



# Historic Building Has Another Purpose

Jennifer Koenig, MRWA NTNC Technical Advisor/Trainer

A number of years ago (my how time flies these days) I wrote an article about the Scott County Jail Annex, a small public water system located in Jordan, Minnesota (shown at right). This unique building, (now listed on the National Register of Historic Places) was built in 1915 and has served many purposes over the years.



The building is no longer used as a jail but is now used as a public safety training facility known as SCALE Regional Training Facility. The Scott County Association for Leadership and

“This unique building, built in 1915, has served many purposes over the years.”

Efficiency (SCALE) was created in 2003 to “encourage greater efficiencies and leadership in



public service through enhanced communication, collaboration of services and sharing of resources.” This facility is designed for public

safety training for law enforcement, firefighting, and public works groups.(1) Let me refresh your memory about the history of this facility.

## History of the Building

The story starts in the 1890s with an immigrant named Ole Rosendahl. He discovered sulphur springs on his property and was familiar with mud used for medical treatments in Germany and shortly after discovering the springs he opened a health resort in his home. The resort was called Rosendahl Sulphur Springs. The mud was used to treat medical problems including rheumatism.

The name of the resort changed from Rosendahl Sulphur Springs to Mudbaden Sulphur Springs Company in the early 1900s. As I mentioned earlier, the current building was constructed in 1915 and could accommodate and treat 200 patients.

Mudbaden had its own railway station and was known as both a hospital and resort. Mudbaden operated until 1947 as a health resort. After Mudbaden closed, the building was sold and used as a seminary. The seminary operated for 15 years and was known as Sacred Hearts of Novitiate. After being used as a seminary, the building was sold again in the early 1970s and became a chemical treatment facility known as Lynnville. (There is a rumor that Lucille Ball was a patient at Lynnville in the early 1970s.) In the late 1970s, Abbott-Northwestern bought the building and continued to operate a chemical treatment facility until 1985.

Scott County used the building as a jail until 2005. When walking the halls, there are constant reminders of the history of the building. The holes (now sealed) are still visible in the floors where the mud was pumped into the building for use in treating rheumatism. The stairs are another unique feature found inside the building. The stairs are short in height and are very long. This was to accommodate the patients who had arthritis. Much of the original woodwork remains inside the building. The dining hall also has two beautiful stained glass windows. The building has and continues to be very well maintained on both the inside and outside.(2)



## Renovations

To make the transition from jail to training facility, there were a number of renovations that needed to be done in the building. However, because it is listed on the National Register of Historic Places, there were some limitations as to what could be done. For instance, the exterior of the building needed to be left as historically significant as possible. All plans for changes to the building were discussed with the Historical Society prior to any changes

being made to the facility. The interior of the building received new paint that was done by Sentence to Serve individuals. Bathrooms received new fixtures and were updated to meet Americans with Disabilities Act requirements.



Because the building has operated as both a resort and jail, there are many bedrooms in the facility. Some of them have been converted to lodging rooms for students to stay in while attending training at the SCALE facility. The bed frames (with new mattresses) and nightstands remain in the bedrooms. Desks have been added to the bedrooms, donated by a local college that purchased new desks. All bedrooms now have hard-

wired smoke detectors. There is also a wing in the building that contains bedrooms down a long hallway that police officers use to practice drills as if they were in an apartment complex.

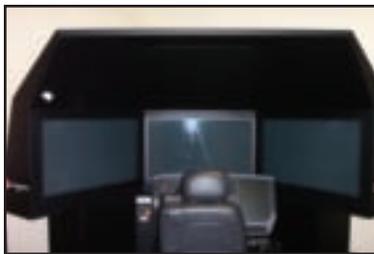
During the renovations, some old paneling was removed from the “Sun Room” and behind that paneling were some beautiful bricks. Before the “Sun Room” was constructed, these bricks were on the outside of the building. So, the brick remains in the “Sun Room” and adds character to this room that is now used as a lounge for students to relax in after attending class.

## Training Facility

As I mentioned earlier, this is a training facility for law enforcement, firefighters, and public works groups. Listed below are some unique features the SCALE training facility has to offer.

### \*Classrooms and Meeting Rooms.

**\*Driving Simulator** – This allows students to pick from a variety of vehicles (cars, snow plows, semi-trucks, fire trucks, ambulances, etc.) and scenarios (snow storms, rain, accidents, etc.). I actually tried this out and it was incredible!



**\*Fire Arms Simulator** – This allows law enforcement students to participate in a variety of different scenarios from hostage situations to assisting in removing a terminated employee from a business.



**\*Defensive Tactics Room** – The mats for this room were donated by a local high school.

### \*25-Yard and 200-Yard Firing Ranges

- These have been utilized not only by law enforcement groups but 4-H archery groups.



### \*Canine Training Area.

**\*Tactical Tower** – The tactical tower is located across the street from the main building. It includes an inside and outside stairwell, moveable walls, multiple burners for various fire fighting scenarios, full sprinkler system and an elevator shaft (does not include an elevator car). There are tie-off points on the roof of the building for law enforcement personnel to use to practice repelling down the side of the tower. The moveable walls make this a great building for both law enforcement and fire fighting personnel.



A concrete slab has recently been added in front of the tactical tower for fire trucks to park on while practicing drills. There is a pond near the tactical tower that provides water to the hydrants for fire fighting drills. The pond is fed by a separate well and can hold over 100,000 gallons of water.

\*There is an **old school bus** available for law enforcement personnel to practice hostage situations.

\*A local salvage yard brings old vehicles to the facility to allow students to **practice extricating victims from vehicles**. When the vehicles arrive they are intact but when they go back to the salvage yard, they are in pieces.



•Part of the concrete slab includes a mock manhole and lift station to allow for **practicing confined space entry** (shown at right).



## Conclusion

As I mentioned before, this is a great training facility that is available for groups to use for a variety of training purposes. It's great to see this historic building being used for such a great purpose! The building layout and location make it a perfect fit for a training facility. Many groups have used this facility already including law enforcement, fire fighters, SWAT teams, National Guard Units, 4-H Groups, Department of Corrections, and ship captains (to name a few!). If you are interested in using this training facility or if you are looking for more information, please contact Mike Briese, Operations Manager at 952-496-8948, [mbriese@co.scott.mn.us](mailto:mbriese@co.scott.mn.us) or visit the SCALE Regional Training Facility Web site [www.co.scott.mn.us/rtf](http://www.co.scott.mn.us/rtf).

## Thank You!

I would like to say a special “thank you” to Mike Briese and Tim McGovern for their help in writing this article. Thanks Tim for the tour, providing me with the information for this article, and answering all my questions!

1 SCALE Regional Training Facility, Scott County, Minnesota, [www.co.scott.mn.us/rtf](http://www.co.scott.mn.us/rtf) (accessed November 18, 2009).

2 Koenig, Jennifer, *Scott County Jail Annex*, Minnesota Rural Water Association *Today Magazine*, Winter 2004-2005 Edition