

# Hausmann's Capital Brewery

333 STATE ST. (1863-1919)

Joseph Hausmann, a German immigrant, came to America in 1852 and worked in various breweries before arriving in Madison around 1859. He entered into partnership with Mathias Breckheimer to lease the Sprecher Brewery. In 1863, Hausmann purchased Voigt's Capitol Steam Brewery. Within a few years, Hausmann had ushered big brewery production into Madison.

By the mid-1880s, Hausmann was the largest brewery in the city, producing over 8,000 barrels a year. The brewery spanned over two-thirds of the block with its brew house, icehouses, cellars and stables.

Hausmann's generosity helped bring electricity to Madison. Documents from the city's planning department describe how in 1880



Inside Hausmann's beer hall, in the mid-1800s. Madison's largest brewery.

the brewery used its boilers to operate a 160-horsepower generator to power the city's first electric streetlights. Before going public, the first lights were actually in the brewery, and Hausmann allowed local citizens to see them and enjoy a little refreshment.

Breweries often had bars and lunch counters. Hausmann's Capital Brewery's proximity to the university and the state Capitol attracted students, legislators and townspeople. Students would come in with their books for a stein or two of beer and a couple of sandwiches, sauerkraut, sausages, cheeses and bread. Lunch was free, and beer was 5 cents a glass. Brews included an export, a pale and a pilsner.