



Waraju Distillery Chimney

Waraju Distillery Chimney (Center & Linden) monument. One of the first pioneering industries of New Ulm was the Waraju steam distillery, built by Henry A. Subilia in 1861 for the production of whiskey ("waraju" is a Dakota word meaning "cottonwood").

It was built of nearly 200,000 hand-made bricks, measured 72 x 46 feet (21.9 x 14.0 m) in area, was 33 feet (10.1 m) high at the roof cornice, and cost about \$10,000. Its most distinctive feature, all that remains above the surface today, is its tall red-brick chimney.

The steam powered distillery processed 100 bushels of grain per day into whiskey, bitters, and punch extract. Farmers exchanged rye, barley, corn and firewood for the finished products.

New Ulm was attacked twice during the Dakota conflict of 1862 (on August 19 and 23), and the distillery was not defended. While the principal action occurred near the town center, the Dakota occupied the distillery and burned it. Its walls were still intact after the conflict, however, so with nearly 20 buildings destroyed, including the flour mill, the distillery was employed for that purpose until a new mill was built in 1864.

The Waraju distillery then went out of business and was sold at a mortgage sale in 1866 for \$800. The ruins were left open and fell into greater decay until the 1970s when the standing chimney was fenced and it was further leveled and landscaped.