

Sites Worth Saving

MINNESOTA'S 10 MOST ENDANGERED HISTORIC PLACES 2011



Preservation Alliance of Minnesota ❖ www.mnpreservation.org

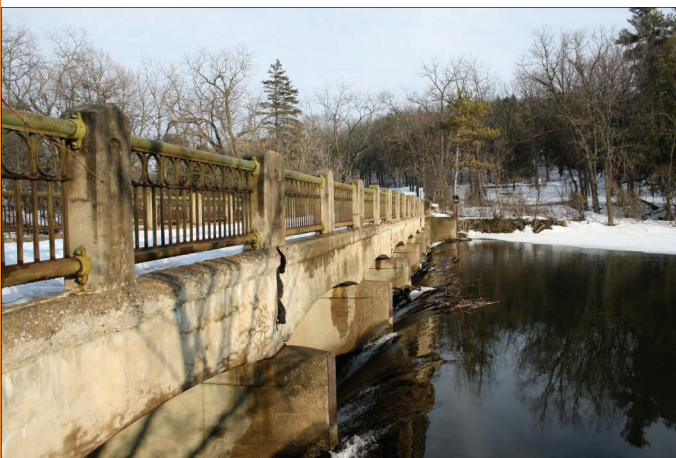


The Mayowood Historic District includes one of the great county estates in the Midwest, home of the Charles H. Mayo family. The Mayos established residence in the area in 1907, constructing Ivy Lodge and living in it until completion of the Mayowood residence in 1911. For nearly thirty years, Dr. Mayo continued to develop the site, which ultimately encompassed 3,000 acres and included a man-made lake, gardens, a wildlife preserve, a horse track, nine active farms, and numerous other buildings and landscape elements. Most of the property was sold off, but not before the 120-acre tract comprising the Mayowood Historic District was listed in the National Register of Historic Places in 1982. The main residence, which was listed in the National Register in 1970, is currently a house museum operated by the History Center of Olmsted County, but negotiations are underway to transfer ownership to a third party.

Over the years, the historic significance of Mayowood has slowly faded from public consciousness. Both by design and neglect, the district has become subject to a number of proposals that endanger many of its most significant elements and risk the loss of much of its remaining historic fabric. With a mix of owners both public and private, conflicting visions and divergent interests threaten the integrity of the historic district and many of its individual resources. A comprehensive plan is needed to preserve the historic district and to realize its full potential as a significant natural, cultural, and historical site.

Action Steps

1. Help develop the proposed Mayowood Lake Restoration Demonstration Project and voice your support for this effort to local and state officials.
2. Encourage the owners of the privately owned properties (Ivy Lodge, the greenhouse, the farm, and the islands in Mayowood Lake) to work with Minnesota State Historic Preservation Office staff to develop a greater understanding of the need for proper restoration and conservation plans.
3. Support the efforts of the Friends of Mayowood Residence and Historic Sites to preserve and protect the public and non-profit owned resources in the district.



ROCHESTER

MAYOWOOD HISTORIC DISTRICT



PRESERVE

PROTECT

PROMOTE