

STATE OF MINNESOTA

DISTRICT COURT

COUNTY OF DODGE

THIRD JUDICIAL DISTRICT

Case Type: Other Civil

State of Minnesota, by
Kasson Alliance for Restoration, Inc.,

Court File No. _____
Judge _____

Plaintiff,

v.

**AFFIDAVIT OF
DANIEL J. HOISINGTON**

City of Kasson, a Minnesota municipal
corporation,

Defendant.

STATE OF MINNESOTA)

)ss.

COUNTY OF RAMSEY)

Daniel J. Hoisington, being first duly sworn on oath states, or affirms, as follows:

1. For more than 30 years, I have been actively involved in a variety of local history and historic preservation activities. As part of this work, I have prepared a large number of reports addressing local history issues. In addition, I have evaluated many properties for possible inclusion on the National Register of Historic Places, and have

drafted formal nominations for several of them. I have also performed a wide range of historic surveys, and more than 10 of my books documenting local history have been published. Currently, I am the principal in Hoisington Preservation Consultants, which offers local history and historic preservation consulting services. Attached as Exhibit 1 to this Affidavit is a summary of my experience, education, projects, and publications. I am making this Affidavit in support of plaintiff's motion for a temporary injunction.

2. I am familiar with the Kasson Public School through a variety of sources. After it was designated by the Minnesota Preservation Alliance as one of the state's ten most endangered properties this past spring, I decided to visit the School. This was spurred by my strong interest in the role of historic preservation and its place in the rural economy. I wanted to gain a sense of its current condition and its location in relationship to the rest of the community.

3. On Monday, May 7, 2007, I visited Kasson. I walked through the city's downtown and spent time at the School. The following day, I wrote a brief letter to Susan Roth at the State Historic Preservation Office, stating my strong belief that the school would qualify for the National Register of Historic Places. A copy is attached as Exhibit 2.

4. My conclusion about the School's eligibility for the National Register is based on my extensive experience with the criteria that are used in order to determine whether a

particular property has sufficient significance to qualify. That experience includes preparation of National Register nominations for two other Minnesota schools, the Hewitt Public School and the Backus-Baker School (International Falls), both for the State Historic Preservation Office of the Minnesota Historical Society. In addition, I have completed many projects related to the National Register under contract with the National Park Service and the Organization of American Historians.

5. From my initial review of the history of the Kasson Public School, it seems clear that it has considerable local historic significance because of its role in the education of several generations of Kasson residents. In very basic terms, how could one properly tell the history of the community without reference to the Kasson Public School?

6. The property is also more broadly significant within the state as a representative of the work of architect Nels Jacobson of Owatonna. Jacobson was an important figure in Minnesota architecture during the first half of the twentieth century, in part because he was deeply influenced by the work of the nationally renowned architectural firms of Louis H. Sullivan and Purcell, Feick, and Elmsie, and he translated their ideas into buildings that dot the landscape of southeastern Minnesota. For example, the Jacobson-designed Federated Insurance Companies Building in Owatonna was included in a

Minneapolis Institute of Arts tour, “Unified Vision: The Architecture and Design of the Prairie School,” which also featured buildings by Sullivan and Purcell, Feick, and Elmsie.

7. Based on my visit, it seems very likely that the Kasson Public School does not have only significant historic importance. It also retains a high level of historic integrity. The structure appears to be in generally fine condition, with relatively few changes to the exterior since its construction in 1917–18. Its scale and visual sensibility fit well into the surrounding historic neighborhood.

FURTHER YOUR AFFIANT SAITH NOT.

Daniel J. Hoisington

Subscribed and sworn to or affirmed before me
on this _____ day of May, 2007

Notary Public