

APR 8 1980

HISTORIC NAME: Walters Jail

COUNTY: Faribault

CURRENT NAME: Walters Jail

CITY/TWP.: Walters

LEGAL DESC.: Original Plat, Block 5, lot 18

ADDRESS: Third and Main Street
Walters, Minnesota 56092

CLASSIFICATION:	CONDITION:	SIGNIFICANCE:	THEME/S:
Building <u>X</u>	Excellent _____	Local <u>X</u>	Primary <u>Government</u>
Structure _____	Good <u>X</u>	State _____	Secondary _____
Object _____	Fair _____	National _____	Others _____
District _____	Deteriorated _____		

OPEN TO THE PUBLIC: Yes X No _____ Restricted X

PRESENT USE: Museum

VISIBLE FROM THE ROAD: Yes X No _____OCCUPIED: Yes X No _____

DATE CONSTRUCTED: 1906

ORIGINAL USE: Jail

ORIGINAL OWNER: City of Walters

ARCHITECT/BUILDER:

OWNER'S NAME AND ADDRESS: City of Walters
P.O. Box 117
Walters, MN 56092ACREAGE: Less than one acre XLOCAL CONTACT/ORG.: Faribault County Historical Society
405 E. 6th Street, Blue Earth, MN 56013

UTM-REFERENCE:

Wells Quad. 15 minute

FORM PREPARED BY: Susan Roth

Lat. 43° 36' 19"

DATE: November 1979

Long. 93° 40' 20"

DESCRIPTION:

The Walters Jail is located on its original site in an area recently developed as the Walters City Park. It is a rectangular, one story false front brick structure. The gable roof is covered with asphalt shingles. Window and door openings are segmentally arched, and intact barred grills cover the front and side windows. The interior of the building is divided into an office space in the front and a detention area in the rear containing one cage cell with a solid metal ceiling. The doorway dividing the two rooms is hung with a metal door.

SIGNIFICANCE:

The Walters City Jail was constructed in 1906 at a time when many small area villages provided their own detention facilities. Walters was a new railroad town, platted in 1900, and by 1906 the population had substantially increased to warrant the city council to authorize the construction of the present structure to replace a frame jail building. Local workman constructed the jail with the cell shipped in by rail from Michigan. Most often the jail housed disorderly persons, but on occasion it provided lodging for railroad workers as the town had no hotel. The restoration of the jail was completed for the 1976 Bicentennial. Original interior furnishings have been replaced. The jail is now surrounded by a recently completed city park, and is open for tours on request. It remains as a reminder of the insular nature of the small railroad communities during the first years of development.