

Commercial and Industrial Buildings,
Trausch Baking Company Bakery
25 Main Street
Dubuque
Dubuque County
Iowa

HABS No. IA-160-BL

HABS
IOWA,
31-DUBU,
13-BL-

**PHOTOGRAPHS
HISTORICAL AND DESCRIPTIVE DATA**

Historic American Buildings Survey
Department of the Interior
National Park Service
Rocky Mountain Regional Office
P.O. Box 25287
Denver Colorado 80225

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Site Location: 25 Main Street
Dubuque, Dubuque County, Iowa
DOT designation: Resource Site No. 5.11
Cadastral grid : NE1/4 SE1/4 S25 T89N R2E
USGS quadrangle: Dubuque South Iowa 7.5'
UTM coordinates: 15.692110.4706820
Lot dimensions : 20'x 430' : .20 acre
 10'x 320' : .15 acre
Lot description: Lot 'D' of Lot I vacated
 Shields Street.

Present Owner: Trausch Baking Company
Present Usage: bakery / warehouse
Present Condition : good

Overall Dimensions: 1 story; irregular
Orientation : north
Architectural Description : Plan type : 1-story wedge-shaped, open-space warehouse.
Foundation: reinforced concrete perimeter walls.
Structure : wood/steel frame with brick masonry bearing walls.
Ext. walls: buff-colored face brick laid in running bond.
Roof : flat composition roof with brick parapet walls.
Chimneys : none
Openings : glass block windows with loose lintels and concrete lug sills throughout; (new) bronze anodized aluminum/glass greenhouse added over customer entrance on northeast corner; wood sectional garage door at loading area on north front.
Details : pedimented and crenelated parapets; concrete copings on parapets and brick pilasters; simple concrete diamonds inset in walls under pediments.

Construction Date : 1931

Architecture Style: 20th Century Functional

Physical History : John P. Trausch opened his first baking establishment in Dubuque - called the Vienna Bakery - in 1904. Producing hearth, or Vienna, bread, sweet rolls and coffee, in addition to the staples, Trausch operated his bakery at 1108 Iowa Street. After moving to larger quarters a number of times (most recently in 1929), Trausch finally began construction of this large, one-story factory on the corner of Main and Jones streets in 1931. Built on the former site of the Dietrich and Ahrendt auto body works (and before that

William Chamberlain's immense Norwegian Plow Works complex), the building was completed late that year, and Tausch was able to begin operations in December. The following year, the facility was reported as fully mechanized: reportedly the first such industrialized bakery in Dubuque. The front (north) section of the building housed the business offices and loading area; behind that was the wrapping area, and behind that, occupying the rear half of the structure, was the baking area. Despite the unified exterior appearance of the bakery, its internal structure in reality consisted of a combination of wood and steel posts supporting wood or steel beams or trusses, varying on a room-to-room basis. Still housing the Tausch Baking Company, the building has undergone only relatively minor alterations.

Significance: With its 20th Century Functional form and detailing, the Tausch Baking Company Bakery is one of the most recently constructed of the wholesale food and produce establishments that formed a district on lower Main Street in Dubuque.

References: Dubuque City Directories: 1857 - 1970.
Sanborn Insurance Maps: 1879, 1884, 1891, 1909, 1972.
Iowa State Gazetteer and Business Directory: 1882-1923.
Dubuque County Assessment Record: 3-16-9-1.
Iowa Department of Transportation, "Draft Environmental Impact Statement - Cultural Resources Assessment."
"Tausch Celebrates 29th Anniversary with Big Open House,"
The Quality Grocer, August 1933, pages 2-3.
Arnold N. Honkamp, "Dubuque Bakers" (unpublished paper at Loras College Library), 10 April 1959.

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