

MINNESOTA HISTORIC PROPERTIES INVENTORY FORM

JAN 8 1980

HISTORIC NAME: Kenneth School

COUNTY: Rock

80002150

CURRENT NAME: Kenneth Town Hall

CITY/TWP.: Kenneth

LEGAL DESC.: School block just west of Block 1, original plat; opposite of lots 12 and 13 of Block 1 and bounded on the east by First Avenue West and extending west 100 feet.

ADDRESS: 230 First Ave. W.

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

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

PRESENT USE:  
Town Hall

DATE CONSTRUCTED: 1901

ORIGINAL USE: School

ORIGINAL OWNER: School District #72, Rock Co.

ARCHITECT/BUILDER: Hackett & Robinson, Luverne

OWNER'S NAME AND ADDRESS: Town of Kenneth  
Kenneth, Minnesota

ACREAGE: Less than one acre   X  

LOCAL CONTACT/ORG.:

UTM REFERENCE:  
14 / 735560 / 4848530  
Kenneth, MN; 1:24,000

FORM PREPARED BY: Thomas Harvey

DATE: November 1978

**DESCRIPTION:**

The former Kenneth School is a two-story rectangular, wood frame building with clap-board siding and a shingled roof. The building is centrally located in a park block within the town of Kenneth. The main entrance is centered in the east end of the building and the paneled door with transom window is sheltered by a simple bracketed canopy. A bell-tower with arched braces rests on a pediment projecting from the east hip of the roof. A number of large double-hung sash windows provide light for the interior. There is a metal spiral fire-escape staircase located in the northwest corner of the building.

**SIGNIFICANCE:**

Of the few frame two-story schools built in and around Rock County, only the Kenneth school is still standing. With adaptive use as a town hall, the building has retained much of its integrity and is in very good condition.

The important emphasis on education is evident in the speed with which the school was built after the town's founding. Kenneth is one of four towns platted along the Burlington railroad extension of 1900. The track reached Kenneth and the townsite was platted in July 1900. By December, 1901, the school was completed and the first class opened with an enrollment of 32 pupils. The school originally housed grades 1-12. This was later reduced to grades 1-8, and, after county-wide consolidation, the school closed. It has since been adapted for use as the Kenneth Town Hall.