

**United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service**

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

For NPS use only
received NOV 7 1983
date entered

See instructions in *How to Complete National Register Forms*
Type all entries—complete applicable sections

1. Name

historic Seiling Milling Company

and/or common Same

2. Location

street & number ^{4th} Fourth and Orange Street N/A not for publication

city, town Seiling N/A vicinity of

state Oklahoma code 040 county Dewey code 043

3. Classification

Category	Ownership	Status	Present Use
<input type="checkbox"/> district	<input type="checkbox"/> public	<input type="checkbox"/> occupied	<input type="checkbox"/> agriculture
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> building(s)	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> private	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> unoccupied	<input type="checkbox"/> commercial
<input type="checkbox"/> structure	<input type="checkbox"/> both	<input type="checkbox"/> work in progress	<input type="checkbox"/> educational
<input type="checkbox"/> site	Public Acquisition	Accessible	<input type="checkbox"/> entertainment
<input type="checkbox"/> object	N/A in process	<input type="checkbox"/> yes: restricted	<input type="checkbox"/> government
	N/A being considered	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> yes: unrestricted	<input type="checkbox"/> industrial
		<input type="checkbox"/> no	<input type="checkbox"/> military
			<input type="checkbox"/> museum
			<input type="checkbox"/> park
			<input type="checkbox"/> private residence
			<input type="checkbox"/> religious
			<input type="checkbox"/> scientific
			<input type="checkbox"/> transportation
			<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> other: unused

4. Owner of Property

name Lucile R. Sander and Alvie Sander

street & number

city, town Seiling N/A vicinity of state OK 73663

5. Location of Legal Description

courthouse, registry of deeds, etc. Dewey County Courthouse

street & number

city, town Taloga state OK 73667

6. Representation in Existing Surveys

title Oklahoma Comprehensive Survey has this property been determined eligible? yes no

date 1983 federal state county local

depository for survey records Oklahoma Historical Society, Preservation Office

city, town Oklahoma City state OK

7. Description

Condition		Check one	Check one
<input type="checkbox"/> excellent	<input type="checkbox"/> deteriorated	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> unaltered	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> original site
<input type="checkbox"/> good	<input type="checkbox"/> ruins	<input type="checkbox"/> altered	<input type="checkbox"/> moved
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> fair	<input type="checkbox"/> unexposed		date _____

Describe the present and original (if known) physical appearance

The original mill building was built in 1917-18. It was two stories with basement - grain storage on second floor, milling and marketing on the ground floor and basement pits necessary to the milling process. The dimensions were 43.6' x 18'. This first building was wood frame with top beveled horizontal siding inside and out.

The two story engine room was built in 1923 along with the concrete cooling tank. The second story of the engine room was used as a bedroom for those who had to start the generator at 4:00 a.m. The woodframe elevator section was built in the early 1930s. It has five storage bins each with a 1500 bushel capacity. The workshop and addition to the feed room were built sometime before 1937. The feed room was built in 1934. A 50,000 bushel grain storage tank was built in 1937.

In the early 1930s the original mill room and the engine room were stuccoed over the wood siding. The elevator section and grain storage tank are metal covered. The scale room is red brick block single story next to the truck scale (also intact).

Seiling is on the western edge of Oklahoma's wheat belt. The area is primarily rural and was not officially settled by whites until about 1893. The land west and south of Seiling is rocky and unsuited to large crop production. Seiling itself is a farming community of about 2,000 people. The mill is located inside the city limits and now is sparsely surrounded by single story bungalows and mobile homes. During the time of the mill's primary significance the mill's surroundings were primarily prairie and farm land.

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 type="checkbox"/> commerce	<input type="checkbox"/> exploration/settlement	<input type="checkbox"/> philosophy	<input type="checkbox"/> transportation
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 1900-	<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 1918-1952 **Builder/Architect** unknown

Statement of Significance (in one paragraph)

The Seiling Milling Company is significant because it was one of the few industries in the Seiling area and because its engines and milling equipment dating 1918-1935 are intact and can provide technical information about milling with steam, gas and early diesel fuel.

Seiling is located on the western edge of the Oklahoma wheat belt that extends north into Kansas. In 1917 or 1918 Fred Sander was approached by a group of local farmers, merchants and bankers about beginning a much needed milling operation. Sander agreed and bought a Midget Marvel coal powered steam flour mill, built a two story wood building to house the mill, began milling locally produced wheat into White Rose flour and distributing it in a 50 mile radius. Sander also had an agreement with the Indian agent to distribute flour to area tribes, mostly Cheyennes and Arapahoe.

The first engine used by the milling company in 1917 was a 1915 J. I. Case coal powered steam engine. It had an 18 horsepower motor and a flywheel 4½ feet in diameter. In 1920 Sander purchased a 25 horsepower Charter gas powered engine that was used until 1925. In 1923 a single cylinder Fairbanks and Morse diesel engine was purchased in Kansas City, Missouri. The engine had a 3 5/8 ton flywheel and was used to power milling operations until the mill closed in 1952. The engine is still in the engine room intact. Diesel fuel was purchased from the Champlin refinery in Enid and shipped in tank cars to Canton, Oklahoma. There the Sanders loaded it by hand into barrels and trucked it to Seiling. At the mill the fuel was stored in two underground concrete lined tanks.

The milling system was a Midget Marvel made in Owensboro, Kentucky ca. 1915 and purchased by Sander in 1917. This mill was called a "Short System" using a series of four rollers to mill the flour. The first mill had a 15 barrel capacity. A barrel contained 196 pounds that produced four 48 pound sacks per barrel. The second mill was a 25 barrel mill purchased in Quinlin, Oklahoma in the early 1930s. Then in 1934-35 the third Midget Marvel short system was purchased from Hutchinson Machinery in Oklahoma City. This mill was a 50 pound mill. This mill along with part of the 25 barrel mill are still intact in the mill building.

Flour was milled in 50 and 100 pound sacks. Farmers brought in their wheat and exchanged flour for bran and shorts that Sander then sold for feed from the feed room at the mill. A ledger entry for November 1925 shows one farmer exchanged enough wheat to receive about 1,200 pounds of flour, for the winter. The standard exchange was 36 pounds of flour for a bushel of wheat. Sacks of flour were also sold on a cash basis to country stores in small towns around Seiling.

9. Major Bibliographical References

Spanning the River, Vol. 1, Dewey County Historical Society
Louis Cosby, "Old Mill Stands Idle After Sewing Purpose" (xerox copy)
Interview, Lucile R. Sander, Seiling OK, May 6, 1983
Interview, Alvie Sander, Walter Sander, May 18, 1983, Seiling OK

10. Geographical Data

Acreeage of nominated property Under one acre

Quadrangle name Seiling, OK

Quadrangle scale 1:2400

UTM References

A

1	4	5	0	3	4	4	0	4	0	0	0	2	4	5
Zone				Easting				Northing						

B

Zone				Easting				Northing						

C

Zone				Easting				Northing						

D

Zone				Easting				Northing						

E

Zone				Easting				Northing						

F

Zone				Easting				Northing						

G

Zone				Easting				Northing						

H

Zone				Easting				Northing						

Verbal boundary description and justification

Lots 1 and 2, Block 4, Fosters 1st addition

List all states and counties for properties overlapping state or county boundaries

state N/A code county code

state N/A code county code

11. Form Prepared By

name/title Mary Ann Anders Ph.D., Director Oklahoma Historic Preservation Survey

organization Oklahoma Historic Preservation Survey date May 20, 1983

street & number Oklahoma State University telephone 405/624-5678

city or town Stillwater state OK

12. State Historic Preservation Officer Certification

The evaluated significance of this property within the state is:

national state local

As the designated State Historic Preservation Officer for the National Historic Preservation Act of 1966 (Public Law 89-665), I hereby nominate this property for inclusion in the National Register and certify that it has been evaluated according to the criteria and procedures set forth by the National Park Service.

State Historic Preservation Officer signature C Emetsolf date 10/31/83

title _____ date _____

For NPS use only

I hereby certify that this property is included in the National Register

Entered in the
National Register

date 12/8/83

for Shelore Byers
Keeper of the National Register

Attest:

date _____

Chief of Registration

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

**NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
INVENTORY -- NOMINATION FORM**

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CONTINUATION SHEET

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Fred Sander's sons had helped in the mill during the time they were growing up. In about 1934 Fred's health deteriorated and three sons, Alvie, Walter, and Henry, took over mill operations.

In 1922 Sander installed a generator to produce electricity for Seiling. The generator used the mill engines and produced electricity for town residents 20 hours a day, from 4:00 a.m. to midnight. During this time it was the only light plant in Dewey County. The generator was sold in 1928 and was eventually was sold to Oklahoma Gas and Electric Company.

During the depression years flour was a staple ingredient in farmers' and small town residents' diet. During this time the mill ran twenty-four hours a day and supplied a critical service to area residents. As one Sander relative stated "A lot of people might have gone hungry if we had'nt milled their wheat into flour. If someone complained about the flour, I'd bake a batch of really good bread from the flour and take it to them."

By 1940 the mill was producing 50 barrels of flour a day; a special coarse grind of flour called White Rose Special, the regular White Rose flour and a whole wheat flour. The mill was finally closed in 1952 when changing markets dictated larger milling operations and small quantities packaged flour. Increasing taxes also forced many small operators out of business, of which Seiling Milling Company was one.

The mill works, equipment and buildings remain completely intact and recall a technology between 1917-1952.