

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

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

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

1 NAME

**

HISTORIC

Beet Sugar Factory

AND/OR COMMON

LOCATION

STREET & NUMBER

5243 West Glendale Avenue

NOT FOR PUBLICATION

CITY, TOWN

Glendale

VICINITY OF

3

CONGRESSIONAL DISTRICT

STATE

Arizona

CODE

04

COUNTY

Maricopa

CODE

013

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:

OWNER OF PROPERTY

NAME

Anna Ringer

STREET & NUMBER

Box 202

CITY, TOWN

Glendale

VICINITY OF

STATE

Arizona 85311

LOCATION OF LEGAL DESCRIPTION

COURTHOUSE,
REGISTRY OF DEEDS, ETC.

Maricopa County Courthouse

STREET & NUMBER

CITY, TOWN

Phoenix

STATE

Arizona

6 REPRESENTATION IN EXISTING SURVEYS

TITLE

DATE

FEDERAL STATE COUNTY LOCAL

DEPOSITORY FOR
SURVEY RECORDS

CITY, TOWN

STATE

7 DESCRIPTION

CONDITION

___EXCELLENT

XGOOD

___FAIR

___DETERIORATED

___RUINS

___UNEXPOSED

CHECK ONE

___UNALTERED

XALTERED

CHECK ONE

XORIGINAL SITE

___MOVED DATE _____

DESCRIBE THE PRESENT AND ORIGINAL (IF KNOWN) PHYSICAL APPEARANCE

The Beet Sugar Factory stands near SW corner of Glendale and 51st Avenue and faces South. The factory is a large rectilinear 3-story building with 3-bay wing and an 11-bay wing flanking a 5-story, 3-bay core.

Ground floor openings on the wings are arched while those on the second floor are semi-arched. The fourth and fifth floor openings are arched. Brick detailing separates the floors and the cornice is denticulated. The 184 foot round smokestack was dismantled in December of 1951 after it had been split 80 feet from the top by lightning.

The factory is served by 3 spurs of the Santa Fe Railway.

The building is one of the earliest known examples of riveted steel construction in Arizona.

8 SIGNIFICANCE

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

SPECIFIC DATES

1907

BUILDER/ARCHITECT

Jules Fuehrman

STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE

The Beet Sugar Factory of Glendale vividly illustrates the trends and problems in the development of commercial agriculture in the Salt River Valley. It was the brainchild of a prominent pioneer land developer, it was intimately tied to the stabilization of water resources in the valley, it showed the necessity for outside financing for any major projects in the area, and it also exemplified the problems involved in adapting agricultural techniques from other areas to the special conditions of the valley.

William John Murphy (1839-1923), pioneer land developer, arrived in Arizona in 1881 with a grading contract for the Atlantic and Pacific. In 1883 he went to the Salt River Valley and started work on the Arizona Canal, completing it in 1887. This was the 4th canal north of the river and Murphy recognized the need for a unified canal system. He consequently organized the Arizona Improvement Company, of which he was the first president, to buy a controlling interest in the four canals. The company then connected the four waterways with a crosscut canal.

Murphy then embarked on land development, creating subdivisions and planting hundreds of acres of citrus and other crops in the Glendale area. He introduced commercial citrus growing to the valley, organized a citrus growers association, and built a packing house. He also laid out the town of Glendale and organized the founding of nearby Peoria. To serve these communities northwest of Phoenix, he laid out Grand Avenue and formed a street railway company to serve the residents of Phoenix.

Murphy seemed never to be at a loss for ways to further the growth and development of the valley. He was active in the drive for storage dams on the Salt River to regulate the flow of water and end the nightmare oscillations between flood and drought. He convinced President Theodore Roosevelt that federal forest preserves must be set aside for the protection of the Salt River watershed.

The first commercially successful beet sugar factory in the United States was built in California in 1870. During the next two decades, interest in sugar beet culture was aroused in several states and in the late 1880s, Phoenix newspapers began to urge the development of the industry in Arizona. By 1896, the University of Arizona was engaged in research in beet culture and in February of 1897 the Tempe Sugar Beet Assn. was formed. Other communities in the Phoenix area also showed interest in the subject. Murphy was among those who studied the industry thoroughly and saw its possibilities for Arizona. Financing, of course, had to be secured elsewhere and Murphy persuaded processors in Michigan to invest in a beet sugar factory for Glendale.

Between 1898 and 1906, 24 such plants had been built in Michigan, inspired by the Dingley protective tariff of 1897. Most of the plants failed within a few years for various reasons, but several of them were quite successful. The industry had been doing fairly

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well in other states for several years, using machinery imported from Germany duty free. After 1892, a 40% ad valorem tax was instituted and United States firms began to manufacture the machinery using German plans. The company formed by the Michigan sugar interests began construction of a factory in Glendale, northwest of Phoenix. The contractor was American Construction and Supply, founded in 1897 by architect H.T. Jules Fuehrman and agriculturist Teodor Hapke to build sugar beet processing plants. The company built several such factories in various states & Canada before starting on the Glendale job. The Glendale factory was to be a duplicate of one built by the company at Janesville, Wisconsin. The Janesville factory closed in 1938 and was dismantled and sold to Canadian interests in 1942.

The Glendale factory was little more than a steel skeleton when the Michigan company folded and Murphy was obliged to find other financial backers in Colorado. The contractor was retained and construction resumed in December of 1905, financed by the Southwestern Sugar and Land Company.

The Michigan presence in Glendale remained as many people associated with the new factory had worked there. The layout for the factory was planned by construction engineers Joseph Eckert, Eugen Stoeckly, and James Dooley. Fritz Treskow, a German chemist and accomplished violinist, was superintendent at Glendale (1906-1908) after several years in Michigan. There were ties with Janesville, Wisconsin, too. Lafayette Meyers came from the Janesville factory to Glendale in 1909 and served as agriculturist. Porter Marks acquired some of his versatility in the early years at Glendale and eventually became secretary and general manager at Janesville.

Teodor Hapke, who built the factory, first came to the United States from Germany in 1891. He was primarily an agriculturist and was especially good at instructing farmers in the German-speaking areas of the midwest. He also wrote articles on beet culture for the local newspapers where factories were being established. His talents complemented those of his architect partner, Jules Fuehrman, and the company (American Construction & Supply) was quite successful.

The Glendale factory was completed and began processing beets on the 11th of August 1906. The million dollar factory was ready earlier but operations were delayed by a break in the Arizona Canal which cut off the water supply needed for washing the beets. The delay caused a loss of 1000 tons of beets.

The factory had a capacity of 1000 tons of beets per day. These had to be washed, then floated into a big wheel, then carried to the 3rd floor and back before being sliced and made into pulp. In addition to the water from the canal, the factory used well water and kept a 13 million gallon storage tank.

The first year (1906), about 4000 acres in the valley were planted with beets and it was predicted that farmers would get about \$200,000 from the 40,000 tons they raised that season.

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In 1909-1910 the company had 1500 acres of its own planted. Beets were selling for \$4.75 a ton and the factory was handling 700 tons a day. During the four month campaign (season) 300 people were employed in the factory and 280 in the field. In 1909 the factory paid \$250,000 to farmers and an equal amount to employees and maintenance.

For the 1910-1911 campaign the company undertook to develop 10,000 acres between the Agua Fria and the New River which it leased for beet raising. In addition, 6000 non-company acres were planted. Greene and Griffen, local realtors, were the developers.

In Michigan, Russian immigrants had been successfully imported to raise beets and Greene and Griffen decided to try the same thing in Glendale. In the Los Angeles area they found a group of Molukans, Russian religious dissidents whose sect date from a 17th century schism. They were of peasant stock, pacifist, fundamentalist, and anti-ritual, with no ordained ministers. They had been persecuted continuously and in the 1840s had been exiled to a remote area of the Caucasus near the borders of Turkey and Iran. In the late 19th century they came to the United States, especially California. From 1905-1908 many worked in the southern California shipyards but they really wanted to return to farming. They purchased land from Greene and Griffen and arrived in Glendale in August of 1911 in a group containing nearly 200 adults. About 1000 of them came altogether, setting up little colonies of small frame houses, working their own 5-10 acre plots and working on company acres in addition. The venture was not successful as far as sugar beet production went because the crops failed but the Molukans turned to dairying, cotton, and milo maize. Some of them gave up and went back to California after the agricultural depression of 1921.

Greene and Griffen also imported 15 German families from Lincoln, Nebraska in 1912. These people settled south of Glendale on plots of 10-40 acres.

The beet sugar industry in Glendale survived only about six years. Several causes have been suggested for the failure, such as the low sugar content of most of the beets, curly top (a disease transmitted by insects), spoilage caused by summer heat, and more profitable uses for the land. In 1920 the machinery was moved to Delta, Colorado and the building stood idle for many years. It was purchased by Philip Ringer in 1937 and was eventually used as a bottling works. The upper floors remained vacant.

The sugar industry in Arizona did not revive until 1966 when the state managed finally to get a sugar allotment. (Cuban sugar had been cut off in 1961). In 1967, Spreckels set up a plant in Chandler but Glendale did not revive as a sugar processing center.

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