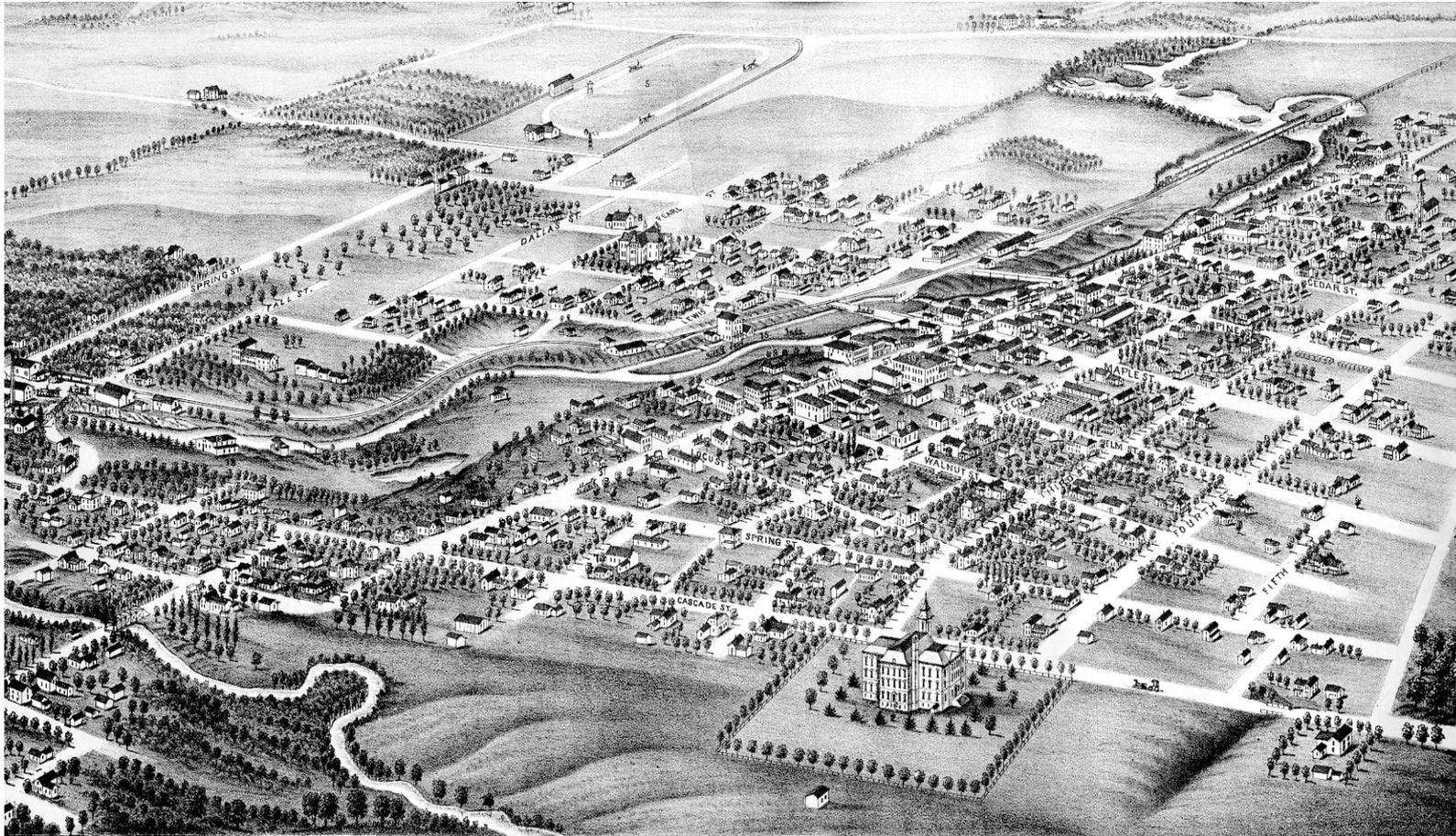




A Brief History of River Falls

A Tradition of Industry and Education

Early River Falls



1. Academy.
2. State Normal School.
3. R. R. Depot.
4. Post Office.
5. Fair Grounds.
6. Baptist Church.
7. Congregational Church.
8. Episcopal Church.
9. Methodist Church.
10. Roman Catholic Church.
12. Junction Mills, Freeman & Stephens.
13. Cooper Shops.
14. Cascade Mills, Wm. Barker.
15. Greenwood Mills, Geo. Fortuna.



18. Lumber and Feed Mill, J. Foster.
19. Tremont House, J. W. Eldred, Prop.
20. Commercial Hotel, J. E. Loucks.
21. Cooper Shop, L. Reynolds.
22. River Side House, J. Goodwin, Prop.
23. Central House, B. Mayer, Prop.
24. River Falls Brewery, C. F. Krauth.
25. W. J. Johnson & Co., City Livery.
26. Carriages and Agt. Imp., W. S. Ensign.
27. Lumber Yard, S. G. Evans.
28. Carriage Factory, N. Wales.
29. Foundry and Machinist, Young Bros.
30. Livery Stable, A. H. Lord.
31. Cooper Shop, F. Rogers.

Joel Foster

- Joel Foster was impressed by his first encounter with the area of what is now River Falls.
 - He went back to the area to spend the winter of 1848-1849
- Foster and his servant camped in a cave along the river below what is now the power plant.
 - Evidence of the cave has long been erased

The Traditions Begin...

- Nathaniel Powell asked Charlie Cox to build a mill in River Falls.



C. B. COX

- Cox traveled to River Falls from Clifton Hollow and constructed the Prairie Mill.
- The Prairie Mill became the first flour mill in River Falls.

Origin as a Mill Town

- Flour production was a cash crop industry that meant a lot of potential money existed in River Falls.
- The flour produced at the River Falls mills was shipped as far away as London, England.
- The Kinnickinnic provided an early source of power for the mills.

Popularity of Flour Production

- 1878 was roughly the height of flour production in River Falls due to the arrival of the train system which allowed for a more efficient means of grain and flour transportation.
- Grain production was so popular that farmers depleted the soil for future grain farming.

Prairie Mill

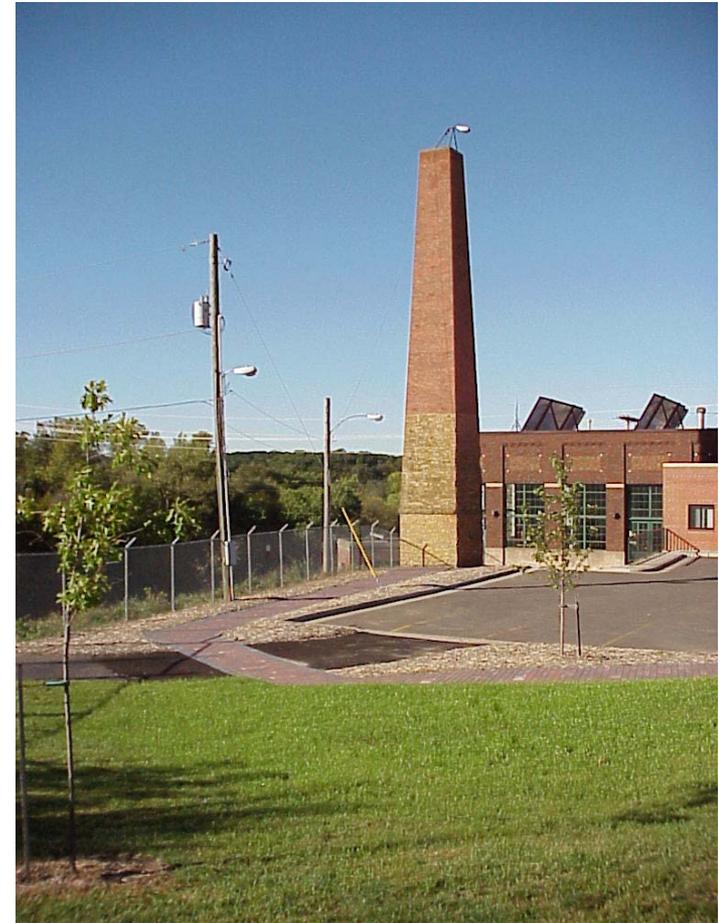
- The prairie mill was the first flour mill to be built in River Falls.
- It was located along North Main Street.



Junction Mill

- The largest mill in River Falls and was located where the power plant is today.
- Destroyed by arson fire in an attempt to collect insurance money.
- The original smokestack located at the mill remains standing next to the power plant.

Junction Mill Cont.



Greenwood Mill

- Located where the municipal parking lot across from City Hall is located today.



Cascade Mill

- Did not operate often due to insufficient water levels – either too low or too high.
- Became a popular picnic spot for residents of River Falls.
- And Today it is

Glen Park

- From its inception, Glen Park has always been a popular destination for people in River Falls.
- The origin of the name is from the Scottish word “glen” which means “deep valley.”

Characteristics of Early Settlers

- People from the northeastern portions of the United States first settled this area.
- They were industrious as exemplified by the development of the milling industry
- Education and religion was important to the early settlers.
- The emphasis on education persists in the community to this day.

Advent of Education in River Falls



- **1854** - \$500 dollars raised by public to build a wood frame school on 4th Street.
- **1855** – A supplemental private academy was established by a board of trustees.
- **1865** – Private academy was sold to the public school district for \$1,500.
- **1875** – A state law was passed to aid communities to establish public high schools.

River Falls Normal School

- Rapid population growth resulted in a shortage of instructors.
- The Normal School Act of 1865 created funds for normal schools.
- **1874-** River Falls became the fourth to establish a normal school in the state.

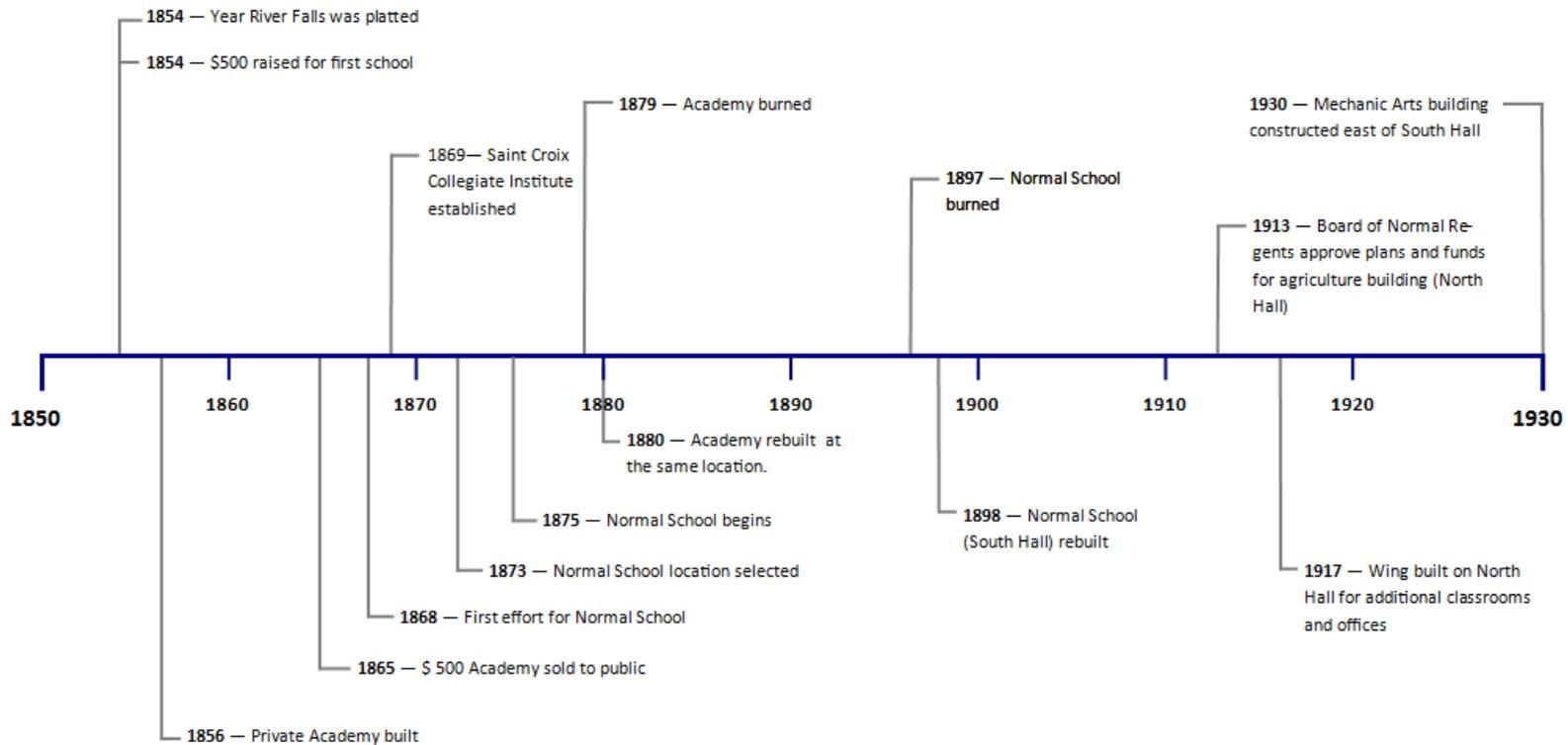


THE NEW NORMAL SCHOOL BUILDING.

University of Wisconsin – River Falls

- Began as the Fourth Normal School of Wisconsin in 1874.
- When a fire destroyed the school the future of River Falls' existence was put in doubt.
- The construction of what is now known as South Hall ensured that the Fourth Normal School stayed in River Falls.
- The survival of River Falls itself can be traced to this single building.

Education Timeline



Glover School House - Past

- Built circa 1920 along STH 35 and Glover Rd.
- Grades 1-8 learned reading, writing and arithmetic created funds for normal schools.
- Closed in 1962 due to consolidation of river Falls School District.
- It was later used as the Troy Town Hall



Glover School House - Present

- Purchased by the City of River Falls in 2003
- Relocated to DeSanctis Park
- Prolong the legacy of the building as an appropriate setting for historical education



The Traditions Continue...

- As industry in River Falls grows and UWRF remains strong, we are reminded of the long tradition that industry and education has in our city.

Historic Preservation

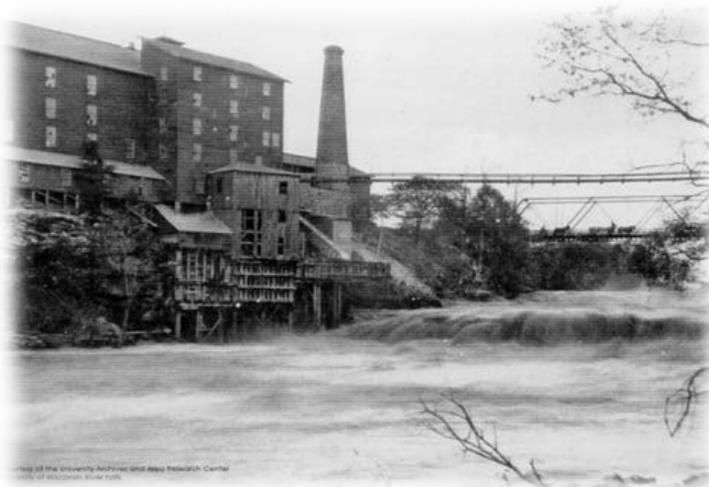
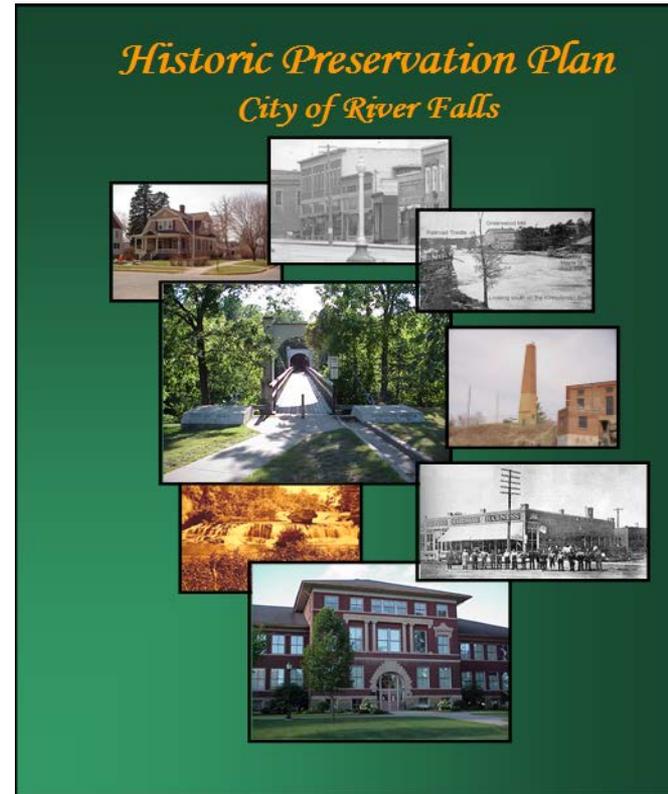
A COUNTRY WITHOUT A PAST HAS THE EMPTINESS OF A BARREN CONTINENT. A CITY WITHOUT OLD BUILDINGS IS LIKE A MAN WITHOUT A MEMORY.



Certified Local Government



Historic Preservation Plan



Historic Preservation Commission

- One of the core tenants of the Historic Preservation Commission (HPC) is to accomplish the protection, enhancement, and preservation of such improvements, sites and districts which represent or reflect elements of the City's cultural, social, economic, political and architectural history.



Plaque Program

Ingram Center 1927



- 1927 - Eri Coggeshall was the original owner of the home located on the corner of Maple and Lewis Street. His daughter, Mrs. Louise Ingram, donated the property to the City of River Falls to be used as a municipal hospital or a public park. The site consisted of six city lots. This home was used as a hospital until 1939.
- 1939 - City Hospital (Phase One) was built. The architectural style was classified as Artistic Utilitarian. The three story hospital was approximately 9,660 sq. ft. and included an elevator, several patient rooms, and a surgery room. This was the first hospital River Falls built. The first baby born in January 1939 was Kathleen Peekar Baker. The Eri Coggeshall home, previously used as the hospital, was converted to Hillcrest Nursing Home.
- 1951 - Phase Two completed and consisted of a two story 2,400 sq. ft. addition, which was used to house contagious patients. It was located towards the south end of the property and was a separate building.
- 1973 - Phase Three completed and consisted of a 1,720 sq. ft. two story addition, which connected the three buildings together. After this last addition, the building functioned as the City Hospital until 1975.
- 1975 - City Hospital and St. Joseph's Hospital merge to form River Falls Area Hospital and was located at 550 N. Main Street in River Falls (site of the current Public Library).
- 1976 - Eri Coggeshall building was torn down.
- 1978 - The building last functioned as the Ingram Center and housed FISH, Senior Citizens Center, City of River Falls Park & Recreation Department, Pierce County Reproductive Health, and a Youth Center.
- 2008 - Building demolished for new City Hall.
- 2009 - City Hall completed.



Significant Residences



Historical and Architectural Survey



**HISTORICAL & ARCHITECTURAL RESOURCES
SURVEY 2014-2015**

City of River Falls, Pierce and St. Croix Counties, Wisconsin



Prepared for:

The River Falls Historic Preservation Commission
River Falls, Wisconsin

Prepared by:



July 2015



National Register Nomination



Glen Park Suspension Footbridge
River Falls, Wisconsin

The Glen Park Suspension Footbridge, more commonly referred to as the "Swinging Bridge" was designed and built by the Minneapolis Bridge Company in 1905 in order to connect pedestrian traffic north of Cascade Avenue to Glen Park. Financing for the construction of the bridge, which cost a reported \$4,800, was raised by the Women's Improvement League. Upon its completion in October, the River Falls Journal reported that the bridge "...is universally declared as one of the best improvements the City has made in a long time." In 1968, the bridge was rehabilitated and it continues to serve as a pedestrian access to Glen Park.

The City of River Falls is currently preparing a National Register Nomination for the Glen Park Suspension Footbridge.

2025/11/14/10:45 AM

Place Stamp Here

POST CARD

Historic Preservation Commission
CITY OF RIVER FALLS

Historic Walking Tour Story Map

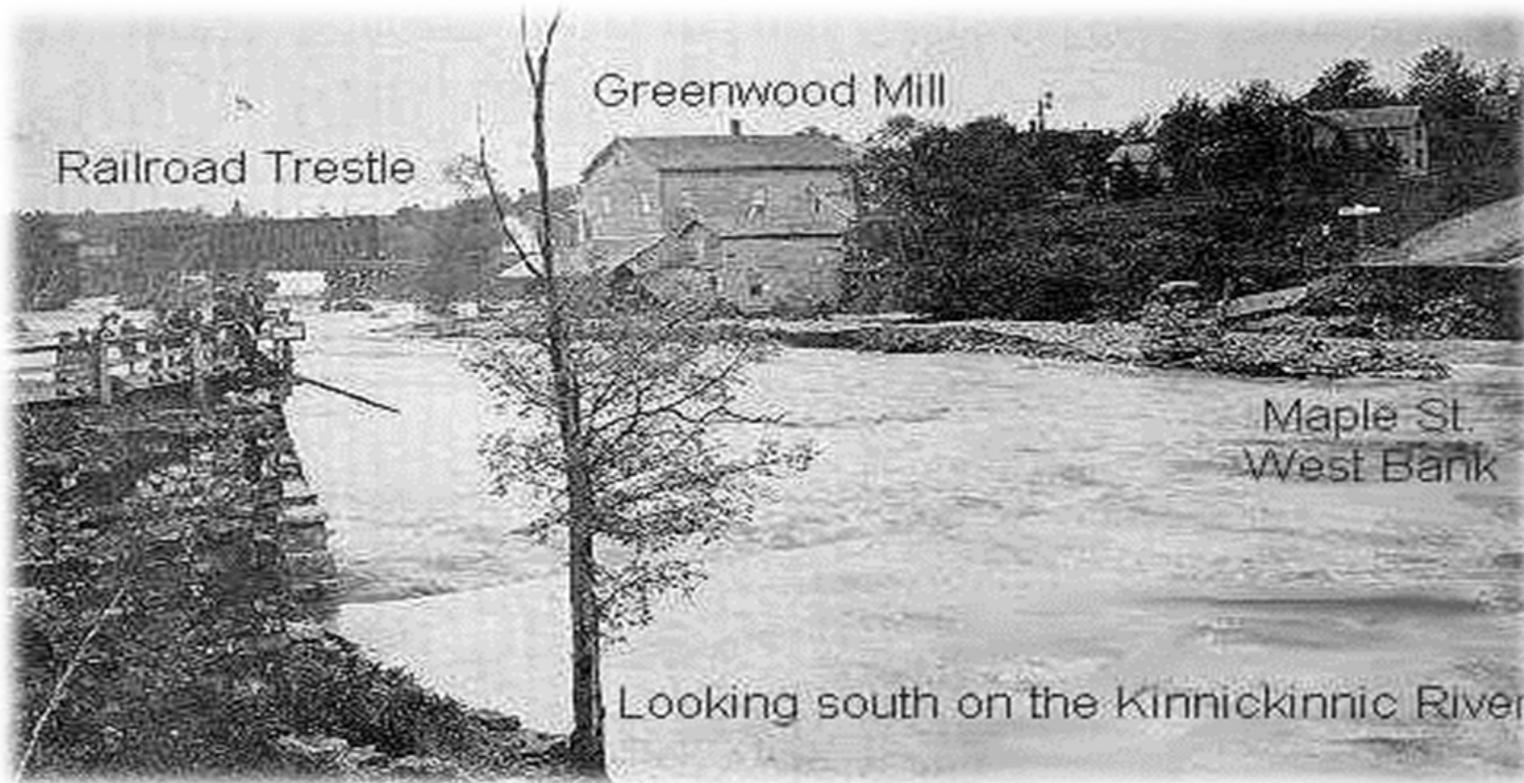


Heritage Park Bell

Prompted by members of the Pierce County Historical Association, the club funded the installation of the old city fire bell and the commemorative marker. The fire bell is a symbol of the long-standing history of the River Falls Fire Department in our community. There were only two bells made like this one in the United States. In order to let the members of the fire department know about a fire, the bell was struck with a maul or hammer. It wasn't until 1917 that a striker was purchased for the bell.

The bell is 35 inches tall, 51 3/4 inches wide and 168 inches around the bottom. It hung in a tower above the former River Falls City Hall on Elm Street from 1916 until the tower was removed during a renovation in 1957.

Questions



Where is this?