

RICE COUNTY HISTORICAL SETTING & RESOURCES

Long before explorers came to southern Minnesota, Native Americans called this land home for centuries. Arrowheads have been found which date back more than 10,000 years. The oldest known inhabitants of the area were the Mound Builders, most likely the ancestors of the Sioux and Iowa Native Americans.

Since the earliest explorations of the area, the Wahpekute, a tribe of Sioux Native Americans called this area of southern Minnesota home. Wahpekute meant in the Sioux language, the Leaf Shooters or “The Shooters in the Leaves of the Indigenous Pines.” These Native Americans belonged to a federation of Indian tribes known as the Dakota. Dakota Sioux inhabited the area of Rice County after being driven south by the Ojibwa. The Native Americans resided in buffalo skin teepees during the winter months and elm bark lodges in the summer. The Sioux hunted in the forests and prairies and fished in the many lakes and streams.

Rice County has many lakes, especially in the western half of the county. When the first explorers came to this region of Minnesota they were met with the “Big Woods” in the western half of the county and rolling prairie on the eastern half. The Woods contained a variety of hardwood species including oak, maple, basswood, butternut, walnut, poplar, elm and many others. The area of Rice County was referred to by many as some of the most breathtaking land in the state. The most significant remnant of the “Big Woods” that remains is in Nerstrand State Park.

The first “White Man” in the area was Le Sueur, a French explorer and others in 1695. Le Sueur had built a fort on Prairie Island, traded with the Native Americans, and explored the region. Le Sueur’s explorations extended as far as Mankato. It would be almost two hundred years before the first settlers made their claims on the land.

Alexander Faribault first came to Rice County in 1826 in his mid 20’s to establish fur trading posts with the Native Americans in the region. The area had a large population of muskrats and their furs were in demand. He established three posts; one at Lake Sakata on the present site of Waterville, one at the present site of Morristown, and one at an existing Dakota settlement on the northwest shore of Cannon Lake. Wahpekute was a permanent Indian village on the north shore of what is now called Cannon Lake. The Dakota called the lake Me-de-tepeton-ka or the “Lake of the Big Village.” The chief at that time was Visiting Eagle and was very loyal to Alexander Faribault.

The tribe traveled and lived along the Cannon River. The Wahpekute called the river Ivan Bosndata, or “The Standing Rock River.” The name came from a tall white sandstone rock formation located along the river where the city of Castle Rock was established. Joseph N. Nicollet, who surveyed and mapped southern Minnesota for the U.S. Government, explored the area. He named the river Aux



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Canots, for the many Indian canoes he saw along the riverbanks. Later explorers confused the French word and called it the Cannon River.

Alexander Faribault built a log home in 1835 on the east side of the Straight River. After eight years, of trading with the Native Americans and exploring the area, Faribault convinced the Dakota to move from their ancestral home site along Cannon Lake to the area where the Straight River flowed into the Cannon River. This is now the present site of the City of Faribault and was an ideal location for a post as many Native Americans passed by the area on their way down the rivers.

Bishop Henry Whipple was an influential settler in the early days of Rice County. A friend of Alexander Faribault, he arrived in 1860. He built the first Episcopal Cathedral in Minnesota. He also built several other churches in Southern Minnesota and founded several schools, including the Episcopal Schools in Faribault. St. Mary's School for girls was founded in the Whipple home in Faribault in 1866. He conducted many missions among the Native Americans and contested the way that government treated the Indians. The Native Americans revered him for his honest dealings.

Rice County enjoyed a peaceful relationship with the Native Americans in the area. There were many stories of settlers and Native Americans helping each other. In 1851 the treaty of the Mendota was signed. The Chief at that time was Heyeetchah Monamie or Red Legs. Several other Sioux Chiefs were also involved in signing the treaty including Gery Mane, Pay Day, Scarlet Armour, and Red Cloud. Alexander Faribault, his father, Jean Babtists and brothers Oliver and David interpreted for the Sioux. As a result of the treaty, the Wahpekute lost their rights to the land in Rice and Steele Counties and most of them were moved to reservations. A few remained on the land given to them by Alexander Faribault. The last of the Sioux were removed from Faribault in 1862 and transported to a reservation in Nebraska. The Sioux removed from Faribault coincided with the Great Sioux Uprising of 1862, when most Sioux were made to leave Minnesota.

Rice County is about 40 miles south of Minneapolis and St. Paul, in the heart of the dairy-farming region of southeastern Minnesota. The County comprises a land area of 496 square miles. The county was named for Henry M. Rice, one of the first senators for the state of Minnesota. Henry M. Rice was a territorial pioneer, fur trader, delegate to congress, and later a senator. While he was a territorial delegate, he wrote the Minnesota Enabling Act in 1857 that established the present boundaries of Minnesota. The county was established in 1853 with Faribault as the county seat, fourteen townships, two cities, and five incorporated villages.

Before it was Rice County, this area of Minnesota was first part of Wabasha County (spelled Wabashaw at that time) from 1849 to 1851. Then, from 1851 to 1853 it became part of Dakota County (spelled Dakotah at that time). Rice



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County was created by legislature on March 5, 1853. At that time the village of Faribault spilled into three counties Rice, Dakota and Scott counties. The first territorial election in the county was in Faribault in October of 1854. There was 17 votes cast.

As southern Minnesota began to fill with settlers, the county lines were to be changed again. In 1854 General H. H. Sibley was elected to represent the people from the area of Faribault and ensured that the county lines were rearranged to fully include Faribault in Rice County. There were a couple of minor changes in boundaries until 1857 when the final lines of the county were established as they remain today. The county and all of its townships were officially organized on May 11, 1858 when Minnesota became a state.

Some additional important firsts for the county included the first school, which was taught by E. J. Crump in 1853. The first newspaper, *the Rice County Herald*, was published and edited by F. W. Frink in 1856. The first railroad through the county was the Minnesota Central Railway Company in 1857. Within a few years the county was mostly settled. As each small settlement took hold, a sawmill, flourmill, blacksmith, general stores, hotels, and other businesses sprang up to serve the area. Early settlers lived in small shanties, many with sod roofs, which melted into a muddy mess in the rain. These people endured many hardships as they cleared the land for farming and established their communities. A rush of immigration to the area truly began in 1856 and by 1858, when Minnesota became a state; Rice County was one third foreign-borne. Rice County was truly a melting pot of immigrants from all areas of Europe and transplants from the eastern states.

Cannon City was briefly named the county seat in 1855 by the governor. At that time some influential settlers from Cannon City won the favor of the governor and “stole” the position of county seat from under Faribault. Months later, in a controversial fall election, Faribault won the title of county seat. During this time a famous novelist, Edward Eggleston, wrote *The Mystery of Metropolisville*.

In the 1860's there was more than one call for men by the President to fight for the Union in the Civil War. Minnesota responded and was the first state to volunteer troops. Each township in Rice County approved bonds to be issued to each man who enlisted. The volunteers met the deficiencies and drafts were avoided.

The many rivers and streams in the county provided the water power for milling wheat and rye in 1880 the mills of Rice County could produce 3,000 barrels of flour a day. Wheat was the main agricultural crop in Rice County. The flour produced in the area had worldwide reputation for quality. At the turn of the century, milling started moving to other areas of Minnesota. Holstein cows were introduced to the county and dairying became the principal agricultural occupation.



In 1860 the county was divided into five commissioner districts. Each district had one representative on the county board. The courthouse was built years later during 1873-74 for the cost of \$50,000. The courthouse now houses the Faribault City Hall. During 1860, official census figures showed that 18,000 acres were being cultivated with 260,000 bushels of wheat harvested. Carleton College was founded in Northfield with James Strong as president in 1866. St. Olaf College was established in Northfield in 1874. Both colleges continue to be regarded as some of the top liberal arts colleges in the nation. Several inventions came to Rice County in 1882. These included electric lights in the cities of Faribault and Northfield and the first telephones in came to Rice County.

The Rice County Historical Society was established in 1926 and continues to preserve the rich history of the area. The society owns several historic structures in the city of Faribault including an 1850's log cabin, the Pleasant Valley School from 1857, and the Holy Innocents Episcopal Church from 1869. In addition to these buildings, the society also owns the first frame home built in the county by Alexander Faribault in 1853. The Faribault home remains in its original location.

Bridgewater Township

The township was named after a southern England seaport city. The Cannon River divides the township and there are many other streams within its borders. The township originally had large areas covered by forest. The first exploration of the area was in 1852. Albon and John Joyt were brothers and some of the first to venture into the area. They made claims in 1853. Albon left the township that first winter, leaving John to finish the cabin. However, winter came before he could complete the job and he fell very ill. The Sioux found him and took John to Faribault to recover.

Later in 1853 another early settler, Mahlom Lockwood, began a farm. Other areas of the township began to be settled in 1854 including Northfield and Alexandria, named after Jonathan Alexander, an early pioneer.

The earliest transportation ran along the Indian Trail, which had been used by the Sioux in the area. The Hastings stage line passed through the township from East to West along the trail from Fort Snelling to Faribault. The Chicago, Rock Island, Pacific, and the Chicago Great Western railroad lines all ran through the township, encouraging development.

In the spring of 1855 H. N. Matteson built the first mill in the area called Dundas. The first religious services were conducted in 1855 at the home of Edmund Larkins. The post office was also established in 1855 and was known as Fountain Grove. The office was moved a year later to Northfield. The first township meeting was held in the village of Dundas in 1858 with Benjamin



Lockerby, Jacob Emery, and J. A. Upham as supervisors. The first schoolhouse was built in 1856 and used through 1880.

Cannon City Township

Cannon City Township is one of the center townships of the county. The land was originally both timbered and prairie, the western part of the township being the timber. In addition to the trees, there was many area of limestone in the western parts. Cannon City Township has several lakes and streams. The township was named after Cannon City.

First known settler, John Corsett arrived in 1853. In 1854, Eli Cowen and Isaac Amy also came and made claims in the area. In the next few years several other areas of the township were settled. By 1855 the villages of Cannon city and Prairieville were in place. Prairieville at one time had a school, church, hotel, blacksmith shop, several stores, and saloons. The town has since been abandoned.

1854 William N. Ownes settled in the southern part and farmed on the "Indian Trail" that was used by the Sioux going from Red Wood to Wabasha. The Indians set up teepees in front of his house. After a while Owens grew tired of the many people passing through so he then cut down the trees in the are so the Indians would have to find shelter someplace else on their way back. The family generally had good relations with the Native Americans, however they had many encounters while trying to train the Sioux to go around their fences.

Brothers G.A and J.D. Sears first laid out Cannon City in 1855. Soon there were several stores, a post office, a steam power sawmill, tavern, and a hotel. The post office was built in 1880 and named Dean after the J.W. Dean, an early merchant in the area. The office was used until 1901. The first organized religious services were in 1855 by Rev. Hoover. Cannon City enjoyed the prestige of being Rice County's first county seat for a brief time in 1858 by designation of the governor. Faribault was voted to be the county seat later that year.

Erin Township

The Irish predominantly settled Erin Township in the first years. General James Shields along with John Tufts, R.W. Russ, F. W. Frink and John B. Onstine founded the town of Erin after General Shields bought the land after some political disappointment in Faribault in 1855. Shields then advertised in the papers back East for his native countrymen to join him in the West. Irish settlers quickly responded to the advertisements and by 1856 most of the township was filled. The name was voted on by the settlers in 1855 and named after their beloved homeland.



The township does not have any real large lakes, however, there are many streams. The landscape was mostly dense hardwood forest, part of the "Big Woods" when the first settlers began to arrive. First settlers had to cut their own roads through the trees. The closest place for supplies was either Hastings or St. Paul.

The first settlers to make claims in Erin Township were Jeremiah Healy, Sylvester Smith, John Burke, James Cummings, John McManus and Owen Farley. Sylvester Smith had the first grindstone in the township and people came for miles to sharpen knives and farming cutlery. By 1856 all parts of the township had settlers. Only one marriage took place in the township before 1878. In addition to the Irish settlements in Erin Township, there was a Bohemian settlement in northern part of the township

The First precinct election in where held in Shieldsville in 1855. The precinct included Erin, Shieldsville, Wheatland and parts of Forest and Wells townships. The first township meeting was in 1858. During this meeting the township was named. Erin was decided on after motions to first name the township McBride or Healy. The first supervisors were John Conniff, Timothy Foley, and Sylvester Smith.

Forest Township

Forest Township is located in the northwestern part of Rice County. The land did have some natural meadows and rolling hills, however, much of the township was dense hardwood timber. There are many lakes within the township and was a favorite fishing spot of the Native Americans. It was said that the trees were so thick and tall one could not see the sky. The township was named for the wooded condition of most of the area. The thick forest impeded settlement, as the newcomers to the area would choose the prairie lands in the county first to farm.

James Fizzesimmons first settled the township in 1854. Fizzesimmons then sold his claim in the following spring to George W. Miller. George W. Miller later plotted this land for the town of Millsburg in 1856. Millsburg was a sweetish settlement in the woods and some of the founding families included Peter Gustavson, John Johnson, Mathias Johnson, Niles Larson, Christian Lundstrom and Peter Younquist. The first Swedish immigrants to the county included 13 families. Some other early settlers were William Henderson and family in 1854 from Maine. Wild cranberries was a cash crop for early settlers in the first years. Cranberries helped them get through the winters until a decent area of land could be cleared for farming other crops.

The Christdala Evangelical Swedish Lutheran Church was build in 1878 by John Olson and John Undberg for \$230. The building is still in its original position on the north side of Circle Lake. The post office was established in 1871 with the



name of Lester. The first town meeting was in 1858 and the supervisors were Elias Taylor, Zebulon Sargent and Charles Brand.

Morristown Township

Morristown Township is located in the southwest corner of the county. Cannon River crosses the township West to East. The land north of the river was timber and south was prairie land with groves of trees. Morristown has many rivers, streams and lakes. One of the lakes is Mormon Lake that was used by the Mormons for baptismal purposes.

The earliest known settlement was in 1853, by John Lynch and Henry Masters from St. Paul. They built the first log home. Another early settler was Mathias Nelson, a native of Norway in 1856. The City of Morristown was named for Jonathan Morris. His wife Sara Starbuck Morris, platted the town of Morristown in April of 1857, two years after her husband's death. Soon the town had two stores, one steam saw mill, one water saw mill and gristmill, two taverns, one cabinet shop with waterpower, two blacksmith shops, one schoolhouse, one house of public worship and a post office. The township was named after Morristown.

The first marriage was between Henry Masters and Anna Randall in 1855. The first birth, was in 1855, to Andrew and Mary Story, the child was christened Ellie. The first improved road in the county was completed 1855 by three brothers, Marshal, John and C.M. Benson. This wagon road ran along the old Indian trail. The first town meeting was in 1858 and the supervisors were Isaac Hammond, Henry Bassett and John Benson.

Northfield Township

Northfield Township is in the extreme northwestern portion of Rice County. This township is a prairie township with rolling terrain. The eastern edge is very hilly with heavy forests and rock formations extending along the lines of trees. The Cannon River and Prairie creek flow through the township. The first areas settled in were along the Cannon River 1854 by D. Kirkendahl, who came from Germany. This first settlement was in the area of the future City of Northfield. Another early settler was Alexander Stewart. Germans and Norwegians predominantly settled Northfield Township in the early years.

Most immigration occurred during 1855 and it was at this time that the city of Northfield began. During the same time Northfield was being settled, a settlement in the southern part was happening. In 1855, J.D. Jones from Scotland made a claim along Prairie Creek. A group of families from Norway also settled along Prairie Creek at that time.



A Baptist preacher in Alexander Stewart's home gave the first religious services in 1854 in the village of Northfield. Probably the first birth was James Stewart to Alexander and Hannah Stewart and the first marriage was in 1855 of John Lamphier and Athea Alexander. The first township meeting was in 1858. The records containing the governmental notes from 1858 to 1862 have been lost. However, it was during this first meeting that the name of the township was decided to be Northfield after the principal village in the area.

Richland Township

Richland Township is in the southeast corner of the County. The township is made up of prairie land and rolling hills. There are no large lakes, however, there are many small streams throughout the township. Richland was first settled in 1854 by a group of Norwegians who included Halver Halverson, Erik Gunderson, Ole Larson and Osten Oleson. The area was originally called the "Norwegian Grove"

In addition to the Norwegian settlers, many of the newcomers were of Irish decent during the first two or three years of early settlement. Ole Larson built the first house in 1854 that two years later went to Winona on business and never returned. The earliest marriage in the township was between E. L. Beach and Elizabeth Beardsley in 1856 and one of the first births was Halver Austin to Osten Olson in 1856.

The first town meeting was held in 1858 at the house of R. W. Mathews. The Supervisors were Lafayette Barlow, John A. Mather, and E. S. Stafford. At that time the township was named Richland after the rich soil in the area.

Shieldsville Township

Shieldsville Township is on the western side of Rice County. There are many lakes, the largest being Cedar Lake. Another lake is Mazaska Lake, originally named Mazuka for an Indian chief's son, which is in the northeast part of the township. The land is a mixture of hills, trees, marsh, and meadows. In some areas the land was heavily timbered. General Shields first settled the township in 1855. Earliest settlement was almost all of Irish decent. General James Shields advertised in the East for fellow Irishmen to come west. The township was nearly settled by 1856 and was known as General Shield's colony.

The first settlers had to plant corn and potatoes by hoe alone. Grain had to be threshed and hauled by oxen to Red Wing; a four-day trip there and back. Ginseng and cranberries were the most profitable crops and helped the community survived its first years. Hay was an abundant crop once the land was cultivated.



General Shields was one of the first to arrive and laid out the village of Shieldsville in 1855. The city is located on Lake Mazaska and is two miles from Shields' Lake. The village was practically surrounded by water. General Shields was borne in Ireland in 1810 and came to America in 1826. He studied law until 1832 and was a legislator for Illinois and a judge of the Supreme Court. Shields fought in the Mexican War, where he was wounded. He then became governor of the Oregon territory and in 1849 was elected U.S. Senator. After settling Shieldsville Township he went to Faribault and was a Minnesota Senator until 1860. General Shields then left for California. He died in 1879.

The Catholic Church of Shieldsville was erected in 1857 for \$1,200. The church did not have any seats, stove or furniture until 1867 when Catherine Deming and others organized a picnic and ladies fair. The women raised \$160 and put in the floor, seats and stove. The church was used until 1878. The present building was built for \$16,000 and was completed in 1882. It seats 620 and has standing room for over 100. The Church of St. Patrick was erected in 1881 of blue limestone and seats 600. The spire can be seen for several miles.

The first Birth was John Hunt in 1856 to Bernard Hunt. The earliest marriages occurred outside of the township. During the Indian outbreak of 1862, Indians were allowed to camp on General's island. When outbreak occurred, 100 townsmen forced them out of the area. The first township meeting was in 1858 and the supervisors were Joseph Hagerty, Patrick Cunniff, and Patrick Smith. During the meeting the township was named in honor of General James Shields.

Walcott Township

Walcott Township is on the southern side of Rice County. The Straight River is the principal river that runs north towards the center. The east side of river is the "East Prairie" and west side is comprised of low and high prairies. Edward H. Cutts from Vermont first settled the township in 1853. He returned in 1854 with Jacob Hesrown and a man by the name of Rouse. Mr. Cutts built the first log cabin and first frame house that burned in 1856. Other settlers who came in 1853 were Nathaniel Meyers and family and John Luther Cabot, all from New York. The township was mostly filled by 1855.

In 1856 Samuel Walcott laid out the village of Walcott. The village grew up around the Walcott's mill and most who lived in the area worked at the mill. Mr. McLaughlin who lasted two years built the first blacksmith shop in 1860. A new shop did not open until the 1880s. First railroad through Walcott Township was completed in 1868. A fire on November 3, 1895 burned the mill and other nearby buildings. The town was never incorporated and the mill was rebuilt in Faribault.

The first religious services were officiated by Elder Crist, a Methodist minister in 1855. An early birth was to George and Hanna Dorrance in 1855, they had a



daughter named Laura. The first remembered marriage was 1856 between Edward Beach and Elizabeth Beardsley

The Straight River Grange was organized in 1872 with 70 charter members and lasted until 1881. Some other early-organized groups in the area included the Hunters of the Prairie Society. The society was organized in 1860 and continued for 10 years. Officers were chosen to lead in a war of extermination against the predatory animals in the vicinity. Two clans with captains were organized and all was fair game. Trophies were the caudal appendages and the losing party had to pay certain prizes. The number of gophers taken during summer events would run up into the thousands. At that time the gophers were considered pests. Another group formed was the Redfield Old Settlers' Association. The group was organized in 1858 and met annually. All were admitted men, women and children included. The only requirement was that one had to have come from the township of Redfield in New York State and they could be from any place in Rice County. The last meeting was in 1868.

The first township meeting was held in 1858. After naming the township after Samuel Walcott, other business included deciding on a \$200 assessment for township improvements and what a lawful fence was. It was also voted that horses and cattle could run at large from November to the first of April and that sheep and hogs were prohibited from being at large.

Warsaw Township

Warsaw Township is in the southern part of Rice County. Inside the township are the Cannon River, Cannon Lake and several streams. While the land was mostly prairie with groves, the northern part was wooded and part of "Big Woods." There were as many as 200 teepees along Cannon Lake in early days. A story was that the Sioux drove a small colony of Frenchmen back to the river, to their canoes. One canoe had a cannon in it. The canoe capsized in the river as the Frenchmen attempted to pass the falls. The Indians were unable to locate the cannon and became superstitious to it and then referred to the river as Cannon River.

A trading post was established by Faribault on Cannon Lake between 1826 and 1834. The area had been the pathway of the Faribault's for years before. In 1852 Alexander Faribault hired Peter Bush a blacksmith, to come to Rice County. After spending a year in Faribault he secured a claim of his own along Cannon Lake in Warsaw Township. The earliest settlement occurred along the shore of Cannon Lake. The abandoned village of Lake City was the first village platted in the township. In 1853, Peter Bush built a home and blacksmith shop. He platted the village of Lake City on his farm that same year. In 1855 George Burns arrived and put up a hotel and saloon. By fall of 1856 a sawmill was built but destroyed by fire a year later but was rebuilt.



First birth was in 1854 to Thomas and Desire Blackburn. They had a son, William. The first marriage took place in 1855 between Alexander McKenzie and Sarah Gilhousen. In 1857 Christian Hersey and Freedman Weatherhead platted out the village of Warsaw on their own farms. Christian Hersey built the first house in the village in 1855.

During the organization of Minnesota in 1858 there was difficulty naming the township. Dr. Charles Jewett said that a wealthy friend in from Massachusetts by name of Sargent would move there if they named the township for him. Sargent would build a town hall and donate \$500 to the public fund. The vote was for Sargent until 1864 when the citizens renamed it because the wealthy man never appeared. The township was renamed Warsaw in 1864 then taking the name of its first post office. The post office was established in 1856 and named in honor of a town in New York, where many settlers had come from.

Webster Township

Webster Township is located in the northwestern part of the county. The township was originally covered in timber, however, is now mostly farm fields. At one time there were large walnut forests. There are no lakes wholly within its borders or any large rivers or streams.

In 1855 a settlement in southeastern part of the township began when Harry Humphrey, a native of New York, built a log house and opened it as a hotel. An Irish native, Martin Taylor, also 1855 secured a claim and began farming in 1855. Later that year Ferris Webster and his sons also settled in the township. Ferris Webster was a prominent and active figure in the early settlement of the township. He remained on the first farm he claimed until his death in 1880.

The first birth to the settlers was to John McGuire in 1857. The first marriage was between Salmon Webster and Fannie Humphrey in 1856. Government surveyors originally called Webster Township Minnemada. Later, the area was known as Carroltown and then Pigtown after Magnu Olson's large pig farm. Finally the commissioners named the township Webster in honor of Ferris Webster. Along with the organization of Minnesota as a state, the first township meeting was held in 1858. The supervisors were George Carpenter, James Kelly, and J. J. McCabe.

Wells Township

Wells township is one of the central townships in Rice County, the second smallest in size. The area has many lakes, ponds, and rivers. Originally, the township was covered in timber with only a few small areas considered prairie land.



One of the first settlers was Mark Wells who arrives with Luke Hulett in 1853. Mr. Wells erected the first cabin. Also the same year, a man named Standish and Bully Wells also made claims in the township. Very little settlement occurred until 1855 due to the amount of forested land that hindered setting up a farm.

The first child born was in 1855 to Thomas and Mary Kirk; their daughter was named Elizabeth. The earliest marriage took place between Martha Roberds and J.S. McCartney in 1855. William Roberds erected first blacksmith shop in 1855. The first township meeting was held in 1858. The original supervisors were Thomas Kirk, William McCalla, and Patrick O'Brien.

The township was named for James "Bully" Wells a fur trader and farmer who was born in New Jersey in 1804. He ran away from home as a boy to be cabin boy at sea. He enlisted in the U.S. army and served for 15 years. He came to Fort Snelling in 1819 with Colonel Leavenworth. Later he started a trading post at Little Rapids, which is now Chaska. He married Jane a sister to the wife of Alexander Faribault in 1836. Wells then moved his trading business a few more times over the next several years. In his final years he turned his attention to farming, but was killed in the Sioux War in 1863.

Wheatland Township

Wheatland Township is located in the northwest corner of Rice County. The land is considered to be undulating plains and was covered by the "Big Woods" when the first settlers arrived. The township has a few lakes and no rivers. Cody Lake is one of the larger lakes, and was named for Patrick Cody who lived on the shores.

The first settlers were Bohemians (Czechs) in 1854. The group included John Markovsky, Johan August Botset, and Raimund Pacovsky. The Bohemians formed a colony and erected their first church in the area that later grew into the village of Veseli. Named after the city of Veseli in Bohemia where all the settlers were from. The settlement contained many musicians and a zest for theater. The railroad did not go through Veseli as was hoped for and later Lonsdale was platted along the railroad. Bohemians had a great influence of the politics and development of the township.

Some other early settlers were of Scotch and Canadian French decent. Shortly after these first few settlements took hold, an Irish settlement was also made. Of these the first permanent settlement was by John Augustut Botset, Raimund Pacovsky, John Markovosky, Joseph J. Fraizier, John P. Cook, David S. McCormick, Jeremiah Wilson, Mathew Everson, Thomas Lambert and Louis Plaisance in 1855. This area was known as the Scotch settlement after the homeland of the settlers. Joseph Frazier was a hunter and Indian warrior. He was at Fort Ridgley when it was attacked by Native Americans, he brook through the lines and got word to Fort Snelling. Frazier served under General Sibley.



Wheatland village was the first platted on the south shore of Metoggha Lake but the railroad did not go through the area and no buildings were erected. Later, in 1902 the area was named Willow Grove. The first public highway in the township was the Wheatland & Scotch Settlement Roadway in July of 1858. The road was built after a petition was presented and passed. The name of the township was derived from the summer residence of President Buchanan.

Wheeling Township

Wheeling Township is located on the eastern side of the county, one of the prairie townships of the county as it is mostly made up of prairie land. The early settlers were met with fine meadows for grazing. There are no large streams in the township or large lakes, but there are a few small streams and brooks.

Settlement began in 1854 when a party of Germans came, which included Henry Bultmann and family, Jacob Blank and family, Louis Helberg, Friederich Hogrefe and John George Veeh. Jacob Blank made the first claim. The earliest settlers to the area were primarily of German and Norwegian decent.

The village of Nerstrand was platted in 1855 along the railway and named for an earlier post office established in 1878. Osmund Osmundson named the post office for his former home in Norway. The first baby was born in 1854, in Blank's hay shanty to Jacob and Elizabeth Bank. The child was named Caroline. The first marriage was in 1855 between Louis Helberg and Wilhelmina Meyer.

The first township meeting was held in 1858 in conjunction with the organization of Minnesota as a state. The first Supervisors were Watts a Pye, Christian Erb and Lewis Everson. The town hall was later built in 1870 for \$600.

City of Dundas

Dundas is located in northeastern part of Rice County. Settlement of the area dates back to the 1950's when the Archibald family built the first gist four-mill system in the nation. The mill enabled flour to be refined to a much finer consistency than any other mill in the United States. Later in 1856 a Mr. Veely erected a sawmill. The town was named it after a Canadian country near Archibald's birthplace. Dundas is located on the railroad and Cannon River, 11 miles from Faribault. By 1858 there were several stores, post office, and hotel. The village was organized in 1879.

The community grew to contain several hotels and many commercial businesses, flourishing on the success of the flourmill. The mill burned in 1892. By the 1890s there were other mills using the roller system. Even though the demand for the mill was not great it was still rebuilt. In 1914 a community wide fire destroyed the



mill again. The mill was rebuilt again, but the business community never recovered.

City of Faribault

The village of Faribault is located where the Cannon River and Straight River join. In this area the bluffs rise 200 feet above where rivers join. Alexander Faribault settled the village in the early 1850's. Faribault had established fur trading posts in the area years before. In 1853 he move the post from the Cannon Lake to the present site of Faribault. Soon after many people came to the area. French-Canadians were the most numerous early settlers. In 1853 Alexander Faribault built the first frame house for a cots of \$4,000. The home still stands where it was constructed and the city of Faribault grew up around this pivotal center. Alexander Faribault remained in the city until he died on November 28, 1882.

The first church services were held in Faribault's home. The frame house also served as a meeting place. In the fall of 1857 there was a depression in the country but Faribault was prospering. Faribault had become the center for trade in the region. The first daily mail began in 1862 and the first sawmill was constructed in that year. The Faribault Woolen Mill was launched in 1865 by the Klemer family and is still in operation today. The railroad reached Faribault in late 1865-1866. There was a boom of growth in 1856 and the population grew to 1,500.

Faribault has been a center for education since it's early days. There were four Episcopal schools established by Bishop Whipple. These schools included Seabury Divinity School in 1858, Shattuck School (originally a military academy in 1865), St. Mary's Hall (a girl's secondary school in 1866), and St. James School (a boy's primary school in 1901). There were several other parochial schools including the Bethlehem Academy, a Catholic girl's finishing school in 1965 and Trinity Lutheran School in 1975.

The MN legislature granted three state schools to Faribault at the request of Rodney Mott. The school for the deaf opened in 1866 in a rented store. A division for the blind was added in 1866. The school for the blind moved to Alexander Faribault's home in 1874. The schools are now called the Minnesota State Academy for the Deaf and the Minnesota State Academy for the Blind. A pioneering school for the deaf for those as young as three opened in 1924, but was not a state school. The third state school opened in 1881 for the mentally impaired and is now called the Faribault Regional Center.

City of Lonsdale

The city of Lonsdale is located in northwestern part of Rice County. The village came into existence because of the railroad. The Farmington –Mankato branch of the Chicago, Milwaukee and St. Paul Railway ran through the center of town.



Jacob Schultz and wife were one of first settlers to the vicinity. The Schultz's had 11 children, the youngest, Beatrice, was first baby born in the city. The Wilbys donated the land for the town in 1902. There was a grand opening on July 16, 1902 for a new town. Lots sold at auction for \$100 - \$400. July 1, 1903 settlers voted to incorporate the city and to name it Lonsdale. The town was named after the surveyor for the railroad that was so instrumental in the development of the town. The initial pop in 1903 was 184. Early settlers were primarily of Czech or Norwegian descent.

In 1903 the Herda Harness Shop was built and upstairs was the office of Dr. Fr. J. Lexa. Dr. Lexa made early house calls via horse and buggy as far as halfway to New Prague or Montgomery. Lexa's wife was a pharmacist and operated a drug store and prescription service. Town continued to have medical practices over the years by several other physicians until 1960's when several failing practices tried to establish.

In 1907 a public school and water tank were constructed. The school building is still there and is on National Historic Register. The school is maintained by the 3R Landmark organization. The first floor holds exhibits and the second floor is a 1900 era schoolroom. Catholic Church was built in 1908 and the school followed in 1912. Volunteer Fire Department was organized in Jan of 1908.

Electricity brought to Lonsdale in the early 1920's and the surrounding farming communities in the 30's. Ben Shimota, County Commissioner was instrumental in routing the Colville Memorial Highway through Lonsdale, presently State Highway 19. First ballpark was a pasture west of town; a new one was established closer to town and still remains in the same place. The D-R-S and Town and Country leagues were formed during WW1 and are still going.

City of Morrystown

The town was named for Jonathan Morris, an early settler in the area. The city is located along the Cannon River. In 1853 John Lynch and Henry Masters came from St. Paul as some of the earliest settlers. In 1854 Jonathan Morris erected a log cabin and a sawmill. He purchased a large portion of land that is now the town. Logging was the main interest in 1850's and several sawmills were established. The town relied on the lumber industry for its early growth. There were many sawmills in and around town by the late 19th century. Morrystown Mills started in 1876 it was later sold and finally named Big Diamond Milling Company. The mill was a major source of employment in town. The mill was destroyed by fire in 1932 and was not rebuilt.

The early townspeople attempted incorporation in 1878, but were resisted due to the large size of the area to be included. The two-mile tract also included a large agricultural district. 1879 a measure was introduced in the legislature to annul the incorporation. Incorporation was finally accomplished in 1892 with one



square mile as the city limits. The Chicago and the Great Western Railroad, then the Cannon Valley Railroad began an operation through Morristown in 1882. The Morristown Creamery was established in 1896 and later Four county Agricultural Services began. In 1900 fire destroyed a large part of the business section of town and a portion of the village was wiped out by a tornado, seven people were killed.

City of Nerstrand

The city of Nerstrand is located in the northeastern part of Wheeling Township. The area was originally part of the Nerstrand Woods and later the land was cleared for farming. The main street of the Nerstrand extends through the township and once divided the German and Norwegian settlements on either side.

The city was named by a pioneer for his home in Norway. Osmund Osmundson was one of the original settlers; he hailed from Nerstrand, Stavanger, Norge (Norway). He came to the United States in 1850. The town's establishment was in 1885. Osmundson was county commissioner for two terms and served in Minnesota state legislature.

City of Northfield

The city of Northfield is located along the Cannon River, 40 miles south from St. Paul/ Minneapolis, in the extreme northeast corner of county. The first settlers to the area included Daniel Kiekendahl in 1854. John W. North, lawyer, anti-slavery lecturer, temperance advocate, and believer in women's suffrage, laid the foundations of the city in 1855. North also started a sawmill in 1855. The village was incorporated in 1872 and G.H. Tower was inaugurated as first mayor on April 9, 1872. Northfield was named for John W. North.

The first buildings were constructed in 1855 and the city has had a strong New England influence on its architecture. The Lyceum Society was formed as the first debating society and public library was built in the year the town was established. Several stage lines ran through the village before the railroad came through. Ames flourmill was built in early years of the city's history and won a prize for its wheat at the 1876 Philadelphia Exposition. The site is currently the location of Malt-O-Meal.

In 1876 the Younger Boys and James Brothers made their raid in Northfield. The original target was Mankato, but armed citizens made them change their minds. Instead their attention was focused on the First National Bank. Due to the heroism of the acting cashier, Joseph Lee Heywood and citizens A. R. Manning a hardware merchant and Henry M. Wheeler, a medical student home on leave, the gang was unsuccessful. Unfortunately, the bank cashier was killed for not opening the safe. A Swedish immigrant, Nicklaus Gustafson, was also killed in



the streets because he did not understand the gang's orders to get out of the way. The raid only lasted seven minutes, two of the Younger Boys were killed and the rest escaped town. A posse at Madelia captured the others Younger Boys where one more was killed. Northfield still celebrates this time in its early history with the Defeat of Jesse James Days every summer.

The Minnesota Council of Congregational Churches established Carleton College in 1866. The college was named after an early benefactor, William Carleton from Charlestown MA. The college enrolled 23 students in its first term. Rev. Bernt Julius Muus a Lutheran missionary pastor in Southern Minnesota founded St. Olaf College in 1874. St. Olaf opened with 36 students. The college continues to be a place of Norwegian culture. Both colleges are rated as some of the top liberal arts colleges in the country.

The first baseball game was played here in late 1860's. A New York immigrant told about a game they played back East. After showing several how to play the game, the first game was played in the high school square. Another important visitor included Mark Twain. Twain visited in 1886 to commemorate the first opening of a YMCA in greater Minnesota. The first radio station began broadcasting in 1918. The station was from St. Olaf College. WCAL was country's first listener-supported radio station. By 1880 there were 2,300 people in the city and dairy farming was replacing wheat not only in Northfield but also throughout Rice County.

Historic Resources Preservation Needs

Over the last ten years, Rice County has begun to experience growth pressure throughout the County. The growth pressure has been the most prevalent around the lakes and in the northern portion of the County. Over the next ten years further growth pressure is expected around many of the municipalities in Rice County. As growth and change in the County continues, preserving the area's history will become increasingly more important.

The preservation of historical resources is significant in developing and enhancing a community's identity and remembering the heritage of the past. Rice County in conjunction with the Rice County Historical Society recognizes the importance in preserving the history and traditions of the area. Historical areas in need of preservation have been identified and continue to be discovered throughout the County. Areas in need of preservation include a variety of types ranging from buildings to cemeteries.

There are a number of available organizations in Rice County aiding in providing communities with a sense of their historical place. The Rice County Historical Society, located in Faribault was formed by a group of volunteers in the 1940's. Future chapters of the Rice County Historical Society have also been instituted in Lonsdale, Northfield and Morristown. This organization operates for the most



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part on a volunteer basis working towards preserving and recognizing the past for future generations.

In addition, the State Historic Preservation Office (SHPO) has also compiled a dataset of historic sites in Rice County. In Rice County alone, there are over seventy recognized Historic Places on the National Registry. In addition, Rice County is home to a National Landmark (The Thomas Veblen Farmstead), there are only 20 recognized Landmarks in the State. The National Registry of Historic Places is the nation's list of properties deemed worthy of preservation and recognizes local, state or national properties of significance. Recognition may be due to an association with significant persons and events, a result of their architectural or engineering significance, or because they contain important information about a communities history or prehistory.

The following information provides the name and address of each Historic Place on the National Register in Rice County:

***Administration Building-Girl's Dormitory,
State School for the Deaf --MN Highway 299, Faribault--***



Administration Building-Girl's Dormitory is significant as the embodiment of the State's earliest endeavors to educate its blind and vision impaired. The numerous physical changes to these structures are "natural" to the development of the institution and represent an extended period of educational achievement and growth in State funded education for the blind that took place before the Second World War.

***All Saints Church (Episcopal)
--Washington & 5th Streets, Northfield--***



All Saints Church is significant as an outstanding example of the small Gothic Revival churches constructed in Minnesota under the guidance of Episcopal Bishop Henry Whipple. The Churches are linked both by there association with Whipple and the inspiration of their designs, Richard Upjohn's 1852 book, Upjohn's Rural Architecture,-Designs, Working Drawings, and other



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Specifications for a Wooden Church and other Rural Structures. The scale and simplicity of All Saints reflect the community's modest financial means and contrasts sharply with the more pretentious Holy Cross Church constructed only two years later in neighboring Dundas. The two "Whipple Churches" reflect their differing patronages. All Saints parish was formed in 1858 and the present building constructed in 1866 through what was truly a community effort of funds and labor. Bishop Whipple consecrated the church the following spring. Despite minor alterations, the church has retained its original character, architectural integrity, and small town setting, making it an excellent example of some thirty Episcopal churches largely inspired by Upjohn's designs constructed across southern Minnesota during Whipple's episcopate.

Allen, W. Roby, Oral Home School

--525 5th Street NE, Faribault--



The W. Roby Allen Oral Home School is significant within the context of a wide range of public, private and parochial schools that flourished in Faribault as a result of several factors: the early emphasis on education nourished by Episcopal Bishop Whipple and founding father Alexander Faribault; the desire of city leaders and the desire of local ethnic groups to perpetuate their separate cultural identity in church operated schools. The Oral Home is also significant for its association with Bessie Blaker Allen, school founder and pioneer educator for the deaf.

Archibald Mill

--Railway Street, Dundas--



The Archibald Mill is significantly as being the first Mill in the United States to manufacture and market patent flour. Because of the fact that the Archibald's were careful and scientific millers the Archibald firm maintained for years its reputation as a leader in the milling industry.



Archibald, Edward T., House

--Hamilton & 2nd Streets, Dundas--



The E.T. Archibald House is significant as being the house in which E.T. Archibald, the prominent Minnesota miller, lived in during the years of the milling revolution. Lorenzo Hamblin constructed the home that the Archibald family resided in from 1867-1885. The Archibald's had the reputation of being the best in the milling business.

Ault Store

--2nd Street, Dundas--



The Ault store is significant as the last remaining commercial buildings associated with Dundas' original business district. It is also significant as a good example of the first generation of commercial buildings constructed in Rice County communities during the 1850's and 60's. Edgar Ault, who had been in the mercantile business in the community since 1859, constructed the building in 1866. Ault's store occupied the first floor of the building and carried a full line of furniture, drugs, and a few staples. The front room on the second floor housed the community's first library and the back room was used for office space. The office of the Dundas News occupied the rear office at the time of its founding in 1876 until it was sold and incorporated into the Northfield News in 1879.

Baker, Laura, School

--211 Oak Street, Northfield--



The Laura Baker School is significant primarily for its association with Laura B. Baker, innovator in special education methodology. Architect J.E. Cook designed the main building of the Laura Baker School as a residence for C.E. Wilcox during the 1880's. Wilcox, the first owner of the house, had been a congregational minister and one of the founders and directors of the Northfield Independent Publishing Company.

Batchelder's Block

--120 Central Avenue N, Faribault—



The Batchelder's Block is significant within the context of the development of Faribault's commercial economy, and the city's role as an early center of commerce in southeastern Minnesota. It is also an unusually well preserved example of early commercial architecture in Faribault.

Berry, Elizabeth & Frank A., House

--319 3rd Street NW, Faribault—



The Berry House is significant as part of the collection of Olof Hanson designed residences built between 1895-1901. The house displays high artistic merit as a fine example of transitional Queen Anne styling displaying an abundance of classical revival elements and Queen Anne decorative detailing rendered with flourish and professional confidence. The house was built for Frank A. Berry, a local banker and businessman who was involved in numerous business ventures in Faribault.

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Blind Department Building & Dow Hall, State School for the Blind

--400 6th Street SE, Faribault--



Dow Hall and the Blind Department building are significant as a component of a larger system of four state funded schools for the mentally and physically handicapped established before 1885: The State School for the Deaf; the State School for the Blind; the State School for the Dependent and Neglected Children; and the State School for the Feeble Minded. Together, these institutions provided for the care and education of Minnesotan's who could not benefit from traditional educational settings. This system of schools also represents turn of the century ideas about the importance of education for all the State's citizens.

Within that context, Dow Hall (1883-1916) and the earlier (1874) Blind Department Buildings are significant as the embodiment of the State's earliest endeavors to educate its blind and vision impaired. The original Blind Department Building is more specifically representative of Minnesota's initial efforts to not only recognize the need for special education facilities, but to tailor education to the specific needs of handicapped groups. The numerous physical changes to these structures are "natural" to the development of the institution and represent an extended period of educational achievement and growth in State funded education for the blind that took place before the Second World War.

Bonde, Tosten, Farmhouse

--MN Highway 246, Wheeling Township--



Tosten Bonde farmhouse is significant for the association of the Norwegian heritage. Tosten engaged successfully in diversified farming until his death in 1897, and figured prominently in the history of the Norwegian community that centered on the village of Nerstrand. He was founder of the Wheeling Mutual Insurance Company in 1876, and also served in the State legislature. The stone farmhouse and the core of early farm buildings reflect the success achieved by the Norwegian farmers who cleared and farmed rich land of Wheeling Township.



Bridge Number 8096

--MN Highway 19 over Spring Creek, Northfield--



As part of a general improvement of Minnesota Trunk Highway 19 in Rice County, the Minnesota Highway Department in 1947 widened an existing reinforced –concrete arch bridge over Spring Creek near the campus of Carleton College. Although the rebuilding of older concrete structures to accommodate wider roadways was not unusual, the architectural treatment of the crossing, known as Bridge No. 8096, was unorthodox for the post-war period. Instead of utilizing a clean-lined Modernist aesthetic, which characterized the standardized bridge plans that the highway department was preparing at the time, the State engineering staff gave Bridge No. 8096 a masonry veneer detailed in the Late Gothic Revival Style, replete with buttressed pilasters and pointed arch railing openings. The State Highway Department had used essentially the same design for at least two bridges built in the late 1930's, when civil works projects were in the grip of a federal work-relief aesthetic that favored the use of a natural materials and labor-intensive craftsmanship. Although the surviving plans for Bridge No. 8096 are dated 1946, it is possible that the bridge's reconstruction was originally designed as a work-relief project during the New Deal. Bridge No. 8096 is an excellent example of an ornamental, stone-faced, concrete arch bridge.

Buck, Cassius, House (Buckeye)

--124 1st Avenue SW, Faribault--



The Cassius M. Buck house is significant both for its association with a locally prominent second-generation leader of Faribault's financial and political community and as a prominent residential example of the Neo-Classical Revival style. Cassius M. Buck established his banking career in Wright County, organizing progressively larger banks in Howard Lake, Dassell, and Annandale before finally settling in Faribault in 1894. Upon his arrival, Buck assumed an active role in the financial community and remained prominent until his death in 1914. In 1894, he organized the Security Bank and later became president of the Citizens National Bank and a member of the Board of Directors. Buck's banking involvement occurred during Faribault's second period of commercial and financial development, characterized by the establishment of a number of large wholesale and manufacturing interests and the completion of the community's transportation links with other major Minnesota cities. C.M. Buck also remained active in local politics during his twenty years in Faribault, representing his district in the State Senate for one term. The Cassius M. Buck House, constructed a year after Buck's arrival in Faribault, reflects both the position of prominence achieved by its builder and the social and economic climate of the turn of the century Faribault.

Buckham, Thomas Scott, Memorial Library
--Central Avenue & Division Street, Faribault--



The Thomas Scott Buckham Memorial Library is significant both as the prominent home of the Faribault Public Library for fifty years as an outstanding example of the public buildings constructed in the larger Minnesota communities during the 1930's. It is also significant as the structure best associated with Judge Buckham, the man it commemorates. The building was the gift of Mrs. Anna Buckham in memory of her husband, The Honorable Thomas Scott Buckham, an early Faribault settler, prominent local leader, State Senator and district Judge for thirty years (1880-1910). The Greek Theme for the building, particularly evidenced in the murals and stained glass window, was chosen to reflect Buckham's scholarly interests in Greek culture and art, and his personal library formed part of the gift to the city in his memory. Buckham Memorial Library is the second building to house the Faribault Public Library since it became a city-supported institution in 1897 in the shelter of the Faribault City Hall. The Art Deco design, masonry construction, scale, and tower make the building a prominent local landmark, of scale and quality usually seen only in county courthouses or in other public buildings in cities much larger than Faribault.

Carufel, E. LaRose & Louis, House
--425 3rd Street SW, Faribault--



The Louis and E LaRose Carufel House is one of the most architecturally significant houses within the context of Faribault's aesthetic development. It represents an early elaborate, although altered, version of the rare Gothic Revival style. The house has further significance as a high style rendering in native stone. Although fourteen limestone residences exist in Faribault today, eleven of them were built in a simple vernacular style that displays a variety of stylistic embellishments. Of the remaining three, the James Dobbin House (1874, 1901) and the Carufel House (1877), were built in the Gothic Revival Style. The third, the Thomas McCall House, was built in the French Empire style and later renovated as Italianate.

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Cathedral of Our Merciful Saviour (Episcopal)

--515 NW 2nd Avenue, Faribault--



The Cathedral of Our Merciful Saviour in Faribault is significant as the fountainhead of the Episcopal faith in Minnesota as well as evidence of the far-reaching influence of the nationally acclaimed architect, James Renwick, Jr. The Cathedral and the adjacent Guild House are most significant, however, for association with the first Bishop of the Episcopal Diocese of Minnesota, Henry Benjamin Whipple.

Chapel of the Good Shepard, Shattuck School

--off Shumway Avenue, Faribault--



Construction for the Chapel of the Good Shepard was begun in 1871 although not completed until 1873 due to the financial difficulties encountered by its benefactor, Mrs. Augusta Shumway of Chicago, in the great Chicago Fire. Henry Congdon of New York designed the building and it is one of the few buildings in the state to be designed in the old English medieval style with congregational seating facing the center aisle. Also noteworthy are the original English trusses, exposed in the nave and the original stain glass, imported from London, England in 1871.

The chapel is one of a collection of churches founded by Bishop Whipple in the mid-nineteenth century, and which are now known, affectionately, as the "Whipple Churches". Architecturally they are all Gothic, being either stone or frame "board and batten" buildings. Of the dozen or so, which still exist, the Chapel of the Good Shepard is considered to be one of the two finest architectural, and one of the most important historically, for it was one of the first congregations to have been founded by Whipple in the state. It also is the only building surviving from the old Shattuck campus, which was built during the phase when the divinity school was being removed to another site.



Church of the Annunciation (Catholic)

--County Highway 46, Webster Township--



The Annunciation Church of Hazelwood is primarily significant as a well-executed example of craftsman styled church and contrasts strikingly with more traditional ecclesiastical designs. Both the rural hilltop location and the refined use of clapboard and shingles make the building a distinctive landmark. The association between the building's structural system and ornamentation give the church a sense of academic formalism. The church was designed by St. Paul architect John Wheeler in 1913 after the rural Catholic parish's earlier building burned in a thunderstorm.

Church of the Holy Cross (Episcopal)

--2nd Street, Dundas--



Dundas' Episcopal Church of the Holy Cross is significant both for its close association with the early history of Dundas and as a reflection of one man's position of prominence in the town. The church is architecturally significant as a fine example of the Whipple churches inspired by "A Model for a Parish Church" published in Richard Upjohn's Rural Architecture in 1852. John Sidney Archibald was the driving force behind the formation of the Episcopal congregation and the construction of the Church of the Holy Cross. Episcopal services were held in Archibald's mill as early as 1864, Bishop Henry Whipple conducting the first service. In 1868, John Archibald donated land for the church and bore most of the cost of the building erected in the same year. Holy Cross was largely the result of Archibald's desire to provide "his" town with a "proper" place to worship. The wealth and position of its prime benefactor are reflected in the building's masonry construction, imported furniture and careful attention to design.

Church of the Most Holy Trinity (Catholic)

--4938 N Washington Street, Wheatland Township—



The Church of the Most Holy Trinity is eligible for listing on the National Register of Historic Places as a property, which is associated with events that have made a significant contribution to the broad patterns of our history in the areas of social history and European ethnic heritage. As the parish church in a Czech Catholic community in southern Minnesota, the history of this property illustrates the role of the American Catholic Church in facilitating and sustaining the settlement of Minnesota by European immigrants of diverse ethnic origin. In particular it illustrates important aspect of Czech immigration to the state. Since it was built in 1905, Holy Trinity Church has been an important focus in the social and cultural life of the predominantly Czech inhabitants of the parish and village, and it has been instrumental in helping parishioners maintain their identity as Czech-Americans. This property also relates to the Minnesota statewide context, "Railroads and Agricultural Development, 1870-1940." The social and historical significance of this building satisfies the criteria considerations, which apply to religious properties being nominated to the National Register.

Church of St. Patrick

--MN Highway 21, Shieldsville Township—



The St. Patrick's Church and parsonage are significant as the structures best associated with the principal Irish settlement in Rice County and the first organized Irish colony in the State. In 1855, General James Shields, a nationally known Irish lawyer, soldier, and statesman purchased land in western Rice County and laid out the townsite of Shieldsville. He brought seven Irishmen from St.. Paul to settle and began to promote the colony by advertising in eastern papers. In 1856-57 a church was erected in Shieldsville for the 460 Irish-born Catholics in the region. The frame church was replaced by a stone building in 1880 to accommodate a growing parish and the brick

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parsonage was constructed in the same year. The present stone church was constructed in 1888 after the earlier building was destroyed in a fire. The church and parsonage provide an important link to the Irish population that settled the village of Shieldsville and the surrounding townships.

Cole, Gordon and Kate D., House

--111 2nd Street NW, Faribault—



The Gordon E. and Kate D. Cole House is significant as one of Faribault's most elaborate wood frame examples of Italianate influences in residential architecture. The structure is also significant as a fine example of the evolution from a simple, utilitarian building into a highly embellished, highly styled residence.

Congregational Church of Faribault

--227 NW 3rd Street, Faribault—



The Congregational Church of Faribault is significant both as the religious center for the county's oldest congregation, and also for its architectural merit. Designed in the early phase of the Romanesque Revival mode, the church is attributed to Saint Paul pioneer architect Monroe Sheire. The building has survived with almost total exterior integrity and is in an excellent state of preservation. An addition to the rear of the building was made in 1910 of similar materials and design as not to detract from the original conception. Cosmetic improvements through the more than one hundred years have done little to alter the interior spatial configuration and function. The church is, therefore, an excellent example of ecclesiastical architectural design in post-Civil War Minnesota.



Cottrell, Elizabeth and John N., House



--127 1st Street NW, Faribault—

The John N. and Elizabeth Taylor Clinton Cottrell House is significant as an excellent intact example of the Stick Style and the only building of that style identified in the Faribault Historic State Survey. The beauty and design purity of this rare architectural style make the Cottrell House a major contributor to the Faribault's fine collection of masterfully crafted residential buildings.

***Den Svenska Evangeliska Lutherska Christdala Forsamlingen
(Christdala Evangelical Swedish Lutheran Church)***

--4695 Millersburg Road, Forest Township—



The Christdala Evangelical Swedish Lutheran Church is significant because it stands as the only remaining symbol of the broad impact of Swedish Lutheran Church on the Millersburg community and because its presence demonstrates the importance of the church in social and cultural history of the township, county and state. The property relates to the statewide historic context entitled "Railroads and Agricultural Development, 1870-1940."

Dobbin, Reverend James, House/St. James School for Boys

--1800 14th Street NE, Faribault—



The Dobbin House/ St. James School is an outstanding example of native limestone construction rendered in the Gothic Revival style in Faribault. It is one of two remaining stone residential buildings constructed in this style in the city. Built of locally quarried stone, this building represents one of Faribault's most outstanding cultural resources; its native stone architecture. Its design contributes to the group of handsome stone buildings that began to assemble along Faribault's eastern bluffs beginning with the construction of the Seabury Divinity Hall in 1863.

Drake, Edwin S., Farmhouse

--County Highway 22, Bridgewater Township—



The Drake Farmhouse is primarily significant for its associations with a prominent pioneer family and the native-born American population that settled northeastern Rice County. It is also well preserved representative of the farmhouses constructed by the more progressive first-generation Rice County farmers. The house was constructed around 1863 by Edwin Sumner Drake, who had come to Bridgewater Township via New York, Ohio and Wisconsin with his family, two brothers and their families, and his parents in 1854. They were among the first group of settlers with similar heritage to settle Northfield and Bridgewater Township and formed a loosely organized rural community. E.S. Drake originally took a claim on section 26 in 1856, but acquired the senior Drake claim from his widowed mother in 1863. Shortly thereafter he constructed the brick farmhouse as residence for his family of ten and his elderly mother and aunt. The Drake family name is prominent in the area's history primarily for the "firsts" associated with it: the Drake brothers were first to take claim; Mary Drake was the first to marry; Joseph Drake was the first to be buried in the Northfield cemetery in 1895, and Sumner Drake established the first dairy operation.

Dump Road Bridge

--Township Road 45 over Straight River, Walcott Township--



The Dump Road Bridge is significant structure as an example of truss and substructure types common around the turn of the century, and for its association with bridge builder A.Y. Bayne. The Dump Road Bridge is an example of an unexpected effect of railroad construction on a township, in particular its road network, as grading for the rail line altered the channel of the Straight River. Bayne began his long career in Minnesota as an agent for other bridge firms, and in 1903 formed his own enterprise, A.Y. Bayne & Company. This bridge is one of the earliest survivors of Byne's long career as an independent bridge builder.

Episcopal Rectory

--112 6th Street NW, Faribault—



The Episcopal Rectory is significant as part of the collection of Olof Hanson designed residences built between 1895-1901, and as the most intact Hanson design in Faribault. The rectory displays artistic merit as a highly refined example of a subtype of the Colonial Revival style in Faribault.

Faribault City Hall

--208 1st Avenue NW, Faribault—



The Faribault City Hall provides an important link to the beginnings of Faribault's role as a regionally important south central Minnesota city and to an important period of municipal and economic expansion. Architecturally, the building is a well-preserved example of the Renaissance Revival style, a popular style for public buildings at the turn of the century. Construction plans began for the building in 1894, during a period of increased civic pride

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evidenced both by expanded municipal services and the construction of the facility to house the Faribault City Hall and Public Library. The style and construction date of the building visibly link Faribault's increased civic-mindedness of the 1890's to a similar "awakening" across the State when many Minnesota communities erected city halls, public water works, libraries, park systems and the like. More importantly, Faribault's increased civic pride is linked to the beginning of the city's role as a regionally important manufacturing center, as seen in the establishment of several agricultural processing and distribution companies and wholesale warehouses during the last two decades of the nineteenth century. The Faribault City Hall is a prominent local landmark and aptly represents a very important period of Faribault's municipal and economic development.

Faribault Commercial Historic District

--Central Avenue between 2nd & 3rd Streets, Faribault--



The Faribault Historic Commercial District is significant as a remarkably well-preserved concentration of late nineteenth century commercial buildings located in a regionally important center of trade and commerce. All of the buildings in the District were constructed between 1870 and 1900 and provide a visible link to Faribault's period of greatest commercial development and economic independence. Here were located businesses that span the wide range of nineteenth century commercial establishments: hardware stores, drug stores, books and stationary stores, men's and women's clothing stores, dry goods stores, a harness shop, and confectioneries, as well as office facilities for professionals on the second and third floors of the buildings.

Faribault Viaduct

--Division Street over Straight River, Faribault--



The Faribault Viaduct is significant in the areas of engineering and architecture in the historic context of "Minnesota Reinforced –Concrete Highway Bridges 1900 –1945." Additionally, it is significant in the area of transportation in the historic context of the "Civic Development of Faribault, Minnesota, 1855-1945," Historic Contexts, Faribault, Minnesota. It is an excellent, unaltered, large, urban, Deco/Classical Revival design. Constructed in 1937, it is one of the last of the major, ornamental, concrete-arch bridges built in Minnesota. It was the result of four decades of planning for community improvement and transportation at this significant location linking the city's west and east sides.



Faribault Water Works

--7th Street NW, Faribault--



The Faribault Water Works are significant as an unusual representation of two generations of facilities to house municipal water systems. The juxtaposition of an 1880's building and its "replacement," a 1930's building constructed under the Works Project Administration, provides links to two periods of important civic improvements. The Faribault Waterworks Company originally constructed the Faribault Water Works in 1883. According to 1887 statistical tables of American Water Works, Faribault was among the first twenty Minnesota communities to have a city water system. Ten years later, the City of Faribault bought out the private company, during the period of increased civic mindedness and expanded municipal service. By the late 1890's, public water works had become widespread in Minnesota communities of all sizes.

Faribault, Alexander, House

--12 NE 1st Avenue, Faribault--



Alexander Faribault constructed the Faribault house, the first frame residence in Rice County, in 1853. In addition to being his home and the home of his wife and ten children, the building also served as the city's first civic and conference center, polling place and church. After Faribault's death in 1882, the house was allowed to deteriorate for almost 63 years. Finally, in 1945, the Rice County Historical Society acquired the structure as a monument to the founder of Faribault.

Farmer Seed & Nursery Company

--818 NW 4th Street, Faribault--



RICE COUNTY HISTORICAL SETTING & RESOURCES

The Farmer Seed and Nursery Company is significant as the most visible surviving structure linked to Faribault's role as a major agricultural processing and distribution center for south central Minnesota from the 1890's through the 20th century. Farmer Seed was established in Chicago in 1888 by Otto Kozlowski and William Kueker, associate editors of a monthly farm paper. Impressed by the numerous requests from readers, they decided to launch a mail order seed business, which distributed over 20,000 seed catalogs within a few years. During the 1893 Chicago Exposition, they selected Faribault as the future location of the business. The city was considered one of the true "garden spots of the Northwest and an important trade and distribution center in one of Minnesota's richest agricultural regions. In 1894, the company moved to Faribault and purchased forty acres outside of town to begin growing seeds themselves. A store was erected on the south side of Fourth Street NW (south of the present structure). By 1899 they purchased the larger warehouse across the street and proceeded to enlarge the building in phases to accommodate a rapidly expanding operation. The business continued to prosper, and additional seed farms were purchased in Rice and Blue Earth counties; a nursery department was added in 1909 and the present named assumed. Farmer Seed and Nursery's national market peaked in the late 1930's. The firm remains in operation and maintains and active business in Faribault, although its home base is now LeCenter in neighboring Le Sueur County. It continues to represent Rice County's agricultural base and the role that Faribault has traditionally played as an important distribution and processing center for the region.

Goodsell Observatory, Carleton College

--off 1st Street E, Northfield--



The building is significant for three main reasons. First, it is a complete intact and basically unchanged 19th century astronomical laboratory, the only one known to survive in this condition in Minnesota and one of the few in the country. Secondly, the building is significant for being the official Time Station from 1887 to the 1930's for all Minnesota and most of the upper mid and northwest portion of the country. The third point of significance is Goodsell Observatory's role in the scientific literary field. The building is also significant for two additional reasons. One is its architecture, for it is a superbly preserved example of Romanesque Revival architecture. Lastly, the building has been continually used as an astronomical laboratory and teaching facility for its entire history. The Goodsell Observatory is one of the most significant buildings in Minnesota.

Holman, M.P., House

--107 3rd Avenue NW, Faribault--



RICE COUNTY HISTORICAL SETTING & RESOURCES

The M.P. Holman House is significant as an excellent and elaborate brick example of the Italianate style in Faribault. Unlike many of its neighbors, the structure has had little modification over time and therefore gives a good and accurate representation of the Italianate style as it was rendered in the mid to late 1800's.

Hospital, State School for the Feeble Minded

--off 6th Avenue SE, Faribault--



The Oaks Building as the School for the Feeble Minded is primarily significant for its association with Arthur Rufus Trego Wiley, the first clinical psychologist to be employed by a mental retardation institution in the United States and a pioneer in the field of mental health research. It is also significant as an important component of the primary resource center for the mentally retarded in the entire State of Minnesota State Hospital system, a position retained by the Faribault State Hospital for contagious diseases. It also housed classrooms for staff training and photographic and research laboratories, including Dr. A.R.T. Wiley's psychology laboratory. Oaks Building, as the location of Wiley's psychological research, provides an important link to the beginnings of a significant movement in mental health care and research. As an important component of the hospital complex during the first decades of the twentieth century, the building provides a link to the position of the Faribault School for the Feeble Minded in the larger State Hospital system.

Hutchinson, John, House

--305 2nd St NW, Faribault--



The John Hutchinson House is significant primarily for its association with a prominent business leader who made his fortune in the manufacture of furniture, one of several lumber-related industries that flourished in late-nineteenth-century Faribault. It is also a particularly fine local example of the Victorian residences constructed by the town's elite after the community became established as a regional trade and manufacturing center for south central Minnesota. The prominent Victorian residence that Hutchinson constructed in 1892 reflects the success achievable by leading entrepreneurs in a community of the size and regional importance of the turn-of-the-century Faribault. It appropriately represents the height of Faribault's lumber-related industries with its fine wood detailing.



Johnston Hall, Seabury Divinity School

--1st Street SE & State Avenue, Faribault—



Established by Bishop Henry Benjamin Whipple, one of the state's most prominent pioneer churchmen, the Seabury Divinity School evolved from an earlier school known as the "Associates Mission of Minnesota", founded in 1858 under the direction of Rev. J. Lloyd Breck. Built as the library and housing for the faculty, Johnston Hall is an excellent example of late nineteenth century Romanesque architecture and one of the finer specimens of that style remaining in the state. The building including the pointed tower and the fenestration appears to be completely original on the exterior. It is now used as a nurse's school and residence for the adjacent hospital built on the site of the Old Seabury Hall.

Johnston Hall is the building most representative of the Seabury Divinity School, which provided many early missionaries to the Midwestern Indian tribes and many of the state's most prominent religious leaders. It is also symbolic of Whipple's leadership in the shaping and development of the "Whipple School" of which his divinity school is most characteristic of his missionary and religious ideals.

Lieb, Elizabeth & Vincent, House

--201 4th Avenue SW, Faribault—



The Vincent and Elizabeth Lieb House is significant within the context of the period of early settlement in Faribault. The Lieb House is specifically significant as an example of the type of vernacular native stone housing built by Faribault's working class during the early settlement days.

The simple plan, modest size and minimal decoration of the Lieb house is typical of the type of early settlement housing built by early masons with their vernacular sensibilities. There are eleven other extant stone vernacular houses in Faribault, all built by working class families after an initial period of establishment within the Faribault economy. All exhibit simple plans, minimal stylistic embellishment, and labor-intensive building techniques. They are distinctive for their flush stone lintels, protruding door and windowsills, interior beveled window openings and approximately twenty-inch deep walls.

RICE COUNTY HISTORICAL SETTING & RESOURCES

The Lieb House was built five years after Lieb came to Faribault. He was 18 years old when he immigrated to Wisconsin in 1852 from Alsace in France. He farmed in the Beloit area for a year, and then worked at the shoemaker trade until he made a claim near Forest Township in Rice County. In 1857 he moved to Faribault, again taking up the shoe trade. His brother Richard Lieb who established the business joined him. During his later years he farmed in rural Faribault while retaining the house he built in 1862. While living in the house, the Lieb's raised eight children. Vincent Lieb died in the house in 1897.

Lonsdale School

--3rd Avenue SW, Lonsdale--



The Lonsdale Public School, constructed in 1908 by Patrick Sullivan, a local carpenter, is significant both for its architecture and for its association with education in Lonsdale. The school is believed to have been designed by Patrick Sullivan. In its rectangular shape and vertical emphasis, it has antecedents in many of the plan book schools of the late nineteenth century. In its decoration, particularly its cupola, it is reminiscent of early America public buildings such as Sir Christopher Wren's William and Mary College. The amalgamation of these elements is unusual in Minnesota.

Although currently vacant, the building was for many years the only school in Lonsdale and consequently played a singular role in the educational life of the town. Local tradition says that the formal character of the building's architecture is a reflection of the respect, which the community's predominantly Czech citizens had for education. Vigorous efforts to preserve and restore the building by the descendants of these citizens are interpreted as a reflection of a pride in the community's history and in the building itself.

Lord, Drew H., House

--201 E 3rd, Northfield--



RICE COUNTY HISTORICAL SETTING & RESOURCES

The Drew H. Lord House is primarily significant as the home of one of Northfield's leading builders and businessmen, who was instrumentally linked to Northfield's late nineteenth century expansion and the built environment of that period. The house is significant architecturally as a locally distinctive residence utilizing the popular Eastlake design features and representative of the success achievable by a prominent local builder. Drew H. Lord first came to Northfield in 1873 and was employed as millwright at the Ames Mill. Soon thereafter, during a period of increased prosperity and significant building activity in the community, Lord established a building and contracting business.

The firm was the principal builder for many notable structures in town, including Goodsell Observatory and Scoville Memorial Library at Carleton College, Steensland Library at St. Olaf College, the Nutting-Phillips Building in downtown Northfield, and much of Northfield's late nineteenth and early twentieth century housing stock. Lord constructed his home on Third and Washington, overlooking downtown Northfield, in 1887. The house served both as a private residence and as rental units for Carleton students. Lord resided in the house until his death in 1911. The locally distinctive dwelling is a reflection of the success achieved by a leading local builder and a representative of the many residential structures constructed by a man more widely known for his associations with public buildings.

Martin, William, House

--Bridge & 1st Streets, Dundas--



The Martin House is significant for its close associations with the City of Dundas' period of greatest regional importance. The building is also significant as a well-preserved example of the residences constructed in the area during the late 1860s as the Italianate style was beginning to replace the Greek Revival style in popular residential architectures. William Martin, treasurer of the Archibald Milling Company, constructed the house in 1869. At the time of its construction, Dundas enjoyed a reputation as one of Minnesota's foremost milling centers, a distinction it carried during most of the latter half of the nineteenth century. The well-articulated transitional design features link the house to the precise time period in Minnesota at which Dundas and the milling industry reached their peak. The building reflects both the success achievable by prominent local millers and the city's earlier position of importance. No other structures in town so clearly reflect the social and cultural climate of Dundas' early period.

McCall, Cormack, House

--817 Ravine Street NE, Faribault--



The Cormack and H. Crowley McCall House is significant within the context of the period of early settlement in Faribault. This period encompasses roughly the first twenty years of settlement and corresponds to the Minnesota State Historical Society's *Early Agriculture and River Settlement* context. Within that broad context, the McCall House is specifically significant for its association with stonecutter and mason, Cormack McCall, who is recorded as having built some of Faribault's most outstanding native stone buildings. It is also significant as an example of the type of vernacular native stone housing built during the early settlement days.

McCall, Thomas, House

--102 4th Avenue SW, Faribault--



The Thomas McCall House is significant within the context of Faribault's aesthetic development as demonstrated through the built environment. The context encompasses the activities, institutions and structures, which represented the community's aspirations for physical beauty and culture as expressed through craftsmanship, art, and architecture. Buildings significant within this context exhibit a high degree of architectural sensitivity and special attention given to scale, stylistic vocabulary, use of quality materials, and master craftsmanship.

Within that context, the Thomas McCall House is significant as one of Faribault's largest and most elaborate houses constructed of native limestone and as refined examples of French Second Empire and Italianate influences on the mid-to-late 19th Century architectural fashion. It is also significant for its close association with local master stone masons Thomas McCall and is a fine example of his mastery of stone cutting and masonry.

McCarthy, Timothy J., House

--23 3rd Street NW, Faribault--



The Timothy J. McCarthy building is significant within the context of Faribault's aesthetic development as demonstrated through the built environment. This context encompasses the activities, institutions and structures, which represented the community's aspirations for physical beauty and culture as expressed through craftsmanship, art and architectures. Buildings significant within this context exhibit a high degree and integrity of artistic design with special attention given to scale, architectural stylistic vocabulary, and use of quality materials. The Timothy J. McCarty Building is significant within this context for its highly designed, ornate, small Italianate marble front façade.

The McCarthy Building is the only building in Faribault, which has a polished marble façade. The building is one of the most architecturally significant and ornate buildings in Faribault as an intact example of the Italianate style rendered in polished stone veneer. The small commercial façade displays and elegance and flourish rarely found in Minnesota.

McMahon, Bridget & Thomas, House

--603 Division Street E, Faribault--



The Thomas and Bridget Shanahan McMahon House is significant within the context of the period of early settlement in Faribault. This period encompasses roughly the first twenty years of settlement and corresponds to the Minnesota State Historical Society's *Early Agriculture and River Settlement* context. Within that broad context, the McMahon House is specifically significant as a particularly well-preserved example of the type of vernacular native stone housing built by Faribault's working class during the early settlement days.

The simple plan, modest size and minimal decoration of the McMahon House is typical of the type of early settlement housing built by early masons with their vernacular sensibilities. There are twelve other extant stone vernacular houses in Faribault, all built by working class families after an initial period of establishment within the Faribault economy. All exhibit simple plans, minimal stylistic embellishment, and labor-intensive building techniques. They are distinctive for



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their flush stone lintels, protruding door and windowsills, interior beveled window openings, and approximately twelve-inch deep walls.

Nerstrand City Hall

--Main Street, Nerstrand--



The Nerstrand City Hall is significant for its association with Nerstrand's early period of growth and as the county's best example of the municipal buildings constructed during the first decades of the century. The turn-of-the-century was a period of maturation for Rice County communities, a period characterized by various civic improvements, city halls, jails, water systems and the like. The first city hall building proved inadequate within a very few years. A lot was purchased for a new building in 1907 and the present structure was constructed in the following year. Nerstrand's City Hall, the most architecturally distinctive building in town, reflects this period of increased civic-mindedness and prosperity.

Northfield Historic District

--vicinity of Division, Water, 3rd & 5th Streets, Northfield--



The Northfield Historic District is significant as a generally well-preserved and vital historic commercial center that has continued to meet the needs of residents and visitors since the early 1870s. Industrial, commercial and civic functions continue to co-exist in a balanced setting, the result of gradual development over time. Also, Northfield's two prominent liberal arts colleges, Carleton and St. Olaf, were founded on sites within the district.

One of the most important aspects of the historic composition and development of downtown Northfield is the Cannon River. As a source of power for the early sawmills and gristmills built along its banks, the Cannon River has a great influence on the settlement of the entire region since the 1840s. The founding fathers of Northfield, recognizing the beauty and utility of the Cannon River, made it a prominent feature in the orientation and layout of the downtown area. The historic role of the Cannon River as a prime influence on community development continues to have considerable symbolic value.



Noyes Hall, State School for the Deaf

--off 6th Avenue NE, Faribault--



Built in three stages between 1902 and 1910, Noyes Hall at the Minnesota School for the Deaf is a well-preserved example of the solid monumental architecture being built at the turn of the century for the state's social institutions. Although not representing any specific architectural style, the building nevertheless is a well organized and disciplined design with an overtone of neo-classicism so popular in public buildings during this period. The classical influence is especially evident with the unadorned central domed rotunda, the hub of the building and the simply designed Doric portico at the front entry. The nearly perfect symmetry of the front façade is another style characteristic.

Noyes Hall is also significant as part of diminishing group of pre World War I institutional buildings in Minnesota. As Minnesota was a leader and strong supporter of state supported institutions for its handicapped and underprivileged, some of its greatest architecture was commissioned for these institutions. Unfortunately, few still survive as the state has continually upgraded and refined its social services. Noyes Hall, which is one of three buildings surviving from the old campus plan and still one of its most distinguished members, represents a significant opportunity to recognize the great monumental architecture of this era.

Noyes, Elizabeth H. & Jonathon L., House

--105 1st Avenue NW, Faribault--



The Jonathon L. and Elizabeth H. Wadsworth Noyes House is significant as part of the collection of Olof Hanson designed residences built between 1895-1901. The house is significant as one of the most intact examples of Olof Hanson's residential architecture. The house was built for Noyes, a long time friend of Hanson's, who served for thirty years as the superintendent of the State School for the Deaf. Noyes also served for 32 years on the board of Trustees of Carleton College, twenty-one of which he served as President of the Board. The house displays artistic merit combining a variety of architectural styles in vogue at the turn-of-the-century.

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Nutting, John C., House

--217 Union Street, Northfield—



The Nutting House was built in 1887-8 from plans by local architect J.E. Cooke. The house is the only remaining example of a brick house of this size and period in Northfield. Since the people of Northfield held the Nutting family in high regard, the house has become a landmark in the community. It has been acquired from the two non-resident heiresses as a residence for Carleton's president-elect and some minor interior changes are contemplated.

Old Main, Saint Olaf College

--off Saint Olaf Avenue, Northfield—



The significance of Old Main lies in its interesting architectural features and in its long history as an educational and religious institutional building. Old Main is a symbol of the strong belief in religious education of Minnesota's Norwegian Lutheran settlers. St. Olaf was founded in order to preserve the Norwegian Lutheran heritage as well as to provide secular education for the children of settlers. In the fall of 1878 the school was moved into Old Main. Between 1886 and 1890 St. Olaf's Old Main was home for a Lutheran Divinity School, which was moved to Northfield as the result of a doctrinal disagreement. Old Main was the only building on the campus until 1900.

Osmundson, Osmund, House

--off MN Highway 246, Nerstrand—



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The Osmund Osmundson House is significant for its association with a prominent Rice County settler and town founder. Norwegian-born Osmund Osmundson settled in Wheeling Township in 1856. His brick house was constructed in 1880 replacing a log house constructed at the time of settlement and an 1861 frame house. The house remains as the structure best associated with the establishment of the City of Nerstrand, the principal center serving the surrounding agricultural community of eastern Rice County.

Pfeiffer, John G., House

--931 3rd Avenue NW, Faribault—



The Pfeiffer House is significant within the context of the period of early settlement in Faribault. This period encompasses roughly the first twenty years of settlement. The Pfeiffer House is specifically significant as a particularly well-preserved example of the type of vernacular native stone housing built by Faribault's working class during the early settlement days. It is also significant for its association with stonecutter and mason, John Gottlieb Pfeiffer, who is recorded as having built or supervised the building of some of Faribault's most outstanding native stone buildings.

Phelps Library, Shattuck School

--off Shumway Avenue, Faribault—



Old Phelps Library is the last surviving building from the old Seabury Divinity School, which formerly occupied the campus. Built as the library for the divinity school in 1869 from a grant from Lucy E. Phelps of Winsted, Connecticut, the building was converted into the dormitory for Shattuck in the early 1870s. The school enlarged to building in the mid-1870s and again after the turn of the century to give it its present appearance. It is the oldest building known to remain at Shattuck School. It is also the building, which set the architectural tone for the campus with its Gothic masonry construction.



RICE COUNTY HISTORICAL SETTING & RESOURCES

Rice County Courthouse & Jail

--218 3rd Street NW, Faribault--



The Rice County Courthouse and Jail are significant as the buildings most clearly associated with Rice County government. Both are “replacement” type structures, which represent the continuum of county government and are linked by a traditional functional relationship. Architecturally, the courthouse is a well-preserved example of the type of courthouse constructed in a few Minnesota counties in the 1930s; the jail is a good example of jail facilities constructed by county governments after the turn-of-the-century.

Rock Island Depot

--off 3rd Street & 1st Avenue NE, Faribault-



The Chicago, Rock Island and Pacific Railroad Depot in Faribault is significant as an important completing component of the railroad network linking Faribault to the major cities of central and southern Minnesota and beyond. It is also significant as the best extent representative of the trackside facilities constructed in Rice County's six platted communities where the railroad played a major developmental role. The depot was constructed in January 1902 by the Burlington, Cedar Rapids and Northern and turned over to the Chicago, Rock Island, and Pacific in June of the same year. The line was the last major link of Faribault's rail connections, which had begun in 1864 with the construction of the Minnesota Central from Minneapolis to Mendota to Faribault and in 1866 to Owatonna.



Rolvaag, O.E. House

--311 Manitou Street, Northfield--



O.E. Rolvaag (1876-1931) was the first American novelist to give a true accounting of the psychological costs of pioneering on the farmer's frontier. His famous trilogy – Giants in the Earth (1927), Peder Victorious (1928), and Their Father's God (1931) – stands in our literature as the most mature and penetrating assessment of the adjustments immigrant pioneers had to make in order to find peace and prosperity in Middle America. The house where he lived and wrote in Northfield, Minnesota still stands and is basically unaltered.

St. Mary's Hall

--4th Street NE, Faribault--



St. Mary's Hall is significant as the distinctive third home of an important component of the Episcopal schools established in Faribault during the mid-nineteenth century. St. Mary's Hall was established in 1866 as a boarding school for girls. Bishop Henry Whipple and his wife identified the need for a school for girls and opened St. Mary's in their home at Sixth Street and Central Avenue in 1866. Cornelia assumed the position of housemother and became the driving force behind the school, greatly influencing its direction until her death in 1890. In 1872 the school was turned over to a board of trustees, and the Whipple family moved to a new home. The school's enrollment and reputation grew simultaneously, and in 1881 land was purchased on the bluff for expanded facilities; a new building was constructed in 1883. The present structure is the third building to house St. Mary's; it was constructed in 1926 after a tragic fire destroyed the 1883 structure in 1924. Its locally distinctive Late Gothic Revival design makes the building an appropriate replacement for a distinguished secondary institution.

Scoville Memorial Library, Carleton College

--1st Street E & College Street, Northfield--



Scoville Memorial Library is significant both as one of the last survivors of Carleton College's historic core and as one of the first libraries to be constructed on the smaller college campuses in the Upper Midwest. Architecturally, the building is an excellent example of the Richardsonian Romanesque, a style popular in late nineteenth century public buildings. Scoville was the fifth major building to be constructed on the Carleton campus and the last to be constructed before the turn of the century. Willis Hall, Gridley Hall, and Goodsell Observatory preceded it. His wife and their son, Charles B. Scoville, gave the library to the college as a memorial to James W. Scoville of Chicago. Mr. Scoville had become interested in Carleton after his association with Carleton President Strong at the Chicago Theological Institute; he had pledged a gift of \$25,000 before his death. The plans for the library were designed by Chicago architects Patton and Fisher who had previously designed Scoville Institute at Oak Park and Scoville Academy at Beloit. The 1896 construction date of the building, a year following the "banner year" for smaller libraries at college campuses, places Scoville on the forefront of the movement to construct separate buildings for library use at institutions of higher learning. Prior to 1896, few institutions had separate library buildings and not until the turn of the century had they become very common. While no longer in use as a library, Scoville continues to be a landmark on the Carleton campus and a representative of the place of prominence given the "central laboratory of learning" at an institution long noted for its academic excellence.

Scriver Building

--Bridge Square & Division Street Northfield--



The Scriver Building was erected about 1867 on the site of the Northfield's earliest store. It was the presence of the first National Bank that gave the Scriver Building its major place in history when the James-Younger gang attempted to rob the bank on September 7, 1876. The attempt was an infamous failure. Historians have marked the attempted raid of the Northfield Bank and the brave response of the Northfield citizens as the end of the era of the Western desperados.

Shattuck Historic District

--off Shumway Avenue, Faribault—



The Shattuck Historic District is significant as an educational outgrowth of the old Episcopal “Bishop Seabury Mission,” is the most nationally renowned of all the “Whipple Schools” for which Faribault is noted. Started as an intermediate boys’ school in 1858 by Rev. J. Lloyd Breck as part of the “Associated Mission of Minnesota,” Shattuck has grown over its century long history to become one of the most reputable private secondary boys’ schools in the country.

Shumway Hall and Morgan Rectory, Shattuck School

--off Shumway Avenue, Faribault—



These buildings are the most significant because they signify the best image of the Shattuck School. Designed by the St. Paul architectural firm of Wilcox and Johnston, the complex was actually constructed in two stages and because this was made possible through two separate benefactors, is constructed two individual buildings by the school. The two buildings are basically Romanesque style in character although they show a curious and careful blending of the English Gothic influence.

Skinner Memorial Chapel, Carleton College

--1st Street between Winona & College, Northfield—



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The Skinner Memorial Chapel is significant as a well-executed example of the Late Gothic Revival of Academic Gothic Style as per Bertram Goodhue and Ralph A Cram. It is also an important visual focus of Carleton College, which had been established in 1866 as a Christian college of the Congregational Church. The chapel was a gift of Mrs. Emily Willey Skinner in memory of her husband, Miron W. Skinner, a trustee of the college from its founding to his death in 1909. At the donor's request, the building was constructed to face First Street rather than the campus to symbolize the cordial relations between the college and the town. In keeping with the tradition established at institutions of higher learning, architects were commissioned to design a chapel of landmark quality in the Academic Gothic style. The restrained use of detail, academic exactness, careful proportions, and the monumentality of the building's mass within its setting make the chapel an excellent example of the Academic Gothic and a strong visual focus on the campus.

Steensland Library

--off St. Olaf Avenue, Northfield—



The Steensland Library is significant historically as one of the few extant buildings dating to earlier development period of St. Olaf College, a school founded as a Norwegian Lutheran high school in 1874. A college department was added in 1886, and by 1900 it had become an official college on the United Lutheran Church. Architecturally, Steensland is a good example of both the Neo-Classical Revival styles as used in public buildings and of the first generation of college buildings constructed solely for library use at the turn-of-the-century. Steensland is one of three principal buildings on the campus that predates the majority of structures built between the mid-1920's and the 1950's. Steensland Library was the gift of Mr. Halle Steensland, a friend of the college from Madison, Wisconsin. It was the first substantial gift received by the college and was dedicated on May 24, 1902. The building illustrates the changing role of a library at an institution of higher learning. Its modest scale was adequate in 1902 as a repository for books and a place for reference work, but as the college grew and as library services expanded, new facilities were needed.

Theopold Mercantile Company Wholesale Grocery

--1st Avenue NW & 3rd Street NW, Faribault—



The Theopold Mercantile Company Wholesale Grocery Building is significant as the best representative of Faribault's role as a major distribution and trade center for the region, and as one of the few surviving warehouse structures in Faribault's "warehouse" district associated with



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the late nineteenth century development of the city. Warehouses, such as this wholesale grocery building, are generally found only in cities that have achieved a degree of regional importance, as they required access to a necessary transportation network, adequate population and a developed economic base.

Valley Grove

--County Road 29, Wheeling Township—



Valley Grove is primarily significant as a highly dramatic rural church scene in which the juxtaposition of two church buildings constructed by a single congregation represent two phases of rural ecclesiastical architecture. The buildings are also significant as the focus of the dispersed community of Norwegian farmers who settled and farmed parts of eastern Rice County. The Valley Grove parish dates back to the 1850's when area residents began meeting in homes for worship. In 1862 they built the small stone church for a meeting place, and named the congregation "Tyske Grove." The name was changed to Valley Grove in 1870. The scale and simplicity of design of the stone church are characteristic of early generations of church structures constructed by rural immigrant populations. These buildings often replaced log structures or other temporary quarters and were usually replaced by larger more ostentation structures as the need arose. By 1894, the Valley Grove congregation had outgrown the small stone church. Members who lived in the town of Nerstrand agitated for a church in town and in 1894 identical frame Gothic churches were constructed at the rural site of Valley Grove and in Nerstrand. The earlier stone building was not demolished to make room for the new building but retained as a guildhall; the Gothic buildings constructed are more typical of what has become considered as traditional ecclesiastical architecture in rural Minnesota. The two churches (Valley Grove and Nerstrand) remained one congregation until they reorganized in 1949. IN 1972, the Valley Grove congregation disbanded to join the Grace Lutheran congregation in Nerstrand. Although the buildings at Valley Grove are no longer in use, they reflect the solidarity of the rural Norwegian community that built them and settled the area.

Veblen, Thomas, Farmstead

--MN Highway 246, Wheeling Township—



The Thomas Veblen Farmstead is the boyhood home of the world renown and controversial economist, Thorstein Veblen. Although born in Manitowoc County, Wisconsin in 1857, Veblen



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spent his formative childhood years in Rice County, Minnesota after his family moved to the Wheeling Township farmstead in 1865. Although, the second of two houses built at this site by his father, Thomas Veblen (ca. 1875) the house is the only surviving Veblen residence in Minnesota. It was also the site of repeated visits by Thorstein Veblen in the 1880's and 1890's and the scene of much of his writings.

Weyer, Adam, Wagon Shop

--32 2nd Street NE, Faribault--



The Adam Weyer Wagon Shop is significant within the context of Faribault's industrial development as one of the oldest, and the most intact industrial stone structures from Faribault's early industrial period. The building is an important physical reminder of the early industrial period that is an example of the type of vernacular stone industrial buildings built of locally quarried limestone. These buildings are recognizable for their simple utilitarian plan, local building material, and lack of stylistic ornamentation.

Willis Hall, Carleton College

--College Street, Northfield--



Constructed between 1868 and 1872, Willis Hall is representative of the founding of Carleton College, a small midwestern liberal arts college, which is most well known for being the educational home of the internationally renowned economist, Thorstein Veblen.

Carleton College built Willis Hall as its first permanent facility, laying the cornerstone in 1868. Completed and dedicated in 1872, the building functioned as the entire school for the first few years, housing the chapel and men's dormitory in addition to classrooms. It was originally called New Hall, but the name was quickly changed to Willis Hall in honor of Susan Willis, one of the school's early benefactors.



RICE COUNTY HISTORICAL SETTING & RESOURCES

Wilson, Hudson House

--104 1st Avenue NW, Faribault--



The Hudson Wilson House is significant for its association with one of Faribault's first generation leaders whose economic foresight and participation in local affairs contributed significantly to the town's early prosperity. In addition, it is an unusually distinctive example of the residences constructed by the area's elite after they had achieved their success.