



# FARIBAULT, MN “ATHENS OF THE WEST”

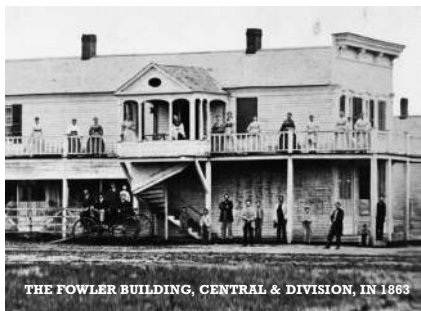
## A Town is Born

From the vantage point of Buckham Library, you are positioned where the “Athens of the West” story began. Here Alexander Faribault found waterways, critical for early trade and travel, beautiful bluffs, and surrounding prairie filled with game. At the base of the Viaduct, Faribault built his fur trading post, and in 1853, his first home as well. This is where the Whipple schools and the State Academy for the Deaf School began.

The city flourished because of leadership from Alexander Faribault, Bishop Henry Whipple, and Judge Thomas Buckham. Because they embraced the arts, education, and religion, all important in the Greek culture, it helped the city gain a solid foothold and grow in the likeness of its counterpart, Athens, Greece.

## “Athens of the West”

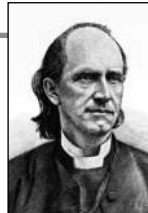
Alexander Faribault, General Shields and citizens allocated money and land to help establish the first schools and



THE FOWLER BUILDING, CENTRAL & DIVISION, IN 1863

churches. Faribault’s reputation as a city of schools began when chosen by Reverend Breck in the mid 1850s as the location for Seabury University. Out of Seabury came Bishop Whipple’s Shattuck, St. Mary’s Hall, St. James Academy, and Seabury Divinity School.

The first classes for the Whipple schools met in rented rooms in a building owned by Major Fowler in 1858. The Fowler Building stood on the SW corner of Central and Division, where the Commu-



ALEX. FARIBAULT, BISHOP HENRY WHIPPLE, THOMAS BUCKHAM

nity Co-Op is today. The first classes for deaf students also began here in 1863. Including the Whipple schools, state academies for the deaf, blind, and developmentally-disabled, Faribault by 1900 had nearly 30 public, private, and parochial schools.

Just across the street on the NW corner of Central and Division, the first public school and first Land Office were built in the late 1850s. A young attorney named Thomas Buckham worked at the Land Office long before wearing a judge’s robe.



THE VIADUCT - 1937

## A City Grows

The fledgling city was fed by traffic from all directions—by stagecoach from Hastings and Red Wing. They came from the west on the 4th Street thoroughfare, from the south by Willow Street, later known as Jefferson Interstate Highway. Early traffic was all about wagons, oxcarts and beasts of burden. Buckham Library sits on the site of the Winkley Livery that served these travelers.

When the railroad came it offered eight passenger trains per day. Over time, several depots were constructed, making the city a center of trade and commerce.

The state academies and Whipple schools flourished, relocating to impressive facilities on the east side of the river. The growing population required a new

problem solved. Pedestrians, particularly those with impairments, were vulnerable to the river and busy rail traffic. In 1937, the W.P.A. constructed the Viaduct. With classical arches and lights on fluted columns, it was considered a major achievement. The bridge spanned the entire valley, connecting both sides of town.

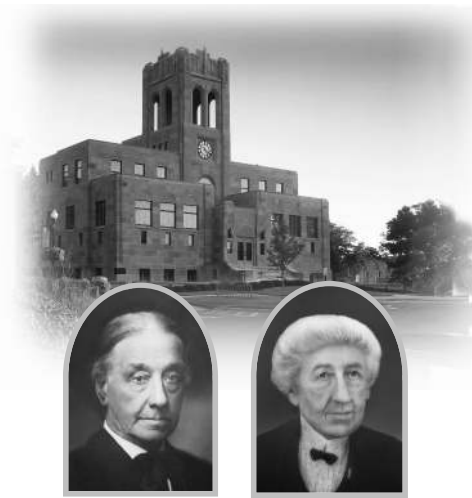
The old adage, “business breeds business” came into play at Faribault. Services like grist milling, blacksmithing, cabinet-making, and others emerged to support the Athens of the West schools. Industries popped up along the riverfront. Alexander Faribault invited the French to join Germans, Yankees, and Irish to fill jobs created by the milling and brewing industries. Talented stoneworkers arrived to build churches, schools and institutions.

Some settlers were entrepreneurs whose ideas and products became household names—Fleckenstein Beer, Sellner’s Tilt-A-Whirl, LaCroix’s Middling Purifier, and Klemer’s Faribo Blankets.

## Inspirational People

A robust educational climate attracted teachers and administrators who offered specialized education, training, and inspiration to the deaf, blind, and mentally handicapped, helping them to lead more productive lives. If it weren’t for teacher Harriet Tucker, an Academy for the Blind may not have been. The State Hospital’s first Superintendent, Dr. A.C. Rogers, was a visionary whose skill made it one of the best institutions of its kind in the country.

In turn, trails were blazed in society by the students who attended the academies like deaf actress Audrey Norton, artist Cadwallader Washburn and architect Olof Hanson. Their contributions have made life easier for the deaf. The Whipple Schools turned out talented students like Marlon Brando, Grace McKinstry, Native American author Vine Deloria, Jr. and also ordained white and Native American ministers.



Thomas Scott Buckham  
1835-1928

Anna Mallary Buckham  
1838-1935

## BUCKHAM MEMORIAL LIBRARY

Buckham Library was built to be a temple of learning and inspiration. It is the city's Greek Temple - a fitting symbol for the city.

Built in 1929, it was a gift to the city by Anna Buckham as a memorial to Judge Thomas Buckham. The building was designed by the couple's nephew, Charles Buckham. It is a striking example of Art Deco architecture with a Kasota stone exterior. A classical motif is repeated throughout the library in arched windows, doorways, fireplaces, and even in its murals.

To inspire patrons, Buckham commissioned murals and stained glass with Greek themes, and outfitted the walls with a high caliber art collection.

View the Buckham Memorial Library and entire art collection. See [www.faribault.org/lib](http://www.faribault.org/lib) for facility hours.



### The Connick Window

Gothic Revival Style, 1928

*"If churches are made radiant and beautiful places of worship, we can have a spiritual regeneration without anyone knowing what is going on. Beauty can preach as very few men with bundles of words can preach. I want to make beautiful interiors for both churches and souls. I want people to hear my windows singing."*  
- Charles J. Connick (1875-1945)

Connick was a prominent American artist best known for his work in Gothic Revival stained glass. Born in Pennsylvania, Connick eventually settled in Boston where he opened his studio in 1913. The theme of this rare stained glass work reflects Buckham's love of the Greek culture and shows important Greek symbols, Gods, Goddesses and other figures from the height of Greek culture. Designed to be the heart of the library and positioned above the original entry, the window beckons visitors to learn the enduring values of the Greek culture.



Alfred Hyslop  
(1898-1985)



### Buckham Murals "The Golden Age of Greece"

Alfred Hyslop was a Carleton College professor when Anna Buckham commissioned him to paint the classic Grecian scenes in high color and realistic detail. Fitting with the "Athens of the West" theme, each mural symbolizes Greek cities and their virtues during the Golden Age in 400 B.C.. (L-R): Athens (arts & philosophy), Olympia (athletic prowess), Sparta (courage & bravery), and Delphi (worship & reverence).



## BUCKHAM ART COLLECTION



### Grace McKinstry (1859-1936)

"The Horse Fair," below, is a classical painting by McKinstry. The daughter of a pioneer city newspaperman, Grace was educated at Shattuck-St. Mary's, went on to the Minneapolis and Chicago Institutes of Art, and studied in Paris with Raphael Collin. She became an internationally-known portrait artist and her paintings of prominent people are held in collections in the U.S. and abroad.

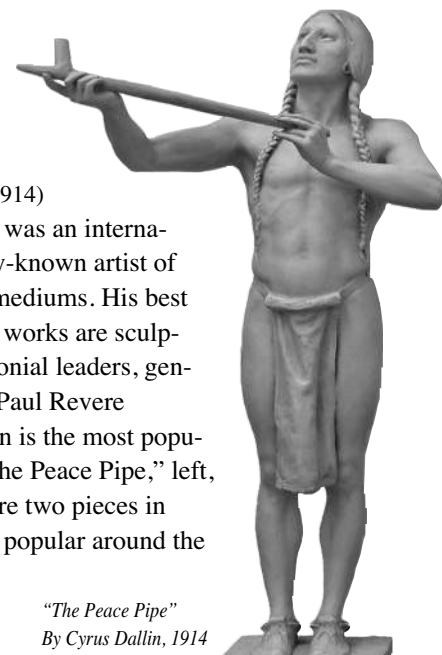
See more McKinstry art at the Rice County Historical Society - [www.rchistory.org](http://www.rchistory.org).



### Cyrus Dallin

(1861-1914)

Dallin was an internationally-known artist of many mediums. His best known works are sculptures of Indian chiefs, colonial leaders, generals and presidents. The Paul Revere equestrian statue in Boston is the most popular. Three-foot statues, "The Peace Pipe," left, and the "Indian Archer" are two pieces in Buckham's art collection, popular around the country in 1915.



"The Peace Pipe"  
By Cyrus Dallin, 1914



## ARTISTS

Over the years, Faribault has earned a high reputation for outstanding artists. These individuals are all internationally-known for work in their respective fields. Be sure to visit Whillock and Kaisersatt's woodcarving studios downtown. Here (shown L-R), are some artists who made the city their home:

Grace McKinstry (Painter), Audrey Norton (Actress), Angel Lillo (Sculptor/Educator), Marvin Kaisersatt (Woodcarver), Ivan Whillock (Woodcarver/Educator), Cadwallader Washburn (Artist), Olof Hanson (Architect).



**PARADISE CENTER FOR THE ARTS**

## GET INSPIRED DOWNTOWN

The Greeks believed strongly in unity of body and mind and leading a balanced life through relaxation. Faribault citizens enjoy public art during their leisure time.

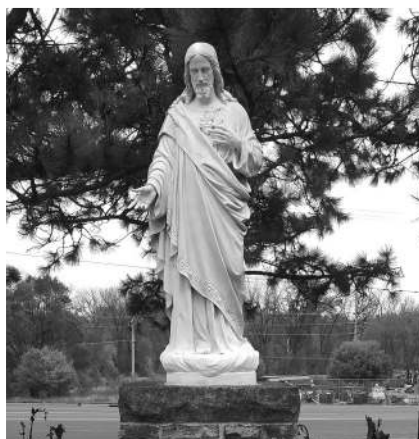
Since the 1880s, the city has had several theaters and a center for arts and culture. Paradise Center for the Arts, built on the footprint of the 1885 Opera House, provides a place for musical and performing arts events, art exhibits, and art classes.

The City has hosted free public concerts for over 100 consecutive years in Central Park. Large visually-appealing murals created by the local Mural Society adorn historic buildings, build civic pride, and give pause for reflection. Among others, the murals include *Fleck's Brewery*, *Sellner's Tilt-A-Whirl*, and *Skating on Straight River*. Downtown Faribault is also home to several monuments that pay homage to city heritage and fallen soldiers.



### **Bea Duncan Statue Heritage Park**

This bronze sculpture by Ivan Whillock depicts an early furtrading scene between Alex Faribault and Taopi, a Native American.



### **"Prince of Peace" 1944 27 Division Street East**

Located near the west end of the Viaduct, this statue is a memorial to WWII vets from the Daughters of Isabella.



### **Rice County Soldier's Monument 1914 Rice County Courthouse Lawn**

This statue stands in quiet honor of fallen soldiers and all Union veterans of the Civil War. Crafted from Vermont marble by local stonecutters at McCarthy Marble Works.



### **Downtown Murals**

This is just one of many murals adorning downtown buildings. This work depicts a downtown scene from the 1950s.



# FARIBAUT'S CLASSIC-INSPIRED ARCHITECTURE



## Italianate Architecture: 1860-1885

This strong style was popular in downtown Faribault building design between 1860-1885. Built to resemble Italian villas. Buildings were square, with flat roofs, some with inset doorways. Under the wide eaves are prominent decorative brackets, paired or grouped windows, verandas, and arch-top windows.

### Learn More!

To learn more Athens of the West history, see the Rice Co. Historical Society Museum for a collection of Grace McKinstry paintings, a Bishop Whipple exhibit, the Ivan Whillock Mural, and more! [www.rchistory.org](http://www.rchistory.org)



*Fourth Ave. Methodist Church - 1915  
219 4th Avenue NW*



*Cassius Buck Home - 1895  
124 1st Avenue SW*



*Tate Hall - 1912  
State Academy for the Deaf*



*Chase State Bank - 1905  
101 3rd Street NW*

## Classical Revival Architecture: 1895-1950

Ancient Greece and Rome set the standard for architecture in modern times. Found about the city and the National Register Historic are many examples of the Classical Revival style. Identifiable features like columns, domes, pediments, arched windows and doorways adorn examples city's public, private and residential structures, some resembling Greek temples.



"This activity is part of Artists on Main Street, a partnership between Faribault Main Street, the Preservation Alliance of MN, and Springboard for the Arts with support from the Bush Foundation."



A special thanks to Richard Carlander and the State Bank of Faribault for helping to preserve Faribault history and for supporting the work on this project.



## ATHENS OF THE WEST PROJECT & BROCHURE

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West Cedar Studio  
20140 Cedar Lake Trail,  
Morristown, MN 55052

507.339.8765 [www.westcedarstudio.com](http://www.westcedarstudio.com)

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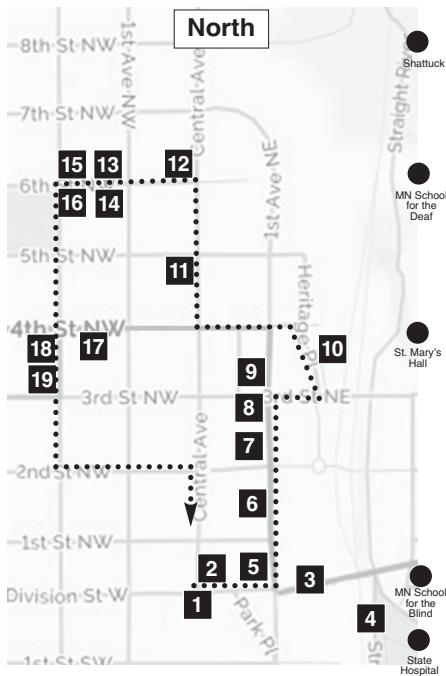
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# ATHENS OF THE WEST TOUR

Residential, religious, industrial and educational buildings are all represented on the tour, all instrumental in building early Faribault, and in support of Athens of the West institutions. On the tour, gaze to the East above the bluff and you may catch a glimpse of the Deaf and Blind Schools, and the campuses of Shattuck and St. Mary's Schools. Pay attention to the shifts in architecture which show prevailing tastes in building design.



## 1. Buckham Library, Art Deco/Moderne Style, 1929

This temple of learning was given to the City by Anna Buckham as a memorial to husband Judge Buckham. His passion for Greek culture is reflected in a repeating motif throughout the library.



## 2. Major Fowler Building 9 Central Avenue, 1860s

Rev. Breck opened a mission school here envisioned as Seabury University. From this, Seabury Divinity School, Shattuck School, St. Mary's Hall, and St. James School began.

## 3. Viaduct Bridge Division Street. Art Deco/Moderne, 1937



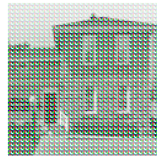
## 4. Site of Straight River Mill 217 Mill Street, 1862

Alexander Faribault brought French engineers Edmund and Nick LaCroix from Canada to build and operate his pioneering limestone mill. Building was used by other manufacturing plants until it burned down.



## 5. Faribault House Greek Revival, 1853

A fur trader and city founder, Alexander Faribault lived between the worlds of the Native American and the white settler. The home served as the city's first community center.



## 6. Phillip Lieb Home

122 1st Ave. NE., Vernacular, 1865  
Lieb was an early pioneer of Faribault that built with locally quarried stone. The house was converted to the world-famous Ivan Whillock Woodcarving Studio. See for yourself: [www.whillock.com](http://www.whillock.com).



## 7. Weyer Wagon Shop

32 2nd St NE. Vernacular, 1874  
This solid limestone building is one of Faribault's best-preserved stone industrial structures. Weyer offered blacksmith services and also made buggies, carriages, wagons and bobsleds.



## 8. Hill Furniture Factory

31 3rd St. NE. Italianate, 1875  
The site of many businesses over the years, including the famous Shaft-Pierce Shoe Company that made Acrobat shoes. More recently, the building occupants have been dining establishments.

## 9. Theopold Mercantile Company

303 1st Ave. NE, Romanesque Revival, 1893  
The development of railroads brought wholesale and distribution to Faribault. Present-day Depot Square Building.



## 10. Rock Island Depot 311 Heritage Place Richardsonian Romanesque, 1902

The red brick depot with limestone sills was built as a passenger depot, important as it linked Faribault to major cities in central and southern MN, and beyond.



## 11. State Bank of Faribault 428 Central Ave. N, 1919

The Fleckenstein Brewery collection installed in the bank's lobby pays homage to brewing, one of the city's first industries. When you stop for a tour, be sure to also see the restored Faribault Manufacturing Co. engine from the early 1900s.



## 12. Original St. Mary's Hall 610 Central N., Italianate, 1860

Bishop Whipple home and first St. Mary's Hall. Cornelia Whipple was the first housemother. Building was used for 17 years until a new school was built on the bluff.



## 13. Episcopal Rectory

112 6th St. NW. Classical Revival, 1897  
Bishop Whipple and his second wife Evangeline built this home, then donated it to the Good Shepherd church. *Designed by deaf architect Olof Hanson.*



## 14. Episcopal Guild House 101 6th Street NW. 1894

Richardsonian Romanesque  
Another structure attributed to Bishop Whipple. This building was designed by Olof Hanson architect.



## 15. Site of Whipple Home 607 2nd Avenue NW Italianate, ca 1870s

Site of former Parker-Kohl Funeral Home, now Ivy Hill Senior Care.



## 16. Episcopal Cathedral 515 2nd Avenue Gothic Revival, 1869

Combining local stone and international significance, the first American Episcopal Church cathedral was a dream made reality. Designed by James Renwick, Jr.



## 17. Rice Co. Courthouse 218 3rd St. NW. Art Deco, 1934

Constructed of local stone, the current structure employs strong horizontal bands of stone ending in a flat roof, capped with relief sculpture extolling civic virtues, agriculture and commerce.



## 18. Woolen Mill Office Building

4th St. & 2nd Ave. N.W., 1892.  
(Carding Shack, 327 2nd Ave., 1865)  
Facing 4th St. NW is the office building that doubled as a factory and point of shipping. The Woolen Mill blanket business began behind this site in a wooden shack, across from the courthouse. Mural painted by David Correll and the Faribault Mural Society. *Designed by deaf architect Olof Hanson.*



## 19. Rice County Jail

128 3rd St. NW  
Romanesque Revival, 1910  
The jail is impressive with a rounded tower, a red tile roof, and rusticated Kettle River stone foundation and trim. The Romanesque style employed here was popular from 1890-1915.

## LEARN MORE!

For more Athens of the West history provided in this brochure see the Rice Co. Historical Society Museum for exhibits featuring Grace McKinstry Paintings and Bishop Whipple, the Ivan Whillock Diorama Mural, and more!  
[www.rchistory.org](http://www.rchistory.org)

## THANK YOU!

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