



MHS COLLECTIONS

*Trapbe Saloon, Swanville (Morrison County), about 1900*

A visitor to any small town in Minnesota in the early 1900s would have encountered a saloon much like this one. Well before the days when building typology came into vogue, saloons tended to follow a more or less standard layout, though the quality of the furnishings could range from resplendent to bare bones.

Images from countless western movies have led us to think that old saloons were large, ornate establishments filled with tables occupied by an unsavory assortment of gamblers, gunslingers, and other rough characters. In fact, most saloons of the late-nineteenth and early-twentieth century were, like Trapbe's, small "standup joints" where chairs or tables of any kind were in short supply.

All of the saloon's essentials are visible in this photograph. There's a long wooden bar, probably made of mahogany or oak. Two bartenders, one of whom is wearing the requisite bow tie and vest, serve drinks. Behind them is a long, mirrored mantelpiece sporting a pair of carved columns in the form of what appear to be naked women—a rather racy touch in a small town like Swanville. A brass rail provides a place for patrons to rest one foot while they drink or, in this case, pose for the camera. Spittoons are strategically placed to catch tobacco juice. Stains on the hardwood floor suggest that the customers did not always hit their target.

The saloon's walls are fairly bare, although what looks to be a skull

with antlers is mounted atop a large case in the corner. In tonier drinking establishments, the walls might display a painting or two. *Custer's Last Stand* was an especially popular barroom image at this time, perhaps on the theory that the mere thought of the general's unpleasant fate would be sufficient to drive a man to drink. "Respectable" women, of course, did not frequent saloons in the early 1900s, so it's not surprising that all of the imbibers at Trapbe's are men.

—LARRY MILLETT

*Larry Millett is the author of Strange Days, Dangerous Nights: Photos from the Speed Graphic Era (2004) and numerous books and articles on architectural history.*

## Ogden Apartment Hotel, Minneapolis



LEAVING FOR A summer-evening stroll in Loring

Park or a Saturday-afternoon visit to the public library at Tenth Street and Hennepin Avenue, sisters Ursula and Florence Killeen may well have bade good day to their neighbor, architect Adam Lansing Dorr. It was the 1910s, and the two schoolteachers and the recently widowed Dorr were living in the new Ogden Apartment Hotel, which Dorr had designed, on Twelfth Street and LaSalle Avenue in Minneapolis.

Before automobiles, highways, and suburbs became ubiquitous, people of all social classes lived in the center city, close to work and cultural activities. At the turn of the twentieth century, as the wealthy built houses in far-flung areas south of Franklin Avenue and even at Lake Minnetonka, the middle class still wanted affordable, modern, downtown housing.

Hotel owner James K. Ogden and his wife had once lived in an apartment hotel in St. Paul. Ogden must have liked the lifestyle of efficiency and sophistication associated with apartment living, which he strove to recreate in his 1910 building. Six stories of hollow tile, pressed brick, and terra cotta in Second Renaissance Revival style and moderately priced, the 71-unit Ogden featured private, tiled bathrooms with tubs. (The least expensive apartment hotels typically had shared bathrooms; the most expensive offered private phones, maids, and bellboys.)\*

The distinguishing feature of all apartment hotels was their lack of kitchens. For the secretaries and skilled construction workers, retired couples and singles who lived at the Ogden in its heyday during the 1910s and '20s, taking meals in the basement dining room with its mirrored buffet was amenity indeed. Another attraction was the



Ogden Apartment Hotel (Continental Hotel), 66 South Twelfth Street, Minneapolis

month-to-month lease, which the Ogden (now called the Continental) still offers in its current incarnation as low-income transitional housing. Look below today's slightly garish neon sign for the building's original name, carved sedately in stone above the door.

The Ogden Apartment Hotel was listed on the National Register of Historic Places in 1992.

—LAURA WEBER

*Laura Weber is an independent writer and historian living in Minneapolis, a board member of the Minnesota chapter of the Society of Architectural Historians, and communications director of the General College at the University of Minnesota.*

Sources: Michael Koop, "Ogden Apartment Hotel," National Register of Historic Places Registration Form, 1974, MHS; William Gray Dorr Papers, Northwest Architectural Archives, University of Minnesota; *Star Tribune*, July 24, 1999, p. 1A, Sept. 18, 2001, p. 19A.

\* We don't know the rents at the Ogden, but a comparable hotel, the Curtis, charged \$5 and up per week for an unfurnished apartment, \$7 and up for a furnished unit.



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