

MINNESOTA HISTORIC PROPERTIES INVENTORY FORM

HISTORIC NAME: Hotel Broz COUNTY: LeSueur
 CURRENT NAME: Schumacher's New Prague Hotel CITY/TWP.: New Prague
 LEGAL DESC.: Lots 5, 6, 7, 8 in block 3 and Sly 57.3 ft. of ADDRESS:
 lots 1, 2, 3, 4, City of New Prague 212 West Main

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

OPEN TO THE PUBLIC: Yes X No _____ Restricted X PRESENT USE:
 VISIBLE FROM THE ROAD: Yes X No _____ Hotel
 OCCUPIED: Yes X No _____

DATE CONSTRUCTED: 1898 ORIGINAL USE: Hotel
 ORIGINAL OWNER: W.S. Broz ARCHITECT/BUILDER: Architect, unknown
 Builder, George Reis

OWNER'S NAME AND ADDRESS: John A. and Nancy Schumacher 212 West Main New Prague, Minnesota 56071	ACREAGE: Less than one acre <u>X</u>
LOCAL CONTACT/ORG.: LeSueur County Historical Society Elysian, Minnesota 56028	UTM REFERENCE: New Prague Quad. 15 / 453940 / 4932140
FORM PREPARED BY: Britta Bloomberg	
DATE: August, 1980	

DESCRIPTION:

Hotel Broz is located on the south side of Main Street on the western edge of New Prague's principal business district.

The building was constructed in 1898 and designed in the Georgian Revival style. The brick building features a seven bay symmetrical facade with brick corner quoins. A wooden cornice with dentils and modillions surmounted by a parapet tops the building. The parapet features a projecting scrolled central ornament with the original hotel name surmounted by a flag-pole. Large double doors set in an arched opening and framed by fan and side lights occupy the center bay on the first floor. Fenestration on the second floor consists of a wide segmental arched window in the center bay flanked by three semi-circular double-hung arched windows with fan-lights on either side. Windows on the first floor are rectilinear and double-hung, with six over one lights.

A significant degree of the original design integrity remains. The original colonnaded front porch has been removed and replaced by green cloth awnings. Other exterior alterations include the addition of a vestibule sheltering the entrance in the east bay, the conversion of a west front window to a doorway, and the installation of air conditioning units beneath the second story windows. The floorplan remains intact as do many of the original features, particularly in the lobby area. The decor and furnishings, added by the present owners, recall the Czech and German heritage of the area.

SIGNIFICANCE:

The Hotel Broz is significant as a notable example of the late nineteenth century hotels constructed along the major business streets of the more successful communities in the area. Hotels served an important function in area towns during this period, meeting not only the practical need for temporary housing, but providing a social center for the community and a symbol of success. A "first class" hotel was a measure of a town's pride and prosperity. Hotel Broz played this role when constructed in New Prague in 1898. The local paper boasted, "One of the first and great requisites of any ambitious and rapidly growing city is a really first class hotel, and in this respect the needs of New Prague are now supplied by Hotel Broz....".¹ The hotel is named for its first owner who operated it until 1920. The building's Georgian Revival design contrasts with the more characteristic plain brick commercial buildings of the community and reflects the role its builders intended.

¹New Prague Times, November 10, 1898

BIBLIOGRAPHY:

New Prague Times.
 Sanborn Insurance Co. Maps, 1899, 1904, 1910, 1919, 1931.