

**United States Department of the Interior  
Heritage Conservation and Recreation Service**

**National Register of Historic Places  
Inventory—Nomination Form**

See instructions in *How to Complete National Register Forms*  
Type all entries—complete applicable sections

For HCRS use only

received

JAN 19 1981

date entered

AUG 2 1981

## 1. Name

historic Schornstein Grocery and Saloon

and/or common N/A

## 2. Location

street & number 707 E. Wilson Avenue <sup>and</sup> 223 N. Bates Avenue N/A not for publication

city, town St. Paul N/A vicinity of congressional district 4th

state Minnesota code 22 county Ramsey code 123

## 3. Classification

Category	Ownership	Status	Present Use
<input type="checkbox"/> district	<input type="checkbox"/> public	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> occupied	<input type="checkbox"/> agriculture
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> building(s)	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> private	<input type="checkbox"/> unoccupied	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> commercial
<input type="checkbox"/> structure	<input type="checkbox"/> both	<input type="checkbox"/> work in progress	<input type="checkbox"/> educational
<input type="checkbox"/> site	<b>Public Acquisition</b>	<b>Accessible</b>	<input type="checkbox"/> entertainment
<input type="checkbox"/> object	<u>N/A</u> <input type="checkbox"/> in process	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> yes: restricted	<input type="checkbox"/> government
	<input type="checkbox"/> being considered	<input type="checkbox"/> yes: unrestricted	<input type="checkbox"/> industrial
		<input type="checkbox"/> no	<input type="checkbox"/> military
			<input type="checkbox"/> museum
			<input type="checkbox"/> park
			<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> private residence
			<input type="checkbox"/> religious
			<input type="checkbox"/> scientific
			<input type="checkbox"/> transportation
			<input type="checkbox"/> other:

## 4. Owner of Property

name James Oakes

street & number 223 Bates Avenue

city, town St. Paul N/A vicinity of state Minnesota

## 5. Location of Legal Description

courthouse, registry of deeds, etc. Ramsey County Courthouse

street & number 15 W. Kellogg Boulevard

city, town St. Paul state Minnesota 55102

## 6. Representation in Existing Surveys

title Historic Sites Survey of St. Paul  
and Ramsey County

has this property been determined eligible?  yes  no

date 12/80-12/82  federal  state  county  local

depository for survey records Ramsey County Historical Society, 75 W. 5th Street

city, town St. Paul state Minnesota 55102

# 7. Description

**Condition**

excellent  
 good  
 fair

deteriorated  
 ruins  
 unexposed

**Check one**

unaltered  
 altered

**Check one**

original site  
 moved date N/A

**Describe the present and original (if known) physical appearance**

Schornstein Grocery and Saloon is located at the northwest corner of Wilson Avenue and Bates Avenue on Dayton's Bluff, east of downtown St. Paul. The building is the focal point of a small neighborhood commercial cluster in one of the first settled portions of Dayton's Bluff. Schornstein Grocery and Saloon, built in 1884 and designed by Augustus F. Gauger, has an unusual eclectic Victorian design combining elements of the French Second Empire and Italianate styles. The building measures 25 feet wide by 58 feet long, has three bays, and is 2½ stories tall with a Mansard roof which was originally topped by decorative metal cresting. The building is supported by a limestone foundation and is faced with stretcher bonded red pressed brick with light gray cutstone trim. The main facade of the building, which faces Wilson Avenue, has a cast iron storefront which originally had a centrally located entrance, topped by a shingled shed eave supported by metal brackets. This eave replaces an original ornate second story balcony with cast iron balustrade. The second story of the main facade features a centrally located rectangular projecting bay, flanked by tall rectangular 1/1 and 2/2 windows with cut stone label moldings and sills. The second story also has brick corner pilasters with stone composite order capital. The main facade is dominated by a large pyradimal and flat roofed dormer which projects from the Mansard roof. The three double hung windows set into this dormer have classically-inspired enframing members. Attached to the west side wall at the main facade is a one story woodframe storefront to which brick veneer was added circa 1889. This small wing has a flat roof, a cast iron storefront, and a newly reconstructed shed roofed porch with ornate wooden columns, fretwork, and balustrade.

The east side wall of Schornstein Grocery, which faces Bates Avenue, is dominated by a second story three-sided oriel window with a bulbous base. The east side wall has brick pilasters with stone capitals separating the bays, a small cast iron storefront at the north end, tall rectangular window openings with cut stone label moldings and sills, a Queen Anne exterior chimney, and three pedimented dormers with scrollwork in the tympanums and paired rectangular double hung windows. The building is further ornamented with cut stone belt courses and a heavy cornice with modillions. The west and north walls of the building are relatively plain, with several small additions.

Schornstein Grocery and Saloon is in good condition. It has undergone some alteration and a recent fairly sensitive renovation. Alterations to the exterior include the addition of brick veneer to the west storefront (circa 1889), changing the main storefront entrance to the western bay, replacing the front balcony with a shed eave, removal of metal cresting, and replacement of the original roof with new wood shingles. Unfortunately, the building has been sandblasted.

## 8. Significance

Period	Areas of Significance—Check and justify below			
<input type="checkbox"/> prehistoric	<input type="checkbox"/> archeology-prehistoric	<input type="checkbox"/> community planning	<input type="checkbox"/> landscape architecture	<input type="checkbox"/> religion
<input type="checkbox"/> 1400-1499	<input type="checkbox"/> archeology-historic	<input type="checkbox"/> conservation	<input type="checkbox"/> law	<input type="checkbox"/> science
<input type="checkbox"/> 1500-1599	<input type="checkbox"/> agriculture	<input type="checkbox"/> economics	<input type="checkbox"/> literature	<input type="checkbox"/> sculpture
<input type="checkbox"/> 1600-1699	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> architecture	<input type="checkbox"/> education	<input type="checkbox"/> military	<input type="checkbox"/> social/
<input type="checkbox"/> 1700-1799	<input type="checkbox"/> art	<input type="checkbox"/> engineering	<input type="checkbox"/> music	<input type="checkbox"/> humanitarian
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 1800-1899	<input type="checkbox"/> commerce	<input type="checkbox"/> exploration/settlement	<input type="checkbox"/> philosophy	<input type="checkbox"/> theater
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 1900-	<input type="checkbox"/> communications	<input type="checkbox"/> industry	<input type="checkbox"/> politics/government	<input type="checkbox"/> transportation
		<input type="checkbox"/> invention		<input type="checkbox"/> other (specify)

**Specific dates** 1884 **Builder/Architect** Augustus F. Gauger, architect and builder

### Statement of Significance (in one paragraph)

Schornstein Grocery and Saloon, built in 1884 and located at 707 E. Wilson Avenue, is architecturally and historically significant as one of the most unusual and ornate small Victorian commercial buildings still standing in St. Paul, as the work of talented St. Paul architect Augustus F. Gauger, and as a commercial building which has served as a focal point of the Wilson/Bates neighborhood since the late nineteenth century.

The original owner of this building was William Schornstein. Schornstein and his wife, Wilhelmina, were born in Germany and immigrated directly to St. Paul in 1873. William worked as a bartender for several years before moving to the predominately German Wilson/Bates neighborhood on Dayton's Bluff in 1880. In that year he opened his first grocery store and saloon in rented quarters at the corner of Bates Avenue and Plum Street, near the well-travelled Hastings road, a route used by farmers travelling to St. Paul from eastern Ramsey County. In 1882 Schornstein purchased a lot a few blocks away at the northwest corner of Wilson Avenue and Bates Avenue (site of the present building) and built a \$6,000 two story brick store. Unfortunately for Schornstein, his new building was destroyed by fire just two years later. That summer, in 1884, he commissioned St. Paul architect Augustus F. Gauger to design the present building, which was completed in the fall of 1884 at an estimated cost of \$5,000. Gauger was a prolific German-born architect with a carpentry background who came to St. Paul in 1875 and first worked in the office of architect Edward P. Bassford. Gauger designed a large number of houses, schools, commercial buildings, and at least one church in St. Paul and eventually gained a national reputation.

The new Schornstein Grocery and Saloon originally housed a grocery store in the main storefront, a saloon in the rear storefront (entered from Bates Avenue), the Schornstein's apartment on the second floor, and a meeting hall on the third floor. The one story storefront attached to the west side wall was used by Schornstein's brother-in-law as a harness shop. Sometime after the turn of the century the second floor was divided into two apartments. William Schornstein operated the saloon and grocery store until his retirement in 1910 when his son, Otto, assumed control of the business. One year after William Schornstein died in 1920 his son closed the store and shortly thereafter sold the building. Since 1921 the building has had several owners, but has most often served as a grocery store. The building now houses a cabinetmaker's shop and apartments, and has recently been renovated.

# 9. Major Bibliographical References

Sazevich, Jim. Unpublished research on Schornstein Grocery and Saloon conducted for the Ramsey County Historical Society, 1979.

# 10. Geographical Data

Acreeage of nominated property less than 1 acre

Quadrangle name St. Paul East Quad.

Quadrangle scale 7.5

**UMT References**

A 

1	5	4	9	4	7	6	0	4	9	7	7	5	6	1	0
Zone				Easting				Northing							

B 

Zone				Easting				Northing							

C 

Zone				Easting				Northing							

D 

Zone				Easting				Northing							

E 

Zone				Easting				Northing							

F 

Zone				Easting				Northing							

G 

Zone				Easting				Northing							

H 

Zone				Easting				Northing							

**Verbal boundary description and justification**

Southerly 80' of Lots 1 and 2, Block 55, Lyman Dayton's Addition.

**List all states and counties for properties overlapping state or county boundaries**

state N/A code N/A county N/A code N/A

state N/A code N/A county N/A code N/A

# 11. Form Prepared By

name/title Susan Granger, Survey Staff

organization Historic Sites Survey of St. Paul and Ramsey County

date 12/15/82

street & number Ramsey County Historical Society 75 W. 5th Street

telephone (612) 222-0701

city or town St. Paul

state Minnesota 55102

# 12. State Historic Preservation Officer Certification

The evaluated significance of this property within the state is:

national  state  local

As the designated State Historic Preservation Officer for the National Historic Preservation Act of 1966 (Public Law 89-665), I hereby nominate this property for inclusion in the National Register and certify that it has been evaluated according to the criteria and procedures set forth by the Heritage Conservation and Recreation Service.

State Historic Preservation Officer signature

*Russell W. Fridley*

title Russell W. Fridley State Historic Preservation Officer

date 1/11/84

**For HCRS use only**

I hereby certify that this property is included in the National Register

*Beth Groover* date 8/2/89

Keeper of the National Register

Attest: \_\_\_\_\_ date \_\_\_\_\_

Chief of Registration