

# 1918 Kasson school replaced one that burned

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The former Kasson Elementary School has been named one of the 10 most endangered historic places in the state by the Preservation Alliance of Minnesota. However, it might be demolished soon.

Here are details on the 90-year-old building's history:

**Why was it built?** In 1917, the city's previous elementary school burned down, allegedly because of boys playing with fireworks, according to a newspaper article.

**Who designed it?** Nels Jacobson Jr. of Owatonna, Minn., was the architect and his brother, David, was the structural engineer. The brothers went on to found Jacobson & Jacobson in Minneapolis and built several schools and other buildings in the area. This is believed to be the first building Nels Jacobson Jr. designed.

**Unique features:** When the school opened in 1918, it had many unusual features, including a central vacuum cleaning system, a pneumatic clock system and a "moving picture system."

**An empty school:** The Kasson-Mantorville school district built a new elementary school in 1996. The city acquired the building last spring.

**More top 10 history:** The former school is not the only Kasson site to make the Minnesota Preservation Alliance's Top 10 Most Endangered Historic Places. The Kasson water tower was listed in 1996. A group of people organized to save the tower, and the limestone landmark was restored.

**More information:** To see the top 10 list or to learn more about the Kasson Alliance for Preservation, go to [postbulletin.com/weblinks](http://postbulletin.com/weblinks).

Source: Kenton Spalding, Kasson Alliance for Preservation.

The state's list of the 10 most endangered historic buildings in Minnesota

[www.mnpreservation.org/](http://www.mnpreservation.org/)

Kasson Alliance for Preservation

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