

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
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NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
INVENTORY -- NOMINATION FORMSEE INSTRUCTIONS IN *HOW TO COMPLETE NATIONAL REGISTER FORMS*
TYPE ALL ENTRIES -- COMPLETE APPLICABLE SECTIONS**1 NAME**

Rural Goodhue County Multiple Resource Area

HISTORIC

Historic Resources of Rural Goodhue County

AND/OR COMMON

2 LOCATION

STREET & NUMBER

The county limits of Goodhue County, Minnesota (with the exception of the city of Red Wing)

CITY, TOWN

VICINITY OF

NOT FOR PUBLICATION

CONGRESSIONAL DISTRICT
1st

STATE

CODE

COUNTY

CODE

Minnesota

22

Goodhue

049

3 CLASSIFICATION

Multiple Resources

CATEGORY

OWNERSHIP

STATUS

PRESENT USE

DISTRICT

PUBLIC

OCCUPIED

AGRICULTURE

MUSEUM

BUILDING(S)

PRIVATE

UNOCCUPIED

COMMERCIAL

PARK

STRUCTURE

BOTH

WORK IN PROGRESS

EDUCATIONAL

PRIVATE RESIDENCE

SITE

PUBLIC ACQUISITION

ACCESSIBLE

ENTERTAINMENT

RELIGIOUS

OBJECT

IN PROCESS

YES: RESTRICTED

GOVERNMENT

SCIENTIFIC

BEING CONSIDERED

YES: UNRESTRICTED

INDUSTRIAL

TRANSPORTATION

NO

MILITARY

OTHER:

4 OWNER OF PROPERTY

NAME

Multiple Ownership - see inventory forms

STREET & NUMBER

CITY, TOWN

STATE

VICINITY OF

5 LOCATION OF LEGAL DESCRIPTIONCOURTHOUSE,
REGISTRY OF DEEDS, ETC.

Recorder's Office - Goodhue County Courthouse

STREET & NUMBER

CITY, TOWN

STATE

Red Wing

Minnesota

6 REPRESENTATION IN EXISTING SURVEYS

TITLE

See continuation sheet - page 1

For explanation, see
Survey Methodology

Statewide Survey of Historic Resources

DATE

1978

FEDERAL ☒ STATE ☐ COUNTY ☐ LOCALDEPOSITORY FOR
SURVEY RECORDS

Minnesota Historical Society -- 240 Summit Avenue-Hill House

CITY, TOWN

STATE

St. Paul

Minnesota

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

**NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
INVENTORY -- NOMINATION FORM**

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Historic Resources of Rural Goodhue County

CONTINUATION SHEET

ITEM NUMBER 1 PAGE 2

This Multiple Resource Area Nomination is based on a survey of standing structures conducted in Goodhue County by the Minnesota State Historic Preservation Office as part of a long-range statewide survey of historic resources. The properties included in the nomination represent those which illustrate significant aspects of the history of the county and which have been deemed eligible for nomination at the conclusion of the survey. Additional information and new perspectives for evaluation of specific types of historic and prehistoric properties are continually being gained as the statewide survey progresses, and it is quite possible that additional Goodhue County properties will be nominated in the future. These may be presented individually or as parts of thematic groups when the entire survey is completed. For this reason this Multiple Resource Area Nomination should not be construed as representing all properties in Goodhue County eligible for nomination.

(The above disclaimer is based on an agreement between Charles Herrington, HCRS, and Russell Fildley, Minnesota SHPO, August 31, 1979)

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**NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
INVENTORY -- NOMINATION FORM**

Historic Resources of Rural Goodhue County

CONTINUATION SHEET

ITEM NUMBER 6 PAGE 1

The following county properties have previously been listed in the National Register:

Gronvold (Dr. Just Christian) Estate, Wanamingo Township *Kenyon*
Martin T. Gunderson House, Kenyon Village *Kenyon*
Harrison Miller Farmhouse, Stanton Township *Stanton via*
Zumbrota Covered Bridge, Zumbrota Village *Zumbrota*
Old Frontenac Historic District, Florence Township
Vasa Historic District, Vasa Township *Red Wing vicinity*

SURVEY METHODOLOGY

The Goodhue County Survey of Standing Structures consisted of three distinct phases: the Background Research phase; the Field Survey phase; and the Analysis phase.

BACKGROUND RESEARCH

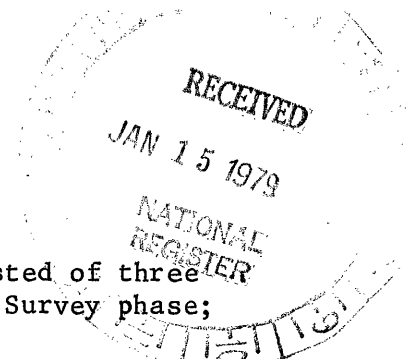
Background Research for the Goodhue County Survey was begun on February 1, 1978 by B. Michael Zuckerman, Survey Analyst, and pursued intensively until March 20. From March 17 to April 28, further research was performed by Robert M. Frame III, Research Historian. Messrs. Zuckerman and Frame consulted four types of sources in this phase of the Survey: primary sources, secondary sources, maps, and local informants.

The manuscript U.S. Censuses were the most important primary sources that were used. They provided statistics on population and agriculture, as well as data on individual manufacturing concerns in the 19th century. More up-to-date information was found in the Minnesota Directory of Manufacturers, 1975-1976. Another valuable primary source was the collection of "Report on School Property" cards, dating from 1919, provided by the Goodhue County Historical Society.

Regarding secondary sources, the Survey staff was fortunate to find a large number of published accounts of Goodhue County and its communities. Use was made of such county histories as J.W. Hancock's Goodhue County, Minnesota, Past and Present (1893), Franklyn Curtis-Wedge's History of Goodhue (1909), and C.A. Rasmussen's A History of Goodhue County (1935). Furthermore, histories of local communities, many published recently for the Bicentennial, proved extremely informative, including Harold Severson's We Give You Kenyon (1976), the Zumbro Valley Historical Society's Zumbrota - The First 100 Years (1956), the Bicentennial Heritage Committee's Chronicles of Cannon Falls (1976), and the Goodhue County Tribune's Goodhue Diamond Jubilee (1972). Finally, use was made of three excellent interpretive essays: Frank D. Alexander and Lowry Nelson's "Rural Social Organization in Goodhue County" (1947); Roy W. Meyer's "The Discontinued Post Offices of Goodhue County" (1967); and Robert M. Frame III's "Miller to the World - Minnesota's Nineteenth Century Water Power Flour Mills" (1977).

Maps and atlases from the 19th century proved an invaluable source for determining the historic resources of Goodhue County. Four such sources, in particular, were used extensively: the original government survey of the county in 1855; the map of Goodhue County that appeared in Andraes' Historical Atlas of Minnesota of 1874; and plat-books of 1877-8 and 1894 (both in the collection of the Goodhue County Historical Society). These maps were the basis for the principal pre-identification system used in the survey. All of the sites on the 1855 survey and the 1874 Andraes maps were transposed onto a modern U.S. Geological Survey Map. In addition, all structures of a public nature (e.g. schools, churches, businesses) indicated on the 1877-8 and 1894 plats were also transposed.

Finally, local informants were extensively consulted as part of the Background Research for the Goodhue County Survey. These people, many of whom



have written histories of their communities, proved invaluable, both in pre-identifying sites ignored by the more traditional sources and in providing detailed information on the significant structures in their vicinity. Among those consulted were: Mrs. Frank Chesley, Mrs. R.H. Nelson, Orville Olson, and G.J. Kunau (all with the Goodhue County Historical Society), Laura Perrot of Wanamingo Township, Donald O'Reilley of Goodhue Village, Peter Brandvold of Leon Township, Mr. and Mrs. W.P. Iwen of Pine Island Village, W.N. Majerus of Bellechester, Jeanette Birch and Frances Haglund of Cannon Falls Village, Harold Severson of Kenyon Village, Adeline Deden of Hay Creek Township, and Verma Olin of Florence Township.

The end results of this Background Research phase of the Goodhue County Survey was two-fold. On the one hand, it provided the material for "An Historical Overview of Goodhue County, 1850-1940," put together by B. Michael Zuckerman and Robert M. Frame III on March 17, which outlined the major historical trends for which evidence in the field was to be sought. Secondly, it produced a set of maps with detailed place-specific information on the historic resources of the county.

FIELD SURVEY

The Field Survey phase of the Goodhue County Survey was conducted by B. Michael Zuckerman from March 20 to June 9, 1978. With the exception of the city of Red Wing, every city, village, and rural township was covered in this effort. In the cities and villages, virtually every block was examined for potential historic resources. Using photography extensively as a means of gathering evidence, pictures were taken of every non-residential building (regardless of age or condition), of all the homes of notable individuals, and of any house having significant architectural features.

In the rural townships, the maps prepared in the Background Research phase of the project were used as guides. All of the farms indicated on the 1855 and 1874 maps were visited and photographed, as were all the public structures that appeared therein and in the 1877-8 and 1894 plats. In addition, many other farm buildings were photographed on the basis of information provided by local informants or because of their significant architectural features.

All told, the Field Survey covered approximately three-quarters of the roads in Goodhue County, and investigated some 1850 structures.

ANALYSIS

The Analysis phase of the Goodhue County Survey was conducted from June 12 to July 31, 1978 by B. Michael Zuckerman, in conjunction with Charles Skrief, Supervisor of the State Historic Preservation Office. Raw material for the Analysis consisted of the historical data about the county and its communities gathered during the Background Research phase, as well as some 2500 black-and-white photographs and some 1,000 color slides of buildings taken during the Field Survey phase.

The first step in the Analysis was to group the structures surveyed into those thematic categories deemed to be the most significant in the

history of the county. Then, the buildings within each category were ranked according to their historical or architectural merit. Only the most outstanding structures in each category (or in many cases, multiple categories) survived the rigorous winnowing process to become Nominees to the National Register. By the end of the Analysis phase, Nominees had been chosen for the following thematic categories: Beginnings of White Settlement (1), Immigration and Ethnic Settlement (5), Government in Minnesota (5), Education (5), Religion (5), The Arts (2), Medicine (1), Agriculture (7), Public Utilities (2), and Business, Industry, Trade (11).

7 DESCRIPTION

CONDITION

☐ EXCELLENT

☐ GOOD

☐ FAIR

☐ DETERIORATED

☐ RUINS

☐ UNEXPOSED

CHECK ONE

☐ UNALTERED

☐ ALTERED

CHECK ONE

☐ ORIGINAL SITE

☐ MOVED DATE _____

DESCRIBE THE PRESENT AND ORIGINAL (IF KNOWN) PHYSICAL APPEARANCE

See "Historical Description of Goodhue County"

See "Multiple Resource Area Theme: Architecture of Goodhue County"

HISTORICAL DESCRIPTION OF GOODHUE COUNTY

What follows is an overview history of Goodhue County, from the first white settlement of the 1830s through the middle of the 20th century. If one word can characterize Goodhue County, it is "diversity." The diversity of its terrain, types of communities, and settlement patterns makes Goodhue County as exciting a place to survey as it (presumably) is to live in.

For purposes of analysis, this account treats Goodhue County chronologically, according to the following time divisions: Background Period, First Settlements (roughly 1850-1870), Growth and Maturity (1870-1900), and The Age of Civic Improvement (1900-1940).

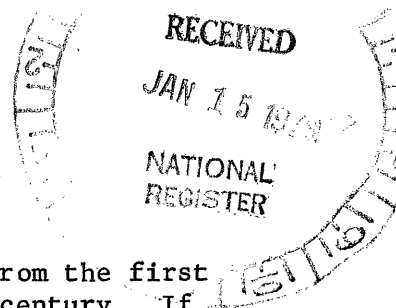
Background factors that shaped the settlement of Goodhue County included its geographical location, government land policies, supply of white settlers, and topographical features. Few counties could ask for a more ideal location than Goodhue County. With the Mississippi River forming its northeast boundary, Goodhue County had direct access to the Midwest's leading transportation artery (at least before the advent of railroads). Moreover, its prominent position in the south-east corner of Minnesota placed it on the threshold of western movement into the state. Finally, it was perfectly situated viz-a-viz the Twin Cities - close enough for easy trading and transportation, yet far enough away to retain its separate identity.

If Goodhue County's location made it a logical choice for early white settlement, government land policies greatly retarded this process. Although the American presence in Minnesota dated from the 1820s, Goodhue County was considered Sioux Indian territory throughout the first half of the 19th century. Only a handful of missionaries and Indian traders had settled on the county's Mississippi River banks by 1850 (where Red Wing and Wacouta are located today). It was only with the Treaty of Mendota of 1851 that Goodhue County was theoretically opened for white penetration. However, actions of the government again held up this development. The north-east third of the county was in the area designated as the "Half Breed Tract." The confusions and litigations surrounding this well-meaning, but misguided, policy effectively stalled settlement of most of Goodhue County until the mid-1850s.

Another factor influencing the development of Goodhue County was the available supply of settlers. Had there not been large numbers of white settlers, eager to move into the county, neither its location nor government land policies would have made much difference. As it was, such was the demand for land that the county was virtually flooded with settlers from the moment the legal barriers were removed. The reasons for why such a supply of settlers existed are beyond the scope of this report. However, they would probably include such factors as: the economic boom of the 1850s (before the 1857 Panic); the surplus agricultural population of New England and the "Old Northwest;" and the various economic political and religious forces in Europe that caused large numbers of Norwegian, Swedish, Danish and German peasants to seek farm land in the New World.

Ultimately, it was the topographical features of Goodhue County that had the most direct bearing on the nature of its initial settlement. The tremendous diversity of the county's terrain had much to do with the variety

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of communities that emerged. On the one hand, the county is divided into those areas bordering on the Mississippi River and those in the interior. It was inevitable that such communities as Red Wing, Wacouta, and Central Point should have tried to capitalize on the transportation potential afforded by the River, while the rest of the county should have been reduced to hinterland status. Secondly, however, Goodhue County is divided between relatively level prairie land and the hilly river and creek valleys cut by the Cannon and Zumbro Rivers, their tributaries, and numerous smaller streams. Almost every township in the county contains both kinds of terrain. As a result, almost every township was able to offer settlers both the rich farmland of the prairies and the water-powered manufacturing potential of the river systems.

Shaped by these background factors, approximately 50 communities, of diverse types, emerged in Goodhue County in the years 1850-1870. They were founded for a wide variety of reasons, ranging from Agriculture to Commerce, Government, Manufacturing, Religion, and Transportation. Quite a few, moreover, were founded for a combination of these reasons - while one, Frontenac, originated as a baronial estate for a retired army general.

Agriculture was obviously the cause for the settlement of the available farm-land in the county's 24 townships. When a township was settled depended on its location viz-a-viz the Mississippi River and the quality of its land. However, these differences had only a minor impact on settlement patterns, since the initial farming in the last-settled township (Welch, with the poorest land) occurred only five years after the first (Wacouta). By 1870, most of the farmland in Goodhue County was fully occupied, with 7 townships having a population over 1,000, 12 over 500, while only 5 had under 500 (these being the smallest townships).

If Agriculture determined the settlement of the hinterland, other factors influenced the founding of villages and towns. Commerce was one such cause, with Wacouta (1850) beginning as an Indian trading post, and Kenyon (1856) and Zumbrota (1856) emerging as retail centers for the neighboring farmers. Other communities originated when the government established a network of post offices across the county (usually along existing stage routes). Such was the source of Fair Point (1857-8), Belle Creek village (1858), Roscoe Center (1858), and Stanton village (early 1860s). Manufacturing, along the county's many rivers and streams, was another major factor behind the emergence of communities. With the exception of Frontenac Station, which grew up in the early 1850s around stone quarries, virtually all of the following villages developed around water-powered flour mills: Cannon Falls village (1855-7), Cascade (1860s), Belvidere Mills (1861), Oxford Mills (1867), Forest Mills (1867-8), and Welch village (1868).

Religion, too, caused communities to emerge in Goodhue County. The Lutherans, in particular, placed churches in the midsts of their predominantly Norwegian, Swedish and German farming congregations. As a result, places like Vasa village (1855), Hay Creek village (1858), Aspelund (1859), and Lands (1868) came to appear on the map. In this pre-railroad period, Transportation was less influential in founding towns than it later became. However, when the construction of a stage route north from Zumbrota coincided with the schemes of a real estate speculator, the result was the appearance of Hader in 1857.

Most frequently, it was a combination of these factors that accounted for the founding of Goodhue County towns. Some villages, for example, grew from the joint creation of a store and a government post office, including: Roscoe village (1855-56), Wastedo (1857), and Holden village (1862) - with Roscoe and Wastedo abetted by the schemes of real estate speculators. Then there were variations on this theme, such as Norway (1856-57), which emerged when a post office was placed on a newly laid-out state road; Pine Island village (1854-56), where a sawmill, a store, and a post office emerged at roughly the same time; Red Wing, a missionary post in 1837 that became a transportation hub when the county was thrown open to white settlement after 1851; and Central Point (1855), whose location on the Mississippi River caused a store, sawmill, and post office to appear in rapid succession.

If most Goodhue County communities were established and grew rapidly between 1850 and 1870, the final decades of the 19th century saw differences in growth patterns emerge. In particular, there occurred a division between communities that continued to grow (with varying degrees of rapidity) and those which entered a period of static maturity. It was the agricultural townships that made up much of this last category. In fact, only Belvidere, Goodhue, Henryon, Welch, and Wacouta townships experienced appreciable growth (defined as 33%) between 1870 and 1900 (and these grew at a much slower rate than they had previously). In the remaining 17 agricultural townships, these years saw no growth whatsoever, and many, in fact, declined slightly. Obviously, most available farm land had been taken up by 1870. Neither changes in agricultural technology nor in type of crops produced (with a switch from wheat to diversified farming in these years) seemed to have much impact on the size of the farm population.

It was the incipient towns of Goodhue County that registered the greatest growth between 1870 and 1900. Six, in particular, mushroomed in these years, with most of them more than doubling in size. By 1900, Red Wing had a population of over 7,500; Cannon Falls village, Zumbrota village, and Kenyon village had over 1,000 people; Pine Island village had over 800; while newly founded Goodhue village (1888-89) had 241. Transportation, commerce, manufacturing, and government services were the most important factors causing the expansion of these communities.

The spread of transportation facilities was undoubtedly the single most influential spur to the growth of towns in Goodhue County. Red Wing, for example, benefited greatly from its role as the leading steamboat landing along that section of the Mississippi River, receiving thousands of westward-streaming immigrants in the years after the Civil War. Similarly, Zumbrota gained when its citizens pushed through stage connections with Red Wing, Wabasha, Faribault, Dubuque and St. Paul by 1857. However, it was the railroad that determined the fate of most communities, separating the handful of growing towns from the score of communities that were founded before 1870. By 1900, the tracks of four railroads passed through Red Wing (1870, 1882, 1884, 1889), three connected with Zumbrota (1878, 1878, 1889), while Pine Island village (1878), Cannon Falls village (1884), Kenyon village (1885), and Goodhue village (1888-89) could each boast of one.

Along with improved transportation facilities, a slow growth in manufacturing contributed to the rise of these communities. With the exception

of Goodhue, the other five growing towns were built along rivers or streams, and had developed industries (mostly flour milling) during this formative period. In the years 1870 to 1900, each of these communities had new flour mills built: Cannon Falls (1870), Kenyon village (1887), Pine Island village (1870, 1880, 1885), Red Wing (1873, 1877, 1877), and Zumbrota village (1870). Several of these towns, moreover, began to diversify their economies by adding other kinds of industry: Kenyon village developed creameries (1885, 1891) and an elevator (1895), Red Wing had a sawmill (1877) and a variety of miscellaneous establishments (including a large pottery factory); and Zumbrota village added an elevator (1878) and a creamery (1884).

As these communities grew in size, each began to emerge as the commercial center for its agricultural hinterland. Each developed a full complement of stores (e.g. dry goods, meat markets, shoe stores) and service industries (blacksmiths, tailors, barbers) that in turn served to fuel the growth process. Besides assuming these functions, Red Wing was also able to take on several government agencies that boosted even further its primacy in the county. In 1853, it gained the county seat (over the opposition of Wacouta), while in 1891, it became the site of the State Reform School.

In addition to these growth-related factors, each of these towns began to take on the full appearance of community life in the years 1870-1900. Almost all of them built new churches in this period. For example, Cannon Falls erected one in 1878, Kenyon village built 5 (1875, 1887, 1890, 1891, 1893) Zumbrota village built one in 1893, while the new village of Goodhue had 4 by 1909. This period also saw the construction of many substantial school buildings and hotels. Moreover, every one of these towns had at least one newspaper established before 1900. Red Wing led with 5 (1857, 1864, 1873, 1884, 1890); Kenyon village had 2 (1885, 1900); while Cannon Falls village (1876), Goodhue village (1896); Zumbrota village (1885) and Pine Island village (1880) each had one. In addition, community life in these towns became enriched with a wide array of fraternal and cultural societies. Finally, this period saw the beginning of the municipal services whose rapid growth was to characterize the early decades of the 20th century. Red Wing led the way, with the establishment of a fire department, water works, street paving and sidewalks, electric lights, and city hall. The smaller towns, however, were not too far behind. Zumbrota, Kenyon and Goodhue villages set up fire departments (1883, 1887, 1898); Zumbrota, Pine Island and Kenyon villages had water works (1883, 1899, 1895) and electric light plants (1898, 1899, 1896); while Kenyon village began to lay down sidewalks as early as 1886.

Besides the static agricultural districts and the booming towns, there was one final type of community in Goodhue county that requires examination -- the score or more hamlets and villages that were founded between 1850 and 1870 but did not grow appreciably in the decades that followed. Although each of these communities had a different history, several generalizations can be made about the group as a whole. Almost without exception, none of these communities developed the wide array of functions and functions and services that characterized the larger towns. If they were centered around flour mills, they rarely acquired more than a few stores and services (e.g. blacksmith and cooper shops) auxiliary to the factory; if churches or post offices were their focal points, they rarely grew beyond

them. Transportation was the main reason why these villages failed to expand significantly. If many were built along the early stage routes, most of them were completely bypassed by the railroad; and the few villages, such as Cascade, that did have rail connections were soon eclipsed by the nearby towns at the juncture of two or more rail lines.

Although the period 1870-1900 was ultimately disappointing for these small communities, these were nonetheless the years of their greatest prosperity. Of the five villages built around flour mills, four of them (Belvedere Mills, Forest Mills, Oxford Mills, Welch village) flourished alongside operating mills at least through 1900 -- while the one exception, Cascade, was snuffed out only in 1894, when its mill burned down. Similarly, these decades were the high point for small rural trading centers, with two new ones, Eidsvold (1875) and Nansen (1892) joining those that had emerged earlier. Moreover, the government continued to expand its post office network during this period, adding Wangs (1876), Skyberg (1877-1879), and Sogn (1892) to its roster. Finally the railways were responsible for establishing a variety of communities to meet specific needs. Bakko was created by the Chicago and Great Western as a station along the route of its "Milk Shake", the train connecting the dairy farms in the southwest of the county to the Twin Cities; while the same railway set up stations at Clay Bank, Clay Pits, and Belle Chester to supply pottery clay for the factories in Red Wing. Indeed, the railroads were responsible for creating three towns in these years (or shortly thereafter) that eventually prospered as diversified communities: Dennison (1884), Goodhue village (1888-89), and Wanamingo village (1904).

The relative, if limited, vitality of the villages in the years 1870-1900 appears even more pronounced when contrasted with their fate in the 20th century. Within a few decades, most of them had declined sharply, while some had disappeared entirely. For the most part, their collapse was due to the elimination of their basic functions -- usually owing to the operation of larger forces, completely external to the community. For example, the remaining small flour-mills were affected by technological and marketing changes that prostrated the industry throughout the state. As a result, Forest Mills expired in 1903, Belvedere Mills and Oxford Mills folded about 1905, while only the mill in Welch village, transferred into a feed mill, has survived to the present. A similar disaster hit the post office hamlets when rural delivery, out of central distributing points, was instituted in 1902. Almost overnight, the major purpose of some 40 Goodhue County hamlets was thereby eliminated. Finally, improved roads and the automobile sounded the death knell for many of the rural commercial centers. Increasingly, farmers took their shopping to the larger towns and cities, with their greater selection and competitive pricing. As a result, only a handful of the general stores that once peppered the countryside remain in business.

The years from 1900 to World War II in Goodhue County are characterized by the slow decline of rural township populations and the persistent growth and concentration of village and city centers. Those villages which boomed following the arrival of the railroad -- Red Wing, Cannon Falls, Pine Island, Zumbrota, and Kenyon -- continued to increase in size but at a slower rate. No village population decreased although Goodhue and Dennison villages remain stable. Half the county's townships were static while the rest

declined in population. Goodhue, Welch, Hay Creek, Belle Creek and Wanamingo townships experienced considerable decrease while Holden, Roscoe, Leon, Vasa, Warsaw, Minneola and Zumbrota fell at the same rate at which the villages rose -- about 20 percent.

No village experienced dramatic growth. Those that increased did so at a diminished rate relative to their late nineteenth century expansion. There is more evidence of expansion and mature growth than evidence of new or boom growth for this period, leading to the conclusion that these communities continued to ride on established economic momentum, feeling less need to create large amounts of new capital in the private sector.

Cannon Falls Village, for example, prospered through agricultural processing, based on apparently increased agricultural production accomplished with stable or decreasing amounts of labor. Early twentieth century industry in the village included a tannery, sorghum mill, three agricultural implement dealers (indicative of mechanization in agriculture), cannery, creamery, cooperative cheese factory, and a rebuilt flour mill. By the 1930s two other mills had disappeared, terminated by the Depression and the concentration of the milling industry in Minneapolis.

The pride of the village was in public works, however, where activity was almost frenzied. The first decade of the twentieth century saw the arrival of a new school, telephone system, roads, bridges, electrical generating system, and growth and extension of the postal service and water system. Growth in the nonpublic areas was in the professional and service groups: lawyers, dentists, physicians. There were many new social and fraternal organizations including the establishment of the Cannon Falls Commercial Club in 1901. Business services included two jewelry stores, two barbers, two restaurants and a photographer, all by 1909.

The experience of Cannon Falls Village was not unique but was paralleled in Red Wing, Pine Island, Zumbrota and Kenyon. All saw the emergence of fire companies, schools, city halls, utilities, and a professional and business class. As opposed to the entrepreneurs of a few years earlier, the new century saw the rise of a bureaucracy in all areas. As old agricultural populations diminished so too did some of the ethnic associations. Kenyon's Norwegian newspaper moved to North Dakota in 1903. The original pioneer population was dying out, replaced by their more community-minded and nationally-oriented children. It is no accident, therefore, that turn-of-the-century county histories such as that of Goodhue by Curtiss-Wedge in 1909 praise the progressive communities and memorialize the vanishing pioneers.

MULTIPLE RESOURCE AREA THEME: THE ARCHITECTURE OF GOODHUE COUNTY

Although Goodhue County was founded only in the 1850s, it contains examples of almost all of the architectural styles that were popular in America in the course of the 19th century. In the first few decades of settlement, builders turned to those styles that had been predominant in the eastern states during the first half of the century, namely the Greek, Gothic, and Italianate revivals. Starting in the 1880s, these were joined by more current styles, such as the French Second Empire, the Richardsonian Romanesque, the Queen Anne, and the Eastlake, which were becoming fashionable in the decades following the Civil War. At the same time that structures were appearing in these various "high" styles, probably a majority of those built in the county had no style whatsoever. In stead, they followed a variety of vernacular forms that evolved in the latter 19th and early 20th centuries.

One of the earliest styles to be used in Goodhue County is the Greek Revival, which appears in farmhouses, town dwellings, and public buildings alike. Very often, however, it has been pared down to its bare minimum, with only a hint of those features found in a true Greek temple. Such is the case, for example, in the Captain Charles Gellett and the Sherman Hale Houses in Cannon Falls. Here, only the gable end orientation to the street, the side-hall plan, and the transom and side-lights around the doorway give any grounds for a stylistic attribution. For a fuller version of the Greek Revival style, there is the First Congregational Church of Zumbrota. In this case, the whole body of the church follows the Greek Temple form. Besides the gable end orientation to the street, it has a fully-articulated pediment and four pilasters with Doric capitals along its facade, which give the suggestion of a columned portico.

The Gothic Revival style also appears in private residences and public buildings throughout Goodhue County. Even more so than with the Greek Revival, most Gothic structures have only a hint of detailing that places them in this category. The most common feature is a narrow, pointy-arched window that could be ordered out of a carpenter's catalogue. Such a window in the central gable of the John Miller Farmhouse in Leon Township, for example, is all that places the building in the Gothic tradition. In other buildings, Gothic details co-exist with other styles. The Sherman Hale House in Cannon Falls, for example, while basically a Greek Revival structure, has Gothic-style label moldings around both the doorway and a decorative panel in the gable end. It is in the churches, however, that the Gothic Revival finds its fullest expression in Goodhue County. For example, besides having such typical features as a steeply-pitched, gable roof and Gothic-arched doors and windows, the Cross of Christ Lutheran Church in Welch Township has a lancet on the front of its bell-tower and quatrefoils on either side, the Episcopal Church of the Redeemer in Cannon Falls has a trefoil in its gable end, while the Immanuel Lutheran Church of Hay Creek Township has a rose window over its entry way.

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Of all the early Victorian revivals, the Italianate is best represented in the homes and businesses of Goodhue County. Whereas both the Greek and Gothic modes are largely limited to surface detailing, whole structures are informed by the Italianate style. This is most apparent in some of the elaborate houses erected by both the prosperous merchants and tradesman of the towns and the farmers in the countryside. In Cannon Falls, for example, the Darwin E. Yale House bears such typical features as cubiform shape, pronounced bracketing under the eaves, and low-hipped roof. Similarly, the Fred Wallauer Farmhouse in Hay Creek Township adds to its cubiform shape and low-hipped roof such Italianate features as keystone-arched windows, a flat-roofed front porch supported by clearly-articulated columns, and a central pedimented gable with oculus in the facade.

The Italianate style also finds clear expression in some of the commercial and public buildings in Goodhue County. Most commonly, it appears in the pressed-metal false fronts that cap the facades of these structures. Such outstanding examples as the Kenyon Opera House, the Opera House Block in Pine Island, and the Yale Hardware Building in Cannon Falls all have such fronts, characterized by bracketed cornices and small pediments crowning central, upward-projecting name panels. The Pine Island structure, furthermore, has such Italian Renaissance features as round, keystone-arched windows on the ground floor, trabeated cornices on the second floor windows, and a Palladian window arrangement on the third floor. Elements of Italianate detailing also appear, in more pared down form, in several of the public buildings in the county. For example, its hooded windows and slight central pediment place the Firemen's Hall in Cannon Falls into the Italianate category.

To a greater or lesser degree, most of the later Victorian revivals also make an appearance in Goodhue County. The French Second Empire style, with its characteristic mansard roof, is one for which there are few surviving examples. Zumbrota has the greatest incidence of this style in the county, with the Dr. Orrin I. Hall House as its most outstanding example. Similarly, the Richardsonian Romanesque style is only rarely to be found, especially in any fully-articulated form. Such examples as the Cannon Falls Elementary School, with its recessed round-arched doorway and heavy stonework, and the Pine Island City Hall, with its large round-arched entryways on either side of the ground floor, bear but faint resemblance to the stylistic prototype. Far more prevalent is the Queen Anne style, which characterizes numerous turn-of-the-century structures in both town and country. The Jacob Bringgold House in Pine Island, for example, has such typical Queen Anne features as asymmetrical massing, a wrap-around porch, and decorative fretwork in the gable ends. Finally, a number of houses bear the mark of the Eastlake variation of the Queen Anne style, with its abundant use of furniture-like turned posts and spindles as decorative elements. Such features, for example, are found in the front porch of the John Miller Farmhouse in Leon Township.

While these various "high" styles grace a large number of buildings in Goodhue County, probably a solid majority of the houses erected have

no decorative features at all. Instead, classified under the heading of "vernacular", they are utilitarian structures whose shape and appearance is dictated by their function. In houses, there has been a clear progression of vernacular "styles" from the mid-19th century to the present.

The first dwellings of the pioneers were crude log cabins, quickly constructed from materials readily available. Their lack of grace and style is reflected in the George Baslington Cabin in Pine Island Township, a cramped box of a building with several equally-coarse additions. In the latter decades of the 19th century, the most common type, in both town and country, was an "L" shaped structure, usually built of wood, but also found in brick and stone. Typically, these buildings have a main section with the gable end oriented to the street, and an addition to the side, forming the long part of the "L" which also faces the street. In the early decades of the 20th century, this vernacular style was superseded in popularity by the "corn-belt cube," which was the most common type of house built, particularly on the farms, until World War II. As illustrated by the remodeled Parsonage of the Holden Church in Wanamingo Township, the "corn-belt cube" is typically a wooden, 2½ story structure, with dormers in a low-hipped roof, and, as its name implies, a cubiform shape. After World War II, most houses have been built in the one-story "rambler" or "ranch" style, which appears throughout the suburbs of cities, the outskirts of towns, as well as on the farm.

8 SIGNIFICANCE

PERIOD

AREAS OF SIGNIFICANCE -- CHECK AND JUSTIFY BELOW

<input type="checkbox"/> PREHISTORIC	<input type="checkbox"/> ARCHEOLOGY-PREHISTORIC	<input type="checkbox"/> COMMUNITY PLANNING	<input type="checkbox"/> LANDSCAPE ARCHITECTURE	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> RELIGION
<input type="checkbox"/> 1400-1499	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> ARCHEOLOGY-HISTORIC	<input type="checkbox"/> CONSERVATION	<input type="checkbox"/> LAW	<input type="checkbox"/> SCIENCE
<input type="checkbox"/> 1500-1599	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> AGRICULTURE	<input type="checkbox"/> ECONOMICS	<input type="checkbox"/> LITERATURE	<input type="checkbox"/> SCULPTURE
<input type="checkbox"/> 1600-1699	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> ARCHITECTURE	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> EDUCATION	<input type="checkbox"/> MILITARY	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> SOCIAL/HUMANITARIAN
<input type="checkbox"/> 1700-1799	<input type="checkbox"/> ART	<input type="checkbox"/> ENGINEERING	<input type="checkbox"/> MUSIC	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> THEATER
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 1800-1899	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> COMMERCE	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> EXPLORATION/SETTLEMENT	<input type="checkbox"/> PHILOSOPHY	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> TRANSPORTATION
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 1900-	<input type="checkbox"/> COMMUNICATIONS	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> INDUSTRY	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> POLITICS/GOVERNMENT	<input type="checkbox"/> OTHER (SPECIFY)
		<input type="checkbox"/> INVENTION		

SPECIFIC DATES

BUILDER/ARCHITECT

STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE

See "Multiple Resource Area Theme: Immigration and Ethnic Settlement"

See "Multiple Resource Area Theme: Agriculture"

See "Multiple Resource Area Theme: Business, Industry, Trade"

See "Multiple Resource Area Theme: Public Institutions - Government, Utilities, and Education"

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MULTIPLE RESOURCE AREA THEME: IMMIGRATION AND ETHNIC SETTLEMENT

Goodhue County was settled by four principal national groups: Americans from the eastern states, Swedes, Norwegians, and Germans, as well as by lesser numbers of Irish, Danes, and Canadians.

Whether as traders or as farmers, westward-bound Americans were the first white people to settle in most sections of Goodhue County. Of the county's twenty-three townships, seventeen had Americans as their first pioneers. Thus it was American traders who founded Frontenac in Florence Township in the 1840s, and Central Point and Wacoute Townships in 1850; while it was American farmers who first broke ground in Belle Creek and Burnside Townships in 1853, in Cherry Grove, Cannon Falls, Goodhue, Pine Island, Roscoe, Stanton, and Zumbrota Townships in 1854, in Belvidere, Featherstone, Kenyon, and Warsaw Townships in 1855, and in Welch Township in 1857. The George Baslington Cabin in Pine Island Township is one of the few remaining examples of the crude structures put up by Americans during this first wave of settlement.

If Americans were in the forefront of opening up these rural townships, their presence often proved temporary. Most of these settlers moved out of the county shortly thereafter in search of better farmland, and their places were taken by immigrants from Europe. By the 20th century, only Stanton and Zumbrota Townships still had large numbers of farmers of American descent.

Settlers from the eastern states had a far more permanent impact on the principal towns of Goodhue County. As was the case with the rural townships, they were responsible for the founding of the four largest communities after Red Wing, with Cannon Falls begun in 1855, and Kenyon, Pine Island, and Zumbrota in 1856. Unlike their rural counterparts, however, these Yankee townspeople stayed on and prospered with the growth of their communities. Filling such positions as manufacturers, shopkeepers, professionals, and tradesmen, these settlers and their descendants have continued to play leading roles in their towns down to the present.

Not surprisingly, these American-born townspeople have left numerous architectural monuments to their various endeavors. Most notable are their churches, such as the Episcopal Church of the Redeemer in Cannon Falls and the First Congregational Church of Zumbrota. Also significant, however, are their places of business, such as the Yale Hardware Building in Cannon Falls and Loomis Irish's Opera House Block in Pine Island, as well as such private residences as those of Captain Charles Gellelt, Sherman Hale, and Darwin E. Yale in Cannon Falls, and of Dr. Orrin I. Hall in Zumbrota.

Starting with Hans Mattson's settlement at Vasa in 1853, large numbers of Swedish immigrants poured into Goodhue County. They made up at least half of the 7,407 Scandinavians reported in the county in 1870, while the number of foreign-born Swedes was listed at 3,224 in 1900 and 1,214 in 1930. Except for a large band who located in Red Wing, most of the Swedes were farmers who settled in the central sections of

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the county. They were the predominant group in Vasa Township, where they were the first to break the soil, and they formed a large proportion of the population of Belle Creek, Burnside, Cannon Falls, Featherstone, Goodhue, Leon, Roscoe, and Welch Townships, as well.

Their churches were the Swede's most significant contribution to the ethnic architecture of Goodhue County. With their characteristically gabled steeples, the Rev. Eric Norelius' Church at Vasa is revered as the mother church of the Swedish Lutheran Church in Minnesota, while the Cross of Christ Lutheran Church in Welch is a well-preserved example of the churches that grew out of it.

Eighteen fifty-four saw the beginning of a large influx of Norwegian immigrants into Goodhue County, with their settlements clustered primarily in the southwestern townships. Norwegians were the first to establish farms in Holden, Leon, and Wanamingo Townships in 1854, and in Kenyon and Minneola Townships in 1855. They probably made up much of the other half of the 7,407 Scandinavians living in the county in 1870, while 3,056 foreign-born Norwegians were counted in 1900, and 1,170 in 1930. By the 20th century, Norwegians had become the predominant group in Holden, Kenyon, Roscoe, and Wanamingo Townships, as well as in the northern part of Cherry Grove and the southern part of Warsaw. There were also large numbers of Norwegians in Leon and Minneola Townships. Besides their leading role in these agricultural areas, Norwegians also came to dominate the towns of Kenyon and Wanamingo, as well as such cross-roads hamlets as Aspelund, Sogn, and Roscoe.

Many aspects of the Norwegian contribution to Goodhue County are reflected in the architecture they left behind them. Their role as pioneering farmers in the southwestern section of the county is revealed by the Hauge Lutheran (Old Stone) Church, a humble structure set amid the cornfields of Kenyon township. Testimony to their activity as rural storekeepers is provided by the Peterson Brothers' store in Roscoe, while their participation in urban affairs is shown by J.I. Stene's Kenyon Opera House. Finally, the Parsonage of the Holden Church in Wanamingo Township remains, in altered form, as a witness to the Rev. B.J. Muus' achievements as the founder both of the Norwegian Lutheran Church in the county and of St. Olaf College.

The Germans were the final major immigrant group to settle in Goodhue County. Starting in 1854, they were the first to lay claim to Hay Creek Township, which became the center of their community. Thereafter, large numbers of Germans moved into other townships in the eastern section of the county, with concentrations appearing in Belvidere, Florence, Goodhue, and Roscoe, while lesser numbers settled in Holden, Kenyon, Minneola, Pine Island, and Warsaw. Besides farming in these townships, Germans also played active roles in the village of Goodhue and the city of Red Wing. By 1870, there were 1,564 foreign-born Germans in Goodhue County, while the census listed 1,926 in 1900 and 795 in 1930.

Signs of this German presence abound in their areas of heaviest settlement. In Hay Creek, for example, the Immanuel Lutheran Church

reflects the numbers and prosperity of the Germans in this vicinity by the end of the 19th century. Testimony to their prowess as farmers is found in such Hay Creek structures as the E.J. Fryk Barn, with its beautiful stone arches, and Fred Wallauer's elegant brick farmhouse. Finally, the Germans' skill in "brickwork is manifested in Hay Creek's District #20 School.

MULTIPLE RESOURCE AREA THEME: AGRICULTURE

With its rich soil and generally-level terrain, Goodhue County has long been recognized as one of the leading agricultural counties in the state of Minnesota. In fact, with close to 90% of its land under cultivation, farming has always ranked as the single most important occupation in the county.

If agriculture has remained pre-eminent throughout the history of Goodhue County, it has been largely due to the ability of its farmers to adapt to changing conditions. At the beginning of white settlement, in the mid-1850s, the pioneers were confronted with clearing woodlands and breaking the grassy soil of the prairie. Under these circumstances, when mere survival was their immediate concern, the settlers turned first to subsistence farming. By growing enough crops to feed their families and their handful of barnyard animals, they were able to eke out an existence until improved transportation and progress in opening land for cultivation made a cash crop economy possible.

Only a handful of the buildings erected during this pioneer phase of subsistence farming are still standing today. One of the best-preserved examples is the George Baslington Cabin in Pine Island Township, a log cabin sheathed with boards. Its cramped dimensions and crude design gives a good indication of the rigors of frontier life.

Wheat was the first cash crop to be grown in Goodhue County. In 1856, William Featherstone brought with him from Canada the first few bushels of Fife (hard spring) wheat. After several years of growing it for seed, Featherstone had enough to share with his neighbors. From this beginning, wheat production spread rapidly throughout the county. So suitable was the soil and climate that, by the 1860s, this strain of wheat had become almost the exclusive crop grown. By 1873, the county had 134,647 acres in wheat production and an estimate crop of 3,250,000 bushels, causing Andraes' Atlas to proclaim that "Goodhue is the banner wheat county of the United States, both in regard to number of acres sown and bushels produced."

By the 1880s, however, factors arose that greatly reduced the importance of wheat in the agriculture of Goodhue County. The main cause of a precipitous decline in wheat production was the evil of over-planting - the deterioration in the fertility of the soil after several decades of single-crop plantings. Moreover, the early 1880s saw the appearance of chinch bugs and other pests, which led to almost total crop failures. The result was an almost wholesale abandonment of wheat-growing by the farmers of Goodhue County. From the 199,142 acres of wheat listed for the county in the 1880 census, this number had plummeted to 32,580 acres in 1890. Thereafter, although wheat continued to be grown, it was only one of several crops in a more diversified agricultural scheme.

Although only a temporary phenomenon, the wheat boom transformed the living standards of Goodhue County farmers. From the harsh rigors of

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the pioneer period, they were elevated to a plateau of prosperity that has continued, with only minor interruptions, to this day. It was during this period that most farmers abandoned their crude log cabins and barns and erected substantial, commodious farm structures, many of which are still standing. One of the best-preserved examples of a farmhouse built during the early part of the wheat boom is the John Miller Farmhouse in Leon Township. Its ample proportions and, particularly, its ornate, catalogue-book trim indicate how far its owner had moved beyond the subsistence level. Even more elaborate structures were built toward the end of the wheat period. The Fred Wallauer Farmhouse in Hay Creek Township, for example, with its brick construction and high-style Italianate design, bespeaks a level of prosperity on a par with the well-to-do in the towns. This period also witnessed the construction of many substantial barns, in a form dictated by the requirements of wheat-growing. Thus, they tended to be relatively small, since they were built to house only the teams of horses needed to pull farm equipment, as well as a complement of barnyard animals. With its characteristically-gable roof, the E.J. Fryk Barn in Hay Creek Township is a good reminder of the type of barns erected in the heyday of the wheat boom.

In the wake of the great wheat period, Goodhue County's farmers turned to more diversified forms of agriculture for their economic survival. By planting a variety of crops, they were able to replenish their badly-depleted soil. With great shifts, according to market conditions, they have variously planted large quantities of corn, oats, barley, rye, hay, alfalfa, potatoes, and flax. Moreover, many farmers, especially those in the hillier sections, have turned to stock-raising as their principal means of support. By 1940, for example, the county marketed 61,743 cattle, 22,424 swine, 12,097 sheep, 11,316 horses, 534,241 chickens, 30,000 turkeys, and 2,500 ducks.

If variety has characterized Goodhue County agriculture from the 1880s to this day, dairy farming has emerged as its single most significant element. According to the Census, the number of dairy cattle jumped from 9,461 in 1880 to 21,667 in 1890, to a peak of 43,756 in 1920, and levelling off at about 36,000 from 1940 through the 1960s. In fact, by 1964, roughly two-thirds of the farms in the county (1,445 out of 2,237) reported that they kept milk cows on the premises.

With dairy herds growing to an average of twenty-five cows per farm, the small barns of the wheat period soon became outmoded. Although many farmers made do with the old barns by tacking on additions as necessary, many others began to erect completely new structures designed especially for dairying. Particularly in the years after 1900, barns several times larger than their predecessors began to appear on farms throughout the county. Eventually, long narrow barns with gambrel roofs emerged as the most popular style for dairy barns. However, this outcome was arrived at only after a variety of forms were experimented with in the early decades of the 20th century. One of the more interesting designs that was tried was the round barn, of which the Henry Dammon Round Barn in Wacouta Township is an outstanding example. Often built around a silo, the round barn offered such advantages as insulated silage and ease of feeding and cleaning. Only its extreme complexity in construction, apparently, prevented its more widespread adoption.

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MULTIPLE RESOURCE AREA THEME: BUSINESS, INDUSTRY, AND TRADE

One common denominator runs through all of the early businesses, industries, and trades in Goodhue County - they were all linked, in one way or another, with the county's principal occupation, agriculture. In particular, the various businesses, industries, and trades can be divided into two categories, those that processed the farmers' crops and those that services their needs.

What industries grew up in Goodhue County depended directly on what types of produce was grown on the farms. When wheat was the principal crop, from the 1860s through the 1880s, mills were built throughout the countryside to grind it into flour. From the three flour and grist mills in existence in 1860, the number grew to eleven by 1870, and to twenty-seven by the end of the century. These flour mills were distributed evenly throughout the county, wherever water to power them was to be found. At the height of the wheat period, flour mills were operating in sixteen of the county's twenty-three townships, being absent only from the flat farmlands of Belle Creek, Cherry Grove, Holden, Leon, and Warsaw, and from the Mississippi bottom lands of Central Point and Wacouta.

Once wheat production declined, however, the fate of the flour mills was sealed. With the exception of one mill still operating in Red Wing, every mill in Goodhue County closed down in the early decades of the 20th century. Although no mill structures have survived intact, there is still evidence of the influential role that they played in the history of the county. In Stanton Township, for example, there still stand the impressive ruins of the Oxford Mill. Gutted by fire in 1905, it was never rebuilt, owing to the depressed state of flour-milling by this date. Furthermore, there are yet other vestiges of the milling industry in the clusters of dwellings at such former mill sites as Belvidere Mills, Cascade, and Forest Mills.

When dairying replaced wheat-growing as the principal form of agriculture at the end of the 19th century, new forms of industry arose. In particular, creameries and cheese factories sprouted up throughout Goodhue County. Since, in the days when travel conditions between railroad lines was still primitive, it was desirable to process dairy products close to the source of supply, these plants were fairly evenly distributed throughout the region. By the 1930s, sixteen out of the county's twenty-three townships contained either a creamery or a cheese factory, with only the farmers of Burnside, Central Point, Featherstone, Hay Creek, Leon, and Minneola lacking local outlets for their goods. All told, by this date, there were nineteen creameries and seventeen cheese factories in Goodhue County, producing 5,985,047 pounds of butterfat and 3,168,358 pounds of cheese, respectively.

This proliferation of small, local processing plants proved to by only a temporary phenomenon, however. By the 1940s, highway construction had so transformed transportation that it became feasible to ship raw milk to the larger cities and towns. There, the modern facilities of large corporations completely undercut the position of the country

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producers. In the course of the 1940s and '50s, virtually every creamery and cheese factory in the rural districts of Goodhue County was forced to close its doors. Only large-scale concerns in such towns as Cannon Falls, Kenyon, Pine Island, Wanamingo, and Zumbrota have continued in operation to this day.

With such a recent history, there is considerably more evidence of the rural dairy factories than there is of the earlier flour mills. Most of the country creameries and cheese factories are still standing, although most have suffered from a variety of unsympathetic adaptive re-uses. One of the best-preserved examples of such a small-scale, rural unit is the Roscoe Butter and Cheese Factory, now being used for storage. Another reminder of the dairy processing industry is the homes of the men who developed and managed it. One of the most notable such examples is the Jacob Bringgold House in Pine Island, built by the Swiss immigrant who first introduced cheese making to "the Cheese Capital of Minnesota."

Besides these industries that processed the products of the farms, many businesses and trades grew up to service the other needs of the farmers. Except for the pioneer period of the 1850s and '60s, when subsistence farming was the rule, the farmers of Goodhue County all came to grow one or another cash crop. What this meant is that they became dependent on others for the basic goods and services needed by their farms and families.

One of the earliest institutions that emerged to fill this function was the country general store. Within the first decade of settlement, more than forty such stores grew up in Goodhue County, scattered every few miles at crossroads throughout the rural townships. Besides providing a wide range of merchandize, many of these stores also served as post offices and social centers. One of the best-preserved examples of such a rural general store is the Roscoe Store in Roscoe Township.

The 20th century, however, brought the gradual decline of these general stores. In the first decade of the new century, most of them lost their post office concessions, when postal routes were consolidated under rural free delivery. Most damaging, though, were the changes wrought by the coming of the automobile and paved highways. With travel to larger towns greatly facilitated, the country stores increasingly came into competition with the greater selections and competitive pricing found there. By the mid-20th century, most of them had succumbed to this pressure. Today, only the general stores at Belle Creek, Bombay, Eggleston, Roscoe, and Stanton are still in operation.

It was the larger towns that gradually supplanted the country stores as the principal suppliers of goods and services to the farmers of Goodhue County. In the latter decades of the 19th century, there grew up, besides the city of Red Wing on the Mississippi, sizable communities at Cannon Falls, Kenyon, Pine Island, and Zumbrota, as well as smaller towns at Goodhue and Wanamingo, and even smaller villages at Bellechester and Dennison. All of these towns (in varying degrees, according to size,

of course) came to provide a full complement of retail establishments and tradesmen that could meet any conceivable need of the farmers. Cannon Falls in 1909, for example, boasted of three agricultural implements and vehicles dealers, three blacksmith shops, two barbers, one bazaar, one clothing store, three dry goods stores, two drug stores, one dray line, one express shop, one furniture store, five grocery stores, two hardware stores, two harness shops, one ice store, two jewelry stores, two lumber yards, one land office, one monument-maker, two millinery shops, one photographer, two shoe stores, two tailors, and two well-drillers.

Besides the commercial and trade establishments, the larger towns also provided other kinds of services to the farmers. All of them (even the smallest) had acquired one or more banks by the end of the 19th century, to help farmers finance the purchase of land or supplies. Moreover, various types of professional men settled in these communities. Again using Cannon Falls of 1909 as an example, it had five physicians, two dentists, one veterinarian, and five lawyers by this date, as well as a newspaper that had been published since 1856. Finally, facilities were built to meet the immediate needs of the farmers during their visits to town. Restaurants to feed them, saloons to quench their thirst, hotels to accommodate them, livery stables for their horses and traps, and opera houses and dance halls to entertain them - all appeared in these communities by the end of the 19th century.

Much evidence remains of the historic economic functions of the larger towns of Goodhue County. The most notable structures that illustrate these roles include: the Yale Hardware Building in Cannon Falls, which once sold essential metal goods and agricultural implements to the farmers; the Opera House Block in Pine Island, which contained a bank on the ground floor and an opera house above; the Kenyon Opera House, which also combined entertainment facilities above with shops on the street level; the Dr. Orrin I. Hall House in Zumbrota, which exemplifies the dwellings of the prosperous professional men of these towns; and the Old Livery Stable in Cannon Falls, which accommodated the horses of visitors staying at the Ellsworth House Hotel.

With the 20th century, although the rapid growth of these Goodhue County towns slackened, they have continued to flourish in their traditional roles as commercial and service centers for the surrounding countryside. They still contain a wide array of retail establishments, as well as the offices of banks, newspapers, and professional men. However, almost all aspects of life have felt the transforming hand of the automobile. Banks, for example, have almost all moved out of the old commercial blocks and into modern, drive-in facilities. With automobile travel eliminating the need for overnight stays in town, all of the old hotels have closed their doors, with only a few motels along highways left in their place. Most horse-related services, such as blacksmith shops and livery stables, have disappeared entirely, to be replaced by the servants of the automobile - the car dealerships, gas stations, garages, and parking lots. Finally, many of these towns are experiencing the first stages of suburbanization, with commercial and industrial establishments moving away from the traditional downtown and out to land along near-by highways.

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MULTIPLE RESOURCE AREA THEME: PUBLIC INSTITUTIONS - GOVERNMENT, UTILITIES,
AND EDUCATION

Local government in Goodhue County dates from 1858, when the county was formally organized by the Minnesota Legislature. At that time, most of the county's twenty-three townships also were constituted as governing units, with control over specific local matters (only Goodhue, Minneola, and Welch Townships were organized later, the first two in 1859 and the last in 1864). From the start, road construction and maintenance have been the primary responsibilities of the townships, along with the more recently-acquired duty of weed control. To pay for these services, voters have met in annual town meetings that determine the township tax levy. At this time, the voters also have chosen a board of supervisors, as well as four or five elected officials (such as the Town Clerk and the Tax Assessor). In addition to these functions, the townships have also served as the local voting precincts.

Each of these townships have had to cope with housing the activities of its local governing bodies. In the early decades of settlement, most of the townships adopted temporary expedients, often borrowing schoolhouses for meetings and elections. However, by the end of the 19th century, most districts had decided to build or acquire a permanent township hall. Wanamingo Township, for example, in 1883 purchased a discontinued schoolhouse and moved it to its present location in Aspelund. At a cost of \$400, the building was converted into the Wanamingo Township Hall, and still serves that purpose to this day. Many other townships have adopted the same course, particularly when the school consolidation movement of the 1950s created a plethora of abandoned schoolhouses. Hay Creek Township, for example, acquired the former District #20 Schoolhouse around 1960 and transformed it into the present town hall and community center.

Far more complicated government structures emerged in the incorporated cities and towns of Goodhue County. In the latter 19th and early 20th centuries, nine communities grew sufficiently large to separate themselves from their surrounding townships and constitute themselves as self-governing bodies. The incorporation of Red Wing in 1857 was followed by that of Cannon Falls in 1874, Zumbrota in 1877, Pine Island in 1878, Kenyon in 1885, Goodhue in 1897, Dennison in 1904, Wanamingo in 1917 and Bellechester in 1955. In each case, there occurred a multiplication of government functions as the community grew in size.

One of the most basic needs facing each town was that of fire prevention. Particularly in the 19th century, when most structures were built of wood, fire was an all-too-common occurrence. In fact, at one time or another, most of the towns of Goodhue County suffered devastating fires that wiped out large sections of their business districts. To combat this threat, all of these communities set up volunteer fire departments at an early date and periodically purchased more up-to-date equipment for them. As fire departments expanded, the need for structures to house them grew proportionately, with the result that fire stations appeared in all of these towns. One of the oldest examples of such a building is Cannon

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Falls' Firemen's Hall, erected in 1888 in the wake of the disastrous fire of the preceding year.

Another problem facing every community was that of maintaining law and order. To keep thefts and drunken rowdiness under control, these towns resorted first to volunteer constables and night watchmen, and eventually to full-time, paid policemen. Regardless of the type of police force, there was an urgent need for lock-ups where offenders could be securely lodged. At first, most towns built small jails, such as the one still standing in Kenyon. However, after the turn of the century, several communities began to erect large structures that combined the needs of the police force with all the other functions of government. One of the most notable such buildings is Pine Island's City Hall, put up in 1909. In addition to housing a jail, it contained quarters for the fire department as well as for the city council chamber and a large public meeting hall.

Education was another major area of civic concern. With the exception of several religious groups (primarily the German Lutherans and Catholics) that erected parochial schools for their young, most Goodhue County settlers opted for public education. Their strong interest in schooling for their children was shown by the classes that sprang up almost universally during the first year of settlement. These usually were informal affairs, held in a settler's cabin and taught by a better-educated member of the community.

About the same time that the County and the townships were organized, a comprehensive system of elementary schooling was set up. It was based on local districts, which covered areas ranging from two to ten sections of land each. From the initial four districts organized in 1854, this number jumped to 87 by 1864 and to 167 by the turn of the century. Each district had local autonomy, hiring its own teachers, setting its own standards, and building its own schools. Shortly after they were constituted, most districts replaced their original log structures with frame schoolhouses. Typically, the schools built between 1860 and 1890 were rectangular, one-room buildings, with doors at one end and a row of windows providing illumination from the sides. A well-preserved example of one of these early, frame schoolhouses is the structure now used as the Wanamingo Town Hall. In the late 19th and early 20th centuries, several districts chose to replace these humble buildings with more elaborate edifices. With its brick construction and handsome detailing, the schoolhouse that District #20 erected in Hay Creek in 1889 is one of the most outstanding examples of this genre.

Contemporaneous with these developments in the countryside, the various towns of Goodhue County also took forceful measures to provide for the education of their children. At first, when these communities were in their infancy, they erected small schoolhouses similar to those in the rural districts. However, as their populations skyrocketed, these towns found these early facilities to be increasingly inadequate. Most

communities, consequently, replaced them by the end of the 19th century with large, imposing school buildings. One of the best-preserved examples of such a structure is the Cannon Falls Elementary School, built in 1893 (which, with its large addition of 1912, came to house a high school, as well).

This Cannon Falls complex also illustrates one of the major developments in the modern educational history of Goodhue County. In the early 1950s, the consolidation movement closed down most of the rural school-houses. On the one hand, this meant the wholesale abandonment of the scores of one-room buildings that the local districts had built and maintained over the years. In the years since, these structures have met with various fates. While a fortunate few have been remodeled into town halls and community centers, the majority have been torn down, left to rot, or unsympathetically converted into storage sheds, garages, granaries, hog barns, or chicken coops. On the other hand, consolidation meant that the farm children would now be bussed into the towns for their schooling. To meet this influx, the communities either put up new educational facilities or built additions to their existing structures. The latter was the case in Cannon Falls, where in 1954 and 1957, one-story brick classroom wings were added to the back and side of the historic school buildings.

Besides providing schooling for its children, Goodhue County also played a role in the history of higher education in Minnesota. Although there are currently no colleges or universities located in the county, at least four such institutions had origins that were in some way linked with it. Both Hamline University and Gustavus Adolphus College, for example, were founded in Red Wing and spent their formative years there, before moving to St. Paul and St. Peter, respectively. Similarly, St. Olaf College originated in the Holden Academy that the Rev. B.J. Muus held in his Parsonage at the Holden Church in Wanamingo Township. Finally, the first state normal school, at Winona, was established by a bill that Representative Joseph Peckham introduced to the Legislature, at a time when he was residing in the Captain Charles Gellett House in Cannon Falls.

