



Francis Scott Key Fitzgerald was born September 24, 1896 at 481 Laurel Avenue in the Cathedral Hill District of St. Paul (pictured above). His birthplace is designated a National Literary Landmark.

Fitzgerald's father, Edward, came from an old Maryland family with ancestral links to Francis Scott Key, author of the "Star Spangled Banner." His mother, Millie, was the daughter of Louisa and Philip McQuillan, early pioneers of the city who made their fortune in the wholesale grocery business.

"Well, three months before I was born, my mother lost her other two children," Scott would later write of his literary beginnings. "I think I started then to be a writer."

Using locations, people or themes he cultivated in Minnesota's capital, he would go on to produce several masterful short stories and novels,

including "Bernice Bobs Her Hair," "Winter Dreams," "Ice Palace," and *The Great Gatsby*.

In September 1919, at 599 Summit Avenue, (pictured below) while living with his parents, Fitzgerald learned his book *This Side of Paradise* had been accepted for publication by Scribner's. He had revised the novel in this brownstone, which is listed on the National Register of Historic Places.

Before the publication of the novel in 1920, Fitzgerald wrote several stories in his third-floor room, including "The Camel's Back," which brought his first inclusion in the O. Henry Prize series.



One of the most beloved American writers of the 20th century, F. Scott Fitzgerald burst onto the literary scene with the publication of *This Side of Paradise* in 1920. His works, most notably his masterpiece *The Great Gatsby*, came to embody the spirit of the Jazz Age.

Born in St. Paul in 1896, Fitzgerald lived in the St. Paul area at various times and in multiple locations until 1922. He married his well-known wife, Zelda Sayre, in 1920, and they had one child, a daughter named Frances Scott (Scottie), in 1921. In 1940, Fitzgerald died at age 44 in Hollywood, California. His other works include *Tender is the Night*, *The Last Tycoon*, and over 150 short stories.

For more information on F. Scott Fitzgerald's life in St. Paul, the following books, published in 2004 by the Minnesota Historical Society Press, are recommended:

The St. Paul Stories of F. Scott Fitzgerald, edited by Patricia Hampl and Dave Page

A Guide to F. Scott Fitzgerald's St. Paul: A Traveler's Companion to His Homes and Haunts, by John Koblas

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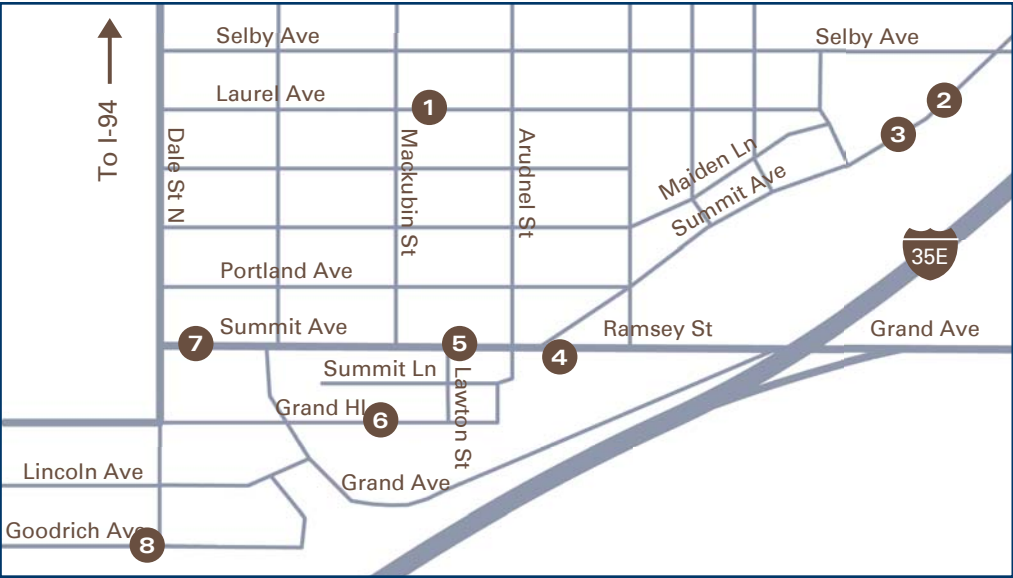
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The bronze statue of F. Scott Fitzgerald, pictured above, is located in St. Paul's Rice Park.

Summit Avenue Area



1 481 Laurel Ave.

F. Scott Fitzgerald was born in this Pullman-style apartment building on September 24, 1896. It is reported that the Fitzgeralds occupied the middle unit in the building.

2 240 Summit Ave. - James J. Hill house

This was the home of railroad baron, James J. Hill. His wife, Mary, was a good friend to the McQuillans, the family of Scott's mother. Scott often made references to Hill, the "Empire Builder," in his work, including *The Great Gatsby*. The home is now a museum operated by the Minnesota Historical Society.

3 260 Summit Ave. - Louis W. Hill house

Fitzgerald attended at least one party here at the home of Louis, son of James J. Hill. It was also the site of the costume ball which eventually found its way into Fitzgerald's story "The Camel's Back."

4 420 Summit Ave. - University Club

Fitzgerald met Donald Ogden Stewart here in 1919. He encouraged him to pursue his literary leanings. Stewart went on to win an Oscar for his screen adaptation of *The Philadelphia Story*. Scott and Zelda held a "Bad Luck Ball" here in 1922, and the Club figures in several of Fitzgerald's stories, including "The Ice Palace."

5 475 Summit Ave. - Edward L. Hersey house

Daughter Marie Hersey was one of Scott's closest friends. She is most likely the inspiration for Margaret Torrence in "The Scandal Detectives."

6 501 Grand Hill - Charles W. Ames house

Son Theodore ("Ted") and daughter Elizabeth ("Betty") Ames were friends of Fitzgerald. Betty married another Fitzgerald friend and fellow Princetonian, Norris Jackson. The house is beautifully described in "The Scandal Detectives."

7 599 Summit Ave. - Fitzgerald residence

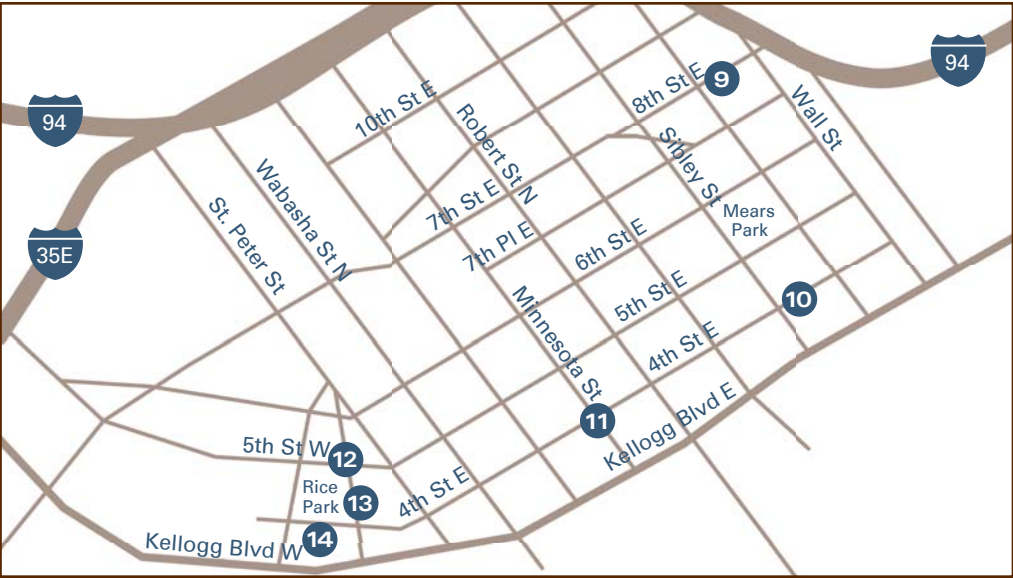
Here Scott polished his first novel, *This Side of Paradise*, and wrote a number of stories, including "A Camel's Back."

8 626 Goodrich Ave.

Scott and Zelda brought their first and only child, Frances (Scottie) Fitzgerald, here to live with them after her birth at St. Paul's Miller Hospital in October, 1921.

NOTE: Many of these sites are private residences. Please respect the privacy of the occupants.

Downtown Saint Paul Area



9 261 E. 8th St. - St. Mary's Church

Fitzgerald's grandparents worshiped in a church at this site. In 1833, the family donated the marble baptismal font and pedestal which are still in use today.

10 214 E. 4th St. - Union Depot

From here, Fitzgerald took the train to and from schools out East. He described coming back to St. Paul on the train in *The Great Gatsby*.

11 84 E. 4th St.

Site of former Kilmarnock Bookshop. Fitzgerald liked to pass the time here. He helped co-owner Thomas Boyd get his World War I novel, *Through the Wheat*, published with Scribner's.

12 Rice Park - Market & W. 5th Sts.

Visit the life-sized statue of F. Scott Fitzgerald created in 1996 by Minnesota sculptor Michael Price.

13 350 Market St. - St. Paul Hotel

Scott and Zelda spent time here when they were between homes in 1921. There is a painting of Fitzgerald in the bar.

14 90 W. 4th St. - St. Paul's Central Library

Opened during Fitzgerald's last years in St. Paul, the historic 1917 library contains an alcove and reading area on the third floor featuring displays and information on Fitzgerald, as well as a collection of books by and about Fitzgerald.

DIRECTIONS

TO THE SUMMIT AVENUE AREA:

From I-94: Exit at Dale Street, proceed south to Laurel or Summit Avenue and turn left. Follow map of area.

From I-35E from North: Follow I-94 west and follow directions above.

From I-35E from South: Exit at Grand Avenue and turn left. Continue up the hill on Grand or Ramsey to Summit Avenue.

TO THE DOWNTOWN AREA:

From I-94 or I-35E: Take any downtown exit and follow the signs to Rice Park or the Ordway Theater.

For detailed directions or parking locations, visit the Saint Paul Convention and Visitors Bureau at www.stpaulcvb.org.