

# Historic Sites Survey

Ramsey County Historical Society

Saint Paul Heritage Preservation Commission

1. Street Address/  
Location: 260 W. Summit Avenue
2. District/village: 8 3. Common name: Maryhill
4. Historic name: Louis W. and Maud Hill House 5. Original use: house
6. Present Use: Catholic retreat house for women 7. Access:  Yes  No  Limited
8. Period of construction: 1902/1913 9. Style: Georgian Revival
10. # of bays: 5 11. # of stories: 3½ 12. Roof style: gambrel and truncated hip
13. Roof covering: slate tiles 14. Dormer style & #: 13 gabled
15. Chimney style, material, location & #: 4 brick interior endwall, 3 interior brick
16. Type of fenestration: rectangular 12/1, 1/1, fixed, rounded arch
17. Type of foundation: cut stone
18. Structural system/main exterior wall covering:  Wood frame:  clapboard  shingle  
 aluminum  asbestos  Brick:  stretcher bond  American bond  header bond  
 Stone:  random rubble  coursed rubble  random ashlar  coursed ashlar  
Type of stone/brick or other bonding pattern: dark red pressed brick; modified Flemish  
 Concrete block  Cast concrete  Stucco  Terra cotta  Curtain wall  bond  
 Glass/metal  Other: \_\_\_\_\_
19. Other significant details: At rear of lot is a huge 3½ story gambrel roof house whose main facade is now obscured. It has an ornate classical cornice with modillions, dentils, and rope molding, windows with brick jack arches, stone keystones and lintels, delicate stained glass. 2 story projecting rectangular bay on rear facade with polygonal 1 story solarium. This rear portion has numerous dormers which have fluted pilasters supporting the gable returns. There is an arcaded loggia at the basement level at the rear of house. The east side wall of the rear has a 2 story, flat roofed, 3 sided bay window. There is a 2½ story
20. Integrity of Design:  basically intact & unaltered  altered slightly (#28)  
 alterations & additions more apparent than original  original design not apparent
21. Physical condition of building:  Excellent  Good  Fair  Poor  Deteriorated
22. Additions and alterations:  
A photograph of the house taken in ca. 1902 appears on p. 46 of Sandeen's book. In 1913 the front portico was removed, the present two story box-like addition constructed, and the portico rebuilt at the new main entrance.
23. If a corner lot, describe:  NW  NE  SE  SW corner of \_\_\_\_\_  
cross street
24. Side of street: south
25. Setting:  agricultural  residential  commercial  industrial  suburban  
 Other: \_\_\_\_\_
26. Significant site and landscape features:  
It is impossible to see all of the rear portion of the house. On bluffs, adjacent to James J. Hill House.
27. Threats to site: none
28. Additional comments: 19 cont.: brick connecting link between the front and rear portions of the building. The front of the building is a huge, blockish brick mass which is 5 bays wide and has two stories below the cornice and one above. It has a colossal paired 4 volute Ionic column pedimented portico/porte cochere with a coffered ceiling. The entrance has sidelights and a transom divided by engaged 4 volute Ionic columns. The frieze has applied letters reading "Maryhill" and the entablature curves out and is topped by a cast iron balustrade with French doors opening out onto it. All the first floor windows on this portion of the building are set within rounded arches with keystones. All have wrought iron grillwork. There are rectangular sculpted stone or concrete panels at the 2nd story level which depict fruit-adorned garlands.  
#47 cont.: simply a board member. Hill had many other financial interests and died in 1948. In 1913 Louis and Maud Hill commissioned Chicago architect Charles S. Frost to design a \$25,000 front addition to the house which nearly doubled its size. Fred C. Norlander served as the contractor. The addition included four guest bedrooms and baths on the first floor and a large ballroom on the second floor. In 1963 the house became a Catholic retreat center operated by the Daughters of the Heart of Mary.
29. Date(s) of site visit(s): 5/28/82
30. Negative file number(s): 350/8/6, 350/8/7
31. Map location code(if applicable): \_\_\_\_\_
32. Name of fieldworker: P. Murphy

Planning district/  
village #: \_\_\_\_\_

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Historic Name: Louis W. and  
Maud Hill House

Common Name: Maryhill

10 at/10

33. Architect/engineer: Clarence H. Johnson, Sr. (1913 addition by Charles A. Frost)

34. Builder/contractor: L.W. Hill

35. Present Owner: \_\_\_\_\_ 36. Date built: 1902

Address: \_\_\_\_\_ 37. Date source: Building Permit

38. Legal Description: Lot 1, Block 69, Dayton and Irvine's Addition

39. Building Permit #: 40515 (1902), 61652 (1913)

40. Location of architect's drawings: \_\_\_\_\_

41. On National Register?  Yes  No 42. National Register potential?  Yes  No

43. HPC/local historic site?  Yes  No 44. Local designation potential?  Yes  No

45. In historic district?  Yes  No 46. Historic district potential?  Yes  No

Which? State, National Register, and HPC If yes, explain rationale: \_\_\_\_\_  
Hill Districts

47. Historical background:

The original owners and residents of this house were Louis W. and Maud Hill. The house was constructed for an estimated \$40,000 and designed by prominent St. Paul architect Clarence H. Johnston, Sr. Louis W. Hill was born in St. Paul in 1872 and was the son of railroad magnate James H. Hill. Louis attended Yale University and then returned to St. Paul to work for his father's Great Northern railroad. In 1901 Hill married Maud Van Cortlandt Taylor (1870-1961) who was born in New York. Maud Hill had four children and was active in civic affairs in St. Paul. In 1907 Louis Hill succeeded his father as president of Great Northern. In 1912 he became chairman of the board of directors, retiring in 1929 to become

48. Level of significance:  Local  State  National (#28)

49. Statement of significance:

This house is historically significant as the home of Louis W. and Maud Hill, son and daughter-in-law of James J. Hill. Louis Hill served as James J. Hill's successor to the presidency of the Great Northern Railroad. Architecturally, the house has suffered from the large 1913 addition made to the main facade.

50. Sources of information:

Sandeen, Ernest R. St. Paul's Historic Summit Avenue. St. Paul: Living Historical Museum, Macalester College, 1978.

Bjornson, Val. The History of Minnesota. West Palm Beach, Florida: Lewis Publishing Co., 1969, pp. 48-49.

Photog

