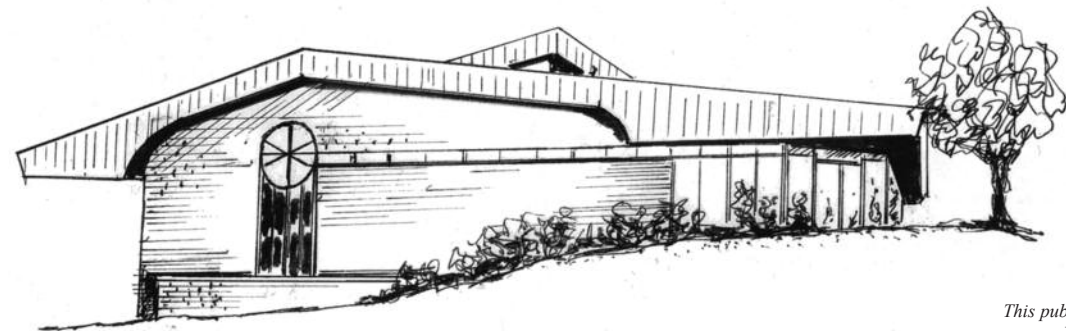


Rosemount History Timeline

- 1848 - Chief Medicine Bottle's Dakota Village at Pine Bend.
- 1853 - April, William Strathern, first area settler.
- 1854 - C. H. Carr opens public house and stage station on Mendota -Wabasha Road.
- 1854 - James Diffley, first west Rosemount settler.
- 1854 - Andrew Keegan claim on Keegan Lake.
- 1855 - Mrs. Morrison opens Prairie House hotel.
- 1858 - May 11 organized as township.
- 1858 - First one-room school house.
- 1865 - Minnesota Central RR crosses north-south.
- 1866 - Rosemount village founded, platted by James A. Case.
- 1867 - St. Joseph's Catholic Church opens on Lakeville property offered by Thomas Hyland.
- 1868 - St. Joseph's Temperance Society building. Building moved to Rosemount to become store, post office, jail, barber and beauty shops.
- 1875 - Feb. 16, Rosemount Village incorporates.
- 1881 - Geraghty mercantile and meeting hall built.
- 1881 - St. Joseph Catholic Church. Original church built in Lakeville in 1867.
- 1875 - St. Joseph's Rectory.
- 1867 - Grain elevators built by railroad.
- 1873 - G. Merrill Hardware sold to Fred Kloepping and Louis P. Warweg in 1875.
- 1885 - St. Croix Lumber Company opens.
- 1885 - William Cadzow Hotel.
- 1887 - Hynes Livery and Hotel.
- 1896 - School House.
- 1903 - Postmaster Thomas E. Devitt establishes Rosemount RFD routes.
- 1909 - State Bank of Rosemount chartered.
- 1912 - St. John's Missouri Synod Lutheran Church organized in Rich Valley.
- 1919 - Rosemount consolidated school; now part of Rosemount Middle School.
- 1921 - Sinclair Lewis movie "Free Air" segments filmed in Rosemount.
- 1938 - St. John's ALC Lutheran moved from Eagan to old Hyland Ave.
- 1942 - May 4, Gopher Ordnance Works (GOW) construction begins.
- 1942 - "Gopher Village" housing for "Works" staff.
- 1945 - August 11, GOW contract termination notice.
- 1954 - Great Northern Oil Company refinery constructed.
- 1961 - Brockway Glass plant No. 8 opened, closed in 1984. A major area employer. Pioneered glass recycling.
- 1969 - Koch Refining Company acquires Great Northern Oil Company.
- 1971 - Jan. 21, Rosemount village and township merge.
- 1974 - State statute changes village to a city.
- 1979 - First celebration of Leprechaun Days.
- 1994 - National Guard Armory and Community Center constructed.
- 1995 - Opening of Rosemount Business Park.
- 2002 - Koch Refining changes name to Flint Hills Resources, LP.



The City of Rosemount Municipal Center

The Rosemount City Hall was constructed in 1987 and enlarged in 2001. The building houses the Administration, Community Development, Engineering, Finance, and Police Departments.

*This publication was prepared by
W. G. Wolston
for the Rosemount Area Chapter of the
Dakota County Historical Society*



On April 6, 1858, Dakota County established Rosemount as one of its first 17 townships. On May 11, Rosemount organized. The township included 24 sections measuring four miles north-south and six miles east-west in the heart of the county.

Settlement before organization

When the county opened to settlement in 1853, William Strathern made the first Rosemount claim in today's Rich Valley area. In 1854, C. H. Carr opened a public house and stage station nearby on the Mendota-Wabasha Road.

In early 1854 James Diffley made western Rosemount's first claim in section 21. That spring Andrew Keegan staked a claim on the east shore of today's Keegan Lake. Keegan moved to Rosemount Village in 1866 .

By 1855 a wave of new settlers sought claims, filed claims, and built homes, farms and families. Pioneer life wasn't easy but it offered promise.

Township Organization

When Rosemount organized on May 11, 1858, J. H. Flannegan, the meeting's moderator, was elected board chairman, Strathern, assessor, and Keegan justice of the peace. The name Rosemount was selected over Saratoga for the township. By 1860 the population totaled 295. The Civil War's call to arms saw 39 men enlist, close to 50% of Rosemount's eligible males. The township's village, also called Rosemount, formed in 1866 on the Chicago, Milwaukee and St. Paul rail line. By 1880 the township's population totaled 848 and the village 116.

A brief history of
Rosemount
from Township
and Village to City
with a map of historic sites

Adding eastern sections

In 1871, 12 sections of Inver Grove township were attached extending Rosemount township to the Mississippi River. The addition included portions of Chief Medicine Bottle's village at Pine Bend.

Rosemount Village incorporates

In 1875 Rosemount village received state approval to incorporate. The first elected officers were James Farquhar, president; Fred Kloepping, Gottlieb Schmidt, Frank Garry, council; John C. Geraghty, treasurer; Andrew Keegan, justice of the peace; Philip Caren, constable.

Rich Valley community

A community called Rich Valley formed near the Chicago Great Western depot at today's 140th Street. It had eight postmasters from 1858 to 1935.

The Gopher Ordnance Works

Dominating Rosemount's modern history were land acquisitions for construction of a World War II powder plant and its legacy. The acquisition totaled 15 percent of Rosemount's land.

The City of Rosemount

On January 21, 1971, the village and township merged as the Village of Rosemount. Three years later, the village became a city by state statute.

The following pages present a
Rosemount History Map
highlighting community historic sites
and a timeline of significant events.

Rosemount History Map

Historic sites in the old Village of Rosemount

- A - 1855 site of Mrs. Morrison's Dodd Road Prairie House log cabin.
- B - 1866 site of first Post Office operated by Andrew Keegan.
- C - 1867 grain elevator still in use.



- D - 1868 St. Joseph's Temperance Hall site. Moved to village as seed-grain shop, auto parts, post office, beauty parlor, and barber shop.



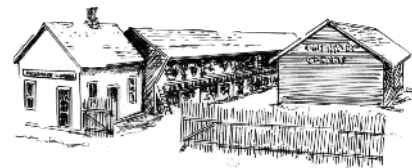
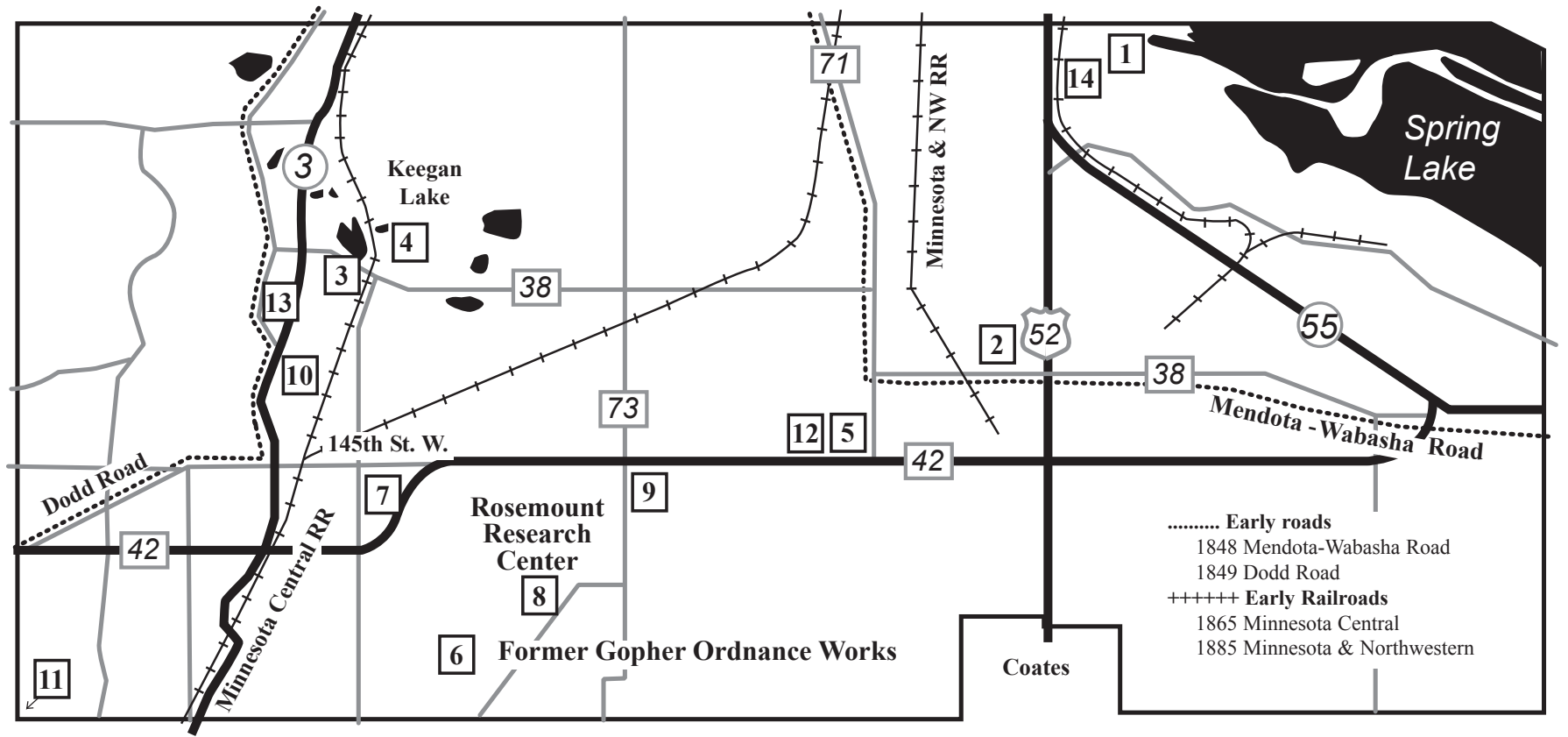
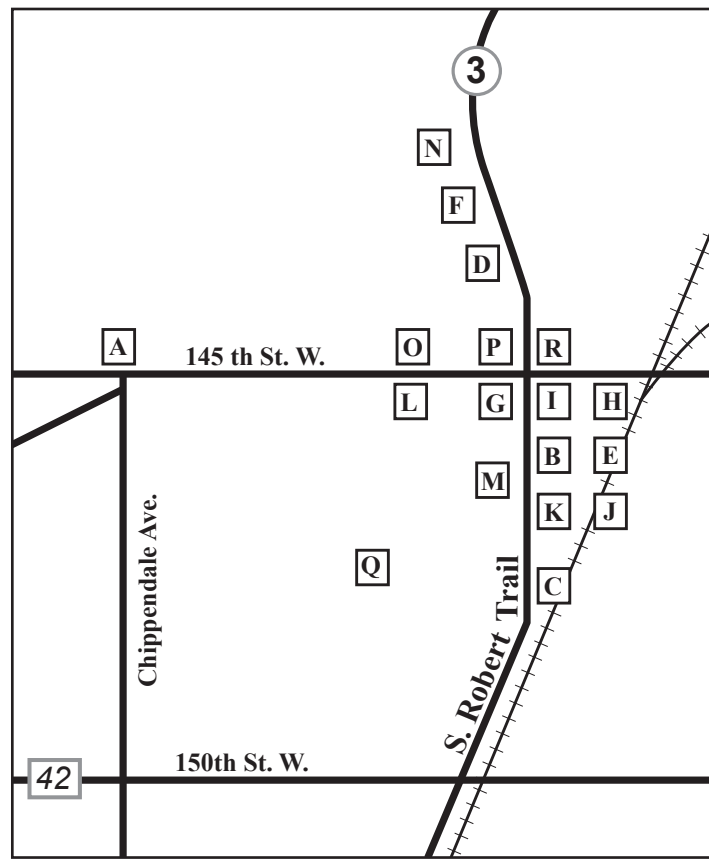
- E - Site of United Methodist Church built in 1874 for \$1,900 plus material gifts and volunteer labor.



- F - 1881 St. Joseph's Catholic Church. A cyclone destroyed the original Lakeville church in 1880.



- G - Geraghty Building site, 1881 mercantile store with meeting hall on second floor.



- H - Site of 1885 St. Croix Lumber, sold to builder Andrew Ward, 1902.



- L - 1907 Hagemester Meat Market site. Opened 1898 at nearby site.



- P - 1873 Merrill Hardware, later Kloeping and Warweg.



- M - Gibson's Barber Shop, site, opened 1907 by Dennis, closed 1964 by son Frank.



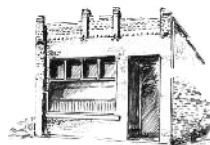
- Q - Originally St. John's ALC Lutheran Church moved from Eagan in 1938. Acquired by First Baptist Church in 1959 when St. John's moved to a new location.



- N - 1918, Rosemount School grades 1-12, now part of Middle School.



- R - 1887 Hynes Livery and Hotel, later home of Al's Cafe.



- K - 1903 site of first Rosemount Post Office building.

- O - Site of State Bank of Rosemount chartered in 1909.

- 1 - Site of Chief Medicine Bottle's Mdewakanton Pine Bend Village.

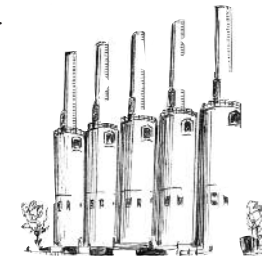
- 2 - 1853 site of Rosemount's first settler William Strathern claim.

- 3 - James Diffley's 1854 claim site.

- 4 - Keegan Lake, site of Andrew Keegan's 1854 land claim.



- 5 - St. John's Lutheran Church, Missouri Synod, formed in 1911 in Rich Valley.



- 6 - Site of World War II, 1942, Gopher Ordnance Works built to produce gun powder. Occupied

nearly five township sections, 858 buildings. Within six months 19,428 people were hired; 18 times Rosemount's population. The facility replaced over 90 farms. The Gopher Works closed in 1945.

- 7 - Gopher Village, housing area for "Works" management staff.

8 - A University of Minnesota Research Center replaced the Ordnance Works in 1947. The university focus is agricultural research and education.

9 - A Dakota County Technical School opened on former "Works" property at the southeast corner of Highway 42 and Akron in 1970.

Rosemount Cemeteries

- 10 - St. Joseph's Catholic
- 11 - Highland, St. Joseph's
- 12 - St. John's Luth., Rich Valley
- 13 - Rosemount Lutheran
- 14 - Pine Bend

History Timeline Next Page