# **United States Department of the Interior National Park Service**

# National Register of Historic Places Inventory—Nomination Form

received AUG 5 1985
date entered SEP 5 103

See instructions in How to Complete National Register Forms

Type all entries—complete applicable sections

Type all entries	complete app	licable se	ctions			
1. Nam	le			-		
historic	Kahlert Merc	antile S	Store			
and/or common	N/A					
2. Loca						
street & number	Main Street			4	I/A _	not for publication
city, town	Browerville		vicinity of	I/A		
state	Minnesota	code	22 county	Todd		code 147
3. Clas	sification	n				
Category district X building(s) structure site object	Ownership public _X private both Public Acquisi in process being cons N/A		Status  X occupied  unoccupied  work in progress Accessible  yes: restricted  yes: unrestricted  no	Present Use agriculture _X commercia educationa entertainme governmen industrial military	l I ent	museum park private residence religious scientific transportation other:
4. Own	er of Pr	opert	ty			
name	Lawrence Kah	lert				
street & number	N/A					
city, town	Browerville		vicinity of	I/A s	tate	Minnesota 56438
5. Loca	ation of	Lega	I Descripti	on	الساند السنيسني	
courthouse, regis	stry of deeds, etc.	Todd Co	ounty Courthouse,	Register of Dee	eds	
street & number		215 lst	Avenue South			
city, town		Long Pi	cairie	s	tate	Minnesota 56347
6. Repr	esentat	ion i	n Existing	Surveys		
	esota Statewi s Survey	de Histo		perty been determin	ed eli	gible?yes _Xno
date 1984	·			federal X	state	e county local
lepository for su			Historical Socie	•		
city, town	S	t. Paul		s	tate	Minnesota

## 7. Description

Condition		Check one	Check one	
excellent _X good fair	deteriorated ruins unexposed	unaltered _X_ altered	X original site moved date	N/A

Describe the present and original (if known) physical appearance

The Kahlert Store in Browerville, Minnesota is located facing west at the corner of Main and Sixth Streets, Browerville's two major streets. Of wood frame construction, the building was one of the first structures to be built following the construction of the railway through Browerville in 1882. The store is built in the false-front "Boomtown" style popular in small rural or frontier communities.

The Kahlert store is two stories in height, has no basement, and measures approximately twenty-five by eighty-two feet. The first floor was originally used as a general merchandise store, while the second served as a community hall. Because of this use, the upper floor is a full story tall, unlike most false-front buildings which had shorter second floor side walls.

The building has changed remarkably little since it was built. The double-hung sash divided into two over two lights appear to be original, as do the clapboard siding and and the cornice at the top of the front parapet wall. The upper lights of the storefront windows have been infilled with wood panels, but the storefront is otherwise intact. An overhead-opening garage door has been inserted near the rear of the north facade, and the original door in that location moved several feet to the west.

At some time prior to 1910, a balcony attached to the front of the building was removed. This was likely done to facilitate a sidewalk or street improvement along Main Street.

## 8. Significance

1400-1499 1500-1599 1600-1699 1700-1799 1800-1899	architecture	community planning conservation economics	landscape architectur law literature military music t philosophy politics/government	re religion science sculpture social/ humanitarian theater transportation other (specify)
Specific dates	1883	Builder/Architect Unl	known	

#### Statement of Significance (in one paragraph)

The Kahlert Mercantile Store is an excellent example of "Boomtown" vernacular commercial architecture. Built by William and Ferdinand Kahlert in 1883, the building originally housed a grocery and general merchandise store on its first floor, and a social hall on its upper floor. This hall was widely used for community gatherings, meetings, social events and church services. The Kahlert brothers built the store one year after the Sauk Center and Northern Railway, a branch line of the St. Paul, Minneapolis and Manitoba, was built though the newly established townsite of Browerville.

The Sauk Center and Northern line was completed as far north as Browerville in November 1882. Although it had been built to facilitate access to and settlement on approximately 30,000 acres of oak timber land owned by the St. Paul, Minneapolis and Manitoba, the line also stimulated settlement and growth in townsites such as Browerville, which quickly sprang up along its route.

William and Ferdinand Kahlert had been early settlers of Todd County, establishing a homestead in Hartford Township in 1870. When the railroad was built, most businesses then existing in the hamlet of Hartford moved several miles to the townsite of Browerville located adjacent to the rail line. The Kahlerts apparently realized the growth opportunities that the railway would bring. The established their store despite the fact that several similar stores already existed in the community of under two hundred people. The store was successful; by 1900 they had expanded into an adjoining building.

The early commercial buildings in Browerville were almost without exception wood-frame "Boomtown"-type buildings. A number of these buildings still remain. Of the group of similar structures, the Kahlert Store has the best architectural integrity and the strongest associations with the early settlement period of the area's historical development. The building is frequently mentioned in accounts of meetings and social events in Browerville prior to 1900.

# 9. Major Bibliographical References

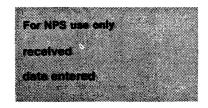
See continuation sheet.

10. Geographic	cal Data	<del></del>		
Acreage of nominated property	less than l acre		Quadrangle	scale 1:24,000
	1 0,4 9,80 rthing	B Zone	Easting	Northing
	<del>                                     </del>	D		
/erbal boundary description a	and justification			
The west 12 feet 7 inch of Lot 1; Block 13; Ori	nes of the east 70			the west 70 feet
ist all states and counties fo	r properties overlapp	ing state or co	unty boundaries	
tate N/A	code N/A	county N/A	<del> </del>	code N/A
tate N/A	code N/A	county N/A		code N/A
1. Form Preparent	<del></del>	Dobasto		
, ,	inson and Norene	Roberts	W 1 100	NF
rganization Historical Res	·	da	te March 1, 198	35
treet & number 5535 Richmond	Curve	te	lephone (612) 92	29 <b>-</b> 2921 
ty or town Minneapolis		st	ate Minnesota 55	5410
2. State Histo	oric Preser	vation (	Officer Co	ertification
he evaluated significance of this	property within the state	e is:		
national	stateX	local		
s the designated State Historic P 65), I hereby nominate this prope ccording to the criteria and proce	rty for inclusion in the N	ational Register	and certify that it has	
tate Historic Preservation Officer	signature	sell H	tride	ey,
Russell W. Fridley State Historic Pres	)	- <del>-</del> ,	date	7/12/85
For NPS use only I hereby certify that this prop	E	atered in the		9/5-/85-
Keeper of the National Register	· No	ational Regio	ster	
Attest:			date	
Chief of Registration				

NPS Form 10-900-a (3-82)

#### **United States Department of the Interior National Park Service**

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Continuation sheet Bibliography

Item number 9

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DeLaurier, O. B. Todd County Histories. Long Prairie, Minnesota: Todd County Bicentenial Committee, 1976.

Fuller, Clara K. History of Morrison and Todd Counties, Minnesota. Indianapolis, Indiana: B. F. Bowen and Co., Inc., 1915