

Administration will be known for its art, not for its relief.” And he may be right: During the run of the PWAP, which a couple of years later became the WPA, 10,000 artists, paid an average wage of \$53 a month, produced 100,000 paintings, 18,000 sculptures, 13,000 prints, 4,000 murals, and “innumerable posters and photographs.”⁶

No less than Gutzon Borglum, creator of the Mount Rushmore National Memorial, said, “Aid to the creative ones among us would enliven the nation’s mind and coax the soul of America back to life.”

And lifegiving it was for Arnold Klagstad, who was a US Navy radio operator during WWI perhaps felt the pull of other veterans past and future, and made his own contribution to that industrial landscape a short distance from where he lived with his parents at 4220 Park Avenue in Minneapolis.

The painting, now in the Smithsonian American Art Museum collection, exquisitely details the area as it looked 85 years ago (and for all practical purposes remained so until just recently), as a “sight for sore eyes” reminder of a street I traveled whenever I needed some new gear. No need to ask for directions anymore! Just look at the picture for those past generations of sportsmen and women, we know exactly where we are.

PUT ON YOUR FLASHERS: While it was easy to park when Harris was open, now it’s a working construction site. But a glimpse of the old buildings can still be seen from the University of Minnesota’s Transitway bike path off 30th Avenue SE, Minneapolis.

Charlie Maguire is a traveling songwriter, musician, and union organizer who makes frequent stops in Hennepin County.

NOTES

- 1 *The Junction of Industry and Freight: The Development of the Southeast Minneapolis Industrial Area.* A National Register Assessment, Minneapolis Community Development Agency. <http://www.sanfordberman.org/hist/harrw/harhist.pdf>
- 2 Ibid.
- 3 Aron Kahn, “Gadgets and Doodads of the Industrial Age.” *Saint Paul Pioneer Press*, July 4, 2006.
- 4 Albert M. Goodrich, *History of Anoka County, 1905.* www.sanfordberman.org.
- 5 Arnold Ness Klagstad. www.ancestry.com.
- 6 Ann Prentice Wagner, 1934: *A New Deal for Artists* (Washington, DC: Smithsonian American Art Museum, 2009, 13.



LEFT: 10th Mountain Division “Bunny” boots
RIGHT: Author digging through a dumpster of discarded surplus after Harris Warehouse closed, August 2015

Photos provided by Charlie Maguire.



BRIDGING THE PAST

Malcolm Yards Market

What makes a place special? New buildings are new buildings anywhere they’re built. A new building in northern Hennepin County looks pretty much like a new one built in the southern US. But 100 years ago, builders used local materials and local designers and craftspeople. Cities looked different from each other; their distinctive architectural character defined regions. Adobes were built in the southwest; Art Deco skyscrapers sprang up in New York; Art Deco hotels became emblematic of Miami; Chicago pioneered the International Style. Different regions had different looks. Walk around the downtowns in Hennepin County and you can see rocks quarried in Mankato, St. Cloud, Morton, and Lake Superior. Cream-colored Chaska brick, made just across the southwestern border of Hennepin County, is recognizable on many houses, churches, and commercial buildings, including the Grain Belt Brewery. Other parts of the country used their own local materials too.

Developers who incorporate historic preservation into their projects keep history alive. In 2020 Prospect Park residents will see a former historic site — most recently an eyesore — turned into an appetizing neighborhood hub.

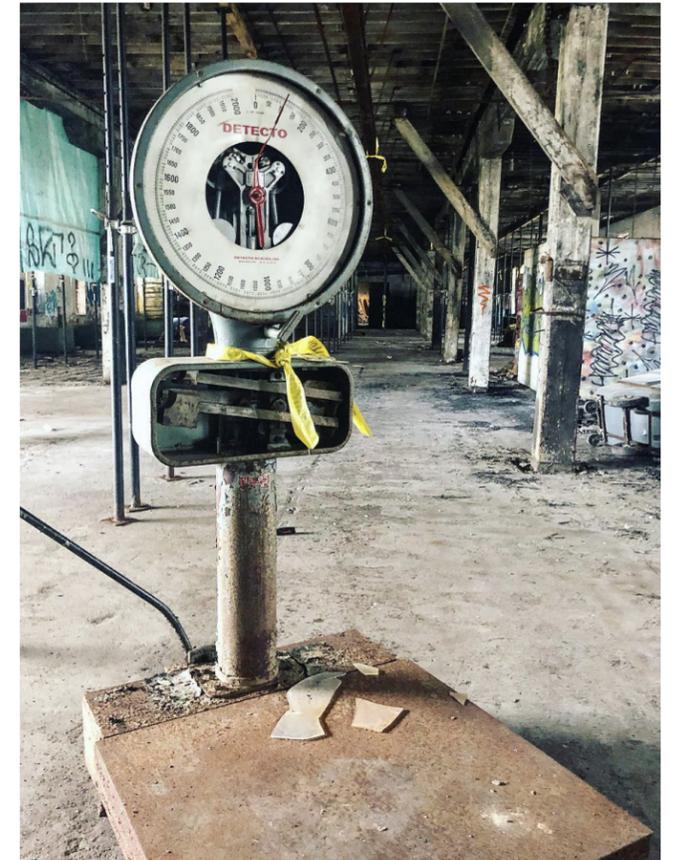
Malcolm Yards Market will be the centerpiece of a new development in a once-forlorn parcel near the University of Minnesota. Numerous grain elevators and old industrial buildings once covered that property. Slowly the area’s been transitioning. As the vacant concrete and steel elevators came down, new university medical and research buildings, along with TCF Stadium, took hold in the western portion. Surly Brewing Co. opened on the eastern end. On University Avenue and toward the massive Burlington Northern Santé Fe Railroad tracks, apartments are rising. Right through the middle of it all cuts the University of Minnesota’s Transitway and bike trail.

For the last ten years, Minneapolis-based Wall Companies has been buying up pieces of property in the area. Their 20-acre site is currently being developed into a brandnew neighborhood called Malcolm Yards. The mixed-use, multiple-building project will contain a wide variety of housing types, commercial offices, and retail, and will be intermixed with a vast outdoor park dotted with public art — all in the shadow of the Urban Crushers grain elevator that they own too. Right in the middle of it all will be the Malcolm Yards Market.

Wall Companies is a family-run redevelopment company started by Fred Wall. His son John is currently president and developing the Malcolm Yards neighborhood. Daughter Elizabeth is vice president of acquisitions. Another son, Rick, is CEO of Highland Banks, an additional family business. Wall Companies has developed, owned, or renovated more than 1,200 apartments and condominiums and two million square feet of retail, office, and industrial property. Malcolm Yards Market was the brainchild of Patricia Wall, John’s wife and partner in the business. Patricia has a culinary background and worked in kitchens in Washington, DC, and planned catering events for



To prevent the walls from caving in, steel supports and joists attached to concrete blocks shore up the building’s exterior. The raw interior still contains abandoned machinery, timber supports, and modern graffiti.





Dayton's and Kitchen Window. On a recent vacation in Vancouver, the bustling food hall Granville Island Public Market inspired her, and she thought Minneapolis needed a place like it.

In 2016 one of the main structures on the property was set on fire. The Harris Manufacturing building, built in the 1890s, lost its roof but the two-story, solidly built brick structure was still standing. Wall Companies, along with Hopkins-based Wilkus Architects, drew up plans to save the structure and designed the food hall inside it. Patricia says it's more work to save the old structure – and more costly – but Wall Companies believes that kind of character can't be recreated. The old-growth rugged timber beams will remain along with a few random scales, rails, and side-dumping cars that were left in place and survived the fire.

Malcolm Yards Market will contain nine food tenants, a full bar, plenty of seating, an event room, an outdoor patio, and a nearby Irish whiskey distillery. It's set to open in early fall of 2020.

People gravitate to historic spaces. Malcolm Yards Market will be a new special place in Hennepin County that celebrates the past while moving into the future.

Images provided by Wall Companies.



See a movie by Wilkus Architects about the existing historic building on Facebook @MalcolmYards or at <https://bit.ly/2n7klmF>.

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Artistic rendering of Malcom Yards Market by Wilkus Architects

