

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

FOR NPS USE ONLY

RECEIVED JUL 23 1979

DATE ENTERED AUG 21 1979

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 BOSTON FLOUR MILL

(Thompson Flour Mill)

AND/OR COMMON Thompson Flouring Mill

LOCATION

E of Shedd on

STREET & NUMBER Boston Mill Road

CITY, TOWN Shedd

VICINITY OF

4th CONGRESSIONAL DISTRICT

STATE Oregon

CODE 41

COUNTY Linn

CODE 043

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 checked="" type="checkbox"/> COMMERCIAL <input type="checkbox"/> PARK
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> STRUCTURE	<input type="checkbox"/> BOTH	<input type="checkbox"/> WORK IN PROGRESS	<input type="checkbox"/> EDUCATIONAL <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> PRIVATE RESIDENCE
<input type="checkbox"/> SITE	PUBLIC ACQUISITION	ACCESSIBLE	<input type="checkbox"/> ENTERTAINMENT <input type="checkbox"/> RELIGIOUS
<input type="checkbox"/> OBJECT	<input type="checkbox"/> IN PROCESS	<input checked="" 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 type="checkbox"/> NO	<input type="checkbox"/> MILITARY <input type="checkbox"/> OTHER:

OWNER OF PROPERTY

NAME Nerlene Babits

STREET & NUMBER P.O. Box 71

CITY, TOWN Shedd

VICINITY OF

STATE Oregon 97377

LOCATION OF LEGAL DESCRIPTION

COURTHOUSE, REGISTRY OF DEEDS, ETC. Linn County Courthouse

STREET & NUMBER

CITY, TOWN Albany

STATE Oregon 97321

6 REPRESENTATION IN EXISTING SURVEYS

TITLE Statewide Inventory of Historic Properties

DATE 1976

FEDERAL STATE COUNTY LOCAL

DEPOSITORY FOR SURVEY RECORDS State Historic Preservation Office, 525 Trade Street SE

CITY, TOWN Salem

STATE Oregon 97310

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 checked="" type="checkbox"/> GOOD	<input type="checkbox"/> RUINS	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> ALTERED	<input type="checkbox"/> MOVED DATE _____
<input type="checkbox"/> FAIR	<input type="checkbox"/> UNEXPOSED		

DESCRIBE THE PRESENT AND ORIGINAL (IF KNOWN) PHYSICAL APPEARANCE

Boston Mill, situated near Shedd and next to the old townsite of Boston, continues to function today using water power. The core structure built in 1863 is of hewn post and beam construction and is three stories in height. The mill's original function was to mill grain grown by area farmers into flour. A buhr stone shipped from France was used to mill the grain until 1891, when a steel roller mill was installed. The present mill building was built in 1863 after the original had burned in the previous year. The original had been built in 1858 by Richard D. Finley, one of the original owners of the enterprise. The structure of 1863 with enlargements of 1900-1904 and 1917 are essentially intact. The concrete flume walls constructed in 1937 recently collapsed, however, causing the loss of approximately twenty-five percent of the mill's floor space. Means of stabilizing and restoring the weakened or lost portions are currently being sought.

Situated in Sec. 8, T.13S., R.3W., W.M., on the Willamette Valley floor several miles from the foothills of the Cascade Mountains, the mill is on the east boundary of the historic townsite of Boston. There are three houses located nearby the nominated property, two of which are structural remnants of the old town. Surrounded by cultivated farmlands, Boston Mill is approximately 500' north of Boston Mill Road, a county market road which runs east and west. The mill is advantageously sited on the mill dam at the place where the canal empties back into the Calapooia River. The Thompson House is approximately 250' southwest of the mill.

The main mill structure is of post and beam construction resting on a concrete foundation (added 1933-1937, when the timber flume was replaced due to severe rotting). The 2 1/2 story main building frame was assembled one story at a time using mortise and tenon joints held together with wooden pegs. The framing timbers are hand hewn.

Around the main structure are one story sheds of stud wall construction. The main structure has tongue and groove siding, and the storage sheds have shiplap siding. The four reinforced concrete silos added in 1917 are 50' in height and have walls 6" thick. Their total capacity is 40,000 bushels of grain. Mr. Merle Thompson states that the silos were the first concrete silos built in the central Willamette Valley. All of the mill structures have built-up asphalt roofing.

The main mass of the original mill building (1863) and the concrete silos (1917) are surrounded on three sides by one-story flat-roofed sheds for processed grain storage and office space. A tower above the roof of the mill is connected by an enclosed walkway to the top of the silos. At ground level a covered delivery ramp separates the silos and the mill building. The flood gate opening mechanisms at the front of the mill are hand operated with a series of exposed gears.

The oldest portion of the present mill building was completed after the original burned in 1862 and measures 45 x 60'. The buildings that existed before 1904 were a 2 1/2 story main building housing the machinery and grain storage bins, and a one story storage building. The two were joined by a covered passthrough for wagons. Both buildings had gable roofs. A small, square flat-roofed office building stood next to the main mill building.

In 1917 the storage building was moved to the northwest side of the mill, and the roof was removed and a flat roof built in its place. Four concrete grain silos were built where the storage building was. The main building roof was raised to make it a full three stories in height, and a tower was added to the mill from which a passageway to the top

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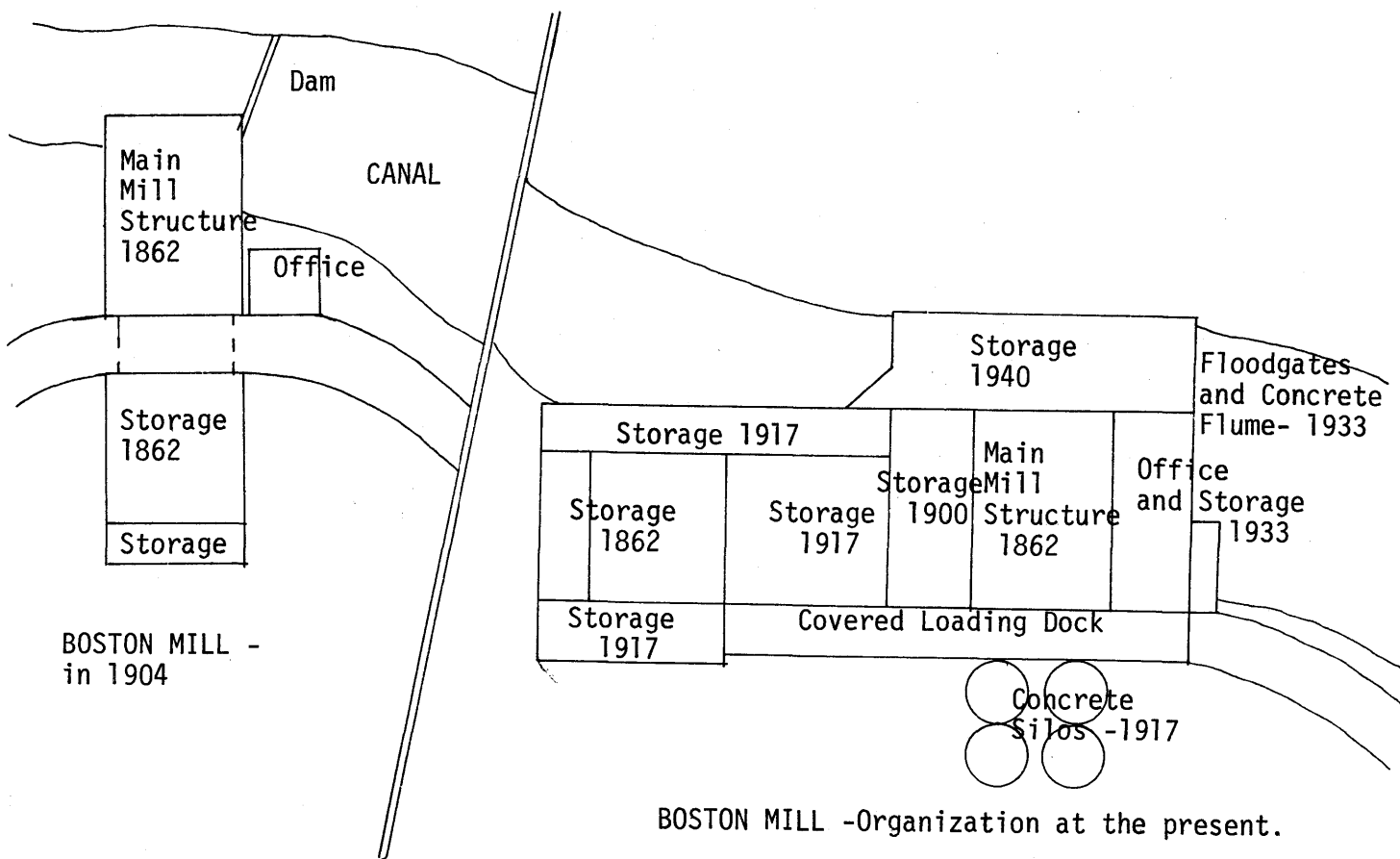
of the silos was extended. The structure for the original roof level is still evident. By the end of 1917, the building had taken the form and most of the detail seen today.

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In 1933 a concrete flume replaced the severely rotted wooden flume. Flood gates were added to the headwater at the mill. The entire mill was raised one foot and a concrete foundation was added. An earlier office building was removed and a new one added across the southeast side of the mill. It is one story high with a flat roof.

In 1940 a small storage building was added over the floodgate and millrace. It is one story in height and has a flat roof.



The original mill building had a basement, first and second floors. The basement contained main power machinery, pulleys, belts, flywheels and gears. The first floor contained grinding machinery and its office. The second floor contained grain storage bins. The second building was used primarily for storage, with a pass through between the two buildings for wagons.

The enlargements to the mill generally were additive; in only a few exceptions was change made to the original organization of the main building. As additions for storage were added to the northwest side of the mill the main passageway was extended from the main building through them. With the addition of the concrete silos in 1917 the loading area next to the main building was maintained and a loading dock was

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extended from it along the southwest side of the mill. Also in 1917, the stairway in the main building was extended in to the tower, which provides access to the passageway leading to the top of the concrete silos. With the additions in 1933 and 1940 along the southeast and northeast sides of the mill, the first floor walls were removed and a passageway was provided around those sides. The mill and silos now measure 180' x 150' in plan.

The interior of the mill has always been of unfinished 2 x 6 stud walls, with the back of the ship lap siding exposed. The floors are of six inch wide boards. Currently the interior is painted white, and appears to have always been that way.

Description of the Thompson House

The Thompson House was built next to the Boston mill in 1904 for the family that currently owned the mill. The house was built in the Queen Anne style. It is in excellent structural condition. Due to the exposed nature of the site there has been some weather damage on the southwest side of the house. This has been recovered with contemporary materials (wood shingles). Situated approximately 250' southwest of the Boston Mill, the Thompson House faces the south and is surrounded by lawn and several 35 year old firs and sequoias. The foundation of the Thompson house is of stone laid dry. The stone was quarried in the nearby Cascade Mountains. The house is of stud wall construction with ship lap siding and sheathing.

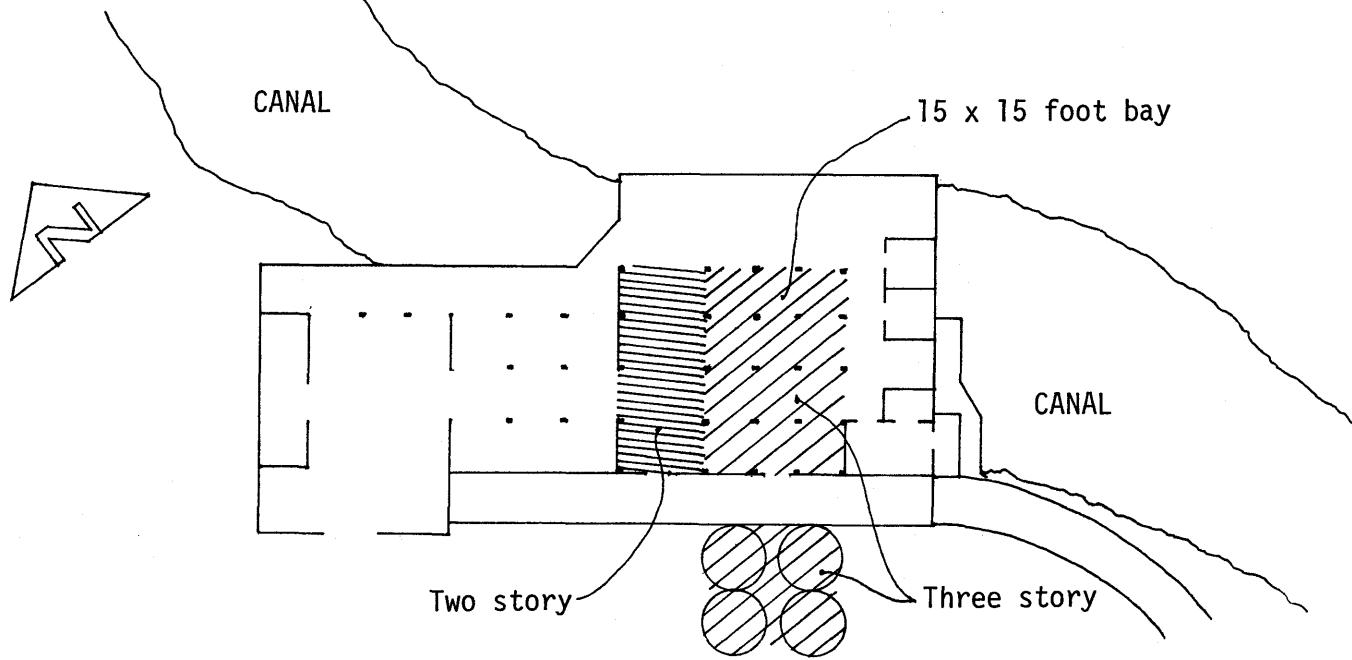
The house is a two story rectangle with a asphalt shingled hip roof which terminates in a flat sheet metal covered area. The entry porch on the south facade supports a square tower with a steeply-pitched roof. The porch posts are hand turned. To the west of the entry is a two story bay window. The north and east sides of the house have a connected porch which on the north has been enclosed to form a utility room. The windows are double hung single pane sash. The frames have a moulded cap.

In 1910 a two story addition was added to the west side of the house, increasing the number of bedrooms from four to eight. Materials, proportions and details were chosen to match the original construction.

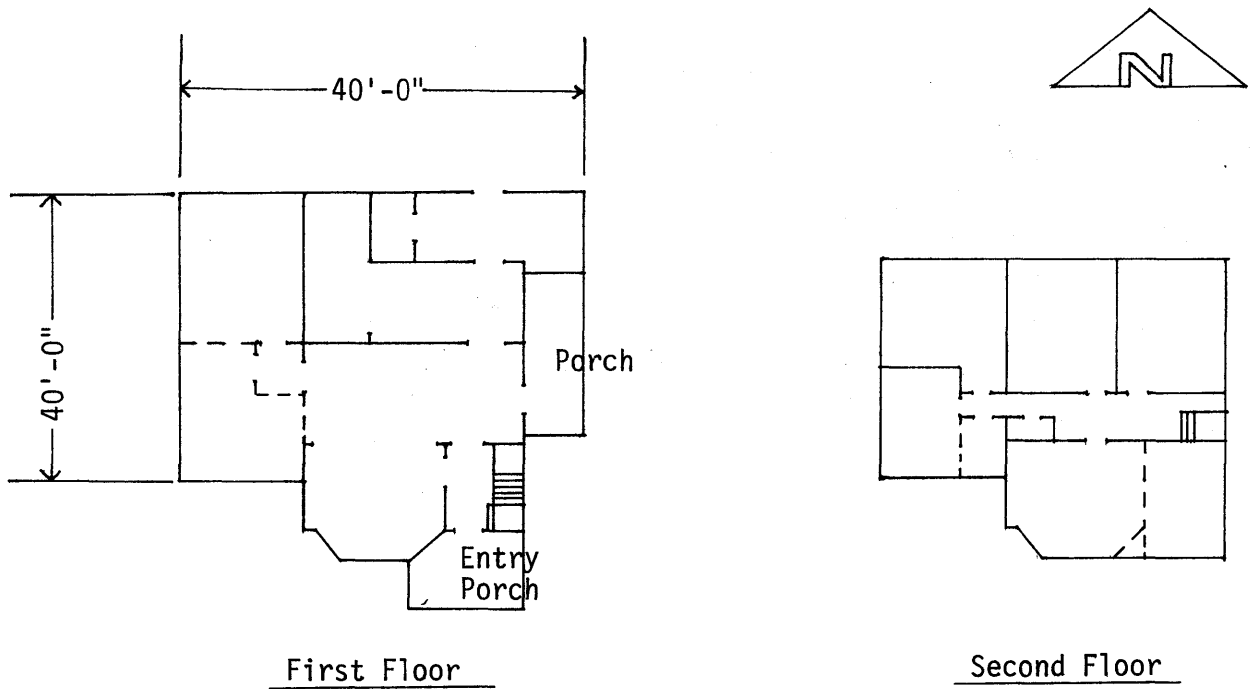
The interior of the house is sheathed in six-inch ship lap boards, over which flour sacks were applied and then wallpaper. There have been at most three applications of wallpaper to the present, and they are intact. In the dining room there is a three foot high wainscot of six inch wide beaded tongue and groove boards that were painted. The kitchen walls are plastered and painted. The five inch wide door and window interior trim boards are grooved; the corner blocks have a simplified incised rosette. The frames are thought to have been originally varnished but now all are painted, as are the doors. The floors are six inch wide boards with linoleum rugs. The cabinet work along the dining room and in the kitchen are all painted wood.

(See diagrams, reverse side)

Basic shape and dimensions of plan.
 Number of stories.



BOSTON MILL - First floor plan.



First Floor

Second Floor

Thompson House

Recently removed walls-----

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Summary of Recent Damage

On June 22, 1979, a section of load-bearing flume wall collapsed. Approximately twenty-five percent of the floor space of the mill collapsed into the water with the wall. This caused the mill operators to reduce production by ca. fifty percent, and, should the damage not be corrected, the mill will be forced to shut down completely when winter run-off causes the water to rise in the flume.

The flume runs on an essentially north-south axis. Two concrete flume walls, the western one ca. 100' long and attaching to the 1863 main mill foundation, and the eastern one ca. 60' long and attaching to the floodgate foundations, were constructed in 1937. These flume walls are approximately 14' in height and 18" thick. It appears that these walls were constructed with very little iron reinforcement on improper footings. Supported by the western wall were 10' of a 1900 addition and two floors of a 1937 addition ca. 10' wide and 90' long. Also tied into the second floor addition was a storage floor built in 1940 than spanned the flume and rested on the eastern flume wall.

Approximately 50' of the western wall, from the original mill building northward, was the section that collapsed. This obviously caused the ten feet of the 1900 addition and 40' of the 1937 addition to collapse and caused serious structural damage to the remaining 50' of the 1937 addition. Also, a 20-foot length of the storage space over the flume collapsed. The collapse of the wall also caused erosion from under the support piles directly west of the 1937 addition and north of the main building, thus seriously endangering a 1900 and 1917 addition. No major machinery was lost, but flooring was weakened sufficiently to cause a shutdown of a majority of the machinery for safety purposes. Also, although it didn't collapse, it appears that the eastern flume wall is in need of replacement or reinforcement.

(see accompanying diagram for extent of damage)

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 checked="" 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 1863, 1904, 1917, 1933-37 BUILDER/ARCHITECT

STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE

Boston Mill, erected in 1863 and enlarged at the turn of the century, in 1917, and again in the 1930s, is significant to Oregon as one of only two nineteenth century water-powered fouring mills in the state still in operation. The historic enterprise took its name from the Boston townsite, which was platted in 1862, reached its zenith about 1869, and was eclipsed by the coming of the Oregon and California Railroad little over a mile to the west in 1871--an event which gave rise to the community of Shedd. The eight-acre area proposed for nomination includes the clapboarded turn-of-the-century Queen Anne Style house of Martin Thompson, who acquired a half interest in the mill in 1891 and succeeded to full ownership by 1897. Thompson and his descendents owned and operated the mill for the next seventy-six years. The property passed to the current owner in 1973. The mill site is on the floor of the Willamette Valley rather than in the foothills of the Cascades. The location was chosen for its proximity to the farms which produced grain on the flat prairie, and, as a result, a five-mile water course was required to get enough drop for the mill to function. Since 1955 the milling of flour has been discontinued, and the mill now produces livestock feed exclusively.

The builder of the mill, Richard C. Finley, and his family came to Oregon by wagon train in 1846. After building two mills in the Crawfordsville area, he moved to the confluence of the Calapooia River and Courtney Creek in 1858. New land was purchased from Americus Savage and his wife, Mary Ann, who had obtained it as a Donation Land Claim. With his partners, Alex Brandon and Philemon B. Crawford (founder of Crawfordsville), Richard Finley began building a buhr mill. The beams for the mill are said to have been hand hewn in Crawfordsville and floated down the Calapooia River to the mill site.

In the words of Floyd C. Mullen, author of Land of Linn, "for more than a century, Boston Flour Mill was a landmark to residents of Linn County and to valley travelers who depended upon flour and livestock feed. Men would take their wheat to the mill by horseback or on wagons from miles around and exchange it for flour." The mill continues to be an area landmark and a symbol of the continuance of nineteenth century industrial tradition in Oregon.

In 1852 P. V. Crawford established a pack train carrying flour to the goldfields of California, making ten trips a year. Crawford is said to have become well known for his Magnolia brand flour and Magnolia self-rising flour.

The original Boston Mill was destroyed by fire in 1862. The fire is said to have originated in the adjoining carding factory, where a fire had to be maintained for the sake of keeping the wool stock at optimum temperature. The flour mill was soon rebuilt with another set of hand-hewn beams from Crawfordsville. The replacement structure is the core of the exisiting building.

In 1862 the would-be metropolis of Boston was platted. People from all parts of the Willamette Valley and as far south as Yreka, California came to settle in Boston. In its

9 MAJOR BIBLIOGRAPHICAL REFERENCES

Danaher (presently Babits), Merlene. Interview on the history of the Thompson House. Shedd, Oregon, April 29, 1978.

Kerr, Mildred. Article in Oregon Historical Quarterly, Vol. 44 (1943), 167-168, 182.

(continued)

10 GEOGRAPHICAL DATA

ACREAGE OF NOMINATED PROPERTY 8 acres

UTM REFERENCES

A 10 493650 4922900
 ZONE EASTING NORTHING

B
 ZONE EASTING NORTHING

C
 ZONE EASTING NORTHING

D
 ZONE EASTING NORTHING

VERBAL BOUNDARY DESCRIPTION
 Beginning N.84° E. 6.44 chains from the SE corner of the Richard Farwell DLC No. 46 in Sec. 8, T.13S., R.3W., W.M., Linn County, Oregon; and running thence N.84° E. 4.50 chains; thence East 6.30; thence N.15° W. 10 chains to the center of the Calapooia River thence Westerly down the center of said river to a point due East of a point that is 10.70 chains due North of the point of beginning; thence West 2 chains, more or less, to a point 10.70 chains due North of the point of beginning; thence South 10.70 chains to the point of beginning, and containing 8.0 acres, more or less.

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

Daniel V. Downes, B.Arch, with updated information on condition by Rusty Gorman

ORGANIZATION

University of Oregon

DATE

July 1978

STREET & NUMBER

810 East 38th Avenue

TELEPHONE

503/345-0925

CITY OR TOWN

Eugene

STATE

Oregon 97405

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

[Handwritten Signature]

TITLE State Historic Preservation Officer

DATE July 9, 1979

FOR NPS USE ONLY

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

[Handwritten Signature]

DATE

8-21-79

DIRECTOR, OFFICE OF ARCHAEOLOGY AND HISTORIC PRESERVATION

KEEPER OF THE NATIONAL REGISTER

ATTEST:

[Handwritten Signature]

DATE

Aug 19, 1979

KEEPER OF THE NATIONAL REGISTER

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heyday, in 1869, Boston had a post office, a general store, a blacksmith shop, and the flour mill. The townsite was well known for a county fair held at the base of Bunker Hill (a knoll to the east of town). The fair was the most important event of the year for Linn County residents. A great deal of local rivalry developed over the horse races and agricultural exhibits.

Boston's prosperity owed to the announced plans of the Oregon and California Railroad to locate the main north-south line adjacent to the townsite. However, the plans changed, and the tracks were located within two miles to the west near Shedd Station, which was a stagecoach layover. Moving the post office to Shedd in 1871 dealt the death blow to Boston. With its proximity to the railroad, Shedd was better able to provide services, and residents of Boston relocated themselves at Shedd. The decline of the old townsite scarcely affected the milling operation, however, which continued to flourish at its original location.

Martin Thompson, for whom the mill is now more widely known, bought a half interest in Boston Mill in 1891 and obtained full ownership in 1897. The mill continued to be operated by the Thompson family until 1973. In 1891 a steel roller mill was installed that could mill white flour. However, in 1955 the milling of flour was discontinued due to competition from larger companies. The mill's production of livestock feed increased to take up the slack, and today Boston Mill supplies most of the small feed and seed stores in the area.

Record of ownership of Boston Mill in the 19th century

1858	R. C. Finley and Co., 1/2; and R. C. Finley, 1/2 interest
1866	William Simmons 1/2; and R. C. Finley, 1/2 interest
1875	William Simmons 1/2; and Al and Ed Simmons, 1/2 interest
1878	Al and Ed Simmons
1885	William Simmons
1887	William Simmons 1/2; and R. C. Finley, 1/2 interest
1891	William Simmons 1/2; and Stan Noel, 1/2 interest
1891	William Simmons 1/2; and Martin Thompson, 1/2 interest
1897	Martin Thompson

In 1973 the entire mill ownership was conveyed by the heirs of Martin Thompson to James and Merlene Danaher. In 1977 Merlene Danaher became sole owner of the mill.

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McArthur, Lewis A., Oregon Geographic Names (Portland: Oregon Historical Society, 1974).

Mullen, Floyd C., The Land of Linn (Lebanon: author, 1971).

Thompson, Myrtle. Interview of the history of Boston Mill and the Thompson House. Shedd, Oregon, May 13, 1978.

Historical Atlas Map of Marion and Linn Counties, Oregon (San Francisco: Edgar Williams and Co., 1878).

History of Linn County and Oregon: End of the Trail, compiled in 1941 and 1940, respectively, by the Workers of the Writers' Program of the Work Projects Administration in the State of Oregon.

JUL 23 1979

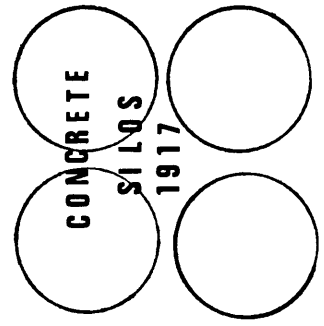
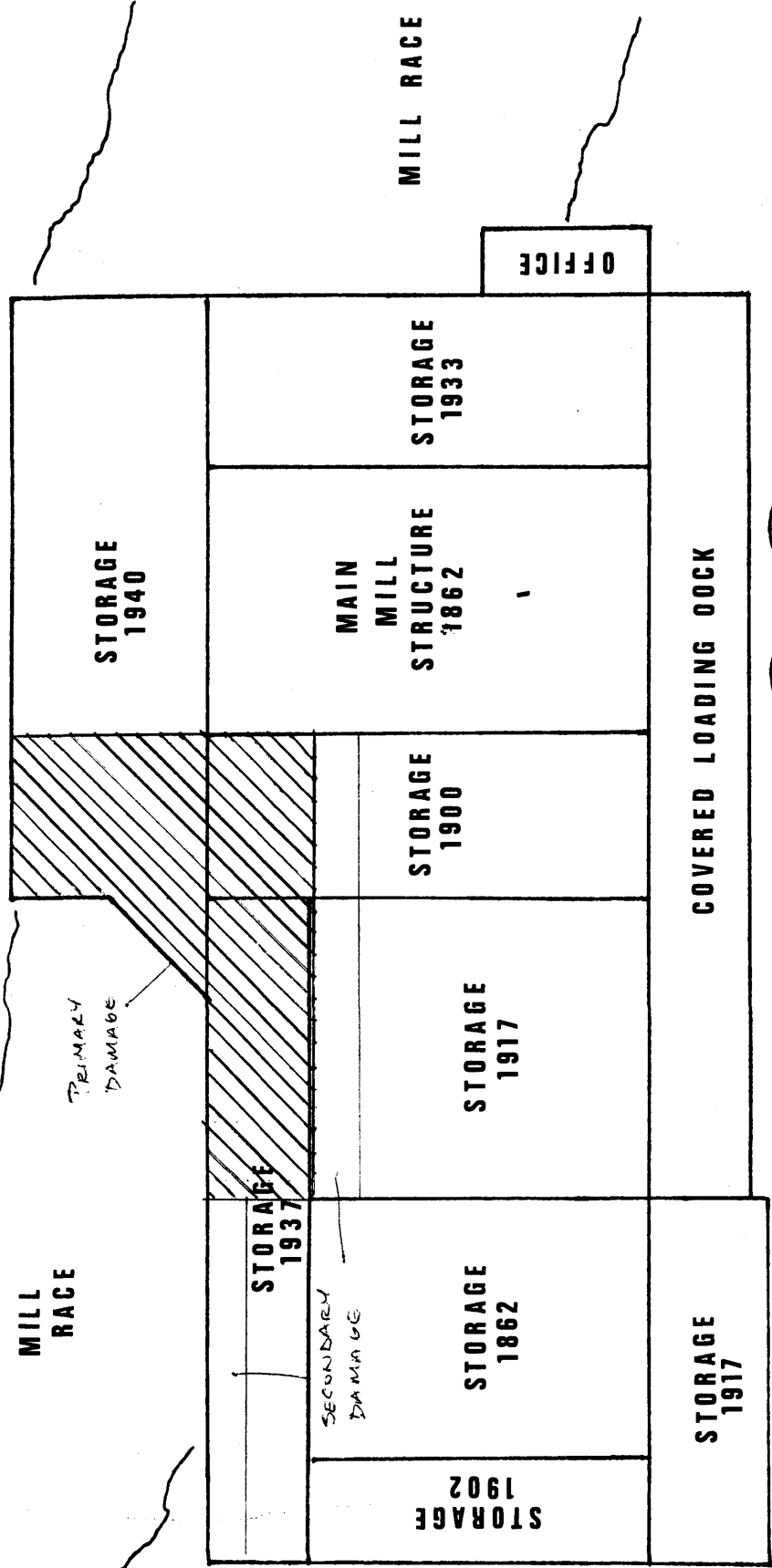


DIAGRAM SHOWING EXTENT OF DAMAGE CAUSED BY COLLAPSE OF A SECTION OF THE LOAD-BEARING FLUME WALL ON JUNE 22, 1979.

Rusty Gorman
 330 SE Viewmont
 Corvallis, Oregon 97330
 503/752-6347