

MINNESOTA HISTORIC PROPERTIES INVENTORY FORM

HISTORIC NAME: "Hospital" COUNTY: Rice MAR 2 1982
 CURRENT NAME: Oaks Building CITY/TWP.: Faribault
 LEGAL DESC.: See continuation sheet ADDRESS: Faribault State Hospital

CLASSIFICATION:	CONDITION:	SIGNIFICANCE:	THEME/S:
Building <u>X</u>	Excellent _____	Local _____	Primary <u>Medicine</u>
Structure _____	Good _____ <u>X</u>	State _____	Secondary <u>Social/Humanitarian</u>
Object _____	Fair _____	National <u>X</u>	Others <u>Education</u>
District _____	Deteriorated _____		

OPEN TO THE PUBLIC: Yes X No _____ Restricted X PRESENT USE: Residential/museum
 VISIBLE FROM THE ROAD: Yes X No _____
 OCCUPIED: Yes X No _____

DATE CONSTRUCTED: 1900 ORIGINAL USE: Hospital
 ORIGINAL OWNER: State of Minnesota ARCHITECT/BUILDER: C.H. Johnston, St. Paul

OWNER'S NAME AND ADDRESS: State of Minnesota; Department of Administration; Administration Building; St. Paul, MN 55155	ACREAGE: Less than one acre approx. <u>1.7</u> acres
LOCAL CONTACT/ORG.: Rice County Historical Society, P.O. Box 5, Faribault, MN 55021	UTM REFERENCE: Faribault Quad. 7.5 15 / 479425 / 4903045
FORM PREPARED BY: Britta Bloomberg	
DATE: April 1981	

DESCRIPTION:

The Oaks Building is situated in the heart of the Faribault State Hospital grounds about a half mile east of downtown Faribault on the east side of the Straight River. The building is located in a campus setting comprised of many institutional buildings of various sizes, styles, and materials, all of which are set off by well kept lawns, gardens, and trees. Oaks is one of the oldest buildings remaining on the grounds.

The two-and-three-story red brick structure was constructed in three phases that were completed in 1900, 1902, and 1904, on a plan common in institutional buildings at the turn of the century. The three-story central section (1900) is flanked by two-story wings on the north (1900) and south (1902). Two-story screened porches (1904) are located across the ends of the north and south wings. A two-story wing (1904) also extends from the east side of the central section. The entire structure sits on a raised rusticated brick basement with a stone water table. Brick corner quoins, evenly spaced slightly arched windows, and decorative brickwork beneath the cornice ornament the otherwise smooth wall surfaces. The upper portion of the center section boasts the greatest degree of ornamentation, including semi-circular arched windows accented by a continuous band of decorative brickwork and a brick corbel course capped by a white wood cornice. Entrances are located on the north and south wings in the bays adjacent to the center section and consist of double doors enframed by applied brick pilasters and cornice. Immediately above each doorway is a pair of tall narrow windows with stone lintel and transom. Low hip roofs cover the three wings with simple white wood and cornice brackets, excepting a two-bay section connecting the east wing and the main building. A cupola is centered over the east wing.

Oaks Building retains remarkable design integrity for its eighty years of continuous use, first as a hospital, and since 1938, as a residence. A museum is now located in part of the north wing. (Oaks was named in 1938; before that time it was simply referred to as "the hospital".) Exterior alterations are limited to the removal of the north and south wing cupolas and the addition of fire escapes. The interior features and plan remain virtually intact.

SIGNIFICANCE:

The Oaks Building (the former hospital) at the School for the Feeble Minded (Faribault State Hospital) is primarily significant for its association with Arthur Rufus Trego (A.R.T.) Wiley, the first clinical psychologist to be employed by a mental retardation institution in the United States and a pioneer in the field of mental health research. It is also significant as an important component of the primary resource center for the mentally

(see continuation sheet)

Significance - continued

retarded in the entire State of Minnesota State Hospital system, a position retained by the Faribault State Hospital until the 1930s. Oaks was constructed in 1900 to serve primarily as a detached hospital for contagious diseases. It also housed classrooms for staff training and photographic and research laboratories, including Dr. A.R.T. Wiley's psychology laboratory. Wiley, a graduate of Clark University, the founding place of clinical psychology, was employed by the School for the Feeble Minded as a pharmacist from 1898 to 1906 and as Junior Physician from 1935 to 1942. While serving nominally as a pharmacist, Wiley performed the studies in sense reactions and ergograph readings which formed the basis of his papers and journals and stand squarely at the beginning of the evolution of clinical psychology. Wiley's initial studies foreshadowed the world-renowned work of such men as Goddard, Huey, and Kuhlmann, and the primacy of his work in the field of mental retardation is well-recognized. Oaks Building, as the location of Wiley's psychological research, provides an important link to the beginnings of a significant movement in mental health care and research. As an important component of the hospital complex during the first decades of the twentieth century, the building provides a link to the position of the Faribault School for the Feeble Minded in the larger State Hospital system. Until the 1930s Faribault was the primary resource center for the mentally retarded in the State.

Bibliography:

- Johnston, C.H., St. Paul Architect, Miscellaneous Architectural Drawings, Property of Faribault State Hospital.
- Madow, Arnold A., Assistant Administrator, Faribault State Hospital, oral interview, April 13, 1981.
- Rogers, A.C., Editorial, Journal of Psycho-Asthenics, March, 1912, 140-141.
- Watson, R.I., "A Brief History of Clinical Psychology," Psychological Bulletin, 1953, Vol. 50, 321-346.

Legal Description:

Part of the NE NW NW sec. 5, T109 R20. Begin at a point on the east line of the NE NW NW 100 ft. north of the SE corner of the NE NW NW. Commence Wly 300 ft.; thence Nly 250 ft.; thence Ely 300 ft.; thence Sly 250 ft. to point of beginning.