

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
INVENTORY - NOMINATION FORM

(Type all entries - complete applicable sections)

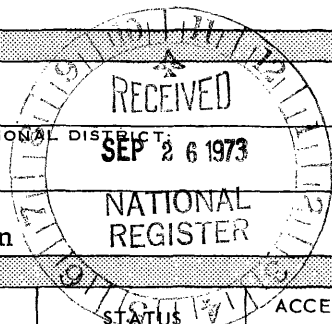
STATE: Minnesota
COUNTY: Brown
FOR NPS USE ONLY
ENTRY DATE OCT 2 1973

1. NAME

COMMON: Hermann Monument
AND/OR HISTORIC:

2. LOCATION

STREET AND NUMBER: Hermann Heights Park			
CITY OR TOWN: New Ulm		CONGRESSIONAL DISTRICT:	
STATE: Minnesota	CODE: 23	COUNTY: Brown	CODE: 015



3. CLASSIFICATION

CATEGORY (Check One)	OWNERSHIP		STATUS	ACCESSIBLE TO THE PUBLIC
<input type="checkbox"/> District <input type="checkbox"/> Building <input type="checkbox"/> Site <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Structure <input type="checkbox"/> Object	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Public <input type="checkbox"/> Private <input type="checkbox"/> Both	Public Acquisition: <input type="checkbox"/> In Process <input type="checkbox"/> Being Considered	<input type="checkbox"/> Occupied <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Unoccupied <input type="checkbox"/> Preservation work in progress	Yes: <input type="checkbox"/> Restricted <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Unrestricted <input type="checkbox"/> No
PRESENT USE (Check One or More as Appropriate)				
<input type="checkbox"/> Agricultural <input type="checkbox"/> Commercial <input type="checkbox"/> Educational <input type="checkbox"/> Entertainment	<input type="checkbox"/> Government <input type="checkbox"/> Industrial <input type="checkbox"/> Military <input type="checkbox"/> Museum	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Park <input type="checkbox"/> Private Residence <input type="checkbox"/> Religious <input type="checkbox"/> Scientific	<input type="checkbox"/> Transportation <input type="checkbox"/> Other (Specify)	<input type="checkbox"/> Comments

4. OWNER OF PROPERTY

OWNER'S NAME: City of New Ulm			
STREET AND NUMBER:			
CITY OR TOWN: New Ulm		STATE: Minnesota	CODE: 23

5. LOCATION OF LEGAL DESCRIPTION

COURTHOUSE, REGISTRY OF DEEDS, ETC.: Brown County Courthouse			
STREET AND NUMBER:			
CITY OR TOWN: New Ulm		STATE: Minnesota	CODE: 23

6. REPRESENTATION IN EXISTING SURVEYS

TITLE OF SURVEY: State Inventory of Historic Sites			
DATE OF SURVEY: continuous <input type="checkbox"/> Federal <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> State <input type="checkbox"/> County <input type="checkbox"/> Local			
DEPOSITORY FOR SURVEY RECORDS: Minnesota Historical Society			
STREET AND NUMBER: Building 25, Fort Snelling			
CITY OR TOWN: St. Paul		STATE: Minnesota	CODE: 23

SEE INSTRUCTIONS

STATE: Minnesota
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7. DESCRIPTION

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

Hermann Monument has a total height of 102 feet. The 18 foot high Kasota stone base has thick walls, measures 42 feet by 42 feet in diameter and is eight sided with supportive buttresses on the four short (alternating) sides. The interior of the base is a large room with windows and a door.

Above the base are ten 25 foot hollow iron columns with half round vertical moulding on the lower third of the columns for fluting. The column cushions are plain; the round capitals have formal foliage decoration.

The open space within the columns has a central 70 foot high, hollow iron column running from the lower base to the statue at the top of the monument. Around this central column is a spiral staircase with an ornamental iron balustrade. Romanesque in style and similar to the Norman "keep" or "place of defense", the dome room is masonry-sided and copper covered, and originally it was planned as a weapon room in the monument. An interior room has small round arched windows, some with colored panes. The central column extends up through the dome room to an iron railed walk-around over the dome and supports the 32 foot statue of Hermann.

The statue is strong and simple in appearance with sheet copper counter sunk and riveted over an interior supportive structure of iron. Hermann Monument is unique in design and is reflective of the German cultural background of New Ulm. Restoration of the monument was completed in 1973 by the city of New Ulm at a cost of \$57,894.00.



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8. SIGNIFICANCE

PERIOD (Check One or More as Appropriate)

<input type="checkbox"/> Pre-Columbian	<input type="checkbox"/> 16th Century	<input type="checkbox"/> 18th Century	<input type="checkbox"/> 20th Century
<input type="checkbox"/> 15th Century	<input type="checkbox"/> 17th Century	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 19th Century	

SPECIFIC DATE(S) (If Applicable and Known) 1888-1897

AREAS OF SIGNIFICANCE (Check One or More as Appropriate)

<input type="checkbox"/> 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/Philosophy	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Other (Specify) <u>Immigration</u>
<input type="checkbox"/> Historic	<input type="checkbox"/> Industry	<input type="checkbox"/> Science	_____
<input type="checkbox"/> Agriculture	<input type="checkbox"/> Invention	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Sculpture	_____
<input type="checkbox"/> Architecture	<input type="checkbox"/> Landscape Architecture	<input type="checkbox"/> Social/Humanitarian	_____
<input type="checkbox"/> Art	<input type="checkbox"/> Literature	<input type="checkbox"/> Theater	_____
<input type="checkbox"/> Commerce	<input type="checkbox"/> Military	<input type="checkbox"/> Transportation	_____
<input type="checkbox"/> Communications	<input type="checkbox"/> Music		
<input type="checkbox"/> Conservation			

STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE

A language barrier and a strong desire to preserve their cultural background led German immigrants to the United States in 1840 to form an organization that would assist them in maintaining their ethnic history. The name of the organization had to be truly German and characteristic of the unity the founders hoped to achieved.

Hermann of the Cherusci tribe, united the German Tribes in 9.A.D. and drove the Roman Legions under Varus back to the west bank of the Rhine River. In Hermann they found a symbol that all immigrants coming to the States easily understood.

In 1885, three hundred and sixty two Sons of Hermann Lodges in a Nationwide drive committed themselves to the construction of a Monument to the symbol that they cherished. Perhaps inspired by a similar but larger monument in Germany, it was built in 1887-1889 and the Statue cast in Ohio and raised in 1890. Sons of Hermann Lodges and auxiliaries had been established in 32 states when the symbol was formally dedicated in 1897 at the 21st National Convention. The monument was placed at New Ulm because of the German background of the area and the persistence of the 53 Lodges in Minnesota to erect the symbol of German unity and cultural preservation in America.

The monument and statue were modeled by Alfonz Pelzer, Salem, Ohio whose named appeared at the base during restoration. The plan and construction were the work of Julius Berndt of New Ulm. Pelzer's statue of Hermann is that of a warrior with capes flowing back over his shoulders; his upright right arm holds a sword above his head with his powerful hand strongly grasping the hilt.

Lincoln statues in seven states have been identified by Mr. Marion Cox, Cave Creek, Arizona as the work of Alfonz Pelzer. Cox, who has spent much time researching American sculpture says: "Discounting the Colossus of Rhodes and Bartholdi's Statue of Liberty, Hermann's statue was the largest in the world, even outranking that of Lenin in Russia. Although the Statue of Liberty was taller than Hermann, it, in no way, excelled Hermann in technique of casting and construction. In truth, Bartholdi's method was crude as compared with that of Pelzer."

9. MAJOR BIBLIOGRAPHICAL REFERENCES

Hermann Monument dedication booklet, 1897.
 Historical Files, Brown County Historical Museum.
 Letter: Mr. Marion Cox, February 12, 1972.

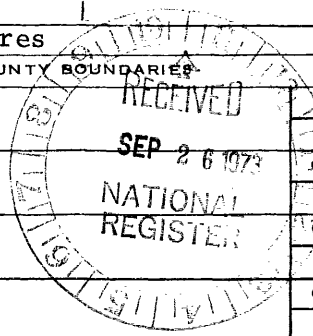
10. GEOGRAPHICAL DATA

LATITUDE AND LONGITUDE COORDINATES DEFINING A RECTANGLE LOCATING THE PROPERTY			O R	LATITUDE AND LONGITUDE COORDINATES DEFINING THE CENTER POINT OF A PROPERTY OF LESS THAN TEN ACRES		
CORNER	LATITUDE	LONGITUDE		LATITUDE	LONGITUDE	
	Degrees Minutes Seconds	Degrees Minutes Seconds		Degrees Minutes Seconds	Degrees Minutes Seconds	
NW	° ' "	° ' "		44° 18' 26"	94° 28' 22"	
NE	° ' "	° ' "				
SE	° ' "	° ' "				
SW	° ' "	° ' "				

APPROXIMATE ACREAGE OF NOMINATED PROPERTY: **Less than ten 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



07A1
 15/3705
 4906820
 06

SEE INSTRUCTIONS

11. FORM PREPARED BY

NAME AND TITLE:
Henry M. Harren, Survey and Planning (Approved: Charles W. Nelson)

ORGANIZATION: **Minnesota Historical Society** DATE: **September 12, 1973**

STREET AND NUMBER:
Building 25, Fort Snelling

CITY OR TOWN: **St. Paul** STATE: **Minnesota** CODE: **23**

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: Director, Minn. Historical Society
 Date: 9-13-73

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

Robert K. Utley
 Director, Office of Archeology and Historic Preservation

Date: 10/2/73

ATTEST:
Wm. M. [Signature]
 Keeper of The National Register

Date: 10.1.73

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
INVENTORY - NOMINATION FORM

(Continuation Sheet)

STATE	
COUNTY	
FOR NPS USE ONLY	
ENTRY NUMBER	DATE
	OCT 2 1973

(Number all entries)

#8 Significance (continued)

Alfonz Pelzer and his brother Hubert founded a little school of sculpture in Salem. Alfonz, after the death of his brother, sold the business to the Mullins Manufacturing Co., and worked for several years for the firm before returning to Germany, where he died in 1904. The famous Lincoln statues were modeled while employed by the Mullins Co.

Hermann is visible for considerable distance and dominates the Minnesota River Valley skyline from Hermann Heights Park at the western edge of the city. New Ulm, named for Ulm, Germany, continues to preserve a strong ethnic culture through various associations, civic groups, German gothic buildings and homes, and the Brown County Historical Society and folk festivities. Once the home of five breweries, many of the businesses of city still carry on German traditions.

The monument becomes an integral part of city-wide planning. City government officials through the past decade set aside funds for restoration of Hermann as urban-renewal was carried on in the nearby downtown area.

Landmark, unique in design, Hermann monument remains the only really significant artistic statue/monument that was erected as the heavy influx of German immigrants to America came to an end.



