

United States Department of the Interior  
National Park Service

APR 04 1989

National Register of Historic Places  
Registration Form

NATIONAL  
REGISTER

This form is for use in nominating or requesting determinations of eligibility for individual properties or districts. See instructions in *Guidelines for Completing National Register Forms* (National Register Bulletin 16). Complete each item by marking "x" in the appropriate box or by entering the requested information. If an item does not apply to the property being documented, enter "N/A" for "not applicable." For functions, styles, materials, and areas of significance, enter only the categories and subcategories listed in the instructions. For additional space use continuation sheets (Form 10-900a). Type all entries.

1. Name of Property

historic name Kuehn, Lucas, House  
other names/site number N/A

2. Location

street & number 306 East Main St.  not for publication N/A  
city, town Wabasha  vicinity N/A  
state Minnesota code MN county Wabasha code 157 zip code 55981

3. Classification

Ownership of Property	Category of Property	Number of Resources within Property	
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> private	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> building(s)	Contributing	Noncontributing
<input type="checkbox"/> public-local	<input type="checkbox"/> district	<u>1</u>	<u>          </u> buildings
<input type="checkbox"/> public-State	<input type="checkbox"/> site	<u>          </u>	<u>          </u> sites
<input type="checkbox"/> public-Federal	<input type="checkbox"/> structure	<u>          </u>	<u>          </u> structures
	<input type="checkbox"/> object	<u>1</u>	<u>          </u> objects
			<u>          </u> Total

Name of related multiple property listing:  
Red Brick Houses in Wabasha, Minnesota  
Associated with Merchant-Tradesmen  
Number of contributing resources previously listed in the National Register 0

4. State/Federal Agency Certification

As the designated authority under the National Historic Preservation Act of 1966, as amended, I hereby certify that this  nomination  request for determination of eligibility meets the documentation standards for registering properties in the National Register of Historic Places and meets the procedural and professional requirements set forth in 36 CFR Part 60. In my opinion, the property  meets  does not meet the National Register criteria.  See continuation sheet.  
Nina M. Archabal 2/15/89  
Signature of certifying official Nina M. Archabal Date  
Minnesota State Historic Preservation Officer  
State or Federal agency and bureau Minnesota Historical Society

In my opinion, the property  meets  does not meet the National Register criteria.  See continuation sheet.  
Signature of commenting or other official \_\_\_\_\_ Date \_\_\_\_\_  
State or Federal agency and bureau \_\_\_\_\_

5. National Park Service Certification

I, hereby, certify that this property is:  
 entered in the National Register.  
 See continuation sheet.  
 determined eligible for the National Register.  See continuation sheet.  
 determined not eligible for the National Register.  
 removed from the National Register.  
 other, (explain:) \_\_\_\_\_  
Beth Boland Determined Eligible  
5/13/81  
Signature of the Keeper Date of Action

---

**6. Function or Use**

---

Historic Functions (enter categories from instructions)

DOMESTIC/Single Dwelling

---

---

---

Current Functions (enter categories from instructions)

DOMESTIC/Single Dwelling

---

---

---

---

**7. Description**

---

Architectural Classification

(enter categories from instructions)

Italianate

---

---

---

Materials (enter categories from instructions)

foundation Cement

---

walls Brick

---

roof Asphalt

---

other Limestone sills

---

Wooden porch

---

---

**Describe present and historic physical appearance.**

The Lucas Kuehn House is an Italianate two-story solid red brick dwelling on a corner site. It rests on a cement-plastered native limestone foundation. The plan juxtaposes two offset rectangles of equal height and proportions, the larger of these oriented around a side hall and facing the main street. A third, one-story wing once jutted from the rear of the building; it has been replaced with an attached garage. A small sunroom addition, also one story, has been added to the southeast of the main wing. Both of these changes occurred in the 1920s, and were sympathetically done in a matching brick.

A large wooden porch fills the entrant angle of the two main wings; this has been enclosed in modern times. The front door canopy is also an apparent replacement of a full-length veranda shown in the 1891 Sanborn map, although its ornate brackets and pendants are the most elaborate ornamentation of the exterior. The eaves are unbracketed or otherwise detailed. What gives the house its strongly Italianate flavor are very tall first-story 2/2 double hung windows crowned with window hoods carved of wood with limestone keys.

Neither of the two main wings has been altered in any way affecting floor plan or fenestration. Alterations to the rear and side are sympathetic and reflect changes in function occurring early in the automobile era.

**8. Statement of Significance**

Certifying official has considered the significance of this property in relation to other properties:

nationally  statewide  locally

Applicable National Register Criteria  A  B  C  D

Criteria Considerations (Exceptions)  A  B  C  D  E  F  G

Areas of Significance (enter categories from instructions)

Architecture

Commerce

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

Period of Significance

1878-1938

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

Significant Dates

1878

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

Cultural Affiliation

N/A

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

Significant Person

Kuehn, Lucas

Architect/Builder

Unknown

\_\_\_\_\_

State significance of property, and justify criteria, criteria considerations, and areas and periods of significance noted above.

The Lucas Kuehn House is a good example of the Italianate style and of significance as the residence of Wabasha's premier 19th century merchant. Kuehn's house was the first known to be built in the style and was shortly followed by two neighboring dwellings in the same manner for his daughters, their husbands being principal members of Kuehn's dry goods and grocery business. Kuehn's firm, the Kuehn Mercantile Company, was already established in a brick block a short distance down Main Street, and would be joined in the early 1880s by another Kuehn enterprise, the Commercial, Hotel, in the block between the store and the row of houses.

Lucas Kuehn had this house constructed and made his mark in Wabasha during the period embraced by the state historic context of Agricultural Development and Railroad Construction. Arriving in the newly platted town in 1855, Kuehn set up a bakery on borrowed money in 1862, which he exchanged for a general trade business two years later. By 1868, he had erected his first business block. In 1874, three years after the introduction of railroads into Wabasha, Kuehn's block tripled in size and became the largest store in town, a position it held into the 20th century. The Kuehn Block is now listed in the NRHP as part of the Wabasha Commercial Historic District. The railroad era also allowed Kuehn to cash in on land holdings across the river in Wisconsin, which supplied lumber for ties delivered to the Chicago, Milwaukee and St. Paul Railroad yard in West Wabasha. Kuehn's mercantile enterprise spanned the entire railroad era, for he was reported to be active into his mid-80s in 1920. Kuehn died in 1943.

The Kuehn House was the first dwelling in Wabasha to be built in the Italianate style, which was the climatic mode of expression in the city's series of red brick houses. The Kuehn House characterizes the design through its box-like, two-story shape and formally balanced elevations. Tall first floor windows which are accentuated by pronounced limestone moldings further enhance the style.

As Wabasha's initial Italianate house and the dwelling of its leading merchant, the Kuehn House holds a major place in the multiple property listing, Red Brick Houses in Wabasha, Minnesota Associated with Merchant-Tradesmen.

See continuation sheet

**9. Major Bibliographical References**

Curtiss-Wedge, Franklin, et al. History of Wabasha County. Winona: H.C. Cooper, 1920.  
Directory of Wabasha County, Minnesota, 1896-1897. Wabasha: Interstate Directory Co.  
History of Wabasha County... Chicago: H.H. Hill and Co., 1884.  
Minnesota Gazetteer and Business Directory. St. Paul: Groff and Bailey, 1865.  
United States census records, Wabasha County, 1880.  
Wabasha, 1891. New York: Sanborn Map Co.  
Wabasha County Assessor's records for City of Wabasha, 1876-1900.  
Wabasha, Minnesota, 1880 (birds-eye view), reprinted in The Wabasha Herald, October 9, 1980.

See continuation sheet

Previous documentation on file (NPS):

- preliminary determination of individual listing (36 CFR 67) has been requested
- previously listed in the National Register
- previously determined eligible by the National Register
- designated a National Historic Landmark
- recorded by Historic American Buildings Survey # \_\_\_\_\_
- recorded by Historic American Engineering Record # \_\_\_\_\_

Primary location of additional data:

- State historic preservation office
- Other State agency
- Federal agency
- Local government
- University
- Other

Specify repository: \_\_\_\_\_

**10. Geographical Data**

Acreage of property Less than one

UTM References

A 

1	5
---	---

5	7	7	3	2	0
---	---	---	---	---	---

6	9	1	4	5	9	0
---	---	---	---	---	---	---

  
Zone Easting Northing

C 

--	--

--	--	--	--	--	--

--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--

B 

--	--

--	--	--	--	--	--

--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--

  
Zone Easting Northing

D 

--	--

--	--	--	--	--	--

--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--

See continuation sheet

Verbal Boundary Description

The nominated property occupies Lot 5 of Block 1 of Milligan's Addition of the city of Wabasha.

See continuation sheet

Boundary Justification

The boundary includes the entire city lot that has historically been associated with the property.

See continuation sheet

**11. Form Prepared By**

name/title Paul C. Larson  
organization N/A date July 1987  
street & number 1181 Raymond telephone 612-641-0915  
city or town St. Paul state MN zip code 55108

United States Department of the Interior  
National Park Service

# National Register of Historic Places Continuation Sheet

Section number \_\_\_\_\_ Page \_\_\_\_\_

---

Kuehn, Lucas, House Wabasha County MINNESOTA 89000369  
(Red Brick Houses in Wabasha, Minnesota, Associated with Merchant-Tradesmen  
MPS)

LIFTING OF OWNER OBJECTION APPROVED

Entered in the  
National Register

*By Mr. Lapsley 7/29/94*

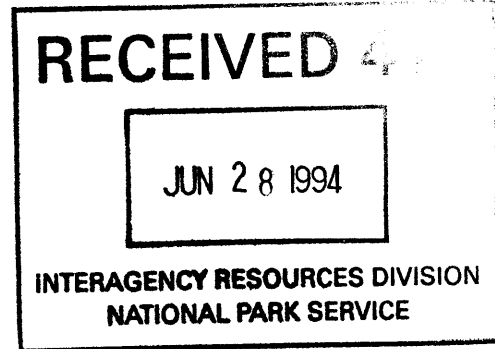


MINNESOTA HISTORICAL SOCIETY

89-000001

June 14, 1994

Ms. Carol Shull  
Chief of Registration  
National Register of Historic Places  
Interagency Resources Division  
U.S. Department of the Interior  
800 North Capitol Street NW  
Washington, D.C. 20013-7127



Dear Ms. Shull:

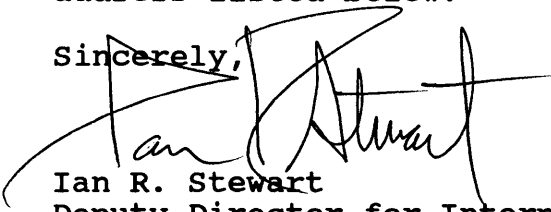
RE: Lucas Kuehn House, 306 East Main Street, Wabasha, Wabasha  
County, Minnesota

The above property was determined eligible for listing on the  
National Register on May 15, 1989. It was not listed because the  
owners of the property officially objected.

The house has been acquired by new owners and they request that  
the objection be lifted and the property listed on the National  
Register. Please see their notarized letter.

If your staff have questions about this property, please contact  
Susan Roth, National Register Historian at 612/296-5434 or the  
address listed below.

Sincerely,

  
Ian R. Stewart  
Deputy Director for Interpretive Programs  
Deputy State Historic Preservation Officer  
Minnesota Historical Society

encl. Owner Letter