

HISTORIC NAME: South German Street Historic District

COUNTY: Brown

CURRENT NAME:

CITY/TWP.: New Ulm

LEGAL DESC.: see continuation sheet - page 3

ADDRESS:

110-312 South German  
(even numbers only)

CLASSIFICATION:	CONDITION:	SIGNIFICANCE:	THEME/S:
Building _____	Excellent _____	Local <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Primary <u>Architecture</u>
Structure _____	Good <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	State _____	Secondary <u>Industry</u>
Object _____	Fair _____	National _____	Others <u>Commerce</u>
District <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Deteriorated _____		

OPEN TO THE PUBLIC: Yes \_\_\_ No  Restricted \_\_\_

PRESENT USE:

VISIBLE FROM THE ROAD: Yes  No \_\_\_single family residences/  
apartmentsOCCUPIED: Yes  No \_\_\_

DATE CONSTRUCTED: various - see description

ORIGINAL USE: single family residences

ORIGINAL OWNER: various - see description

ARCHITECT/BUILDER:

OWNER'S NAME AND ADDRESS:

various - see attached list

ACREAGE: Less than one acre

7LOCAL CONTACT/ORG.: Brown County Historical Society  
New Ulm, MN

UTM REFERENCE:

15 / 383920 / 4907300

FORM PREPARED BY: Dennis Gimmetad

New Ulm Quad.

DATE: January 1979

## DESCRIPTION:

The South German Street District includes a series of residences on the west side of South German Street in New Ulm.

The structures of the district face South German on one complete and two partial blocks, beginning at mid-block between First South Street and Second South Street and continuing to mid-block between Third South Street and Fourth South Street. The district, on the second terrace level of New Ulm, overlooks an area designated as a park in the original plat of the city, but which was later taken up in large part by the railroad right-of-way and shipping and industrial activities. The portion of this area directly across German Street from the residences remains as open wooded parkland, and permits a view of several structures important to the shipping/industrial functions (including a lumber yard, flour mill, railroad depot, and grain elevator) and of the river valley beyond. The nomination includes the open section of this area.

The pivotal structures of the area are two-and-one-half story structures constructed between c.1884 and c.1899. Stylistically they include variations of late Italianate and Queen Anne, with examples of Eastlake detailing, and, with one exception, are of brick. The district also includes an earlier (c.1865) one-story brick structure. Two c.1920 cubical frame houses are considered non-contributory as they are not consistent with the district's period of significance.

Features of the individual buildings included in the district are as follows:

Jacob Pfenninger House I, 101 South German (c.1885). 2½ stories, red brick, French Second Empire roof with iron cresting, Eastlake wood detailing, full front porch, two small gable-roofed dormers and one central wall dormer on front of mansard, decorative lintels and belt courses, hitching post at front.

Jacob Pfenninger House II, 114 South German (c.1885). 2½ stories, red brick gable roof flattened at top with semi-circular front parapet, Eastlake wood detailing, full porch.

George Doehne House, 124 South German (1884). 2½ stories, white-painted brick, mansard roof with intact cresting, Eastlake detailing, full front porch, concrete block addition at rear.

Schmidt-Fritsche House, 200 South German (c.1888). 2½ stories, white-and-buff-painted brick, hipped roof and corner dormers with round windows and finials, three-story central pavillion with elaborate relief brickwork and gabled top with finial, round-arched windows on first story and third story of pavillion, segmental-arched second story windows with belt courses, brick quoining, porches on three sides with rock-faced stone piers. At rear: Auto garage (no date). Embossed tin siding, raised seam metal roof.

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DESCRIPTION - continued

Scheman House, 208 South German (c.1920). 2 stories, wood frame, cubical with pyramidal roof and brick front porch. (NON-CONTRIBUTORY)

Adolph Seiter House, 212 South German (c.1865). 1½ stories, painted brick, hipped roof broken by two-story central pavillion, Eastlake wood detailing, full front porch, four-over-four windows on first level, second level windows altered.

Joseph Bianchi House, 218 South German (c.1920). 2 stories, wood frame cubiform with pyramidal roof. (NON-CONTRIBUTORY)

Michael Mullen House, 224 South German (c.1889). Queen Anne, 2½ stories, red brick, circular wrap-around front porch with second story front balcony, pediment with relief ornament over entrance, bracketed freize, buff stone lintels.

A.W. Bingham House, 304 South German (c.1898). Stick style, 2½ stories, frame with clapboard, horseshoe bracing in gables, exposed rafter ends and "half-timbering", large brackets, enclosed front wrap-around porch. At rear: Carriage House (no date). 1½ stories, frame with clapboard, hip roof with wall dormers, cupola, some alteration with replacement of garage doors.

Charles Weschcke House, 312 South German (c.1886). Queen Anne, 2½ stories, red brick veneer, irregular gable roof, turned ornament in gables and on porches, wide freize with brackets, built-in rain gutters, U-shaped stone labels over windows.

SIGNIFICANCE:

The pivotal structures of the South German Street Historic District represent the larger scale homes built by some of the commercial and industrial leaders of New Ulm during the last decades of the 19th century.

This section of the street contains one of the best collections of such residences in the southwestern part of the state. While the lineage of most of the features of the residences in the area appears to be that of traditional American styles rather than of specifically German derivation, the singular character of the street has contributed in part of New Ulm's architectural reputation. (See Architectural Significance/Description sections).

Principal first owners of the residences represent a range of commercial/ industrial activities, with special emphasis on New Ulm grain marketing and processing. Accordingly, this area of South German Street overlooks, beyond the open area of South German Park, the mills, elevators, and railroad yards associated with such functions.

Principal first owners - 100 block. Jacob Pfenninger (#110, 114) acquired the Eagle Sawmill in 1865, later converting it to a feed mill and finally to the roller mill that became New Ulm's largest flour mill. (Available evidence indicates that Pfenninger built both #110 and #114 in about 1885, but the reasons for two houses remains unclear.) Pfenninger joined in partnership with George Doehne (#124) and Werner Boesch about 1875. Doehne, earlier a Cottonwood Township farmer, was affiliated with the mill until the three returned and sold the business in 1887 to Charles Silverson (see South Broadway District). Doehne built #124 in 1884.

Principal first owners - 200 block. George Schmidt (#200) built the original Empire Mill with three other men in 1880, and constructed his South German home about 1885. (The Empire's successor, the New Ulm Roller Mill, is also included in this nomination). Schmidt left New Ulm in 1899, and #200 was sold to Louis A. Fritsche, a long-term medical doctor in New Ulm and the author of a 1916 History of Brown County. Herman Scheman (#208) was a local grocer who built #208 (NON-CONTRIBUTORY) about 1920 on a portion of the original Seiter property.

Adolph Seiter (#213) was a member of the Cincinnatti Turner group that came to New Ulm in 1856, and he opened New Ulm's first commercial establishment that

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## SIGNIFICANCE - Continued

same year. Seiter's Dakota House was a pivotal building that survived the 1862 Sioux attack on the city. He constructed #212, the earliest house in the district, in about 1865. Joseph Bianchi (#218) was an employee of the Eagle Mill who constructed #218 (NON-CONTRIBUTORY) about 1920 on another portion of the original Seiter property. Michael Mullen (#224), a native of Vermont, was president of the Citizens National Bank in New Ulm from 1876 until his death in 1910. He built #224 in about 1889.

Principal first owners - 300 block. A.W. Bingham (#304), born in Canada, began a lumber business in Winona in 1864, and moved in New Ulm in 1872, the same year the railroad connected the two points. In partnership with his brother, the business shifted to grain marketing. (The large Bingham Brothers Elevator is clearly visible two block southeast.) Carl Weschcke (#312) came to New Ulm from Germany in 1860, and, as New Ulm's only physician at the time, played an important role during the 1862 Indian War. He also served several terms as the towns mayor. His South German residence was built about 1886.

The South German Street District is significant, then, as a regionally distinctive collection of late 19th century residences, linked with the commercial and industrial development of the city of New Ulm.

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LEGAL DESCRIPTION:

Portions of blocks 62S, 63S, and 64S, and South German Park, original plat, as follows: from the northwest corner of South German Park, northeast 100 feet along park boundary; southeast 960 feet through park on a line parallel with South German Street; southwest 345 feet to the southwest corner of L4, B62S; northwest to the southwest corner of L7, B63S; northeast along lot line 51 feet; northwest 100 feet; southwest 51 feet to southwest corner of L5, B63S; northwest to southwest corner L7, B64S; northeast 57 feet; northwest 100 feet; southwest 57 feet to southwest corner L5, B64S; northwest to northwest corner L3, B64W; northeast 245 feet along lot line to boundary of South German Park, northwest 100 feet to point of beginning.

SOUTH GERMAN STREET HISTORIC DISTRICT

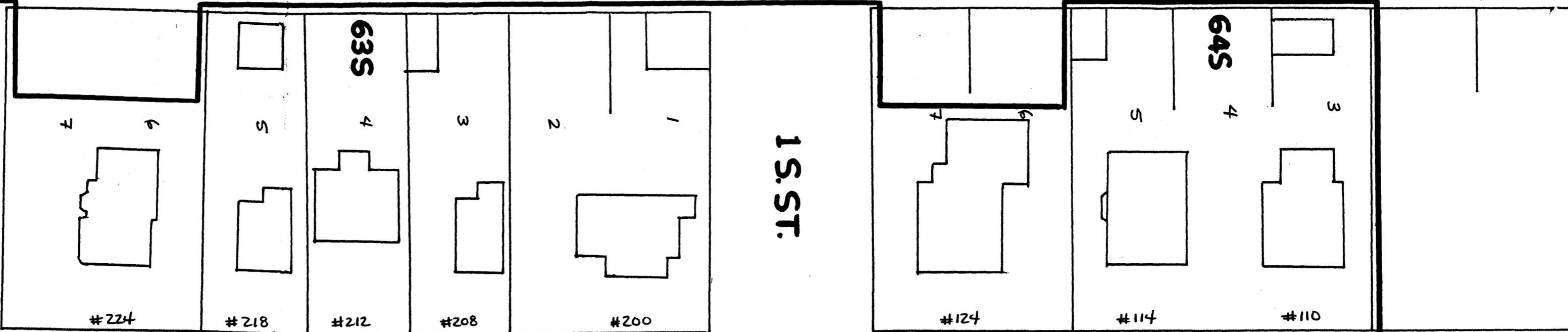
<u>Property</u>	<u>Legal Description</u>	<u>Current Owner</u>
Pfenniger House I 110 S. German	B1 64S L3, N $\frac{1}{2}$ L4	✓ Fern Weilandt 110 S. German New Ulm, MN 56073
Pfenniger House II 114 S. German	B1 64S L5, S $\frac{1}{2}$ L4	✓ Leander Fruhwirth 114 S. German New Ulm 56073
Doehne House 124 S. German	B1 64S E 108' L6 & 7	✓ V.J. Tillman 124 S. German New Ulm 56073
Schmidt-Fritsche House 200 S. German	B1 63S L1, N $\frac{1}{2}$ L2	✓ John A. Stephenson 200 S. German New Ulm 56073
Scheman House 208 S. German	B1 63S S $\frac{1}{2}$ L2, L3	✓ Armin Scheman 208 S. German New Ulm 56073
Seiter House 212 S. German	B1 63S L4	✓ Marguerite J. Smith 212 S. German New Ulm 56073
Bianchi House 218 S. German	B1 63S L5	✓ Robert A. Johnson 218 S. German New Ulm 56073
Mullen House 224 S. German	B1 63S E 114' L6, 7	✓ Wm. E. Huevelmann 224 S. German New Ulm 56073
Bingham House 304 S. German	B1 62S L1, 2	✓ Marie Bremer Reim % Margaret Schemann 208 S. German 304 S. German New Ulm 56073
Weschcke House 312 S. German	B1 62S L3, 4	✓ Michael Gag 1434 Hilltop New Ulm 56073
South German Park (portion)	100 feet of S. German Park. Adjacent to S. German Street	✓ City of New Ulm New Ulm, 56073

**SOUTH GERMAN PARK**

**S. GERMAN**

**1 S. ST.**

**2 S. ST.**



#200

2

#208

3

#212

4

#218

5

#224

6

7

#110

3

#114

5

**645**

4

#124

6

7