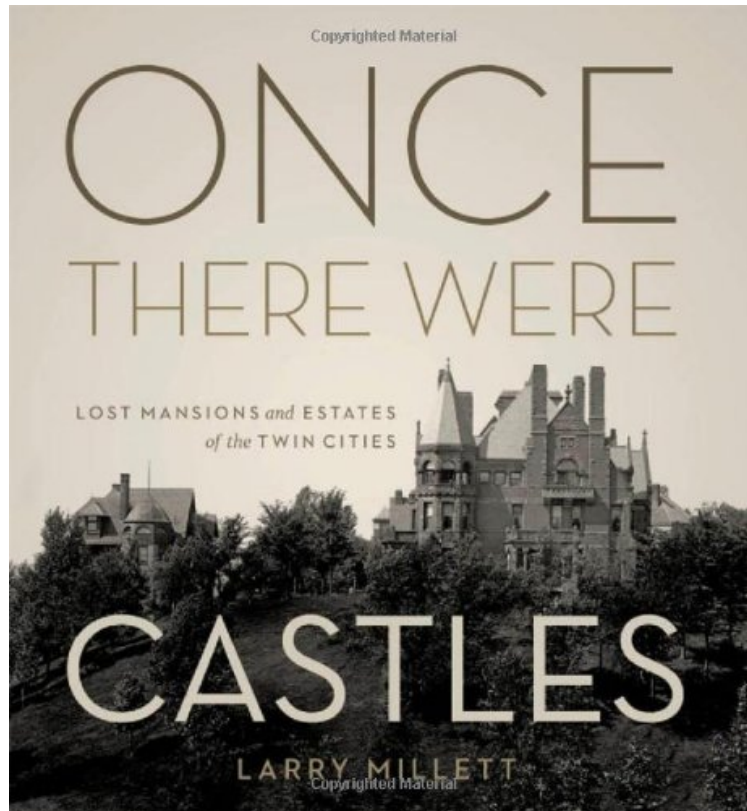


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Once There Were Castles: Lost Mansions and Estates of the Twin Cities

Larry Millett

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Larry Millett : Once There Were Castles: Lost Mansions and Estates of the Twin Cities before purchasing it in order to gage whether or not it would be worth my time, and all praised Once There Were Castles: Lost Mansions and Estates of the Twin Cities:

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InformationBy TyphoonLarry Millet did an excellent job of researching the 19th century homes that have been torn down in Minneapolis and St. Paul, MN. The photographs are wonderful and the descriptions clear and entertaining. If you have any interest in the history of the Twin Cities, Historic Architecture, Victorian Homes, or the 19th century, this book is definitely a worthwhile purchase! This is a book you can use for references, historic trivia games, or just a way to spend a few hours entertaining yourself.

In *Lost Twin Cities*, Larry Millett brought to life the vanished architecture of downtown Minneapolis and St. Paul. Now, in *Once There Were Castles*, he offers a richly illustrated look at another world of ghosts in our midst: the lost mansions and estates of the Twin Cities. Nobody can say for sure how many lost mansions haunt the Twin Cities, but at least five hundred can be accounted for in public records and archives. In Minneapolis and St. Paul, entire neighborhoods of luxurious homes have disappeared, virtually without a trace. Many grand estates that once spread out over hundreds of acres along the shores of Lake Minnetonka are also gone. The greatest of these lost houses often had astonishingly short lives: the lavish Charles Gates mansion in Minneapolis survived only nineteen years, and Norman Kittsons sprawling castle on the site of the St. Paul Cathedral stood for barely more than two decades. Railroad and freeway building, commercial and institutional expansion, fires, and financial disasters all claimed their share of mansions; others succumbed to their own extravagance, becoming too costly to maintain once their original owners died. The stories of these grand houses are, above all else, the stories of those who built and lived in them from the fantastic saga of Marion Savage to the continent-spanning conquests of James J. Hill, to the all-but-forgotten tragedy of Olaf Searle, a poor immigrant turned millionaire who found and lost a dream in the middle of Lake Minnetonka. These and many other mansion builders poured all their dreams, desires, and obsessions into extravagant homes designed to display wealth and solidify social status in a culture of ever-fluctuating class distinctions. The first book to take an in-depth look at the history of the Twin Cities mansions, *Once There Were Castles* presents ninety lost mansions and estates, organized by neighborhood and illustrated with photographs and drawings. An absorbing read for Twin Cities residents and a crucial addition to the body of work on the region's history, *Once There Were Castles* brings these ghost mansions back to life.

"Larry Millett has found more ghosts. In *Once There Were Castles*, the historian and author of *Lost Twin Cities* digs up images and stories that paint a picture of 90 long-gone buildings. The photographs of their unabashed luxury are stunning; the stories of their demise, laden with hubris, are irresistible." *Minnesota Monthly*