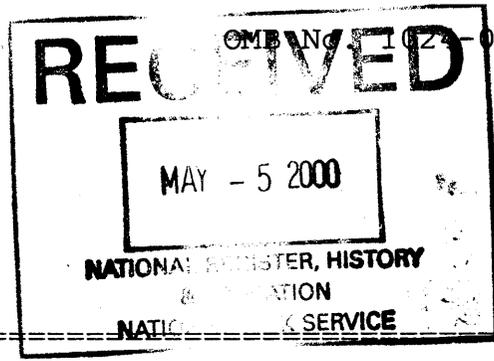


United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
REGISTRATION FORM



=====

1. Name of Property

=====

historic name Burrus Mills Elevator "C"

other names/site number Burrus Mills Elevator (Wood House)

=====

2. Location

=====

street & number NE corner, jct. Admire Ave. & 4th St. not for publication N/A

city or town Kingfisher vicinity N/A

state Oklahoma code OK county Kingfisher code 073 zip code 73750

3. State/Federal Agency Certification

As the designated authority under the National Historic Preservation Act of 1966, as amended, I hereby certify that this X nomination request for determination of eligibility meets the documentation standards for registering properties in the National Register of Historic Places and meets the procedural and professional requirements set forth in 36 CFR Part 60. In my opinion, the property X meets does not meet the National Register Criteria. I recommend that this property be considered significant nationally statewide X locally. (See continuation sheet for additional comments.)

Bob Barber 5-1-00
Signature of certifying official Date

State or Federal agency and bureau

In my opinion, the property meets does not meet the National Register criteria. (See continuation sheet for additional comments.)

Signature of commenting or other official Date

State or Federal agency and bureau

4. National Park Service Certification

I, hereby certify that this property is:

- entered in the National Register Elson R. Beal 6-2-00
 See continuation sheet.
- determined eligible for the National Register
 See continuation sheet.
- determined not eligible for the National Register
- removed from the National Register

 other (explain):

Signature of Keeper Date of Action

=====
6. Function or Use
=====

Historic Functions (Enter categories from instructions)

Cat: Agriculture/Subsistence Sub: Processing

Current Functions (Enter categories from instructions)

Cat: Agriculture/Subsistence Sub: Storage

=====
7. Description
=====

Architectural Classification (Enter categories from instructions)

Other: Iron-Clad Wood Country Elevator
Other: Steel Storage Tank

Materials (Enter categories from instructions)

foundation CONCRETE
roof METAL:tin
walls WOOD
METAL:tin
other METAL:steel

Narrative Description (Describe the historic and current condition of the property on one or more continuation sheets.)

=====
8. Statement of Significance
=====

Applicable National Register Criteria (Mark "x" in one or more boxes for the criteria qualifying the property for National Register listing)

- A Property is associated with events that have made a significant contribution to the broad patterns of our history.
- B Property is associated with the lives of persons significant in our past.
- C Property embodies the distinctive characteristics of a type, period, or method of construction or represents the work of a master, or possesses high artistic values, or represents a significant and distinguishable entity whose components lack individual distinction.
- D Property has yielded, or is likely to yield information important in prehistory or history.

Criteria Considerations (Mark "X" in all the boxes that apply.)

- A owned by a religious institution or used for religious purposes.
- B removed from its original location.
- C a birthplace or a grave.
- D a cemetery.
- E a reconstructed building, object, or structure.
- F a commemorative property.
- G less than 50 years of age or achieved significance within the past 50 years.

Areas of Significance (Enter categories from instructions)

Agriculture
Industry
Architecture

Period of Significance 1929-1950

=====
8. Statement of Significance (Continued)
=====

Significant Dates 1929

Significant Person (Complete if Criterion B is marked above)
N/A

Cultural Affiliation N/A

Architect/Builder UNKNOWN

Narrative Statement of Significance (Explain the significance of the property on one or more continuation sheets.)

=====
9. Major Bibliographical References
=====

(Cite the books, articles, and other sources used in preparing this form on one or more continuation sheets.)

Previous documentation on file (NPS)
_____ preliminary determination of individual listing (36 CFR 67) has been requested.
_____ previously listed in the National Register
_____ previously determined eligible by the National Register
_____ designated a National Historic Landmark
_____ recorded by Historic American Buildings Survey # _____
_____ recorded by Historic American Engineering Record # _____

Primary Location of Additional Data

State Historic Preservation Office
_____ Other State agency
_____ Federal agency
_____ Local government
_____ University
_____ Other

Name of repository: _____

=====
10. Geographical Data
=====

Acreage of Property less than one acre

UTM References (Place additional UTM references on a continuation sheet)

	Zone	Easting	Northing	Zone	Easting	Northing
1	<u>14</u>	<u>596780</u>	<u>3969130</u>	3	<u> </u>	<u> </u>
2	<u> </u>	<u> </u>	<u> </u>	4	<u> </u>	<u> </u>

N/A See continuation sheet.

Verbal Boundary Description (Describe the boundaries of the property on a continuation sheet.)

Boundary Justification (Explain why the boundaries were selected on a continuation sheet.)

=====
11. Form Prepared By
=====

name/title George O. Carney, Professor of Geography; ed. Cynthia Savage/OKSHPO

organization Department of Geography date 1/25/93; 11/99

street & number Oklahoma State University telephone (405) 744-9167

city or town Stillwater state OK zip code 74078

=====
Additional Documentation
=====

Submit the following items with the completed form:

Continuation Sheets

Maps

A USGS map (7.5 or 15 minute series) indicating the property's location.
A sketch map for historic districts and properties having large acreage
or numerous resources.

Photographs

Representative black and white photographs of the property.

Additional items (Check with the SHPO or FPO for any additional items)

=====
Property Owner
=====

(Complete this item at the request of the SHPO or FPO.)

name Kurt Johnson - Oklahoma Seed Company

street & number P.O. Box 866 telephone (405) 375-6838

city or town Kingfisher state OK zip code 73750
=====

United States Department of the Interior
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NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
CONTINUATION SHEET

Section 7 Page 9

Burrus Mills Elevator "C"
name of property
Kingfisher County, Oklahoma
county and State
Grain Storage and Processing
Facilities in Western Oklahoma
name of multiple property listing

=====
Summary:

Burrus Mills Elevator "C" in Kingfisher is a 70' high iron-clad wood country style grain elevator with a 45' x 50' base and monolithic concrete slab foundation. The structure is classified as a self-contained elevator with all bins, elevating machinery, and spouting system located in the workhouse and headhouse. The workhouse is approximately 55' high with a gable roof and is surmounted with a 10' high headhouse and 5' partial cupola, both with gable roofs. An 18' diameter, 40' high steel storage tank is located to the north of the structure property and connected to it by a conveyor system. Constructed sometime in the 1930s, it is a contributing element to the property. Burrus Mills Elevator "C" is situated along the east side of the old Rock Island railroad tracks and on the north side of Admire Street in Kingfisher. The Burrus Mills building and the Burrus Mills "A" and "F" elevators are located to the east across the railroad tracks (Photo 3). Due to their physical separation by the railroad tracks, Burrus Mills Elevator "C" is being nominated individually. Burrus Mills Elevator "C" retains a high degree of integrity. Exterior alterations to the elevator include an extension of the headhouse with a partial cupola. Additionally, the elevator has been painted yellow and new tin sheathing has been put on the side grain dump. Interior modifications to the elevator consist of replacing wooden spouts with metal spouts and new belts and cups on the conveyor system. The date of these alterations is unknown. None of these changes substantially impact the integrity of Burrus Mills Elevator "C".

Description:

Burrus Mills Elevator "C" is a balloon frame structure built of 2" x 6" and 2" x 4" sawn boards spiked together at joints. Cladding consists of 1" x 6" lapped boards nailed to studs with steel tie rods extending through bins. These rods serve as reinforcements and are anchored to horizontal braces clearly visible on all four exterior walls. Tin sheathing covers the lapped board siding and roofs, hence the term "iron clad." The tin has been painted yellow.

The east side, which faces the old Rock Island railroad tracks, contains several openings including a paneless window frame in the headhouse, a similar opening in the upper half of workhouse, a door in the first story, and two

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Burrus Mills Elevator "C"
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load-out spouts to railroad cars (Photo 1). The south wall of the headhouse has one tin covered window opening (Photo 2). The west side includes a tin covered window opening in the headhouse, a tin covered window opening in the workhouse, and the one story, shed roofed, side grain dump (Photo 3). A load-out spout for trucks is located immediately north of the window in the headhouse on the west elevation and extends over the side grain dump. The side grain dump has one large, sliding door on both the north and south ends, allowing the trucks to drive through. The north wall has one opening in the headhouse which holds the conveyor system leading to the steel storage tank to the north of the elevator.

The interior features include four lapped board bins with tie rod reinforcements, the "boot" (central receiving pit), original wood "leg" (shaft) containing the vertical belt-and-bucket conveyor system which lifts the grain to the headhouse, the spouting system (wood spouts converted to metal), and the distributor wheel. The conveyor system is powered by a 10 h.p. Fairbanks-Morse motor. Dust control units and a cleaner mechanism ("clipper") are located on the floor of workhouse. The truck/wagon receiving scale is located in the driveway of the side grain dump. To reach the headhouse, a primitive elevator called a "man-lift" is used. It is an open-sided wooden platform operated by a system of counterweights.

North of the elevator, connected to it by a conveyor system, is a steel storage tank. The tank was constructed in the 1930s and is, thus, a contributing structure. The tank is 18' around and 40' high and is constructed of bands of welded steel panels. On the west side of the tank is a load-out sprout.

Overall Burrus Mills Elevator "C" retains a high degree of architectural integrity. Minor modifications include extension of the headhouse with partial cupola and new tin sheathing for the side grain dump. Additionally, the elevator has been painted yellow. Interior changes include replacement of wood spouts with metal ones as well as new belts and cups on the conveyor system. The wood elevator leg is non-functional. These alterations occurred at unknown dates. The most essential elements of the iron-clad wood country elevator are still present and intact. These elements include the full headhouse and rectangular shaped workhouse, horizontal braces on exterior walls which anchor the tie rods, and tin sheathing on walls and roofs.

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Section 8 Page 11

Burrus Mills Elevator "C"
name of property
Kingfisher County, Oklahoma
county and State
Grain Storage and Processing
Facilities in Western Oklahoma
name of multiple property listing

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Summary:

Burrus Mills Elevator "C", erected in 1929, is eligible for the National Register of Historic Places under Criterion A for its association with the flour milling industry in Kingfisher, Oklahoma. During the pre-World War II period, flour milling constituted Oklahoma's third largest manufacturing industry. As such, flour milling was important to the local development of industry in predominately agricultural towns such as Kingfisher. Additionally, because the flour milling industry spurred the production of wheat, entities such as flour mills and elevators played a vital role in the expansion of commercial agriculture in farming-dependant counties such as Kingfisher County. Burrus Mills Elevator "C" is the only remaining example of an iron-clad wood country elevator associated with a major flour milling company in Kingfisher County. Additionally, the Burrus Mills "C" Elevator eligible for the National Register under Criterion C as an exceptional example of a large iron-clad wood country elevator used as a terminal facility in the late 1920s and 1930s. Burrus Mills Elevator "C" is also the only remaining example of an iron-clad wood country elevator associated with a major flour milling company in Kingfisher County. From a contextual standpoint, the Burrus Mills "C" Elevator relates to "Grain Storage and Processing Facilities in Western Oklahoma, 1889-1950." The associated property types are Grain Processing Elevators, subtype Flour Mill Elevators; Grain Elevators, subtype Iron-Clad Wood Country Elevators; and, Storage Tanks, subtype Steel Storage Tanks.

Historic Significance:

Kingfisher, prior to statehood in 1907, had become a major center for wheat trade and processing. Around the turn of the century, it boasted ten elevators, two flour mills and more than a dozen grain buyers. As such, Kingfisher was recognized as the "Wheat Capital of Oklahoma." Kingfisher's prominence in the wheat trade of western Oklahoma was partly reflected in having two officers on the first board of the Oklahoma Grain Dealers Association organized in 1900.

According to the 1910 agricultural census, Kingfisher County was producing more than 750,000 bushels of wheat. By 1925, Kingfisher County had tripled its 1910 wheat output with close to three million bushels per year. Prior to the construction of the large concrete terminal elevators in Enid and Yukon in the

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Burrus Mills Elevator "C"
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1930s, wheat was transported to Kingfisher from points throughout northwestern and western Oklahoma by professional grain haulers. The city of Kingfisher, therefore, had become a major commercial center for the wheat trade and processing industries of the region.

According to the 1925 agricultural census, Kingfisher County was producing wheat at a rate of 2.8 million bushels per year. Because of this dramatic increase, Burrus Mill of Ft. Worth saw Kingfisher as an ideal site to erect a processing elevator and mill. Thus, in 1929, the company erected Burrus Mills Elevator "C" on a site just west of the railroad tracks, between Admire and Roberts avenues. A grain elevator had been located on this site as early as 1894. Although expanded over the years and under various ownerships, the 1894 elevator remained on the site until about 1929, operated by the Oklahoma Mill Company. At this time, Burrus Mills took over operation of the Oklahoma Milling Company mill and concrete elevator, located across the tracks to the east of the "C" elevator. Burrus Mills razed the previous "C" elevator of the Oklahoma Mill Company to erect their own elevator. Another elevator, Burrus Mills Elevator "D," was located just south of the "C" elevator in the former Cameron Mill and Elevator, south of Admire Street.

The Burrus Mills "C" Elevator received wheat from smaller country elevators throughout the region rather than directly from producers. As a terminal elevator, the Burrus Mills "C" Elevator was known for its immense storage capacity rather than for its function to lift/distribute grain and prepare grain for shipment to another facility. The Burrus Mills operation served the Kingfisher community as a processing elevator for the company-owned mill located across the tracks. The "C" elevator's purpose was to store wheat that was ultimately milled into flour and distributed locally, although Burrus Mills' home plant was in Ft. Worth, Texas.

Kingfisher County continued to be a major producer of wheat on into the 1930s with more than 2 million bushels each year. To accommodate this local production, capacity of Burrus Mills Elevator "C" was enlarged sometime in the 1930s with an extension to the headhouse to house a second elevator "leg" and distributor. Additionally in the 1930s, Burrus Mills constructed a steel storage tank to the north of the Burrus Mills "C" Elevator. Connected to the elevator by a conveyor system, the steel storage tank was erected to handle overflow grain during periods of peak harvest. As a result of the output from

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name of multiple property listing

=====
its Kingfisher operation, Burrus Mills was distributing flour to outlets in thirteen states and maintained an export business in South America and Europe.

Burrus Mills Elevator "C" was sold to the W.B. Johnston Grain Company of Enid sometime in the 1940s. During this period, Burrus Mills was divesting its interests in Oklahoma as larger corporate mills in Kansas City, Minneapolis and Chicago captured the national flour markets. As a result of the change in management, the elevator became a storage-shipping facility and grain was transported to Johnston's terminal elevator in Enid. In 1984, the Oklahoma Seed Company purchased the nominated property and, for the past decade, it has been used for rye seed storage which is shipped to grain dealers in the southeastern states.

Architectural Significance:

Burrus Mills Elevator "C" is a classic example of a large model iron-clad wood country style grain elevator. The structure embodies the characteristics associated with this style: (1) lapped board cladding, (2) covered with tin sheathing ("iron clad" nomenclature derived from this feature), (3) rectangular shaped workhouse surmounted by gable roofed cupola, (4) steel tie rod reinforcements through internal bins and anchored to horizontal braces clearly visible on all four exterior walls, and (5) self-contained unit with all bins, elevating machinery, and spouting system located within main elevator. It is the oldest extant iron-clad wood country elevator in Kingfisher County having been constructed more than 67 years ago and one of the largest examples of this style of vernacular architecture in western Oklahoma.

Although some minor modifications have been made to interior machinery reflecting changing technology of the grain industry, the nominated property retains the essence of its original character and appearance as an iron-clad wood country style grain elevator. Furthermore, it continues to function as a structure associated with the bulk grain agriculture of western Oklahoma, thereby retaining its historic association.

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Major Bibliographical References:

Feigel, Melvin F. "The Founding and Early Development of Kingfisher, Oklahoma." Unpublished Master's thesis, Oklahoma State University, 1965.

Johnson, Kurt (owner). Interviewed by George O. Carney. 15 January 1993.

Kingfisher County Historical Society. Pioneers of Kingfisher County 1889-1976, 1976.

The Kingfisher Free Press 60th Anniversary Edition, April 18, 1949.

Sanborn Fire Insurance Maps for Kingfisher, OK (1894, 1901, 1904, 1909, 1926, 1932, 1937).

Thomas, Bob (manager). Interviewed by George O. Carney. 15 January 1993.

Verbal Boundary Description:

From the point of beginning at the intersection of the Union Pacific Railroad tracks and Admire Avenue, proceed 170' west along Admire Avenue, then proceed 114' north, then 170' east, then 114' south to the point of beginning.

Boundary Justification:

The boundary includes the property historically associated with the elevator. A modern metal building to the northwest is excluded from the boundaries as it is not historically associated with the elevator.