

**Historic Name:** Franklin Township School House #48 **MAR 5 1979**  
**Common Name:** Franklin Township Hall  
**Owner's Name and Address:** Township of Franklin, Township Clerk,  
 Norma Chadwick, R.R. 1, Delano, Mn 55328

**County:** Wright  
**Community:** *Delano, Mn.* Franklin Township  
**Address/Legal Desc.:** U.S. Highway 12

**Classification:**  
**Building**  **Structure** \_\_\_\_\_ **Object** \_\_\_\_\_ **District** \_\_\_\_\_

**Acreage:**  
 Less than one acre

**Condition:**  
**Excellent**  **Good** \_\_\_\_\_ **Fair** \_\_\_\_\_ **Deteriorated** \_\_\_\_\_

**Verbal Boundary Desc.:**  
 T118, R25, Sec. 3, NW $\frac{1}{2}$ NW $\frac{1}{2}$   
 Beginning at a point 7 rods S. of the NE corner of the W $\frac{1}{2}$  of NW $\frac{1}{2}$ NW $\frac{1}{2}$  Sec. 3, T118, R25; thence W. 164', thence S. 164', thence E. 164', thence N. 164' to POB.

**Open to the Public:**  
**Yes**  **No** \_\_\_\_\_

**Visible from the road:**  
**Yes**  **No** \_\_\_\_\_

**Occupied:**  
**Yes** \_\_\_\_\_ **No**

**Present Use:**  
 Township Hall

**History:**  
**Date Constructed:** 1871  
**Architect/Builder:** N/A  
**Original Owner:** Superintendent of Schools, Wright County  
**Original Use:** Township School House

**UTM Reference:**  
 15 Buffalo Quad.  
 435050  
 4990250

**Description:**  
 The Franklin Township Hall is situated on a sloping, wooded site immediately adjacent to U.S. Highway 12. Immediately to the rear of the building is a broad expanse of open land presently utilized for agricultural purposes. The building is unimposing in proportions, being one storey in height with a walk-out basement. It is of frame construction and is sheathed with narrow-lap clapboard. It is rectangular in plan as is evident by the three-bay division of the principal facade and the four-bay division of the longitudinal facades. Architectural design embellishments are simple and consist totally of integral elements, such as flared window jambs, doric pilasters with recessed panels and fascia boards -- which emanate from the pilaster capitals and convey the impression of a stilted gothic arch. (continued)

**Level of Significance:**  
**Local**   
**State** \_\_\_\_\_  
**Nation** \_\_\_\_\_

**Status:**

Survey	Date
Local	_____
State	_____
Nat'l. Reg.	_____
Nat'l. Land.	_____
HABS/HAER	_____

**Significance:**  
 Franklin Township School No. 48 is a simple rectangular wood frame building that is representative of the type of early school-house that were utilized throughout rural Wright county in the 1880's for primary education.  
 Structures like Schoolhouse No. 48 were constructed to replace crudely built log cabins and classrooms in private homes. This type of rectangular building appeared on the landscape as the townships were populated and the villages were established. The material for construction was generally wood but occasionally of commercial brick. Ornamentation on the schoolhouses was simple but when it appeared it varied from building to building. At the peak of development of the rural school district system the Wright county Superintendent of Schools supervised 19 districts and 140 schoolhouses. The 140 schoolhouses have since been replaced by fourteen modern schools. School consolidation was a reaction to a decreasing rural population, changing state government standards for education, and higher standards for school facilities. (continued)

**Theme/s:**  
**Primary** Education  
**Secondary** Architecture  
**Other** \_\_\_\_\_

**Local Contact/Org.:**  
 Wright County Historical Society - Buffalo, Mn.

**Prepared by and date:**  
 John J. Hackett  
 April 1978  
 Typed by: J Rook

Description:

Entry is gained via a pilastered vestibule which is positioned centrally on the principal facade. A diminutive belfry surmounts the gable ridge of the vestibule.

Formerly Franklin Township School House #48, the building was chosen to serve as a township meeting hall after the consolidation of several rural schools. It is in an excellent state of maintenance and preservation.

Significance:

As each of the school districts closed its buildings, the schools became subject to vandalism, deterioration & alteration by unsympathic new uses.

Franklin School No. 48 is presently utilized as the Franklin Township hall, a complementary use for the building space. It is well maintained.

United States Department of the Interior  
National Park Service

# National Register of Historic Places Continuation Sheet

Section number \_\_\_\_\_ Page \_\_\_\_\_

---

ADDITIONAL INFORMATION

for Keeper *Helene Lynn*  
1/19/89

United States Department of the Interior  
National Park Service

## National Register of Historic Places Continuation Sheet

Section number \_\_\_\_\_ Page \_\_\_\_\_

---

**Note: These changes apply to  
Franklin Township School House No.  
48 in Wright County, Minnesota.**

**REFERENCE NUMBER:** 79001267

**STATE:** MINNESOTA

**COUNTY:** Wright

**RESOURCE NAME (HISTORIC):** Franklin Township School No. 48

**CITY:**

**VICINITY OF:** Delano

**ADDRESS:** U. S. Hwy. 12

**CERTIFICATION DATE:**

**REMOVED DATE:**

**COMMENTS:**

*Nina M. Archabal*  
\_\_\_\_\_  
**Nina M. Archabal**  
**State Historic Preservation Officer**

**JUN 17 1988**  
\_\_\_\_\_  
**Date**