

MINNESOTA HISTORIC PROPERTIES INVENTORY FORM

81000677

HISTORIC NAME:	Elysian Public School	COUNTY:	LeSueur
CURRENT NAME:	LeSueur County Historical Society Museum	CITY/TWP.	Elysian
LEGAL DESC.:	Lots 1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 19, 20, block 5, Elysian Logan	ADDRESS:	Fourth & Frank Streets
CLASSIFICATION:	CONDITION:	SIGNIFICANCE:	THEME/S:
Building <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Excellent _____	Local <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Primary <u>Education</u>
Structure _____	Good <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	State _____	Secondary <u>Architecture</u>
Object _____	Fair _____	National _____	Others _____
District _____	Deteriorated _____		
OPEN TO THE PUBLIC:	Yes _____ No _____ Restricted <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	PRESENT USE:	
VISIBLE FROM THE ROAD:	Yes <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> No _____	Museum	
OCCUPIED:	Yes <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> No _____		
DATE CONSTRUCTED:	1895	ORIGINAL USE:	School
ORIGINAL OWNER:	School District No. 38	ARCHITECT/BUILDER:	George Pass, Mankato
OWNER'S NAME AND ADDRESS	LeSueur County Historical Society Box 577 Elysian, MN 56028	ACREAGE:	Less than one acre approx. <u>1.2</u>
LOCAL CONTACT/CRG.:	LeSueur County Historical Society Elysian, MN 56028	UTM REFERENCE:	Elysian Quad. 15 / 446160 / 4894200
FORM PREPARED BY:	Britta Bloomberg		
DATE:	August, 1980		

DESCRIPTION:

The Elysian Public School occupies a prominent location atop a hill on the corner of Fourth and Frank Streets in the city of Elysian. The school overlooks the city to the south and a rolling countryside of cultivated fields, scattered farmsteads, and several large lakes to the north. The two story brick structure is the largest and most architecturally distinctive building in Elysian.

The 1895 school is a rectangular structure set on a rusticated stone foundation, featuring a dominant bell tower at the southeast corner. The front (south) facade consists of a three-bay central section that projects from a hipped-roof rear section. The central bay features large paired windows, arched on the second floor and rectangular on the first, and a small arched window in the broken pediment. The tower occupying the east bay rises above the roof and is capped by a steeply pitched pyramidal roof. Decorative belts of stone and polychrome brickwork are located beneath the second floor windows of the tower and at the tops of both the tower and the east bay. Windows are segmentally arched and double hung with six-over-six lights, with stone sills and arches in contrasting yellow brick. Fenestration on the east and west facades consists of groups of four windows of varying heights on both floors. On the north facade are four tall openings on each floor; a fire escape door occupies one second story opening. A tall brick chimney is located at the rear of the building. A dentillated wood cornice circumvents the building beneath the large hip roof.

The school building houses the Le Sueur County Historical Society Museum and has been well maintained. Exterior alterations are limited to the covering of several existing window openings with insulated board and the enclosing of the belltower; these changes are reversible as the original fabric has been preserved. The four room school's interior has been remodeled to accommodate museum exhibitions and offices.

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DESCRIPTION (continued):

A one-room frame schoolhouse (1884) located north of the school, was moved to its present location from northwest of Elysian by the school district in 1960 in order to enlarge the school facilities. It presently serves as the museum's interpretive and geneology center.

Also located on the museum property are a log house (c. 1869) and a log corncrib (1860s) which have been moved in from the surrounding area and are being restored by the County society. Two metal storage and exhibition buildings (1971 and 1974) are located north of these buildings.

SIGNIFICANCE:

The Elysian Public School is a well-preserved example of the educational facilities constructed at the turn-of-the-century in Le Sueur County communities. These larger two story school buildings often replaced the one and two-room schoolhouses which initially had been constructed in area towns but were outgrown by an increasing population. Often the largest and most distinctive structure in the town, the schools provided a visual focus for the community reflective of their larger social and educational functions. With the consolidation of area schools, most of the County's remaining first and second generation school buildings have either deteriorated or have been severely altered. Occupied now by the Le Sueur County Historical Society Museum, the Elysian Public School is being preserved and continues to play an educational role in the region while remaining a focal point in its original setting.

BIBLIOGRAPHY:

Stepping Stones, Vol. 1, April 1976, Waterville.

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