

7900420/1979

HISTORIC NAME: Boesch, Hummel, and Maltzahn Block

COUNTY: Brown

CURRENT NAME:

CITY/TWP.: New Ulm

LEGAL DESC.: B65N - L12C, 13C, 12D, 13D, 12E, 13E

ADDRESS: 6-8-10-12 Minnesota
Street North

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>Architecture</u>
Object _____	Fair _____	National _____	Others _____
District _____	Deteriorated _____		

OPEN TO THE PUBLIC: Yes X No _____ Restricted X
 VISIBLE FROM THE ROAD: Yes X No _____
 OCCUPIED: Yes X No _____

PRESENT USE:
 Commercial/Apartments

DATE CONSTRUCTED: 1890

ORIGINAL USE: Commercial/Apartments

ORIGINAL OWNER: Various

ARCHITECT/BUILDER: Unknown

OWNER'S NAME AND ADDRESS: 3 owners
 L12C,13C K&R Enterprises Inc., 6 N. Minnesota St., New Ulm
 L12D,13D Florence L. Ruby, 8 Minnesota St., New Ulm

ACREAGE: Less than one acre X

LOCAL-CONTACT/ORG.: L12E,13E Henry M. Somsen, State Bond
 Building, New Ulm 56073

UTM REFERENCE:

15 / 383640 / 4907540

FORM PREPARED BY: Dennis Gimmetstad
 DATE: January 1979

New Ulm Quad.

DESCRIPTION:

The Boesch, Hummel, and Maltzahn Block is located on the north side of New Ulm's main commercial thoroughfare, Minnesota Street.

An elaborate metal cornice incorporates panels which carry the names of persons first associated with the building and the construction year of 1890. Relief-laid brick and four large copper roofed bay windows decorate the second level of the facade. Although the street level storefronts are somewhat remodeled, the cut stone dividing members remain mostly intact. Cut stone is also used as decoration on the second level and for a railed balcony over the stairway entrance at the center of the northern section of the facade.

At the rear of the building, the wooden stairways and second level covered walkways for the apartment units are intact.

Although a recent exterior cleaning and painting scheme has been considered inappropriate by some, basic features of the upper front facade remain intact.

SIGNIFICANCE:

The extensive features of the front facade rank the Boesch, Hummel and Maltzahn Block as the most elaborately detailed "Main Street" commercial building in the area.

Buildings of this type have been commonly shorn of features such as cornices or projecting bay windows. The four-storefront width and resulting repetition of features add to the impact of the Block on the local streetscape.

Use of the storefronts for general merchandising concerns and the second level for residential apartments has been continuous since the buildings construction.

The Boesch, Hummel, and Maltzahn Block is significant as the most visually striking of the second generation masonry blocks built to house retail establishments on the main commercial streets of New Ulm and adjoining area towns around the turn of the century.