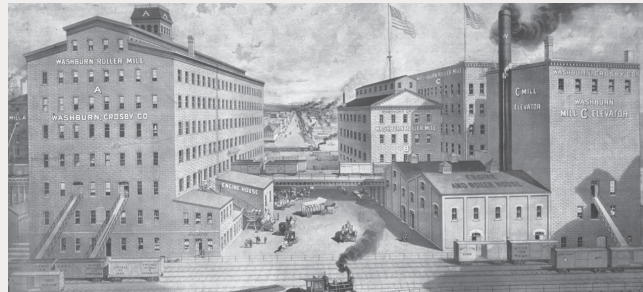


## WASHBURN A MILL HISTORY

Mill City Museum was built within the ruins of the National Historic Landmark Washburn A Mill, the flagship mill of the Washburn-Crosby Co. (later General Mills), and the largest and most technologically advanced flour mill in the world when it was completed in 1880. Millers at the Washburn A Mill Complex in the 1870s perfected a new process for milling, a revolution that made fine white flour available to the masses for the first time. Soon thereafter Minneapolis became the flour milling capital of the world, a title it held from 1880 to 1930.



### WASHBURN A MILL TIMELINE

- 1866 C. C. Washburn builds the first Washburn Mill
- 1874 Washburn's second mill—the Washburn A Mill—opens
- 1878 Washburn A Mill explodes
- 1880 Washburn A Mill is rebuilt
- 1908 Concrete Elevator No. 1 is built
- 1910 Gold Medal Flour sign is erected
- 1928 Washburn-Crosby becomes General Mills
- 1928 Fire destroys the south side of the Washburn A Mill
- 1965 Washburn A Mill closes
- 1991 Fire guts the abandoned mill
- 2003 Mill City Museum opens

### DID YOU KNOW?

- The Washburn A Mill could produce 2 million pounds of flour each day.
- 109 workers toiled in the A Mill in 1897, most of them in packing and loading.
- During World War II psychologist B.F. Skinner conducted experiments in the mill to teach pigeons to navigate the first “smart” bombs.
- The May 2, 1878, flour dust explosion killed 18 workers and destroyed nearly a third of the city's flour milling capacity.
- Concrete cylindrical grain elevators like Elevator No. 1 were invented in a nearby Minneapolis suburb.

### FIND THESE CLUES TO THE BUILDING'S THREE TIME PERIODS:

- Limestone = Rebuilt Washburn A Mill (1880)
- Round concrete columns = Post-fire reconstruction (1928)
- Square columns & glass curtain wall = Mill City Museum (2003)

## WELCOME TO MILL CITY MUSEUM

### WHAT TO SEE & DO

- An architecturally stunning National Historic Landmark
- Flour Tower 8-story multimedia elevator show
- *Minneapolis in 19 Minutes Flat* film by Kevin Kling
- Hands-on Water & Baking Labs
- Rooftop views of the Mississippi River, St. Anthony Falls, and Stone Arch Bridge
- Museum store featuring city history & cooking merchandise
- Bushel & Peck Cafe by D'Amico

### FLOUR TOWER TIME

(assigned)

### MOVIE TIME

(runs every half hour)

### SPECIAL TOURS & PROGRAMS

See [mnhs.org/events](http://mnhs.org/events) for upcoming schedule & more information

- Indoor & outdoor walking tours
- Baking demonstrations
- Book events
- Family Days
- Live performances

### RENTALS

Wedding, corporate, and event rentals: 612-238-4444

Conference room rentals: 612-341-7556

### FOLLOW US

Facebook: [facebook.com/millcitymuseum](https://www.facebook.com/millcitymuseum)

Instagram: <https://www.instagram.com/millcitymuseum/>

### MNHS MEMBERSHIP

Become a Minnesota Historical Society member and enjoy free admission to all MNHS historic sites & museums! If you're already paid admission today, stop at the ticket desk and we'll apply it toward the membership fee.

Discover more about the Minnesota Historical Society at [mnhs.org](http://mnhs.org).

612-341-7555 • [millcitymuseum.org](http://millcitymuseum.org)

See website for current hours and admission information



704 South 2nd St.  
Minneapolis, MN 55401

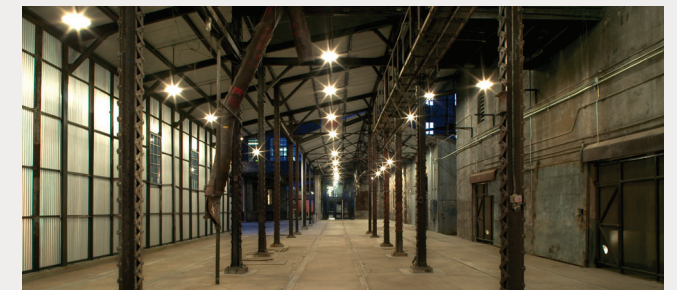
## EXPLORE OUR FREE PUBLIC SPACES



**Mill Commons.** The former packing floor of the mill now features the museum store, Bushel & Peck Café by D'Amico, rotating exhibits, and visitor information. Look for the ceiling panel inspired by wheat berries. How many other places can you find wheat images in the museum?



**Rail Corridor.** The St. Paul and Pacific Boxcar #1320 (1879) is parked on railroad tracks that run right through the mill. Here boxcars were loaded with flour barrels and bags. Look for the art window *Between Now and Then, Minnesota* at the west end. Step outdoors to the courtyard balcony or the Train Shed.



**Train Shed.** During the milling heyday, workers unloaded wheat and loaded flour onto railroad cars using the tubes near the ceiling. Look up to see the iconic Gold Medal Flour sign atop Elevator #1. Visit the Mill City Farmers Market on Saturday mornings, May through October. Just outside the doors is an electric motor that once provided extra power for the mill. (1928)

**Ruin Courtyard.** See map for details.

# 1ST FLOOR GALLERY GUIDE

Admission sticker required for gallery, exhibit labs, and multimedia shows. A time-specific reservation to the Flour Tower is part of the admission process. Available at the ticket desk on the third floor. Free for MNHS members.

**Flour Tower.** Taking place within a freight elevator, this multimedia show travels through eight levels of the building and back through time as you experience the sights and sounds of the workers and machines that made Minneapolis the flour milling capital of the world. Includes a visit to the rooftop observation deck for a panoramic view of the Mississippi River and St. Anthony Falls.

**Baking Lab.** Follow your nose to the Baking Lab for exhibits, demos, and fresh-baked samples.



**Ruin Courtyard.** View the ruins created by a 1991 fire in the abandoned mill. Look for the two metal flour bins along the wall and the exposed foundations of two turbine pits on the ground. Images in the glass wall indicate the location of milling machinery in the 1890s. Enjoy live performances in the summer.

**Gallery.** See 19th-century flour milling machines, view vintage advertising, sit at a huge dinner table outfitted to feed a wheat harvest crew, trace the journey of wheat from farm to market, design your own cereal box, and add your thoughts to the participatory exhibit installation *What Makes Minneapolis Minneapolis*.



**Water Lab.** Get your hands wet and learn how waterpower from St. Anthony Falls drove the flour and lumber mills that made Minneapolis the Mill City.



## MUSEUM GALLERY

## WATER LAB

**Building History Exhibit.** Learn about the Washburn A Mill's exciting history of explosion, fire, and recovery.

**Minneapolis in 19 Minutes Flat.** Take a whirlwind cinematic tour through 400 years of the area's history starring humorist Kevin Kling. The film plays at the top and bottom of each hour throughout the day. The theater was once the mill's West Engine House, which supplied extra power for half of the mill.



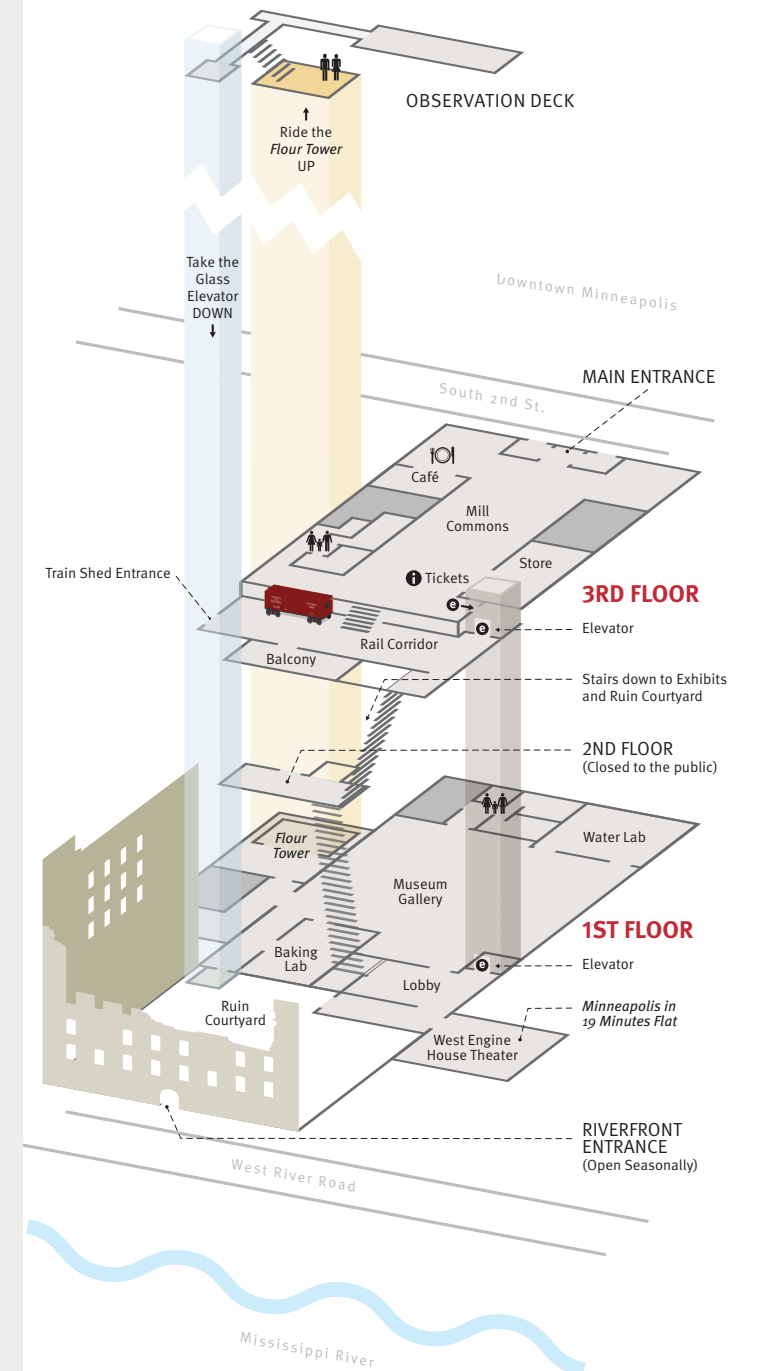
**Minneapolis Riverfront.** Explore numerous riverfront attractions including Mill Ruins Park, the Stone Arch Bridge, St. Anthony Falls Visitor Center and Lock and Dam, St. Anthony Falls Heritage Trail, Historic Main Street, Water Power Park, Nicollet Island, and the Guthrie Theater.

**Cloudy Waters: Dakota Reflections on the River**  
Hear about the river from the perspectives of Dakota people in this audio installation by artist Mona Smith that interweaves Dakota voices and nature sounds.

Please, no food or drink in the museum gallery.



# BUILDING LAYOUT



RIVERFRONT ENTRANCE  
(Open seasonally)

RUIN COURTYARD  
(OPEN SEASONALLY)

CLOUDY WATERS

WEST ENGINE HOUSE THEATER

MINNEAPOLIS in 19 Minutes Flat

FIRST FLOOR LOBBY

BAKING LAB

FLOUR TOWER LOBBY

FLOUR TOWER

MUSEUM GALLERY

WATER LAB

3RD FLOOR

1ST FLOOR

RIVERFRONT ENTRANCE  
(Open Seasonally)

2ND FLOOR  
(Closed to the public)

MAIN ENTRANCE

OBSERVATION DECK

Mississippi River

West River Road

South 2nd St.

Downtown Minneapolis

Train Shed Entrance

Rail Corridor

Elevator

Stairs down to Exhibits and Ruin Courtyard

Elevator

Water Lab

Museum Gallery

Baking Lab

Lobby

Minneapolis in 19 Minutes Flat

West Engine House Theater

Elevator

Store

Mill Commons

Café

Tickets

Balcony

Take the Glass Elevator DOWN

Ride the Flour Tower UP