

MINNESOTA HISTORIC PROPERTIES INVENTORY FORM

APR 26 1979
79001219

HISTORIC NAME: Kreitinger Garage COUNTY: Brown
 CURRENT NAME: CITY/TWP.: Springfield
 LEGAL DESC.: O.P. B11 - S. 50' of Lot B of Lots 8, 9, 10 ADDRESS: 1 North Cass

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 _____
Object _____	Fair _____	National _____	Others _____
District _____	Deteriorated _____		

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

DATE CONSTRUCTED: c.1911 ORIGINAL USE: Garage
 ORIGINAL OWNER: Michael Lehrer ARCHITECT/BUILDER: Unknown

OWNER'S NAME AND ADDRESS: Lehrer Holding Company 203 Van Buren, Springfield, MN 56087	ACREAGE: Less than one acre <u>x</u>
LOCAL CONTACT/ORG.: Brown County Historical Society 27 No. Broadway, New Ulm, MN 56073	UTM REFERENCE: 15/342365/4900130 Springfield Quad.
FORM PREPARED BY: Dennis Gimmetad	
DATE: January 1979	

DESCRIPTION:

The Kreitinger Garage Building is located on a trackside site on Cass Avenue in downtown Springfield.

The building's most striking feature is the ornamental brickwork on the second level of the south and west facades. Symmetrical fenestration of a series of four-over-four windows at this level is surmounted by a symmetrical parapet with vertically extending sections at the corners and center. Pilasters and curvilinear forms are expressed in relief brick.

Window sills and lintels are of stone. An early vertical "GARAGE" sign of separately cut letters is partially intact over the recessed corner entrance. First floor fenestration also includes the garage entry and the entrance to the stairway to the second level on the west facade.

The replacement of the first level windows with glass block has not altered the basic intact fabric of the building.

SIGNIFICANCE:

The Kreitinger Garage Building was constructed by Springfield businessman Michael Lehrer about 1911 as an investment property and, according to one of his daughters, because he believed the site adjacent to the railroad depot should boast a structure suitable to its "gateway" function (an earlier frame hotel on the site had burned).

First tenant in the building was Louis Kreitinger, who operated a auto dealership. Lehrer is said to have constructed the building for easy possible adaptation to another use (such as a hotel) should the early auto dealership prove unprofitable.

The second floor was utilized as meeting space.

The growth of automobile ownership in the early decades of the century had an important and continuing effect of rural communities. The Kreitinger Garage building is significant as a striking visual component of Springfield's downtown area and as one of three important structures in Brown County relating to the early years of automobile use.