

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR  
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES  
EVALUATION/RETURN SHEET

Requested Action:

Property Name:

Multiple Name:

State & County:

Date Received: 10/12/2017      Date of Pending List: 11/16/2017 1:58:09 PM      Date of 16th Day: 11/29/2017      Date of 45th Day: 11/27/2017      Date of Weekly List:

Reference number:

Nominator:

Reason For Review:

Accept       Return       Reject      11/27/2017 Date

Abstract/Summary Comments:

**REMOVED  
from  
National Register**

Recommendation/ Criteria:

Reviewer Edson Beall *Edson Beall* Discipline Historian

Telephone \_\_\_\_\_ Date 11-27-17

DOCUMENTATION:    see attached comments : No    see attached SLR : No

If a nomination is returned to the nomination authority, the nomination is no longer under consideration by the National Park Service.

Minnesota Historic Preservation Office

Request for Removal from the National Register of Historic Places



**Name of Property:** Tenney Fire Hall (NR 80002186)

**Address:** Concord Avenue

**City/Township:** Tenney

**County:** Wilkin

**Reason for Removal:** The property has ceased to meet the criteria for listing because the qualities which caused it to be listed have been lost or destroyed (36 CFR 60.15 (a)).

**Dates and Nature of Change:** Burned, 2010.

**Comments:**

When it was nominated to the National Register of Historic Places in 1980, the Tenney Fire Hall was considered significant as “a well-preserved representation of small village municipal service functions.”<sup>1</sup> As noted in the nomination, it had fared better than the town hall, which was “a near duplicate of the fire hall in design,” but “in extremely poor structural condition.”<sup>1</sup> According to the nomination, the fire hall, which had been expanded in 1918 to accommodate a larger pumper, still maintained all of its original equipment in 1980 and “the village . . . is interested in developing the hall as a local historic site.”<sup>1</sup>

These plans never materialized. In 2003, Donald “Oscar” Guenther emailed the Minnesota State Historic Preservation Office (MnHPO) enquiring on the steps to take to restore the fire hall,<sup>2</sup> but when Carrie Hatler wrote an article about Tenney for her website “Forgotten Minnesota” in 2015, she noted that the idea of “a fire hall museum . . . never panned out.”<sup>3</sup>

In an ironic twist of fate, the fire hall burned down in 2010. Arson was suspected. Then in 2011, the city of Tenney, with a dwindling population of only three people, voted two to one to dissolve and turn the management of Tenney over to Campbell Township.<sup>3</sup>

When it was nominated to the National Register, the Tenney Fire Hall retain the seven aspects of integrity (location, setting, design, materials, workmanship, feeling, and association) needed to be nominated. In 2016, none of these remain. With only two houses and a grain elevator left standing in the entire town site, the property’s *setting* is lost. Even the trees shown in the 1980 National Register photo are gone and only the street signs remain. Similarly, the integrity of the property’s *location, design, materials, workmanship, feeling, and association* with a small village was destroyed when the fire hall burned.

**References:**

<sup>1</sup>Harvey, Tom. "Tenney Fire Hall," National Register of Historic Places Registration Form, 1980. Minnesota State Historic Preservation Office, Minnesota Historical Society, Saint Paul.

<sup>2</sup>Guenther, Donald "Oscar." Email to David Grabitske (MnHPO), 1 March 2003. Inventory files. Minnesota State Historic Preservation Office, Minnesota Historical Society, Saint Paul.

<sup>3</sup>Hatler, Carrie. "Tenney: The Evolution of a Ghost Town," *Forgotten Minnesota* website, 12 April 2015. <http://forgottenminnesota.com/2015/04/tenney-the-evolution-of-a-ghost-town/>. Accessed 19 May 2016.

**Field Check By:** Emily Ganzel, 28 May 2016.

**Legal Description:**

Lot 22

Block 1

Original Plat of Tenney



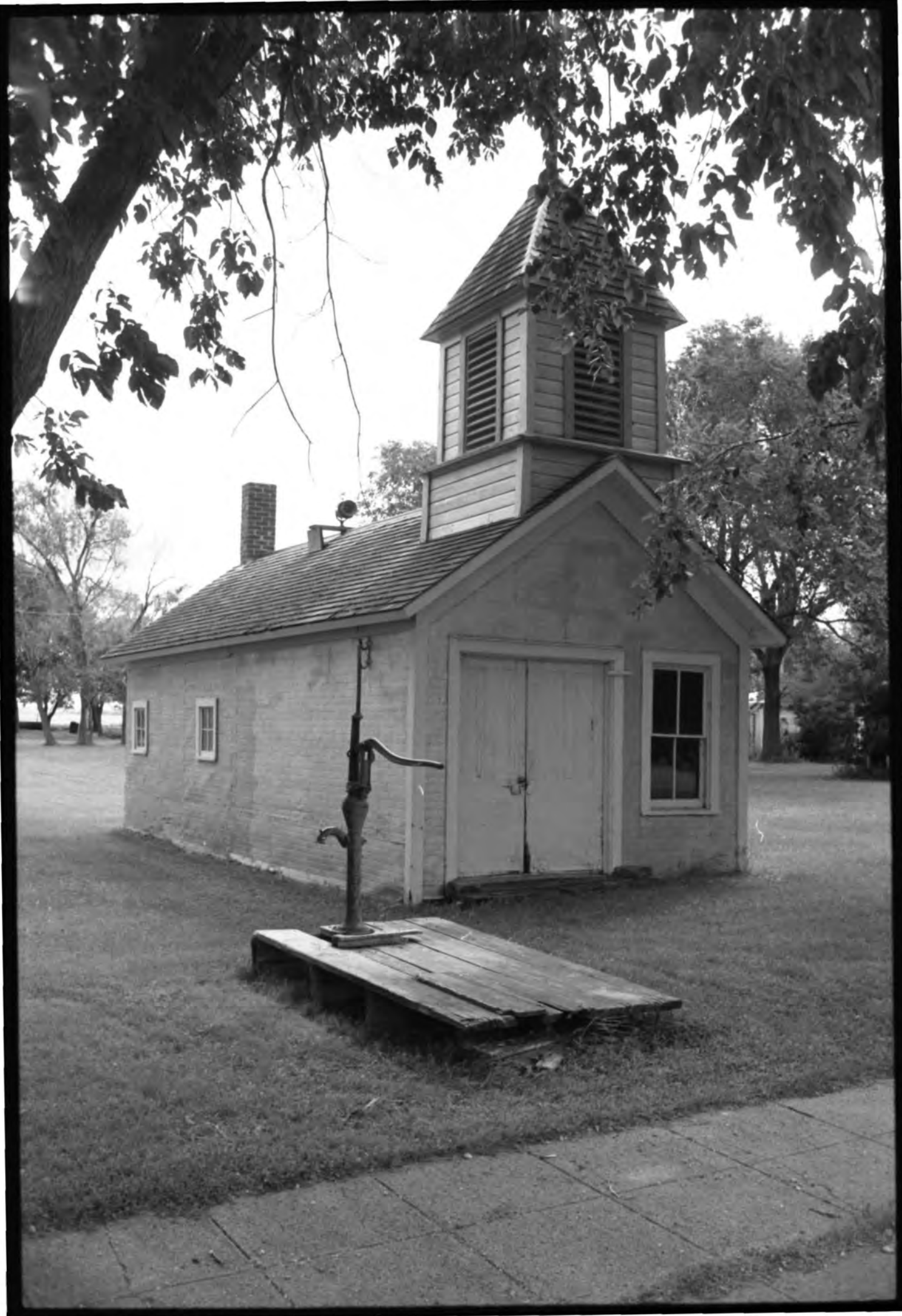
---

**Amy Spong**

**Deputy Minnesota Historic Preservation Officer**

10.5.17

**Date**





HISTORIC NAME: Tenney Fire Hall

COUNTY: Wilkin APR 15 1980

CURRENT NAME: Same

CITY/TWP.: Tenney

LEGAL DESC.: Lot 22, Block 1, Original Plat

ADDRESS: Concord Avenue

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

OPEN TO THE PUBLIC:	Yes ___ No <u>X</u> Restricted ___	PRESENT USE:
VISIBLE FROM THE ROAD:	Yes <u>X</u> No ___	Storage
OCCUPIED:	Yes <u>X</u> No ___	

DATE CONSTRUCTED: 1904/1918 ORIGINAL USE: Fire Hall and Jail

ORIGINAL OWNER: ARCHITECT/BUILDER: A.W. Haugen

OWNER'S NAME AND ADDRESS:	City of Tenney Tenney, Minnesota	ACREAGE: Less than one acre <u>X</u>
---------------------------	-------------------------------------	--------------------------------------

LOCAL CONTACT/ORG.:

UTM REFERENCE:  
 96° 27' 09" Longitude  
 46° 02' 21" Latitude  
 Campbell 7.5 quad.

FORM PREPARED BY: Tom Harvey  
 DATE: October 1979

DESCRIPTION:

The fire hall is a diminutive, detached structure located next to the Tenney town hall. The rectangular plan, single-story building has an oversized belltower above the front gable. The frame structure has been sided from its original construction with sheet metal showing a stamped brick pattern. The double front door is offset by a double-sash window to its right. There are two single sash windows toward the rear of the north side facade.

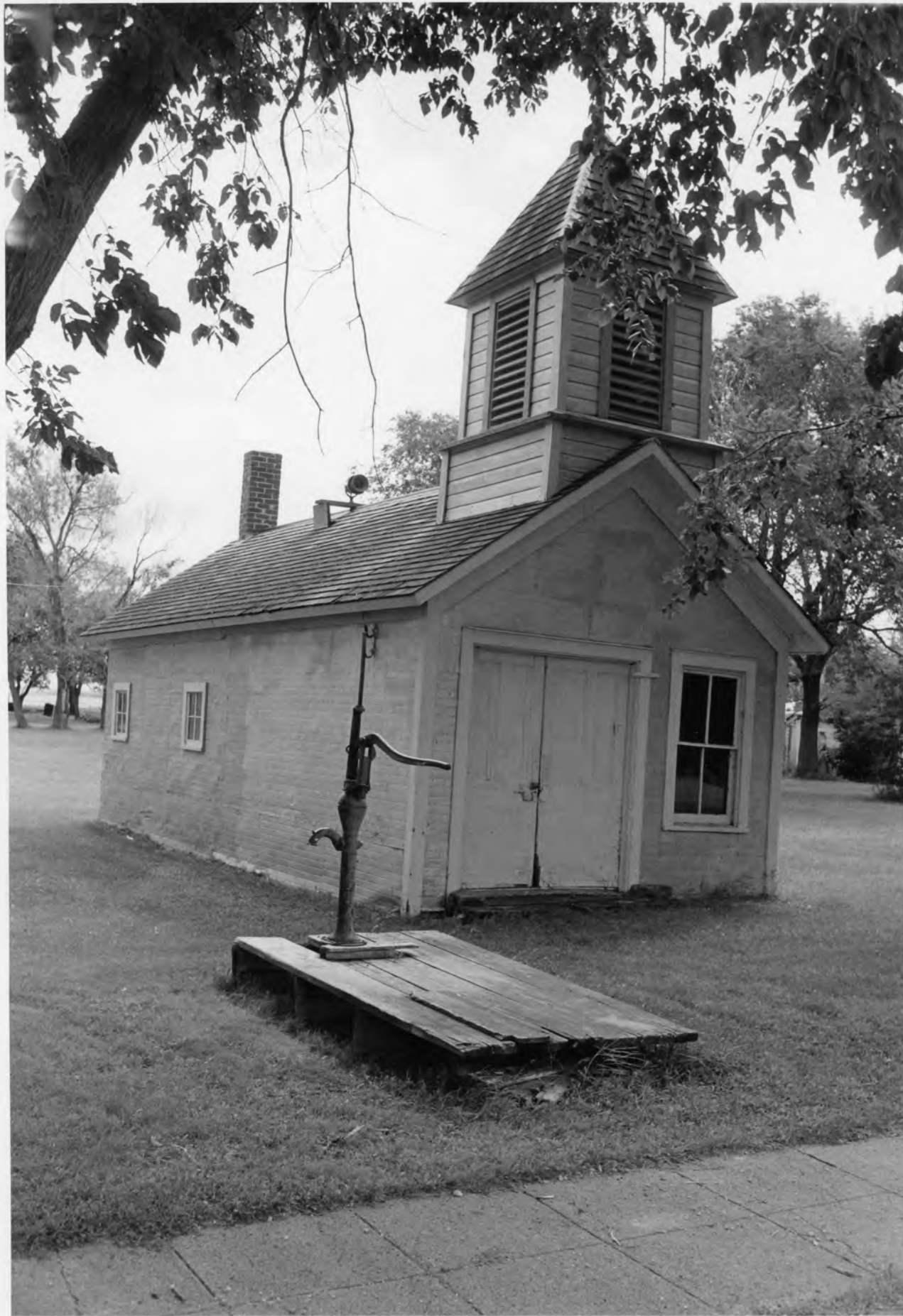
The fire hall was built in 1904 and in 1918 the town jail was moved and added to the rear of the hall. With the addition, the fire hall chimney was removed. The jail chimney was retained and is at the rear of the present structure. There is evidence of some original openings being covered.

The large belltower houses the original fire bell and an added siren. The tower has a pyramidal roof and louvered windows on three sides.

The associated town hall is located just north of the fire hall, but it is in poor condition.

SIGNIFICANCE:

The Tenney fire hall is significant as an example of village provided municipal services. As originally constructed, the fire hall was half its present size - just large enough to house the towns hand drawn pumpers. The hall was enlarged in 1918 to make room for a larger pumper. (All three pieces of equipment are still owned by the village, which is interested in developing the hall as a local historic site). The Tenney fire hall never grew beyond the immediate needs of the town, which is only two square blocks, and in recent years fire service is from a nearby town. The adjacent large town hall, a near duplicate of the fire hall in design, emphasizes the small size of the fire hall. (The town hall is in extremely poor structural condition). The fire hall stands as a well-preserved representative of small village municipal service functions.



Tenney Fire Hall

Tenney, MN; Wilkin County *Multiple Res. Area*

Thomas Harvey

August 1979

Minnesota Historical Society, 690

Cedar Street, St. Paul, MN 55101

Southeast

03196/14

*2/6*

APR 15 1980

JUL 17 1980

NOTICE: This material may be protected  
by copyright law (Title 17 U. S. Code).

FROM THE COLLECTIONS OF THE  
MINNESOTA HISTORICAL SOCIETY  
THIS MATERIAL IS FOR REFERENCE USE  
ONLY. IT IS NOT TO BE REPRODUCED OR  
SOLD WITHOUT WRITTEN PERMISSION.



Please refer to the map in the  
Multiple Property Cover Sheet  
for this property

Multiple Property Cover Sheet Reference Number: 64000386



July 12, 2017

Secretary, State Review Board  
State Historic Preservation Office  
345 Kellogg Blvd. W.  
St. Paul, MN 55102-1906

RE: Tenney Fire Hall, Concord Avenue, Tenney, Wilkin County

We received your letter dated July 6, 2017 regarding the de-listing of the Tenney Fire Hall from the National Register of Historic Places. A copy of the letter is included for your convenience.

As the current owner of the property, we are well aware of the current condition of the site. Simply put, there is nothing there but grass. And there hasn't been anything on the site since the building burned down in 2010.

We fully support your efforts to de-list the property.

Sincerely,

Vaughn Maudal  
President, Wheaton-Dumont Coop Elevator

OT 80002186



Minnesota Historical Society  
State Historic Preservation Office  
345 Kellogg Blvd West, St. Paul, Minnesota 55102  
651-259-3451

**TO:** Paul Loether, Keeper  
National Register of Historic Places

**FROM:** Denis P. Gardner

**DATE:** 10/6/2017

**NAME OF PROPERTY:** Tenney Fire Hall

**COUNTY AND STATE:** Wilkin County, Minnesota

- SUBJECT:** National Register:
- Nomination
  - Multiple Property Documentation Form
  - Request for determination of eligibility
  - Request for removal (Reference No. 80002186)
  - Nomination resubmission
  - Boundary increase/decrease (Reference No. )
  - Additional documentation (Reference No. )

**DOCUMENTATION:**

- Original National Register of Historic Places Registration Form
- Multiple Property Documentation Form
- Continuation Sheets
- Removal Documentation
- Photographs
- CD w/ image files
- Original USGS Map
- Sketch map(s)
- Correspondence
- Owner Objection
  - The enclosed owner objections
  - Do  Do not  constitute a majority of property owners

**STAFF COMMENTS:**