

HISTORIC NAME: Esselman Brothers General Store COUNTY: Benton *Calman*

CURRENT NAME: Esselman's Store CITY/TWP.: Mayhew Lake Twp.

LEGAL DESC.: That part of T37N,R30W, Sec. 8 described as follows: Beginning at a point 2 rods east of the SW corner of the NW $\frac{1}{4}$, thence running east 60', thence north 80', thence west 60', thence south 80' to point of beginning. ADDRESS: *NW 1/4* Crossroads community of Mayhew Lake

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 <u>Settlement</u>
Object _____	Fair _____	National _____	Others <u>Agriculture</u>
District _____	Deteriorated _____		

OPEN TO THE PUBLIC: Yes X No _____ Restricted X PRESENT USE: Store

VISIBLE FROM THE ROAD: Yes X No _____

OCCUPIED: Yes X No _____

DATE CONSTRUCTED: 1897 ORIGINAL USE: General Store

ORIGINAL OWNER: Louis & Anton Esselman ARCHITECT/BUILDER: Louis & Anton Esselman

OWNER'S NAME AND ADDRESS: Robert L. Esselman Route 1 Sauk Rapids, MN 56379	ACREAGE: Less than one acre <u>X</u>
LOCAL CONTACT/ORG.: Benton County Historical Society Sauk Rapids, MN 56379	UTM REFERENCE: Mayhew MN. Quad. 7.5 15 / 413580 / 5062590
FORM PREPARED BY: Mark Haidet	
DATE: November 1980	

DESCRIPTION:

Esselman Brothers General Store is located on a corner lot in the crossroads community of Mayhew Lake in northwestern Benton County. The store, along with Annunciation Catholic Church, is the central focus of this small community with an estimated population of thirty.

The 1897 store is a rectangular two story gable-roofed structure sheathed in clapboard painted green. Two single story additions flank the structure on either side. Although both additions are presently used for storage, the east addition, with a central entrance flanked by double-hung windows, originally housed three rooms of the family's living quarters. Double-hung windows are situated on all sides of the structure with small evenly-spaced windows located near the roof line on the sides.

The front facade features a recessed central doorway, large glass windows, and a false front above each of the additions. A concrete platform, protected by a tin awning, extends across the front of the structure. The platform, erected about 1935, replaced an earlier wooden porch.

The structure has undergone minimal interior and exterior alterations. Among the original internal furnishings still intact are the counter, numerous wooden flour bins, and wall shelving.

SIGNIFICANCE:

Esselman Brothers General Store is significant primarily as a well preserved example of the multi-purpose stores erected in crossroad communities throughout Benton County during the late nineteenth and early twentieth centuries. The store is also significant for its association with German settlement in the vicinity of Mayhew Lake. As settlement expanded eastward from the Mississippi River and outward from the established railroad centers in the late nineteenth century, over a dozen crossroad communities developed in the county. Several of these communities were ethnic-oriented and most were centered around a store or church. German-speaking Catholic families first settled in the Mayhew Lake area in the 1880s, organizing a Catholic parish in 1896. Louis and Anton Esselman, brothers from Wisconsin, erected the store in 1897, in the same year the original Annunciation Church was built. Although Anton moved away a few years later, Louis operated the store for several decades. The Esselman family continues to operate the store which remains one of two landmarks in this Catholic hamlet. The store retains its identity as a utilitarian grocery-hardware store serving the needs of the surrounding agricultural community.

BIBLIOGRAPHY:

Annunciation Church Diamond Jubilee Directory: 1896-1971, 1971. (Copy in MN SHPO files.)
Esselman, Frank. Several conversations with Mark Haidet, August-October 1980.

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

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ADDITIONAL INFORMATION

for Keeper Melvin Lynn
11/19/89

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

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**Note: These changes apply to
Esselman Brothers General Store in
Benton County, Minnesota.**

REFERENCE NUMBER: 82002933

STATE: MINNESOTA

COUNTY: Benton

RESOURCE NAME (HISTORIC):

CITY:

VICINITY OF: Rice

ADDRESS: Co. Hwys. 1 and 13

CERTIFICATION DATE:

REMOVED DATE:

COMMENTS:

Nina M. Archabal

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State Historic Preservation Officer

JUN 17 1988

Date