

HISTORIC NAME:	Faribault City Hall	COUNTY:	Rice
CURRENT NAME:		CITY/TWP.:	Faribault
LEGAL DESC.:	Lots 9 and 10, Block 58, Original Town of Faribault.	ADDRESS:	208 1st Avenue NW
CLASSIFICATION:	CONDITION:	SIGNIFICANCE:	THEME/S:
Building <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Excellent <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Local <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Primary <u>Politics/Governmen</u>
Structure _____	Good _____	State _____	Secondary <u>Architecture</u>
Object _____	Fair _____	National _____	Others _____
District _____	Deteriorated _____		
OPEN TO THE PUBLIC:	Yes <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> No _____ Restricted <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	PRESENT USE:	City Hall
VISIBLE FROM THE ROAD:	Yes <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> No _____		
OCCUPIED:	Yes <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> No _____		
DATE CONSTRUCTED:	1894-7	ORIGINAL USE:	City hall/library
ORIGINAL OWNER:	City of Faribault	ARCHITECT/BUILDER:	Harry W. Jones, Mpls.
OWNER'S NAME AND ADDRESS:	City of Faribault 208 1st Avenue NW Faribault, MN 55021	ACREAGE:	Less than one acre <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
LOCAL CONTACT/ORG.:	Rice County Historical Society, P.O. Box 5, Faribault, MN 55021	UTM REFERENCE:	Faribault Quad. 7.5 15 / 478445 / 4904200
FORM PREPARED BY:	Britta Bloomberg		
DATE:	April 1981		

DESCRIPTION:

The Faribault City Hall is located on the northwest corner of First Avenue and Second Street NW., a block west of Faribault's principal business district and a block southeast of the Rice County Courthouse and Jail. The building provides a prominent focal point in its mixed neighborhood of residences to the west and south and commercial structures to the east.

The 1894 City Hall was designed by Minneapolis architect Harry W. Jones in the Renaissance Revival Style. The plan is rectangular with five bays on First Avenue by three bays on Second Street. The two story red brick structure stands on a raised basement of rusticated red sandstone. Both street facades are symmetrical with an entry in the center bay. The south entry features double doors set in a wide stone arch and is enframed by paired columns of Ortonville granite supporting a sandstone entablature. The east entry features double doors set in a stone arch with stepped radiating voussoirs and engaged columns; the bay above the east entry is recessed with "CITY HALL" engraved in a stone slab above the second story window. The first and second floors are separated by two continuous stone bands. First floor windows are rectilinear with radiating voussoirs. Second floor windows consist of a lower rectilinear section and an arched transom and are separated by engaged pilasters with capitals. A complete entablature and parapet caps the building.

The building was renovated during the summer of 1980. At this time, a small north addition housing an entryway and elevator was added. Interior features, including original woodwork, leaded glass, and stucco detailing, were retained on the first floor, and the upper floor offices were remodelled. (The replacement of second floor window hoods with arched transoms occurred prior to the 1980 renovation as did the removal of a balustrade across the east recessed bay.)

The Faribault City Hall was constructed to house both the City Hall and the Faribault Public Library. The library occupied the south half of the building and was removed in the early 1930s to the newly constructed Buckham Memorial Library.

SIGNIFICANCE:

The Faribault City Hall provides an important link to the beginnings of Faribault's role as a regionally important south central Minnesota city and to an important period of municipal and economic expansion. Architecturally, the building is a well-preserved example of the Renaissance Revival Style, a popular style for public buildings at the turn of the century. Construction plans began for the building in 1894, during a period of

(see continuation sheet)

Significance - continued

increased civic pride evidenced both by expanded municipal services and the construction of this fine facility to house the Faribault City Hall and Public Library. The style and construction date of the building visibly link Faribault's increased civic-mindedness of the 1890s to a similar "awakening" across the state when many Minnesota communities erected city halls, public water works, libraries, park systems and the like. More importantly, Faribault's increased civic pride is linked to the beginning of the city's role as a regionally important manufacturing center, as seen in the establishment of several agricultural processing and distribution companies and wholesale warehouses during the last two decades of the nineteenth century. The Faribault City Hall is a prominent local landmark and aptly represents a very important period of Faribault's municipal and economic development.

Bibliography:

Curtiss-Wedge, Franklyn, ed., History of Rice and Steele Counties, Minnesota, Chicago: 1910.

Historical Notes and Program, Rice County Pageant, 1926.