

Welcome

This self-guided walking tour will help you appreciate some of the history and features of the Lakeside and Lester Park neighborhoods on the far east end of Duluth. Bring this brochure, wear comfortable walking shoes, and step back in time as you visit the 12 stops along about a 3½ mile loop. Allow about 1½ hours to complete the tour.

NOTE: The tour can be shortened by crossing back to Superior Street before 47th Ave. E. and forming a smaller loop.

Lakeside - Lester Park Timeline

- c. 1812 Michigan militiaman, *Francis Dermay*—received 160 acres of land as bounty for his service in the War of 1812
- 1871 Property in the area purchased by *Hugh McCulloch*, President Lincoln’s secretary of the Treasury during the Civil War. McCulloch moved to London and platted what evolved into Lakeside and Lester Park. Shortly after he sold the land to *George Sargent*.
- 1886 George’s son, *William Sargent*, and several other notables formed the Lakeside Land Company. The area was known as New London.
- 1889 March 30 - Incorporated as the Village of Lakeside (New London and its vicinity)
- 1893 January 1 - Became part of the City of Duluth

Movin’ Right Along

This community was carved out of the north woods nestled along the western shore of Lake Superior. As more people settled in the area, trees were cleared and most (but not all) wildlife moved on to wilder places. Streams were crossed by building bridges or “burying” them beneath roads. People planted gardens, raised families and built houses and businesses. Transportation went from walking to animals with or without carts, to trains, to streetcars, to buses and ultimately to automobiles. As an early rural settlement outside of the original Duluth boundaries, domestic animals were quite common for food and milk production and for carrying loads. Horses were used to deliver drinking water from Lake Superior to village residents and for pulling the early fire “engines.” There was a wave of increased poultry production in the late 1800s. Henhouses were built along the lower side of the tracks and other places. The Fire of 1918 devastated much of the area’s livestock and Lester Park. The area recovered and has been a delightful neighborhood for generations.



Neighborhood Features

Lake Superior and streams

Lester Park – the park

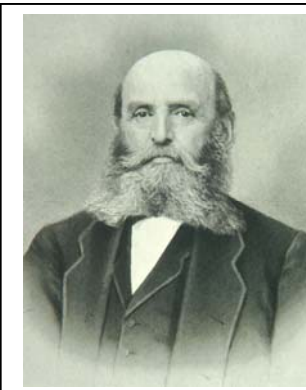
Businesses

Railroad

People

27th Session
of the Minnesota
State Legislature
Chapter XII
Section 5
January 8, 1891

The common council of the city of Duluth is hereby prohibited from ever granting any license to sell or dispose of any wines, spirituous or malt liquors within the limits of the territory hereby constituted as the city of Lakeside, after the same shall have been annexed to the said city of Duluth in accordance with the provisions of this act.



George B. Sargent

Agent of Jay Cooke, early Duluth banker, real estate developer and called by some the Napoleon of the Northwest. He purchased land in this area from Hugh McCulloch. His son William Sargent became the president of the village of Lakeside, the mayor of the city of Lakeside and the sheriff of St. Louis County.

References and Suggested Resources:

- Everest, Georgia. *The Village of Lakeside London Addition*. 1953.
- Duluth Room at the Duluth Public Library
- Northeast Minnesota Historical Center
- City of Duluth City Assessor website
- Sanborn & Rascher Fire Maps

Thanks for review and assistance by Terry Brown, Maryanne Norton, Mark Atkinson, Anne Paine Williams, William D. & Evelyn Anderson, Pat Maus, Robert Fleischmann, Robert Hewitt, and folks at the Duluth Public Library.

Copying and paper donation by Lakeside Printing.
Electronic copies are at www.greygreen.org/lakeside

This tour was created by Wendy Grethen.

© April 2006

Historic Reflections

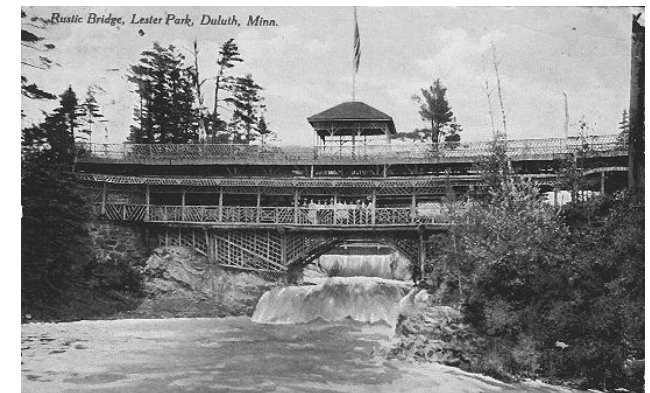
Lakeside & Lester Park

S e l f - G u i d e d

Walking Tour

NEW LONDON

LONDON ADDITION



Start: Lester Park parking lot
above Superior St. on Lester River Rd./61st Ave. E.

1. Lester Park (originally known as Stearns Park)

Cross the footbridge over the Lester River. Slightly downstream stood a multi-story cedar **rustic bridge** built in 1897. The bridge (pictured on the front cover) was quite a tourist attraction and was featured in many photographs and postcards. For safety reasons the bridge was completely removed in 1931. Lester Park was a very popular destination, especially on holiday weekends. A Pavilion which included a dance hall, refreshment stand, small zoo, merry-go-round and shooting gallery was located near Lester Park in the early 1900s. The Pavilion was destroyed in a fire in 1903. Harmonie Hall stood next to the Pavilion and also was a popular entertainment place. Continue walking to the playground, pass the flagpole and cross the small bridge over Amity Creek and head up the stone steps to the road.

2. Seven Bridges Road

Occidental Boulevard is also known as Seven Bridges Road and is worth a drive to see the stone arch bridges. Mayor Samuel Snively helped build the road with its wooden bridges. The road provided access to his farmland in the early 1900s. Scenic stone bridges (including two beyond where the current road travels) replaced the wooden bridges in 1912. The nearest bridge (the first up this road) came later and was built in 1928.



3. Superior Street in this area was originally named Grand Ave. Superior Street and London Road began as cowpaths.

4. The Duluth and Iron Range Railroad Tracks

In 1890, railroad tracks connected stretches of Duluth with other towns to the north. A "Short Line" train service ran between Lester River and Fifth Ave. W. This suburban train operated until 1892 when the streetcar line was put in by the Lakeside Land Company. A depot station was located on the lower side of the tracks. At least 6 train runs

were made each day. Additional depots were located at 51st Ave. E. (Crosley Station) and 47th Ave. E. (*London Station - also the first **post office** in the area)

5. Lester Park Hotel & Fuel Station, 60th Ave E. and London Rd.

The Lester Park hotel was built in 1890 and burned in 1897. The house at 6005 London Rd. is where the hotel once stood. The building across the avenue was built in 1886 and operated as a fuel station early on.

6. Lester River Bridge & Fish Hatchery

The bridge crossing near the mouth of the Lester River was built and dedicated in 1925 and served as a gateway to the North Shore. The **U.S. Fisheries Station (Lester River Fish Hatchery)**, 6008 London Rd., built in 1886, operated until 1946. This hatchery was the first in the state. The building and the bridge are on the National Register of Historic Places.

7. New London School, 5217 London Rd.

A one-room schoolhouse that was originally built in the 1890s at 46th Ave. E. and Regent St. was dismantled and rebuilt on this site. The current house was built in 1902.

8. "Mirror" Houses & Wells House

Observe the two homes at 4840 & 4846 London Rd. Do you see the similarities? Both date back to 1890. Across the street stands the grand **Wells House**, 4831 London Rd., built in 1889. Benjamin Wells was Vice-President of Wells-Stone Mercantile Co., a wholesale grocery business.

9. One of the Oldest Houses in Lakeside, 4645 London Rd.

The McNair House dates to the 1870s. It has had considerable changes but is the original house. The photo to right shows how it originally looked. Nearby on the lower side of the street stood the home of George Sargent. **The Sargent house** stood on the shores of Lake Superior from 1872 to 1915 and was the destination for many large community and city-wide parties. For years the house was a landmark in all of the city. Forty-seventh Ave. E. was originally called Sargent Ave.



10. First Three-Story Commercial Building, 601 N. 47th Ave. E.

The building was constructed in 1891. The lower level was a grocery and drug store. Later, the building served as a railroad boarding house.

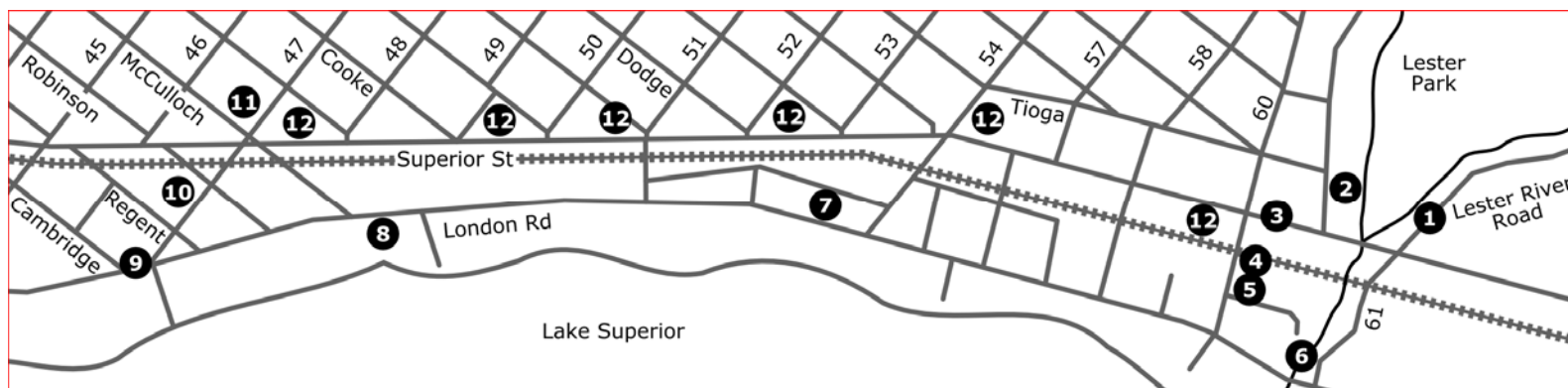
11. Portman Square, 47th Ave. E. and McCulloch St.

This public recreation area is one of several public squares platted by Hugh McCulloch. The names of the public squares and many streets and avenues in the area were from his connection and love of London. In fact, he named this area New London. He also used associates' names (i.e. Cooke and Gladstone) and his own name. Numbers replaced the named avenues after Lakeside became part of Duluth.

12. Superior Street Businesses

The business district extended in both directions along Superior St. The first businesses included George Hawkesworth Grocery Store, Hienan Hardware, Kellam Drugs, and a meat market. In time, fuel stations, banks, a movie theater, barber shops, more grocery stores, and other businesses served the area. **Fruit, bread, and fish peddlers** and even a blind **brush peddler** made rounds along streets. The Lakeside **town hall** was at 45th Ave. E. and Robinson St. and included a jail. **St. Michael's Catholic Church**, (originally the brick building to the east of 4901 Superior St.), was built in 1916. You can see the rear side of it. **Fire Station No. 6**, 5031 Superior St. has been in the neighborhood since 1891—first as a two-story wood structure; then rebuilt in 1911 as this one-story building. It had the first motorized fire engine in Duluth. Early **library** service began in a Lester Park grocery store in 1915. The **Park Lumber Co.** was located on the lower side of Superior St. before 60th Ave. E.

I hope you enjoyed the tour.
Lakeside/Lester Park is
a great place to live!

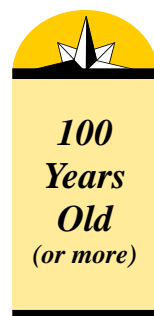


Still Standing

Some Additional Centennial

Houses on London Road	Upper Side
	4727 (1898)
	4741 (1888)
	4745 (1896)
	4819 (1889)
	4825 (1893)
	4831 (1889)
	4840 (1888)
	4842 (1887)
	5014 (1892)
	5090 (1893)
	5130 (1890)
	5144 (1889)
	5518 (1890)
	5520 (1881)
	5614 (1891)
	5802 (1890)
	5808 (1901)
	5820 (1891)
	5830 (1900)

Lower Side
4738 (1893)
4760 (1890)
4840 (1888)
4842 (1887)
5014 (1892)
5090 (1893)
5130 (1890)
5144 (1889)
5518 (1890)
5520 (1881)
5614 (1891)
5802 (1890)
5808 (1901)
5820 (1891)
5830 (1900)



100
Years
Old
(or more)

5913 (1893)
5917 (1889)
5921 (1893)