Form No. 10-300 REV. (9/77)

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES INVENTORY -- NOMINATION FORM

PI	H	0	6	8	3	3	//	F
FOR	NP	SUS	EON	ILY				

AUG 29 1978.

DATE ENTERED

RECEIVED

DEC 8 1978

SEE INSTRUCTIONS IN HOW TO COMPLETE NATIONAL REGISTER FORMS TYPE ALL ENTRIES -- COMPLETE APPLICABLE SECTIONS

1 NAME

HISTORIC

Northeastern Iowa Power Company: Mitchell Powerhouse and Dam AND/OR COMMON

LOCATION

street & NUMBER Red Cedar River		
CITY, TOWN		CONGRESSIONAL DISTRICT
Mitchell	VICINITY OF	Third
STATE IOWA	CODE	COUNIX Mitchell 13/

CLASSIFICATION

CATEGORY	OWNERSHIP	STATUS	PRESI	ENTUSE
DISTRICT	X_public	OCCUPIED	AGRICULTURE	MUSEUM
BUILDING(S)	PRIVATE	\underline{X} UNOCCUPIED	COMMERCIAL	PARK
ASTRUCTURE	вотн	WORK IN PROGRESS	EDUCATIONAL	PRIVATE RESIDENCE
SITE	PUBLIC ACQUISITION	ACCESSIBLE	ENTERTAINMENT	RELIGIOUS
OBJECT	IN PROCESS	YES: RESTRICTED	GOVERNMENT	SCIENTIFIC
	BEING CONSIDERED	\underline{X} YES: UNRESTRICTED	INDUSTRIAL	TRANSPORTATION

__NO

OWNER OF PROPERTY

NAME			
Mitchell County	y Conservation Board		
STREET & NUMBER			
Courthouse			
CITY, TOWN		STATE	
Osage	VICINITY OF	Iowa 50461	
LOCATION OF LEG	AL DESCRIPTION		
COURTHOUSE. REGISTRY OF DEEDS,ETC. Mitcl	hell County Courthouse		
STREET & NUMBER			
CITY, TOWN Osage		STATE Iowa	
6 REPRESENTATION	IN EXISTING SURVEYS		
TÎTLE			
DATE	FEDERAL	STATECOUNTYLOCAL	
DEPOSITORY FOR SURVEY RECORDS			

CITY, TOWN

___MILITARY

__OTHER:



(CONDITION	CHECK ONE	CHECK ONE
EXCELLENT	DETERIORATED	UNALTERED	XORIGINAL SITE
GOOD	RUINS	XALTERED	MOVED DATE
X_FAIR	UNEXPOSED		

DESCRIBE THE PRESENT AND ORIGINAL (IF KNOWN) PHYSICAL APPEARANCE

The powerhouse and dam, constructed in 1925, are located on the Red Cedar River at the western edge of Mitchell. The powerhouse is on the north bank, adjacent to a public park. Across the river are wooded hills, many with limestone outcroppings.

The concrete dam consists of a permanent crest, approximately 100 feet long, with two tainter gates, each 32 feet wide, toward the south end. A third gate, at the extreme south end of the structure, was replaced with a permanent concrete spillway. The permanent crest is hollow, enabling the operator to walk from the powerhouse to the gates. The gates are raised with an electric winch suspended from a monorail.

The powerhouse is a one-story building, 28' x 61'. It is constructed of rock faced limestone, laid in a random ashlar pattern, on a stone and concrete foundation. Quoining is in smoothly-dressed stone, which is corbelled out at cornice level to meet the parapet gables on the north and south sides. Windows are tall, multi-light with 8-light gransoms, deeply recessed within dressed stone surrounds. There are 4 windows on east and west, and two on the south overlooking the dam. A smaller window is located to the left of the wide, double-door entrance. Set into the north wall are two concrete panels: the upper, from 1925, includes the Power Company's initials; the lower, which simply says "1859" commemorates the grist mill which originally occupied this site. Below the window in this wall is a grindstone from that same mill.

The interior space is one room, with plastered walls, concrete floor, and beaded-board ceiling. The water-power generators have been removed, but overhead chain winches are present and in working order.

8 SIGNIFICANCE

PERIOD	AF	EAS OF SIGNIFICANCE CH	ECK AND JUSTIFY BELOW	
<u>PREHISTORIC</u> <u>1400-1499</u> <u>1500-1599</u> <u>1600-1699</u> <u>1700-1799</u> <u>1800-1899</u> <u>1900-</u>	ARCHEOLOGY-PREHISTORIC ARCHEOLOGY-HISTORIC AGRICULTURE ARCHITECTURE ART COMMERCE COMMUNICATIONS	COMMUNITY PLANNING CONSERVATION ECONOMICS EDUCATION ENGINEERING EXPLORATION/SETTLEMENT XINDUSTRY	LANDSCAPE ARCHITECTURE LAW LITERATURE MILITARY MUSIC PHILOSOPHY POLITICS/GOVERNMENT	RELIGION SCIENCE SCULPTURE SOCIAL/HUMANITARIAN THEATER TRANSPORTATION OTHER (SPECIFY)
SPECIFIC DAT	ES 1925	INVENTION BUILDER/ARCH	HITECT Fargo Engineer	ring Co., Jackson,

STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE

The little powerhouse and dam at Mitchell are a reminder of the era of smallscale, private utilies which flourished in the early 20th century before the advent of large, statewide or regional public power sources. It also represents a final chapter in (West) Mitchell's history as a community founded on and for a time made prosperous through the harnessing of water power.

Michigan

During the 1850's, the western edge of Mitchell (platted in 1857 as 'West Mitchell") developed as a busy processing and manufacturing center, its saw, grist, flour and woolen mills all powered by the Red Cedar current. By the end of the century, however, most of these enterprises had become In 1917, the Northeastern Iowa Power Co. was incorporated obsolete. at Clermont, Iowa. It appears to have been a family operation, all but three of the directors and company officers having the surname Miller. In 1924, the power company contracted with Fargo Engineering Co. (Jackson, Michigan) to build a powerhouse and dam at Mitchell. The site chosen was near that of the old stone Paragon Woolen Mill and the West Mitchell flour mill. Perhaps in recongition of the long history of water power at Mitchell, Fargo Engineering inserted an old buhr and a cement date plaque in the north wall of the powerhouse. In 1928 the holdings of the Northeastern Iowa Power Company were transferred to Central States Power and Light Co. (headquartered in Delaware), and, subsequently, to the Interstate Power Co. In 1963, the Mitchell County Conservation Board acquired the powerhouse, dam, and adjacent land for use as a public park.

9 MAJOR BIBLIOGRAPHICAL REFERENCES Selected Correspondence, between Fargo Engineering Co. and the Northeastern Iowa Power Co.: Sept. 19, October 23, November 26, 1924 (copy on file at Division of Historic Preservation, Iowa City).

Northeastern Iowa Power Co., Articles of Incorporation.

Milton R. Owen, MitchellCo. Conservation Board, to Division of Historic Preservation, 11 August, 1978/

History of Mitchell Co., Iowa. Springfield: Union Publishing Co., 1882, pp. 185-6,373-4,

10GEOGRAPHICAL DATA

1.2

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QUADRANGLE NAME OSAG	e SW, Iowa	QUADRANGLE	scale 1:24,000
UTM REFERENCES			
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STATE	CODE	COUNTŸ	CODE
11 FORM PREPARED	BY		
	Duri lant		
W.K. Bleder	mann, President	DATE	
	Historical Society	DATE	
STREET & NUMBER	mistorical society	TELEPI	HONE
R.R. 4		والمرم المراجع والمراجع	
CITY OR TOWN		STATE	
Osage		Iow	a 50461
12 STATE HISTORIC	PRESERVATION		
		IS PROPERTY WITHIN THE STAT	
	STATE		
NATIONAL	STATE_	LOCAL	
-	r inclusion in the National Reg y the National Park Service.	ional Historic Preservation Act of 1 jister and certify that it has been	
		- 14. Anneigran	
TITLE Director, Divis	ion of Historic Pres	ervation DATE	8/24/78
FOR NPS USE ONLY I HEREBY CERTIFY THAT THIS	PROPERTY IS INCLUDED IN	THE NATIONAL REGISTER	
for Charles	edan D	DATE	12.8.78
ATTEST:	- REGISTER	DATE	
CHIEF OF REGISTRATION			
William H. Bran	ham 12.7.78		