

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR  
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

FOR NPS USE ONLY	
RECEIVED	4 SEP 1979
DATE ENTERED	

**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** *Kerndt, M., Brothers Elevator and Warehouses No. 11, 12 and 13*  
 HISTORIC 13  
 G. Kerndt & Bros. Elevator and Warehouses #11, 12, and 13  
 AND/OR COMMON

**LOCATION**

STREET & NUMBER  
Front Street \_\_NOT FOR PUBLICATION

CITY, TOWN  
Lansing CONGRESSIONAL DISTRICT  
 Second

STATE  
Iowa VICINITY OF  
 CODE Allamakee

**CLASSIFICATION**

CATEGORY	OWNERSHIP	STATUS	PRESENT USE
<input type="checkbox"/> DISTRICT	<input type="checkbox"/> PUBLIC	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> OCCUPIED	<input type="checkbox"/> AGRICULTURE <input type="checkbox"/> MUSEUM
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> BUILDING(S)	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> PRIVATE	<input type="checkbox"/> UNOCCUPIED	<input type="checkbox"/> COMMERCIAL <input type="checkbox"/> PARK
<input type="checkbox"/> STRUCTURE	<input type="checkbox"/> BOTH	<input type="checkbox"/> WORK IN PROGRESS	<input type="checkbox"/> EDUCATIONAL <input type="checkbox"/> PRIVATE RESIDENCE
<input type="checkbox"/> SITE	<b>PUBLIC ACQUISITION</b>	<b>ACCESSIBLE</b>	<input type="checkbox"/> ENTERTAINMENT <input type="checkbox"/> RELIGIOUS
<input type="checkbox"/> OBJECT	<input type="checkbox"/> IN PROCESS	<input type="checkbox"/> YES: RESTRICTED	<input type="checkbox"/> GOVERNMENT <input type="checkbox"/> SCIENTIFIC
	<input type="checkbox"/> BEING CONSIDERED	<input type="checkbox"/> YES: UNRESTRICTED	<input type="checkbox"/> INDUSTRIAL <input type="checkbox"/> TRANSPORTATION
		<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> NO	<input type="checkbox"/> MILITARY <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> OTHER: storage

**OWNER OF PROPERTY**

NAME  
G. Kerndt & Bros., Inc. c/o T.M. Kerndt

STREET & NUMBER

CITY, TOWN  
Lansing STATE  
 Iowa 52151

**LOCATION OF LEGAL DESCRIPTION**

COURTHOUSE, REGISTRY OF DEEDS, ETC.  
Allamakee County Courthouse *Adin*

STREET & NUMBER

CITY, TOWN  
Waukon STATE  
 Iowa

**6 REPRESENTATION IN EXISTING SURVEYS**

TITLE  
Iowa's Great River Road: Cultural and Natural Resources

DATE  
Sept. 1977 X FEDERAL X STATE \_\_ COUNTY \_\_ LOCAL

DEPOSITORY FOR SURVEY RECORDS  
Highway Division, Iowa Dept. of Transportation

CITY, TOWN  
Ames, Iowa STATE

# 7 DESCRIPTION

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

---

## DESCRIBE THE PRESENT AND ORIGINAL (IF KNOWN) PHYSICAL APPEARANCE

This nomination is for a block of three adjoining structures, consisting of two structures which were simply warehouses, and a third which also functioned as a grain elevator, and which contains much of the machinery and equipment once used to move and bag grain. Portions of this latter structure are believed to have been built in 1868, but the whole has been considerably enlarged over the years. The block front's on Lansing's main street, and extends to the very edge of the Mississippi River at the rear.

Warehouse #11, which also contains the elevator, and #12, form one large mass, approximately 90' deep and 60' wide. It is one story high (not counting the elevator) at street level, and nearly three stories at water's edge. The immense basement is of native limestone, with a street-level story of brick. The elevator portion (which occupies about one-fourth of the upper surface of the building), was constructed about 1890 with a wood structural system faced on the outside with corrugated metal.

Window and door openings all have segmental arches. Across the rear, just above water level, are six wide arched openings, which once permitted the loading of grain directly onto barges. A line of windows and the remains of two other loading doors are also found on the upper (brick) level of the rear elevation.

The street facade of Warehouses 11-12 presents an irregular arrangement of door and window openings, with earlier openings (since filled in) clearly indicated above those at street level. The north half of this facade (the #11 portion) displays a band of brick corbelling just below the elevator, which has a metal-clad, front-gable roof. The band of corbelling is limited to the north half, although it originally extended across the entire facade. The #11 portion of the facade also has three spouts, which once disgorged grain into grain cars which ran on the railroad track extending along the east side of Front Street. This entire block was known simply as #11 until early in the 20th century, when the two portions, which share a common brick interior wall, were given separate designations.

Interior support is provided by simple square posts and beams. Flooring is wooden planking. The ground floor of #11 (that which opens at water level) contains a variety of machinery. Main spouts of grain gins protrude from the ceiling. Below them is a narrow gauge industrial railway, with scales to one side and a small wooden push car, which extends to one of the river-side arched openings. There are also remains of various pulley and gear systems for the elevator itself, which was once powered (though not originally) by a one-cylinder gas engine, and later by an electric motor (still extant).

South of #11 and #12, and sharing the south wall, is a smaller warehouse once designated #13. Like the larger structure, this building has a stone basement, with doors opening directly onto the riverbank at the rear. At street level, the brick facade is advanced some 6-8 feet beyond that of the larger warehouses, but in window and cornice treatment is very similar.

These buildings are still in the ownership of the original company, and are presently used for storage. There are no definite plans for the buildings, but the owners recognize the historical value of the structures and the machinery contained within.

# 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 checked="" 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

c. 1868-1915

## BUILDER/ARCHITECT

## STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE

This elevator and warehouse complex is significant as an essentially intact artifact of the late 19th and early 20th century grain shipping industry in Iowa. Although it has not been used for its original purpose for many years, this complex, with grain moving and loading machinery and mechanisms still in place, offers a vivid look at now largely obsolete methods of storing and preparing grain for shipment. The grain trade was an important early business in eastern Iowa: communities such as McGregor, Lansing and Guttenberg were in the mid-late 19th century made prosperous as centers to which area farmers brought their wheat to be sold and then shipped on the Mississippi River, or later by rail, to large processors in such cities as Minneapolis, Davenport and St. Louis.

The buildings are also significant locally, for their association with the Kerndt family of Lansing, whose extensive business activities, from the mid-19th century to the present, have in large measure dominated the history of the community. Gustave Kerndt was the first of five brothers to emigrate from Germany to the U.S. He arrived in New York in 1849, and spent several years in Schenectady making brooms and later cigars. Moritz arrived in 1853, by which time Gustav had opened a cigar factory in New York City. The next year, Moritz travelled west, ending up in Dubuque. Soon the whole Kerndt family joined Moritz in Iowa. Brother Hermann became a farmer in rural Allamakee County, while the rest of the family settled on the river at Lansing. With Hermann farming, and another brother, Julius, dying soon after coming to Iowa, the family fortunes were left up to the remaining three brothers, Gustav, Moritz, and William.

G. Kerndt and Bros. began in Lansing with a broom factory, but soon expanded their activities. They built their first warehouse in the late 1850's, and about 1861 began an office building and a retail grocery establishment. The store eventually included a banking operation, which is still in business today as the G. Kerndt and Bros. Savings Bank. The first warehouse was eventually removed, and an elevator and warehouse constructed of brick and stone in 1868. (From Sanborn Fire Insurance Maps, it appears that the present elevator portion was built between 1886 and 1894.) Eventually, G. Kerndt and Bros. operated 14 warehouses along the levee at Lansing, and accounted for a high proportion of that community's river commerce.

# 9 MAJOR BIBLIOGRAPHICAL REFERENCES

Hancock, Ellery M. Past and Present of Allamakee County, Iowa. Chicago: S.J. Clarke, 1913, Vol. II.  
 Burke, William J. The Story of a River Town: Lansing, Iowa. mss., 1967.(ISHS, Iowa City)  
 Sanborn Fire Insurance Maps, 1886, 1894, 1912

**UTM NOT VERIFIED**

# 10 GEOGRAPHICAL DATA

ACREAGE OF NOMINATED PROPERTY approx. 1

QUADRANGLE NAME Ferryville, Wisc.; Iowa

QUADRANGLE SCALE 1:62,500

UTM REFERENCES

A 15 644078 4802035  
 ZONE EASTING NORTHING

B           
 ZONE EASTING NORTHING

C         

D         

E         

F         

G         

H         

## VERBAL BOUNDARY DESCRIPTION

Buildings are located on lots 5, 6, and 7, Block 51, which is situated on the east side of Front Street between John Street on the south and Main Street on the north.

## 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

M.H. Bowers, Historian

ORGANIZATION

Division of Historic Preservation

DATE

April 1979

STREET & NUMBER

26 East Market Street

TELEPHONE

319/353-6949

CITY OR TOWN

Iowa City

STATE

Iowa 52240

# 12 STATE HISTORIC PRESERVATION OFFICER CERTIFICATION

THE EVALUATED SIGNIFICANCE OF THIS PROPERTY WITHIN THE STATE IS:

NATIONAL   

STATE   

LOCAL X

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

*Adrian D. Anderson*

TITLE Director, Division of Historic Preservation

DATE 8/10/79

## FOR NPS USE ONLY

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

*John Carol Skell*  
 KEEPER OF THE NATIONAL REGISTER

DATE 10-18-79

ATTEST: *William H. Brown*

DATE 10-17-79

CHIEF OF REGISTRATION