

MINNESOTA HISTORIC PROPERTIES INVENTORY FORM

HISTORIC NAME: Faribault Water Works

COUNTY: Rice MAR 2 1982

CURRENT NAME:

CITY/TWP.: Faribault

LEGAL DESC.:

See continuation sheet

ADDRESS:

Seventh Street NW

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

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

PRESENT USE:
 Water Works

DATE CONSTRUCTED: 1883/1938

ORIGINAL USE: Water Works

ORIGINAL OWNER: Faribault Water Works Co.

ARCHITECT/BUILDER: Unknown

OWNER'S NAME AND ADDRESS: City of Faribault
 208 1st Avenue NW
 Faribault, MN 55021

ACREAGE: Less than one acre X

LOCAL CONTACT/ORG.: Rice County Historical Society, P.O.
 Box 5, Faribault, MN 55021

UTM REFERENCE:
 Faribault Quad. 7.5
 15 / 477510 / 4904820

FORM PREPARED BY: Britta Bloomberg

DATE: April 1981

DESCRIPTION:

The Faribault Water Works are located on the north side of Seventh Street NW in a residential neighborhood northwest of downtown Faribault. The tracks of the Milwaukee Road border the property on the west. The water works consist of two buildings (constructed in 1883 and 1938) and a reservoir.

The structure nearest Seventh Street was constructed in 1938 and displays a simple and functional design in what has come to be known as the WPA Moderne. The plan is symmetrical and consists of three rectangular sections, a central horizontally placed section with flanking vertical sections. The building is of poured concrete construction with a surface pattern of alternating horizontal and vertical rectangles (from the molds for the concrete). Inset horizontal bands of multi-paned windows flank a central door; the building's name is mounted over the doorway. Vertical bands of windows are centered on the three exposed sides of the end sections. An ornamental band circumvents the top of the end sections above the window level. The interior is a large open area housing two wells and three booster pumps which essentially control the distribution of the city's water between the wells, treatment reservoir, and general system.

At the rear of the 1938 structure is the original pumping station. It is a stuccoed brick building constructed in 1883. The one story structure is rectangular in plan with a low gable and hip roof. Windows are slightly arched and double-hung, six over six lights. Continuous brick window hoods and pilaster strips separating the bays give a sculptural effect to the wall surface. Although the brick has been stuccoed, one south doorway and rooftop chimney and cupola removed, a west end garage opening added, and a small northwest frame section added, the building retains remarkable design integrity. It remains in use for a meter shop and storage.

To the north and slightly west of the buildings is a concrete reservoir (c.1890) which is utilized for water treatment. It is a large round structure with a slightly domed top.

SIGNIFICANCE:

The Faribault Water Works are significant as an unusual representation of two generations of facilities to house municipal water systems. The juxtaposition of an 1880s building and its "replacement", a 1930s building constructed under the Works Project Administration, provides links to two periods of important civic improvements. The Faribault Water Works were originally constructed in 1883 by the Faribault Waterworks Company. According to 1887 statistical tables of American Water Works, Faribault was among the first twenty Minnesota communities to have a city water system. Ten years later, the private company was bought out by the City of Faribault, during a period of increased civic mindedness (see continuation sheet)

Significance - continued

and expanded municipal services. By the late 1890s, public water works had become widespread in Minnesota communities of all sizes. A half century later, a new waterworks building was constructed under the Works Project Administration, a 1930s federal relief program which allocated funds for public buildings, improvements, and special projects. Reversing a more common pattern, the original building was not torn down but converted to secondary use. The unusual juxtaposition of two water works structures representing two period of municipal improvements, the first privately and municipally initiated and the second largely federally initiated, makes this site particularly interesting.

Bibliography:

Baker, M.N., ed., The Manual of American Water Works, New York: Engineering News Publishing Co., 1892.

Croes, J.J. R., ed., Statistical Tables of American Water Works, New York: Engineering News Publishing Co., 1887.

Sanborn Insurance Company maps, 1899, 1905, 1914.

Swanberg, L.E. ed., Then and Now, A History of Rice County, Faribault, and Communities, Faribault: 1976.

LEGAL DESCRIPTION:

Begin at a point on the north line of 7th Street N.W., 196 feet southwest of the intersection of 7th Street N.W. and 8th Avenue N.W. Commence Nly 195 ft.; thence Wly 120 ft. more or less to east side of railroad right-of-way; thence SEly along railroad right-of-way to the north line of 7th Street N.W.; thence NEly along 7th Street N.W. to point of beginning.