

## SAN FRANCISCO TOWNSHIP TOWNHALL (School District 22 schoolhouse)

This location first had a wood structure rural schoolhouse built in 1868. The original school- house burned down in April of 1917 and was then replaced by late Fall of 1917 with a "Chaska Brick" school house which stands here today. If you look around the building, you can see that this 103 year old building needs some major maintenance to insure it doesn't deteriorate any further. It is truly a historical rural schoolhouse that has also served as the San Francisco Township Townhall for decades. It is the only public building in San Francisco Township.

Rural schools consolidated into larger school districts during the 1940's and 1950's at the time school buses started providing transportation to elementary school kids. Prior to that, school kids had to walk to and from school, sometimes for several miles. There were 5 rural schoolhouses in San Francisco Township back then. Of the original 88 rural country schools in Carver County, there is only one "Chaska Brick" schoolhouse in the Carver County still standing. This was a one-room elementary school for kids in grades 1-8. After the consolidation process, this schoolhouse building's sole usage was for San Francisco Township meetings and elections. Historically, San Francisco Township has roots back to the 1800's when the Carver County Courthouse was located about 3 miles NE of here in the now defunct town of San Francisco which was then located along the Minnesota River. Our township is small in size and population, and most residents who live here like it that way.

There is a small local committee looking at placing this historic rural school building on the National Historic Place list. If that is accomplished, then grant money may become available to help pay for the expensive construction work that is needed to prevent further destruction of the exterior foundation. If we do nothing to save this historic building, then eventually it will decay to the point of being unuseful and unsafe for use as our townhall. The cost to tear it down and replace it with another building would fall on the taxpayers within our township. This local committee thought saving this school and getting it on the National Register was a better option for seeking grant money to help pay for some of these expensive repairs. We would appreciate any feedback as to any of your thoughts about the future of this historic rural schoolhouse (now the San Francisco Township Townhall). The monthly meeting of San Francisco Township is here at School District #22 school building on the 3<sup>rd</sup> Monday at 7pm. [sanfranciscotownship.com](http://sanfranciscotownship.com) is our information web site. If you have any questions or comments, or would like to get involved with the local historical committee, then going to the web site would be a good place to start. I envision this building being accessible to grade school tours to highlight what rural schooling looked like 100 years ago before school buses, running water and other conveniences we have come to expect today. This could also be used as a family reunion location, picnic outings, wedding site etc. Again, we would like township input to help steer the way toward the future of our townhall.

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