

APR 16 1979

HISTORIC NAME: Bjorneberg Garage COUNTY: Brown  
 CURRENT NAME: Farmers Co-op Garage CITY/TWP.: Hanska  
 LEGAL DESC.: O.P. B11 L22, 23, 24 ADDRESS: Broadway

CLASSIFICATION:	CONDITION:	SIGNIFICANCE:	THEME/S:
Building <u>X</u>	Excellent _____	Local <u>X</u>	Primary <u>Commerce</u>
Structure _____	Good <u>X</u>	State _____	Secondary _____
Object _____	Fair _____	National _____	Others _____
District _____	Deteriorated _____		

OPEN TO THE PUBLIC: Yes X No \_\_\_\_\_ Restricted X PRESENT USE:  
 VISIBLE FROM THE ROAD: Yes X No \_\_\_\_\_ Garage  
 OCCUPIED: Yes X No \_\_\_\_\_

DATE CONSTRUCTED: c.1919 ORIGINAL USE: Garage  
 ORIGINAL OWNER: Lawrence Bjorneberg ARCHITECT/BUILDER: Unknown

OWNER'S NAME AND ADDRESS: Farmers Co-op of Hanska Hanska, MN 56041	ACREAGE: Less than one acre <u>X</u>
LOCAL CONTACT/ORG.: Brown County Historical Society 27 No. Broadway, New Ulm, MN 56073	UTM REFERENCE: 15 / 380530 / 4889185 Hanska Quad.
FORM PREPARED BY: Dennis Gimmetad DATE: January 1979	

## DESCRIPTION:

The Bjorneberg Garage is a large rectangular building located on the main thoroughfare of Hanska.

The building utilizes the basic features common to automobile sales and service garages built during the late teens and early 20s; the brick of the front facade has a limited amount of rectilinear relief work and is capped with a parapet of rectilinear design. Some sections of the facade are composed of vertically-laid brick. While the wooden infill of the original window and door openings detracts somewhat from the current cosmetic appearance of the building, it has not altered the basic fabric.

Features of primary interest on the building are three cast-concrete bas-relief panels on the upper portion of the front facade. The two side panels depict a landscape with an automobile as a central element; the center panel over the main entrance clearly labels the building's function with the letters "GARAGE".

Local sources disagree as to the origin of the panels. Some assert they were manufactured at the Saffert Construction Company (later American Artstone Company) in New Ulm, while others claim they were shipped to Hanska from "out of state". The Saffert Company had begun ornamental concrete work in 1915.

## SIGNIFICANCE:

Hanska resident Lawrence Bjorneberg constructed his service garage building in 1919, and it continues to house the same function today under the Farmers Co-operative Elevator Company of Hanska.

The building is significant as a typical service garage building type, augmented by the unique front facade concrete panels. These panels are handsome and explicit reminders of the introduction of a significant technological innovation whose effect on the changing commerce patterns of the rural county continues to be felt today.