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Former K-M school listed as endangered property

The Preservation Alliance of Minnesota has announced the former K-M Elementary School has been selected for the annual 10 Most Endangered Historic Places list in the state. KARE submitted documentation for this selection.

The announcement came a week after the Kasson City Council unanimously voted to move forward with requesting bids for asbestos abatement and demolition removal. The bids will be accepted until Monday, May 23 and the council is expected to discuss the issue at the regular council meeting Wednesday, May 23.

The 10 Most Endangered program is designed to highlight historic sites and buildings that face imminent danger and to raise awareness about the potential to mitigate their destruction. The 10 Most Program is the opinion of the Preservation Alliance of Minnesota and is not connected to any local, state or national governing authorities.

The inclusion of the historic property on the 10 Most Endangered List invites public discussion to identify potential new uses and ownership for development for the property. The listing also provides a forum in which to discuss alternatives to the endangering circumstances of this property and other endangered properties throughout the state.

On May 2nd, the Kasson Alliance for Restoration (KARE) sent a citizen's petition to the Minnesota Environmental Quality Board (EQB) requesting a Historic Assessment Worksheet be completed for the historic elementary school. The EQB has forwarded the request to the City of Kasson and the city is currently evaluating it. The report can be viewed on KARE's website at <http://www.kassonalliance.org/>.

On May 16th, KARE officials will be meeting with the Minnesota Historical Society, State Historic Preservation Office to discuss the ongoing process for preserving the school building and its inherent history.

If you believe that Kasson's historic resources should be valued; you are encouraged to call your elected officials: Mayor Tim Tjosaas 634-7094; Councilmembers Kevin Worden 634-6020, Mike Marti 634-7492, Chuck Coleman 634-4602 and Matt Nelson 634-4941 and express your support of KARE's preservation efforts.

You can contact KARE at 507-365-8324, copycat@kmtel.com or KARE, 122 West Main St, Suite No. 2, Kasson, MN 55944.