

American House Renovation

Saint Paul, MN

Beacon Interfaith Housing Collaborative

Property Address: 352 Wacouta Street, Saint Paul, MN 55101



This five-story building with timber frame and load-bearing masonry exterior walls was designed by Cass Gilbert and constructed in 1895 for the Gotzian Shoe Company and is listed on the National Register for Historic Places. For many years, it housed the factory and warehouse of the American Beauty Macaroni Company and then was converted into residential space with a commercial first floor in the 1980s. A second renovation in 2002 converted the commercial space on the first floor and lower level to common areas for the residential units. The building has 70 sleeping rooms with shared bathrooms and kitchens on each floor. Beacon acquired the building in 2010 from Wilder Foundation and continues to provide affordable housing and supportive services to the residents, many of whom are very low-income and have experienced homelessness.

Current renovation plans include reconfiguring the ground floor office space to better accommodate on-site supportive service staff and adding a front desk. Additional work will be done to improve the HVAC system, swap out light fixtures with energy efficient LED fixtures, renovating the basement community space, replacing flooring, painting, and upgrading the security camera system and reconfiguring the front entry to improve safety and security. Minor exterior work such as tuck-pointing and window repairs and a new roof are planned which will not impact the building's historic character.