

HISTORIC NAME: Bunge, Christian Jr., Store

COUNTY: Houston

CURRENT NAME: Eitzen Historical Museum

CITY/TWP.: Eitzen City

LEGAL DESC.: Lot 26, and 8 ft. on southerly and westerly side of lot 28; all in southeast corner of block G, Auditor's Subdivision, Eitzen City.

ADDRESS: Iowa Ave. at Main St., southwest corner

CLASSIFICATION:	CONDITION:	SIGNIFICANCE:	THEME/S:
Building <u>X</u>	Excellent _____	Local <u>X</u>	Primary <u>Commercial</u>
Structure _____	Good <u>X</u>	State _____	Secondary <u>Settlement (ethnic)</u>
Object _____	Fair _____	National _____	Others _____
District _____	Deteriorated _____		

OPEN TO THE PUBLIC: Yes X No _____ Restricted X

PRESENT USE:

VISIBLE FROM THE ROAD: Yes X No _____

Museum

OCCUPIED: Yes X No _____

DATE CONSTRUCTED: 1890

ORIGINAL USE: Store

ORIGINAL OWNER: Christian Bunge Jr.

ARCHITECT/BUILDER: Christian Krueger

OWNER'S NAME AND ADDRESS: Houston County Historical Society;
c/o Harold St. Mary, Director; Caledonia, MNACREAGE: Less than one acre XLOCAL CONTACT/CRG.: Mrs. Martin Deters
507-495-3186 Eitzen, MN

UTM REFERENCE:

Eitzen, Minn.-Iowa Quad.

FORM PREPARED BY: Robert M. Frame III, Ph.D.

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DATE: May 28, 1981

DESCRIPTION:

The Bunge Store is the most prominent building in the small community of Eitzen, occupying the southwest corner of the major intersection. It is a two-story rectangular stone building, 28 x 68 feet, with an 8-foot cellar. The stone is rock-faced coursed ashlar on the east (front), north, and west facades, which each rise above the sloping roof to form parapets with dentillated cornice extending around the three sides. The south facade is constructed of random-coursed ashlar and rubble, having originally been designed for a south addition which was never built. Fenestration consists of two-over-two double-hung sash in rectangular openings with stone sills and lintels, regularly spaced along the second story level of the three finished facades. The first floor level of the east facade has large plate-glass store windows separated by cast-iron columns. Doorways are located on the east, north, and south facades, with a keystone arch doorway in the north wall. The interior consists of shop space on the first floor and storage space on the second. The entire building is now used for museum purposes.

SIGNIFICANCE:

The Bunge Store is significant as an important commercial structure in the city and for its intimate association with the area's German heritage. Christian Bunge supplied the community's name in honor of his native home, Eitzen, Germany. Bunge had established a store on the site in 1867 and provided the name the following year when he was appointed postmaster. In 1890, having become a successful store owner, he contracted with German immigrant stone mason Christian Krueger to erect the present building. Krueger, who built other stone structures in Eitzen, completed the store between March and October, 1890, for \$800. Since then it has remained Eitzen's most prominent building and recently has been acquired by the Houston County Historical Society as a museum for the Eitzen area.

BIBLIOGRAPHY:

"History of Bunge Store." Typescript in Eitzen Historical Museum, Eitzen, MN.

"Memorandum of Agreement Made March 3, 1890 (between C. Bunge Jr. and Christian Krueger)."
Original manuscript in Eitzen Historical Museum, Eitzen, MN.