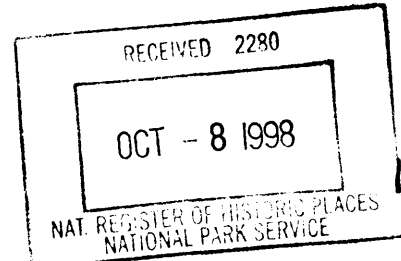


United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places Registration Form



This form is for use in nominating or requesting determination for individual properties and districts. See instruction in *How to Complete the National Register of Historic Places Registration Form* (National Register Bulletin 16A). Complete each item by marking "x" in the appropriate box or by entering the information requested. If an item does not apply to the property being documented, enter "N/A" for "not applicable." For functions, architectural classification, materials and areas of significance, enter only categories and subcategories from the instructions. Place additional entries and narrative items on continuation sheets (NPS Form 10-900a). Use a typewriter, word processor, or computer, to complete all items.

1. Name of Property

historic name Ottesen Grain Company Feed Mill
other names/site number Fort Lupton Feed Mill; La Familia Restaurant; 5WL2708

2. Location

street & number 815 7th Street [N/A] not for publication
city or town Fort Lupton [N/A] vicinity
state Colorado code CO county Weld code 123 zip code 80621

3. State/Federal Agency Certification

As the designated authority under the National Historic Preservation Act, 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.)

Georganna Cortez State Historic Preservation Officer September 21, 1998
Signature of certifying official/Title Date

State Historic Preservation Office, Colorado Historical Society
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 certifying official/Title Date

State or Federal agency and bureau

4. National Park Service Certification

I hereby certify that the property is:

- entered in the National Register
[] 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
[] See continuation sheet.

Edson H. Beall Signature of the Keeper 11-5-98 Date of Action

Ottesen Grain Co. Feed Mill

Weld County, Colorado

Name of Property

County/State

5. Classification

Ownership of Property

(Check as many boxes as apply)

- [X] private
[] public-local
[] public-State
[] public-Federal

Category of Property

(Check only one box)

- [X] building(s)
[] district
[] site
[] structure
[] object

Number of Resources within Property

(Do not count previously listed resources.)

Table with 2 columns: Contributing, Noncontributing. Rows for buildings, sites, structures, objects, and Total.

Name of related multiple property listing.

(Enter "N/A" if property is not part of a multiple property listing.)

N/A

Number of contributing resources previously listed in the National Register.

0

6. Function or Use

Historic Function

(Enter categories from instructions)

AGRICULTURE/processing

Current Functions

(Enter categories from instructions)

COMMERCE/restaurant

7. Description

Architectural Classification

(Enter categories from instructions)

NO STYLE

Materials

(Enter categories from instructions)

foundation CONCRETE
walls METAL
CERAMIC TILE
BRICK
roof ASPHALT
other

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.)

- [X] 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.)

Property is:

- [] A owned by a religious institution or used for religious purposes.
[] B removed from its original location.
[] C a birthplace or 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.

Narrative Statement of Significance

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

9. Major Bibliographical References

Bibliography

(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
#

Areas of Significance

(Enter categories from instructions)

COMMERCE

Periods of Significance

1920 - 1948

Significant Dates

N/A

Significant Person(s)

(Complete if Criterion B is marked above).

N/A

Cultural Affiliation

N/A

Architect/Builder

Unknown

Primary location of additional data:

- [X] State Historic Preservation Office
[] Other State Agency
[] Federal Agency
[] Local Government
[] University
[X] Other

Name of repository:

Colorado Historical Society
Denver Public Library
Fort Lupton Museum

Ottesen Grain Co. Feed Mill
Name of Property

Weld County, Colorado
County/State

10. Geographical Data

Acreage of Property .34 acres

UTM References

(Place additional UTM references on a continuation sheet.)

1. 13 516350 4437130
Zone Easting Northing

3. Zone Easting Northing

2. Zone Easting Northing

4. Zone Easting Northing

[] 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 Ron Sladek, President; Ben Fogelberg, Research Historian

organization Tatanka Historical Associates, Inc. date May 29, 1998

street & number PO Box 1909 telephone 970-229-9705

city or town Fort Collins state CO zip code 80522

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 SHPO or FPO.)

name Robert Vigil

street & number 815 7th Street telephone 303-857-2433

city or town Fort Lupton state CO zip code 80621

Paperwork Reduction Act Statement: This information is being collected for applications to the National Register of Historic Places to nominate properties for listing or determine eligibility for listing, to list properties, and to amend existing listings. Response to this request is required to obtain a benefit in accordance with the National Historic Preservation Act, as amended (16 U.S.C. 470 et seq.).

Estimated Burden Statement: Public reporting burden for this form is estimated to average 18.1 hours per response including time for reviewing instructions, gathering and maintaining data, and completing and reviewing the form. Direct comments regarding this burden estimate or any aspect of this form to the Chief, Administrative Services Division, National Park Service, P.O. Box 37127, Washington, DC 20013-7127; and the Office of Management and Budget, Paperwork Reductions Projects (1024-0018), Washington, DC 20503.

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
CONTINUATION SHEET

Section number 7 Page 1

Property OTTESEN GRAIN CO. FEED MILL

WELD COUNTY, COLORADO

NARRATIVE DESCRIPTION

GENERAL DESCRIPTION OF THE PROPERTY

The 1920 Ottesen Grain Co. Feed Mill (Ottesen Feed Mill) occupies a .34-acre site in Fort Lupton, a small agricultural town along the Platte River and Highway 85, halfway between Denver and Greeley in Weld County, Colorado. Located on the north side of 7th St., 1/2 block east of Main St. and adjacent to the main north-south rail line, the property is occupied by the Ottesen Feed Mill, composed of one mill/elevator building, two warehouse buildings, two silos and an adjacent parking area. The property is surrounded by 7th St. to the south, a Japanese community hall to the north, a parking lot to the west, and vacant rail siding land to the east. In general, the Ottesen Feed Mill is in excellent condition and exhibits a high degree of historic integrity. Although the mill/elevator structure is currently unused (yet contains all of the original milling equipment), the north warehouse is occupied by La Familia Restaurant and the west warehouse is occupied by a meeting hall and kitchen.

Consisting of three adjoining buildings and two tall silos, all of which are tied together structurally at the roof line, the Ottesen Mill is a complex measuring approximately 82' from east to west and 127' from north to south. The southeastern, square plan mill/elevator structure is a tall one-story building set on a concrete foundation and constructed of wood, with a six-story wood elevator projecting from the roof. The northern warehouse building is a tall one-story structure set on a concrete foundation and constructed of brick. The western warehouse building is a tall one-story structure set on a concrete foundation and constructed of wood. Finally, the two 50'-tall silos rise above a shared concrete pad and are constructed of hollow fired clay tiles.

The complex roof lines on the buildings generally consist of a simple gabled roof on the west warehouse, a combination of gabled and shed roofs on the mill/elevator building, a camelback roof (or gable with slightly arched flat) on the northern brick warehouse, and low conical roofs tied together with wood framing at the center over the two silos. The roofs on the mill/elevator and western warehouse buildings are finished with corrugated metal, the roof over the silos is finished with old wood shingles, and the roof on the northern warehouse is finished with asphalt shingles. Roof perimeters are finished with exposed rafter ends on the northern warehouse, and exposed rafters with fascia boards on the mill/elevator and western warehouse. An old ornate metal ventilator similar to those found on barns is located on the shared roof over the silos.

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
CONTINUATION SHEET

Section number 7 Page 2

Property OTTESEN GRAIN CO. FEED MILL

WELD COUNTY, COLORADO

NARRATIVE DESCRIPTION

DESCRIPTION OF THE GRAIN MILL/ELEVATOR BUILDING

The 1920 Grain Mill/Elevator Building is a 39' x 40' balloon frame structure composed largely of 2" x 8" and 2" x 12" timbers connected with iron bolts, and finished on the exterior with sheets of corrugated metal siding. The interior of the building features a milling, mixing, and bagging room complete with much of the original machinery, an office area, and interior wooden grain cribs. Original machinery found there includes hoppers, bins, chutes, separators, mixers and continuous grain belts with metal cups, as well as the original breakers and switches, and an old Howe scale. Interior floors are wood, and the walls are unfinished with exposed balloon framing (old penciled calculations are found on much of the woodwork). Some of the woodwork inside the building is stamped "G.G. Philip & Son, Ft. Lupton, Colo.", a prominent early lumber supplier in the town, while the inside of the western wood sliding door exhibits the stamp "O.G.C. (Ottesen Grain Co.) 1924."

A hand-operated one-man wooden elevator (known as a man-lift) provided the only original access to the 66'-high upper floors of the structure, however this lift is currently stuck in its shaft up around the third floor level. Consequently, the upper floors of the building are virtually inaccessible without climbing a precarious set of old planks nailed to posts. According to the owner, the upper floors are entirely empty. The office area has been stripped of all finishes and equipment, except for a large old safe labeled "Charpiot Safe Co., Denver, Colo." This safe appears to predate the age of the grain mill/elevator structure.

SOUTH ELEVATION:

The south (primary) elevation of the mill/elevator building overlooks 7th St. and is dominated by a large concrete loading dock that runs the length of the structure and is accessed by four metal steps on its west end. Overhanging the dock area is a large wood frame shed roof supported by 2.5" x 5" timber braces, under which are two metal grain chutes projecting from the wall, formerly used to load trucks at this location. Access to the building is gained from this dock via a diagonal plank sliding door with wood surrounds. Windows include four boarded spaces with wood surrounds and sills. The upper levels of the elevator's south elevation are highlighted only by two boarded window spaces and one 4/4 double hung sash in a wood frame.

NORTH ELEVATION:

The north (rear) elevation of the mill/elevator building overlooks the adjacent pair of silos on the site, and contains no defining features other than a blank corrugated metal wall with one small boarded window space at the top of the tall elevator structure.

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
CONTINUATION SHEET

Section number 7 Page 3

Property OTTESEN GRAIN CO. FEED MILL

WELD COUNTY, COLORADO

NARRATIVE DESCRIPTION

EAST ELEVATION:

The east (side) elevation of the mill/elevator building overlooks the adjacent vacant rail siding area, and contains one old sliding wood plank door, four boarded window spaces with wood frames, and a long segmental metal grain chute that extends down the side of the structure.

WEST ELEVATION:

The west (side) elevation of the mill/elevator building overlooks the adjacent grain dump drive-through and western warehouse. This elevation, all of which is interior to the drive-through area (now enclosed on the ends as the entryway for the restaurant) contains an old wood plank sliding door, two boarded window spaces with wood surrounds, a long segmental metal grain chute projecting from the upper wall, and a shallow concrete loading dock.

DESCRIPTION OF THE WESTERN WAREHOUSE BUILDING

The 1920 Western Warehouse Building is a 28' x 70' standard balloon frame structure, finished on the exterior with sheets of corrugated metal siding. The interior is finished as a meeting hall and a kitchen, with the only original interior material being a tongue-in-groove wood floor.

SOUTH ELEVATION:

The south (primary) elevation of the western warehouse building overlooks 7th St. and is dominated by a large concrete loading dock that runs the length of the elevation and is accessed by a set of new wood steps on its east end. Overhanging the dock area is a large wood frame shed roof supported by timber braces. Access to the building is gained from this dock via a new metal door with sidelights. Windows include two pair of 4-light hoppers, set in wood frames and surrounds, and covered by protective metal grates. Another single 4-light window is found in the gable peak above the shed roof over the dock.

NORTH ELEVATION:

The north (rear) elevation of the western warehouse building overlooks an unpaved parking area, and contains no defining features other than a blank corrugated metal wall, with a 9-light over wood panel modern door facing toward the east. A modern wood deck connects the western warehouse to the northern warehouse in this rear area of the buildings.

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
CONTINUATION SHEET

Section number 7 Page 4

Property OTTESEN GRAIN CO. FEED MILL

WELD COUNTY, COLORADO

NARRATIVE DESCRIPTION

EAST ELEVATION:

The east (side) elevation of the western warehouse building overlooks the adjacent grain dump drive-through area (now enclosed on the ends as the entryway for the restaurant), and contains no significant historic features other than exterior corrugated metal siding. A modern door enters the meeting room area of this building from the central former drive-through dump area.

WEST ELEVATION:

The west (side) elevation of the western warehouse building overlooks the adjacent unpaved driveway on the property. Other than a long corrugated metal wall, this elevation is characterized by three boarded basement window spaces with wood surrounds, and three boarded window spaces in the upper wall with wood frames and no lights.

DESCRIPTION OF THE NORTHERN WAREHOUSE BUILDING

The 1920 Northern Warehouse Building is a 40' x 67' brick structure with common bond coursing consisting of six rows of stretchers alternating with a single row of alternating headers and stretchers. The side walls are each ornamented with what appear to be three plain brick pilasters (actually structural piers for trusswork) rising from the concrete foundation to the eaves. The brick gable end walls feature high parapets, giving the building a slightly Dutch Colonial appearance, with a brick chimney extending above the parapet on the south end wall.

The roof of the structure is essentially camelback in shape, with exposed rafter ends and asphalt shingles. The roof's camelback trusswork can be seen inside of the building, composed of bottom and top chords and diagonals each made up of five bolted 2" x 10" timbers (creating 10" x 10" beams), with vertical tie rods providing additional support. These trusswork structures rest on the three brick piers found on each of the east and west walls. The interior of the warehouse has been remodeled into a restaurant, with the only remaining historic materials consisting of a tongue-in-groove wood floor, the exposed exterior brick walls, a metal mixing hopper still in place near the southwest corner, and the exposed roof trusswork described above.

SOUTH ELEVATION:

The south elevation of the northern warehouse building predominantly overlooks the adjacent silos, although the southwest corner of the structure is now interior to the enclosed former drive-through grain dump and serves as the entrance to the restaurant. No characterizing

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
CONTINUATION SHEET

Section number 7 Page 5

Property OTTESEN GRAIN CO. FEED MILL

WELD COUNTY, COLORADO

NARRATIVE DESCRIPTION

features are found on this brick end wall other than the interior modern doors to the restaurant and the brick chimney described above.

NORTH ELEVATION:

The north elevation of the northern warehouse building overlooks a narrow unpaved drive on the property and the adjacent Japanese community hall. The brick wall on this elevation is broken only by a narrow brick pilaster, one high window space filled with metal louvers and a brick sill, and star irons just below the parapet.

EAST ELEVATION:

The east elevation of the northern warehouse building overlooks the adjacent vacant rail siding area. A set of modern wood steps with a small landing provide access to a modern metal door with flanking vertical sidelights that enters the building on this elevation. The eastern brick facade is broken by the three pilasters (actually structural piers) described above, along with two window spaces with brick sills, one of which is filled with an air conditioner and the other with metal louvers.

WEST ELEVATION:

The west elevation of the northern warehouse building overlooks the unpaved parking area on the site. A modern wood deck is present on this elevation, rising above an old concrete loading dock and connecting the northern warehouse to the western warehouse. As on the east elevation, three brick pilasters rise from the foundation to the eaves, and the facade is otherwise characterized by one new metal door with flanking vertical sidelights, and two window spaces with brick sills, one of which is filled with an air conditioner and the other with metal louvers.

DESCRIPTION OF THE GRAIN DUMP DRIVE-THROUGH AREA

The 1920 Grain Dump Drive-Through Area is a 15' x 60' space connected originally to the grain mill/elevator building, northern warehouse, and western warehouse by its roof alone. This area is not a separate building on the site, but was used during the active life of the mill as a long shed for trucks to pull into, unload their grain, and then pull ahead to exit at the opposite end. In recent years the drive-through was tied more closely to the other structures when the north and south open ends were enclosed to create a protected entryway for the restaurant and meeting hall located in the two former warehouse buildings. While the original roof is still in place,

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

**NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
CONTINUATION SHEET**

Section number 7 Page 6

Property OTTESEN GRAIN CO. FEED MILL

WELD COUNTY, COLORADO

NARRATIVE DESCRIPTION

the end walls have been finished with wood framing, siding, and modern windows and doors. The western arc of the western silo is also incorporated into this interior space, adjacent to the restaurant entry. Other historic features found in and around the drive-through area include an old truck scale that extends into 7th St., dump grates in the concrete floor, and pulleys and cables related to dumping operations overhead.

DESCRIPTION OF THE SILOS

The only remaining structures on the Ottesen Grain Co. Feed Mill site are two 50' tall silos dating from 1920, resting on a shared concrete foundation and located in a narrow space between the grain mill/elevator and the northern warehouse. Constructed of polychrome hollow fired clay tile blocks, the silos have a capacity of 20,000 bushels of grain. The structures are finished at the top by polygonal wood frame roofs (one over each silo) tied together in the middle by a wood frame connecting roof, which is topped at center by an old ornate metal ventilator that appears to predate the buildings on the site.

ALTERATIONS TO THE BUILDINGS

Significant non-historic alterations to the Ottesen Grain Co. Feed Mill buildings are largely interior to the structures (although the mill/elevator building is virtually untouched), except for the enclosure of the end walls of the drive-through grain dump shed sometime in the past few decades. Although this alteration did change the appearance of the south (primary) and north (rear) elevations on the site, the change was limited to only 15' of an overall 82' east-west length of the complex and is minimal in its visual impact on the site. The only other exterior alterations involved recent construction of the rear deck and small eastern stairway on the northern warehouse.

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
CONTINUATION SHEET

Section number 8 Page 7

Property OTTESEN GRAIN CO. FEED MILL

WELD COUNTY, COLORADO

NARRATIVE STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE

STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE

The Ottesen Grain Co. Feed Mill, constructed in 1920, meets National Register Criterion A for its association with events that have made a significant contribution to the broad patterns of our history. The importance of this site is tied to its long history as the sole grain buyer and livestock feed processor for the Ft. Lupton area for over fifty years. With its collection of wood frame, brick, and hollow tile structures, the site straddles a major shift in mill and grain elevator architecture from earlier fire-prone wood structures to the use of brick, tile, steel and finally fireproof concrete beginning around 1915. A very small number of feed mill and grain elevator sites dating from the general time period have been documented on the eastern plains of Colorado, with only a couple of these important small-town agricultural resources receiving National or State Register designation. Many others have been lost to fire or demolition, or are vacant and becoming significantly deteriorated due to neglect and a lack of viable modern uses.

Within the contexts of post-1900 farming and ranching in Colorado, the Ottesen Grain Co. Feed Mill's initial development occurred during the period of agricultural expansion leading up to and surrounding World War I. Colorado irrigated and dryland farming, along with livestock feeding, experienced a long period of growth between 1900 and 1920, when the Ottesen Mill was erected. By this time, Ft. Lupton was well-established as an agricultural center and area farmers needed a local mill/elevator where they could sell their crops, while area livestock feeders (many of them dairy farmers) were in need of a central mill where they could purchase processed grain for their cattle. With area agriculture booming, Ft. Lupton's small earlier mill (located on this same site along the central railroad tracks) was replaced by the Ottesen Grain Co. Feed Mill in 1920, a more substantial facility that could purchase, store and process a larger volume of grain for area markets. As the only feed mill/elevator in the Ft. Lupton area, this site was the focus of important agricultural trading and processing activities for five decades. Over these years, the Ottesen Grain Co. not only survived economically troubled times itself, but helped many area farmers and ranchers stay solvent during the Depression years by generously allowing customers to buy on credit until their financial situations improved.

The Ottesen Grain Co. Feed Mill's period of significance begins in 1920 when the structures were erected and ends in 1948 at the fifty year mark, even though the company continued to operate there until 1971. The mill is an important historic asset to the community as one of the few prominent structures that speak of the town's heritage as an agricultural center, and is symbolic of the commercial importance of mills and elevators in rural communities throughout eastern Colorado. For these reasons, the Ottesen Grain Co. Feed Mill exhibits exceptional importance on the local level and is eligible for inclusion in the National Register of Historic Places.

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
CONTINUATION SHEET

Section number 8 Page 8

Property OTTESEN GRAIN CO. FEED MILL

WELD COUNTY, COLORADO

NARRATIVE STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE

HISTORICAL BACKGROUND

The town of Ft. Lupton was platted in 1882 and incorporated in 1889 along the main north-south Union Pacific Railroad line and primary wagon road in the Platte River valley, halfway between Denver and Greeley. In addition to a depot, a modest number of commercial buildings and homes were soon erected, including a small feed mill on the north side of 7th St. just east of Main Ave. (probably known as the Adamson & Son Feed Mill). Over the next decade and on into the early twentieth century, the community slowly but steadily grew into a retail and service center, as well as a supply, processing, and shipping center for a thriving agricultural region known for the wide variety of crops it produced.

Although sugar beets became the primary area cash crop after 1900, the largest agricultural enterprise around Ft. Lupton early in the new century was dairy farming. Milk production was so high that the condensed milk plant established in Ft. Lupton received 20,000 pounds of milk daily for processing in 1912. With hungry dairy cattle in abundance, area dairy farmers needed a reliable supply of processed feed for their operations. Area grain farmers, growing dryland and irrigated crops such as wheat, corn, oats, milo, barley and sorghum, also required a centralized location to sell their crops for feed processing and for shipping to other markets.

Work commenced on the Standley Lake and Henrylyn Irrigation District irrigation projects around 1911, allowing area farmers to grow alfalfa as a feed crop in addition to boosting the yields of other dryland crops already being grown. Japanese, German-Russian, and Mexican farm laborers arrived in the Ft. Lupton area during the first decade of the century, many of them settling onto their own agricultural properties after working for a short time on area vegetable and sugar beet farms. By 1920, Ft. Lupton had grown into a community of around 1000 residents and served as the center of a thriving agricultural region.

Frank Ottesen was born in the town of Platteville (eight miles north of Ft. Lupton) in 1896, the son of immigrants from Denmark. Following his eighth grade commencement, Ottesen went to work at his father's Platteville Mill & Elevator. Several years later he was drafted into the American army and served overseas during World War I, after which he returned home to continue his career in the milling business. Eager to expand the family enterprise, Frank Ottesen borrowed \$8000 from his father to establish the Ottesen Grain Co., which bought and demolished the existing small feed mill in Ft. Lupton on 7th St. east of Main Ave., and in 1920 erected the feed mill found there today.

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
CONTINUATION SHEET

Section number 8 Page 9

Property OTTESEN GRAIN CO. FEED MILL

WELD COUNTY, COLORADO

NARRATIVE STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE

Consisting of a mill/elevator building, two feed warehouses (one of them a substantial brick structure), and two hollow tile silos (an expensive new option for materials), the Ottesen Grain Co. Feed Mill required a substantial investment that signified Frank Ottesen's faith in the agricultural future of the Ft. Lupton area. To protect the wooden mill/elevator building and western warehouse building from fire, they were sheathed in the galvanized corrugated steel cladding found there today. Typical of wood mill/elevator structures of the time, this protective measure usually afforded buildings such as these an average of only eleven years of life, and many of these early agricultural processing facilities have been lost to fire. The other factor that led to a shift from wood to more fire-resistant building materials during the first decades of the century was the high cost of insurance on elevators that were prone to burning down.

As the only grain elevator and feed mill in town, the Ottesen Grain Co. Feed Mill immediately became an integral component of Ft. Lupton's agricultural economy. Buying from area grain farmers, the company primarily purchased, stored and milled corn, oats, rye and barley for resale to area cattle raisers and dairy farmers through an on-site feed store. Beans were also frequently purchased for storage and resale. Corn was bought by the mill still on the cob and processed through a corn sheller. While the corn was processed for feed, the cobs were burned to provide heat for the mill buildings during the winter months.

The northern brick warehouse was used to store and sell feed hay for working horses, all of it brought to the site by boxcar. Wheat was bought by the mill, stored in the silos, and then sold to mills in Denver and Greeley for processing into flour. The western warehouse was used as a feed store outlet for sacked livestock feed produced by the mill, sacked flour processed at other facilities, and sacked seed sold at planting time. The north room in this warehouse (now used as a kitchen) was said to be "mouse-tight," and was reserved for sacked flour storage. Transport of products to and from the Ottesen Feed Mill was accomplished by both rail and truck at a time when trucking was becoming established as the preferred form of transport for the future. As the primary grain purchasing, processing and sales facility in town, most area farmers (many of them members of Ft. Lupton's established Japanese community) would have had occasion to conduct business at the Ottesen Grain Company.

Looking for ways to improve his mill operation, Frank Ottesen addressed the tedious hand mixing of livestock feed by inventing a mechanical mixer. Two of these conical mixers, manufactured for Ottesen at Eaton Metal in Denver, are still present on the site, one in the mill/elevator building and the other in the northern warehouse (near the entrance to the restaurant). Identical Ottesen mixers were installed in the family's Brighton and Platteville facilities, and they were evidently useful enough that mills in Denver and Boulder ordered their own.

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
CONTINUATION SHEET

Section number 8 Page 10

Property OTTESEN GRAIN CO. FEED MILL

WELD COUNTY, COLORADO

NARRATIVE STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE

The early Depression years were a time of struggle for the Ottesen mill operations, however they managed to stay in business because economic conditions in Ft. Lupton were not nearly as dire as in other locations throughout the state due to the diversity of agriculture in the area. Although prices were depressed, Frank Ottesen extended credit generously to area farmers, allowing them time to repay their debts to the mill until their finances improved. As the 1930s passed, business improved for the Ottesens in this town of approximately 1600 residents, and Frank Ottesen served as a town trustee during the decade. By this time, the dairy and feedlot industries were among the largest in Colorado, with Weld County containing more of these facilities than almost any county in the state. In addition to the Platteville Mill & Elevator and the Ottesen Grain Co. Feed Mill in Ft. Lupton, the family acquired the old Farmer's Cooperative Elevator in nearby Brighton in 1938, modernizing the plant and renaming it the Brighton Grain Co. Mill.

With three mills to manage, Frank Ottesen turned to brother-in-law Gail Akers in 1938 for assistance, and Akers managed the Ft. Lupton operation for the rest of his life. Around the same time, Ottesen hired Everett Hogelin as miller for the Ottesen Grain Co. Hogelin, known for his tremendous skill at operating the plant, worked at the mill in Ft. Lupton after graduating from high school until his death in 1971. With the skilled Hogelin gone, Frank Ottesen struggled unsuccessfully to find a replacement, and the mill had to be closed. Over the following twenty years the Ottesen Grain Co. Feed Mill sat unused, until it was purchased by Robert Vigil and converted into La Familia Restaurant in the early 1990s.

The fifty-one years of operation of the Ottesen Grain Co. Feed Mill, dating from 1920 to 1971, is testimonial to its integral place in the agricultural economy of Ft. Lupton and the surrounding region. The feed mill is representative of the importance of grain farming, dairy farming, livestock raising, and feed processing among the primary agricultural activities of the region. This property contributed significantly to the economic well-being of the town of Ft. Lupton and its environs, and enhanced its importance as an agricultural supply and shipping center in rural Weld County. The substantial structures on this site are a highly visible landmark that attests to the fundamental historical importance of agriculture to the community of Ft. Lupton and to the farmers of the region.

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
CONTINUATION SHEET

Section number 9 Page 11

Property OTTESEN GRAIN CO. FEED MILL

WELD COUNTY, COLORADO

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United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
CONTINUATION SHEET

Section number 9 Page 12

Property OTTESEN GRAIN CO. FEED MILL

WELD COUNTY, COLORADO

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United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
CONTINUATION SHEET

Section number 10 Page 13

Property OTTESEN GRAIN CO. FEED MILL

WELD COUNTY, COLORADO

VERBAL BOUNDARY DESCRIPTION

The Ottesen Grain Co. Feed Mill is located on Lots 9 through 12, inclusive, Block 1, together with the south 8' of the adjacent vacated alley in the City of Ft. Lupton, Weld County, Colorado.

BOUNDARY JUSTIFICATION

The nominated property includes, and is limited to, the land and improvements within the boundaries described above, occupied by the Ottesen Grain Co. Feed Mill and surrounding grounds. These boundaries were selected because they include all of the significant features on the property that were originally constructed and operated by the Ottesen Grain Co., and due to the fact that they are important to the setting and historic integrity of the property as a whole.

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
CONTINUATION SHEET

Section number _____ Page 14

Property OTTESEN GRAIN CO. FEED MILL

WELD COUNTY, COLORADO

PHOTOGRAPH LOG

The following information applies to all photographs submitted with this registration form:

Name of property: Ottesen Grain Co. Feed Mill
City, county and state: Fort Lupton, Weld County, Colorado
Photographer: Ron Sladek
Date of photograph: 19 May 1998
Location of negative: Tatanka Historical Associates, Inc.
P.O. Box 1909, Fort Collins, CO 80522

- Photograph #1: View of the south and west elevations of the buildings at the Ottesen Grain Co. Feed Mill, with the western warehouse on the left, the mill/elevator on the right, and 7th St. along the bottom of the photograph. View to the northeast.
- Photograph #2: View of the east and south elevations of the buildings at the Ottesen Grain Co. Feed Mill, with the mill/elevator along 7th St. on the left, and the northern brick warehouse along the railroad right-of-way on the right of the photograph. View to the northwest.
- Photograph #3: View of the east elevations of the buildings at the Ottesen Grain Co. Feed Mill, with the mill/elevator to the left, the northern brick warehouse to the right of center, and the former rail spur area along the bottom of the photograph. View to the southwest.
- Photograph #4: View of the north elevation of the western warehouse, with the now enclosed former grain dump drive-through and the northern brick warehouse on the left. View to the south.
- Photograph #5: View of the old Howe scale and the Ottesen Mixer in the mill/elevator building.
- Photograph #6: View of the interior of the northern brick warehouse, now used as La Familia Restaurant.
- Photograph #7: View of the interior of the western warehouse, now used as a meeting hall.

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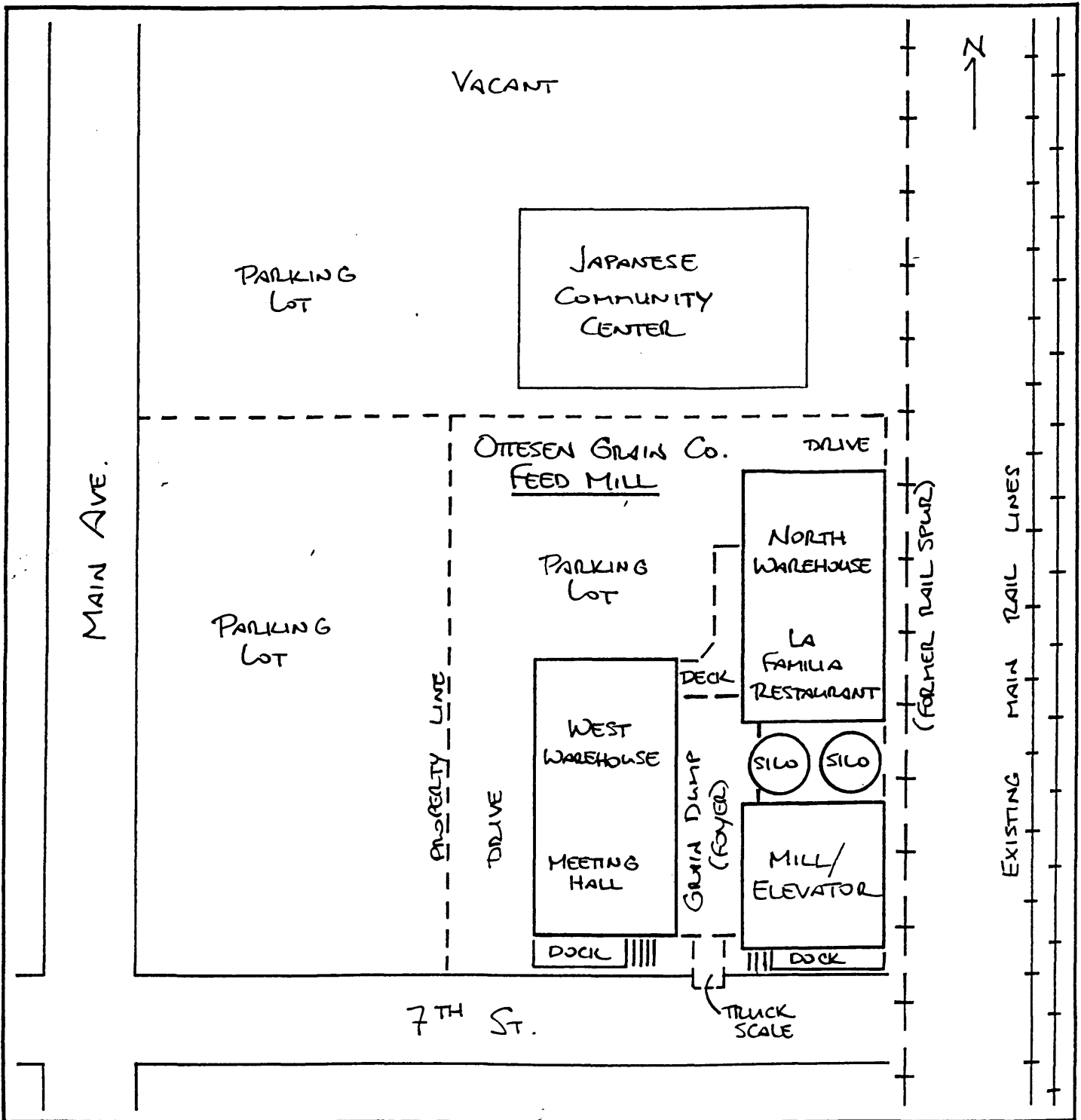
NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
CONTINUATION SHEET

Section number _____ Page 15

Property OTTESEN GRAIN CO. FEED MILL

WELD COUNTY, COLORADO

OTTESEN GRAIN CO. FEED MILL - DIAGRAM (not to scale)



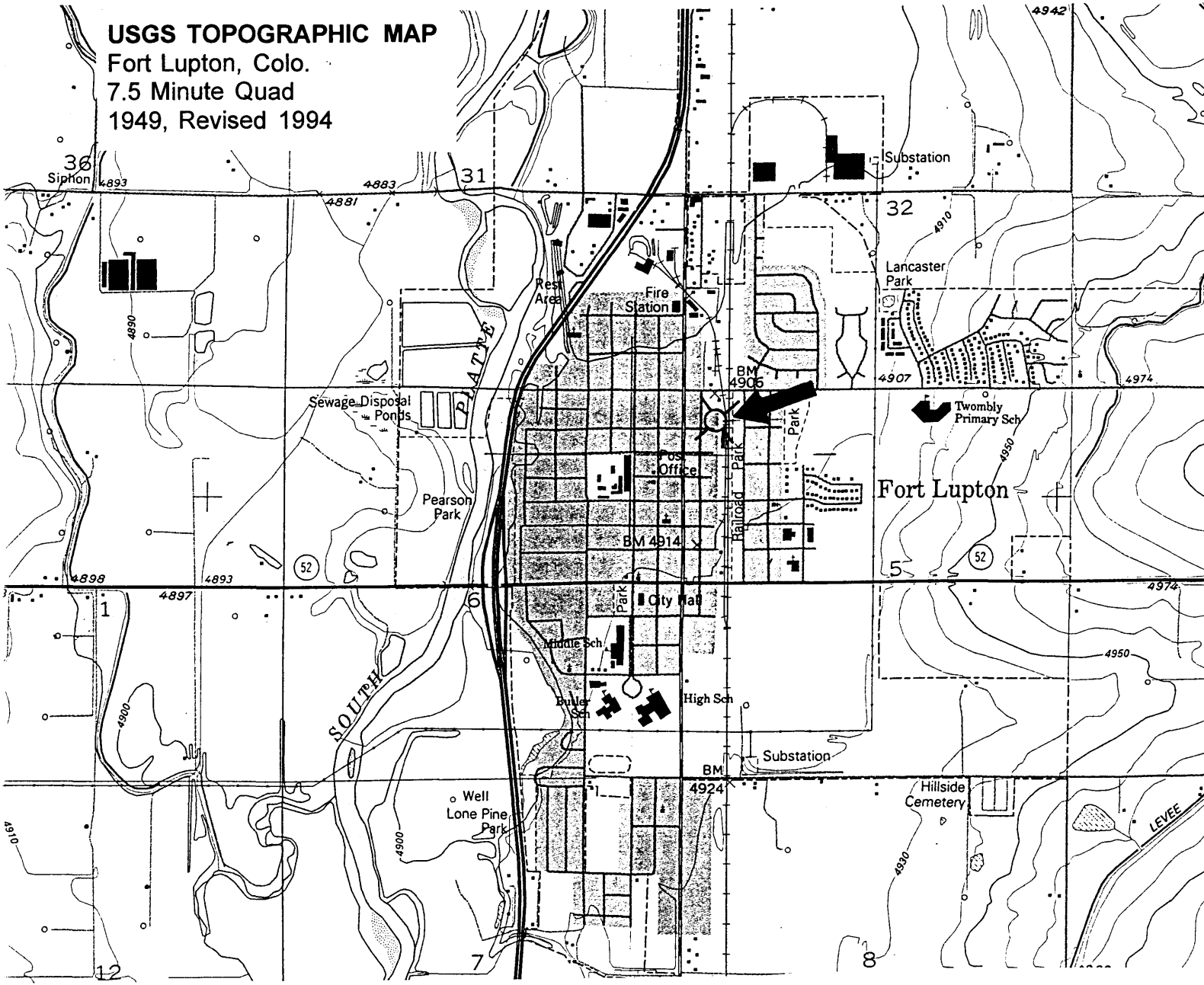
United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
CONTINUATION SHEET

Section number _____ Page 16

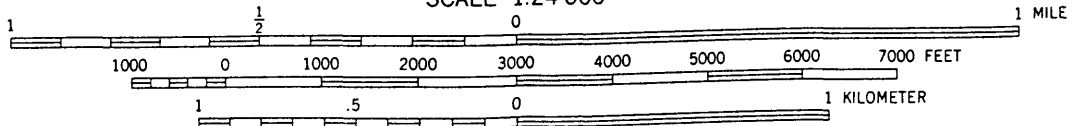
Property OTTESEN GRAIN CO. FEED MILL

WELD COUNTY, COLORADO



USGS TOPOGRAPHIC MAP
Fort Lupton, Colo.
7.5 Minute Quad
1949, Revised 1994

SCALE 1:24 000



CONTOUR INTERVAL 10 FEET
NATIONAL GEODETIC VERTICAL DATUM OF 1929

