

HISTORIC NAME: Buck, Cassius, House COUNTY: Rice  
 CURRENT NAME: "Buckeye" CITY/TWP.: Faribault  
 LEGAL DESC.: Lots 1, 2, 3, Block 10, Southern Addition ADDRESS:  
 to Faribault. 124 1st Avenue SW

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

OPEN TO THE PUBLIC: Yes \_\_\_ No X Restricted \_\_\_ PRESENT USE:  
 VISIBLE FROM THE ROAD: Yes X No \_\_\_ Apartments/residential  
 OCCUPIED: Yes X No \_\_\_

DATE CONSTRUCTED: 1895 ORIGINAL USE: Residential  
 ORIGINAL OWNER: Cassius Buck ARCHITECT/BUILDER: unknown

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| OWNER'S NAME AND ADDRESS: Rice County<br>Courthouse<br>Faribault, MN 55021             | ACREAGE: Less than one acre <u>X</u>                           |
| LOCAL CONTACT/ORG.: Rice County Historical Society,<br>P.O. Box 5, Faribault, MN 55021 | UTM REFERENCE:<br>Faribault Quad. 7.5<br>15 / 478460 / 4903740 |
| FORM PREPARED BY: Britta Bloomberg   |  |
| DATE: April 1981   |  |

## DESCRIPTION:

The Cassius Buck House occupies a spacious lot on the northwest corner of First Avenue SW and Second Street SW in an old residential neighborhood situated on a hillside south of downtown Faribault.

The 1895 building was designed in the Neo-Classical Revival style. The house is two stories with a gable roof, white clapboard siding and black trim. It is rectangular in plan with a five-bay symmetrical front (east) facade dominated by a two-story portico with full pediment extending from the center three bays. Portico features include fluted Ionic columns, shell motifs in the frieze, dentils and modillion blocks, and a half circular window in the tympanum. Quoins, fluted pilaster strips, and tall brick chimneys add verticality to the design at the corners and between the side bays. The central entryway is framed by columns and fan and side lights. Windows throughout are rectilinear with ornamental wooden surrounds. Large Palladian windows occupy the gable ends on the north and south facades. The porte cochere on the south side features paired Ionic columns, full pediments on three sides, and a shell motif centered in the east tympanum. Three gabled dormers are evenly spaced on the rear (west) facade.

Although the building is in need of repair, it has retained excellent original design integrity. Exterior alterations are limited to the addition of the fire escapes at the rear. The interior has been remodelled to accommodate apartment use.

## SIGNIFICANCE:

The Cassius M. Buck House is significant both for its association with a locally prominent second generation leader of Faribault's financial and political community and as a prominent residential example of the Neo-Classical Revival style. Cassius M. Buck established his banking career in Wright County, organizing progressively larger banks in Howard Lake, Dassell, and Annandale before finally settling in Faribault in 1894. Upon his arrival, Buck assumed an active role in the financial community, and remained prominent until his death in 1914. In 1894 he organized the Security Bank and later became president of the Citizens National Bank and a member of the Board of Directors. Buck's banking involvement occurred during Faribault's second period of commercial and financial development, characterized by the establishment of a number of large wholesale and manufacturing interests and the completion of the community's transportation links with other major Minnesota cities. C.M. Buck also remained active in local politics during his twenty years in Faribault, representing his district in the State Senate for one term. The Cassius M. Buck House, constructed a year after Buck's arrival in Faribault, reflects both the position of prominence achieved by its builder and the social and economic climate of turn-of-the-century Faribault.

Buck, Cassius, House

Rice County  
Faribault, Minnesota

Bibliography:

Curtiss-Wedge, Franklyn, ed. History of Rice and Steele Counties Minnesota,  
Chicago: 1910.

Kennedy, Roger, Minnesota Houses: An Architectural and Historical View,  
Minneapolis 1967.

Upham, Warren, ed., "Minnesota Biographies 1655-1912" in Collections of the  
Minnesota Historical Society, St. Paul: 1912.