

## **KARE Email News, Vol. 1, No. 11, 10 October 2007: City of Kasson Objects to the National Register Nomination**

KARE Supporters,

Kasson's city council agenda (see attached file) for tonight (Oct 10) included a vote on a resolution objecting to the nomination of Kasson's 1918 historic school on the National Register. Thank you to KARE member Spencer Stevens for religiously requesting the council's agendas every two weeks (which alerted us to this vote). KARE immediately notified the media. A local TV station from Rochester attended and filmed the council meeting. He also interviewed Spencer on camera (hopefully for the 10:00 news tonight).

The following is some clarification on what the cities' vote/objection means. A short description of private- and government-owned buildings is needed.

A building can, of course, either be privately owned or government owned. If the private owner of a building objects to a National Register nomination the building will not be placed on the register. This is NOT TRUE for a Government owned building (the historic school is city/government owned). National Register nominations for government-owned buildings can be submitted by any citizen. The state review board then considers the nomination based only on whether or not the building/property meets the National Register of Historic Places (NRHP) standards. Although the city is welcome to comment (and indeed was invited to comment) their objection or any discussion about their intended use for the building is not relevant to the review board's vote on the nomination. Public buildings fall into a special category in this regard.

There are lots of misconceptions about what an owner can or cannot do with a building that is on the Register. The following are some information bullets:

a. National Register listings do not prohibit what a building can be used for. For example, Kasson's Old City Hall on Main Street is on the Register and as you can see it is used for many purposes.

b. The principal benefit of a listing is the preservation of local, state and sometimes national heritage. The federal government provides a number of more tangible benefits to include: eligibility for state and federal income tax credits for rehabilitating historic properties; qualification for charitable income tax deductions for the donation of historic preservation easements; eligibility for federal grants, when available; consideration in the planning of federally assisted and state assisted projects, as well as projects of local governments/boards, when those projects affect the listed property, etc.

c. A National Register Listing does NOT prevent demolition. But it does provide a number of benefits related to preservation which often times provide the incentive and resources to save a building.

In short, a National Register listing is a benefit when trying to preserve an historic building.

Do you want to preserve Kasson's vital historic properties? Become a member of the Kasson Alliance and/or donation money to the cause! The Alliance is Kasson's nonprofit preservation organization dedicated to the preservation, protection, and promotion of our cities' historic properties. Information on joining and donating can be found online at [www.KassonAlliance.org](http://www.KassonAlliance.org). Thank you for your support. Without your generous donations, the school would have been demolished on July 9, 2007.

Questions and replies to this email will be cheerfully responded to.  
Thank you,

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The Kasson Alliance for Restoration (KARE) is a 501(c)(3) nonprofit organization formed in January 2007 to raise awareness about the contribution the historic Kasson School and other properties have made to our community and to promote their preservation.