

LA CROSSE COUNTY HISTORIC SITES COMMISSION
 c/o LA CROSSE COUNTY HISTORICAL SOCIETY
 112 South 9th Street
 La Crosse, Wisconsin 54601 Courthouse File

LA CROSSE COUNTY SITES SURVEY NOMINATION FORM

NO. _____

1. NAME of the site (also original name, if known) or property nominated:

Husse Brewing Co., now Sprehn Feed Mill

2. LOCATION:

T _____ N, R _____ W
 Sec. 5
 _____ $\frac{1}{4}$, _____ $\frac{1}{4}$, _____ $\frac{1}{4}$

3. CLASSIFICATION of site or property to be nominated:

| CATEGORY: | OWNERSHIP OF PROPERTY: | STATUS OF PROPERTY: | PRESENT USE: |
|---|---|--|--|
| <input type="checkbox"/> legend | <input type="checkbox"/> public | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> occupied | <input type="checkbox"/> agricultural |
| <input type="checkbox"/> geology | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> private | <input type="checkbox"/> unoccupied | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Commercial |
| <input type="checkbox"/> historic | <input type="checkbox"/> both | | <input type="checkbox"/> educational |
| <input type="checkbox"/> event | | | <input type="checkbox"/> entertainment |
| <input type="checkbox"/> archeology | | | <input type="checkbox"/> government |
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> historic | | | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> industrial |
| <input type="checkbox"/> district | | | <input type="checkbox"/> military |
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> building(s) | | | <input type="checkbox"/> museum |
| <input type="checkbox"/> site | | | <input type="checkbox"/> park |
| <input type="checkbox"/> object(s) | | | <input type="checkbox"/> private residence |
| <input type="checkbox"/> theme: | | | <input type="checkbox"/> religious |
| (describe) _____ | | | <input type="checkbox"/> scientific |
| | | | <input type="checkbox"/> transportation |
| | | | <input type="checkbox"/> other: |

3. OWNER of property to be nominated:

Name: Mr. Stanley Sprehn
 Sprehn Feed Mill
 Street and number: 1719 Commercial St.
 City: Bangor State: WI

Zip: 54614

4. PHOTO

&/or

SKETCH:



5. SIGNIFICANCE of the site, property or event to be nominated:
Include date of construction, builder/architect, all specific dates.

Statement of Significance: State why the site, property, or event is significant: what significant events occurred there, who was associated with the property, what features the property has that make it significant, etc. Document all statements of alleged fact with full and complete footnotes. Use additional sheets if necessary.

Founded in 1860-61 by Joseph Hussa, who came to the U.S. from Bohemia in 1849, where he had been trained as a brewmaster in Prague. When he came to the U.S. he built a brewery in Watertown, Wis., but sold it in 1855. He was persuaded by Swiss families to come to Barab. After the 40x40x40 stone building was built he hired a recent Italian immigrant (Domonic Caradini) to build tunnels and caves under the brewery to store beer. In 1911 a fire destroyed the brewery, which was rebuilt. The brewery was known statewide. Original production 500 bl./yr. After Volstead Act, brewery converted to canning factory. Since 1949, operated as a feed mill by Sprehn Bros.

6. DESCRIBE the present and original (if known) appearance or condition of the property or site to be nominated:

Include your opinion of National Register eligibility.

Much of the old ^{stone} building still stands, although in later years enlarged with bricks. Unfortunately, the 130 ft. smoke stack (a prominent part of the brewery) was torn down. The underground tunnels are still there.

In 1980 a tornado damaged portions of the roof and upper story. Sprehn Bros. have found it uneconomical to make the necessary repairs.

I believe this structure warrants consideration as ~~a~~ for eligibility in the National Register, as an example of what the Volstead Act did to an important part of a Wisconsin village. It ~~had~~ ^{permanently} eliminated a thriving and well-known industry. Since the original structure is still standing, it can serve as a monument to an ill-fated Congressional Act.

7. MAJOR bibliographical references &/or collections:

8. NOMINATION submitted by:

Name:

Organization:

Street:

City:

Telephone:

State:

Zip: