

## **PRESS RELEASE:**

### **For Immediate Release**

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## **KASSON'S 1918 SCHOOL NAMED TO THE NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES**

**Kasson, Minnesota, Dec. 17, 2007:** The City of Kasson's 1918-era school has been listed on the National Register of Historic Places by the National Park Service. Kasson's elementary and high school students began using the stately building on December 5, 1918. The school's nomination was recently approved on December 6th almost exactly 89 years to the day after that proud moment in 1918.

The Minnesota Historical Societies' National Register Officer, Susan Roth, made the announcement on December 14. The school's nomination submittal was researched and compiled by Dan Hoisington of Hoisington Preservation Consultants of Roseville, MN. The historic school joins approximately 80 other schools in Minnesota that are on the register. Members of Kasson's Historic Preservation non-profit, the Kasson Alliance for Restoration (KARE) sponsored the nomination. Spencer Stevens, KARE Vice President stated "This is a beautiful Christmas present for the City of Kasson and all the citizens who attended the school." The school joins the Eureka Hotel, the Municipal Building, the Limestone Water Tower and the Jacob Leuthold Jr. home on the list of Kasson's buildings on the National Register.

The National Register listing makes the historic building's adaptive reuse costs eligible for federal tax incentives, which allow for a 20 percent investment tax credit, as well as other funding sources. For example, the listing opens up the possibility for restoration funding through various private, nonprofit organizations, such as the National Trust for Historic Preservation.

Designed by architect Nels Jacobson Jr. of Owatonna, MN, the school won praise soon after it was completed. In May 1919, Mr. S. A. Challman, inspector of school buildings, stated: "there is nothing equal to it in the state in the way of completeness and architectural design." He noted that the school was the first of its type to be built in Minnesota with three separate building units connected with corridors. In the years since, the school continued to serve, educate and inspire many generations of the school district's citizens. It remains a major part of the area's historic heritage and the pride of its citizens.

KARE has been encouraging a reluctant city council to explore all avenues of adaptive reuse for the building. KARE member Lorraine Spading stated: "The building has stood for 89 years. What is the rush to demolish it when no other concrete plan for the site exists? The dawn of the New Year will start the process of finding new uses for this elegant building. What a wonderful way to celebrate its 90<sup>th</sup> anniversary of service to this community."

End

**The Kasson Alliance for Restoration (KARE) is a 501(c) (3) nonprofit historic preservation organization. KARE's mission is to preserve historic buildings, structures and properties to serve as landmarks of Kasson's heritage, along with being a source of education in the importance of historic preservation. To join KARE, or for more information, visit KARE's website at <http://www.KassonAlliance.org>.**

**Attachments:**

National Park Service National Register Announcement, 14 December 2007

Aerial Picture of the School (photo credit: Jerry Berg, Kasson)

**Resources:** <http://www.nps.gov/history/nr/index.htm>

<http://www.nationalregisterofhistoricplaces.com/MN/Dodge/state.html>

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**December 14, 2007**

**From: <http://www.nps.gov/history/nr/listings/20071214.HTM>**

The Director of the National Park Service is pleased to send you the following announcements and actions on properties for the National Register of Historic Places. For further information or if you would like to receive this list weekly via e-mail, contact Edson Beall via voice (202) 354-2255 or E-mail: [Edson\\_Beall@nps.gov](mailto:Edson_Beall@nps.gov)

Our physical location address is:

National Park Service 2280  
National Register of Historic Places  
1201 "I" (Eye) Street, N.W.  
Washington D.C. 20005

Please have any Fed Ex, UPS packages sent to the above address. Please continue to use alternate carriers, as all mail delivered to us via United States Postal Service is irradiated and subsequently damaged.

WEEKLY LIST OF ACTIONS TAKEN ON PROPERTIES: 12/03/07 THROUGH 12/07/07

KEY: State, County, Property Name, Address/Boundary, City, Vicinity, Reference Number, NHL, Action, Date, Multiple Name

ARIZONA, PIMA COUNTY,

Catalina Vista Historic District,  
Bounded by Grant, Tucson Blvd., Elm St., and Campbell Ave.,  
Tucson, 03000317,  
ADDITIONAL DOCUMENTATION APPROVED, 12/05/07

DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA, DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA STATE EQUIVALENT,  
Armed Forces Retirement Home--Washington,  
3700 N. Capitol St. NW,  
Washington, 07001237,  
LISTED, 12/05/07

ILLINOIS, COOK COUNTY,  
Lumber Exchange Building and Tower Addition,  
11 S. LaSalle,  
Chicago, 07001238,  
LISTED, 12/06/07

ILLINOIS, COOK COUNTY,  
West Burton Place Historic District,  
143--161 W. Burton Pl,  
Chicago, 07001239,  
LISTED, 12/06/07

IOWA, SCOTT COUNTY,  
Marycrest College Historic District,  
Portions of 1500 and 1600 blks of W. 12th St.,  
Davenport, 04000341,  
ADDITIONAL DOCUMENTATION APPROVED, 12/05/07

KENTUCKY, JEFFERSON COUNTY,  
Stewart's Dry Goods Company Building,  
501 S. 4th St.,  
Louisville, 82002725,  
ADDITIONAL DOCUMENTATION APPROVED, 12/05/07

MASSACHUSETTS, BRISTOL COUNTY,  
Spring Brook Cemetery,  
Spring St,  
Mansfield, 07001240,  
LISTED, 12/06/07

MASSACHUSETTS, MIDDLESEX COUNTY,  
Revere Beach Parkway--Metropolitan Park System of Greater Boston,  
Revere Beach Pkwy,  
Chelsea, 07001241,  
LISTED, 12/06/07  
(Metropolitan Park System of Greater Boston MPS)

MINNESOTA, DODGE COUNTY,  
Kasson Public School,  
101 3rd Ave. NW,  
Kasson, 07001242,

LISTED, 12/06/07

MISSOURI, JACKSON COUNTY,  
18th and Vine Historic District,  
Roughly bounded by 18th St., Woodland Ave., 19th St. and The Paseo,  
Kansas City, 84004142,  
ADDITIONAL DOCUMENTATION APPROVED, 12/05/07  
(18th and Vine Area of Kansas City MPS)

MONTANA, MUSSELSHELL COUNTY,  
Roundup Central School,  
600 1st St. W,  
Roundup, 07001243,  
LISTED, 12/06/07

NEW YORK, ERIE COUNTY,  
Buffalo Harbor South Entrance Light,  
Stony Pt. end of Buffalo Harbor S breakwater,  
Lackawanna, 07001191,  
LISTED, 11/16/07  
(Light Stations of the United States MPS)

NEW YORK, ONONDAGA COUNTY,  
Solvay Public Library,  
615 Woods Rd.,  
Solvay, 07001124,  
LISTED, 10/31/07

SOUTH DAKOTA, PENNINGTON COUNTY,  
Rapid City Historic Commercial District,  
Bounded by both sides of Main, St. Joseph, 7th, and 6th Sts.,  
Rapid City, 74001897,  
ADDITIONAL DOCUMENTATION APPROVED, 12/05/07

VIRGINIA, RICHMOND INDEPENDENT CITY,  
Scott House,  
909 W. Franklin St.,  
Richmond (Independent City), 05001545,  
LISTED, 11/26/07