

## MINNESOTA HISTORIC PROPERTIES INVENTORY FORM

HISTORIC NAME: Hilltop Hall COUNTY: LeSueur  
 CURRENT NAME: CITY/TWP. Montgomery  
 LEGAL DESC.: Lots 9 and 10, block 15 ADDRESS: 206 1st Street North

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

OPEN TO THE PUBLIC: Yes \_\_\_\_\_ No \_\_\_\_\_ Restricted X PRESENT USE:  
 VISIBLE FROM THE ROAD: Yes X No \_\_\_\_\_ Self-service laundry  
 OCCUPIED: Yes X No \_\_\_\_\_

DATE CONSTRUCTED: c.1892 ORIGINAL USE: Dance hall/saloon  
 ORIGINAL OWNER: Matthias Prochaska ARCHITECT/BUILDER: Unknown

OWNER'S NAME AND ADDRESS: Bess L. David 607 5th St. S.E. Stewartville, MN 55976	ACREAGE: Less than one acre <u>X</u>
LOCAL CONTACT/ORG.: LeSueur County Historical Society Elysian, MN 56028	UTM REFERENCE: Montgomery Quad. 15 / 453750 / 4920710
FORM PREPARED BY: Britta Bloomberg	
DATE: August, 1980	

## DESCRIPTION:

Hilltop Hall is situated on the west side of First Street on a rise at the northern edge of Montgomery's principal business district. The size and hilltop location overlooking the railroad tracks and the eastern residential area of town lend prominence to the building.

The c.1892 commercial structure is two stories in height and constructed of buff-colored brick. The first floor facade is comprised of two intact storefronts featuring metal supports, a secondary cornice, and recessed central doorways framed by large windows. Tall paired windows capped by window hoods in contrasting red brick occupy each of the three bays on the second floor. A projecting cornice with diminutive brackets at the corners circumvent the building. The raised-seam metal truncated hip roof is broken by a gable over the center front bay.

The building retains a significant degree of original design integrity. The fire escape suspended between the first and second floors and the door in one second floor center bay window are the most evident alterations. The interior has been altered over the years to accommodate many different uses. The second floor is vacant at present, and the first floor houses a laundromat.

## SIGNIFICANCE:

The Hilltop Hall is significant as a well preserved example of the commercial buildings constructed on the major business streets of the more successful rail townsites of the area during the late nineteenth century. The building was constructed c. 1892 by Matthias Prochaska. A large dance hall was located upstairs and a saloon and furniture store occupied the first floor. The scale and attention to design have made this building a key element in the Czech community of Montgomery, providing a visual focus and a popular meeting place as well as commercial space for area businesses for nearly a century. The rapid disappearance and alteration of the county's nineteenth century commercial buildings make the survival of the Hilltop Hall additionally significant.

## BIBLIOGRAPHY:

Montgomery, from the "Big Woods" to the "Kolacky Capital", 1856-1976, Montgomery Bicentennial Committee, 1976.  
 Sanborn Insurance Co. Maps, 1894.  
 Recorder's Records, LeSueur County Recorder's Office, LeCenter, Minnesota.