

MINNESOTA HISTORIC PROPERTIES INVENTORY FORM

APR 8 1980

HISTORIC NAME:	District School #40	COUNTY:	Faribault Wells vic
CURRENT NAME:	"Pink Schoolhouse"/Walnut Lake Township Hall	CITY/TWP.:	Walnut Lake
LEGAL DESC.:	Beginning at the point of intersection of State Trunk Highway 109 and County Highway 21 and proceeding east 300 ft. along State Trunk Highway 109, thence south 300 ft., thence west 300 ft. to County Highway 21, thence north 300 ft. along said highway to point of beginning.		
ADDRESS:	R.R. #1, Box 174 Wells, MN 56097		
CLASSIFICATION:	CONDITION:	SIGNIFICANCE:	THEME/S:
Building <u>X</u>	Excellent	Local <u>X</u>	Primary <u>Education</u>
Structure	Good <u>X</u>	State	Secondary
Object	Fair	National	Others
District	Deteriorated		
OPEN TO THE PUBLIC:	Yes <u>X</u> No	Restricted <u>X</u>	PRESENT USE:
VISIBLE FROM THE ROAD:	Yes <u>X</u> No		Township Hall
OCCUPIED:	Yes <u>X</u> No		
DATE CONSTRUCTED:	1896	ORIGINAL USE:	School
ORIGINAL OWNER:	School District #40	ARCHITECT/BUILDER:	School District #40
OWNER'S NAME AND ADDRESS:	Walnut Lake Township R.R. #1, Box 174, Wells, MN 56097	ACREAGE:	Less than one acre acres <u>2.1</u>
LOCAL CONTACT/ORG.:	Faribault County Historical Society 405 E. 6th Street, Blue Earth, MN 56013	UTM REFERENCE:	Bricelyn Quad. 15minute Lat. 43° 44' 46" Long. 93° 49' 37"
FORM PREPARED BY:	Susan Roth		
DATE:	November 1979		

DESCRIPTION:

District School #40 is located at the intersection of county highways 109 and 21 in rural Walnut Lake Township. The 1½ story, rectangular building was built in 1896 and has clapboard siding and a simple gable roof covered with asphalt shingles. Set off from the main portion of the building is a one-story vestibule with a shed roof. The pediments of both the main gable and the shed roof display sunburst motifs. The north wall of the vestibule has shingle trim and repeats the sunburst design. The tall, one over one double hung windows, located on the north and south sides of the main building, have stained glass transoms. All windows except one on the vestibule have been boarded to prevent vandalism. Local sources indicate that the school has always been painted pink, with the wood trim and the four-paneled front door painted white. The only alterations to the building have been the removal of the bell tower and the chimney. In 1976 a new foundation was built immediately to the rear (east) of the school and the building was moved. Also located on the property is a wood shed flanked on either side by a privy. It too is painted pink.

SIGNIFICANCE:

District School #40 is significant as an example of a school building that was part of the rural school district system begun in Faribault County in the late 1850s. Better known as the "Pink Schoolhouse," it operated from 1896 to 1952, when it consolidated with the Wells Public School system. The following year it was purchased by the Walnut Lake Township for use as a township hall. The school remains a focal point in the township. In addition to providing meeting facilities, its unaltered interior serves as a model classroom for Wells elementary students who attend "rural" classes. The building, which is one of the best maintained rural schoolhouses in Faribault County, is a reminder of the important role it played in the education of rural youth. Regarded as a local landmark, its continued use and preservation is assured.

**United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service**

National Register of Historic Places Continuation Sheet

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ADDITIONAL INFORMATION

for Keeper  1/19/89

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

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Note: These changes apply to
District School No. 40 in Faribault
County, Minnesota.

REFERENCE NUMBER: 80004264

STATE: MINNESOTA

COUNTY: Faribault

RESOURCE NAME (HISTORIC):

CITY:

VICINITY OF:

ADDRESS: Mn. Hwy. 109

CERTIFICATION DATE:

REMOVED DATE:

COMMENTS:

Nina M. Archabal
Nina M. Archabal
State Historic Preservation Officer

JUN 17 1988
Date