

MINNESOTA HISTORIC PROPERTIES INVENTORY FORM

81000680

HISTORIC NAME: Kasota Village Hall

COUNTY: LeSueur

CURRENT NAME:

CITY/TWP.: Kasota

LEGAL DESC.: The south half of lot 6, block 23, City of Kasota

ADDRESS: Cherry and Webster Streets

CLASSIFICATION:	CONDITION:	SIGNIFICANCE:	THEME/S:
Building <u>  X  </u>	Excellent _____	Local <u>  X  </u>	Primary <u>  Politics/Gov'n't  </u>
Structure _____	Good <u>  X  </u>	State _____	Secondary <u>  Architecture  </u>
Object _____	Fair _____	National _____	Others _____
District _____	Deteriorated _____		

OPEN TO THE PUBLIC: Yes \_\_\_ No \_\_\_ Restricted   X        PRESENT USE: City Hall  
 VISIBLE FROM THE ROAD: Yes   X   No \_\_\_  
 OCCUPIED: Yes   X   No \_\_\_

DATE CONSTRUCTED: 1898      ORIGINAL USE: Village Hall  
 ORIGINAL OWNER: City of Kasota      ARCHITECT/BUILDER:

OWNER'S NAME AND ADDRESS: City of Kasota Kasota, Minn 56050	ACREAGE: Less than one acre <u>  X  </u>
LOCAL CONTACT/ORG.: LeSueur County Historical Society Box 577 Elysian, MN 56028	UTM REFERENCE: St. Peter Quad.
FORM PREPARED BY: Britta Bloomberg	15 / 422880 / 4904475
DATE: August 1980	

DESCRIPTION:

The Kasota Village Hall is located on the northwest corner of Webster and Cherry Streets in the city of Kasota in southwestern Le Sueur County. The brick structure is distinctive in its setting of modest residences and small scale commercial buildings.

The two-story 1898 hall is constructed of red brick and buff-colored stone, and is designed in the Queen Anne style. Locally quarried rough and smooth surfaced Kasota stone is used for the foundation, as continuous sills and lintels, around the arched entry, and in the name/date plate. A decorative brick frieze and stone cornice with central projecting pediments caps the building on its south and east facades. Fenestration includes one-over-one double-hung windows on both floors and a central double door entry with arched transom at the front.

Two small one-story sections, which once housed the fire department, are located at the rear (west). The fire department is now housed in a separate building of recent construction located north of the hall (not included in the nomination).

The building has been well preserved and continues to serve as the city hall for Kasota. Significant design integrity remains.

SIGNIFICANCE:

The Kasota Village Hall provides a link to the role that the city of Kasota played in the early history of the Minnesota River Valley and Le Sueur County. It is also significant as a well-preserved example of the municipal architecture that flourished in Minnesota towns during the late nineteenth and early twentieth centuries. Kasota was platted in 1855, and its early and continued growth can be attributed to its Minnesota River location and the extensive quarrying of local limestone which began as early as 1852. As river traffic subsided, the construction of three rail lines in the area (the St. Paul and Sioux City (1868); Winona and St. Peter (1871); and the Chicago, Milwaukee, St. Paul and

SIGNIFICANCE (continued)

Pacific (1902)), increased the demand and facilitated shipment of the building stone, bringing increased prosperity to the community. By the early twentieth century, two stone companies were in full operation in Kasota, employing some 150 people, and Kasota stone and marble were being used in buildings across the nation. The Kasota Village Hall was constructed in 1898 at the height of the community's development! The two-story brick structure trimmed with Kasota stone is a dominant element in the now predominantly residential community and is the best representative of the important role the town played in the development of the area.

BIBLIOGRAPHY:

Gresham, William G., ed., History of Nicollet and LeSueur Counties, Minnesota,  
2 vols. Indianapolis: B.F. Bowen, 1916.

Kasota : a Historical Perspective, Kasota Bicentennial Project, Mankato, Minnesota,  
1976.