

MAR 15 1982

HISTORIC NAME: Kasson Municipal Building

COUNTY: Dodge

CURRENT NAME:

CITY/TWP.: Kasson City

LEGAL DESC.:

ADDRESS:

See below

12 West Main

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

OPEN TO THE PUBLIC: Yes X No \_\_\_\_\_ Restricted \_\_\_\_\_

PRESENT USE:

VISIBLE FROM THE ROAD: Yes X No \_\_\_\_\_

Municipal building

OCCUPIED: Yes X No \_\_\_\_\_

DATE CONSTRUCTED: 1917

ORIGINAL USE: Municipal building

ORIGINAL OWNER: City of Kasson

ARCHITECT/BUILDER: Purcell and Elmslie,  
MinneapolisOWNER'S NAME AND ADDRESS: City of Kasson  
Kasson, MNACREAGE: Less than one acre X

LOCAL CONTACT/CRG.:

N/A

UTM REFERENCE:

Dodge Center, Minn. Quad.

FORM PREPARED BY: Robert M. Frame III, Ph.D.

15 / 520010 / 4874940

DATE: June 3, 1981

## DESCRIPTION:

The Kasson Municipal Building is located near the center of Kasson's business district, along the main street. It is a two-story rectangular brick structure, 62 x 38 feet, with basement exposed to the rear. It is about 37 feet in height from the grade line to the ridge of the gable roof. The end gables rise above the roof line in a terra cotta coping, with a hexagonal iron louver with sawed wood grill centered in each gable. Fenestration consists of windows of various types arranged in rows--in long, low dormers; at the second story end facades; and across the rear facade. The building is banded and paneled with exposed concrete which is given a "sand floated" finish. The front entryway is surrounded with woodwork sawn in a geometric pattern.

## SIGNIFICANCE:

The Kasson Municipal Building is significant for its Prairie School architectural style as designed by the noted firm of Purcell and Elmslie and for its association with the functioning of the municipal government of the city of Kasson. Designed in 1917, the building is one of the very last Minnesota commissions of William Gray Purcell and George Grant Elmslie. Moreover, it is the only municipal building designed in Prairie School style by the firm, according to Mark Hammons of the Northwest Architectural Archives at the University of Minnesota. As designed, it was an extremely compact structure meant to house a post office, library, farmers' social hall, fire station, and a Masonic lodge which occupied the entire second floor. Today the interior has been considerably remodeled although the exterior is as built, with the exception of a roof element which has been removed.

## LEGAL DESCRIPTION:

Beginning at the point where the south curb line of Main St. intersects with the east curb line of Second Ave. (formerly Keys St.), thence east 80 ft. along said Main St. curb line; thence due south 55 ft.; thence due west 80 ft. to said Second Ave. curb line; thence north 55 ft. along said curb line to point of beginning.

## BIBLIOGRAPHY:

Gebhard & Martinson. Architecture of Minnesota. Minneapolis, 1977. P. 286.  
William Gray Purcell Papers. Northwest Architectural Archives, University of Minnesota, St. Paul.