

The ***Brinkhaus Saloon Livery Barn*** is located at 112 – 4th Street West (on the west part of lot 5 and a small part of lot 4 of block 22) in downtown Chaska. This building has been a part of Chaska since Herman Brinkhaus had his new brick stable and barn built on the site in 1891. Mr. Brinkhaus was a well known Chaska businessman.

The 1891 livery stable and barn replaced a wood framed structure that burned down a few months earlier.

▼ Mr. Brinkhaus built the livery stable and barn for his patrons at the Minneapolis Hotel and his other businesses. The Minneapolis Hotel was located at the corner of 4th Street West and Chestnut Street from the 1870's through at least the time of his death in November 1903. The Minneapolis Hotel was one of several hotels in Chaska at the time.



The Brinkhaus Saloon Livery Barn was added to the National Registry of Historic Places on January 4, 1980. It has also been designated a historic property by the city of Chaska.

The Brinkhaus Saloon Livery Barn has been home to the Chaska History Center since 2003.

The Minneapolis Hotel—Visitors of 1876



◀ Minneapolis Hotel—
Circa 1900

A portion of the livery stable and barn can be seen near the left edge of the photograph

The Chaska American Legion building occupies the hotel space today.

▲ The Minneapolis Hotel is known to have rented rooms to Jesse James and the Younger Brothers one peaceful night during the fall of 1876. The James-Younger group robbed the Northfield Bank in Northfield, Minnesota on September 7, 1876. The Younger Brothers were killed by the citizens of Northfield during the famous robbery.



“Robber and Hero,” written by George Huntington in 1895 labeled the James—Younger group Bandit Spies, and wrote “in the later part of August 1876, a mysterious company of men made their appearance in southern Minnesota, and proceeded to visit various cities and villages in that part of the state ... they traveled on horseback and rode like men accustomed to life in the saddle. They had the finest of horses and equipment ... they had plenty of money and spent it lavishly.”

▲ Bob Younger, Jim Younger, Cole Younger (standing) — unknown, Frank James, Jesse James (seated)

The December 6, 1945 Weekly Valley Herald article “Old Hotel Building, Once Visited by Jesse James and His Gang, Now Modern Coast-to-Coast Retail Store” writes about Jesse James and the Younger Brothers spending a peaceful night in the Minneapolis Hotel during the fall of 1876. The article mentions Jesse and the Younger Brothers playing cards with Carver County Sheriff F.E. DuToit. The James—Younger group robbed the Northfield Bank on September 7, 1876.

Mr. Brinkhaus builds his new barn

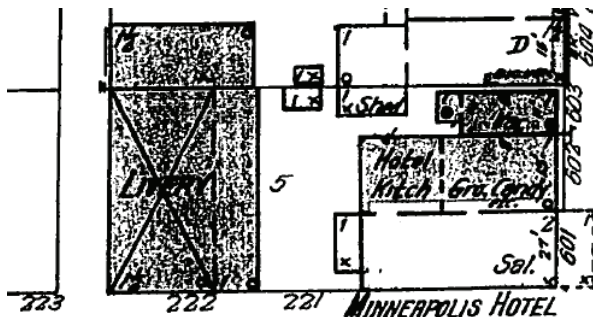
Herman Brinkhaus will build a new stable and barn, combined 60x44, two stories high. It will be built on the ground of the structure that was recently destroyed, and will be a credit to Mr. B. Florax & Schroeder have been awarded the brick work.

◀ The July 23, 1891 Weekly Valley Herald announced Mr. Brinkhaus’s plans to build a replacement stable and barn:

The new two-story stable and barn had a one-story room attached to the east side of the structure.

The brick work on the brick barn of Herman Brinkhaus is nearly completed, and it will be one of the largest structures of the kind in our city. Herman will be able after this to properly care for the teams of his many customers from the country.

► An August 13, 1891 Weekly Valley Herald article provided a construction update for the new brick barn:



◀ An 1899 Sanborn map shows the completed livery stable and barn just to the west of the Minneapolis Hotel and saloon. A hotel kitchen and grocery and candy store are attached to the main floor of the Minneapolis Hotel.



◀ The Brinkhaus Saloon Livery Barn as it looked around 1900.

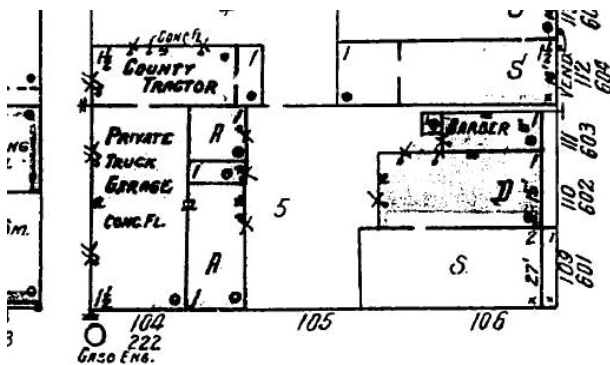
The whiter building to the right of center (with the light colored roof) is the Minneapolis Hotel. The pointed steeple of the Moravian Church can

be seen in the far right area of the photograph. The other buildings have been torn down.

The Brinkhaus Saloon Livery Barn Finds a New Use

While the dates and the exact circumstances are lost to history, Henry ‘F.’ George Degen operated his businesses out of the Brinkhaus Saloon Livery Barn for a number of years.

Mr. Degen’s November 1943 funeral record at the Moravian Church states “*For many years Mr. Degen operated a livery stable, then a motor freight line, and until his death managed the transportation of school children from the rural areas.*” Volume II of ‘Chaska—A Minnesota River City’ writes about H.F. Degen’s Livery becoming the Degen Bus Company.



◀ A 1924 Sanborn map identifies the livery stable and barn as a private truck garage with a concrete floor. The room on the north end of the building is identified as county tractor. The building at the corner of 4th and Chestnut is no longer labeled a hotel. The “S” may be short for saloon. The alley just to the west of the livery stable remained.

▶ Back of the photograph to the right states *H.F. Degen 1934*. The faded letters above the large door appear to state *United States Tires*.

Volume II of ‘Chaska—A Minnesota River City’ writes about H.F. Degen starting to transport school children to school in a Model “T” bus. Mr. Degen was operating five buses by 1938. One of his bus drivers was Frank Salden. Mr. Salden started purchasing buses from Mr. Degen in 1942. He purchased a second bus from Mr. Degen in 1943. Mr. Degen passed away in November 1943. Frank Salden purchased Mr. Degen’s three remaining buses in 1944.

Frank Salden started Salden Bus in 1945. Mr. Salden located his busing business in the Brinkhaus Saloon Livery Barn .



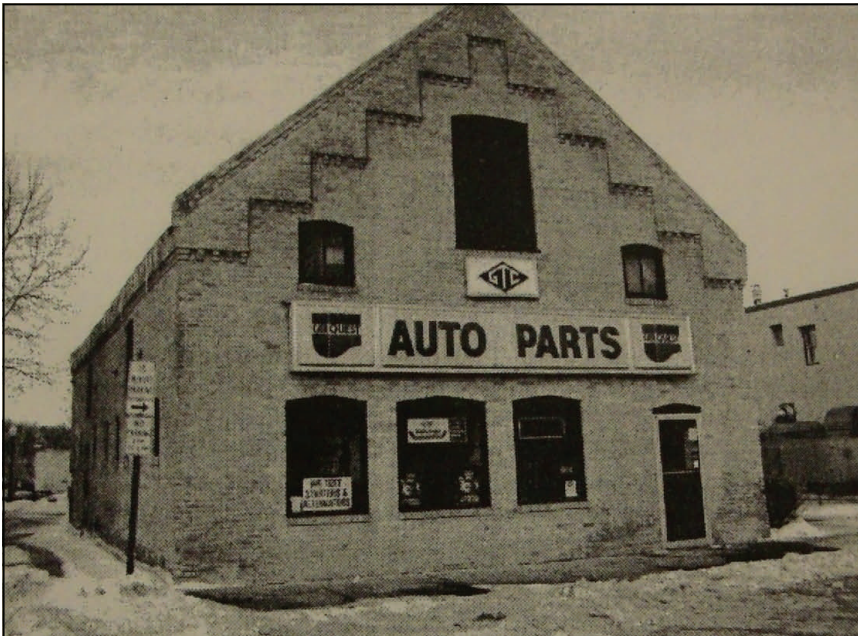


◀ The side of the school bus states “Chaska School Bus.”

The back of the photograph states: ***1939—this is the first school bus Frank Salden Bought—Bus is a 1934 model***

The June 14, 1945 Valley Weekly Herald article “J.F. Brinkhaus & Son Buy Business Property” referred to the Brinkhaus Saloon Livery Barn as “*the Degen Barn or garage property housing the school buses.*”

The livery stable and barn remained in the Brinkhaus family until 1952 when it was sold to Frank and Eleanor Salden. The Salden’s held title to the property until 1982 when it was transferred to Lawrence and Barbara Werner. The Werners transferred title to the property to Fred and Donna Boller in 1985.



◀ For a time during the 1990’s the Brinkhaus Saloon Livery Barn housed the Carquest Auto Parts store.

Over time the city of Chaska became the owner of the Brinkhaus Saloon Livery Barn .

It has been the home of the Chaska History Center since 2003.

***** This history of the Brinkhaus Saloon Livery Barn was researched, compiled, and written by Debbie Boe. Ms. Boe is a Commissioner on the City of Chaska Heritage Preservation Commission. *****