



MINNESOTA HISTORICAL SOCIETY  
Minnesota State Archives

## TRADE AND ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT DEPARTMENT

### An Inventory of Its Star City Program Files

#### OVERVIEW OF THE RECORDS

- Agency:** Minnesota. Dept. of Trade and Economic Development.
- Series Title:** Star City Program files,
- Dates:** 1981-1997.
- Abstract:** The majority of these records comprise the individual application files. There are also a small number of administrative files, that include general program information and presentation materials, a training manual, and a video.
- Quantity:** 12.2 cu. ft. (12 boxes and 1 partial box).
- Location:** See Detailed Description section for box locations.

#### ADMINISTRATIVE HISTORY OF THE STAR CITY PROGRAM

In 1981, the Star City Program was established by the Trade and Economic Development Department to help those Minnesota communities with a population between 1,500 and 20,000 develop their organizational, marketing and problem solving abilities through a rigorous course in economic development. Professional staff worked one-on-one with community leaders to implement an economic development strategy that would successfully retain and attract business and employment. A "Star City" designation was achieved following completion of a four phase process of organization, information gathering, planning and marketing. The application process often exceeded eighteen months. In 1987, the program was renamed the Star Program and expanded to accept applications from multi-community economic development units comprising larger cities, counties, or clusters of communities. Prior to the program's end in 1997, 143 jurisdictions were designated star cities/communities and were allowed to display "Star City/Community" signs [Minn. Stat. 173.085].

#### SCOPE AND CONTENTS OF THE RECORDS

The individual application files may include general information about the community and the quality of life there, local government designation, community profiles, one and five year plans, labor surveys, information on community assets and constraints, capital improvements, industry and financing, business retention, and presentational materials. Any general

correspondence has been placed in the front of each jurisdiction's folder, before the actual application. Files for several jurisdictions designated "star cities" are missing from these records. They were most likely never returned following their loan to other communities to use as models, a common practice of the program administration. There are also files for several jurisdictions that never completed the application process.

Ten to fifteen minute marketing videos accompanied many of the applications. They are housed separately at the end of the records. Although they contain much of the same information as the application, they offer a unique visual understanding of the local culture.

## **ARRANGEMENT OF THE RECORDS**

Divided into three sections: administrative files (1985-1992), application files (1981-1997), and video recordings (1981-1997). The latter two are arranged alphabetically by community name.

## **INDEX TERMS**

*These records are indexed under the following headings in the catalog of the Minnesota Historical Society. Researchers desiring materials about related topics, persons or places should search the catalog using these headings.*

### **Topics:**

Community development--Minnesota.  
Economic development projects--Minnesota.  
Rural development--Minnesota.  
State-local relations--Minnesota.

### **Places:**

Minnesota--Economic conditions.

### **Types of Documents:**

Video recordings--Minnesota.

## **ADMINISTRATIVE INFORMATION**

### **Preferred Citation:**

*[Indicate the cited volume and page or item and folder title here].* Minnesota. Dept. of Trade and Economic Development. Star City Program files. Minnesota Historical Society. State Archives.

*See the Chicago Manual of Style for additional examples.*

### **Accession Information:**

Accession number(s): 998-10 998-69

### **Processing Information:**

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## **DETAILED DESCRIPTION OF THE RECORDS**

*Note to Researchers: To request materials, please note both the location and box numbers shown below.*

**Administrative Files, 1985-1992.** 3 folders.

<b>Location</b>	<b>Box</b>	<b>Contents</b>
114.C.7.1B	1	General Information, 1989. Training manual, 1985. Presentation, 1985-1992. See also: "What is a Star City" video (box 11)

**Star Cities, 1981-1997.**

(For city files comprising two folders or more, the folders are individually itemized only if the additional folders are supplemental to the application itself. The videos noted in the file list are housed in boxes 11-12.)

<b>Location</b>	<b>Box</b>	<b>Contents</b>
114.C.7.1B	1	Ada, 1993. (See also video.) Aitkin, 1986-1990. 2 folders. (See also video.) Application, 1990. Aitkin Company Economic Assessment, 1986. Albany, 1989. (See also video.) Albert Lea, 1990. 2 folders. Alexandria, 1987. (See also video.) Annandale, 1989. (See also video.) [DTED says Annandale was never designated as a Star City.] Anoka, 1985. 2 folders. Apple Valley, 1985. 2 folders. Arlington, 1990. 2 folders. Austin, 1986. 2 folders. Babbitt, 1985. 2 folders. (See also video.)
<b>Location</b>	<b>Box</b>	<b>Contents</b>
114.C.7.2F	2	Becker, 1991. (See also video.) Belle Plaine, 1988. Bemidji, 1988.

Benson, 1983.  
 Big Lake, 1989.  
*[Blooming Prairie: Video only]*  
 Blue Earth, 1986. 2 folders.  
 Brainerd Lakes Area, 1991-1992.  
 Buffalo, 1985-1986.  
 Byron, 1990. 2 folders.  
 (See also video.)  
*[Caledonia: Video only]*  
 Cambridge, 1987. 2 folders.  
 Cannon Falls, 1989.  
 Centerville, 1993.  
 Champlin, 1986.  
 (See also video.)  
 Chaska, 1982.  
*[Chisholm: Video only]*  
 Cold Spring, 1989-1993. 2 folders.  
 Cook County, 1984. 2 folders.

Location	Box	Contents
114.C.7.3B	3	Coon Rapids, 1988. 2 folders. (See also video.) Cottage Grove, 1984-1988. Crookston, 1990-1997. 3 folders. (See also video.) <i>[Crystal: Video only]</i> Cuyuna Range (Including Crosby, Ironton, Deerwood, Emily, Cuyuna, Riverton, Trommald, and Bay Lake), 1990. (See also video.) Delano, 1982-1990. Detroit Lakes, 1989. (See also video.) Dilworth, 1989-1991. (See also video.) <i>[Dodge Center: Video only]</i> East Grand Forks, 1988-1989. (See also video.) East Range (includes Aurora, Hoyt Lakes, and White), 1984. 2 folders. <i>[Elk River: Video only]</i> Eveleth, 1986. Fairmont, 1990. 2 folders. Faribault, 1981-1989. 2 folders.

**Location      Box      Contents**

114.C.7.4F      4      Faribault, 1981-1989 (cont). 1 folder.  
Faribault County, 1985-1987. 2 folders.  
Fergus Falls, 1982.  
Fosston, 1985-1986.  
Fulda, 1989. 2 folders.  
Glencoe, 1988.  
                  (See also video.)  
Gonvick, 1987.  
                  (See also video.)  
                  [DTED says Gonvick was never designated as a Star City.]  
Grand Meadow, 1990. 2 folders.  
                  (See also video.)  
Grand Rapids, 1987.  
Granite Falls, 1987.  
Hallock, 1987.  
Henning, 1989.  
                  (See also video.)  
Hibbing, 1985. 2 folders.  
                  (See also video.)  
Houston County, 1984.  
                  [DTED says Houston was never designated as a Star County.]  
Hutchinson, 1993.  
                  Re-certification of Star City status.  
International Falls, 1991. 2 folders.  
                  (See also video.)

<b>Location</b>	<b>Box</b>	<b>Contents</b>
114.C.7.5B	5	Inver Grove Heights, 1986-1990. 2 folders. (See also video.) One folder is the re-certification of Star City status. Jackson, 1989. 2 folders. Janesville, 1988-1989. 2 folders. Jordan, 1984. [DTED says Jordan was never designated as a Star City.] Kandiyohi County, 1991. 2 folders. (See also video.) Kasson, 1993. 2 folders. Keewatin, 1987. 2 folders. Lake City, 1986. 2 folders. Lake Crystal, 1984-1990. 2 folders. (See also video.) Lakeville, 1984. 2 folders. (See also video.)

<b>Location</b>	<b>Box</b>	<b>Contents</b>
108.I.16.6F	[13]	Le Center, 1987. Le Sueur, 1982. (See also video.) Litchfield, 1986. 2 folders. Long Prairie, 1986. Madelia, 1990. Mahnomen, 1990. (See also video)
<b>Location</b>	<b>Box</b>	<b>Contents</b>
114.C.7.6F	6	Mankato, 1992. 2 folders. (See also video.) Maple Grove, 1990. Re-certification of Star City status. Milaca, 1987. Montevideo, 1981. Monticello, 1986. (See also video.) Re-certification of Star City status. Mora, 1983-1985. 2 folders. Mountain Iron, 1985. Mower County, 1993. (See also video.) Re-certification of Star County status. New Brighton, 1986. 2 folders. New London, 1991. (See also video.) New Ulm, 1987. 2 folders. (See also video.) New York Mills, 1993. (See also video.) Northfield, 1981.
<b>Location</b>	<b>Box</b>	<b>Contents</b>
114.C.7.7B	7	Norwood - Young America, 1987. Oakdale, 1994. (See also video.) Olivia, 1984. Osakis, 1981. Paynesville, 1991. <i>[Pelican Rapids: Video only]</i> Perham, 1990. 2 folders.

(See also video.)

Pine City, 1986. 2 folders.

Pine Island, 1988.

(See also video.)

[DTED says Pine Island was never designated as a Star City.]

Plainview, 1987.

Princeton, 1992. 3 folders.

Prior Lake, 1991. 2 folders.

*[Ramsey: Video only]*

Red Lake Falls, 1988.

(See also video.)

Redwood Falls, 1987.

<b>Location</b>	<b>Box</b>	<b>Contents</b>
114.C.7.8F	8	Renville, 1994. Rochester, 1986. 2 folders. Roseau, 1990. 2 folders. (See also video.) Rosemount, 1990. Saint James, 1986. 2 folders. Saint Peter, 1984. 2 folders. Sandstone, 1995. Savage, 1996. Shakopee, 1987. (See also video.) Slayton, 1988. Sleepy Eye, 1988-1989. (See also video.) Spring Valley, 1987. Staples, 1989. 2 folders. (See also video.)
<b>Location</b>	<b>Box</b>	<b>Contents</b>
114.C.7.9B	9	Stephen, 1990. 2 folders. Stevens County, 1988-1990. Stillwater Area (includes Bayport, Baytown, Oak Park Heights), 1989. 3 folders. (See also video.) <i>[Tyler: Video only]</i> Thief River Falls, 1985. Tracy, 1984. Two Harbors, 1988. (See also video.) Vadnais Heights, 1986.

Virginia, 1985. 2 folders.  
Wadena, 1989. 2 folders.  
Warren, 1989.  
(See also video.)  
Waseca, 1983-1984. 2 folders.  
Watertown, 1989.  
(See also video.)

<b>Location</b>	<b>Box</b>	<b>Contents</b>
114.C.7.10F	10	Wells, 1989. 2 folders. West Saint Paul, 1989. 2 folders. (See also video.)  White Bear Township, 1997. White Bear Lake, 1985. 2 folders. Willmar, 1991. (See also video.)  Windom, 1988. 2 folders. (See also video.)  Winona, 1987-1995. 3 folders. Winthrop, 1990. (See also video.)  Woodbury, 1985. 2 folders. Worthington, 1993. Zumbrota, 1993.

## Videos

<b>Location</b>	<b>Box</b>	<b>Contents</b>
113.A.3.2F	11	What is a Star City? Ada Aitkin Albany Alexandria Annandale Babbitt Becker Blooming Prairie Byron Caledonia Champlin Chisholm Coon Rapids Crookston Crystal Cuyuna Range

<b>Location</b>	<b>Box</b>	<b>Contents</b>
113.A.3.3B	12	Detroit Lakes Dilworth Dodge Center East Grand Forks Elk River Glencoe Gonvick Grand Meadow Henning Hibbing International Falls. 2 copies. Inver Grove Heights Kandiyohi County Lake Crystal Lakeville Le Sueur Mahnomen Mankato Monticello Mower County New London New Ulm New York Mills Oakdale Pelican Rapids Perham Pine Island Ramsey Red Lake Falls Roseau Shakopee Sleepy Eye Staples Stillwater Area Two Harbors Tyler Warren Watertown West Saint Paul Willmar Windom Winthrop <i>[box not quite full]</i>