

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

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National Register of Historic Places
Registration Form

NATIONAL
REGISTER

This form is for use in nominating or requesting determinations of eligibility for individual properties or districts. See instructions in *Guidelines for Completing National Register Forms* (National Register Bulletin 16). Complete each item by marking "x" in the appropriate box or by entering the requested information. If an item does not apply to the property being documented, enter "N/A" for "not applicable." For functions, styles, materials, and areas of significance, enter only the categories and subcategories listed in the instructions. For additional space use continuation sheets (Form 10-900a). Type all entries.

1. Name of Property

historic name North Dakota Mill and Elevator

other names/site number N.D. Mill, State Mill and Elevator

2. Location

street & number 1823 Mill Road

N/A not for publication

city, town Grand Forks

N/A vicinity

state North Dakota code ND

county Grand Forks

code 035

zip code 58206

3. Classification

Ownership of Property

- private
- public-local
- public-State
- public-Federal

Category of Property

- building(s)
- district
- site
- structure
- object

Number of Resources within Property

Contributing	Noncontributing	
7	4	buildings
		sites
		structures
		objects
7	4	Total

Name of related multiple property listing:
N/A

Number of contributing resources previously listed in the National Register none

4. State/Federal Agency Certification

As the designated authority under the National Historic Preservation Act of 1966, as amended, I hereby certify that this 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 meets does not meet the National Register criteria. See continuation sheet.

James E. Sperry
Signature of certifying official

3-18-92
Date

James E. Sperry, State Historic Preservation Officer of North Dakota
State or Federal agency and bureau

In my opinion, the property meets does not meet the National Register criteria. See continuation sheet.

Signature of commenting or other official

Date

State or Federal agency and bureau

5. National Park Service Certification

I, hereby, certify that this 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:)

Beth Boland

5/11/92

Signature of the Keeper

Date of Action

6. Function or Use

Historic Functions (enter categories from instructions)
Industry/Processing: manufacturing;
energy facility; processing site.
Agriculture/Subsistence: grain
processing, storage.
Commerce/Trade: Business.

Current Functions (enter categories from instructions)
Industry/Processing: manufacturing
storage; processing site.
Agriculture/Subsistence: grain
processing, storage.
Commerce/Trade: business.

7. Description

Architectural Classification
(enter categories from instructions)

No Style.
Romanesque (Power House)

Materials (enter categories from instructions)

foundation _____
walls Brick or concrete
roof Flat: Built-up Roofing (Asphalt)
other Trim: Steel Siding

Describe present and historic physical appearance.

See attached continuation sheets.

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DESCRIPTION:

The North Dakota Mill and Elevator consists of eleven buildings, most of which are connected by ground level passages and by grain delivery systems. The buildings are located between U.S. Highway 81 and Mill Road in the northern part of Grand Forks. The eleven buildings consist of: 1. the Administrative General Office building; 2. the Equipment Storage Building; 3. the Power House; 4. the A-B Mill; 5. the Terminal building; 6. Wheat Storage Silos; 7. the Flour Blending Plant; 8. the K Mill; 9. the New Warehouse; 10. the Storage Garage; and 11. the Old Flour Warehouse. The Administrative General Office, Equipment Storage, Power House, A-B Mill, Terminal, Wheat Storage Silos (except those built in the 1960s), and Old Flour Warehouse buildings are contributing factors in this nomination. The modern New Warehouse, Flour Blending Plant, Storage Garage and K Mill are non-contributing properties in this eleven-building nomination. All of the buildings are on state property historically associated with the mill and elevator. The buildings sit on spacious, open grounds necessary for the operation of a large flour mill.

The construction of the original buildings that constitute the North Dakota Mill and Elevator commenced in 1920 but was halted in the fall of that year. The complex was mostly completed and opened on 30 October 1922 when Governor R.A. Nestos pushed a button to officially start the flour mill.¹ The K Mill was built in 1980 to provide a larger milling capacity.

The A-B Mill building is an eight-story industrial building, completed in 1922. The structure consists of poured concrete beams, pillars, floors and foundation with brick walls. The original concrete building still stands although some of the milling equipment was destroyed in a 28 July 1970 fire. The A Mill produces bakery flour and the B Mill turns out macaroni flour from durum wheat. Numerous original windows provided sufficient lighting for working inside, but the windows have been bricked over. Artificial lights provide more illumination than windows without the hazard of wind-driven dust. The south end of the building has been sheathed with steel siding to match the newer K Mill. The A-B Mill is largely blocked from view from Mill Road by the K Mill.

The Administrative General Office building is of an unclassifiable, functional style with a simple pattern of white

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squares (tiles) amidst alternating flat horizontal and vertical decorative brickwork. Window lintels and sills of slightly-projecting bricks provide the only other decoration. The basic brick structure of the three-story office building, completed in 1922, remain intact. The interior has been completely remodelled and only the floors and stairs are original. New windows were installed about four years ago, according to general manager Roger Dunning, but were fit into the original openings. The building, which faces east to Mill Road, has a modern glass and metal entryway on the east.

The Equipment Storage building is built on the same pattern as the Administrative General Office with the simple pattern of white square tiles on the upper portion of the outside walls amidst alternating horizontal and vertical decorative flat brickwork. The one-and-a-half story building has three garage doors for the entrance of vehicles, only one of the three garage doors is original. Three original windows remain on the east side and one on the south side has been partially filled with concrete blocks. The basic brick building, completed in 1922, remains intact.

The Power House, a late Romanesque-styled building, has the same simple detailing found on the walls of the Administrative General Office and Equipment Storage buildings. However, shallow corbelling surrounds two-story arched windows which originally let natural light into the building. One of the Romanesque arched windows retains its original glass panes, while another is one-third intact; the others have been bricked up. A five-story brick smokestack remains unchanged since the building was completed in 1922. The Power House originally generated electricity for the operation of the mill by burning lignite coal, but the mill now gets its power from the Minnkota Plant across the highway. The basic structure is intact and is now used for equipment storage.

The concrete Terminal building, also completed in 1922, is an industrial building with shaped gable ends but a flat roof. The Terminal features poured concrete foundations, beams, pillars, floors and walls. The twelve-story building was reputed to be the tallest building in the state until the new state capitol in Bismarck was built. About one-fourth of the original windows are intact, the others have been bricked-over. New fans and pneumatic pipes have been installed through the years to move the grain from the silos to the mills.

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The wheat Storage Silos are cylindrical in shape and are of solid poured concrete construction. The first eight rows on the east were completed by 1922, the next six rows were built in the 1940s, and the last 21 silos on the west were built in the early 1960s, according to the general manager. The latter silos, because of their late construction date, are non-contributing elements for the site. The grain conveyor systems on the tops of the various silos are contemporary with each set of silos. The 1922 silos are intact and continue to be utilized as a part of the operating mill and elevator.

The Old Flour Warehouse is an industrial-type building that was used to store milled flour before it was shipped out of the mill. This structure has a poured concrete foundation with poured concrete beams, pillars and floor. The walls are made of brick. The one-and-a-half story building has a full lower-level basement currently used for general storage and a modern shop. Most of the windows in this brick building have been bricked-over, but some old windows remain. The building adjoined the railroad tracks to allow for easy loading of sacks of flour in the railroad cars. This building was completed in 1922.

The K Mill, built in 1980, is an industrial building consisting of a poured concrete foundation and poured concrete floors along with steel insulated wall panels. The K Mill is sheathed with sheet metal. The building has a false front on the south side with a flat roof on top. Because of its date of construction, the K Mill does not contribute to the eligibility of the Mill and Elevator site for the National Register. The K Mill was named after then-General Manager Sam Kuhl.

The Flour Blending Plant, completed about 1957, has a poured concrete foundation and steel-clad walls. It is a non-contributing building.

The remaining non-contributing buildings include the modern storage garage and the new warehouse. The storage garage is a one-story brick building with a flat asphalt roof. Vehicles are kept within the thirteen garage stalls located on the south face of the building. Other equipment is also stored in the garage. The new warehouse is a one-story brick building of steel construction. It also has a steel roof. Semi-truck trailers are loaded from bays on the north side of the building.

8. Statement of Significance

Certifying official has considered the significance of this property in relation to other properties:

nationally statewide locally

Applicable National Register Criteria A B C D

Criteria Considerations (Exceptions) A B C D E F G N/A

Areas of Significance (enter categories from instructions)

Politics/Government
Commerce
Agriculture

Period of Significance

1920-1941

Significant Dates

1920
1922

Cultural Affiliation

Significant Person

N/A

Architect/Builder

Charles S. Pillsbury Co., Architect.
Fegles Construction Co. and Northern
Construction Company, Builders.

State significance of property, and justify criteria, criteria considerations, and areas and periods of significance noted above.

See attached continuation sheets.

See continuation sheet

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SIGNIFICANCE

The North Dakota Mill and Elevator buildings are eligible under Criterion A on a state level under the following areas of significance: Politics/Government, Commerce, and Agriculture. The mill at the site is the only state-owned flour mill in the United States. The North Dakota Mill and Elevator played important roles in the history of the state government and the Nonpartisan League in North Dakota. The institution stood as one of the main planks in the radical Nonpartisan League platform from the founding of the group in 1915. The mill and elevator served as a practical means for North Dakota farmers to gain economic independence from Minnesota-based milling and railroad monopolies which controlled the wheat grown in the state. The mill helped boost grain prices upward in the tough economic times of the 1930s and helped feed hungry people during the Great Depression. The mill, the state hail insurance program and the Bank of North Dakota remain today as survivors of the Nonpartisan League state socialist programs.

Ever since the time of the Farmers Alliance movement in North Dakota in the 1890s, farmers in the state sought to gain relief from the disadvantages of sending their wheat to far-off Duluth and the Twin Cities, Minneapolis and St. Paul, in Minnesota. Grain buyers would dock the farmers for impure or wet grain and railroad agents would charge high rates for shipping the grain to distant grain terminals. In 1887, the Farmers Alliance of Dakota Territory issued resolutions to the legislature calling for a publicly-owned terminal elevator for area farmers. By 1893 the state legislature passed a bill calling for the state to buy its own grain elevator in Duluth or Minneapolis, but nothing was purchased. Further measures in 1909 and 1911 called for the establishment of a state-owned grain terminal in Minnesota or Wisconsin, but again, nothing came of these pieces of legislation. Finally when the Nonpartisan League rose to power in the elections of 1916, the League-dominated legislature of 1918 brought about the establishment of several socialistic programs. Still the powers of the old political establishment hindered the quick implementation of the new programs of the Nonpartisan League's Industrial Commission and attempted to modify or shoot them down in their early years. The whole mill and elevator plan had been kicked around as "a political football for twenty years."²

The Independent Voters Association (IVA) bitterly fought against the League's plans, branding them as a "socialistic gang" at a time when such a term conjured up visions of the Bolsheviks in Russia

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and the Red Scare in the United States. The critics failed to note that the Nonpartisan League never called for state ownership of land, seeking only to change business practices they found unfair to farmers.³

The Industrial Commission began its grain elevator and flour mill plan by establishing a relatively small flour mill at Drake, North Dakota. Minot, with its larger population, expected to get that mill franchise, but were outthrustled by the Drake community. Drake, just 50 miles down the Soo line, furnished an example of business and farmer cooperation in purchasing state bonds for the mill. Opposition in Minot centered around the Russell Miller Milling Company, which saw the state-owned enterprise as a danger to future profits. The first flour from the Drake mill was ground in mid-August 1919. The Drake mill ceased operations in 1924. (The mill building has since been demolished.)⁴

The Industrial Program of the Nonpartisan League included the Bank of North Dakota, the Homebuilding plan, the state hail insurance program, and the mill and elevator plan. The Drake mill was the first installment of the mill and elevator plan, the second part was to be a large flour mill and a major grain terminal facility. The third part called for four smaller mills to be built throughout the state. In the summer of 1919, various towns and cities began to organize themselves in an attempt to capture the large mill and elevator, which would be a boon to any community. Most people in North Dakota at first believed that "Fargo was the only logical place" for a terminal elevator and mill, owing to its railroad connections and location.⁵ Jamestown was one of the first cities to get into the fight for one of the new state mills and elevators.⁶ The Industrial Commission publicized its criteria for selection, which consisted of five points: 1.adequate railroad facilities. 2.little backhauling involved. 3.flour and byproduct distributing network. 4.freight rates. 5."Spirit shown in the cities" and "faith in and desire for the public utilities."⁷ The manager of the Mill and Elevator Association, Mr. J.A. McGovern stated that the Industrial Commission could "go out on the prairie and build a city as the Steel trust did at Gary [Indiana]."⁸ Valley City, Devils Lake, Casselton, Wahpeton, Bismarck and New Rockford, to a minor or lesser extent, all entered the fray to capture the large state mill.⁹ Even the little town of Ray in Williams county put in a bid for the new state mill.¹⁰ Reeder, Hettinger and Northwood all desired one of the smaller mills in their town.¹¹

Grand Forks was horribly divided in the early efforts to secure the

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mill and elevator. The Herald newspaper had been strongly anti-League, and the businessmen and farmers were at odds over politics. The farmer-owned Grand Forks American (an NPL newspaper) led the campaign to bring the mill to the city by pointing out future benefits for the whole area. The mill would bring 500-700 families to Grand Forks, creating an expansion that would see Grand Forks grow to a city of 75,000 to 100,000 people. Boosters believed that the city would parallel the growth of Omaha, Nebraska, after it gained a terminal elevator.¹² The Commercial Club realized the potential boom in Grand Forks and endorsed the project in early September of 1919. Citizens in East Grand Forks rallied to the cause, seeing that the prosperity of its sister city would benefit them as well.¹³

Grand Forks was presented as an ideal site for a mill, owing to its location on both the Northern Pacific and Great Northern Railway lines. In addition, the city was accessible through both the "new International Highway, the Meridian Highway connecting Galveston, Texas, or the Gulf of Mexico, with Winnipeg," and the "Wonderland Trail connecting Duluth, Minnesota, with the Pacific Coast."¹⁴ Optimists believed that Grand Forks should be chosen because a great canal might be built from Duluth to Grand Forks, since such a project would be more easily constructed than the "old canal across New York state."¹⁵ Even if a new canal would not be built, the Red River provided a sure link to European markets through the Winnipeg connection.

In 1919 Grand Forks was the home of one privately-owned flour mill. The Russell-Miller Company of Minneapolis had consolidated with the local Diamond Milling Company in 1902. The Diamond Mill (so named in 1898) had vaulted into prominence through the production of Cream of Wheat cereal since its inception as the North Dakota Milling Company in 1891.¹⁶ Since the new mill would handle only 10% of the state's total wheat crop, plenty of wheat would be left for private mills, with the potential that Grand Forks would become a national milling center.¹⁷

The Industrial Commission looked for cooperation within a city, and Grand Forks rallied around the mill cause. The businessmen petitioned the state government to show their support, and then pledged to underwrite the sale of one million dollars worth of state mill and elevator bonds. In addition, the city would provide a suitable site for the mill, at no cost to the state. R. B. Griffith, owner of the prosperous Ontario Store, offered to donate a 10-13 acre site in the north end of the city as the mill site. Griffith's site was slighted at first because it was not close to

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the Red River as a water supply. The front-running site was one directly south of the Northern Packing Company's plant in the north side of town, along the river. The Herald newspaper, openly critical of the Nonpartisan League, got on the bandwagon, chiefly because of the "very large public sentiment in favor of the enterprise" in the city. The editor believed that since the mill and elevator were going to be a reality, his city might as well get the institution rather than some other city obtaining it. The citizens of Grand Forks, as North Dakota taxpayers, had an interest in making the mill become a success, and such success was best possible in their community. The mill would also be beneficial to the city's growth.¹⁸

Fargo attempted to mobilize its business leaders and present favorable terms to the Industrial Commission, but faced opposition from the leaders of the Nonpartisan League who remembered Fargo's past transgressions. John N. Hagen, chairman of the Industrial Commission, announced just before the official selection of the mill site that "We have received no [formal] offer from Fargo of a site nor help in disposing of the mill and elevator bonds." The formal offer of a site and the sale of bonds by Grand Forks officially won over the Commission.¹⁹ A.C. Townley blasted Fargo residents for "their lack of interest" in the elevator, and happily reported, prematurely, on 21 October 1919, that Grand Forks would be the location of the facility.²⁰

The official designation of Grand Forks as the site of the Mill and Elevator came on 5 November 1919 under the conditions that the city provide for the sale of one million dollars in mill and elevator bonds and provide an approved site to the state free of charge. Construction would begin only when Grand Forks had delivered the cash to the Industrial Commission.²¹ E.J. Lander, prominent local businessman, declared that the sale of the bonds would pose no problem for the progressive people of his city. He called the bonds "a splendid investment" and held that selling the bonds in the northeast quarter of the state would proceed speedily.²² The citizens of Grand Forks county had subscribed to \$5,645,850 in the five Liberty Bond campaigns during World War I, so the sale of a mere one million dollars worth promised to be a "comparatively easy task." The mill and elevator bonds had the advantage of paying one to two per cent more in interest than the Liberty Bonds had paid.²³

The initial estimates of the cost of the mill ran at 1.5 million dollars.²⁴ The Industrial Commission hired the Charles L. Pillsbury Company of Minneapolis and St. Paul to do the engineering work for the mill and elevator complex. The company had no

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or kill the mill and the rest of the new socialistic experiments all the time that Grand Forks and the League were progressing with their plans. Although local legislator O.B. Burtness took the popular stand of subscribing to the mill and elevator bonds in the fall of 1919, he initiated a movement to limit the bond sales to 2 million dollars. The limit on bonds would allow a mill to be built in Grand Forks, but would eliminate the possibility of more mills around the state. In addition, the Grand Forks mill would have a limited capacity for natural growth and might experience a lack of operating capital.³¹ In addition, a lawsuit against the state's industrial plan, filed by the so-called "42 taxpayers," brought questions about the legality of the plan. Bond sales were halted until the suit was resolved in the U.S. Supreme Court during the spring of 1920. Jerry Bacon was one of the taxpayers who initiated the lawsuit, partly to protect his "little private elevator," but mainly to kill the sprouting socialistic enterprises.³²

Although the U.S. Supreme Court upheld the right of the state to institute the industrial program in early June 1920, other means were devised to delay the League's plans.³³ Eastern bond buyers were cajoled into boycotting the bonds of the state of North Dakota, offered through the Bank of North Dakota. Construction ground to a halt by late December of 1920 with the mill buildings only half-completed. The Bank of North Dakota had been handicapped by initiated laws in the fall of 1920 that allowed counties to deposit their funds in other banks and the bank could not facilitate sales of bonds. NPL-sponsored activities were brought down by the IVA, the Grand Forks American suspended publication on 3 January 1921. In addition, the Home Building Association, the Bank of North Dakota and the rest of the state industries were brought to a critical audit by the end of the month. The Home Building Association proved to have messy accounting and a number of the 50-odd homes it had built were for "state officials and others of means."³⁴ William Lemke, NPL leader and the state's Attorney General, especially reaped a harvest of scorn for securing a house through the Home Building Association.³⁵

The reports of "gross mismanagement" of the Home Building Association brought about by the audits of January 1921, the half-completed mill in Grand Forks, and a Wall Street boycott of Bank of North Dakota bonds contributed to support of a recall election in October 1921. The state mill at Drake proved to be in a "deplorable financial condition." Governor Lynn Frazier, Attorney General William Lemke, and Commissioner of Agriculture and Labor John Hagan were recalled from their posts and replaced by IVA candidates. However, voters defeated seven simultaneous measures

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association with the Pillsbury milling company of the same city. Although the firm had no specific experience in flour mills, they had extensive expertise in large industrial plants around the nation. Mr. J.H. Hammil, engineer in chief in charge of mills and milling under the World War I Food Administration, received the call to design the milling operation. Hammil had designed milling equipment for the Quaker Oats Company and numerous other companies, including the Pillsbury and Washburn-Crosby milling companies in Minnesota. The engineering firm hired Mr. F.L. Hague to design the terminal elevator. Hague had been in charge of large terminal projects in Chicago, Baltimore, Philadelphia, and Minneapolis, as chief designing engineer for the James Stewart Company of Chicago. Engineers who had created plans for the Canadian Government terminal elevators assisted Hague.²⁵

The Fegles Construction Company of Minneapolis and Fort Williams garnered the construction contract, with additional work done by the Northern Construction Company of Grand Forks.²⁶ Excavations for the footing of the buildings and construction began in May 1920, after Grand Forks boosters had sent \$200,000 in cash to the Industrial Commission. R.B. Griffith's site was chosen because the railroad spurs could most easily be built to the location. The thirty acre site, east of the fairgrounds and west of Skidmore's Addition, included land owned by Mr. Jerry Bacon, one of the most ardent opponents of the whole Nonpartisan League industrial plan and proprietor of the well-known Hotel Dacotah in Grand Forks. Bacon had a local grain elevator on the property, but the editor of the American newspaper assured readers that his property could be taken by the power of eminent domain to build extension tracks on it. Bacon shrieked that he "would never allow any Socialistic experiment" on his land.²⁷ Despite his protestations to the contrary, Bacon did sell his land to the state in February 1921 for a reasonable \$3,408.²⁸

A housing shortage existed in Grand Forks in 1920, so Governor Lynn Frazier expected that the Home Building Association would build houses for mill workers right on the mill site. Frazier said that the Association was "anxious to cooperate" with the mill and elevator project.²⁹ The housing program had completed homes in Bismarck, and could gain political capital by locating houses throughout the state. J.A. McGovern stated that the Home Builders Association would begin to build houses for the employees of the mill later in 1920. These plans were sabotaged by the opponents of the Nonpartisan League.³⁰

Indeed, the opponents of the Nonpartisan League sought to cripple

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which would have eliminated further construction on the mill and the dismantling of the rest of the industrial program. The new governor, R.A. Nestos, was forced to carry out the League's mill construction, doing so because the voters were unhappy with the failures of the NPL but happy with the prospect of a state-owned and operated mill. Nestos closed down the bond sales offices of the NPL in New York and Chicago and denounced the League for having spent \$140,000 to promote bond sales during the early summer of 1921. Nestos ordered work on the mill resumed in the spring of 1922, after "15 months of idleness." The new governor pledged a clean-up of the state's financial condition and succeeded in selling North Dakota bonds in the East. He promised that the bank and the mill would be "fully, fairly and honestly operated." Nestos pushed a button to officially start the mill on 30 October 1922, just in time to help himself get re-elected in the November election.³⁶

The decade of the Twenties saw the Mill and Elevator grow into a respectable though not especially profitable business for the state. Governor Arthur G. Sorlie, wealthy Grand Forks businessman and successor to Nestos, believed that the mill should serve as an "experimental laboratory to prove that North Dakota has an exclusive commodity in hard spring wheat." This definition of the mill's function fit within a conservative definition of proper governmental jurisdiction. The mill was "no longer designed to destroy private flour mills."³⁷ The four smaller mills, as envisioned by the NPL, died with the end of the first flowering of the radical coalition. The start-up costs ran fairly high as with any newcomer in a business, especially with the expenses of building such a large enterprise when prices for building materials were extremely high from 1919-1920. The mill was not a money-maker for the state government,³⁸ but it served to strengthen the wheat economy of North Dakota.

Controversy returned to the Mill during the 1930s as William Langer revived the NPL in his own image. Under Governor Langer, the mill sold flour to North Dakota residents at cost. During the deep drought years of 1930-1933, the mill ground wheat and distributed it, free of charge, to needy persons in western North Dakota.³⁹ Even though the mill lost money during the depression years, it did not lose large amounts of it, thereby serving as a relatively cheap form of welfare. An institution that provided a tangible product such as flour and jobs as well was worth keeping.⁴⁰ By 1937, the mill and elevator produced 32 types of commercial feeds, 18 cereal products, 4 grades of mill feeds, and six grades of flour highlighted by the popular "Dakota Maid" brand. State officials

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claimed that the mill had "the finest equipment for the production of high quality flour and feed products of any mill of its kind between Buffalo, New York, and the west coast."⁴¹ Even though the Mill was doing well, controversy arose surrounding Langer's methods of financing his newspaper, the Leader. Having been chastised for requiring state employees to subscribe to the paper, Langer kept the newspaper in operation by having the state mill and elevator place large advertisements in the Leader. The mill manager testified to investigators that "he thought it strange for his business to advertise to the market from which it purchased the wheat rather than to the market that might purchase the flour."⁴²

After Langer moved to the larger pastures of the U.S. Senate, Governor John Moses appointed Robert M. Stangler as manager of the mill in 1939, and the mill began to make a profit. The mill became a real benefit to the state with the appointment of professional rather than political appointments to the position.⁴³

One incident from the 1930s stands out in the history of the mill and elevator. In 1937, President Franklin D. Roosevelt stopped in Grand Forks to dedicate the W.P.A.-built grandstand at the fairgrounds near the mill site. Manager A.J. Scott gave the president a tangible demonstration of the superiority of North Dakota wheat products by presenting him with a sack of Dakota Maid flour. The sack was made especially for the president out of pure silk and was adorned with red, white and blue ribbons. "The reason we did this, Scott said, was because we couldn't improve on the quality of the flour we manufacture for all the people of North Dakota--the only thing we could do was to get a fancy sack to put it in."⁴⁴

Robert M. Stangler, who had been manager of the Bank of North Dakota, brought "efficiency and stability" to the mill during his tenure as manager from 1939-1955. In 1940, Stangler reinstated the durum wheat mill, which had been discontinued during the Depression, opening up new possibilities in marketing. During the 1940s and the 1950s new elements, such as soybean and flax processing equipment, were added to the mill. By 1967 net profits reached about \$1 million per year.⁴⁵ The mill produced chocolate cake and pancake mixes in its small packaging division.⁴⁶ Most of the products of the mill were produced for consumption outside of North Dakota, in national and even international markets.

A disastrous fire hit the mill and elevator 28 July 1970, causing about \$5 million in damages and destroying the milling units. The complex was insured for \$12.6 million, but the rebuilding took one

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and a half years before production was resumed in January of 1972. The mill was in the middle of a modernization program when the fire struck the mill, and that program was continued through the refurbishing.⁴⁷ In 1980 the new K Mill was built, utilizing equipment from Italy, making the mill "one of the four most modern facilities of its kind in the nation."⁴⁸ At the present time, the state Industrial Commission has approved purchase of equipment to produce an additional 60 million pounds of semolina per year. Current general manager, Roger Dunning, is spearheading the \$2 million expansion.⁴⁹

The North Dakota Mill and Elevator has been a money-making enterprise for the state for 50 of its 70 year history. Its first 20 years was marred by political clashes, tough economic times, and "the fact that the mill ran at only about half its capacity."⁵⁰ Since the changes instituted by Governor Moses, the mill has provided three main benefits to the state: 1. A stable market for North Dakota wheat farmers often at better prices than other elevators; 2. Vital employment in the Grand Forks area, especially in the Depression years; 3. Revenue for the state budget, placed in the general fund.⁵¹ Rather than being subsidized by the state, the mill is a self-sustaining entity that enriches the state. While the private milling industry abandoned North Dakota, declining in numbers from 97 mills in 1922 to none by 1972, the state considered building a new mill in the western part of the state in 1982. Although the idea was rejected because of high start-up costs, the revival of the old NPL dream of smaller mills to supplement the Grand Forks mill was an ironic commentary on the turmoil of 1919-1922. The North Dakota Mill still stands as the only state-owned flour mill in the United States, a survivor of the Nonpartisan League industrial program.⁵²

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ENDNOTES

1. "Thousands See North Dakota Mill Grind First Flour," Grand Forks (ND) Herald, 31 October 1922, 1, 8. D. Jerome Tweton and Theodore B. Jelliff, North Dakota: The Heritage of a People (Fargo: North Dakota Institute for Regional Studies, 1983), 143.
2. "Start Building Here By February 1," Grand Forks American, 18 December 1919, 1, quote by A.J. Hunter, local banker.
3. "State Mill and Elevator Idea Preceded Statehood," Herald, 28 July 1970, 10. "County I.V.A. Plans Battle on Socialism," Herald, 15 April 1920, 12. William MacDonald, "North Dakota's Experiment," The Nation 108, (22 March 1919), 421.
4. "Celebration Is Held At Drake as Mill Opens," American, 21 August 1919, 1. "Mill at Drake Heavy Blow to Minot Business," American, 20 August 1919, 1. E. Bruce Hagen, "The North Dakota State Mill and Elevator Association," M.A. Thesis, University of North Dakota, 1955, 347.
5. "Believe Grand Forks Gets Mill," American, 17 October 1919, 1. Big mill with four smaller mills idea is from J.A. McGovern in "Minot to get one of Four Smaller Mills, Says Head," Herald, 23 October 1919, 3; and from McGovern in "Townley Announces That Grand Forks Gives Best Assurances of Success Of State Elevator," Herald, 22 October 1919, 1.
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48. Gail Hand, "N.D. State Mill aids city, state economy," Herald, 31 January 1982, 10, 11.
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50. "Rebuilt The Mill," editorial, Herald, 31 July 1970, 4; "N.D. Mill," 30 January 1972, 2-A.
51. "Rebuild the Mill," editorial, Herald, 31 July 1970, 4.
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9. Major Bibliographical References

See attached 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 # _____

See continuation sheet

Primary location of additional data:

- State historic preservation office
- Other State agency
- Federal agency
- Local government
- University
- Other

Specify repository:

State Historical Society of North Dakota, Bismarck, N.D.

10. Geographical Data

Acreage of property Less than 10 acres.

UTM References

A 14 645200 5311150
 Zone Easting Northing

C _____

B _____
 Zone Easting Northing

D _____

See continuation sheet

Verbal Boundary Description

See attached continuation sheet.

See continuation sheet

Boundary Justification

The boundary includes the legal description that has historically been associated with the property.

See continuation sheet

11. Form Prepared By

name/title Steven R. Hoffbeck, Coordinator

organization Grand Forks Hist. Preservation Comm. date 8 January 1991

street & number City Hall, 404 2nd Ave., N., Box 1518 telephone (701) 746-2607

city or town Grand Forks state ND zip code 58201

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"North Dakota Five Years After," The New Republic 46 (28 April 1926), 292-293.

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The Billings County Pioneer (Medora, ND)

15 July 1937.
21 October 1937.

Grand Forks American

20, 21 23, 25 August 1919.
2, 6, 8, 9, 10, 11, 13, 16, 17, 19, 20, 26, 30 September 1919.
14, 17, 18 October 1919.
5, 6 November 1919.
18 December 1919.
4, 5, 6, 7, 9, 11, 16, 23 February 1920.
15 March 1920.
21 June 1920.

Grand Forks Herald

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19 December 1919.
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2 June 1920.

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30 January 1921.
31 October 1922.
17 May 1931.
30 January 1932.
28, 29, 31 July 1970.
30 January 1972.
31 January 1982.

2 September 1982.
3 June 1983.
6 November 1990.

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7 April 1920.
7 June 1920.

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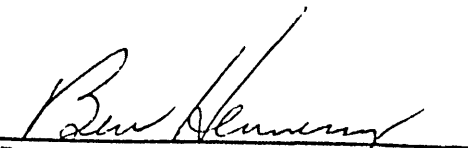
Section number 10 Page 1

NORTH DAKOTA MILL AND ELEVATOR

PROPERTY DESCRIPTION

MARCH 20, 1969

PREPARED BY:


Ben Hennessy
Chief Accountant

I N D E X

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Abstract B - - - - -	3
Tracts C & D - - - - -	4
Abstract E - - - - -	5
Abstract F - - - - -	6
Letter - Grand Forks Abstract Co. Covering Abstract Nos. 17773 & 19931 - - - - -	7
Office Plat of Section 33 - - - - -	8

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National Park ServiceNational Register of Historic Places
Continuation SheetSection number 10 Page 2

March 20, 1969

ABSTRACT A

All that part of the $SE\frac{1}{4}$ $NW\frac{1}{4}$, and $NE\frac{1}{4}$ $SW\frac{1}{4}$ of Sec. 33, Twp. 152, Rg. 50, described as follows, that is to say: Beginning at the point where the line dividing the $NW\frac{1}{4}$ from the $SW\frac{1}{4}$ of said Sec. 33, is intersected by the westerly line of the Great Northern Railway right of way, thence southeasterly along the last mentioned line a distance of about 164.2 ft. to the point where said line intersects the line dividing the $SW\frac{1}{4}$ from the $SE\frac{1}{4}$ of said section, thence along said last mentioned line south 797.55 ft., thence at right angles and west 300 ft., thence at right angles and north, parallel with the east line of said $SW\frac{1}{4}$ a distance of 910 ft., thence northwesterly parallel with and 225 ft. from the westerly line of the Great Northern Railway right of way, a distance of 590.5 ft., thence in a northerly direction 701.8 ft. to the said westerly line of the Great Northern right of way, being 1300 ft. along said line northwesterly from the point of beginning; thence southerly along the westerly line of the Great Northern right of way 1300 ft. to the place of beginning, being approximately 6.71 acres in the $NE\frac{1}{4}$ of $SW\frac{1}{4}$ and 4.65 acres in the $SE\frac{1}{4}$ of $NW\frac{1}{4}$ of Sec. 33, Twp. 152, Rg. 50, the same being a part of the site of the North Dakota Mill & Terminal Elevator as shown on that certain plat made by Charles S. Pillsbury Co., consulting engineers of Minneapolis, Minn., numbered 2380, subject however to the following rights and reservations:

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**National Register of Historic Places
Continuation Sheet**

Section number 10 Page 3

(a) The Grain elevator now on said premises is reserved to the grantors the same to be removed by the grantee in accordance with the terms of a certain contract between the parties of even date herewith.

(b) The party of the second part being the owner of all the land in the SE $\frac{1}{4}$ of Sec. 33 between the tract hereby conveyed and Skidmore Avenue in the City of Grand Forks, it is hereby agreed that the parties of the first

-2-

ABSTRACT A - Continued

part, their heirs, executors, administrators and assigns, shall have a right of way 66 ft. wide across the south end of the tract hereby conveyed and thence 40 ft. wide along the west line of the SE $\frac{1}{4}$ of Sec. 33, to Skidmore Avenue, thereby connecting the land owned by the parties of the first part in the N $\frac{1}{2}$ of SW $\frac{1}{4}$ of Sec. 33 with said Skidmore Avenue.

(c) That the party of the second part shall construct a planked crossing and maintain a road way connecting the private road owned by the parties of the first part with the County highway where the same now is situated, and that the first parties, their heirs, executors, administrators and assigns, shall have a right of way across the same.

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ABSTRACT B - TITLE NO. 19931

That portion of the Northwest Quarter of the Southeast Quarter (NW $\frac{1}{4}$ SE $\frac{1}{4}$) of Section Thirty-three (33), in Township One Hundred Fifty-two (152) North, of Range Fifty (50), West of the Fifth Principal Meridian, lying West of the right of way of the St. Paul, Minneapolis, and Manitoba Railway Company, as the same is now located, and extending over and across

TRACT C

Begin at the SW corner of N $\frac{1}{2}$ of SE $\frac{1}{4}$ of Section 33 Township 152 Range 50, thence easterly along a line 692.5 feet to a point, then southeasterly 418.2 feet to a point, then south 79.2 feet to a point, then northeasterly 652.7 feet to a point 419.2 east of the point of beginning; this tract contains approximately 1.57 acres.

TRACT D

Start at the SW corner of N $\frac{1}{2}$ of SE $\frac{1}{4}$ of Section 33 Township 152 Range 50, thence easterly along a line 692.5 feet to a point, then southeasterly 418.2 feet to a point, then south 79.2 feet to a point of beginning, then southeasterly 273.6 feet to a point, then northwesterly 338.6 feet to the beginning point which contains approximately 0.159 acres.

We do not have abstracts for the above tracts. This is an approximate description as the legal description is not available.

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ABSTRACT E - TITLE NO. 17773

All that Part of the South Half of the Northwest Quarter ($S\frac{1}{2}NW\frac{1}{4}$) and of the North Half of the Southwest Quarter ($N\frac{1}{2}SW\frac{1}{4}$) of Section Thirty-three (33), in Township One Hundred Fifty-two (152) North, of Range Fifty (50), West, described by metes and bounds as follows: Commencing at a point on the West line of said Section which is 3431 feet North of the Southwest corner thereof, thence 13 minutes South of East along the South line of a 33 foot private road to the West line of the North Dakota Mill and Elevator Association property as described by deed recorded in Book "75" of Deeds, page 206; thence Southerly along the West line of said deeded property to the Southwest corner thereof; thence West, along a line 330 feet North of the South line of the said $N\frac{1}{2}$ of $SW\frac{1}{4}$, to the West line of said Section; thence North 1781 feet, more or less, to the point of beginning; EXCEPT

(1) Portion deeded to the State of North Dakota for the use and benefit of the State Highway Department, by deeds recorded in Book "136" of Deeds, page 1, "138" of Deeds, page 210 and "145" of Deeds, page 130.

(2) Portion deeded to Great Northern Railway Company, by Deed recorded in Book "138" of Deeds, page 366.

(3) Portion deed to Buckingham Transportation, Inc. by deeds recorded in Book "145" of Deeds, page 575, and "163" of Deeds, page 401.

(4) Portion deeded to Earl G. Coulter and Donna J. Coulter, by deed recorded in Book "149" of Deeds, page 334.

(5) Portion deeded to Johnson-Gillanders Company, Inc., by deed recorded in Book "149" of Deeds, page 497.

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(6) Portion deeded to the State of North Dakota for the use and benefit of the North Dakota National Guard or North Dakota State Guard, by deed recorded in Book "157" of Deeds. page 30

ABSTRACT F - TITLE NO. 19674

All that part of the North Half of the Southwest Quarter ($N\frac{1}{2} SW\frac{1}{4}$) of Section Thirty-three (33), in Township One Hundred and Fifty-two (152) North, of Range Fifty (5), West of the Fifth Principal Meridian, bounded as follows: Commencing at a point on the westerly line of said section 33 which is 330 feet north of the south line of the $N\frac{1}{2}SW\frac{1}{4}$ of said section; thence north along said section line a distance of 600 feet; thence due east 1403.6 feet more or less to the southwesterly right of way line of U. S. Highway No. 81 as described in the deed recorded in Book "136" of Deeds, page 1 in the Office of the Register of Deeds in and for said County; thence southeasterly along said right of way to a point which is 330 feet north of the south line of said $N\frac{1}{2} SW\frac{1}{4}$; thence due west to the point of beginning.

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Section number _____ Page _____

North Dakota Mill and Elevator Grand Forks County NORTH DAKOTA
92000433

ADDITIONAL DOCUMENTATION APPROVED

Beth Boland 12/22/93

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National Park Service**

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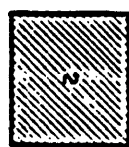
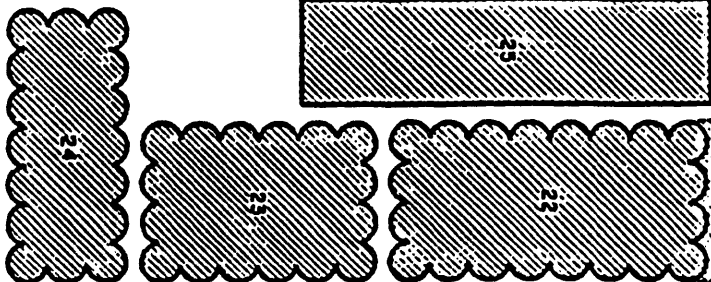
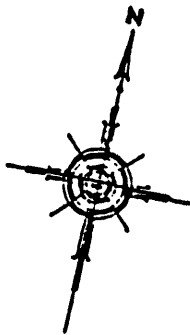
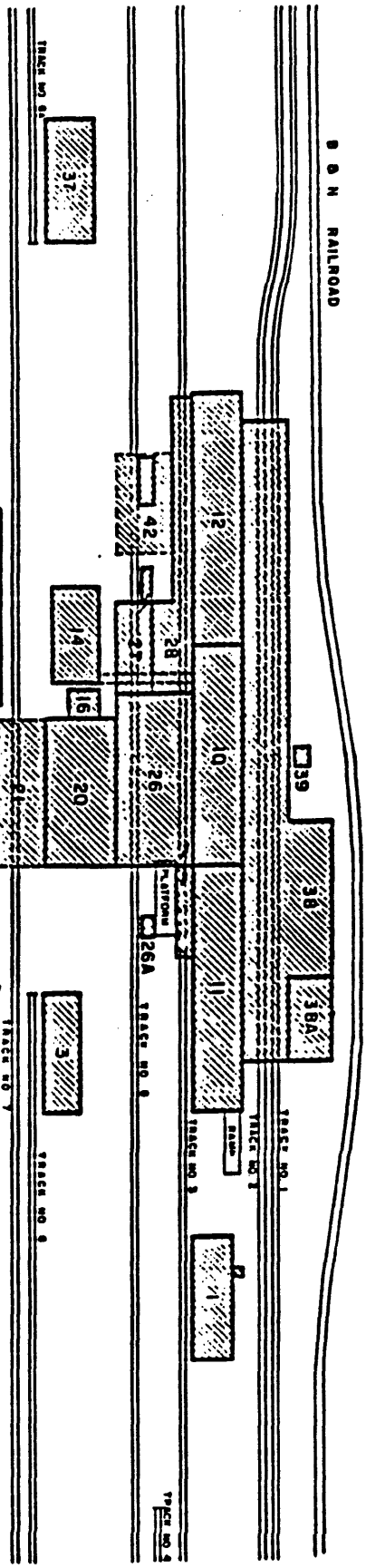
Section number 10 Page 8 Additional Information

North Dakota Mill & Elevator
1823 Mill Road, Grand Forks
Grand Forks County, North Dakota

Building Legend

- 1 Office
- 2 Power House
- 3 Service Bldg & Garage
- 7 Garage
- 8 Garage
- 10 A & B Mill
- 11 Maintenance & Warehouse
- 12 Warehouse & Shipping
- 14 Bulk Flour Storage
- 16 Electrical Control Bldg
- 20 Terminal Bldg
- 21 Train Shed
- 22 Grain Storage
- 23 Grain Storage
- 24 Grain Storage
- 25 Packing-Palletizing Warehouse
- 26 Train Shed-Truck Load Out
- 26A Hoist Control House & Pit
- 27 Car Dump & Lunch Room
- 28 Train Shed
- 37 Storage
- 38 K & D Mill-Train Shed
- 38A Laboratory
- 39 Generator House
- 41 Bag Warehouse
- 42 Grain Receiving & Inspection
- 54 Storage

D O N RAILROAD



NORTH DAKOTA MILL

PLAT PLAN OF

1823 MILL ROAD
GRAND FORKS, NORTH DAKOTA



SCALE

LLOYD THOMAS/COATS & BURCHARD CO.
REGISTERED PROFESSIONAL SURVEYORS
6019 HOWARD STREET, NILES, ILLINOIS 60048

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National Park Service

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Section number 10 Page 7 Additional Information/Amendment

North Dakota Mill & Elevator
1823 Mill Road, Grand Forks
Grand Forks County, North Dakota

Total acreage for the property is 32.80 acres.

Verbal Boundary Description Amendment

ABSTRACT B - TITLE 19931

That portion of the Northwest Quarter of the Southeast Quarter (NW 1/4 SE 1/4) of Section Thirty-three (33), in Township One Hundred Fifty-two North (T152N), of Range Fifty West (R50W) of the Fifth Principal Meridian, lying West of the right of way of the St. Paul, Minneapolis, and Manitoba Railway Company, as the same is now located, and extending over and across said premises.