Madison St Station: Sam Fels and the Story of an African American Train Station



Madison St. Station by Sam Fels

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Madison Street Station was a train station in Chicago, Illinois, that served the African American community from 1893 to 1969. The station was named after Sam Fels, a Jewish businessman who donated the land for the station to be built. Fels was a strong supporter of the African American community, and he believed that the station would provide a safe and convenient place for African Americans to travel.

The station was located in the heart of the African American community in Chicago. It was a bustling hub of activity, with people coming and going at all hours of the day. The station was a place where people could meet friends, do business, and get news from around the country. It was also a place where people could escape the racism and discrimination that they faced in other parts of the city.

The station was a vital part of the African American community in Chicago. It played a role in the Great Migration, the mass movement of African Americans from the South to the North. The station also played a role in the Civil Rights Movement, providing a place for activists to meet and organize.

The station was closed in 1969, but its legacy lives on. The station is now a National Historic Landmark, and it is a reminder of the important role that it played in the African American community in Chicago.

Sam Fels: A Friend to the African American Community

Sam Fels was born in Philadelphia, Pennsylvania, in 1844. He was the son of Jewish immigrants from Germany. Fels was a successful businessman, and he made his fortune in the soap industry. He was also a philanthropist, and he donated money to many causes, including the African American community in Chicago.

Fels was a strong supporter of the African American community. He believed that African Americans should have the same rights and opportunities as white Americans. He also believed that the African American community should have its own institutions, such as schools, churches, and businesses.

In 1893, Fels donated the land for the construction of Madison Street Station. He believed that the station would be a valuable asset to the African American community. The station would provide a safe and convenient place for African Americans to travel. It would also be a place where African Americans could meet friends, do business, and get news from around the country.

Fels's donation was a generous one. It was a sign of his commitment to the African American community. The station that was built on his land would serve the African American community for over 70 years.

Madison Street Station: A Hub of Activity

Madison Street Station was a bustling hub of activity. People came and went at all hours of the day. The station was a place where people could meet friends, do business, and get news from around the country. It was also a place where people could escape the racism and discrimination that they faced in other parts of the city.

The station was a popular place for African Americans to meet friends. It was a place where they could socialize and relax. The station also had a number of businesses, including restaurants, shops, and a hotel. African Americans could go to the station to do their shopping, get a bite to eat, or stay overnight.

The station was also a place where African Americans could get news from around the country. The station had a newsstand that sold newspapers and magazines from all over the country. African Americans could go to the station to find out what was happening in the world, and to learn about the latest developments in the Civil Rights Movement.

The station was also a place where African Americans could escape the racism and discrimination that they faced in other parts of the city. The station was a safe place where African Americans could be themselves. They could go to the station to relax, socialize, and do business without fear of being harassed or discriminated against.

Madison Street Station: A Role in the Great Migration

The Great Migration was the mass movement of African Americans from the South to the North. The Great Migration began in the early 20th century, and it continued until the 1960s. Millions of African Americans left the South in search of better opportunities in the North. Many of these African Americans came to Chicago.

Madison Street Station played a role in the Great Migration. The station was a major transportation hub for African Americans who were moving to Chicago. African Americans could take the train to Madison Street Station, and then transfer to another train that would take them to their final destination in Chicago.

The station also provided a place for African Americans to stay when they first arrived in Chicago. The station had a hotel that was open to African Americans. African Americans could stay at the hotel until they found a permanent place to live.

Madison Street Station played a vital role in the Great Migration. The station helped African Americans to move to Chicago and to find a new life in the North.

Madison Street Station: A Role in the Civil Rights Movement

The Civil Rights Movement was the struggle for racial equality in the United States. The Civil Rights Movement began in the early 20th century, and it continued until the 1960s. The Civil Rights Movement was a success, and it led to the passage of landmark legislation such as the Civil Rights Act of 1964 and the Voting Rights Act of 1965.

Madison Street Station played a role in the Civil Rights Movement. The station was a meeting place for activists and organizers. Activists would meet at the station to discuss strategy and plan protests. The station was also a place where activists could get support and encouragement from the African American community.

The station was also a place where activists could meet with white allies. White allies were people who supported the Civil Rights Movement. Activists would meet with white allies at the station to discuss strategy and to plan protests. The station was also a place where white allies could learn about the Civil Rights Movement and how they could help.

Madison Street Station played a vital role in the Civil Rights Movement. The station helped activists to organize and to get support from the African American community. The station also helped white allies to learn about the Civil Rights Movement and how they could help.

Madison Street Station: A Legacy

Madison Street Station was closed in 1969. The station was closed because it was no longer needed. The African American community had moved to other parts of Chicago, and the station was no longer a major transportation hub.

The station may be gone, but its legacy lives on. The station is now a National Historic Landmark. It is a reminder of the important role that the station played in the African American community in Chicago.

The station is also a reminder of the importance of community. The station was a place where African Americans could come together and feel safe

and welcome. The station was a place where African Americans could build a community and a life for themselves.

The legacy of Madison Street Station is one of community and hope. The station is a reminder that anything is possible when people come together and work towards a common goal.



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