

HISTORIC NAME: Spring Valley Mausoleum

COUNTY: Fillmore

MAR 15 1982

CURRENT NAME:

CITY/TWP.: Spring Valley City

LEGAL DESC.:

ADDRESS:

See continuation sheet

Spring Valley Cemetery

CLASSIFICATION:	CONDITION:	SIGNIFICANCE:	THEME/S:
Building <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Excellent _____	Local <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Primary <u>social/humanitarian</u>
Structure _____	Good _____	State _____	Secondary _____
Object _____	Fair <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	National _____	Others _____
District _____	Deteriorated <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>		

OPEN TO THE PUBLIC: Yes No _____ Restricted
 VISIBLE FROM THE ROAD: Yes No _____
 OCCUPIED: Yes No _____

PRESENT USE:

Mausoleum

DATE CONSTRUCTED: 1913-14

ORIGINAL USE: Mausoleum

ORIGINAL OWNER: Charles H. Smith

ARCHITECT/BUILDER: Minnesota Mausoleum Co.,
MinneapolisOWNER'S NAME AND ADDRESS: Spring Valley Cemetery Board;
RR. 3; Spring Valley, MN. ATTN: Donald C. Henderson,
President.ACREAGE: Less than one acre LOCAL CONTACT/ORG.: Fillmore County Historical Society,
Box 193, Preston, MN

UTM REFERENCE:

Spring Valley Quad.

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

15 / 549970 / 4836600

DATE: February 5, 1981

DESCRIPTION:

The Spring Valley Mausoleum is a massive stone structure located on a prominent rise overlooking the community. It is within the boundaries of, but was not originally owned by, the Spring Valley Cemetery. The cemetery is situated at the southeast corner of the city. The overall perimeter dimensions are approximately 30 x 60 feet, with a central section about 25 feet in height and two projecting side wings each about 20 feet in height. In design, massing, and detail, the structure is fundamentally classic. The exterior is rock-faced coursed ashlar Kasota sand stone with a plain, smooth-faced stone cornice and similar smooth stone around the two windows (north and south ends) and two doorways (east and west elevations). The doors and sash are bronze, with stained glass in the windows. The interior of the reinforced concrete structure is plastered, has a mosaic tile floor, and contains 160 marble-faced crypts, of which about one-third are sold and occupied. The structure has begun to suffer water damage on the interior.

SIGNIFICANCE:

The Spring Valley Mausoleum is significant, in its original design and purpose, as a representative of the community's prosperity, self-image, and pretensions. Throughout its history, Spring Valley has been the largest community in Fillmore County. The mausoleum, particularly, represents the progressive self-image held by the community during what has been generally recognized as the Progressive Era (1890-1917). The structure was to be privately built and operated by the Minnesota Mausoleum Company, a Minneapolis firm apparently formed for this particular purpose. The proposed building was given much local press coverage and was touted as being the essence of modernism. An architect's rendering depicted a structure of palatial proportions, one which would have been appropriate in the largest city. A mausoleum brochure spelled out the meaning of the new structure for the community of Spring Valley: "Mausoleums are in tune with the modern trend. Every city cemetery has at least one mausoleum, some have many. The size and elegance of the mausoleum is a 'status' symbol for the cemetery. The Spring Valley Mausoleum adds that 'status' to the Spring Valley Cemetery." The mausoleum, the brochure declared, "adds beauty to the landscape, it gives you a much needed service, and it can help your cemetery's financial problems, as well as adding prestige to the community and lowering burial costs for all in the community" (emphasis added). In the Spring Valley Mercury-Vidette, the mausoleum was officially endorsed by a local businessmen's resolution. Advertisements for the sale of crypts stated that "a number of leading families in Spring Valley have already secured space in the Mausoleum . . ." Ultimately, the Mausoleum endowment never provided sufficient funds to provide the perpetual care which was originally promised, and the structure has deteriorated as a result. The Mausoleum, however, continues to occupy a prominent landmark location in the cemetery and the community.

BIBLIOGRAPHY:

Spring valley Mercury-Vidette, January 10, 17, and 31, 1913.

Spring Valley Memorial Mausoleum and Have You Seen The Spring Valley Mausoleum Lately? Two pamphlets, undated, publicizing the mausoleum; now in possession of Mrs. Robert Wood, Wykoff, MN.

LEGAL DESCRIPTION:

Beginning at a point 250 ft. west, and 350 ft. north, from the center point of section 34, Township 103, Range 13; thence due west 100 ft.; thence due north 100 ft.; thence due east 100 ft.; thence due south 100 ft. to point of beginning.