

MINNESOTA HISTORIC PROPERTIES INVENTORY FORM

HISTORIC NAME: Preston Brewery COUNTY: Fillmore  
 CURRENT NAME: Hanson, Clarence A., Residence CITY/TWP.: Preston City  
 LEGAL DESC.: See continuation sheet ADDRESS: Bluff Street

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

OPEN TO THE PUBLIC: Yes    No   x   Restricted    PRESENT USE: Private residence  
 VISIBLE FROM THE ROAD: Yes   x   No     
 OCCUPIED: Yes   x   No   

DATE CONSTRUCTED: ca. 1859 (?) ORIGINAL USE: brewery  
 ORIGINAL OWNER: Joseph Somers & Co. ARCHITECT/BUILDER: Unknown

OWNER'S NAME AND ADDRESS: Clarence A. Hanson Preston, MN 55965	ACREAGE: Less than one acre <u>  x  </u>
LOCAL CONTACT/ORG.: Fillmore County Historical Society, Box 193, Preston, MN	UTM REFERENCE: Preston Quad. 15 / 574370 / 4835860
FORM PREPARED BY: Robert M. Frame III, Ph.D.	
DATE: February 1981	

**DESCRIPTION:**  
 The Preston Brewery is located at the foot of a bluff along the Root River on the northeast edge of the city. Originally, the C.M. & St.P. Railroad ran between the building and the river. It is simple rectangular structure, approximately 20 x 60 feet, two stories high on an exposed basement, with gable roof. It is constructed of coursed ashlar limestone. The present structure includes the original ca.1859 building and part of the sections that had been added by 1900, although the two-and-one-half story east addition has been shortened and lowered to conform with overall roof line. Fenestration consists largely of six-over-six double-hung sash in rectangular openings with stone sills and lintels. With the exception of a new roof (following the original lines), concrete block chimney at the west end, and above-noted alteration to the east end, the brewery exterior retains considerable integrity. The interior has been remodeled.

**SIGNIFICANCE:**  
 Built about 1859, the Preston Brewery is significant as the oldest known surviving industrial structure in Fillmore County and as a representative of the early settlement of Preston. The brewery was built about four years after the survey and platting of the village, shortly after Preston had been designated the county seat. As such, it is one of the first breweries established in the county. It was enlarged about 1885. It is now a private residence.

**BIBLIOGRAPHY:**  
Coming Home: Preston's 125th Anniversary, August 1,2,3, 1980. Judy Jeunger & Joe Gartner, eds. (Preston? 1980?) Pp. 5-9.  
Chatfield Democrat, January 29, 1859, p. 3.  
Preston National Republican, October 22, 1885.

LEGAL DESCRIPTION:

Commencing 43 rods and 16 links east of the quarter stake on the north side of Section 6, Township 102 north of Range 10 West, running thence west 12 rods, thence south  $1\frac{1}{4}$  degrees west 16 rods and 5 links; thence east 9 rods and 8 links to the river; thence down the river to a stake, thence north  $1\frac{1}{2}$  degrees east to the section line to the place of beginning, excepting therefrom that portion thereof deeded to Martin M. Blunt, described as follows: to-wit: Commencing on the bank of the south branch of Root River 146 feet east of a point 285 feet south of a point 798 feet east of the one quarter stake on the north line of Section 6, Township 102 north of Range 10 west, thence 146 feet west, thence in a northwesterly direction 216 feet to the bank of said river, thence southerly along the banks of said river to the place of beginning.