

MINNESOTA HISTORIC PROPERTIES INVENTORY FORM

MAR 15 1982

HISTORIC NAME: Rushford City Mill (D.J. Tew Mill)

COUNTY: Fillmore

CURRENT NAME: Rushford Mill (Tew's Mill)

CITY/TWP.: Rushford City

LEGAL DESC.:

ADDRESS:

See continuation sheet

301 Winona Street
Rushford

CLASSIFICATION:	CONDITION:	SIGNIFICANCE:	THEME/S:
Building <u>X</u>	Excellent _____	Local <u>X</u>	Primary <u>Industry</u>
Structure _____	Good <u>X</u>	State _____	Secondary <u>Commerce</u>
Object _____	Fair _____	National _____	Others <u>Agriculture</u>
District _____	Deteriorated _____		

OPEN TO THE PUBLIC: Yes ___ No X Restricted ___
 VISIBLE FROM THE ROAD: Yes X No ___
 OCCUPIED: Yes X No ___

PRESENT USE:
agriculture, industrial

DATE CONSTRUCTED: 1875

ORIGINAL USE: Flour mill

ORIGINAL OWNER: Valentine and Tew

ARCHITECT/BUILDER: Unknown

OWNER'S NAME AND ADDRESS: Stanley Hoiland
300 West Winona St.
Rushford, MN 55971

ACREAGE: Less than one acre X

LOCAL CONTACT/ORG.: Fillmore County Historical Society,
Box 193, Preston, MN 55965

UTM REFERENCE:
Rushford West Quad.

FORM PREPARED BY: Robert Frame
DATE: September 25, 1980

15 / 600100 / 4851820

DESCRIPTION:

The Rushford City Mill of D.J. Tew is situated along the south bank of Rush Creek where it winds past the north side of the city of Rushford. At one time a head race, now removed, for this water powered flour mill entered the basement on the south side and exited into Rush Creek from the north side of the building. The original cooperage shop, located just south of the mill and east of the race, has also been removed. The flour mill proper is a three story structure, 50 x 60 feet, constructed of coursed ashlar stone, with a gable roof. A dormer and elevator head house penetrate the south roof slope. Extending along the full length of the north side is a feed mill addition with a similar stone first story and wood frame second story, with sloping roof following the pitch of flour mill roof. Fenestration consists of six-over-six double-hung sash in segmental arch openings. There are round-arch door openings on the east, west, and south sides. An awning, installed between 1915 and 1926, extends across the east side, sheltering a loading dock. A small, one-story concrete block addition to the south side houses a scale. The timber-framed interior has been emptied of all flour milling equipment although recent feed grinding equipment remains in the feed mill addition. Remains of the turbine installation are in the basement.

SIGNIFICANCE:

The Rushford City Mill of D.J. Tew is significant as a representative of the industrial development of the City of Rushford as well as the important wheat-growing and flour-milling area of Fillmore County and southeast Minnesota. This region was the state's first significant wheat and milling area, prior to the development of Minneapolis milling and wheat raising on the western prairies. Fillmore County led the state in the growth of milling during these early years. A mill was first constructed on this Rushford location in 1857 by Hiram Walker, who formed the firm of Valentine & Walker in 1860 and built the large stone house directly across Rush Creek. This first mill burned in 1874, and the present mill was built the following year by Valentine and D.J. Tew, who had replaced Walker in the 1860s. Tew gained sole ownership in 1879 and operated the mill until his death in 1917. Tew's mill, although a large structure, had only a modest milling capacity--about 60 to 75 barrels per day--compared to the giant Minneapolis mills. Milling ceased in 1936 and today the mill, used for storage and light industry, has become a local landmark.

Rushford City Mill (D.J. Tew Mill)

Rushford, MN
Fillmore County

LEGAL DESCRIPTION:

In Rushford City Outlot 4, nw $\frac{1}{4}$, ne $\frac{1}{4}$, sec. 14, T104, R8, beginning at the northwest corner of the intersection of Winona and High Streets; thence due west along the north curb line of Winona St. 150 ft; thence due north to the south bank of Rush Creek; thence easterly along said creek bank to a point due north of the point of beginning; thence due south to the point of beginning.

BIBLIOGRAPHY:

Frame, Robert M. Millers to the World. St. Paul: Minnesota Historical Society, 1977.
"Rushford Mills," in Northwestern Miller, February 9, 1883, p. 137.