

HISTORIC NAME:	Hutchinson, John, House	COUNTY:	Rice
CURRENT NAME:		CITY/TWP.:	Faribault
LEGAL DESC.:	Lots 1 and 2, Block 65, Original Town of Faribault.	ADDRESS:	305 2nd Street NW
CLASSIFICATION:	CONDITION:	SIGNIFICANCE:	THEME/S:
Building <u>X</u>	Excellent <u>X</u>	Local <u>X</u>	Primary <u>Commerce</u>
Structure _____	Good _____	State _____	Secondary <u>Architecture</u>
Object _____	Fair _____	National _____	Others _____
District _____	Deteriorated _____		
OPEN TO THE PUBLIC:	Yes ___ No <u>X</u> Restricted ___	PRESENT USE:	
VISIBLE FROM THE ROAD:	Yes <u>X</u> No ___	Residential	
OCCUPIED:	Yes <u>X</u> No ___		
DATE CONSTRUCTED:	1892	ORIGINAL USE:	Residential
ORIGINAL OWNER:	John Hutchinson	ARCHITECT/BUILDER:	unknown
OWNER'S NAME AND ADDRESS:	Mr. and Mrs. Winston Johnson 305 2nd Street NW Faribault, MN 55021	ACREAGE: Less than one acre <u>X</u>	
LOCAL CONTACT/CRG.:	Rice County Historical Society, P.O. Box 5, Faribault, MN 55021	UTM REFERENCE:	Faribault Quad. 7.5 15 / 478215 / 4904130
FORM PREPARED BY:	Britta Bloomberg		
DATE:	April 1981		

DESCRIPTION:

The John Hutchinson House is situated on a high lot on the southwest corner of Second Street and Third Avenue NW in a residential neighborhood southwest of Faribault's downtown. Many of Faribault's oldest and most prestigious homes are located in the vicinity.

The large two-story frame house was constructed in 1892 and features elements of the Queen Anne style. The plan is irregular with a complex gable/hip roof. Dominant features of the design are the three-story octagonal tower at the northeast corner and the ornate porch across the front facade. Tower features include bracketted and dentillated cornices, "wave" patterned clapboard siding, and small paned (30 panes) windows on the top floor. The tower terminates in an octagonal spire. A large, elaborate porch wraps around the tower corner and across the front (north) facade. The porch displays turned posts and balusters, spindles and ornamental brackets along the frieze, and exposed rafters; a gabled portico at the west end of the porch features bargeboards with sawn design and textured shingles. Bargeboards and textured shingles are also utilized in the gable ends, and exposed rafters like those ornamenting the porch roof decorate the roof of the house. A sleeping porch located on the second floor to the rear of the tower repeats the elaborate turnings of the porch. Windows are rectilinear with simple white wood trim; most are double hung with one-over-one light. The house is sheathed in narrow clapboard siding and painted a steel grey color. A frame clapboard-sided garage is located at the rear of the house.

The building retains excellent interior as well as exterior design integrity. The interior plan and historic fabric remain virtually intact.

SIGNIFICANCE:

The John Hutchinson House is significant primarily for its association with a prominent business leader who made his fortune in the manufacture of furniture, one of several lumber-related industries that flourished in late-nineteenth-century Faribault. It is also a particularly fine local example of the Victorian residences constructed by the town's elite after the community became established as a regional trade and manufacturing center for south central Minnesota. Among the leading initial Rice County industries were saw milling and lumbering; emphasis gradually shifted from the processing of lumber to the manufacture and distribution of lumber products such as: furniture, pianos, and sash and doors. John Hutchinson came to Minnesota from Canada in 1859. He served in the Civil War; settled in Dundas in the 1860s, where he engaged in saw milling and various mercantile activities; and moved to Faribault in 1876. Hutchinson was involved in several commercial

(see continuation sheet)

Significance - continued

interests, including a stint as manager of the Flynt Furniture Company in 1885. Shortly thereafter, he established the Faribault Furniture Company in partnership with Albert W. Stockton. The firm of Hutchinson and Stockton was proprietor of both the Faribault Furniture Company and the Faribault Roller Mills; Hutchinson continued his involvement with both industries after Stockton's death in 1902. The Faribault Furniture Company became a profitable leading manufacturer of furniture in the region, employing some fifty people at the turn of the century. The Faribault Journal, in a 1903 tribute to the town's "Captains of Industry", attributed the success of the company to the "sagacity and enterprise" combined with the "strong business sense and untiring industry" of John Hutchinson.¹ The prominent Victorian residence that Hutchinson constructed in 1892 reflects the success achievable by leading entrepreneurs in a community of the size and regional importance of turn-of-the-century Faribault. It appropriately represents the height of Faribault's lumber-related industries with its fine wood detailing.

¹ "Faribault's Captains of Industry", Faribault Journal, July 26, 1903.

Bibliography:

"Faribault's Captains of Industry," Faribault Journal, July 26, 1903.
Rice County Historical Museum, Historical Files, Faribault, Minnesota.