

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES  
INVENTORY - NOMINATION FORM

(Type all entries - complete applicable sections)

STATE:	Minnesota	
COUNTY:	Brown	
FOR NPS USE ONLY		
ENTRY DATE		
DEC 27 1974		

## 1. NAME

COMMON:

August Schell Brewing Company

AND/OR HISTORIC:

August Schell Brewing Company

## 2. LOCATION

STREET AND NUMBER:

20th Street South

CITY OR TOWN:

New Ulm

CONGRESSIONAL DISTRICT:

2nd

STATE

Minnesota

CODE

22

COUNTY:

Brown

CODE

015

## 3. CLASSIFICATION

CATEGORY (Check One)	OWNERSHIP			STATUS	ACCESSIBLE TO THE PUBLIC
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> District	<input type="checkbox"/> Building	<input type="checkbox"/> Public	<input type="checkbox"/> Private	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Occupied	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Yes: Restricted
<input type="checkbox"/> Site	<input type="checkbox"/> Structure	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Private	<input type="checkbox"/> Both	<input type="checkbox"/> In Process	<input type="checkbox"/> Unoccupied
<input type="checkbox"/> Object				<input type="checkbox"/> Being Considered	<input type="checkbox"/> Preservation work in progress

PRESENT USE (Check One or More as Appropriate)

<input type="checkbox"/> Agricultural	<input type="checkbox"/> Government	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Park	<input type="checkbox"/> Transportation	<input type="checkbox"/> Comments
<input type="checkbox"/> Commercial	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Industrial	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Private Residence	<input type="checkbox"/> Other (Specify)	
<input type="checkbox"/> Educational	<input type="checkbox"/> Military	<input type="checkbox"/> Religious		
<input type="checkbox"/> Entertainment	<input type="checkbox"/> Museum	<input type="checkbox"/> Scientific		

## 4. OWNER OF PROPERTY

OWNER'S NAME:

August Schell Brewing Company (Warren Marti, President)

STREET AND NUMBER:

CITY OR TOWN:

New Ulm

STATE:

Minnesota

CODE

22

STATE:  
MinnesotaCOUNTY:  
Brown

CITY OR TOWN:

## 5. LOCATION OF LEGAL DESCRIPTION

COURTHOUSE, REGISTRY OF DEEDS, ETC.:

Brown County Courthouse - Registry of Deeds

STREET AND NUMBER:

State and Center Streets

CITY OR TOWN:

New Ulm

STATE

Minnesota

CODE

22

CITY OR TOWN:

COUNTY:  
Brown

CITY OR TOWN:

## 6. REPRESENTATION IN EXISTING SURVEYS

TITLE OF SURVEY:

Statewide Historic Sites Survey

DATE OF SURVEY: 1972, 1974

 Federal  State  County  Local

DEPOSITORY FOR SURVEY RECORDS:

Minnesota Historical Society

STREET AND NUMBER:

Building 25, Fort Snelling

CITY OR TOWN:

St. Paul

STATE

Minnesota

CODE

22

FOR NPS USE ONLY  
DEC 27 1974ENTRY NUMBER  
DATE

## 7. DESCRIPTION

## S E M I N S T R U C T I O N S

CONDITION	(Check One)					
	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Excellent	<input type="checkbox"/> Good	<input type="checkbox"/> Fair	<input type="checkbox"/> Deteriorated	<input type="checkbox"/> Ruins	<input type="checkbox"/> Unexposed
(Check One)						
	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Altered	<input type="checkbox"/> Unaltered		<input type="checkbox"/> Moved	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Original Site	

## DESCRIBE THE PRESENT AND ORIGINAL (if known) PHYSICAL APPEARANCE

The August Schell Brewing Company complex is in actuality comprised of five parts: The August Schell House and Garden/Park, the original House and Brewery, the Brew House, the Barrel House and Cellars, and the modern Bottling House. It is reached by a two mile drive from downtown New Ulm to the end of South Franklin Street. The buildings are situated on a sloping hillside on the bank of the Big Cottonwood River east of New Ulm. The entire setting is wooded and removed from any industrial area giving the whole secluded, estate-like appearance.

The August Schell House was constructed in 1880. It is elevated on a promontory a distance of about one-hundred yards from the brewery and is approached by a gravel path through extensive formal gardens. The house is constructed of local red brick with cut and dressed limestone quoins, sills, lintels and banding. In plan the building comprises a large mass with rear kitchen dependency forming an "L". It is two storeys in height with full walkout basement and finished attic under dormered mansard roof. Ornamental stonework is the medium conveying a "German Medieval" flavor in the buildings appearance. This may be noted in the drop-like pendants encorporated within the banding and in the stepped-gable effect of the central pavilions. In addition, squat truncated tournells mark the ends of the gables; and round stone window casements are set into the attic storey. A wooden porch highlights the south facade and is accessible through the dining room and kitchen. It is gothic in design, evidenced by quatrefoils set in the spandrels and repeated pointed arches.

The interior remains in virtually original condition, only changes being modernization of utilities. Upon entering the large double exterior doors with stained glass transom bearing the Schell name an elaborate walnut staircase with turned newell and balusters leads to second floor chambers. To the left a large arch opens into the parlor. Through this room, access is gained to the sitting room, library, and dining room. A door through the dining room connects the main section of the building to the kitchen wing.

The August Schell House is in an excellent state of preservation and is occupied by the Warren Marti family, decendents of the Schell family. The gardens receive expert care and are planted with much the same species as in August Schell's time.

The Original House and Brewery is located on the west end of the present brewery complex and at the east end of the path through the garden to the Schell House. This building served as both brewery and residence for August Schell and his family in 1860 when the brewery was founded. This use continued until construction of the large house. It is a simple red brick gabled structure of vernacular style. Today this building remains in use as the office for the brewery. A modern brick tap room addition links it with the Barrel House and Cellars to the east.

The Brew House constructed during the 1880's is the largest building in the brewery complex. It is situated on a hillside directly behind (north) of the Original House and Brewery. It is also constructed of red

## 3. SIGNIFICANCE

## PERIOD (Check One or More as Appropriate)

Pre-Columbian       16th Century       18th Century       20th Century  
 15th Century       17th Century       19th Century

## SPECIFIC DATE(S) (If Applicable and Known)

## AREAS OF SIGNIFICANCE (Check One or More as Appropriate)

Aboriginal	<input type="checkbox"/> Education	<input type="checkbox"/> Political	<input type="checkbox"/> Urban Planning
<input type="checkbox"/> Prehistoric	<input type="checkbox"/> Engineering	<input type="checkbox"/> Religion/Phi-losophy	<input type="checkbox"/> Other (Specify) _____
<input type="checkbox"/> Historic	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Industry	<input type="checkbox"/> Science	_____
<input type="checkbox"/> Agriculture	<input type="checkbox"/> Invention	<input type="checkbox"/> Sculpture	_____
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Architecture	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Landscape	<input type="checkbox"/> Social/Humanitarian	_____
<input type="checkbox"/> Art	<input type="checkbox"/> Architecture	<input type="checkbox"/> Theater	_____
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Commerce	<input type="checkbox"/> Literature	<input type="checkbox"/> Transportation	_____
<input type="checkbox"/> Communications	<input type="checkbox"/> Military		
<input type="checkbox"/> Conservation	<input type="checkbox"/> Music		

## STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE

Built just six years after the founding of New Ulm in 1854, and one year before the Civil War, the August Schell Brewing Company is the lone survivor of the seven breweries which have operated in New Ulm.

Founder of the brewery which still bears his name, August Schell came to Minnesota in 1856 as a member of the Turner Colonization Society. He was born in Durnbach, Germany, 15 February 1828. In 1848 he came to America and settled in Cincinnati, Ohio, where he followed the trade of machinist in the Cincinnati Locomotive works until moving on to New Ulm.

In New Ulm he became interested in the former Cincinnati Mill, later known as the Globe Mill. When that establishment was destroyed by fire, Schell and his partner, Jacob Bernhardt, decided to start a brewery along the picturesque banks of the Cottonwood River east of New Ulm. The brewery opened in 1860.

The first Schell's beer was produced in 1860 in the modest, but extremely efficient, combination brewery and home. A total of 200 barrels was brewed the first year. Newly dug wells on the property furnished the necessary water. However, the little brewery was not to progress uneventfully. During the Sioux Uprising of 1862, August Schell and his family were forced to seek safety in New Ulm, two miles away, and later in Saint Peter.

When Chief Little Crow of the Sioux instigated another attack, the small pioneering community of New Ulm suffered several weeks of pillage, along with loss of human lives. During the brewery's early years, the Schell family always had welcomed any curious Indians who came to look at their property. They were quick to offer their visitors food and German hospitality. Following the Sioux Uprising, Schell returned with his family to the brewery, anticipating to find it in smouldering ruins. Instead, they discovered both the house and brewery intact and relatively undisturbed even though it was evident the Indians had been there.

After purchasing his partner's interest a few years later, Schell continued as head of the brewery until he became an invalid in 1877. In the meantime his sons Adolph and Otto had worked side by side with their father and the operation of the brewery passed to them. Otto Schell had learned his brewing techniques at New Ulm from his father and had studied with brewmasters in Chicago. In addition, he went to Europe to study the art under the brewmasters of the long established European breweries.

## 9. MAJOR BIBLIOGRAPHICAL REFERENCES

Kennedy, Roger, Minnesota Houses  
St. Paul Dispatch, 3 October 1974  
New Ulm Daily Journal, 12 September 1974  
Interview with Frank Niemann, great grandson of August Schell  
Schell papers, Brown County Historical Society

## 10. GEOGRAPHICAL DATA

LATITUDE AND LONGITUDE COORDINATES DEFINING A RECTANGLE LOCATING THE PROPERTY			LATITUDE AND LONGITUDE COORDINATES DEFINING THE CENTER POINT OF A PROPERTY OF LESS THAN TEN ACRES		
CORNER	LATITUDE	LONGITUDE	OR	LATITUDE	LONGITUDE
NW	Degrees Minutes Seconds	Degrees Minutes Seconds		44 ° 17' 21"	94 ° 27' 02"
NE					
SE					
SW					

APPROXIMATE ACREAGE OF NOMINATED PROPERTY: approx. 8 acres

LIST ALL STATES AND COUNTIES FOR PROPERTIES OVERLAPPING STATE OR COUNTY BOUNDARIES

STATE:	CODE	COUNTY	CODE
STATE:	CODE	COUNTY:	CODE
STATE:	CODE	COUNTY:	CODE
STATE:	CODE	COUNTY:	CODE

## 11. FORM PREPARED BY

NAME AND TITLE:

Charles W. Nelson - Historic Sites Survey and Planning

ORGANIZATION

Minnesota Historical Society

DATE

1 November 1974

STREET AND NUMBER:

Building 25, Fort Snelling

CITY OR TOWN:

St. Paul

STATE

Minnesota

CODE

22

## 12. STATE LIAISON OFFICER CERTIFICATION

## NATIONAL REGISTER VERIFICATION

As the designated State Liaison Officer for the National Historic Preservation Act of 1966 (Public Law 89-665), I hereby nominate this property for inclusion in the National Register and certify that it has been evaluated according to the criteria and procedures set forth by the National Park Service. The recommended level of significance of this nomination is:

National  State  Local 

Name

Russell W. Fridley

Title

Minnesota Historical Society

Date

December 7, 1974

I hereby certify that this property is included in the National Register.

Director, Office of Archeology and Historic Preservation

A. W. Mortenson

ATTEST:

W. H. Huntzler  
Keeper of the National Register

Date DEC 26 1974

SEE INSTRUCTIONS

15/384270  
4904780  
CD

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES  
INVENTORY - NOMINATION FORM

(Continuation Sheet)

STATE	Minnesota	
COUNTY	Brown	
FOR NPS USE ONLY		
ENTRY NUMBER	DATE	
DEC 27 1974		

(Number all entries)

## 7. Description

brick and is four high storeys in height. The cooker is located on the third level with machinery and boilers below and in the wing to the east. Of interest is the Linde Ice Machine Ammonia Compressor for the refrigeration system located on the ground level. It was manufactured by the Fred W. Wolf Company of Chicago and patented 1884. It continues in excellent working order.

Immediately to the south of the Brew House are the Barrel House and Cellars. This building dates earlier than the Brew House and originally served as Barrel House/Bottling House. It is four storeys in height and is constructed of red brick. It is extremely simple in design, the dominant feature being a corbelled brick parapet. Additions have been made to both east and west facades in order to accommodate increased demands for production and storage space.

The final element in the complex is the Bottling House, constructed in 1952. It is abutted to the west wall of the Brew House and is of no historical significance. It was also constructed to meet increased production space demand.

In total the August Schell Brewing Company complex represents 114 years of continuous occupation and development in a single location. All buildings and areas are in an excellent state of maintenance and preservation and future plans of the management indicate that this concern will continue. Physically, no building has been demolished or altered in a major way as to obscure architectural features; and the inter-relationship of all elements present an easily discernable story of the brewing industry.

## 8. Significance

Unable to engage actively in the affairs of the brewery, August Schell turned his attention to care and development of beautiful gardens on the brewery grounds. He saw one of his fondest dreams materialize when his new home was built in 1880 surrounded by the many flowers, trees, vineyards, and animals which he loved.

August Schell died in 1891 and Otto Schell became manager of the brewery. He continued in that capacity until his death in 1911 when he was succeeded by his brother-in-law, George Marti who had married August Schell's daughter, Emma. Administration of the brewery has continued in the Marti/Schell family to the present date, making it the oldest brewery in Minnesota under single family management.



74 001007

Property August Schell Brewing CompanyState Minn.

Working Number

12.11.74.2142

Brown

## TECHNICAL

Photos 6Maps 1

## CONTROL

cm

OK

12.12.74

## HISTORIAN

## ARCHITECTURAL HISTORIAN

Not all areas checked are discussed in #8, but  
 I think there's enough info in the nov.  
 to accept it.

Accept  
 Norman  
 12/18/74

## ARCHEOLOGIST

Accept  
 M. Barnes  
 18 Dec 74

## OTHER

## TO HAER

I AM GIVING SOMEONE HAS FINALLY INCLUDED THE  
 MACHINERY IN THE BREWERY.

## HAER

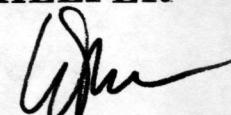
Inventory 88-12/18Review Accept End 12/18

## REVIEW UNIT CHIEF

Accept  
 Colz  
 12/20/74

## BRANCH CHIEF

## KEEPER



DEC 26 1974

National Register Write-up

11/9/74

Send-back \_\_\_\_\_

Entered

DEC 27 1974

Federal Register Entry

2-4-75

Re-submit \_\_\_\_\_

INT:2106-74



NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES  
PROPERTY PHOTOGRAPH FORM

(Type all entries - attach to or enclose with photograph)

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STATE	Minnesota	
COUNTY	Brown	
FOR NPS USE ONLY		
ENTRY NUMBER	DATE	
DEC 27 1974		

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2. LOCATION

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20th Street South

CITY OR TOWN:

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STATE:

Minnesota

CODE

22

COUNTY:

Brown

CODE

015

3. PHOTO REFERENCE

PHOTO CREDIT: Charles W. Nelson

DATE OF PHOTO: September 1974

NEGATIVE FILED AT:

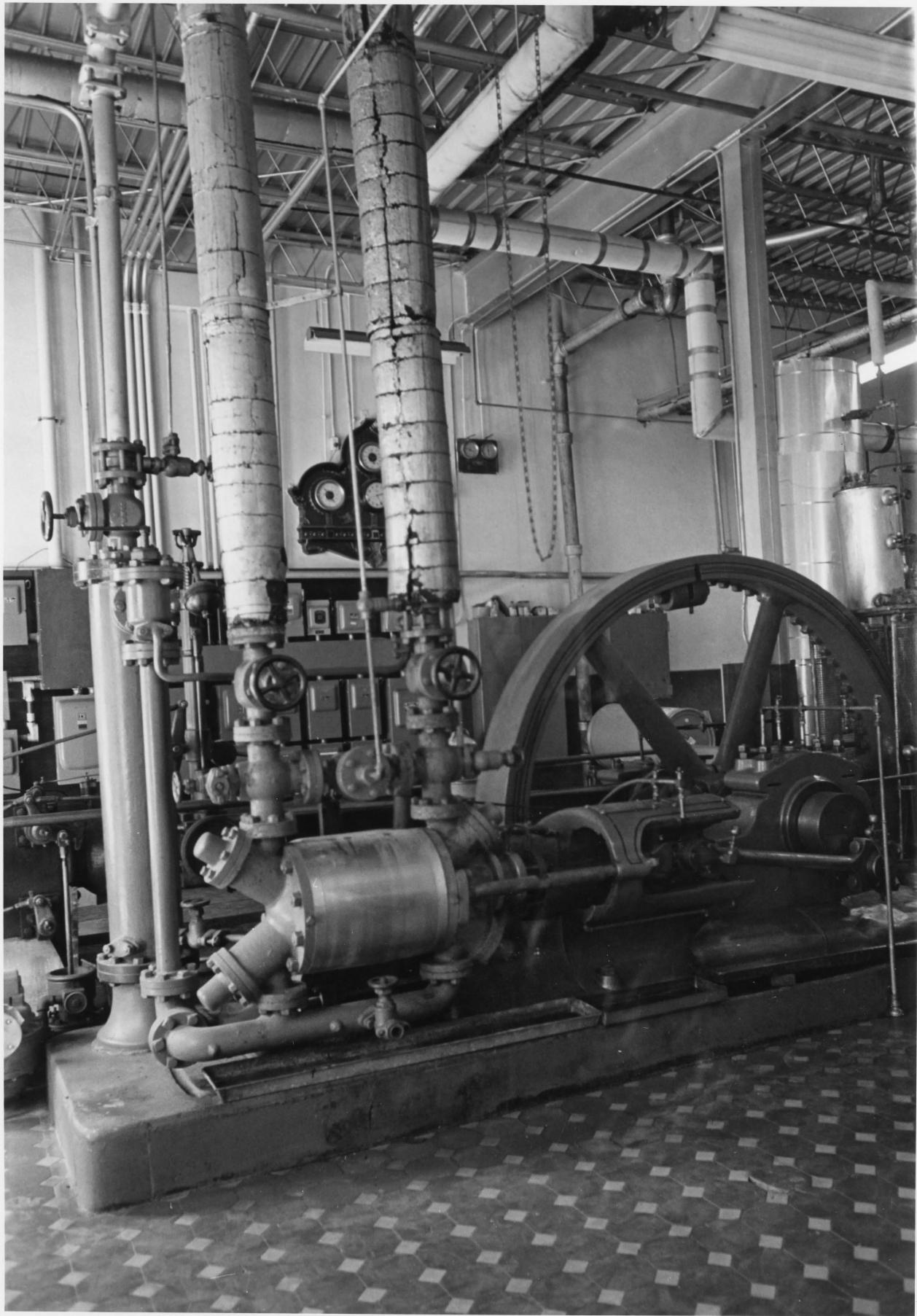
Minnesota Historical Society, 690 Cedar Street, St. Paul, Minnesota 55101

4. IDENTIFICATION

DESCRIBE VIEW, DIRECTION, ETC.

Brew House, perspective view from Southeast

#1986



**NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES**  
**PROPERTY PHOTOGRAPH FORM**

*(Type all entries - attach to or enclose with photograph)*

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COUNTY:

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CODE

015

**3. PHOTO REFERENCE**

PHOTO CREDIT: Charles W. Nelson

DATE OF PHOTO: September 1974

NEGATIVE FILED AT:

Minnesota Historical Society, 690 Cedar Street, St. Paul, Minnesota 55101

**4. IDENTIFICATION**

DESCRIBE VIEW, DIRECTION, ETC.

Ammonia compressor on ground floor of Brew House for refrigeration of cellars

#2026



NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES  
PROPERTY PHOTOGRAPH FORM

(Type all entries - attach to or enclose with photograph)

S E E I N S T R U C T I O N S

STATE	Minnesota	
COUNTY	Brown	
FOR NPS USE ONLY		
ENTRY NUMBER	DATE	
DEC 27 1974		

1. NAME

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AND/OR HISTORIC: August Schell Brewing Company

2. LOCATION

STREET AND NUMBER:

20th Street South

CITY OR TOWN:

New Ulm

STATE:

Minnesota

CODE

22

COUNTY:

Brown

NATIONAL  
REGISTER

CODE

015

3. PHOTO REFERENCE

PHOTO CREDIT: Charles W. Nelson

DATE OF PHOTO: September 1974

NEGATIVE FILED AT:

Minnesota Historical Society, 690 Cedar Street, St. Paul, Minnesota 55101

4. IDENTIFICATION

DESCRIBE VIEW, DIRECTION, ETC.

August Schell House, East elevation

# 3086



NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES  
PROPERTY PHOTOGRAPH FORM

*(Type all entries - attach to or enclose with photograph)*

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STATE	Minnesota	
COUNTY	Brown	
FOR NPS USE ONLY		
ENTRY NUMBER	DATE	
DEC 27 1974		

1. NAME

COMMON: August Schell Brewing Company

AND/OR HISTORIC: August Schell Brewing Company

2. LOCATION

STREET AND NUMBER:

20th Street South

CITY OR TOWN:

New Ulm

STATE:

Minnesota

CODE

COUNTY:

22

Brown

CODE

015

3. PHOTO REFERENCE

PHOTO CREDIT: Charles W. Nelson

DATE OF PHOTO: September 1974

NEGATIVE FILED AT:

Minnesota Historical Society, 690 Cedar Street, St. Paul, Minnesota 55101

4. IDENTIFICATION

DESCRIBE VIEW, DIRECTION, ETC.

Original Brewery Building, perspective view from Southwest

#4086



NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES  
PROPERTY PHOTOGRAPH FORM

(Type all entries - attach to or enclose with photograph)

S E E I N S T R U C T I O N S

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FOR NPS USE ONLY		
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20th Street South

CITY OR TOWN:  
New Ulm

STATE:  
Minnesota

CODE  
22

COUNTY:  
Brown

CODE  
015

3. PHOTO REFERENCE

PHOTO CREDIT: Charles W. Nelson

DATE OF PHOTO: September 1974

NEGATIVE FILED AT:  
Minnesota Historical Society, 690 Cedar Street, St. Paul, Minnesota 55101

4. IDENTIFICATION

DESCRIBE VIEW, DIRECTION, ETC.

August Schell House from approach to garden and vineyard

#5076



August Schell.

1828 - 1891.

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES  
PROPERTY PHOTOGRAPH FORM

(Type all entries - attach to or enclose with photograph)

S E E I N S T R U C T I O N S

STATE	Minnesota	
COUNTY	Brown	
FOR NPS USE ONLY		
ENTRY NUMBER	DATE	
DEC 27 1974		

1. NAME

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2. LOCATION

STREET AND NUMBER:  
20th Street South

CITY OR TOWN:  
New Ulm

STATE: Minnesota CODE 22 COUNTY: Brown

RECEIVED  
DEC 11 1974  
NATIONAL  
REGISTER

CODE  
015

3. PHOTO REFERENCE

PHOTO CREDIT: Brown County Historical Society (reproduced by Charles W. Nelson)

DATE OF PHOTO: ca 1880

NEGATIVE FILED AT:  
Minnesota Historical Society, 690 Cedar Street, St. Paul, Minnesota 55101

4. IDENTIFICATION

DESCRIBE VIEW, DIRECTION, ETC.

Portrait of August Schell

# 6026

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES  
PROPERTY MAP FORM

(Type all entries - attach to or enclose with map)

SEE INSTRUCTIONS

STATE	Minnesota	
COUNTY	Brown	
FOR NPS USE ONLY		
ENTRY NUMBER..	DATE	
DEC 27 1974		

1. NAME

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STREET AND NUMBER:

20th Street South

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New Ulm

STATE:

Minnesota

CODE

22

COUNTY:

Brown

CODE

015

3. MAP REFERENCE

SOURCE:

USGS - New Ulm Quadrangle, Minnesota - 7.5 Minute Series

SCALE:

1:24000

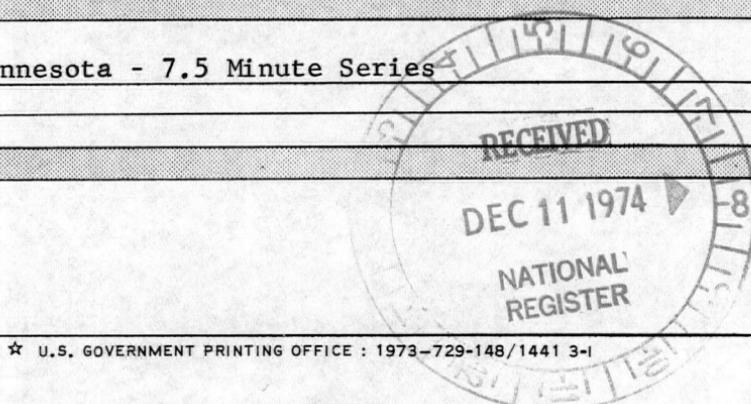
DATE:

1964

4. REQUIREMENTS

TO BE INCLUDED ON ALL MAPS

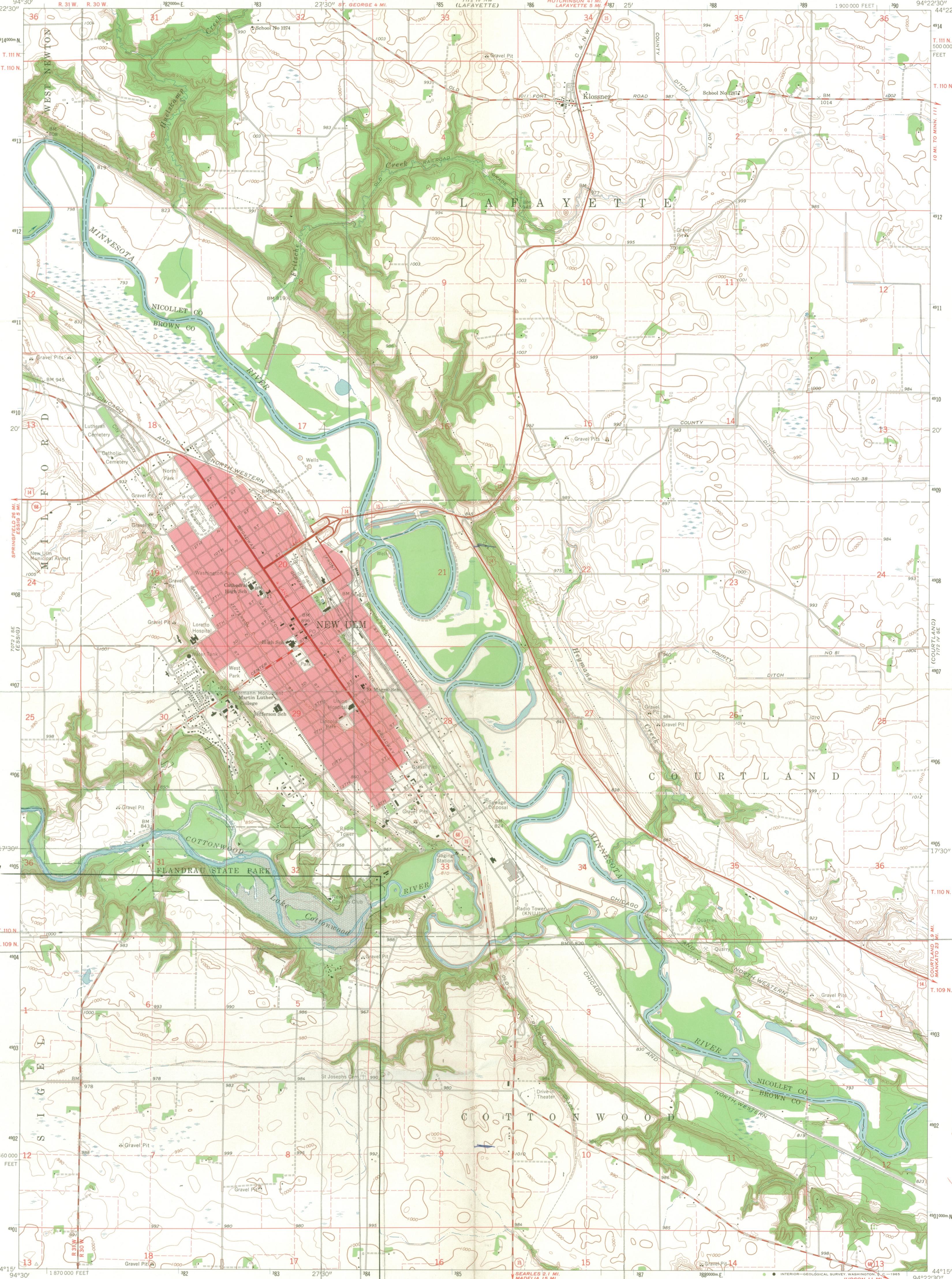
1. Property boundaries where required.
2. North arrow.
3. Latitude and longitude reference.



UNITED STATES  
DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR  
GEOLOGICAL SURVEY

STATE OF MINNESOTA  
DEPARTMENT OF CONSERVATION

NEW ULM QUADRANGLE  
MINNESOTA  
7.5 MINUTE SERIES (TOPOGRAPHIC)



Mapped, edited, and published by the Geological Survey

Control by USGS and USC&GS

Topography by photogrammetric methods from aerial

photographs taken 1963. Field checked 1964

Polyconic projection. 1927 North American datum

10,000-foot grid based on Minnesota coordinate system, south zone

1000-meter Universal Transverse Mercator grid ticks,

zone 15, shown in blue

Red tint indicates areas in which only landmark buildings are shown

Area covered by dashed light-blue pattern

is subject to controlled inundation

Fine red dashed lines indicate selected fence and field lines where

generally visible on aerial photographs. This information is unchecked

UTM GRID AND 1964 MAGNETIC NORTH

DECLINATION AT CENTER OF SHEET

1° 18 MILS

124 MILS

THIS MAP COMPLIES WITH NATIONAL MAP ACCURACY STANDARDS

FOR SALE BY U.S. GEOLOGICAL SURVEY, DENVER, COLORADO 80225, OR WASHINGTON, D.C. 20242

A FOLDER DESCRIBING TOPOGRAPHIC MAPS AND SYMBOLS IS AVAILABLE ON REQUEST

ROAD CLASSIFICATION

Heavy-duty — Light-duty —

Medium-duty — Unimproved dirt -----

U.S. Route — State Route —

NEW ULM, MINN.

N4415—W9422.5/7.5

1964

AMS 7172 IV SW—SERIES V872

UTM: 15.384270.4904780



ENTRIES IN THE NATIONAL REGISTER

STATE **MINNESOTA**

Date Entered **DEC 27 1974**

Name

Location

August Schell Brewing Company

New Ulm  
Brown County

Minnesota Point Lighthouse

Duluth  
St. Louis County

Dania Hall

Minneapolis  
Hennepin County

Also Notified

Hon. Walter F. Mondale  
Hon. Hubert H. Humphrey

State Historic Preservation Officer  
Mr. Russell W. Fridley

Hon. Ancher Nelsen

Director

Hon. John A. Blatnik

Minnesota Historical Society

Hon. Donald M. Fraser

690 Cedar St.

Mr. Richard Leverty, Corps of  
Engineers

St. Paul, Minnesota 55101

Regional Director, Midwest Region