

MINNESOTA HISTORIC PROPERTIES INVENTORY FORM

HISTORIC NAME: Wilson, Hudson, House COUNTY: Rice MAR 2 1982
 CURRENT NAME: Hill Top Apartments CITY/TWP.: Faribault
 LEGAL DESC.: ADDRESS:
 See continuation sheet 104 1st Avenue NW

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

OPEN TO THE PUBLIC: Yes ___ No X Restricted ___ PRESENT USE:
 VISIBLE FROM THE ROAD: Yes X No ___ Apartments
 OCCUPIED: Yes X No ___

DATE CONSTRUCTED: 1876 ORIGINAL USE: Residence
 ORIGINAL OWNER: Hudson Wilson ARCHITECT/BUILDER: Unknown

OWNER'S NAME AND ADDRESS: Joseph P. Varley RR 4 Faribault, MN 55021	ACREAGE: Less than one acre <u>X</u>
LOCAL CONTACT/ORG.: Rice County Historical Society, P.O. Box 5, Faribault, MN 55021	UTM REFERENCE: Faribault Quad. 7.5 15 / 478460 / 4904070
FORM PREPARED BY: Britta Bloomberg	
DATE: April 1981	

DESCRIPTION:

The Hudson Wilson House occupies a high lot on the northwest corner of First Avenue and First Street NW. It is situated a short distance southwest of downtown Faribault in one of the town's older residential neighborhoods.

The two story red brick veneer house was constructed in 1876 and is designed in the French Second Empire Style. The house sits on a limestone foundation and is T-shaped in plan. The three-bay front (east) facade is symmetrical with a projecting center entry bay. Fenestration on the front facade consists of a pair of double doors in the first floor center bay, flanked by pairs of tall arched windows, and pairs of narrow semi-circular arched windows in each second story bay. A decorative oval window is located at the attic level in the center bay. A convex mansard roof tops the projecting bay, and the entire building is topped by a truncated hip roof with metal cresting and a deep bracketted cornice. Brick chimneys rise above the roofline near the northeast and southeast corners and at the rear. Two story polygonal bays are located on the north and south facades. Fenestration throughout repeats the front facade pattern of slightly arched first story windows and semi-circular arched second story windows.

A significant degree of original design integrity remains. Exterior alterations include the removal of the full front porch, the addition of the front entry awning, the altered east bay south facade windows, and the flat roofed brick addition at the rear. The interior has been partially remodelled in conversion to apartment use.

SIGNIFICANCE:

The Hudson Wilson House is significant both 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, and as an unusually distinctive example of the residences constructed by the area elite after they had achieved their success. Forty-three years a leader in Rice County's banking, thirty three years an active member of the board of directors at the Faribault State School for the Feeble-Minded, and a lifetime participant in state, county, and municipal government, Hudson Wilson's role in early Faribault is striking. He came to Faribault in 1857 and opened a private bank with his brother, Hiram; fourteen years later it was incorporated into the Citizens National Bank. Wilson's involvement in the early development of the region reached outside of the limits of Faribault; he was also a major stockholder and director of the First National Bank in nearby Northfield and a Rice County commissioner for nine years. His handsome 1876 residence, with its prominent scale and siting and locally distinctive design, reflects the success achievable by the first generation leaders of the community.

Wilson, Hudson, House

Faribault, Minnesota
Rice County

Legal Description:

Part of Block 67, Original Town of Faribault described as follows. Begin at the southeast corner of Block 67, commence Wly 198 ft.; thence Nly 165 ft.; thence Ely 66 ft.; thence Sly 66 ft.; thence Ely 132 ft.; thence Sly to point of beginning.

Bibliography:

Curtiss-Wedge, Franklyn, ed., History of Rice and Steele Counties Minnesota, Chicago: 1910.

Upham, Warren, ed., "Minnesota Biographies 1655-1912" in Collections of the Minnesota Historical Society, St. Paul: 1912.