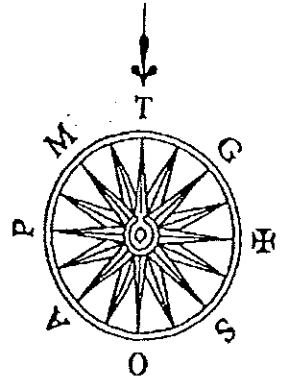


# Pathfinder CRM, LLC

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October 8, 2007

Secretary  
State Review Board  
State Historic Preservation Office  
Minnesota Historical Society  
345 Kellogg Boulevard W.  
Saint Paul, MN 55102-1906

RE: Kasson Public School National Register Nomination

Dear Sir or Madam:

At the request of the Kasson City Council, I have reviewed and carefully read the National Register of Historic Places registration form prepared for the Kasson Public School. In my professional opinion, while the technical and administrative information contained in the form appears to be complete and accurate, the nomination does not make an adequate case for the property's historical significance under Criterion A.

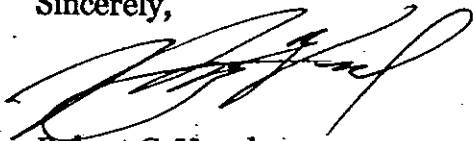
Specifically, the claim of local historical significance is tenuous. The associative themes described in the statement of significance (public education, rural teacher training, agricultural extension, public health, and community social services) reflect the routine functions of a small town public school. Mere association with the "broad patterns of our history in the areas of education and social history" is not enough, in and of itself, to justify a determination of National Register eligibility, and no documentary evidence is presented that substantiates the claim of pivotal importance for any of these activities, at least from a local history perspective. Indeed, if the old school building's National Register eligibility can be justified solely on the basis of its historical function as a public school, without presenting any specific information relating to its direct (i.e., measurable) impacts on the life of the community, one wonders how any public property could ever be determined not eligible for registration.

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Furthermore, I do not believe that it is appropriate for the State Review Board to act on the nomination at this time. While it may be good practice for the State Historic Preservation Office staff to err on the side of caution and assume that the school might have some potential for preservation, the City of Kasson has already made a reasonable and good faith effort to recycle and find an adaptive use for the building. As the owners of the Kasson School, the citizens of Kasson are the best judges of the property's historical significance and community value, and on November 7, 2006, a majority of voters decided that the property could not realistically be preserved.

The people of Kasson have spoken: the highest and best use of the old school property is to demolish the old building. Unfortunately, a group of citizens has taken the city to court in an attempt to forestall the demolition, and the National Register nomination is part of their strategy to nullify the results of the 2006 referendum. I believe it is in the best interests of the state for the Kasson School nomination to be denied, or at least postponed until after the district court's decision on the citizens group action to halt demolition.

Sincerely,



Robert C. Vogel  
Managing Partner & Senior Historian

cc: Mayor and City Council, City of Kasson  
Shelley M. Ryan, Hoff, Barry & Kozar, P.A.