

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

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**NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
INVENTORY -- NOMINATION FORM**

SEE INSTRUCTIONS IN *HOW TO COMPLETE NATIONAL REGISTER FORMS*
TYPE ALL ENTRIES -- COMPLETE APPLICABLE SECTIONS

1 NAME

HISTORIC

**

Gust Akerlund's Photographic Studio

AND/OR COMMON

Gust Akerlund's Photographic Studio

LOCATION

STREET & NUMBER

390 Broadway Avenue

__NOT FOR PUBLICATION

CITY, TOWN

Cokato

__ VICINITY OF

CONGRESSIONAL DISTRICT

Sixth

STATE

Minnesota

CODE

27

COUNTY

Wright

CODE

171

CLASSIFICATION

CATEGORY

OWNERSHIP

STATUS

PRESENT USE

__DISTRICT

__PUBLIC

OCCUPIED

__AGRICULTURE

__MUSEUM

BUILDING(S)

PRIVATE

__UNOCCUPIED

COMMERCIAL

__PARK

__STRUCTURE

__BOTH

__WORK IN PROGRESS

__EDUCATIONAL

PRIVATE RESIDENCE

__SITE

PUBLIC ACQUISITION

ACCESSIBLE

__ENTERTAINMENT

__RELIGIOUS

__OBJECT

__IN PROCESS

YES: RESTRICTED

__GOVERNMENT

__SCIENTIFIC

__BEING CONSIDERED

__YES: UNRESTRICTED

__INDUSTRIAL

__TRANSPORTATION

__NO

__MILITARY

__OTHER:

OWNER OF PROPERTY

NAME

Mrs. Gust Akerlund

STREET & NUMBER

390 Broadway Avenue

CITY, TOWN

Cokato

__ VICINITY OF

STATE

Minnesota

LOCATION OF LEGAL DESCRIPTION

COURTHOUSE,
REGISTRY OF DEEDS, ETC.

Wright County Courthouse - Registry of Deeds

STREET & NUMBER

CITY, TOWN

Buffalo

STATE

Minnesota

6 REPRESENTATION IN EXISTING SURVEYS

TITLE

Statewide Historic Sites Survey

DATE

1973

__FEDERAL STATE __COUNTY __LOCAL

DEPOSITORY FOR
SURVEY RECORDS

Minnesota Historical Society - Building 25, Fort Snelling

CITY, TOWN

Saint Paul

STATE

Minnesota

7 DESCRIPTION

CONDITION		CHECK ONE	CHECK ONE
<input type="checkbox"/> EXCELLENT	<input type="checkbox"/> DETERIORATED	<input type="checkbox"/> UNALTERED	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> ORIGINAL SITE
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> GOOD	<input type="checkbox"/> RUINS	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> ALTERED	<input type="checkbox"/> MOVED DATE _____
<input type="checkbox"/> FAIR	<input type="checkbox"/> UNEXPOSED		

DESCRIBE THE PRESENT AND ORIGINAL (IF KNOWN) PHYSICAL APPEARANCE

The Gust Akerlund Photography Studio is located on a corner lot at 390 Broadway Avenue in Cokato. It is a simple, single storey, wood frame building which combines photography studio and owner's residence. It remains relatively unaltered (with the exception of re-siding of the south facade with asphalt composition singles and the residence portion with stucco) since its construction in 1903. Original narrow-lap clapboard exists beneath. The narrow-lap clapboard has been retained unsheathed on the north and east (principal) facades. A narrow, open porch with turned columns extends the length of the east facade; this porch is the only decorative element employed on the exterior.

The interior arrangement comprises the photography studio (office, dressing room, posing room and darkroom) in the Broadway Avenue section with the photographer's residence placed to the rear adjacent to the alley. The posing room is most noteworthy, with a one-and-one-half storey skylight of translucent glass on the north wall. The ceiling in this room is of pressed metal in geometric patterns. The entire west wall is devoted to a painted canvas scene which serves as a backdrop for the subject during a photo session.

Many of the original (1903) furnishings such as photographer's chairs, occasional tables, desk and cabinets remain in the building. Akerlund's large wooden-case portrait camera also remains.

8 SIGNIFICANCE

PERIOD	AREAS OF SIGNIFICANCE -- CHECK AND JUSTIFY BELOW			
<input type="checkbox"/> PREHISTORIC	<input type="checkbox"/> ARCHEOLOGY-PREHISTORIC	<input type="checkbox"/> COMMUNITY PLANNING	<input type="checkbox"/> LANDSCAPE ARCHITECTURE	<input type="checkbox"/> RELIGION
<input type="checkbox"/> 1400-1499	<input type="checkbox"/> ARCHEOLOGY-HISTORIC	<input type="checkbox"/> CONSERVATION	<input type="checkbox"/> LAW	<input type="checkbox"/> SCIENCE
<input type="checkbox"/> 1500-1599	<input type="checkbox"/> AGRICULTURE	<input type="checkbox"/> ECONOMICS	<input type="checkbox"/> LITERATURE	<input type="checkbox"/> SCULPTURE
<input type="checkbox"/> 1600-1699	<input type="checkbox"/> ARCHITECTURE	<input type="checkbox"/> EDUCATION	<input type="checkbox"/> MILITARY	<input type="checkbox"/> SOCIAL/HUMANITARIAN
<input type="checkbox"/> 1700-1799	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> ART	<input type="checkbox"/> ENGINEERING	<input type="checkbox"/> MUSIC	<input type="checkbox"/> THEATER
<input type="checkbox"/> 1800-1899	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> COMMERCE	<input type="checkbox"/> EXPLORATION/SETTLEMENT	<input type="checkbox"/> PHILOSOPHY	<input type="checkbox"/> TRANSPORTATION
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 1900-	<input type="checkbox"/> COMMUNICATIONS	<input type="checkbox"/> INDUSTRY	<input type="checkbox"/> POLITICS/GOVERNMENT	<input type="checkbox"/> OTHER (SPECIFY)
		<input type="checkbox"/> INVENTION		

SPECIFIC DATES 1903

BUILDER/~~ARCHITECT~~ Gust Akerlund

STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE

The Akerlund Photographic Studio is one of the rare, extant examples of an early 20th century photographic studio which has been serving the community of Cokato, Minnesota for more than 70 years.

The Akerlund Studio was built on the corner lot on Fourth and Broadway in Cokato, Minnesota in 1903. August Bernard Akerlund, born in Sweden arrived in the United States in his 20s, first living in Wisconsin. After learning the photographic trade in Ironwood, Michigan, he arrived in Cokato in 1902 and established his studio. Night classes in chemistry taken from the University of Minnesota allowed Akerlund to develop his own high quality prints. Drawing his customers from a tri-county area, photographs of weddings, anniversaries and confirmations remain today bearing the imprint, "Photo by Akerlund". His studio is still run by a photographer who uses Akerlund's "posing" chairs, canvas backdrops, skylight and workroom equipment.

