

HISTORIC NAME: Ault Store COUNTY: Rice  
 CURRENT NAME: CITY/TWP.: Dundas  
 LEGAL DESC.: Lot 4 and Nly 10 ft. of lot 5, block 13, ADDRESS:  
 Original Town Second Street

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

OPEN TO THE PUBLIC: Yes \_\_\_ No X Restricted \_\_\_ PRESENT USE:  
 VISIBLE FROM THE ROAD: Yes X No \_\_\_ Residential  
 OCCUPIED: Yes X No \_\_\_

DATE CONSTRUCTED: 1866 ORIGINAL USE: Commercial  
 ORIGINAL OWNER: Edgar Ault ARCHITECT/BUILDER: Unknown

OWNER'S NAME AND ADDRESS: Wayne Eddy & Others Box 201 Northfield, MN 55057	ACREAGE: Less than one acre <u>X</u>
LOCAL CONTACT/ORG.: Rice County Historical Society, P.O. Box 5, Faribault, MN 55021	UTM REFERENCE: Northfield Quad. 7.5 15 / 483895 / 4919300
FORM PREPARED BY: Britta Bloomberg	
DATE: February 1981	

## DESCRIPTION:

The Ault Store is located in Dundas on Second Street on the east side of the Cannon River. It is situated in a residential neighborhood across the river from the principal business district. The store is the last remaining commercial building on the east side of the river in what was Dundas' original business district.

The two story stone structure was constructed in 1866 of locally quarried limestone. The building is rectangular with a low gable roof, the gable end oriented to the street. Three large rectilinear openings occupy the first floor front (east) facade. A double transomed door occupying the center bay is flanked by large nine paned storefront windows. Heavy vertical stone members separate the openings. Larger cut stones at the corners of the building on the second story level give the suggestion of corner quoins. Two double hung windows with six over six lights and heavy stone lintels are located on the second story front facade. Fenestration on the north and south facades consists of windows located at the second story level and doorways in the rear bay.

After being vacant for several years, the store has recently been purchased and restored for residential use.

## SIGNIFICANCE:

The Ault Store is significant as the last remaining commercial building associated with Dundas' original business district. It is also significant as a good example of the first generation of commercial buildings constructed in Rice County communities during the 1850s and 60s. The building was constructed in 1866 by Edgar Ault, who had been in the mercantile business in the community since 1859. Ault's store occupied the first floor of the building and carried a full line of furniture, drugs, and a few staples. The front room on the second floor housed the community's first library, and the back room was used for office space. The office of the Dundas News occupied the rear office at the time of its founding in 1876 until it was sold and incorporated into the Northfield News in 1879. Second Street, east of the river, was the location of Dundas' first business district. Nearby were another general store, a hotel, a shoe store, a restaurant, a meeting hall, and a saloon. The commercial focus of the town shifted to Railway Street west of the river after the Minnesota Central Railway was constructed and the Railway Addition to Dundas was platted in 1865. Edgar Ault followed the move across the river and moved his store to larger quarters on Railway Street in 1882. The scale and simplicity of the design and the use of locally available materials mark the old store as characteristic of the generation of commercial buildings first constructed by Rice County residents.

Bibliography:

Berg, Lillie Clara, Early Pioneers and Indians of Minnesota and Rice County,  
San Leandro, California: 1959.

Curtiss-Wedge, Franklyn, ed., History of Rice and Steele Counties Minnesota,  
Chicago: 1910.

Neuhaus, Marjorie, "Dundas Minnesota," unpublished walking tour on file in SHPO.