

St. Paul Scares— Five of the St. Paul's Most Haunted Locations

BY MALIA BRAIDEY

AS THE LEAVES AND WEATHER TURN, Halloween is just around the corner here in Minnesota. While that may mean new pumpkin-based recipes or apple orchard visits for some, it also means it's the perfect time to check out some of St. Paul's spookiest secrets. Here are 5 locations to consider (or go visit) when getting into the Halloween spirit this year.

1. GIBBS FARMHOUSE

Killed in a prairie fire that almost took his St. Paul home with him, nine-year-old Willie Gibbs is rumored to still have a presence in his home-turned-museum. Causing trouble only as any nine-year-old could, reports have been made that he messes with the workers of the museum, frequently taking toys from the locked display cases and scattering them about the floors, opening and closing cabinets, and showing his face to visitors in the windows. Oh, and we can't forget the typical horror movie trope of the moving rocking chair— that's in there too.

2. WABASHA STREET CAVES

During the Age of Prohibition, the sandstone bluffs and nooks of the Wabasha Street Caves became the perfect place for a speakeasy. However, the secrecy of this location doesn't just come from the illegal speakeasy, but from the various mobsters found within. In fact, it's rumored that some card games had severely heated tempers and high stakes involved— including the death of some of the players. Visitors of this historical spot have reported various ghosts in 1920s attire, including the men allegedly buried deep within the caves. There have also been reports of strange mists, floating orbs, and even a ghostly bartender, known to refill guests' glasses at leisure. This site is often explored through the Ghost and Graves Tour, as well as the Lost Souls Tour in Stillwater.

3. MOUNDS THEATRE

Known as one of the most paranormally active buildings in the St. Paul area, this theater has been left with raving reviews— but not just with the productions. In explorations of this building, investigators have claimed to leave with claw marks, and interactions with a tempestuous entity who shouts obscenities and throws objects at visiting women, as well as a young girl in a pink dress, often found bouncing a ball on the stage. Tours of this location can be taken, if you dare, through the Mounds Theatre Real Haunted Tours.

4. THE FITZGERALD THEATRE

Numerous events have been reported from this St. Paul Theater, most of which is accounted to former stagehand Ben. As he died in the theater in the 1940s, his recent antics range from revealing his shadow throughout the workings of the stage and causing cold chills throughout the theater, to nearly killing two men from the dropping of a plaster chunk from the catwalks. Quite the show, Ben!

5. FOREPAUGH'S RESTAURANT

Originally a Victorian-style home, this restaurant is named after its first owners, Mr. and Mrs. Forepaugh. When it comes to complicated relationships, this site is nothing shy of intense. Rumor has it that Joseph Forepaugh was having an affair with their maid, Molly, and had gone as far to impregnate her. When Molly told Joseph of this situation, and his wife had heard word of it, he immediately broke it off with Molly, prompting the taking of her own life within the building. When Joseph had heard of her passing, he followed in her footsteps, setting both of them to haunt the building for the next century. Molly is known to be the more active of the two, as she has enveloped all senses of guests— from sites of her seating herself in the dining area to the sounds of glasses crashing, to even the lingering scent of her lavender perfume. Joseph has also been reported to be wandering the stairs of the building, making trips to and from the basement. While it may be enticing to experience the two yourself, the restaurant officially closed in 2019, and it is now considered trespassing to be on the grounds.

Visit at your own risk, Golden Bears. Your city has plenty of stories to be discovered— whether you chose to believe them is up to you.




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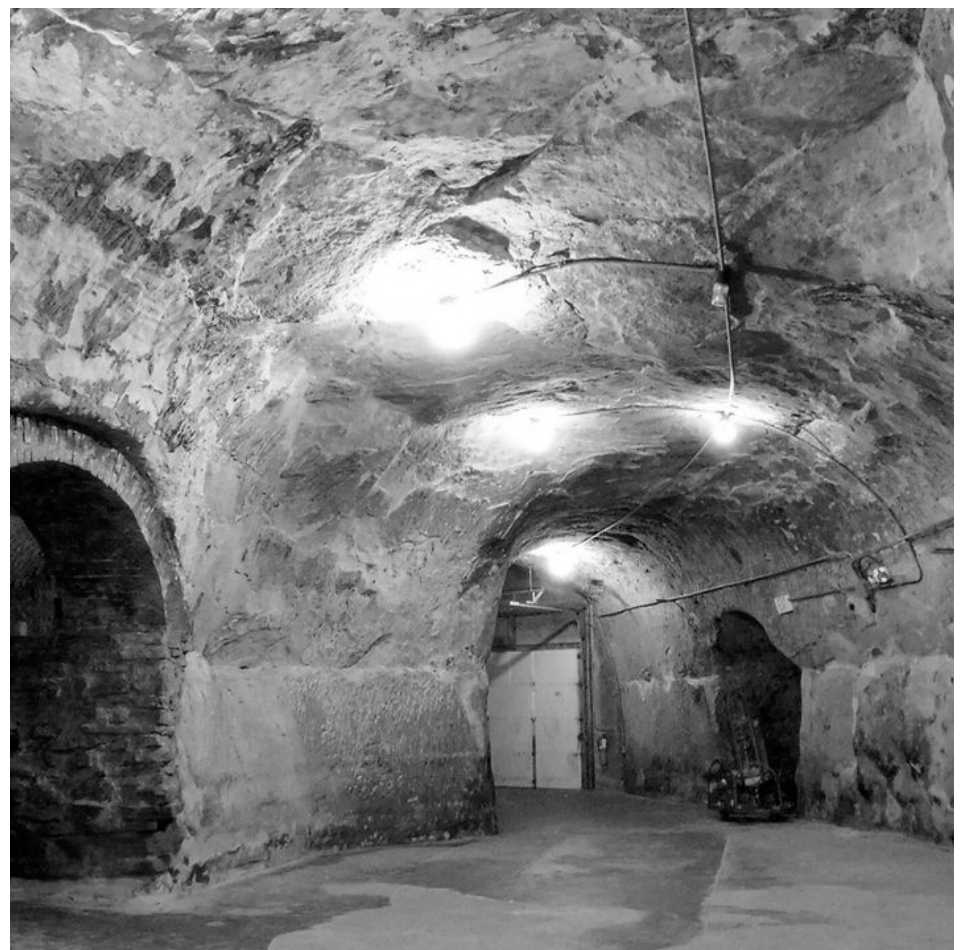
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