

ALEXANDER FARIBAULT HOUSE  
12 NE. First Ave.  
Faribault  
Rice County  
Minnesota

HABS No. MN-149

HABS  
MINN  
66-FARI,  
1-

PHOTOGRAPHS

WRITTEN HISTORICAL AND DESCRIPTIVE DATA

REDUCED COPIES OF MEASURED DRAWINGS

HISTORIC AMERICAN BUILDINGS SURVEY  
National Park Service  
U.S. Department of the Interior  
1849 C St. NW  
Washington, DC 20240

HISTORIC AMERICAN BUILDINGS SURVEY  
ALEXANDER FARIBAULT HOUSE

HABS  
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LOCATION: City of Faribault, lot 2, block 76, Faribault First Addition.  
Street address is 12 N. E. First Avenue (Highway 60), Faribault,  
Rice County, Minnesota. First Ave. was formerly Willow Street.

U.S.G.S.: Faribault, Minnesota Quadrangle

UTM Coordinates: E 478 550 N 4904 300

PRESENT OWNER: Rice County Historical Society

PRESENT OCCUPANT: Front half: Museum  
Back half: Caretaker' apartment

PRESENT USE: Museum

SIGNIFICANCE: Alexander Faribault was a man of significance in the early history of Minnesota. As a fur trader with the American Fur Company., licensed by the U. S. Government to trade with the Indians in Indian Territory, he was one of the first "white" men to explore and settle in southern Minnesota. As a man of Indian heritage himself, his mother being half Dakota, married to a woman who was half Dakota, he was able to move comfortably among both white and Indian cultures. He acted as interpreter and negotiator in the Treaties of Mendota and Traverse des Sioux, which opened up a large part of Minnesota to white settlement in 1851. As the founder of the town of Faribault, he guided its early growth by recruiting settlers and by giving generously of land and money to build churches and schools. His home was an early gathering place and polling to organize Rice County took place upon his porch. He remained friends with the native Dakota people and sheltered several families on his land during and after the Sioux Uprising of 1862 when the sentiment of the state and county was openly hostile to the Indians. When Alexander Faribault was old

and impoverished, the town supported him and paid his funeral expenses in gratitude for his lifelong generosity and leadership.

The house he built in 1853 is in the Greek Revival style typical of many of the earliest river front frame houses in Minnesota. It is thought to be the oldest wood frame house in southern Minnesota. Two stories tall, it must have been quite impressive in its early days surrounded by the Native Americans' tepees and the white settlers' log houses. Even today it is a spacious and comfortable house.

## **PART I: HISTORICAL INFORMATION**

### **A. PHYSICAL HISTORY**

#### **1. DATE OF ERECTION:**

The Alexander FARIBAULT house was built in 1853 for the cost of \$4000. In the spring of 1853, wood to be used in the house was cut on Mr. FARIBAULT's land and shipped to St. Paul, the site of the closest sawmill, for milling. Twelve men were hired to work on the house, which was completed in the fall.

#### **2. ARCHITECT AND CONTRACTOR:**

It is believed that Alexander FARIBAULT himself designed the house.

#### **3. ORIGINAL AND SUBSEQUENT OWNERS:**

Alexander Faribault was the original purchaser of this land from the Federal Government. Later transactions:

- A. Faribault to J. Shields on July 17, 1856 and October 2, 1857 (this may represent separate purchases of house and land)
- B. J. Shields to Dan Faribault on February 25, 1858.
- C. Dan Faribault to A. Faribault on June 23, 1858.
- D. A. Faribault to Luther Dearborn on January 8, 1864.
- E. Luther Dearborn to Selah Chamberlain on October 25, 1875.
- F. Selah Chamberlain to John Leary on October 8, 1879.
- G. Leary Estate to Rice County Historical Society on June 1, 1945.

4. ORIGINAL PLANS AND CONSTRUCTION:

No original plans are known to exist.

5. ALTERATIONS AND ADDITIONS:

Though some rooms have changed in usage, (the music room becoming an office, the sewing room becoming a children's room, and the rear section becoming the caretaker's apartment) the house itself has undergone almost no visual changes since its 1853 construction. When the house was purchased by the Rice County Historical Society in 1945, the rear section was demolished because of extreme dilapidation. In the restoration completed in 1953, this section was rebuilt to following the designs of the original structure.<sup>1</sup> In the 1972 restoration, a furnace was installed, roof repairs were made, some floor boards were replaced and the ground floor was reinforced in the basement. In the 1980's the second floor joists were replaced, ceilings and walls repaired and re-plastered, and the current interior and exterior decoration (wallpapering and painting) was completed.

B. HISTORICAL CONTEXT

The Alexander Faribault house is a two story Greek Revival style house built in 1853 in what has become Faribault, Rice County, Minnesota.

Alexander Faribault was born in Prairie du Chien, Wisconsin on June 22, 1802 or 1806. He was the son of Jean-Baptiste Faribault, a French-Canadian fur trader with the American Fur Company and Pelagie Kinie, a woman of part Indian heritage.<sup>2</sup> Alexander was able to speak

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<sup>1</sup> Everyone interviewed who was involved with the various restorations of the house claims that the rear section was re-built to the exact specifications of the original demolished structure. However, architectural drawings of the house done in 1946 show differences in window shapes and sizes and an additional door on the north side of the house. Photos were taken in 1946 by Kimball Andrews to prepare for eventual reconstruction of the rear unit; these photos have not been located.

<sup>2</sup> Jean-Baptiste Faribault's wife's name and ancestry are not clear. An extensive file of clippings, reports, speeches, genealogies and correspondence on the Faribault family at the Rice County Historical Society Museum in Faribault, Minnesota gives the following possibilities. She appears to have been half Dakota, half French-Canadian. She may have been born Pelagie, or Elizabeth Pelagie, Kinie, the daughter of Francois Kinie and a Dakota woman. Some records, however, call her Pelagie Hins (also Ainse, Hanse, and Hince), the daughter of Major Joseph Hince, a superintendent of Indian Affairs. She was a widow when she married Jean-Baptiste, and some records call her the widow of Major Hanse. She and Jean-Baptiste had eight children.

both English and Dakota and moved easily within the two cultures. The Faribault family moved to Minnesota in 1821 and settled at Mendota, where Jean-Baptiste built a home and trading post (which also still stands) across the river from Fort Snelling at the confluence of the Minnesota and Mississippi Rivers. Alexander Faribault married Mary Elizabeth Graham the daughter of Captain Duncan Graham of Fort Snelling and his Dakota wife<sup>3</sup> there in 1825. Alexander worked with his father as a fur trader for the American Fur Company and for many years he used Mendota as his home base between trading ventures. In 1826, he established a post on the Cannon Lake in a Dakota village called Tetonka Tonah. In 1835, he moved to the confluence of the Straight and Cannon Rivers, two major Indian trading routes, in what is now the city of Faribault. About 1844, he moved to the site of this house along the banks of the Straight River and began cultivating the land and planting apple trees.

Faribault convinced the Waupakutas, a Dakota tribe, to move their village to this area and he maintained good relations with them until all the remaining Indians in this area were removed to a reservation in Santee, Nebraska in 1866. The Waupakutas and a few mostly French-Canadian employees were his only neighbors until the Minnesota Territory was opened up to white settlement by the Treaties of Mendota and Traverse des Sioux in 1851, ratified by the United States in 1852. Faribault acted as interpreter at these Treaty negotiations, and for all his friendship with the Indians,<sup>4</sup> benefited well from the signing of these Treaties. It was customary for the U. S. Government to compensate official Indian traders for the loss of their rights by paying "trader's claims". Faribault received \$13,500 in 1852 for these "claims".<sup>5</sup>

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<sup>3</sup> Rice County Historical Society's file on the Faribault family gives the possibility that Elizabeth Graham's mother was Suzanne Pennishon, a half Dakota - half French-Canadian woman. Captain Graham was an officer in the British army during the War of 1812. He received permission to stay in the United States after the war to be with his family.

<sup>4</sup> Alexander Faribault, through his mother's and wife's families, as well as through the marriages of several of his brothers and sisters, was related to the Chiefs of most of the participating Dakota tribes in these negotiations.

<sup>5</sup> Richard J. Steinmann, The Wapacootas and the White Man; the story of the early development of Faribault. Mr. Steinmann goes into some detail on the actual recompense Faribault received for his role in these negotiations.

Faribault's obituary states that he built his house in 1853. It would seem likely that the money he received enabled him to build such a substantial structure, the first frame house in Rice County, and the first in southern Minnesota. The house he built and probably designed cost \$4000. Early in 1853, he hired 12 men to cut timber on his own lands which was sent to St. Paul to be milled. The house was completed in the fall. A painter was hired to come from St. Louis to work on the house.

Faribault's frame house originally stood closer to the west bank of the Straight River, but the river was diverted away from the house years ago to accommodate the railroad. The style he selected was Greek Revival, which in Minnesota was a "river" style, found frequently in the early settlements along the river fronts where Yankee settlers tended to establish themselves bringing their New England architectural preferences with them. Faribault's prosperity of the time is reflected in the size of the structure. As well as a spacious parlor, living room, office, two kitchens, sewing room, and grand entryway, his home originally had six bedrooms and a loft and full attic for storage. The unique features are the front entry, where the door is flanked by narrow floor length windows and surmounted by a transom window. This arrangement is copied in the attic where a central window is flanked by two narrow windows and surmounted by a transom.

The Alexander Faribault house was acquired by the Rice County Historical Society on May 22, 1945 for \$1377. The first restoration began at that time though the circumstances of it being bought during war time meant that the earliest restoration was basically stabilization only. By 1953, however, the house had been re-roofed, the back half had been reconstructed, the front porch partially rebuilt, siding and shutters repaired and repainted, the walls and ceilings re-plastered, woodwork and floors refinished, and the ground floors leveled by adding concrete footings. In 1953, one hundred years after it was built, the house was opened as a museum for the people of Faribault. Further restorations were done in the 1970's and the 1980's. A contractor working on the first restoration of the house made these comments about its construction.<sup>6</sup> The foundation stone probably came from Doyle's Quarry based on the house's age and the type of stone used. The wood sills and first floor joists were sawn of local wood but hand hewn. The exterior siding was cut a half inch thick and eight inches wide and between the exterior siding and the interior lath and plaster the walls were filled with mortar as insulation. The framing of the house is of the "balloon type", which was relatively new in 1853. The original heating was provided by a number of stoves. The stove pipes passed through all the rooms radiating heat until passing into the brick chimneys which were built up only from the rafters in the attic. There was no running water in the house until the restoration converted the

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<sup>6</sup> Benson Brown, who had come to Faribault in 1882, the year of Alexander Faribault's death. His analysis can be found in Guerdon Allen's, "Alexander Faribault Home; its history and restoration, 1853-1946.

back half into a caretaker's apartment. There is still no water or plumbing in the front half of the house. In 1970, the house was listed on the National Register of Historic Places. One feature of the house that was particularly pointed out was the painted scenic panels beneath the windows in the parlor that were supposedly done by Alexander's father, Jean-Baptiste Faribault. The house's age and integrity and the stature of its builder in the history of Minnesota make this house of exceptional interest.

## **PART II: ARCHITECTURAL INFORMATION**

### **A. GENERAL SETTING AND ORIENTATION:**

The Alexander Faribault house is located approximately 50 miles south of Minneapolis and St. Paul. The house is on the west side of the Mississippi River. State Highway 60 runs in front of the house. The house is at an approximately 25° angle with the street in front of it with the south corner of the house closer to the street. The house is surrounded by businesses. The address is 12 N. E. First Avenue, Faribault, Minnesota.

### **B. ARCHITECTURAL CHARACTER:**

This is a single family two story wood frame Greek revival temple style house with side entry, a gable roof with decorative rake fascia and cornice return with 5" wood siding. The house is painted yellow with trim, windows, shutters, posts and awnings painted a lighter yellow. It was built in two sections at the same time in 1853. There are two chimneys one at each end of the front section of the house. There is a front porch across the front of the house. Another porch is on the south side of the house where the front half of the house joins the back half of the house and in the space where the south wall of the back half of the house is 4'-3" north of the south wall of the back half of the house.

### **C. CONDITION OF FABRIC**

The building is in good condition and much of the siding and porch has been replaced. The foundation and basement under the back portion of the house is new. Several of the windows on the back part of the house have been replaced. The outside of the house has paint peeling and the glazing around the window panes is falling out and needs to be replaced.

D. DESCRIPTION OF EXTERIOR:

1. Overall Dimensions: The building measures 30'-6" x 36'-9" for the front section of the house and 30'-6" x 24'-10" for the back section of the house, with a total floor area of 3731.25 square feet. The porch is 8'-0" x 30'-2".
2. Front porch: The low sloped porch extends across the front facade. The porch railing runs around the edge of the porch, separated by the front steps. The railing is two horizontal rails, the first one foot from the porch decking and the next one a foot above it with a second piece attached flat on top the rail. Three vertical wood pieces eight inches apart are located in the middle each porch section. The porch roof is open rafters supported by four posts in the front and one on each side at the back of the porch on the outside edges against the house. The roof is covered with rolled roofing. The porch decking is gray-painted wooden tongue and groove boards. The front facing of the three porch sides is covered with carpenter-gothic ornamentation. There are five steps white risers; there is a double railing on each side with top beveled posts at the top and bottom.
3. Front/east side first floor facade: The first floor level has a six paneled door with raised panels and a screen outer door on the north side of the front facade. On each side of the door is a ten-light fixed window with two rows of five lights. Below the window is a raised panel. Across the top of the door and two side windows stretches a seven-over-seven light transom. The entire section is recessed in one foot from the house front. South of the door on the front facade are two six-over-six double-hung shuttered windows with storm windows.
4. Front/east side second floor facade: The second floor has four panel door which is slightly off center. Six-over-six double-hung shuttered windows with storm windows are on each side of the door. Above the second floor door at the attic level is a four piece window. A three-row sixteen-light middle section is flanked by narrower three-row sixteen-light pieces. Above all three is a three-row twenty-four light horizontal window. The assembly is flanked by non-original shutters.
5. North facade: The house has two sections, the west portion being approximately one foot lower than the east portion. On the north side the wall sections are flush. The front half has one first-floor and two-second floor six-over-six shuttered windows with storm windows. The back has three first-floor and two-second floor six-over-six double-hung windows. Only the back half of the north facade has gutters.

6. West facade: The west facade has a three-horizontal-panel, two-window wooden door with storm door on the south side. There is a metal awning over the door and a light on the north side of the door. There are two six-over-six double-hung windows on the first floor and one on the second floor. There is a louver air vent at the top just under the fascia.
7. South facade: The front half of the south facade has three first-floor and three second-floor six-over-six double-hung windows with shutters. The back half is recessed with a low sloping roof porch with exposed rafters extending over two doors and a window. The porch is one step off ground level with gray painted wooden decking supported with two posts. One door with screen door faces south and the other with storm door faces west. Between the two doors is a six-over-six double-hung window. West of the door facing south are two six-over-six windows; the one next to the door has no storm sash to allow for an air conditioner while the other has combination storm/screen window. There are two six-over-six combination double-hung windows on the second floor. The back half has rain gutters at the roof edge of the house roof and the porch roof. There is a wooden ramp extending up to the porch on the west side of the porch.
8. Foundation: The foundation of the front half of the house is limestone. There are two window wells on the north side of the house and one on the south side of the house. All are covered with boards. The south side of the house has a double board-and-batten cellar door. The back half of the house has a cement block foundation with two window wells on the north side and one on the south side of the house. The porch support posts are on cement blocks and have no foundation. There is a cement block at ground level in front of the west side door and two cement blocks at ground level to step off the porch and four round stepping stones that extend out to the asphalt drive. There is a cement slab under the water faucet under the window on the west side of the door on the south facade.
9. Roof: The main gabled roof runs along the main axis of the house and is covered with sawed wood shingles. The flat front (east) porch roof is covered with a flat-seam sheetmetal plates.

#### E. DESCRIPTION OF INTERIOR:

1. Typical features: All of the ceilings are painted white throughout the house. Except for the caretakers apartment, the following is in the rest of the house. All of the floors brown painted planking with thresholds at each doorway. All of the wood window and door casings and moldings are painted white. 7 1/4 inch moldings with sunken fillets are throughout the downstairs and in the upstairs hall. The rest of the upstairs does not

have the decorative top piece on the 6 1/2 inch moldings. The doors are all recessed flat on one side and raised on the other unless noted differently and all have porcelain door knobs. All of the walls are plaster.

2. Stairways: There are two stairways from the main floor, one up to the attic and two to the basement. Each are described with the area in which they are located.
3. Entrance hall: The front door enters into the hall on the northeast corner of the house. The wallpaper is white with a gold leaf pattern. There is an antique white metal three bulb ceiling light in front of the front door. The straight run stairway to the second floor is on the north wall. The stairway has fifteen steps with the treads and tread return painted brown. The risers, face stringer and balusters are painted white. The black walnut handrail forms a spiral at the end. The south side of the hallway has two doorways. The east end has a doorway into the parlor and the west end has a door into the living room. On the west end of the hall in front of the door into the living room is a crystal and brass chandelier which holds six candles.
4. Parlor: The parlor has white wallpaper with a gray diamond broken line overall and blue flowers in a holder print. There is a stovepipe opening on the ceiling with metal filigree two feet out from the east wall of the parlor between the two front windows. In the middle of the room is a ceramic hanging ceiling light. It is white with gold bulb arms and red, green and blue painted flower design. There are two windows on the east wall and one on the south wall. All of the windows have recessed panels with landscape scenes in oil painted supposedly by Alexander's father, Jean-Baptiste Faribault. They are now darkened with age, but appear to all be shoreline scenes, perhaps even scenes of the Straight River that flows in front of the house. There are two doorways with no doors. One enters from the hall and the other goes into the living room.
5. Living room: The living room has wallpaper identical to the paper in the parlor. It has two windows on with panels under the windows. The other three walls all have doors. The east wall has the doorway into the parlor. The west wall has a door to the outside and an unusable door that originally went into the kitchen. The north wall has doors into the hall and office. There is a stove pipe opening on the ceiling with metal filigree on the northwest ceiling between the doors into the office and the one that used to go into the kitchen. There is a gold and crystal chandelier in the middle of the ceiling.
6. Office: The office is entered through the door from the living room on the south side of the office. It has blue painted plaster walls. The north wall has a window with a panel underneath and a duct chase in the northwest corner. On the wall east of the window is an oil lamp in a brass holder attached to the wall. The east wall has a door that leads to a finished closet underneath all but the last five stairs in the entry hallway.

- The back of the closet has two shelves on the east end and eight coat hooks on the north wall five feet from the floor. There is a brass ceiling mounted light with a frosted white cover in the middle of the ceiling. The door on the west wall leads into the caretakers apartment.
7. Caretaker's apartment typical features: To enter the apartment there is about a half of a step down into the east end of the storage/work room. The apartment consisted of a living room, bedroom, kitchen, bathroom, storage/work room and hallway. The windows, doors all had 2 1/4" trim varnished pine and hardwood floors, 3 1/4" baseboard with quarter round were throughout. All of the doors in the caretakers apartment are two panel doors except the two outside doors which have three horizontal panels below two glass panes.
  8. Caretaker apartment work/storage room and hallway: In the work/storage room, the north, south and east walls all had wainscoting up to three feet in height with a chair rail topping it off. There is a window on the north wall. The south wall has five coat hooks on the wall at a height of five feet. The west wall has built-in cupboards out of the same material that is used for the wainscoting and the doorway into the hallway. The entire room is painted white except for the small counter on the cupboards is painted brown and the floor is painted gray. A small hallway runs from this room to the bedroom from east to west. The north wall of the hallway contains the door into the bathroom and on the west side of the door is a closet door. The south wall has the door into the living room. The walls are white painted plaster.
  9. Caretaker apartment bathroom: The bathroom has pale yellow painted plaster walls with paneling that has the appearance of ceramic tile up to six feet on the east, south and west walls. The north wall has a fiberglass bath and shower walls and a slightly elevated window. The floor has beige marble looking linoleum.
  10. Caretaker apartment bedroom: The bedroom is on the northwest end of the caretakers apartment. It has light pink painted plaster walls. The entrance from the hallway is on the east wall with the closet door on the north side of that door. The north and west walls each have a window.
  11. Caretaker apartment living room: The south side of the caretakers apartment contains the living room and kitchen. The living room is entered by the doorway from the hallway. The walls are painted off white plaster walls. The east wall has the walls of enclosed stairways from upstairs and to the basement which come out into the room the width of the stairs. On the southeast corner of the wall is a door which is the entrance to the basement. At the end of the stair run from upstairs is a door which faces the north wall. The south wall has a door that goes to the porch on the back part of the

house and there are windows on either side of the door. The west wall had the door into the kitchen.

12. Caretaker apartment kitchen: The kitchen has light blue painted plaster walls. The south wall has a window. The west wall contains the door to the outside on the south side and the rest of the wall has the kitchen cupboards. They are pine upper and lower cupboards with the lower having white counter top, stainless steel sink and a window above the sink. The northeast corner of the room has a duct chase
13. Upstairs hallway: The stairway ascends to the second floor with the banister running up the stairs returns and runs along the edge of the floor parallel to the banister on the inside of the stairs. This makes the hallway T shaped with the leg of the T along this banister and the bottom of the T from the top of the stairs and left or south. On the corner of the turn of the south wall to form the top of the T is a corner bead to protect the corner. The wallpaper from the downstairs hallway continues in this hallway. At the top of the stairs in the landing area there is a window on the north wall. The east end of the hallway has a doorway into the children's room. The south wall on the east end has the door into the master bedroom. The west end of the south wall has two doors. The first one is a foot shorter than a regular door and a raised two panel door into a closet. The one on the southwest corner of the south wall has the door into the south bedroom. Placed about in the middle of the hallway is an antique white metal three bulb chandelier that matches the one in front of the front door.
14. Children's room: The children's room is on the front northeast corner of the house above the front entry. The walls are plaster painted a very pale yellow. There is a window on the east wall. There is a brass ceiling light with a frosted white globe identical to the one in the downstairs den.
15. Master bedroom: The master bedroom is entered off of the hallway through a door on the north side of the bedroom. It has a four exposed bulb brass chandelier. Two feet from the east wall is a stovepipe opening. The wallpaper is pink with blue ribbons and darker pink, blue and white flowers. The east wall has a door to the outside and one window. The south wall has one window which has the bottom lower than the front window and the top has a wood piece on the top to make it look as if it is the same height as the front window. The southwest side of the west bedroom wall has a doorway into the closet. The closet has an upper shelf on each side of the doorway and a clothes rod runs across between the two shelves.
16. South bedroom: The south bedroom is entered from the hallway on the northeast corner of the north wall of the room. It has wallpaper which is white with green circles made of leaves and connected with the same pattern lines. This small open pattern is overall

with clusters of purple violets. The east wall has two panel raised panel door one step up that goes up to the attic. This is the only room to have quarter round along the edge of the floor. The south wall has two windows. The northwest corner ceiling has a stovepipe opening. A four bulb brass chandelier with white globes hangs from the ceiling. The north wall has the door that goes into the north bedroom.

17. North bedroom: The entrance to the north bedroom is on the south wall. This room has yellow wallpaper with blue and white feather design. There is a stovepipe opening on the southwest quadrant of the ceiling and a white two bulb fixture on the ceiling. The north wall has one window and there is a duct chase in the northwest corner. The west wall has the a doorway into the back half of the house.
18. Museum display rooms: The back part of the house is one step down and has one wall that runs down the center of the room with doorways at each end. The floor has orange, yellow and brown level loop carpet. The walls are white painted plaster. On the north and south sides they slant up slightly to the ceiling. The ceiling is random width V groove fiber board "antique" white. 1" cove molding is against the edge of the east and west sides of the ceiling. The north and south have 2 1/4" trim at the joint of the ceiling and plaster that is identical with the window, and door casing trim. Fluorescent lights run down the middle of each side room ending 3' from the east and west walls. The north and south walls have each have two windows. The north room has a support post on the east end. The south room has a duct chase on the west end of the dividing wall. On the southeast corner of the south room is the stairway that leads to the caretaker's apartment. There are three curved stairs at the top of the stairway with 22°, 45° and 67° turns and eleven straight run stairs to the bottom. There is a half wall around the stair opening with a wall cap of varnished wood and handrails on the south and east walls.
19. Front section basement: The basement of the house is in two sections. The front part of the house is on limestone foundation. It has dirt floors. It is a backwards L shape with the top of the L along the east side and the bottom of the L extending west and the north west has walls to form a small room with a door off of the bottom of the L. The east side which forms the top of the L has four posts and one beam running north to south and posts across the bottom of the L. These are on cement footings. There is a window on the north wall in this section of the basement. There is one window and the double entrance gray painted board and batten bulkhead which comes from a straight ten stair run from ground level on the outside of the house. The northwest corner room has 3 posts on footings and the forced air furnace and duct work. There are new 2" x 10" placed to supplement the irregularly sized joists.

20. Back section basement: The basement under the caretakers apartment is separate from the basement under the front part of the house. There are 12 steps down from the living room of the caretakers apartment. The top three stairs curve at 22°, 45° and 67° and the 9 straight stairs parallel with the south wall. The treads are 8 1/2" deep and the risers are 7 3/4". There is no riser on the bottom step and the risers are made out of exterior siding. They descend to a poured cement floor with a floor drain. The square under the top four stairs is enclosed on the side facing the underneath of the stairs and the side facing the interior of the basement forms two shelves. Under the bottom shelf are limestone blocks up to the shelf but not supporting the shelves or stairs. The cement floor is poured up to these stones. The stairway has a rail from the top of the stairs connected to a 1 1/2" x 2 1/2". This support is attached to the floor joist at the top and the front edge of the third step. The rail connects 1'-10" from the front edge of the third step. The east wall is limestone with the bottom three feet cinder blocks that jut out from the limestone forming a shelf that runs from in front of the bottom step to the north wall. The north wall has two windows and the south wall has one window. The basement has one beam and 2 support posts, regularly placed joists, a sewer stack, chimney, hot water heater and forced air furnace with ductwork.
21. Attic: The attic has access by a stairway with the same curve on the first three stairs as the stairways in the caretaker's apartment. There are seven stairs up into the attic which has exposed rafters and joists.

**PART III: SOURCES OF INFORMATION**

A. ORIGINAL ARCHITECTURAL DRAWINGS: none

No original drawings known.

Drawings done by John Nutting Puffer in November, 1946 for the eventual reconstruction of the rear half of the house. Original drawings done in 1/8" = 1' scale. Reproduced at 77% for this report. From Guerdon S. Allen report, "Alexander Faribault Home; its history and restoration, 1853-1946". Minnesota Historical Society Collection.

B. EARLY VIEWS:

Undated photo of east facade of house. From a newspaper clipping in the Rice County Historical Society collections.

Undated photo of east facade of house with telephone pole. From the Rice County Historical Society collections.

Faribault Daily News, November 14, 1952, photograph. From the Rice County Historical Society collections.

Undated photo showing a detail of the original construction of the house. Taken during one of the house's restorations. From the Rice County Historical Society collections.

Undated photo showing a detail of the original construction of the house. Taken during one of the house's restorations. From the Rice County Historical Society collections.

Undated photo showing a detail of the original construction of the house. Taken during one of the house's restorations. From the Rice County Historical Society collections.

Undated photo of east facade taken after first restoration of house was complete about 1953. From the Rice County Historical Society collections.

Undated photo of east and south facades. From the Rice County Historical Society collections.

C. BIBLIOGRAPHY:

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## Part IV: Project Information

This material was prepared as a project for Architecture 5143, Historic Building Research and Documentation, a class offered in the College of Architecture and Landscape Architecture at the University of Minnesota (Minneapolis). The class project was prepared under the direction of Robert C. Mack, FAIA, in cooperation with the State Historic Preservation Office of the Minnesota Historical Society, St. Paul, Minnesota. Historical and architectural data were prepared by Michelle Menken and Linda Teppo. Drawings for the Alexander Faribault House were compiled by Eric Hanson, Maria Manion, Scott Myklebust, Lori Jorgensen Unick, Richard Venberg. Photographic survey was prepared by Warren Bruland with assistance from Roger Howley, Aki Ishida, Jim Powell. The project was conducted April - June 1994.

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