

MINNESOTA HISTORIC PROPERTIES INVENTORY FORM

70001203

HISTORIC NAME: Fesenmaier, Bernard, House ADDRESS: 426 N. State
 COUNTY: Brown
 CURRENT NAME: CITY/TWP.: New Ulm
 LEGAL DESC.: O.P. B101N L8 - Front 100' ADDRESS: 426 N. State

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

OPEN TO THE PUBLIC: Yes No X Restricted PRESENT USE: Residence
 VISIBLE FROM THE ROAD: Yes X No
 OCCUPIED: Yes X No

DATE CONSTRUCTED: c. 1888 ORIGINAL USE: Residence
 ORIGINAL OWNER: Bernard Fesenmaier ARCHITECT/BUILDER: Unknown

OWNER'S NAME AND ADDRESS: Valburger Manderfeld
 426 N. State
 New Ulm, MN 56073 ACREAGE: Less than one acre X

LOCAL CONTACT/ORG.: UTM REFERENCE:
 15 / 383080 / 4907880
 New Ulm Quad

FORM PREPARED BY: Dennis A. Gimmestad
 DATE: January 1979

DESCRIPTION:

The Bernard Fesenmaier House is a one-and-one-half story L-shaped gable-roofed house. The polychromed exterior is of red brick with buff brick detailing in arched window hoods, simulated quoining, and ornamental courses under the eaves. Windows at the street level are single two-over-two units; the same type are used in pairs in the gables of the second level. A sawn wood porch (which has been screened in but which retains good integrity) shelters the main entrance in the interior corner of the "L". Two chimneys in each section of the "L" pierce the gable roof. A lean-to extension to the rear utilizes the same detailing as the rest of the house.

The house is well-maintained and has good over-all integrity.

SIGNIFICANCE:

One architectural historian has seen in the polychromed features of the Bernard Fesenmaier House a clear sign of a self-conscious adaptation of German forms by the builders. Whether or not we accept his specific hypothesis, it is clear that the many one-and-one-half story rectangular and L-shaped homes built in New Ulm between the Indian War of 1862 and the turn of the century have played a large part in establishing the city's reputation for a "German architecture".

Many examples of both the rectangular and the L-shaped homes have survived in New Ulm, yet very few remain in unaltered condition. Most often, the porch has been radically altered; other alterations by window rearrangement or structural additions are also common. The Fesenmaier House is the best standing example of the type incorporating both the polychromed brick detailing and other original features.

The house was built as a retirement home by Cottonwood Township farmer Bernard Fesenmaier in about 1888. He and his family lived in the house until his death in 1909.

As representative of a house type which was common during the building years of New Ulm, which is somewhat unique in the area, and which is popularly associated with the German tradition of the community, the Fesenmaier House is significant and merits preservation.