

Sites Worth Saving

MINNESOTA'S 10 MOST ENDANGERED HISTORIC PLACES 2011



Preservation Alliance of Minnesota ❖ www.mnpreservation.org



Designed by prominent New York architect Henry Congdon, Johnston Hall was built in 1888 as a library and seminary faculty residence for the Seabury Divinity School. The building is an excellent example of Richardsonian Romanesque architecture, constructed of locally quarried blue limestone. Johnston Hall played a significant role in the development of the Faribault community, and is the last remaining building of the divinity school, which provided early missionaries to Midwestern Indian tribes and educated many of Minnesota history's most prominent religious leaders. In recognition of its architectural and religious significance, Johnston Hall was listed on the National Register of Historic Places in 1975.

In 1986, a reuse study helped identify a private developer who renovated the building and leased it as medical offices, saving Johnston Hall from demolition. Since then, the adjoining campus of the Rice County District One Hospital has grown around the historic building. The hospital purchased Johnston Hall and its associated surface parking lot in 2008, but believes retrofitting the building to meet the demands of the health care industry and current technology would cost more than building new. A Johnston Hall task force has been formed to

determine the fate of this historic building, and its members are charged with finding a new use that is appropriate for the health care campus while also addressing approximately \$1 million in needed repairs to the roof, exterior stone walls, bell tower, and windows. New tenants and new funding resources are both needed to ensure Johnston Hall's preservation.

Action Steps

1. Voice your support for preservation to local elected officials and District One Hospital administration.
2. Bring any and all ideas for reuse and funding to the Johnston Hall Ad Hoc advisory group.

FARIBAULT



JOHNSTON HALL

