



News Release

Minnesota Transportation Museum

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Justus Ramsey House Moving to Transportation Museum

(Saint Paul, Minnesota) The Minnesota Transportation Museum (MTM) is pleased to confirm that St. Paul's historic Justus Ramsey House has found a new home on grounds next to the historic Jackson Street Roundhouse. The MTM board of directors approved availability of the land, and the Fort Road Federation approved the proposal submitted by MTM as their choice for the relocation.

The 170-year-old Ramsey House is significant to the history of St. Paul. It was built by former territorial Governor Alexander Ramsey for his brother Justus. It stood just off Walnut Street at a site near Xcel Energy Center that is now part of Burger Moe's restaurant. The restaurant owner removed the house in pieces last February after the partial collapse of a wall. It has been a source of controversy ever since as historians, preservationists and neighborhood residents sought to maintain the historic structure.

"The Jackson Street Roundhouse grounds provide the perfect new home for the Justus Ramsey House," said Larry Paulson, the MTM board member who led the effort to move the house to 193 Pennsylvania Avenue East. "The house previously sat on land that the Ramsey's purchased from a railroad, and periodically through the years the house was occupied by railway workers who called it home," said Paulson. Some of those workers were African American porters on the trains or redcaps at Union Depot. "Bringing the Ramsey House to a location that tells St. Paul's railroading history is appropriate," he said. "It will help us tell the full and diverse story of all the peoples who worked on the railroads and helped build St. Paul. We can now share the story of where African American railway workers worked 'and' lived," said Paulson.

According to Paulson, it will cost approximately \$500,000 to prepare the land, run utilities, and reconstruct the house at the Minnesota Transportation Museum. "While MTM donated the land, we look forward to building partnerships with foundations, corporations, and governments to raise the necessary funds," said Paulson. He hopes the house can be reconstructed within the next year or two.

The Minnesota Transportation Museum is a nonprofit community organization that has been offering interpretations, education, historic restorations, and vintage railway experiences for the past 60 years. Those experiences include operations of the Osceola & St. Croix Valley Railway and the Museum at Jackson Street Roundhouse. The organization is almost entirely volunteer led and relies on ticket sales and charitable contributions to support its operations. Donations can be made through www.trainride.org.

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