

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places
Continuation Sheet

Section number _____ Page _____

SUPPLEMENTARY LISTING RECORD

NRIS Reference Number: 94000597

Date Listed: 6/17/94

Ahnapee Brewery
Property Name

Kewaunee Co.
County

WI
State

Multiple Name

This property is listed in the National Register of Historic Places in accordance with the attached nomination documentation subject to the following exceptions, exclusions, or amendments, notwithstanding the National Park Service certification included in the nomination documentation.

Beth Boland
Signature of the Keeper

4/24/95
Date of Action

=====
Amended Items in Nomination:

Although the roof has been reconstructed and there has been quite a bit of remodeling, the building is not a reconstruction by the National Register's definition because it is still "largely intact" (nomination, section 7). As NR Bulletin 15 states, "A property that is remodeled or renovated and still has the majority of its original fabric" need not meet Criteria Consideration E requirements.

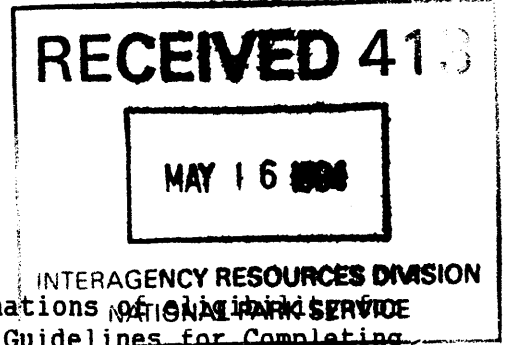
This change was agreed to by Jim Draeger of the WI SHPO staff.

DISTRIBUTION:

- National Register property file
- Nominating Authority (without nomination attachment)

United States Department of the Interior
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NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
 REGISTRATION FORM



This form is for use in nominating or requesting determinations of individual properties or districts. See instructions in Guidelines for Completing National Register Forms (National Register Bulletin 16). Complete each item by marking "x" in the appropriate box or by entering the requested information. If an item does not apply to the property being documented, enter "N/A" for "not applicable." For functions, styles, materials, and areas of significance, enter only the categories and subcategories listed in the instructions. For additional space use continuation sheets (Form 10-900a). Type all entries. Use letter quality printer in 12 pitch, using an 85 space line and a 10 space left margin. Use only archival paper (20 pound, acid free paper with a 2% alkaline reserve).

1. Name of Property

historic name Ahnapee Brewery
 other names/site number Von Stiehl Winery

2. Location

street & number 115 Navarino Street N/A not for publication
 city, town Algoma N/A vicinity
 state Wisconsin code WI county Kewaunee code 061 zip code 54201

3. Classification

Ownership of Property	Category of Property	No. of Resources within Property	
		contributing	noncontributing
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> private	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> building(s)		
<input type="checkbox"/> public-local	<input type="checkbox"/> district	<u>1</u>	<u> </u> buildings
<input type="checkbox"/> public-State	<input type="checkbox"/> site	<u> </u>	<u> </u> sites
<input type="checkbox"/> public-Federal	<input type="checkbox"/> structure	<u> </u>	<u> </u> structures
	<input type="checkbox"/> object	<u> </u>	<u> </u> objects
		<u>1</u>	<u>0</u> Total

Name of related multiple property listing:
N/A

No. of contributing resources
 previously listed in the
 National Register 0

4. State/Federal Agency Certification

As the designated authority under the National Historic Preservation Act of 1966, as amended, I hereby certify that this X nomination ___ request for determination of eligibility meets the documentation standards for registering properties in the National Register of Historic Places and meets the procedural and professional requirements set forth in 36 CFR Part 60. In my opinion, the property X meets ___ does not meet the National Register criteria. ___ See continuation sheet.

[Signature] _____ Date 3/11/99
Signature of certifying official
State Historic Preservation Officer-WI
State or Federal agency and bureau

In my opinion, the property ___ meets ___ does not meet the National Register criteria. ___ See continuation sheet.

Signature of commenting or other official Date

State or Federal agency and bureau

5. National Park Service Certification

I, hereby, certify that this property is:

entered in the National Register.
___ See continuation sheet

Elson H. Beall Entered in the National Register 6-17-94

___ determined eligible for the National Register. ___ See continuation sheet _____

___ determined not eligible for the National Register. _____

___ removed from the National Register. _____

___ other, (explain:) _____

[Signature] _____ Date
Signature of the Keeper

6. Functions or Use

Historic Functions
(enter categories from instructions)

Current Functions
(enter categories from instructions)

AGRICULTURE/SUBSISTENCE/processing
INDUSTRY/manufacturing facility
COMMERCE/TRADE/warehouse

AGRICULTURE/SUBSISTENCE/processing
COMMERCE/TRADE/specialty store

7. Description

Architectural Classification
(enter categories from instructions)

Materials
(enter categories from instructions)

Mid-19th Century

foundation Stone

walls Brick

roof Asphalt

other Wood

Describe present and historic physical appearance.

The Ahnapee Brewery is a fine, largely intact two-story rectilinear plan brick Mid-Nineteenth century Astylistic Utilitarian form building that is located at the eastern edge of the downtown portion of the city of Algoma at the top of the south bank of the Ahnapee River. This vernacular building was constructed as a brewery in 1869, for Wojta Stransky, a businessman from the nearby city of Kewaunee, and Herman Seideman, a brewer who had come to Algoma from Sturgeon Bay. The brewery continued in operation until 1894, after which it served for a time as a warehouse for a Green Bay brewer. In 1909, the building was converted into a fly net manufacturing plant by local businessman George Kelsey. In 1926, the by then vacant building was taken over by another company that manufactured washing machines in the building for several years. Afterwards, the building was used primarily for storage until 1967, when a local doctor, Dr. Charles W. Stiehl, restored it to house the well-known wine-making business that still occupies it today under different owners. The brewery building measures 55-feet-deep by 36-feet-wide and it rests on massive rubblestone foundation walls that enclose both a basement story and a sub-basement story that still houses the original stone barrel-vaulted beer storage vaults. The exterior walls, which rise up to the overhanging eaves of the shallow-pitched hip roof that shelters the building, are fashioned out of locally manufactured cream brick. The interior of the building is also still in largely original condition. The sub-basement and basement stories are now used for the production of wine, the first story is used as a reception room, and the second story is used as storage and office space. When Dr. Stiehl purchased the building it was in dilapidated condition but structurally sound. Dr. Stiehl replaced the few surviving original windows with ones of identical design, and he restored the roof, which had been altered ca.1926, to its original appearance. Today, the brewery is once again in excellent condition.

The city of Algoma is sited on both banks of the northwest-southeast flowing Ahnapee River at the point where the Ahnapee empties into Lake Michigan.¹ By far the largest part of the city is laid out on the relatively flat land located on the south side of the river. This area contains most of Algoma's residential neighborhoods and its central business district, the north edge of which runs along the upper edge of the south bank of the river, where the now vacated tracks of the Ahnapee & Western Railroad were once also located. Other residential neighborhoods are located on the somewhat steeper land found on the north side of the river, but this area is only about one-fifth the size of the area to the south.

Traditionally, the banks of both sides of the Ahnapee in Algoma have been given over to buildings associated with manufacturing and other commercial enterprises. Among these was the plant of the Algoma Foundry and Machine Co., historically one of Algoma's most important industries (the much modified remains of this plant are located on the north bank of the river just to the east of the present Fourth Street

¹ The 1990 population of Algoma was 3353. Algoma was named Ahnapee until 1897.

8. Statement of Significance

Certifying official has considered the significance of this property in relation to other properties: _____ nationally _____ statewide X locally

Applicable National Register Criteria X A _____ B _____ C _____ D

Criteria Considerations (Exceptions) _____ A _____ B _____ C _____ D X E _____ F _____ G

Areas of Significance

(enter categories from instructions)	Period of Significance	Significant Dates
<u>Industry</u>	<u>1869 - 1894¹²</u>	<u>1869¹³</u>
_____	_____	_____
_____	_____	_____
_____	_____	_____
_____	Cultural Affiliation	_____
_____	<u>N/A</u>	_____
_____	_____	_____
_____	_____	_____
_____	_____	_____
Significant Person	Architect/Builder	
<u>N/A</u>	<u>Unknown</u>	

State significance of property, and justify criteria, criteria considerations, and areas and periods of significance noted above.

The Ahnapee Brewery building is being nominated to the National Register of Historic Places (NRHP) for its local significance under National Register (NR) Criterion A. More specifically, the Ahnapee Brewery is being nominated because of its associations with the significance area of Industry, a theme that is also identified in the State of Wisconsin's Cultural Resource Management Plan (CRMP). Research to confirm this significance centered on the Brewing and Malting section of the Industry Study Unit.¹⁴ This research identified the Ahnapee Brewery, which was built in 1869, as being the oldest and the most important building in the city of Algoma (formerly Ahnapee) to be associated with the brewing industry. It also identified the brewery as a fine representative example of a small scale local brewery, a property type that is of significance in Kewaunee County and Wisconsin. In addition, the Astylistic Utilitarian vernacular form Ahnapee Brewery building is believed to be the first commercial building in Kewaunee County to be constructed out of brick.

The Ahnapee Brewery was built in 1869 for Wojta (aka Wojta) Stransky, a businessman from the nearby city of Kewaunee, and Herman Seideman, a brewer who had come to Algoma from Sturgeon Bay. Their brewery was constructed to fill the local need for a brewery in the city of Ahnapee, a community that was by then heavily settled with persons of Bohemian and German extraction. The new brewery was built at a cost of \$12,000 and was the most impressive building in the community for several years thereafter. Apparently the brewery was a commercial success and it continued in operation under a number of different owners until 1894. In 1909, the building was

¹² The period of significance spans the period during which the building is known to have been used as a brewery or as a brewery-related building.

¹³ Kewaunee Enterprise. September 1, 1869, pg. 1; January 26, 1870, pg. 1.

¹⁴ Wyatt, Barbara (Ed.). Cultural Resource Management Plan, Vol. 2. State Historical Society of Wisconsin, Madison, Wisconsin, 1986. (Industry). Unlike the NR, the State Historical Society considers brewing to be part of its Industry theme, rather than Agriculture.

X See continuation sheet

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bridge). Another of Algoma's historically notable commercial enterprises located on the riverbanks was the local fishing industry, which began to develop towards the end of the nineteenth century in order to harvest the abundant fisheries of Lake Michigan. For nearly a century, from the 1880s to the mid-1980s, most of the 600-foot-long stretch of riverbank between today's Fourth Street bridge and the mouth of the river was lined with the wooden docks and the small frame buildings or "shanties" that were associated with this industry.

The Ahnapee Brewery was also sited on the banks of the Ahnapee river, partly because the brewing process required water and lake ice, and partly because the river gave ready access to Lake Michigan shipping, which was Algoma's principal means of sending and receiving goods until the 1890s and the arrival of the city's first railroad. The brewery is located at the top of the sloping south bank of the river on a double lot that originally stretched from Navarino Street down to the river. The northwest-southeast running Navarino Street runs roughly parallel to the river along the top of the bank, and until quite recently the tracks of the Ahnapee & Western Railroad also ran parallel to the street, but at the foot of the riverbank and below the brewery.²

The west end of the roughly triangular block on which the brewery is located is bounded by Fourth Street, which at this point is also a portion of STH 42. A bridge carries Fourth Street across the river, then intersects with North Water Street. This block has undergone considerable change in the last decade. Prior to this time the block contained a mixed group of buildings, nearly all of which were astylistic vernacular form frame construction buildings associated with such commercial uses as a tin shop, a tailor shop, a stone-cutting shop, and a steam laundry. A few small houses were also intermixed with these small commercial buildings. In the last few years, however, efforts to upgrade the riverfront have resulted in the construction of modern condominium units to the west of the brewery and to the north on the riverbank. Today, only a few of this block's earlier buildings survive. The historic brick commercial buildings across Navarino Street from the brewery are still largely intact, though, as are most of the other blocks of brick commercial buildings that lie just to the south, so a good deal of the historic context of the brewery is still extant.

The main facade of the brewery faces southwest onto Navarino Street, which was known historically as South Water Street. A concrete sidewalk parallels Navarino Street and crosses the south end of the double lot belonging to the brewery. Most of the left-hand (west) lot now consists of a blacktopped parking lot that extends north from the sidewalk down to the edge of the pedestrian right of way at the base of the sloping site. The west side of the parking lot is mostly bounded by a new building that contains condominium units. The main entrance to the parking lot is through a broad gateway that is defined by a pair of tall brick piers that are connected to

² The railroad tracks have now been removed and the right of way has been recently recycled as a pedestrian path.

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solid brick walls topped with concrete coping. The east side of the parking lot is bounded by the west elevation of the brewery and by a solid brick wall that runs perpendicular to the street from the southwest corner of the brewery to the right-hand (east) end of the wall that borders the street.³ The main facade of the building is located approximately 48 feet from the sidewalk and the portion of the lot between the building and the sidewalk consists of a landscaped front yard. This yard is comprised of a lawn bisected by a concrete walk that leads from the sidewalk up to a broad flight of steps that is centered on the principal facade.

Exterior

The brewery building is free-standing in design, rectilinear in plan, two-stories in height, and it sits in the center of the easternmost lot. As is typical of astylistic utilitarian form buildings, the design of the building is devoid of any overt stylistic references. The building measures 36-feet-wide by 56-feet-deep and its 1.5-foot-thick American bond cream brick walls rest on two-foot-thick rubblestone masonry walls that enclose the basement story and three-foot-thick walls that enclose a sub-basement story. Because of the slope of the site, most of the side and all of the rear elevations of the basement story are exposed, as is all of the rear elevation of the sub-basement story. The exterior walls rise up to broad fascia boards that encircle the building and these walls are sheltered by the simple overhanging boxed wooden eaves of the gently sloped asphalt-shingle-covered hip roof that covers the building. A single short brick chimney stack with a corbelled cap pierces the west slope of the roof and there are ten smaller brick chimney stacks arrayed around the edge of the roof (two each on the main and rear elevations and three each on the two side elevations).⁴

The main facade faces southwest and it is thirty-six feet in width, two-stories in height, is five-bays-wide, symmetrical in design, and it rests on a raised portion of the basement story. The raised portion of the foundation is fashioned from rubblestone that is lightly covered with a concrete wash that has been regularly scored to imitate the appearance of regular ashlar stone construction. The facade

³ The brick walls and gateposts are constructed out of cream brick, which was originally used as the floor material of the sub-basement vaults. When the brewery was restored as a winery in 1968, the original brick flooring was replaced with poured concrete and the bricks were then recycled in the walls that edge the south and east sides of the parking lot.

⁴ These smaller stacks and the roof itself are all reconstructions of the originals that date from the 1968 renovation of the building. Detailed information on this renovation is contained later in this section. The original lower portions of these stacks can still be seen in the first and second stories of the brewery. Small circular holes high in the first story of each stack indicates that there were originally ten wood stoves located on the first story of the brewery. These stacks do not extend below the first story level.

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has two identical width bays placed on either side of a center bay that contains the original main entrance to the building in its first story. The raised basement story resulted in the placing of this entrance above grade and it is now reached by ascending a flight of seven steps, each of which has a cream brick riser and a concrete tread. These steps lead up to a concrete landing and they are flanked by simple painted wooden balustrades. The side panels that enclose the space under the steps are also filled with cream brick as well.² The double-width segmental-arched entrance door opening is now filled by a pair of carved wood entrance doors that date from 1968. The opening is crowned by a course of soldier bricks that is itself surmounted by a corbeled header course that acts as a drip cap. An "S"-shaped cast-iron anchor head is centered in the wall surface above this opening.

The second story of the center bay contains a single segmental-arched window opening that features the same soldier and header coursed decoration as the door opening below (identical brickwork crowns the heads of all the other first and second story window openings as well). This opening now contains a flat-arched double hung six-over-six-light wooden sash window constructed in 1968, that is identical in design to the seriously deteriorated original window it replaced. Just above this window is a small cast iron "O" ring that is located just below the eave at the top of the bay.

The remaining four bays on the main facade are all identical in design. The basement story of each bay contains a small segmental-arched window opening whose head is decorated with alternating soldier and header coursed bricks. Each of these openings contains a flat-arched three-light top-hinged wooden sash window. The segmental-arched first story window openings in each bay are slightly broader than the otherwise identical ones in the second story and they contain flat-arched eight-over-eight-light double hung wooden sash. The flat-arched six-over-six-light second story windows are identical with the one described in the preceding paragraph. All of these windows were constructed in 1968, as identical replacements for deteriorated or missing originals. The facade is terminated by two of the brewery's ten chimneys, which are centered between the first and the second and the fourth and fifth bays.

The fifty-six-foot long southeast-facing side elevation is four-bays-wide. The bays are regularly spaced and the first and second stories of the bays each contain a segmental-arched window opening identical to the ones described on the main facade, having eight-over-eight sash in the first story openings and six-over-six sash in the second. Three "S"-shaped cast iron anchors for tie rods are placed at regular intervals at a level between the first and second stories. A single flat-arched window opening pierces the basement wall at the basement story level and it is

² These steps date from the 1968 renovation of the building and the brick used is from the former sub-basement cellar floor. The earliest depiction of the building, dated 1876, shows that a wooden loading dock was originally located where the steps are today. This dock was gone by the time the renovation project was begun.

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located between the second and third bays from the left of the story above it. This opening contains a pair of nine-light wood sash casement windows and neither the opening or the sash is original to the building. The opening itself, however, predates the 1968 renovation by many years, although the exact date of its making is unknown. The elevation is crowned by three of the brewery's ten chimneys, which are placed between the first and second, the second and third, and the third and fourth bays.

Above the first story level, the four-bay-wide northwest-facing side elevation of the brewery is identical to that of the southeast-facing side elevation just described. The first story, however, contains only a single window opening, which is located slightly to the right of the center of the first bay from the right. This segmentally arched opening is shorter and much broader than the ones in the second story and it now contains a pair of six-over-six-light double-hung wooden sash replacement windows. A single flat-arched entrance door opening is placed in the second bay from the left at the basement story level. This opening predates the 1967 remodeling and it contains a massive wooden door made of battens that opens out onto the parking lot. A second oblong shape flat-arched freight door opening is located to the right between the first and second bays from the right. This opening (which may be original) contains a pair of heavy wooden inward-swinging batten doors and it was probably used for the shipping and receiving of goods.

The northeast-facing rear elevation is also four-bays-wide and it is terminated vertically by two of the ten chimneys, which are centered between the first and the second and the third and fourth bays. The first and second stories of each bay contains a segmental-arched window opening that is identical in size and design to the ones used on the other elevations and these too are filled with six-over-six and eight-over-eight light sash. A single "S"-shape cast iron anchor head is centered on the elevation between the first and second stories, which position corresponds to the one on the main facade. Both the basement story and the sub-basement story are fully exposed on this elevation. The basement story of each bay contains a small segmental-arched window opening that is identical to the ones on the main facade that were described earlier. These are also filled with three-light top-hinged awning sash. The sub-basement story features two evenly spaced seven-foot-wide by 6-foot-tall three-centered-arch door openings that open into the east and west vaults in the sub-basement. Each of these openings has a roughly fashioned cut stone lintel and both are filled with heavy wood batten doors.

Interior

The original interior of the brewery was a strictly utilitarian affair and much of that interior still survives today. The most exceptional space is the sub-basement story. The sub-basement story (also known as the vault floor) has exposed fieldstone walls and concrete floors that were poured in 1968, when the original cream brick floors were removed to satisfy State standards for sanitation conditions in a bonded winery premises. This story is bisected longitudinally into two

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nearly equal size spaces by a three-foot-thick rubblestone partition wall. This partition wall divides the sub-basement into an east vault room that measures approximately 15-feet wide by 49-feet-deep and a west vault room that measures approximately 12-feet wide by 49-feet-deep. An arched opening placed in the partition wall connects the two spaces. In addition, there is a 15-foot wide by 45-foot-deep south extension to the east vault that is completely underground and that extends out almost to the sidewalk. This vault is entered by another arched opening placed in the south wall of the east vault. All three vaulted spaces are approx. 11-foot-tall and they have masterfully constructed barrel-vaulted two-foot thick ceilings that are fashioned from regularly coursed stones that become progressively smaller in width as they near the apex of the arch. Originally, this story was used to store as many as 2000 wooden beer kegs. In 1967, when the building was transformed into a winery, all of the walls were cleaned and whitewashed. Currently, each of the spaces contains a number of large open stainless steel vats with a capacity of 12,000 gallons in which the wine is fermented.

An L-plan wooden staircase placed against the north end of the west vault room ascends to the basement story above. The basement story is divided longitudinally into two nearly equal-width spaces by a two-foot-thick rubblestone partition wall and a flat-arched opening in this wall permits passage from the east room to the west room. The east room is now known as the Bottling Room and it measures 16.5-foot-wide by 49-feet-deep while the west room, which is now known as the Finished Goods Storage Room, measures 13.5-foot-wide by 49-feet-deep. Like the sub-basement below, the floor of the basement story is also now fashioned out of concrete poured in 1967. The original interior surfaces of the basement's rubblestone exterior walls and also of the stone partition wall, however, are still visible, having been cleaned and whitewashed like the walls in the sub-basement. The ceiling of the basement story was originally bare wood, it being the exposed subfloor of the floor above. In 1967, though, it was covered over for sanitary purposes with plasterboard that is attached to the bottom of the original 2" by 12" floor joists, which are constructed on 16" centers. At the same time, a small portion of the west room was partitioned off to form a new furnace room. A brick chimney stack ascends from the floor of this new room through the floors above to the roof.⁶

An open straight run wooden staircase placed near the south end of the west wall of the basement story provides access to the first story. The first story now houses the Reception Salon and the Tasting Salon of the winery. So far as is known, this story was originally one large 33-foot-wide by 52-foot-deep open space that featured bare cream brick walls (the interior surfaces of the perimeter walls), a wide board

⁶ This chimney stack may or may not be original to the building but it unquestionably predates the 1967 renovation of the building by many years. The 1894 Sanborn-Perris map of the building shows that this floor was then called the "malt floor."

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wood floor, and a bare wood ceiling that was actually the exposed underside of the subfloor of the floor above. This ceiling featured 3" by 12" floor joists and it was upheld by a single massive 12" by 12" beam that was centered on the ceiling longitudinally. Two 8" by 8" posts supported this beam and ten wood stoves were arrayed around the perimeter of the room. Except for the stoves, which were removed decades ago, most of these features are still intact today, although all were somewhat altered in the 1967 renovation. In that year the walls were painted white and the existing wood floor was varnished.⁷ In addition, the ceiling was covered over with sheets of varnished and stained plywood that were attached to the base of the joists, and the edges of these sheets were covered over with thin wooden strips, creating a panelled appearance. Also, partition walls were used to form a rectangular space in the southwest corner of this story that houses two bathrooms. The north partition wall of this space was extended about ten feet to the east, creating both an entrance vestibule and the south wall of a rectangular sales counter area that is located approximately ten feet behind the centered entrance door. The first story's windows are now draped in red velvet, oriental rugs partially cover its floor, and antique display tables and wine serving areas now create an atmosphere that is entirely different than the strictly utilitarian one that preceded it. Never-the-less, this story is still essentially intact and could be returned to its original appearance with very little effort.⁸

An open straight run wooden staircase placed near the south end of the west wall of the first story provides access to the second story. The second story now houses a full case wine storage area and an office space. So far as is known, this story was original identical in appearance to the one below and most of these historic features are still intact today. This story consists of one large 33-foot-wide by 52-foot-deep open space that originally featured bare cream brick walls (the interior surfaces of the perimeter walls), a wide board wood floor, and a bare wood ceiling that was actually the exposed underside of the subfloor of the attic story floor above. This ceiling featured 2" by 12" joists and it was upheld by a single massive 12" by 12" center beam that was supported by two 8" by 8" posts. The walls were painted white during the 1967 renovation and the original ceiling is now hidden by fiberglass insulation batts laid between the joists. Also in that same year two new partition walls were also constructed in the northeast corner of this story to create a 24-foot-long by 14-foot-deep office space.⁹ Never-the-less, this story too, still retains much of its original appearance and it could be returned to its original appearance with very little effort as well.

⁷ The present wood floor lies on top of the still extant original wood floor. This floor was added in 1926, when the building was taken over by a washing machine manufacturing company.

⁸ The 1894 Sanborn-Perris map of the building (which was then called the Edward Decker Ahnapee Brewery) shows that this floor was then divided between dwelling space and storage space and a note stated that "Family sleeps in Building."

⁹ The 1894 Sanborn-Perris map of the building shows that this floor was then given over to "grain storage."

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1926 Remodeling and the 1967 Renovation

The earliest known illustration of the brewery dates from 1876 and it shows that at that time there was a short square-plan hip-roofed structure on the roof that housed the machinery of a patent windmill that supplied power for grinding malt and pumping water. This illustration also shows that the building had a shed-roofed one-story wood frame addition attached to its west elevation. The 1894 Sanborn-Perris map of Ahnapee (Algoma) shows that this addition spanned the length of the west elevation at that time. It also shows that there were two other wood buildings on the lots to the west of the brewery that were part of the brewery operations; a 35-foot-wide by 22.5-foot-deep rectilinear plan two-story hip roofed building near the river that was the brewery's old ice house, and a 40-foot-wide by 55-foot-deep rectilinear plan two-story plus basement building that faced onto Navarino Street and that was a newer ice house. By 1900, however, the Sanborn-Perris map of that year shows that both the addition and the other two buildings had been razed.¹⁰

In 1926, the former brewery building was purchased by the Metal Specialties Company, manufacturers of the Electro-Thermo washing machine. In order to ready the building for its new use as a manufacturing facility, the new owners "junked the old equipment" of both the fly-net manufacturing company that had previously owned it and the brewery. "A new roof was put on, floors relaid, stairways cut, and the building put in first class condition for the purpose intended."¹¹ This remodeling removed the original shallow-pitched hip roof and substituted a slightly sloping pitched roof whose front edge was hidden by a tall brick parapet and whose sides were hidden by stepped brick parapets.

By the time Dr. C. W. Stiehl purchased the building in 1967, its condition had greatly deteriorated. Besides the changes to the roof, most of the windows were either missing or were seriously deteriorated, several of the doors were gone or boarded over, and the front steps were missing. Dr. Stiehl hired the Green Bay, Wisconsin architectural firm of Nicols and Barone to undertake the restoration of the building. The necessity of complying with state laws regarding cleanliness and sanitation in a building devoted to the manufacturing of a consumable product mandated some of the changes that were undertaken. Other changes were dictated by the owner's desire to have an "old world" appearance for his winery business. Even so, by using the 1876 rendering and such artifacts as the surviving windows as a guide to the original appearance, the architects were able to restore the building to a faithful approximation of the original. The brewery building has been well maintained since the restoration and is in excellent condition today.

¹⁰ Harvey, E. M. & M. G. Tucker. Map Of Kewaunee County, Wisconsin., 1876. The border of this large-scale map is rimmed with illustrations of notable county buildings including the Ahnapee Brewery, W. Stransky, Proprietor, in the Village of Ahnapee.

¹¹ Algoma Record. October 22, 1926.

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converted into a fly net manufacturing plant by local businessman George Kelsey. In 1926, the by then vacant building was taken over by another company that manufactured washing machines in the building for a number of years. Afterwards, the building was used primarily for feed storage until 1967, when a local doctor, Dr. Charles W. Stiehl, restored it to house the well-known wine-making business that still occupies it today under different owners. Thus, the building is still associated today with the production of alcoholic beverages.

Historic Background

A fine overview of the history of the brewing industry in Wisconsin is contained in the Brewing and Malting Industry section of the CRMP's Industry Theme.¹⁵ Consequently, the discussion that follows deals solely with the history of this industry as it pertains to Algoma and Kewaunee County.

The first settlers arrived at the mouth of the Ahnapee River (then known as the Wolf River) in 1851. These men were John Hughes and Orrin Warner, both of whom made their first journey to the site in March of 1851 from the city of Manitowoc.

They remained a week, their camp being made of boat sails, at the spot where the Water and Light Plant is now located. In May they again returned to the same place, erected a small shack, and remained for three weeks looking over the country and fishing. They decided to return to Manitowoc for their families.

Just when Edward Tweeddale and family decided to settle in Wolf River is not recorded, but old records have it that the John Hughes and Edward Tweeddale families arrived at Wolf River on June 27, 1851, and were occupying their cabins when the Orrin Warner family arrived one week later.¹⁶

The following year, Abraham Hall established a saw-mill on the south branch of the river, which was located close to the river's mouth, and he also ran a grist-mill as well. Also in 1852, the schooner "Citizen" from Manitowoc began to make regular trips to Wolf River, bringing with it supplies and more settlers and carrying away cut lumber, the principal product of what was then a densely forested region.

In 1855, Simon Hall, brother of Abraham, arrived and built the first general store and stocked it.

In 1856, a large number settled in Ahnapee [Wolf River], the first steamboat, the "Cleveland," of Manitowoc, landing August 8, of that year. In the same year

¹⁵ Wyatt, Barbara (Ed.). Op. Cit., Vol. 2. (Industry), pgs. 18-1 - 18-6.

¹⁶ Ackerman, Mrs. D. V. and Mrs. H. V. Foshion. "Women's Club Reviews Algoma History: Learns About Pioneers." Algoma Record-Herald. February 13, 1948, pg. 11.

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David Young built north pier, a school-house, on the north side of the river, was being filled up ... the bridge which was built next summer (across the Ahnapee) was being discussed, and all in all, the year 1856 was one of much activity and excitement. The fact that Kewaunee County had been formed this year, and the town organized, under the name of Wolf River, sufficiently explains this rush of energy. G. W. Elliott, the County Surveyor, platted the west side of Ahnapee in the spring and the east side during the fall. And this--the organization of the county and town, and the platting of the village--may be considered the close of Ahnapee's pioneer history.¹⁷

Among the large number of families settling in Wolf River in 1856 were many families from Racine, Wisconsin. "These included the Youngs, Evelands, Harkins, Palmers, Mullens, Parkers, Henrys, Hiltons, Richmonds, Goodwins and Hallams. Soon after this came the Schiessers, a Swiss family, ... and Germany sent the Simons, Melchiors, Beitlings, Knipfers, Bensows, Brandts, Heners, Raethers, Gerickes, Krauses, Buschs and Klenskys. Then came the Bohemian families ... the Swatys, Blahniks, Chapeks and Jakubovskys.¹⁸ These families gave the new village a vigorous mix of ethnic backgrounds, but one with a decidedly German and Bohemian orientation that still persists today.

On May 10, 1859, the name Wolf River was changed to Ahnapee, an Indian name meaning Gray Wolf. Beginning in the same year, a Goodrich Line steam ship stopped at Ahnapee twice a week on her Green Bay-Chicago route and brought with it newspapers, mail and provisions. The first census was taken in 1860 and showed that the township of Ahnapee (which had also been renamed the previous year) contained 1152 inhabitants. Getting out lumber and cultivating the land were the chief industries.

In 1866, the south pier was built, and Ahnapee had the makings of a real harbor at last. The community grew steadily throughout the remainder of the century. In 1873, Ahnapee was incorporated as a village and on February 28, 1879, it was incorporated as a city. Between 1890 and 1900 most of the streets were laid out, the city's name was changed to Algoma in 1897, and by 1900 the city population had reached 1738. Throughout this period lumbering and the manufacturing of lumber-related products played a major role in the economy of the town. In 1892, M. W. Perry founded the Algoma Plywood Company which eventually became the largest employer in Algoma and a major subsidiary of U.S. Plywood-Champion Papers, Inc. Other industries were also developed in the city as well, including the Kelsey Fly Net Company (later the Algoma Net Company), and the Algoma Foundry and Machine Company, a manufacturer of farm machinery. All of these companies had plants located on or near the riverfront in Algoma and some of the buildings associated with these plants are still extant today.

¹⁷ History of Northern Wisconsin. Chicago: The Western Historical Society, 1881, pg. 433.

¹⁸ Ackerman, Mrs. D. V. and Mrs. H. V. Foshion. Op. Cit.

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The Beginning of the Brewing Industry in Kewaunee County

The story of the brewing industry in Kewaunee County is incomplete at best. Although Bull and Gottschalk note that there was a brewer named William Blackwell in Kewaunee, the county seat and its most populous community, as early as the 1850s, the oldest brewery in the county about which much is known was established in Kewaunee in 1860 by Adolph Ebel.¹⁹ Under Ebel (1860-1864), this brewery was known as the Kewaunee Brewery. It was afterwards owned by Charles Brandis (1864-early 1880s) and by 1880 it was producing about 450 barrels of beer a year. Still later the brewery was owned by Anton Mach and his family (1903-1916) and known as the Pilsen Brewing Co. and then by Raymond Rauch (1916-1920).²⁰ Jerry Apps, in his recent book, Breweries of Wisconsin, states that "The old [Pilsen Brewing Co.] brewery, located at the corner of Ellis and Dodge Streets [in Kewaunee], is currently [1992] a warehouse for the Kewaunee Bottling Company."²¹ A second documented brewery was begun in Kewaunee by Lutz and Trottman in 1864. An account in George Wing's column in the Algoma Record that is dated June 2, 1916, and which recounts the events of July and August, 1866, states that "Lutz and Winger [Joseph Wenger (?-1867), a successor to Trottman] began the erection of a new brewery on the River Road, which has passed into many different ownerships and is now [1916] the property of Joseph Bohman." By 1868, this brewery was known as the Bavarian Brewery and still later it was known as the Kewaunee Brewing Co.²² Still a third Kewaunee brewery may have also existed. Mention of it was made in the local paper in 1860. "Bernt and Zimmerman also announced that they were ready to furnish Lager Beer at their new brewery, and respectfully solicited the county patronage."²³ Nothing else is known about this last firm, however.

Other breweries were also being established in the county as well in the 1860s. In April of 1866, the Kewaunee paper noted that "Arndt & Schroeder completed the

¹⁹ Wing, George. "A Pioneer Story." Algoma Record-Herald, August 13, 1915. This was a series of articles about Kewaunee County and its communities written by Wing under the general title given above. The information was taken from issues of the Kewaunee Enterprise (the county's first paper) that had been published roughly fifty years previously. In this issue, Wing notes that William H. Blackwell ran the first public inn in the county "as far back as 1855-56." This inn was located in the village of Kewaunee and it is possible that Blackwell's brewing activities may have a connection with this business.

²⁰ Bull, Donald and Robert Gottschalk. American Breweries. Trumbull, Conn.: Bullworks, 1984, pg. 327.

²¹ Apps, Jerry. Breweries of Wisconsin. Madison: University of Wisconsin Press, 1992, pgs. 179-180.

²² Bull, Donald and Robert Gottschalk. Op. Cit.

²³ Wing, George. "A Pioneer Story." Algoma Record-Herald, May 28, 1915. This issue discusses the events of 1860.

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erection of a new brewery in Casco village."²⁴ Casco was and is a small village in the southwestern part of Kewaunee county.

The Beginning of the Brewing Industry in Algoma

The identity of the first person to brew beer or ale in Ahnapee is not recorded, nor is the date when this event took place, but brewing beer on a commercial scale is believed to have preceded the development of the Ahnapee Brewery. The earliest known citizen of Ahnapee who called himself a brewer was Joseph Knipfer, whose advertisement was carried in the first issue of the Kewaunee Enterprise, printed in June of 1860.²⁵ Another early brewer was Matthias Simon (1826-1914). Simon was one of the pioneer settlers of Ahnapee, having located there ca.1853. His obituary noted that he was 88 years old at the time of his death and that he was among the very first settlers of German origin in Ahnapee.²⁶ Simon established the village's first hotel just north of the river and he became a political leader in the community, winning election to the state legislature in 1859. After the Civil War, Simon operated a general store in Ahnapee in partnership with Peter Schiesser. The extent of Simon's brewing activity is not known, but in July of 1867, a notice in the Kewaunee newspaper stated that in that month "Louis Bruemmer purchased an interest in the brewery at Ahnapee with George Laux, and engaged in the business theretofore conducted by Matthias Simon. Mr. Bruemmer came to Ahnapee from Mishicot [Wisconsin]."²⁷

The future founders of the Ahnapee Brewery came on the scene at the close of the 1860s. An item in the February 24, 1869 issue of the Kewaunee Enterprise noted:

We learn that Messrs. Wota [sic] Stransky of this village [Kewaunee] and Herman Seidelman, of Sturgeon Bay, have purchased the Ahnapee brewery from Mr. George Laux, and will continue the business at the latter place--Mr. Seidelman having sold his brewery at Sturgeon Bay [in Door County].

²⁴ Wing, George. "A Pioneer Story." Algoma Record-Herald, May 19, 1916. This article in the series chronicles the events of April and May, 1866. It is not known if Arndt and Schroeder were builders or brewers.

²⁵ Kewaunee Enterprise. June 16, 1869. Included in a recap of the first ten years of the paper's history. Knipfer was afterwards a successful Ahnapee businessman and was later elected County Treasurer.

²⁶ Algoma Herald. February 26, 1914, pg. 1. Obituary of Matthias Simon. Age, 88.

²⁷ Wing, George. "A Pioneer Story." Algoma Record-Herald, July 21, 1916. The location of Simon's brewery building is not known, but since the Ahnapee Brewery was the first brick commercial building in Ahnapee, Simon's building was almost certainly built of frame, and there are few if any extant frame commercial buildings in Algoma that date back to this period.

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In this partnership Seidelman (aka Seideman) was the brewing professional and Stransky acted as the business entrepreneur. Not much more is presently known about Herman Seideman than what is mentioned in this nomination. Stransky, on the other hand, was a well known Kewaunee County pioneer who appears to have been a typical businessman/entrepreneur of the time, one who had a hand in a wide variety of activities in the space of just a few years. Both before and after the development of his brewery in Ahnapee, Stransky appears to have been principally associated with the village of Kewaunee, and it is believed that his principal residence was always in or near that community during the years he spent in Kewaunee County.

A history of Kewaunee County printed in 1881 contained the following biographical information about Stransky.

Wojta Stransky, County Judge, proprietor saw and grist mill, Sec. 14; West Kewaunee, P.O. Kewaunee, is a native of Bohemia, born April 13, 1835. Came to America in 1854, and remained two years in Milwaukee. Then removed to Kewaunee, Wis., and worked in sawmill for two or three years, repairing, etc. Then opened a meat market, which he managed for ten years. Then removed to his present location and bought a saw and grist mill, which he has operated since, also engaged in farming; has about seventy acres under cultivation. ... It is situated about three miles from the village of Kewaunee. He was elected County Judge in 1877, and has been Postmaster, Sheriff, and has been elected to many other local offices. About the year 1866, he bought out Finley and Conkling, dealers in general merchandise, for which he paid \$11,000 and shortly after sold to V. Mashek. At one time he and Ed. Decker, Esq. owned the entire village of Kewaunee, except the mill property. Married in January, 1861 to Mary Stepan, of Bohemia. They have one daughter.²⁸

Not surprisingly, items related to Stransky's various enterprises appear with considerable regularity in the Kewaunee and Ahnapee papers of his day. Among other things they noted that "Mr. Stransky, who has been prominent in local matters since 1857, was elected sheriff of the County in 1862--the first Bohemian to hold office in the county."²⁹ More to the point, another article related that when Stransky and V. Mashek bought the general merchandise business of Finley and Conkling in Kewaunee in 1866, "Mr. Stransky disposed of his interest in the brewery of Stransky and Wenger (in Kewaunee) to Frederick Detlaff, and the brewery was conducted by Joseph Wenger and Mr. Detlaff for several years."³⁰ Thus, Stransky had already had an involvement in the brewery business before his association with Herman Seideman.

²⁸ History of Northern Wisconsin. Op. Cit. pg. 432.

²⁹ Wing, George. "A Pioneer Story." Algoma Record-Herald, January 21, 1916.

³⁰ Ibid. Algoma Record-Herald, February 18, 1916. This article relates items of interest originally printed in the Kewaunee Enterprise in September and October of 1864. The brewery referred to was the Bavarian Brewery (see Footnote No. 22).

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Apparently, Stransky and Seideman continued to operate the old brewery in Algoma for a few months after they purchased it in 1869 because an item in an August issue of the Kewaunee Enterprise contained a reprint of an article from the Manitowoc Nord Westen that Mr. C. G. Schmidt, the associate editor of the paper had written regarding his trip to Kewaunee and Ahnapee. In this article, Schmidt noted that after landing in Kewaunee and enjoying the local beer produced by Charles Brandis "We accepted a seat in the wagon of Mr. Seideman, of Ahnapee, (whose beer is also well liked in Kewaunee) and proceeded to Ahnapee."³¹ Soon, however, the partners decided to increase their output by constructing a new brewery. In doing so, they were apparently counting on the beer drinking habits of their Bohemian and German countrymen, who were now flocking to Kewaunee County and to adjoining Door and Manitowoc counties. In the article by C. G. Schmidt quoted above, Schmidt states that "Ahnapee is a fine, growing village that cannot fail to make a favorable impression upon every traveler. The inhabitants, who are mostly German, are very industrious and full of enterprise."³² For men of this heritage beer drinking was a tradition and the culture they created for themselves in their adopted country was a continuation of this part of their heritage.

Kewaunee County, from the first, never lacked public places where liquid refreshments could be obtained. In 1869, there were 48 licensed places in the county where liquor was sold. Temperance waves have come and gone, but "the great thirsty" is apparently unquenchable, and fifty years of agitation has not resulted in lessening the number of our saloons. It has maintained its quota of about one saloon for every 250 inhabitants from the very first.³³

To satisfy the needs of this market a new brewery was planned. Stransky sold off some of his other properties to help finance this move and by September 1869, construction had begun. This was a project of some magnitude in the county of that day and the Kewaunee Enterprise duly reported the news to its readers.

The most notable [improvement] of those now in progress [in Ahnapee] is the new brewery of Stransky and Seideman just commenced. The foundation for the latter institution is now being built on the south bank of the river, near the central part of the village. The building will be brick, 36 feet by 50 feet and two stories high, with basement of stone. The cellars will consist of two stone arches, one 50 and the other 100 feet in length, and these will have storage capacity for 2000 barrels. It is intended to have the establishment in running order in November, and it is estimated that its cost, when completed, will be about \$12,000.³⁴

³¹ Kewaunee Enterprise. August 18, 1869, pg. 1.

³² Ibid.

³³ Wing, George. "A Pioneer Story." Algoma Record-Herald, March 16, 1916.

Recording the events of February, 1870.

³⁴ Kewaunee Enterprise. September 1, 1869, pg. 1.

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By the beginning of the following year the Enterprise could report that "The new Ahnapee Brewery is now manufacturing beer at the rate of 125 barrels per week."³⁵ A month later, the editor of the paper, after a visit to Ahnapee, stated that "The building is one of which the people of Ahnapee may justly feel proud."³⁶ In August, Henry Stransky, Wojta Stransky's brother, sold his Kewaunee meat market (the one begun by his brother), and moved to Ahnapee to take charge of the brewery.³⁷ In 1873, Ahnapee got a newspaper of its own, the Ahnapee (later the Algoma) Record. Many of the items that this newspaper was to publish about the brewery in later years were consolidated into a chronological history of the brewery that the Algoma Record-Herald published when the brewery building was reopened as the Von Stiehl Winery in 1968.³⁸ The first mention is as follows.

One of the most noteworthy institutions of our town is the large three-story brick brewery on Water street, known as the "Ahnapee Brewery" and owned by W. Stransky & Co. This is the only brick building of any considerable size in the town and in fact in the county except for the courthouse which is not yet completed, it is 34 x 54 feet on the outside and is 50 feet high on the river front. Besides the main brick building there is a large wooden addition on the west side which extends a little more than the entire length of the main portion. The building is furnished throughout with everything necessary for the business for which it is intended. It contains several cool and commodious cellars for the storage of beer, besides ample room for the storage of barley, and etc. It is also furnished with a patent wind mill which dispurses with a great deal of expense and labor. The building was built in 1869. It is at present under the supervision of Mr. Henry Stransky, and is doing a thriving business.³⁹

At some time in the early 1870s, Ahnapee businessman Franz Swaty (1822-1915) took over the role of Stransky's partner in the brewery.⁴⁰ In October of 1873, the Brewery Company constructed "a monstrous new barn on their lots near the river,"⁴¹ By the end of the decade the Record was to note that "Henry Schmiling has purchased

³⁵ Kewaunee Enterprise. January 26, 1870, pg. 1. The same issue also noted that the Wenger brewery in Kewaunee had sold at a sheriff's sale to Mr. Frederick Goes, "for \$1478.72--about half its value."

³⁶ Ibid. February 23, 1870.

³⁷ Ibid. August 10, 1870.

³⁸ Pflughoeft, Lois. "History of Ahnapee Brewery, Now von Stiehl Winery, Spans 100 Years." Algoma Record-Herald, June 20, 1968, pg. 3.

³⁹ Ahnapee Record. September 18, 1873, pg. 3.

⁴⁰ Algoma Record. July 21, 1916. Obituary of Franz Swaty. See also July 28, 1916.

⁴¹ Ahnapee Record. October 9, 1873, pg. 3. This was the old ice house shown on the 1894 Sanborn-Perris map.

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F. Swaty's interest in the Ahnapee brewery and will immediately take possession."⁴² Henry Schmiling (1845-1925) was born in Pomerania, Germany, on May 4, 1845, and he came to the United States with his parents in 1857. The family settled on a farm in the town of Ahnapee and Schmiling lived there until he was seventeen, at which time he enlisted in the Union Army during the Civil War. After his return from the war he followed farming and fishing until 1879, when he bought his interest in the Ahnapee brewery.⁴³

In the following year, Schmiling oversaw the construction of a large new ice house that measured 24 by 60 feet and had a cellar for additional beer storage.⁴⁴ The following year, Wojta Stransky sold his interest in the brewery to A. Kessner, which left Schmiling as the principal partner in charge of the operation.⁴⁵ Schmiling also extended the distribution of the brewery's products north to Door County, no easy feat in the days before the railroad serviced Ahnapee.

The Ahnapee Brewing company sells considerable quantities of "the foaming beverage" to dealers down in Door County. During the summer season, the beer is shipped north on small vessels and is now taken overland. Two sleighs, heavily loaded, were sent down on Monday last.⁴⁶

Schmiling continued his active association with the brewery until 1885, when the company leased the brewery to John Skala and J.B. Orth for five years at an annual rental of \$1,000 per year. Schmiling was afterwards superintendent of the county farm for fourteen years and he also served as the street commissioner of Algoma for a time.⁴⁷ Skala continued the operation until 1886, when he removed to Menominee, Michigan, which left Ahnapee without an active brewery. Several other persons, including partners Klogner & Pitlik (1890-92)⁴⁸ and important Ahnapee businessman Edward Decker (1893-94) later operated the Ahnapee Brewery for short periods, but production finally ceased for good by the end of 1894.⁴⁹

Various reasons for the ending of beer brewing in Ahnapee have been given, including a suggestion that a blight destroyed local hop production, thus ending brewing in the area. A more plausible reason is that by 1894, Ahnapee had finally been

⁴² Ahnapee Record. June 9, 1879, pg. 8.

⁴³ History of Northern Wisconsin. Op. Cit. pg. 435.

⁴⁴ Ahnapee Record. April 8, April 29, May 6, June 10, 1880.

⁴⁵ Ibid, December 29, 1881. Stransky left Wisconsin three years later and he died in Chadron, Nebraska in 1904, aged 72 years (from the obituary of Wojta Stransky in the Algoma Record, July 22, 1904).

⁴⁶ Ibid, January 3, 1884.

⁴⁷ Algoma Record-Herald. July 17, 1925, pg. 1. Obituary of Henry Schmiling.

⁴⁸ Ahnapee Record. January 28, 1892.

⁴⁹ Sanborn-Perris Fire Insurance Map of Ahnapee, Wisconsin. New York: Sanborn-Perris Map Co., 1894.

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connected to a railroad, the Ahnapee & Western, which was to be a major contributor to the growth of Ahnapee in the early 1890s.

This city (Ahnapee), until the building of this road, was to a large extent, retarded in its development from the lack of railroad facilities. It is due to the enterprise of Edward Decker and his son, David Decker, that the railroad was built. The first line was finished two years ago, making connection at Casco Junction, (about 12 miles southwest of Algoma) with the Kewaunee & Western, a part of the Green Bay, Winona & St. Paul system. This places the city in railroad communication with points in all directions. The line to Sturgeon Bay has (also) just been completed.⁵⁰

Completion of this railroad gave Ahnapee (renamed Algoma in 1897) and its existing industries a critical link to outside markets, and it also made new industries possible. The Ahnapee Brewery, however, found itself for the first time facing meaningful competition in the shape of much larger and very competitive regional breweries. Breweries such as the Van Dycke Brewing Co. and the Hagermeister Brewing Co., both of Green Bay, quickly developed distribution facilities of their own in Ahnapee, and it is possible that the latter firm used a part of the facilities of the Ahnapee Brewery as their local warehouse, this building being described in 1894 as "brick, 50x50 feet, two stories and basement high."⁵¹

Local brewing of beer in Ahnapee never resumed, at least not on a commercial scale, but new uses were found for the solidly built Ahnapee Brewery building. From 1894 to 1899, the building was used as a warehouse and was owned by the Ahnapee Dock Co., and the Algoma Packing Company used it for the same purpose from 1900 to 1907. In 1909, the building was taken over by George W. Kelsey, Jr. to house his expanding fly net manufacturing plant.

George W. Kelsey, Jr. now has his fly net factory comfortably located in the old Brewery building on South Water street, the last of the machinery having been moved from the former factory building at the corner of 4th and Navarino Street (extant) the latter part of last week. The building is well adapted for Mr. Kelsey's purposes and with the completion of the setting up of the machinery he will have a very neat and up-to-date looking plant.⁵²

Kelsey's company owned the brewery building until 1923. In 1926, another manufacturing company, the Metal Specialty Company, took over the building for a manufacturing facility. The president of the company was Joseph Schmitt and the

⁵⁰ Ahnapee Record. September 27, 1894. Special (Ahnapee) Edition.

⁵¹ Ibid.

⁵² Algoma Record. November 12, 1909, pg. 1. Fly nets were large nets that were placed over horses to decrease the discomfort brought about by fly bites. Kelsey began this company in 1904.

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alterations made by his company are the only significant ones the building ever experienced prior to the 1967 renovation, which was at least partially devoted to undoing the changes wrought by Schmitt.

The plant of the Metal Specialty company, manufacturers of the Electro-Thermo washer, will be in operation within the next two weeks. The first carload of equipment shipped from Ripon, the former location of the company, arrived Tuesday and two carloads are still enroute and are expected daily.

The old brewery building, vacant since the Kelsey Fly Net company discontinued business in this city about eight years ago, was bought by the Metal Specialty company from the Bank of Algoma about three weeks ago. Since the purchase, men have been employed junking the old net-making machinery and getting the building ready for the reception of the new manufacturing plant. A new roof was put on, floors relaid, stairways cut, and the building put in first class condition for the purpose intended. The building is 36x58 in size. It is a two story structure with two basements available for storage purposes. The first floor will be used for machine shop purposes. The second floor will be used for assembling and finishing the machines. An elevator will be erected to facilitate the handling of materials between the several floors.⁵³

The Metal Specialty Company continued to own the brewery building until 1942, after which time it was either used as a warehouse space or stood vacant. The last usage before its purchase by Dr. Stiehl in 1966 was as a storehouse for the Kodan Feed Mill owned by Ronald Blahnik, but by this time the building had deteriorated.⁵⁴ With the purchase of the building by Dr. Stiehl, however, the fortunes of the building were reversed.

When Dr. Stiehl purchased the brewery building in 1966, it was because what had originally been a hobby that he had started in the basement of his home in 1962, had developed into a full-scale business. Stiehl's original wine was made from Door County cherries and his winery was then the only licensed winery in Wisconsin. The move to the old brewery, however, greatly increased his capacity, which had been limited to about 2500 gallons a year. Now, fermentation could take place in steel vats with capacities of up to 1800 gallons each and the new holding vats had a total capacity of 13,000 gallons. Capacity increased almost instantly to 12,000 gallons or about 60,000 bottles of wine a year.

The newly renovated brewery reopened as a winery in June of 1968, and it soon became a popular tourist attraction and a favorite subject of articles by state and

⁵³ Algoma Record-Herald. October 22, 1926. The elevator was never built. One of the washers produced by this firm is now on display in the sub-basement of the Von Stiehl Winery.

⁵⁴ Ibid. August 18, 1966. "Dr. Stiehl Tells of Hope to 'Restore' Landmark."

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regional travel writers.⁵⁵ Eventually, the demands of Dr. Stiehl's medical practice made the winery too large a distraction and in 1981, he sold the building and the winery name name to William and Sandy Schmiling, both Algoma natives and the present owners of the property.⁵⁶ Since taking over the operation the Schmiling's have won numerous awards for the several different wines they make in the old brewery and they have made the winery the best known tourist attraction in the Algoma area. Their success is especially fitting since William Schmiling is the great-nephew of Henry Schmiling, who, as partner in the business, helped guide the original Ahnapee Brewery to success in the 1880s.

Summary

The Ahnapee Brewery is being nominated to the National Register because it is a fine largely intact representative example of a small-scale nineteenth-century brewery. While the brewing industry itself was not an especially important one in the Algoma economy, the product of the brewery was historically of great importance to the largely German and Bohemian population of Algoma and the surrounding area. Historically, the Ahnapee Brewery Company was the most important brewery in Algoma and the building that is the subject of this nomination was the most important resource connected with this company. The building is now the only known extant building in Algoma associated with this industry and it may also be the only remaining nineteenth century building in the county associated with this industry. In addition, there is reason to believe that the Ahnapee Brewery building was the first sizeable brick building constructed in Kewaunee County and as such it was long a source of civic pride for the citizens of Algoma and it is now an important local landmark to present-day Algoma.

Criteria Consideration E: Reconstructed Properties

The Ahnapee Brewery is a small-scale astylistic utilitarian form vernacular building which was designed for the purely utilitarian purpose of manufacturing beer. As such, the building was devoid of decoration, its most distinguishing feature being its cavernous and beautifully crafted stone sub-basement and basement stories, the lower one of which served as the storage cellar of the brewery operation. The two brick upper stories were similar in design to many other buildings of the day that were intended to be used for manufacturing purpose, each floor being essentially an open space where materials could be stored and manufacturing apparatus kept. The Ahnapee Brewery was typical of others of its type, a type that has been characterized in the CRMP as follows:

⁵⁵ Some of these articles were in the Milwaukee Journal, July 24, 1968; Wisconsin Tales and Trails Magazine, Autumn, 1969, pgs. 31-34; and the Green Bay Press-Gazette, December 29, 1968, "Winery Becoming a Tourist Attraction."

⁵⁶ Algoma Record-Herald. "Bring Tradition Back to Von Stiehl Winery." May 27, 1981.

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Throughout the 1850s and 1860s, small local breweries sprang up in widely scattered localities across the settled areas of the state. In particular, those communities such as Milwaukee, where substantial German populations had settled, quickly developed small concerns. Often established along with pioneer sawmills and gristmills in a community, the small brewing concerns continued to dot (the) Wisconsin countryside through the 1880s. The breweries were often sited along natural riverways which provided needed water, ice, and distribution systems. Housed in simple two and three-story structures of wood-frame or brick construction, the early breweries displayed highly utilitarian building forms, including narrow gable roof structures and simple sheds, spacious enough to protect the small six to eight barrel brewing kettles which were set over open flames. Underground cellars or hillside caverns were also common features of early brewing sites. Utilized as cold storage areas for the fermentation process as well as for the storage of the finished product, the "cellars" remained features of brewery design well into the 1890s, when mechanical refrigeration supplanted their usefulness. For the most part, these early concerns served only local markets within the immediate vicinity of the brewery.⁵⁷

Since the Ahnapee Brewery fits almost every one of these characteristics it is reasonable to say that it is a representative example of this building type.

Most of the original fabric of this building is still intact and the building still occupies its original site. As noted earlier, the only significant changes that were made to the building during the first century of its existence occurred in 1926. At this time, the original roof was replaced, the floors of the first and second stories were relaid, and stairways were added in the interior. This alteration also resulted in the removal of the ten small chimneys that originally encircled the roof. The only other change of importance was the gradual loss of many, but not all, of the original windows and doors through deterioration. This was the condition of the building in 1966, when it was purchased by Dr. Stiehl.

Because Dr. Stiehl intended for the building to be a tourist attraction he made a decision to restore it to its original appearance. Dr. Stiehl and his architects were aided in the process of reconstruction by the intact survival of most of the building's historic fabric (including several of the original windows). A crucial factor in reproducing the original appearance of the building was the discovery of an excellent early rendering of the building published in 1876, which showed the appearance of the original roof and chimneys.⁵⁸ With this, the surviving bases of the ten chimney stacks, and the surviving windows as a guide, the architects were

⁵⁷ Wyatt, Barbara (Ed.). Cultural Resource Management Plan, Vol. 2, (Industry) pgs. 9-1 - 9-2.

⁵⁸ The source of this illustration is cited in Footnote 10. A copy of the rendering is included with this form.

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able to do an excellent job of removing the roof added in 1926 and restoring the building's lost features. The resulting restoration is a tribute to the care that Dr. Stiehl put into this project. It is especially impressive that he was able to effect so accurate a restoration at so early a date, since in 1966 the National Register program and historic preservation in general was in its infancy in Wisconsin. Dr. Stiehl was also farsighted enough to realize that the success of his restoration would be aided by the retention of its very picturesque riverside setting. In order to preserve this setting, Dr. Stiehl talked the owners of the fishing boats and the rustic fishing shanties that lined the river banks "into repairing but not modernizing the area. He even developed a tour of this handsome old fishing wharf which includes explanations of how the commercial lake fisherman did their work."²⁹

In effecting this restoration, Dr. Stiehl was careful to reconstruct the quite plain original appearance of the brewery building, avoiding the excesses that so often mar reconstructions of this type. It should also be noted that there are no other buildings of this type or having its historic associations in Algoma.

In summary, then, it is believed that the Ahnapee Brewery is eligible for listing in the National Register of Historic Places and that it falls within the category of a reconstructed building as specified in NR Bulletin 15 regarding Criteria Consideration E. The brewery is an accurate and dignified restoration that utilized sound architectural and historic data as a basis for reconstruction; most of its historic fabric is still present; the building occupies its original site; its restoration was a part of an informal but thoughtful effort on the part of its owner to preserve its surrounding area; and no other building or structure with the same associations has survived in Algoma.

Owner

Mr. William Schmiling
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Algoma, WI 54201

²⁹ "Von Stiehl Winery of Algoma." A manuscript in the collection of the Algoma Public Library. No author given, n.d.

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