

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

PH0680231

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JUL 24 1975

NOV 17 1978

DATE ENTERED

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
INVENTORY -- NOMINATION FORMSEE INSTRUCTIONS IN HOW TO COMPLETE NATIONAL REGISTER FORMS
TYPE ALL ENTRIES -- COMPLETE APPLICABLE SECTIONS**1 NAME**

HISTORIC

AND/OR COMMON

Bow Valley Mills

2 LOCATION

STREET & NUMBER

CITY, TOWN

Wynot

☒ VICINITY OF☐ NOT FOR PUBLICATION

CONGRESSIONAL DISTRICT

First

STATE

Nebraska

CODE

031

COUNTY

Cedar

CODE

027

3 CLASSIFICATION

CATEGORY

☐ DISTRICT☒ BUILDING(S)☐ STRUCTURE☐ SITE☐ OBJECT

OWNERSHIP

☐ PUBLIC☒ PRIVATE☐ BOTH

PUBLIC ACQUISITION

☐ IN PROCESS☐ BEING CONSIDERED

STATUS

☐ OCCUPIED☒ UNOCCUPIED☐ WORK IN PROGRESS

ACCESSIBLE

☒ YES: RESTRICTED☐ YES: UNRESTRICTED☐ NO

PRESENT USE

☐ AGRICULTURE☐ COMMERCIAL☐ EDUCATIONAL☐ ENTERTAINMENT☐ GOVERNMENT☐ INDUSTRIAL☐ MILITARY☐ MUSEUM☐ PARK☐ PRIVATE RESIDENCE☐ RELIGIOUS☐ SCIENTIFIC☐ TRANSPORTATION☒ OTHER: storage**4 OWNER OF PROPERTY**

NAME

Cyril Burbach

STREET & NUMBER

CITY, TOWN

Wynot

☒ VICINITY OF

STATE

Nebraska

5 LOCATION OF LEGAL DESCRIPTIONCOURTHOUSE,
REGISTRY OF DEEDS, ETC.

Register of Deeds, Cedar County Courthouse

STREET & NUMBER

CITY, TOWN

Hartington

STATE

Nebraska

6 REPRESENTATION IN EXISTING SURVEYS

TITLE

Historic Preservation in Nebraska

DATE

1971

☐ FEDERAL ☒ STATE ☐ COUNTY ☐ LOCALDEPOSITORY FOR
SURVEY RECORDS

Nebraska State Historical Society

CITY, TOWN

Lincoln

STATE

Nebraska

7 DESCRIPTION

CONDITION

☐ EXCELLENT
☐ GOOD
☐ FAIR

☒ DETERIORATED
☐ RUINS
☐ UNEXPOSED

CHECK ONE

☐ UNALTERED
☒ ALTERED

CHECK ONE

☒ ORIGINAL SITE
☐ MOVED DATE _____

DESCRIBE THE PRESENT AND ORIGINAL (IF KNOWN) PHYSICAL APPEARANCE

The Bow Valley Mills building is a two and one-half story heavy timber structure located on Bow Creek in northeastern Cedar County just two miles from its confluence with the Missouri River. The extant structure is the main element of the original building. For many years a somewhat later two story lean-to addition on the east housed an extensive saw-mill operation. Probably original to the building was a one story gabled extension on the west called the "flour house" which may have been the power house for the machinery. Both of these additions have been removed. A much later shed addition is now located on the south end of the east wall.

The main building is a timber framed structure, six by two bays, two-and-one-half stories in height and raised above the sloping ground on timber piers. The columns are chamfered with a slight splay at the upper end and support bolsters upon which the timber beams are placed. The walls are frame. The milling machinery has long since been removed from the building which has been used for storage for a number of years. Information relative to the nature and disposition of the original machinery and the allocation of interior spaces has not been located. Features still extant on the site include the pipe flume which runs under the road south of the building, the pen-stock at the end of the flume on the west side of the building and a concrete spillway associated with the old mill-race overflow.

The exterior of the mill is quite straightforward in design being a simple, end opening rectangle with a gable roof. The symmetrical array of openings on each gable end are original and still exhibit the original six-over-six double-hung sash. The single window on the west is a later addition (probably dating to the early shed addition of the saw mill) and is a double-hung window of four-over-four sash. The large, sliding implement door on the south replaced a centrally located door with flanking window which was consistent with the overall symmetrical arrangement of the facade.

A major feature of the building is the now much deteriorated central cupola. Probably dating from the saw-mill addition, its paired windows on each side are of the four-over-four configuration. The roof was formerly of circular cross-gabled form, the whole topped with a short spire.

The exterior walls are of clapboard over diagonally placed sheathing while the present shed addition is covered with slip-lap siding. The roof is protected with wood shingles. A board and batten skirt encloses the space around the pier foundation. The structure is beginning to deteriorate significantly, most notably at the cupola and at the southwest corner of the building where structural decay has caused the corner to settle.

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	__AGRICULTURE	__ECONOMICS	__LITERATURE	__SCULPTURE	
__1600-1699	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> ARCHITECTURE	__EDUCATION	__MILITARY	__SOCIAL/HUMANITARIAN	
__1700-1799	__ART	__ENGINEERING	__MUSIC	__THEATER	
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 1800-1899	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> COMMERCE	__EXPLORATION/SETTLEMENT	__PHILOSOPHY	__TRANSPORTATION	
__1900-	__COMMUNICATIONS	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> INDUSTRY	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> POLITICS/GOVERNMENT	__OTHER (SPECIFY)	
		__INVENTION			

SPECIFIC DATES 1867-1868

BUILDER/ARCHITECT Lewis E. Jones

STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE

Lewis E. Jones, founder of the Bow Valley Mills, was born in 1825 in Carnarvon, Wales. In 1848, after spending much time on sea voyages, Jones settled in St. Louis and became involved in the newspaper business. He was editor and proprietor of the Methodist Christian Advocate South for several years.

In June 1858, Jones moved his family to Cedar County, Nebraska bringing along his printing equipment. He settled near the new village of St. Helena and founded the county's first newspaper, the St. Helena Gazette, which he owned until 1877. At this same time he also built the county's first sawmill to supply other settlers with building materials.

In 1867, Jones bought land along Bow Creek (named Pettit Arc River by the French trappers after Chief Little Bow of the Omaha tribe), several miles southeast of St. Helena. Jones began construction of this flour mill which was completed in 1868 and named Bow Valley Mills. These mills were significant to the commerce of northeastern Nebraska and points west in that they supplied flour to settlers in a 50 mile radius and large volumes were shipped by steamboat as far west as Fort Benton, Montana. Many government orders were filled.

Other activities of Jones' include being a member of the Nebraska Territorial Legislature (1866-67), Cedar County Historian (1875-76), and one of Cedar County's first commissioners.

Lewis Jones was one of the first settlers in northeastern Nebraska. People began moving into this area in 1856, but population remained sparse for several years after this date. Jones, with his newspaper and milling business, did much to aid settlement in this section of the state.

The mill building itself has architectural significance, primarily as an extant, early example of industrial architecture in Nebraska. Once a landmark in literally hundreds of towns throughout the state, very few such buildings are known to be standing today.

The history of industrial architecture began in eighteenth century England with the Industrial Revolution. It was there that the form and structure of mill building grew out of local needs and technology. The Bow Valley Mills represents an extension of this eighteenth century technology in the use of mill (heavy timber) construction and in the use of water

9 MAJOR BIBLIOGRAPHICAL REFERENCES

See continuation sheet

10 GEOGRAPHICAL DATA

ACREAGE OF NOMINATED PROPERTY less than one acre

QUADRANGLE NAME St. Helena, Nebr.-S. Dak.

QUADRANGLE SCALE 1:24000

UTM REFERENCES

A 14 64991710 4735 4735 17910

ZONE EASTING NORTHING

C

E

G

B

ZONE EASTING NORTHING

D

F

H

VERBAL BOUNDARY DESCRIPTION

LIST ALL STATES AND COUNTIES FOR PROPERTIES OVERLAPPING STATE OR COUNTY BOUNDARIES

STATE

CODE

COUNTY

CODE

STATE

CODE

COUNTY

CODE

11 FORM PREPARED BY

NAME / TITLE

Janet Jeffries Spencer, Cultural Historian; D. Murphy, Architect

ORGANIZATION

DATE

Nebraska State Historical Society

July, 1978

STREET & NUMBER

TELEPHONE

1500 R Street

402-432-2793

CITY OR TOWN

STATE

Lincoln

Nebraska

12 STATE HISTORIC PRESERVATION OFFICER CERTIFICATION

THE EVALUATED SIGNIFICANCE OF THIS PROPERTY WITHIN THE STATE IS:

NATIONAL

STATE X

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

Marion D. Knecht

7/9/78

TITLE

Director, Nebraska State Historical Society

DATE

FOR NPS USE ONLY

I HEREBY CERTIFY THAT THIS PROPERTY IS INCLUDED IN THE NATIONAL REGISTER

Charles A. Hargis
KEEPER OF THE NATIONAL REGISTER

DATE 11.17.78

ATTEST:

DATE

CHIEF OF REGISTRATION

William H. Brackham

11.15.78

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power as the prime mover. Like many early industrial buildings, not only on the Plains, but throughout much of the United States, the Bow Valley Mills exhibit the persistence of eighteenth and early nineteenth century technology long after the invention of the steam engine and improved structural technologies.

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McCoy, J. Mike, History of Cedar County, Nebraska, n.p., n.d.

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in England." JSAH 8:1-2 (Jan.-June, 1949), Pages 1-32.