

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE**NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
INVENTORY -- NOMINATION FORM**

PH0688720

FOR NPS USE ONLY

RECEIVED NOV 1 1978

DATE ENTERED DEC 20 1978

SEE INSTRUCTIONS IN *HOW TO COMPLETE NATIONAL REGISTER FORMS*
TYPE ALL ENTRIES -- COMPLETE APPLICABLE SECTIONS**1 NAME**

HISTORIC

Crescent Roller Mills _____

AND/OR COMMON

Fisher-Fallgatter Milling Co. _____

2 LOCATION

STREET & NUMBER

213 Oborn Street _____

NOT FOR PUBLICATION

CITY, TOWN

Waupaca _____

CONGRESSIONAL DISTRICT

Eighth _____

STATE

Wisconsin _____

VICINITY OF

CODE

55

COUNTY

Waupaca _____

CODE

135

3 CLASSIFICATION

CATEGORY

OWNERSHIP

STATUS

PRESENT USE

 DISTRICT PUBLIC OCCUPIED AGRICULTURE MUSEUM BUILDING(S) PRIVATE UNOCCUPIED COMMERCIAL PARK STRUCTURE BOTH WORK IN PROGRESS EDUCATIONAL PRIVATE RESIDENCE SITE PUBLIC ACQUISITION ACCESSIBLE ENTERTAINMENT RELIGIOUS OBJECT IN PROCESS YES: RESTRICTED GOVERNMENT SCIENTIFIC BEING CONSIDERED YES: UNRESTRICTED INDUSTRIAL TRANSPORTATION NO MILITARY OTHER**4 OWNER OF PROPERTY**

NAME

Arthur Robert & Marjorie E. Paske _____

STREET & NUMBER

P. O. Box 325 _____

STATE

CITY, TOWN

Waupaca, _____

VICINITY OF

Wisconsin 54981 _____

5 LOCATION OF LEGAL DESCRIPTION

COURTHOUSE,

REGISTRY OF DEEDS, ETC.

Waupaca County Courthouse, Register of Deeds Office _____

STREET & NUMBER

Corner of Main St. and W. Fulton St. _____

STATE

CITY, TOWN

Waupaca _____

Wisconsin 54981 _____

6 REPRESENTATION IN EXISTING SURVEYS

TITLE

Wisconsin Inventory of Historic Places _____

DATE

1978 _____

 FEDERAL STATE COUNTY LOCALDEPOSITORY FOR
SURVEY RECORDS

State Historical Society of Wisconsin _____

CITY, TOWN

Madison _____

STATE Wisconsin 53706 _____

7 DESCRIPTION

CONDITION	CHECK ONE	CHECK ONE
<input type="checkbox"/> EXCELLENT	<input type="checkbox"/> DETERIORATED	<input type="checkbox"/> UNALTERED
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> GOOD	<input type="checkbox"/> RUINS	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> ALTERED
<input type="checkbox"/> FAIR	<input type="checkbox"/> UNEXPOSED	<input type="checkbox"/> ORIGINAL SITE <input type="checkbox"/> MOVED DATE _____

DESCRIBE THE PRESENT AND ORIGINAL (IF KNOWN) PHYSICAL APPEARANCE

Crescent Roller Mills in Waupaca is a three-story wood frame building with a full basement and major historic additions to its south end. Sited on a flume which cuts across a meander in the Waupaca River, the mill took advantage of a fourteen-foot fall of water. The dam is no longer in operation and the flume is dry. A Soo Line railroad siding, which still remains, served the mill on its east side.

The main portion of the mill is forty by fifty feet and rests on a fieldstone foundation. Framing members are massive to support the weight of three stories of milling machinery. The exterior of the building is plain; siding is shiplap. Windows in the north facade are arranged symmetrically, with three on each level. In the second and third stories of the east and west facades, window arrangement is similar, excepting that the symmetrical arrangement is skewed ten feet to the north. The south facade contains only two windows on the third story. All windows are double hung with six-over-six lights. Historically, the mill had two doorways in each of the east and west sides. The mill's roof is only slightly pitched with the ridge running north and south. Rafter ends are exposed in the eaves. On the west facade is painted the legend "Fisher & Fallgatter"; beneath it are faintly visible the names of the previous owners, "Roberts & Oborn."

The mill contains virtually the entire complement of machinery it held after its refitting in 1913-1914. The contents of the various floors are as follows:

Basement. The basement contains eighteen grain elevators, the main drive shaft for the machinery above, and a furnace. The flume runs beneath the north fourteen feet of the basement. In the northeast corner access is gained to the single Leffel turbine in its tub, which powered the entire mill.

First Floor. The first floor contains six Allis-Chalmers roller mills, a "Rockford" roller mill manufactured in Moline, Illinois, two Allis-Chalmers "Reliance #2" flour packers, one "Invincible" packer of unknown manufacture, and a Westinghouse generator. The main floor also contains the power control station and the mill office, with its safe and files intact and containing records dating from around the turn of the century to 1969.

Second Floor. The second floor contains three grain bins, which presently are being dismantled by the owner, a flour dresser manufactured by the Lima Mills Furnishing Company, Lima, Ohio, a purifyer manufactured by the S. Howe Company, a Carter disc separator manufactured by Carter Mayhew of Minneapolis, an adding and mixing machine, and a cleaner/separator manufactured by Prinz and Rau of Milwaukee.

Third Floor. The third floor contains a channelling mechanism above the cluster of elevators, a "Cyclone Dust Collector" manufactured by the Knickerbocker Company of Jackson, Michigan, a "Silver Creek Double Scalper" manufactured by the Silver Creek Company of Silver Creek, New York, another Prinze and Rau cleaner/separator, a wheat separator manufactured by H.A. Barnard, a wheat scourer of unknown manufacturer,

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7. DESCRIPTION (continued)

two "Plansifters" manufactured by Barnard and Leas Manufacturing Company of Moline, Illinois, a flour dresser manufactured by Wilford and Northway of Minneapolis, and an Allis-Chalmers centrifugal flour dresser.

All of the machinery in the mill remains connected to its original drive mechanisms. With the exception of the bins which are being dismantled, all storage compartments, elevators, and channelling chutes are intact. If the turbine could again be powered, the mill could be operated.

Attached to the south wall of the main portion of the mill is a two-story structure containing a grain receiving area on the main floor and a number of eighteen-foot-high ventilated bins above. The receiving area contains a "Monitor Dustless Receiving Separator" of unknown manufacture and a large Fairbanks scale. The bin portion rests on a fieldstone foundation and was added to the mill early in the twentieth century.

Attached to the south of the bin structure is a single-story frame warehouse. Part of the warehouse dates from the first decade of the twentieth century. Painted flour advertisements are visible on the west facade.

A single-story shed-roofed structure with a sheltered loading platform is attached to the west side of the main mill and the bin structure. This dates probably from the 1913-1914 refitting. A single-story gable-roofed frame storage wing, likely of the same vintage, was removed from the north end of the mill some years ago.

The mill is structurally sound and generally in good condition with the exceptions of the roof, which leaks and needs repair, and the exterior of the building, which is badly in need of paint.

8 SIGNIFICANCE

PERIOD	AREAS OF SIGNIFICANCE -- CHECK AND JUSTIFY BELOW				
<input type="checkbox"/> PREHISTORIC	<input type="checkbox"/> ARCHEOLOGY-PREHISTORIC	<input type="checkbox"/> COMMUNITY PLANNING	<input type="checkbox"/> LANDSCAPE ARCHITECTURE	<input type="checkbox"/> RELIGION	
<input type="checkbox"/> 1400-1499	<input type="checkbox"/> ARCHEOLOGY-HISTORIC	<input type="checkbox"/> CONSERVATION	<input type="checkbox"/> LAW	<input type="checkbox"/> SCIENCE	
<input type="checkbox"/> 1500-1599	<input type="checkbox"/> AGRICULTURE	<input type="checkbox"/> ECONOMICS	<input type="checkbox"/> LITERATURE	<input type="checkbox"/> SCULPTURE	
<input type="checkbox"/> 1600-1699	<input type="checkbox"/> ARCHITECTURE	<input type="checkbox"/> EDUCATION	<input type="checkbox"/> MILITARY	<input type="checkbox"/> SOCIAL/HUMANITARIAN	
<input type="checkbox"/> 1700-1799	<input type="checkbox"/> ART	<input type="checkbox"/> ENGINEERING	<input type="checkbox"/> MUSIC	<input type="checkbox"/> THEATER	
<input type="checkbox"/> 1800-1899	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> COMMERCE	<input type="checkbox"/> EXPLORATION/SETTLEMENT	<input type="checkbox"/> PHILOSOPHY	<input type="checkbox"/> TRANSPORTATION	
<input type="checkbox"/> 1900-1969	<input type="checkbox"/> COMMUNICATIONS	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> INDUSTRY	<input type="checkbox"/> POLITICS/GOVERNMENT	<input type="checkbox"/> OTHER (SPECIFY)	
		<input type="checkbox"/> INVENTION			

SPECIFIC DATES 1884, 1913-1914

BUILDER/ARCHITECT

R.N. Roberts and S.T. Oborn

STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE

Crescent Roller Mills is significant to the industrial and commercial history of Wisconsin and the Waupaca area. Before the mill closed in 1969 it was the last surviving water-powered flour mill commercially operating in the state. Its survival into the second half of the twentieth century, long after small-mill flour milling had died in Wisconsin, is historically interesting. The mill is an exceptionally well-preserved example of a local flour mill in Wisconsin. The appearance of the main mill building retains the feeling of the time of its construction in 1884, and with the exception of a storage wing which was removed from the north side of the building, the mill is intact, inside and out, from its refitting in 1913-1914. Moreover, as a structurally and mechanically intact early-twentieth-century roller mill, it promises to yield significant historical information; this research potential is enhanced by the survival, intact at the site, of the mill records and manuals for its machinery.

In January 1884 Baldwin and Oborn's City Mills burned. City Mills had shared a mill-site on the Waupaca River with the city's other flour mill, Star Mills. After the fire S.T. Oborn entered a partnership with R.N. Roberts and decided to build a new mill downriver from the old site. Oborn had managed City Mills from his arrival in Waupaca in 1876 until the fire. Roberts and Oborn's new mill, christened the Crescent Roller Mills, began operation in September 1884. In 1888 the mill was producing one hundred barrels of flour daily plus grinding feed. Its major customers were the pineries to the north.¹

In 1902 Ward Fallgatter and his two brothers bought Roberts and Oborn's mill; in 1904 Fred R. Fisher joined with Ward Fallgatter in buying out the two brothers' shares and forming the Fisher and Fallgatter Milling Company. Then in 1913 Fisher and Fallgatter began the complete refitting of the mill which converted the operation to the exclusive production of rye flour. This refitting was a bold move. It came at a time when many small mills were facing retrenchment or becoming exclusively custom operations with an increasing emphasis on feed milling because of their difficulty in competing with the huge flour milling companies of Minneapolis and elsewhere. The timing of the refitting, however, coming just before the First World War, enabled the renovated mill to take advantage of the high demand of the war years and thereby quickly to establish itself. In 1917 the mill² produced an average of 150 barrels of Blue Diamond flour per day for eastern markets.

Ward Fallgatter died in 1936. His son Don Fallgatter and Fisher operated the mill in partnership until Fisher's retirement in 1943. At that time Don Fallgatter became the sole owner of the mill. He personally ran the mill until its closing in 1969. The survival of the mill and its machinery owes much to the care with which Don Fallgatter operated the mill and to the manner in which he finally stopped operation. With little prior notice, he decided to retire, shut down the machinery, locked up, and walked away.

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8. SIGNIFICANCE (continued)

Since Fallgatter's retirement, the mill has remained largely undisturbed. Several months ago the present owners purchased the place, hoping to preserve the main part of the mill with its machinery as a museum and to use the [warehouse] portion for a collection of small shops. Plans are now being formed for UW-Milwaukee students of technological history to study and formally document the mill. The listing of the mill on the National Register of Historic Places will give the owners significant encouragement in their reuse project as well as enable them to apply for restoration and stabilization grants and to take advantage of the benefits of the Tax Reform Act of 1976.

¹D.L. Stinchfield, Illustrated Waupaca (Waupaca, 1888), 68-69.

²John M. Ware, ed., A Standard History of Waupaca County, Wisconsin (Chicago, 1917), I, 254.

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9. MAJOR BIBLIOGRAPHICAL REFERENCES (continued)

Fallgatter, Don E., interview of A.R. Paske with, March 23, 1978.

Fallgatter Mill Papers. In the possession of A.R. and M.E. Paske, Waupaca, Wisconsin. These include ledgers for the period 1906-1943, blueprints detailing machinery drives and configurations, an appraisal of the mill including an itemized appraisal of its contents dated 1918, catalogs and manuals for the mill machinery including a catalog of the Leffel Co., Springfield, Ohio, listing its 1916 line of turbines and Barnard & Leas Manufacturing Co., Moline, Illinois', 1913 "Plansifter" catalog.

Milwaukee Journal, June 8, 1969.

Sanborn-Perris Insurance Maps for Waupaca, Wisconsin. Chicago, 1885, 1891, 1895, 1901, 1909, 1924, 1934.

Stinchfield, D.L. Illustrated Waupaca. Waupaca, 1888.

Wakefield, Josephus. History of Waupaca County, Wisconsin. Waupaca, 1890.

Ware, John M. A Standard History of Waupaca County, Wisconsin. Volume 1 Chicago, 1917.

Waupaca Centennial Book, 1857-1957. Berlin, Wisconsin, n.d. [1957].

11. FORM PREPARED BY (continued)

Arthur Robert and Marjorie E. Paske, owners
May 10, 1978
P.O. Box 325
715/258-8661
Waupaca, Wisconsin 54981

**United States Department of the Interior
Heritage Conservation and Recreation Service**

**National Register of Historic Places
Inventory—Nomination Form**

Crescent Roller Mills (Fisher-Fallgatter Milling Co.), 213 Oborn Street, Waupaca, Waupaca Co.
Continuation sheet

Item number 4

Page 1 Wisconsin

4. **OWNER OF PROPERTY** (NRHP 12-20-78)

Delete: Arthur Robert & Marjorie E. Paske
P. O. Box 325
Waupaca, WI 54981

and substitute therefor:

Marcel Van Camp
213 Oborn Street
Waupaca, WI 54981

Donald N. Anderson
Historian & Registrar
608/262-0746
07-23-80

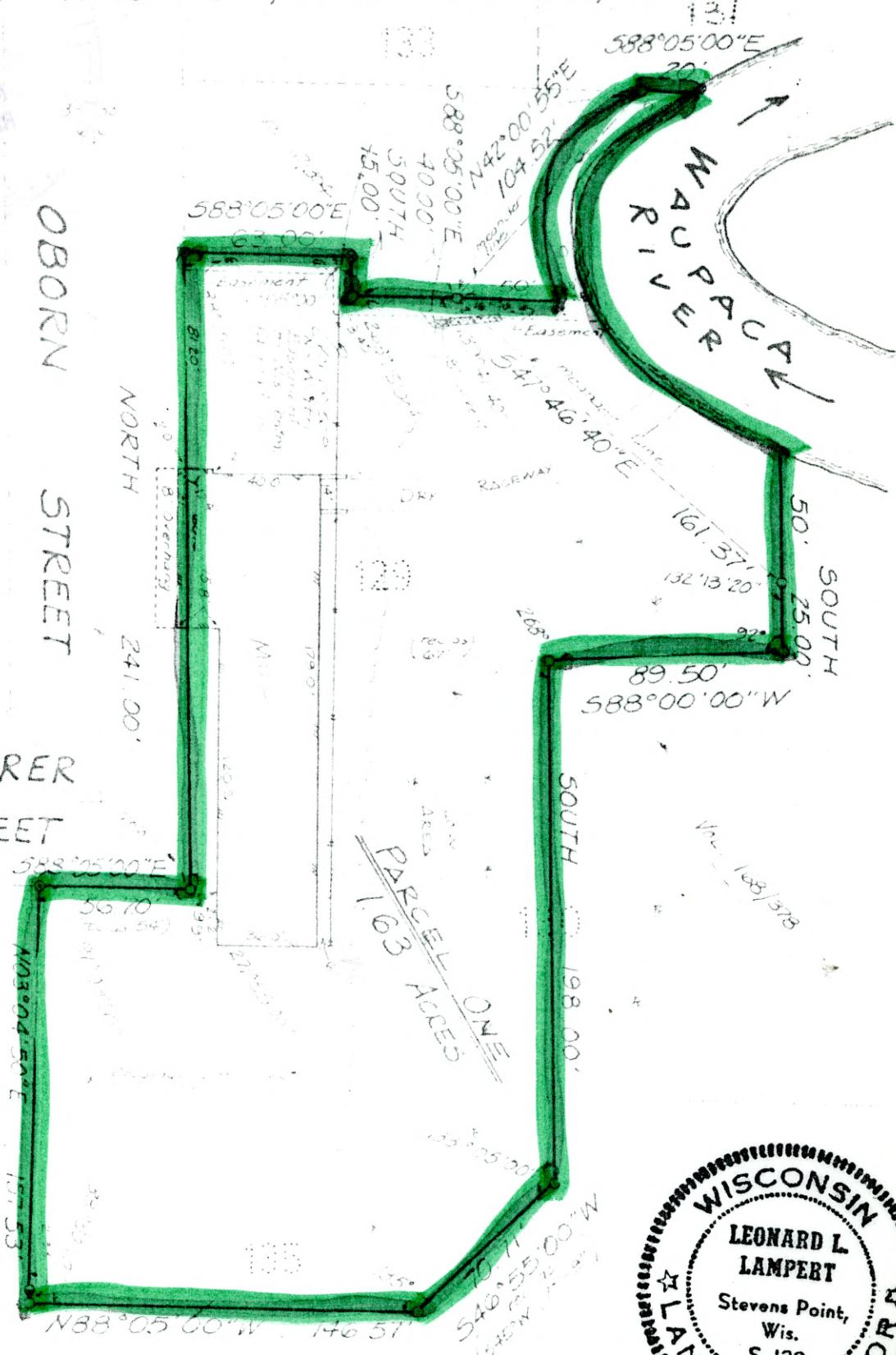
CERTIFIED SURVEY MAP FOR A.R. PASKE IN PART OF
OUTLOTS 129, 130 & 135 OF THE PRESIDENT AND
TRUSTEES PLAT IN THE E1/2 NW1/4, SECTION 29, T22N,
R12E, CITY OF WAUPACA, WAUPACA CO., WIS.

60' 30' 0' 60'

N

SHEARER
STREET

LEGEND



This instrument was drafted by Leonard L. Lampert & drawn by L. S. Schaefer on 3-17-78.



CSM 866

A hand-drawn map of a construction site at Oborn Street. The map shows a yellow-painted foundation plan with dimensions and various labels. A north arrow is present in the bottom right corner.

Labels and Dimensions:

- OBORN ST.**
- RER ST.**
- CORN CR/R**
- SHED**
- HOS/**
- CONC WALLS**
- RACK**
- CONC. HUMBLE BLOW ST.**
- S/DINGS**
- RUNWAY**
- PLAT FORM**
- STONE RET WALLS**
- BRIDGE BELONGS TO R.R. WALLS TO PLANT**
- MAP NUMBER**
- 2.571-1.C.**
- 10'-4 1/2" x 6'5"**
- 20'-6 1/2" x 6'6"**
- 40'-5" x 18'6 1/2"**
- 20'-7" x 10'**
- 36'11 1/2"**
- 10'-4 1/2" x 6'5"**
- 20'-6 1/2" x 6'6"**
- 40'-5" x 18'6 1/2"**
- 20'-7" x 10'**
- 36'11 1/2"**
- 1**
- 2**
- 3**
- 4**
- 5**
- 6**

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Fallgatter's Mill

From 1918 appraisal done by
Lloyd-Thomas Co., Chicago.
The existing building is
outlined in yellow.