commemorate Abraham Buford (1820–84). Member of a prominent Virginia family, Buford graduated from West Point and participated in the war with Mexico. At the outbreak of the Civil War he was appointed a brigadier-general in the Confederate Army. After the war he returned to his successful stock farm, but in later years, suffering the loss of his son, wife, and home, he took his own life. A syndicate of Virginia capitalists who provided financial backing for this addition selected his name for the street. See also St. Anthony Park.

**CARTER AVENUE** A syndicate of Virginia capitalists, including Hill Carter, James H. Dooley, and Manley B. Curry, all of Richmond, Virginia, financed this plat, St. Anthony Park North. Each had a street named for him. The site of the second Breck School remains a private home at 2102 Carter Avenue. See also St. Anthony Park.

**CHELMSFORD STREET** Chelmsford was a municipal borough of England and capital of Essex County in 1885 when this St. Anthony Park street was named. See also St. Anthony Park.

**CHILCOMBE AVENUE** The village in Dorset County, England, provided this name in 1885 in St. Anthony Park North. See also St. Anthony Park.

**CLEVELAND AVENUE** Grover Cleveland was president of the United States when this street was named in 1886 in Merriam Park. Horace W. S. Cleveland (1814–1900), a landscape architect who had a dramatic and positive impact on the development of the Twin Cities, may also have been the source of this name.

In 1924, Cleveland Avenue was extended through the state agricultural college land to connect the increasing traffic coming from the northern suburbs via Raymond to University Avenue, the main east-west thoroughfare between downtown Minneapolis and downtown St. Paul. Cleveland Avenue marks a section line on the land survey. See also Grand Rounds, Merriam Park, University Avenue.

**COLLEGE PARK** This ten-acre public park at Carter and Raymond Avenues in St. Anthony Park was acquired by the city in 1907 through assessments on the surrounding properties. Samuel Green, dean of the College of Forestry at the University of Minnesota, provided the impetus for its acquisition. Turning a glacial kettle hole, thirty feet deep, into a usable park required some deep thinking. See also St. Anthony Park.

**COMMONWEALTH AVENUE** Originally Dooley Avenue for James H. Dooley of Richmond, Virginia, one of a group of capitalists who platted the area, the street name was changed in 1902. The new name, first suggested in the 1901 report of the Board of Park Commissioners, was to designate one link in the “great trunk line of parkways” stretching from the State Capitol through Como Park, the Minnesota State Fairgrounds, and the Agricultural College, and branching to the University of Minnesota on one side and the Mississippi River Boulevards on the other side. Commonwealth symbolized this noble arrangement connecting St. Paul and Minneapolis as well as the state institutions. See also Grand Rounds.

**COMMONWEALTH PARK** This one-acre public park on Commonwealth Avenue between Como and Gordon Avenues was donated in 1902.

**COMO AVENUE** Officially named in 1871, this avenue follows an early Rose Township road between St. Paul and Lake Como. The very first road to Lake Como was a private road graded by Henry McKenty in the 1850s to entice potential customers to his lots for sale. A remnant of that 150-year-old road remains as the alley behind the houses numbered 716–806 Como Av-



enue. In the 1928 Hopkins atlas, this alley is labeled as Como Lane. See also Lake Como, Orchard Avenue, Rose Township.

**DOSWELL AVENUE** ~~Brooke~~ Doswell of Fredericksburg, Virginia, helped finance this St. Anthony Park North plat in 1885. See also St. Anthony Park.

**DUDLEY AVENUE** This is a common family and place name in England. Though generally without local significance, English names were popular in St. Anthony Park in the 1880s. See also St. Anthony Park.

**EUSTIS STREET** Samuel S. Eustis (1815–84) and his wife, Emily Clark Eustis (1819–1909), had a farm directly west of this street named in 1885 as part of St. Anthony Park. Samuel was born in Maine, Emily in New Hampshire; together they came to Minnesota with their children in 1855, settling at “Groveland,” as the Midway area was then called. In 1867 they bought 200 acres at fourteen dollars an acre in an area today roughly west of Highway 280 and north of University Avenue. Their farmhouse, built in 1872, still stands at 3107 Fourth Street SE, Minneapolis, but it is now converted to apartments. The farmland was gradually sold off in the 1880s and 1890s for railroad and commercial use at prices of \$1,000 to \$2,000 an acre. See also Groveland, Midway, St. Anthony Park.

**FIFIELD STREET** Fifield is a lumbering village in Price County, Wisconsin, named for Lieutenant Governor Samuel S. Fifield. Two of the St. Anthony Park investors were in the Wisconsin lumber business when this street was named in 1885. See also St. Anthony Park.

**FULHAM STREET** Fulham is a part of London; this is one of several English names used in St. Anthony Park in 1885. See also St. Anthony Park.

**GIBBS AVENUE** Previously Rich Street, the name was changed in 1888. Heman R. Gibbs (1815–91), an early pioneer in the area—who was not rich—claimed 160 acres in an area today between Cleveland Avenue and Fulham Street, between Larpenteur and Roselawn Avenues. He built a frame house in 1854 and greatly enlarged it in 1867. His house remains at 2097 West Larpenteur Avenue, maintained as a museum by the Ramsey County Historical Society.

**GORDON AVENUE** This street name, applied in 1885 in St. Anthony Park, is probably that of some investor, but his identity has not been saved. Gordon Place is an extension of Gordon Avenue. See also St. Anthony Park.

**GOVE PLACE** Emma B. Gove was secretary of the St. Paul Mutual Insurance Company, one of the two companies deeding this land to the city in 1937 for a St. Anthony Park street. See also St. Anthony Park.

**GRANTHAM STREET** A village in England, near London, inspired this St. Anthony Park street name in 1885. See also St. Anthony Park.

**HENDON AVENUE** This street was named in St. Anthony Park in 1885 for a suburb of London. At 2247 Hendon Avenue there is a striking Prairie School–influenced house designed by Morell and Nichols and built in 1914. See also St. Anthony Park.

**HENDON TRIANGLE MONKEY ISLAND PARK** Actually two triangles, less than one acre total, raised well above the adjacent streets, this piece of public parkland in St. Anthony Park at Branston Street and Hendon Avenue was acquired in 1922. Known locally as “monkey island,” the name apparently refers to the many children who played in the park on a piece of playground equipment called “monkey bars.” See also St. Anthony Park.



**HILLSIDE AVENUE** Previously Langford Avenue, the name of this St. Anthony Park street was changed in 1940. The prominent Twin Cities architect Clarence H. Johnston Jr. designed the house at 2266 Hillside Avenue in 1916. Hillside Court borrows its name from the avenue.

**HOYT AVENUE** Lorenzo and Sarah Hoyt platted this street in 1872 and named it after his father, Benjamin F. Hoyt (1800–1875), pioneer preacher, who came to St. Paul in 1848, where he dealt largely in real estate. The story goes that when Lorenzo was breaking the sod at his farm near today's Hamline and Larpenteur Avenues, then worth five dollars an acre, and feeling his prospects were poor, his father reassured him: "Do not be discouraged; you will live to see this land sell for \$50 an acre." On Hoyt Avenue, just east of Edgerton Street, the 1928 Hopkins atlas indicates a marsh, about 230 feet by 360 feet.

**KESTON STREET** The village in England prompted this St. Anthony Park street name in 1885.

**KNAPP STREET** John H. (1825–88) and Nellie Knapp were two of the developers of this street in 1885. The Knapps invested in St. Anthony Park but never lived in Minnesota. He was born in Elmira, New York, traveled to Iowa about the age of eight, and in 1846 moved to Menomonie, Wisconsin, where he invested in a sawmill. Business increased into the 1880s, when the Knapp, Stout Lumber Company was considered the largest lumbering concern in the world. Knapp Place takes its name from the same source. See also St. Anthony Park.

**LANGFORD PARK** (street) This street was named in 1885 for Nathaniel P. Langford (1832–1911) and his second wife, Clara. Born in upstate New York, Langford came to St. Paul in 1854, where he worked in banking. In the 1860s, during the rampant gold rush days, he was often panned as the collector of internal revenue in Montana. Organizer of an expedition that discovered the Yellowstone geysers, he became the first superintendent of Yellowstone Park and wrote two books about his experiences in the West. In St. Paul he became a key organizer of investors for St. Anthony Park; much of today's Como Avenue as it passes through St. Anthony Park was originally Langford Avenue. Langford died one of St. Paul's most colorful and respected citizens. See also St. Anthony Park.

**LANGFORD PARK** The seven-acre park was also named on the original St. Anthony Park plat of 1885. Before the creation of the parks board in 1888, Langford Lake, occupying most of the park, was drained and filled by the public works department. See also Lakes/Ponds.

**LUDLOW AVENUE** Previously Nourse Street, the name of this St. Anthony Park street was changed in 1940.

**LUTHER PLACE** Previously Grantham Street, the name was changed in 1938 for the street's proximity to Luther Seminary.

**PRISCILLA STREET** Priscilla Mullens was the wife of John Alden (adjacent Brewster Street was originally named Alden). Their names are immortalized in *The Courtship of Miles Standish* by Henry Wadsworth Longfellow, a popular poem when this street was named in St. Anthony Park in 1885.

**RALEIGH STREET** Sir Walter Raleigh (1552?–1618), an English military and naval commander who made several early explorations of North America, was a popular figure when this St. Anthony Park street was named in 1885. See also St. Anthony Park.

**RAYMOND AVENUE** Bradford P. Raymond (1846–1916) was a college president when this street was named in St. Anthony Park in 1885. Born in Connecticut, he was a student at Hamline University after the Civil War. He was elected president of Lawrence University, Appleton, Wisconsin, from 1883 to 1889 and was later president of Wesleyan University in Middletown, Connecticut. Charles H. Pratt, the individual most responsible for the development of St. Anthony Park, lived at 1181 Raymond Avenue. Raymond Lane and Raymond Place take their names from the same source. See also St. Anthony Park.



**SCUDDER STREET** Reverend John L. Scudder was pastor of the First Congregational Church of Minneapolis when this street was named in St. Anthony Park in 1885. He most likely had a financial interest in the property. Andrew A. McGill was the tenth governor of Minnesota; his home, built in 1887, remains at 2203 Scudder Street. See also Burnquist Street, Clough Street, Gorman Avenue, Hubbard Avenue, Johnson Parkway, Marshall Avenue, Merriam Lane, Ramsey Street, Sibley Street.

**STANDISH STREET** Miles Standish (1584–1656), whose romance involving John Alden and Priscilla Mullens was recorded in Henry Wadsworth Longfellow's poem *The Courtship of Miles Standish*, served as the inspiration for this 1885 St. Anthony Park street name. See also St. Anthony Park.

**VALENTINE AVENUE** Platted as Pierce Street in 1885, this St. Anthony Park street was renamed in 1940 to avoid duplication. See also St. Anthony Park.