NPS Form 10-900 1024-0018 United States Department of the Interior National Park Service

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MAT. REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

National Register of Historic Places Registration Form

This form is for use in nominating or requesting determinations for individual properties and districts. See instructions in National Register Bulletin, How to Complete the National Register of Historic Places Registration Form. If any item does not apply to the property being documented, enter "N/A" for "not applicable." For functions, architectural classification, materials, and areas of significance, enter only categories and subcategories from the instructions.

1. Name of Property

Historic name: <u>Little Crow Milling Company Factory</u> Other names/site number: <u>Little Crow Factory</u> Name of related multiple property listing:

N/A

X A

(Enter "N/A" if property is not part of a multiple property listing

2. Location

Street & number: 201 South	Detroit Street	
City or town: Warsaw	State: Indiana	County: Kosciusko
Not For Publication:	Vicinity:	

3. State/Federal Agency Certification

B

As the designated authority under the National Historic Preservation Act, as amended,

I hereby certify that this <u>X</u> nomination <u>request for determination of eligibility meets</u> 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 _X__ meets ___ does not meet the National Register Criteria. I recommend that this property be considered significant at the following level(s) of significance:

____national _____statewide _____local Applicable National Register Criteria:

C

The CIDAL 4.12.2018

D

Signature of certifying official/Title:

Date

Indiana DNR-Division of Historic Preservation and Archaeology

State or Federal agency/bureau or Tribal Government

United States Department of the Interior National Park Service / National Register of Historic Places Registration Form NPS Form 10-900 OMB No. 1024-0018

Little Crow Milling Company Factory Name of Property Kosciusko County, Indiana County and State

In my opinion, the property	meets	_ does not meet the National Register
criteria.		

Signature of commenting official:

Date

Title :

State or Federal agency/bureau or Tribal Government

4. National Park Service Certification

I hereby certify that this property is:

- ____ entered in the National Register
- _____ determined eligible for the National Register
- ____ determined not eligible for the National Register
- ____ removed from the National Register

other (explain:) Signature of the Keeper

5.24.2018

Date of Action

5. Classification

Ownership of Property

En

(Check as many boxes as apply.) Private:

Public - Federal

Category of Property

(Check only one box.)

Building(s)

District

	x
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Sections 1-6 page 2

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Little Crow Milling Company Factory Name of Property

Site

Structure	
Object	

Number of Resources within Property

(Do not include previously listed resources in the count) Contributing Noncontributing buildings 0 ____ 1 _____ 0 0 sites 0 0 structures 0 0 objects 0 Total 1

Number of contributing resources previously listed in the National Register <u>0</u>

6. Function or Use Historic Functions (Enter categories from instructions.)

Industry/Processing/Extraction (Manufacturing Facility)

Current Functions

(Enter categories from instructions.) DOMESTIC / multiple dwelling Kosciusko County, Indiana County and State

Kosciusko County, Indiana County and State

7. Description

Architectural Classification

(Enter categories from instructions.) Late 19th and Early 20th Century American Movements

Materials: (enter categories from instructions.) foundation: ______Concrete_____

Brick, Stone

foundation: walls:

roof: other: Concrete Metal, Wood

Narrative Description

(Describe the historic and current physical appearance and condition of the property. Describe contributing and noncontributing resources if applicable. Begin with **a summary paragraph** that briefly describes the general characteristics of the property, such as its location, type, style, method of construction, setting, size, and significant features. Indicate whether the property has historic integrity.)

Summary Paragraph

The Little Crow Milling Company Factory (hereafter referred to as the "Little Crow Factory") is located at 201 South Detroit Street just east of the center of downtown Warsaw, Indiana. It is sited on the southeast corner of South Detroit Street and East Market Street. The building is surrounded primarily by paved parking lots, with scattered 20th-century commercial development to the west and south, and a pocket of residential development to the northeast. The lot is bounded on the south by the former Pittsburgh, Fort Wayne, and Chicago Railroad (the first railroad to come through the county) and on the east by a spur the CCC & St. Louis Railway.

The Little Crow Factory is a one-, three-, and - four-story masonry factory building built in several stages throughout the company's long occupancy of the site. The original masonry mill and

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warehouse on the north end of the parcel was completed in 1924. Four years later, the company constructed a three-story masonry packing and shipping room on the south end of the original building. These two structures form the main components of the factory; for the purposes of this report, the 1924 building will be referred to as the "north block" and the 1927 building will be referred to as the "south block." In the late 1950s, the company constructed a one-story limestone-clad office building near the center of the west elevation of the north block. The offices were expanded in the late-1960s with a one-story limestone-clad addition on a raised basement, located at the northwest corner of the complex.

A one-story, metal clad warehouse addition was constructed along the south elevation of the south block around 1977. Between the mid-1980s and 2001, several unfenestrated, utilitarian equipment enclosures were constructed on the roof of the factory's north block. Both the warehouse and the equipment enclosures have since been dismantled and removed as part of the National Park Service-reviewed rehabilitation.

The building's main entrance is located on the west elevation of the c. 1950s office addition, facing South Detroit Street. Secondary pedestrian entrances are located along all of the elevations. Former loading entrances, concentrated on the south and east elevations fronting the railroad, have been enclosed with glazing or converted to pedestrian entrances.

The building served as the headquarters and primary manufacturing facility for the Little Crow Milling Company, a nationally-known manufacturer of specialty flours, baking mixes, and cereals from 1924 until 2012 when the factory closed. The company's core product development in the factory occurred under the leadership of company founder Wilbur Maish Sr. and his son, Clarence Maish, between 1924 and 1984, and the last substantial addition to the factory that reflected a significant expansion of the company's product lines was completed c. 1977.

The Little Crow Milling Company sold its assets, except for the factory building, to Minneapolisbased MOM Brands and the Gilseter-Mary Lee Corporation in 2012.¹ The factory property was donated to the Kosciusko County Community Foundation, which put the property up for sale in 2013. The property was purchased by the Commonwealth Development Corporation, and the factory building underwent a renovation completed in 2017 for new use as affordable senior housing (henceforth called the "2016-2017 rehabilitation"). The 2016-2017 rehabilitation was undertaken with the use of federal historic tax credits, requiring the oversight of reviewers at the Indiana Division of Historic Preservation and Archaeology and the National Park Service, and adherence to the Secretary of the Interior's Standards for Rehabilitation.

As of 2018, Little Crow Factory operates as an affordable senior housing facility and retains its significant interior and exterior features.

¹ "Little Crow Food Sells Assets to MOM Brands and Glister-Mary Lee Corporation." <u>http://mombrands.com/2012/03/little-crow-foods-sells-assets-to-mom-brands-and-gilster-mary-lee-corporation/</u>, accessed 9-11-2015.

Narrative Description

Site and Setting

The Little Crow Factory is located approximately five blocks east and two blocks south of the Kosciusko County courthouse, the historic center of downtown Warsaw. The building is set along the lot lines at the north, south and east elevations. The office additions on the west side of the building are slightly set back and surrounded by small landscaped lawns. Parking lots, located on the east and south portions of the property, were re-paved as part of the 2016-2017 rehabilitation. Across Market Street to the north is a paved parking lot. Across Detroit Street to the west is a c. 1920s masonry commercial building; beyond this is a mixture of low-rise commercial buildings and parking lots. South of the building is a mixture of industrial and residential buildings. To the east of the building is a large one-story strip shopping mall.

Exterior

The Little Crow Factory is roughly rectangular in overall shape and footprint. The north and south blocks, constructed in the 1920s, feature exterior walls of red brick laid in common bond, regularly fenestrated with multi-light replacement aluminum sash windows. The post-World War II office additions on the west side of the building are both clad in limestone with pebble-dash panels between the windows openings. The roofs on all sections of the building are flat. For clarity, each section of the complex will be described separately below.

North Block (1924)

The north block of the building is primarily one-story warehouse space. At the center of the west elevation is a four-story former blending mill, four bays long by three bays wide. The north elevation of the north block is six bays long and set on a concrete water table, with regularly fenestrated aluminum sash windows on concrete sills. A non-historic pedestrian entrance is located near the west end of the elevation, accessed by a set of wood steps. (Photo 0006)

The east elevation of the north block is twelve bays long and similar in materials and details to the north elevation. The elevation is regularly fenestrated primarily with 10-light aluminum sash windows on concrete sills. Four former loading dock entrances are evenly spaced along the wall and set above the concrete water table. Three of these openings have been infilled with aluminum panels and glazing. The fourth had been converted into a pedestrian entrance, accessed by concrete steps.

The first story of the west elevation is primarily obscured by the post-World War II office additions. South of the c. 1950s office, the first story of the north block houses multi-light sash windows and a single pedestrian entrance accessed by a concrete path. At the south end of the west elevation, a one-story brick former loading dock extends west to a curb cut. The openings of the loading dock have been infilled with aluminum panels and glazing. The four-story blending

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mill on the west side of the north block is regularly fenestrated with 15-light aluminum sash windows. (Photo 0002)

All the building's original windows have been replaced with new aluminum sash that match the historic windows in size, appearance, and profile.

The roof of the north block is flat. A brick chimney stack is located on the northeast corner of the former blending mill.

South Block (1927)

The south block is a three-story rectangular masonry structure five bays long and nine bays wide, very similar in materials and detailing to the four-story blending mill on the north block. All elevations of the structure are regularly fenestrated with 15-light aluminum sash replacement windows on concrete sills that match the historic windows in size, appearance and profile. The removal of the 1977 metal clad addition on the south elevation during the 2016-2017 rehabilitation allowed for the restoration of the original 1927 window openings on that elevation and the creation of an internal court that provides light and ventilation to the new residential units. (Photos 0003 and 0004)

The east elevation features three pedestrian entrances. A non-historic single-door entrance is located on the south end of the elevation, accessed by concrete steps. Two non-historic single-door entrances are located on the north end of the elevation, which are both located along a raised concrete platform accessed by several steps. The northern-most of these doors also features a non-historic metal canopy above the entryway. (Photo 0005)

The north elevation provides a pedestrian entrance, located adjacent to the former loading docks of the north block. The entrance features a non-historic metal door with single-light transom and sidelight.

The roof of the south block is flat. A brick penthouse extends near the center of the north wall of the south block.

Post-War Office Additions (circa 1958 and circa 1969)

Two office additions were constructed on the west side of the Little Crow Factory in the late 1950s and late 1960s, replacing the small one-story brick office structure that was part of the original 1924 building. The older of these two additions is a one-story, roughly L-shaped structure of concrete block construction with a flat roof and deep overhanging eaves. The two exposed elevations of this structure are clad with limestone below the window openings. The large fixed rectangular aluminum windows are separated by textured "pebble-dash" panels framed in aluminum on the west elevation. The main entrance into the building is at the north end of the west elevation of the older addition, an aluminum and glass door with sidelight that is recessed. The outer face of the projecting eaves is clad in aluminum; the undersides of the eaves are stained wood paneling.

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The later office addition, located at the northwest corner of the factory site, is one story on a raised basement, and is significantly taller than the c. 1958 office addition. The structure is clad in limestone and fenestrated on the north and west elevations with narrow vertical fixed windows separated by textured "pebble-dash" panels. On the west elevation, a grouping of six such windows is set on a continuous concrete sill. On the north elevation, two groups of two windows are spaced along the façade. The north elevation also features two sets of three-light aluminum basement windows set on concrete sills. A simple pedestrian entrance at the east end of the north elevation houses a metal panel door. (Photo 0001)

Interior

Typical of early 20th-century industrial buildings, the Little Crow Factory historically had a largely open interior with little ornamentation prior to its reconfiguration in the 2016-2017 rehabilitation. The north block features exposed wood post-and-beam structure and exposed painted interior masonry walls (Photo 0007). A large north-south running fire wall with metal fire doors divides the north block into a loading area facing east and a warehouse area to the west. The upper floors of the blending mill section of the north feature exposed wood structure, masonry walls, and wood floors. The south block features exposed metal posts and beams and exposed masonry walls with concrete and hardwood flooring. (Photo 0011)

The Little Crow Factory interior retains its overall original spatial layout and was converted to affordable senior housing in 2016-2017, with 42 new one- and two- bedroom units being added to the interior spaces. The building's basement level, which historically housed mechanical and storage spaces, consists primarily of storage and mechanical space with one two-bedroom unit located at the northwest corner. The first through fourth floors consist of one-and two-bedroom units (Photos 0009, 0010, 0012 and 0013). The units feature drywall partitions, open kitchens, and enclosed bedrooms and bathrooms. The original concrete and wood floors, as well as the masonry perimeter walls have been cleaned, repaired, and remain exposed. New mechanical, electrical, plumbing and fire protection equipment has been installed and have been left exposed in keeping with the building's industrial history.

The interior of the post-World War II office additions retain their overall original spatial layout and a metal stair with wood handrails connects the two buildings. The c.1958 building's divided into two one-bedroom units featuring drywall partitions, open kitchens, and enclosed bedrooms and bathrooms. Original built-in filing cabinets line one wall of the c.1958 building. The c.1969 office building features a two-bedroom unit at the basement level and two one-bedroom units at the first-floor level. (Photo 0008)

Integrity

Despite its conversion to affordable senior housing in 2016-2017, the Little Crow Factory retains sufficient integrity of location, setting, design, workmanship, details, feeling and association to convey its significance under National Register Criterion A for Industry as a locally-significant food processing facility that served as one of the longest-operating companies in the city of

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Warsaw. The overall form and detailing of all the historic structures constructed between 1924 and 1968 remain intact. The removal of the c. 1977 metal clad addition on the south elevation of the south bock, and the non-historic rooftop enclosures on the north block do not impact the historic integrity of the structure. The building retains its original fenestration pattern; and replacement windows match the size, appearance and pattern of the original windows. Pedestrian entrances have been retained. The interiors of the north and south blocks retain their exposed structure and materials. The interiors of the office additions retain the historic stair, although finishes are primarily non-historic.

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8. Statement of Significance

Applicable National Register Criteria

(Mark "x" in one or more boxes for the criteria qualifying the property for National Register listing.)

- A. Property is associated with events that have made a significant contribution to the broad patterns of our history.

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- B. Property is associated with the lives of persons significant in our past.
- C. Property embodies the distinctive characteristics of a type, period, or method of construction or represents the work of a master, or possesses high artistic values, or represents a significant and distinguishable entity whose components lack individual distinction.
- D. Property has yielded, or is likely to yield, information important in prehistory or history.

Criteria Considerations

(Mark "x" in all the boxes that apply.)

- A. Owned by a religious institution or used for religious purposes
- B. Removed from its original location
- C. A birthplace or grave
- D. A cemetery
- E. A reconstructed building, object, or structure
- F. A commemorative property
 - G. Less than 50 years old or achieving significance within the past 50 years

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Little Crow Milling Company Factory Name of Property Kosciusko County, Indiana County and State

Areas of Significance

(Enter categories from instructions.) Industry

Period of Significance

_1924-1968_____

Significant Dates

Significant Person (last name, first name) (Complete only if Criterion B is marked above.)

Cultural Affiliation

Architect/Builder (last name, first name) Hodges, Merle

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Period of Significance (justification)

The period of significance for the Little Crow Milling Company Factory begins in 1924, the date when construction was completed on the original building, and ends in 1968, corresponding to the fifty-year mark for significance. It should be noted that the company remained a significant local industry beyond the fifty-year cut off point. The Little Crow Milling Company continued to expand its line of specialty food products through the 1970s and the late 1980s, with Instant Coco Wheats being the last new product introduced. The last physical expansion of the Little Crow Milling Company Factory, the large metal-clad rear addition to the south block, was constructed c.1977 specifically to serve as additional storage and packaging space for the company's two new products, Little Crow Popcorn Oil and Hip-O-Lite Marshmallow Crème. Although no building permits or company records have been identified that show exactly when this addition was completed, a newspaper clipping from 1978 references the "recent" additions to the company's product lines and the related physical expansion, though the metal-clad addition was removed as part of a recent (2016-2017) certified rehabilitation.

Criteria Considerations (explanation, if necessary)

N/A

Statement of Significance Summary Paragraph (Provide a summary paragraph that includes level of significance, applicable criteria, justification for the period of significance, and any applicable criteria considerations.)

The Little Crow Milling Company Factory, located at 201 South Detroit Street in Warsaw, Indiana, is locally significant under National Register Criterion A for Industry as the headquarters and sole processing facility for the Little Crow Milling Company, a nationally-known manufacturer of specialty flours, baking mixes, and cereals that served as one of the most successful and long-lived industrial operations in Warsaw during the 20th century. The Little Crow Milling Company was founded in 1903 by local businessman Wilbur F. Maish. During its early years the company operated a typical small milling business, serving local farmers who brought their grain in small batches to be sold or ground for feed or flour. By the late 1910s, the family had developed several special baking mixes that expanded its reach into regional markets. When the company's wooden mill building burned to the ground in 1919, Little Crow emerged from the ashes with a new factory building and a new direction for the business.

Between 1908 and 1985, Little Crow developed custom mixes for pancakes, combread, breading, and flavored hot cereals that were at the forefront of the trend towards shelf-stable, convenient food products. The company's most iconic products, Coco-Wheats hot cereal and Miracle Maize commeal mix, were developed during the 1920s and 1930s in the Little Crow Factory and continue to be sold at retail stores across the country. The Little Crow Factory, designed by Wilbur F.

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Maish and constructed by prominent local contractor Merle "Brick" Hodges, served as the headquarters and sole processing facility for the company from the time of its construction in 1924 until 2012 and was expanded by the family as production increased. The building exemplifies the importance of the family-owned and operated Little Crow Milling Company to the history and development of Warsaw.

The period of significance for the Little Crow Factory begins in 1924, the date when construction was completed on the original building, and ends in 1968, the date of construction for the last substantial addition to the factory that reflected the company's expanding product lines. The Little Crow Milling Company (known in later years as Little Crow Foods) operated in the building from 1924 until 2012, when the company was sold to Minneapolis-based MOM Brands.²

Narrative Statement of Significance (Provide at least **one** paragraph for each area of significance.)

The Early History of Warsaw and Early Industrial Development in the City

The Little Crow Milling Company Building is located in Warsaw, a city of approximately 13,500 as of the 2010 United States Census. Located 50 miles southeast of South Bend in northern Indiana, Warsaw is set amid a cluster of four lakes—Winona Lake, Pike Lake, Hidden Lake, and Center Lake. Warsaw is the county seat of Kosciusko County, and was named after the capital of Poland, which was home to the county's namesake Tadeusz Kosciuszko. The first European settlers arrived in the area in 1834, and the town was first platted by Christopher Lightfoot in 1836, the same year that Kosciusko County was formally organized. ³ One year later, Warsaw was named the county seat, and a temporary courthouse was constructed at the town's center.

In its early decades, Warsaw grew as a commercial, industrial, and government center for Kosciusko County. By the time it was incorporated in 1854, the town contained over 1,000 residents. That same year saw the arrival of the Pittsburgh, Fort Wayne, and Chicago Railroad, which was the first rail line built in the county. The line (which later became the Pennsylvania Railroad) was laid along Jefferson Street, south of the courthouse square. The Cincinnati, Wabash, and Michigan Railroad, the first rail line to run north-south through the county, came through the city in the 1870s.⁴

² "Little Crow Food Sells Assets to MOM Brands and Glister-Mary Lee Corporation." <u>http://mombrands.com/2012/03/little-crow-foods-sells-assets-to-mom-brands-and-gilster-mary-lee-corporation/</u>, accessed 9-11-2015.

³ National Register of Historic Places, Warsaw Courthouse Square Historic District (name change and boundary increase), Warsaw, Kosciusko County, Indiana, National Register #19930921; *Kosciusko County Interim Report*, Indiana Historic Sites and Structures Inventory, published 1991, .xiii.

⁴ Kosciusko County Interim Report, xiii-xiv, 55.

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The arrival of the railroad galvanized commercial and industrial development in Warsaw in the late 19th century. Lumber mills, flour mills, farm implement and wagon shops, and other small industries proliferated just south and east of the courthouse square, close to the city's two rail lines. Several companies also continued operation in older structures built around the courthouse square during the city's first years of development. Among those early buildings was a frame flour mill located at the southwest corner of Lake and Main Streets, just opposite the courthouse. Although its original owner is unknown, the building was reported to have been erected in the mid-1850s. By the late 1870s, the mill was owned by J. D. Thayer, a wealthy businessman and politician who served as state senator for Kosciusko and Wabash counties in the late 19th century. Thayer owned many mills and grain elevators throughout northern Indiana.⁵ This mill would later become the first home of the Little Crow Milling Company.

By the early 20th century, Warsaw was a small but thriving city of approximately 4,000 people. According to the 1910-1911 Warsaw City Directory, the city's industrial sector was modest, consisting primarily of small shops that supported the region's agricultural economy or the building industry. There were three farming implement dealers, seven blacksmith shops, two foundries, three machine shops, two lumber mills, an overall manufacturer and a broom factory. One notable exception was the DePuy Manufacturing Company, the world's first commercial manufacturer of orthopedic appliances, which was founded in 1895 by chemist Revra DePuy. DePuy and rival company Zimmer Manufacturing, founded by former DePuy employee Justin O. Zimmer in 1927, would make Warsaw a center for the production of artificial limbs and orthopedic appliances during the 20th century.⁶

In 1911, there were five grain dealers operating in Warsaw: Kinsey Brothers, Ripple & Son, Smith Milling & Grain Company, the Warsaw Elevator Company, and Little Crow Milling Company. Little Crow, founded in 1903, was one of the last milling companies to open in Warsaw. However, of these companies, only Little Crow made the transition from traditional flour milling to food product manufacturing to remain a thriving business in the city of Warsaw through the end of the 20th century.⁷

Developmental History/Additional historic context information

⁵ George A. Nye, "Warsaw in 1879," *Warsaw Daily Times & the Northern Indianian*, June 24, 1933; *Portrait and Biographical Record of Madison and Hamilton Counties, Indiana* (Chicago: Biographical Publishing Co., 1893), 290

⁶ Warsaw City Directory and Kosciusko County Gazetter for the Years 1910-1911 (Anderson, Indiana: The Union Directory Company, 1911); Michelle J. Bormet, A History of the City of Warsaw: Preserving the Past for the Future, (Bourbon, IN: Kosciusko County Historical Society 2001), 79.

⁷ Warsaw City Directory, 1910-11, p. 120.

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The History and Development of the Little Crow Milling Company Factory

The Little Crow Milling Company was organized on May 4, 1903 by Wilbur F. Maish with Edgar E. Lehman and James R. Frazer as initial partners.⁸ Wilbur F. Maish, born in Warsaw in 1861, was the son of furniture maker Jacob Maish and his wife, Susan. Wilbur married Louise Boss in 1885 and the couple settled in Warsaw to raise their family. In December 1896, Maish formed the Maish Manufacturing Company, a foundry and machine shop specializing in the production of mill machinery. By 1910, the company employed 15 workers.⁹

With Maish at the helm, the Little Crow Milling Company purchased the four-story frame flour mill west of the Courthouse formerly owned by J. D. Thayer and began operations immediately. For the first decade of its existence, Little Crow operated as a typical small milling company. Local farmers brought small batches of grain to be sold or ground into feed or flour for their own personal use. Wheat, corn, oats and rye that the company purchased from farmers was shipped whole to larger terminals to be ground for commercial use, but Little Crow did mill, package, and sell all-purpose wheat flour to local retailers under the Little Crow and Red Raven brands.¹⁰

Maish quickly realized the limitations of the local milling business model, which was highly competitive, and began to look for ways to diversify the company's products to reach a larger market. In 1908, the company developed a line of prepared pancake flour and buckwheat flour. Little Crow pancake flour combined wheat and corn flour with leavening, seasoning, and powdered milk. Housewives needed only to add water and eggs to make pancakes. Little Crow did not invent the concept of the pancake mix—the Pearl Mixing Company in St. Joseph, Missouri began producing ready-made pancake mix under the trade name "Aunt Jemima" in 1899.¹¹ However, Little Crow's addition of powdered milk to their pancake mix meant that users did not need to have milk on hand to use the product. To help incentivize retailers, Little Crow packed three dozen bags of its pancake flour in covered clothes baskets. The baskets provided extra protection for the bags during shipment, and the retailers could sell the baskets for an extra profit. Using this model, Little Crow successfully marketed its products to wholesale grocers as far south as Indianapolis.¹²

The Little Crow Milling Company continued to grow slowly but steadily through the 1910s, expanding the distribution of its prepared flour brands. For long haul freights, the company

⁸ Souvenir Centennial Edition of the *Warsaw Indiana Times-Union* dated July 3, 1954 (unlabeled clippings in vertical files, Kosciusko County Historical Society).

⁹ Indiana. Annual report of the Department of Inspection of manufacturing and mercantile establishments, laundries, bakeries, quarries, printing offices and public buildings. Indianapolis: Wm. B. Burford, 1910), 260.

¹⁰ Souvenir Centennial Edition of the *Warsaw Indiana Times-Union* dated July 3, 1954 (unlabeled clippings in vertical files, Kosciusko County Historical Society).

¹¹ "Our History," Aunt Jemima Company website, <u>http://www.auntjemima.com/aj_history/</u>, accessed September 14, 2015.

¹² Souvenir Centennial Edition of the *Warsaw Indiana Times-Union* dated July 3, 1954 (unlabeled clippings in vertical files, Kosciusko County Historical Society). "Family Owned Little Crow A Rarity in Food Industry." Warsaw Times-Union January 13, 1987 (clipping in vertical files, Kosciusko County Historical Society).

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switched from bags to printed cartons. A 1911 advertisement in L. B. Hillis' *History of Kosciusko County* listed six brands of prepared baking flours, including graham flour, buckwheat flour, prepared pancake flour, and corn meal, as well as mill feed, chop feed, chicken feed, oil meal, and cotton seed meal for livestock.¹³ The company also received a favorable mention in L. W. Royse's *A Standard History of Kosciuscko County, Indiana*, published in 1919, which cited Little Crow as a "leading local industry" in Warsaw.¹⁴

On June 27, 1919, the wooden mill building that housed the Little Crow Milling Company caught fire and burned to the ground. Fortunately, the company's mixing and packing machinery for its signature pancake flour were housed in a brick storage building on the end of the lot that was largely spared from the blaze. The company operated from this location for several years before profits were sufficient to allow for the construction of a new factory.¹⁵

By the time Little Crow was ready to build, the company's new direction was set. When Wilbur Maish drew up the plans for the new factory, he did not include any milling or graining facilities, which the company had been operating successfully without for three years. Instead of processing raw materials from local farmers, the new building was designed to focus on storing, blending, and packaging prepared baking and flour blends. On March 30, 1923, Little Crow purchased the property at the southeast corner of South Detroit Street and West Market Street from Henry Kinsey, who operated a grain elevator on the site. The existing building was demolished to make way for the new Little Crow factory.¹⁶ The new plant was constructed by local contractor Merle "Brick" Hodges, who built many prominent buildings in Warsaw between 1913 and 1936, including the Dalton foundry buildings, the Hugro Plant on North Detroit Street, the Braude-Piece Furniture Factory, the Center Ward School, and the old Winona Power Plant. The plant was completed and ready for operation by September 1924.¹⁷

Little Crow's new modern factory was equipped with fully automatic weighing, blending, and packing machinery that could produce 60 packages a minute. With the increased production capacity, the company began distributing its products across the country to New England, Texas, Oklahoma, Kansas, and Nebraska. In 1927, a three-story masonry addition was constructed at the

¹³ L. B. Hillis, *Kosciusko County, Indiana, early history, biographical sketches, 1911* (Ft. Wayne, Indiana: Allen County Public Library, 1986), 20.

¹⁴ L. W. Royse, A Standard History of Kosciusko County, Indiana: an authentic narrative of the past, with particular attention to the modern era in the commercial, industrial, educational, civic and social development. A chronicle of the people with family lineage and memoirs (Chicago: Lewis Pub. Co., 1919), 297.

¹⁵ Souvenir Centennial Edition of the *Warsaw Indiana Times-Union* dated July 3, 1954 (unlabeled clippings in vertical files, Kosciusko County Historical Society).

¹⁶ "Old Warsaw Landmark Was Formerly Warsaw M. E. Church," *Warsaw Daily Times and The Northern Indianan*, January 5, 1924 (clipping in vertical file, Kosciusko County Historical Society). "History of Acquisition of LCF Property," undated document from building owner.

¹⁷ Souvenir Centennial Edition of the *Warsaw Indiana Times-Union* dated July 3, 1954 (unlabeled clippings in vertical files, Kosciusko County Historical Society). Bormet, 79.

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south end of the factory with additional storage and packing facilities to meet demand.¹⁸ Based on the design and exterior detailing, it is likely that Maish drew up the plans for this addition and that Hodges Construction served as the builder.

Despite the onset of the Great Depression, Little Crow continued to increase sales and expand its line of products. In response to the economic downturn, the company introduced a lower price pancake mix under the brand name Owl Pancake Flour in 1931. Production of this line continued until 1942. The 1930s also saw the introduction of Little Crow's most successful and well-known brands—Coco-Wheats and Miracle Maize. Sales of pancake flour, the company's most popular product, began to dwindle rapidly as competition in the market grew. In 1930, Wilbur Maish's son, Clarence, developed a chocolate flavored hot cereal that he named Little Crow Cocoa Coated Whole Wheat Cereal. In 1932, Little Crow introduced the new cereal under the trade name Coco-Wheats. Although the product initially failed to sell, an aggressive radio marketing campaign made Coco-Wheats the company's best-selling product.¹⁹

Wilbur Maish Sr. died on February 12, 1938 of a heart attack. His son, Clarence Maish, took over the business. The following year, the company reintroduced its Johnny Cake Flour blend under a new name, Miracle Maize. Under Clarence's leadership and under the leadership of his sons, Robert Maish and Bruce Maish, Little Crow solidified its reputation as a nation-wide food processing company during the 1950s and 1960s.²⁰ By 1967, the company employed thirty-five people and packaged over "five million pounds of wheat farina, four million pounds of wheat flour, and half a million pounds of corn meal, much of it purchased locally" in the form of Little Crow products. Miracle Maize corn muffin mix, Gold Mix pancake flour, Coco-Wheats, and Frying Magic, a breading mix, were sold by over 250,000 retailers across the country.²¹

The company's success in the post-war period spurred subsequent building campaigns on the Little Crow factory site. Two office buildings were constructed on the west side of the plant that are estimated to date from the late 1950s and the late 1960s. The one-story office building near the center of the factory's north block appears in a 1964 Sanborn map, and based on similar buildings constructed in Warsaw at the time, could date from the mid-1950s or early 1960s. The slightly larger one-story building at the northwest corner of the lot appears in a 1978 photograph of the complex, but based on its architecture appears to date from the mid-to-late 1960s or early 1970s.

¹⁹ Souvenir Centennial Edition of the *Warsaw Indiana Times-Union* dated July 3, 1954 (unlabeled clippings in vertical files, Kosciusko County Historical Society). "Family Owned Little Crow A Rarity in Food Industry." Warsaw Times-Union January 13, 1987 (clipping in vertical files, Kosciusko County Historical Society).

¹⁸ Souvenir Centennial Edition of the *Warsaw Indiana Times-Union* dated July 3, 1954 (unlabeled clippings in vertical files, Kosciusko County Historical Society). "History of Acquisition of LCF Property."

²⁰ "Industrialist Clarence Maish Dies in Florida." *Warsasw Times-Union*, 1954 (undated clipping in vertical files, Kosciusko County Historical Society).

²¹ Indiana Business and Industry, March 1967, p 32 (untitled clipping from vertical files, Kosciusko County Historical Society).

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In the mid-1970s, Little Crow expanded its product lines again to include Little Crow Popcorn Oil and Hip-O-Lite Marshmallow Creme. In addition, the company also contracted with several fast food chains to produce "customized formulating and packaging of coating mixes and pancake mixes." At this time, Little Crow expanded its floor space again by constructing a rear addition to the south block of the factory. The addition added 12,000 feet of storage and packaging space for the new lines.²²

Later History

In 1984, day-to-day operations of the Little Crow Milling Company passed to the fourth generation of the Maish family, Robert Maish's daughter, Kim Fuller and her husband, Denny. Although the Fullers introduced FastShake Pancake Mixes (pancake mix packed in its own mixing and measuring container) and Instant Coco Wheats in the late 1980s, these two products were slight variations on two of the company's existing products. No new product was developed by the company after the late 1980s.²³ The large equipment enclosures on the roof of the factory's one-story north block and four-story center block, constructed in the mid-1908s and the early 2000s during the Fuller's ownership, were removed as part of the 2016-2017 rehabilitation. The c. 1977 metal clad addition on the south elevation of the south bock was also removed during the 2016-2017 rehabilitation.

The company remained in operation at its Warsaw factory until 2012, when Little Crow sold all of its assets except the factory building to Minneapolis-based MOM Brands and the Gilster-Mary Lee Corporation. The factory property was donated to the Kosciusko County Community Foundation in December 2012, which put the property up for sale in 2013.²⁴ The property was purchased by the Commonwealth Development Corporation in the mid-2010s and rehabilitated as affordable senior housing.

Comparable Properties

The Little Crow Milling Company is one of the most intact manufacturing complexes to survive in Warsaw from the early- to mid-20th century. All of the grain mills that were competitors of Little Crow in the early 20th century have been demolished, and very few other food processing facilities were established in Warsaw. The only major food processing plant that operated at the same time in Warsaw was the Litchfield Creamery Company. However, the company was not a locally-owned business but a branch of a larger firm based in Litchfield, Illinois. In 1936, Litchfield established a Warsaw branch that produced "Milnot," a canned milk product. In 1946,

²² "25,000 Groceries: Little Crow Foods Supplying 30 Stores, *Warsaw Times-Union*, September 11, 1978 (clipping in vertical file, Kosciusko County Historical Society)

²³ "Family Owned Little Crow A Rarity in Food Industry." Warsaw Times-Union January 13, 1987 (clipping in vertical files, Kosciusko County Historical Society).

²⁴ "Little Crow Food Sells Assets to MOM Brands and Glister-Mary Lee Corporation."

http://mombrands.com/2012/03/little-crow-foods-sells-assets-to-mom-brands-and-gilster-mary-lee-corporation/, accessed 9-11-2015.

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the company constructed a new million dollar plant on the southwest corner of Durbin Street and Argonne Road, which it occupied as the Milnot Company until the plant (which is still extant) closed in 1977.

Conclusion

The Little Crow Milling Company Factory is locally significant under National Register Criteria A as the headquarters and sole production facility of the Little Crow Milling Company, a nationally-known manufacturer of specialty flours, baking mixes, and cereals that served as one of the most successful and long-lived industrial operations in Warsaw during the 20th century. The original 1924 factory and significant additions constructed between 1927 and 1968 all reflect the growth and development of the company's product lines under the leadership of Wilber Maish Sr. and Clarence Maish. The building is one of the most significant early-20th century of industrial plants remaining in Warsaw and exemplifies Little Crow's importance to the history and development of the city.

9. Major Bibliographical References

Bibliography (Cite the books, articles, and other sources used in preparing this form.)

- "25,000 Groceries: Little Crow Foods Supplying 30 Stores." *Warsaw Times-Union*, September 11, 1978 (clipping in vertical file, Kosciusko County Historical Society).
- Bormet, Michelle J. A History of the City of Warsaw: Preserving the Past for the Future. Bourbon, IN: Kosciusko County Historical Society 2001.
- "Family Owned Little Crow A Rarity in Food Industry." Warsaw Times-Union January 13, 1987 (clipping in vertical files, Kosciusko County Historical Society).
- Hillis, L. B., *Kosciusko County, Indiana, early history, biographical sketches, 1911.* Ft. Wayne, Indiana: Allen County Public Library, 1986.

"History of Acquisition of LCF Property." Undated document from building owner.

Indiana. Annual report of the Department of Inspection of manufacturing and mercantile establishments, laundries, bakeries, quarries, printing offices and public buildings. Indianapolis: Wm. B. Burford, 1910.

- *Indiana Business and Industry*, March 1967, p 32 (untitled clipping from vertical files, Kosciusko County Historical Society).
- "Industrialist Clarence Maish Dies in Florida." *Warsaw Times-Union*, 1954 (undated clipping in vertical files, Kosciusko County Historical Society).
- Kosciusko County Interim Report. Indiana Historic Sites and Structures Inventory, published 1991, .xiii.
- Letter to Angela Shearer (National Park Service) from Dennis M. Fuller (previous owner) dated July 19, 2016.
- "Little Crow Food Sells Assets to MOM Brands and Glister-Mary Lee Corporation." <u>http://mombrands.com/2012/03/little-crow-foods-sells-assets-to-mom-brands-and-gilster-mary-lee-corporation/</u>, accessed 9-11-2015.
- National Register of Historic Places, Warsaw Courthouse Square Historic District (name change and boundary increase. Warsaw, Kosciusko County, Indiana. National Register #19930921.
- Nye, George A. "Warsaw in 1879," Warsaw Daily Times & the Northern Indianian, June 24, 1933.

Kosciusko County, Indiana County and State

- "Old Warsaw Landmark Was Formerly Warsaw M. E. Church." *Warsaw Daily Times and The Northern Indianan*, January 5, 1924 (clipping in vertical file, Kosciusko County Historical Society).
- "Our History." Aunt Jemima Company website, <u>http://www.auntjemima.com/aj_history/</u>. Accessed September 14, 2015.
- Permit plans for 3 Storage Tanks, Foundation, and Enclosure at Little Crow Foods, dated July 26, 2001.
- Portrait and Biographical Record of Madison and Hamilton Counties, Indiana. Chicago: Biographical Publishing Co., 1893.
- Royse, L. W. A Standard History of Kosciusko County, Indiana: an authentic narrative of the past, with particular attention to the modern era in the commercial, industrial, educational, civic and social development. A chronicle of the people with family lineage and memoirs. Chicago: Lewis Pub. Co., 1919.
- Souvenir Centennial Edition of the *Warsaw Indiana Times-Union* dated July 3, 1954 (unlabeled clippings in vertical files, Kosciusko County Historical Society).
- Warsaw City Directory and Kosciusko County Gazette for the Years 1910-1911. Anderson, Indiana: The Union Directory Company, 1911.

Kosciusko County, Indiana County and State

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 # _____
- _____ recorded by Historic American Landscape Survey #_____

Primary location of additional data:

- _____ State Historic Preservation Office
- ____ Other State agency
- _____ Federal agency
- ____ Local government
- _____ University
- Other
 - Name of repository: _____

Historic Resources Survey Number (if assigned): ______

10. Geographical Data

Acreage of Property __Less than one___

Use the UTM system

UTM References

Datum (indicated on USGS map):

or

NAD 1927

× NAD 1983

1. Zone: 16

Easting: 596163

Northing: 4565683

United States Department of the Interior National Park Service / National Register of Historic Places Registration Form NPS Form 10-900 OMB No. 1024-0018

Little Crow Milling Comp Name of Property	any Factory	
2. Zone:	Easting:	Northing:
3. Zone:	Easting:	Northing:
4. Zone:	Easting:	Northing:

Verbal Boundary Description (Describe the boundaries of the property.)

The property of the Little Crow Milling Company Factory is bounded by the south curb line of Market Street on the north, the east curb line of Detroit Street on the west, the north edge of Jefferson Street and the former Pittsburgh, Fort Wayne, and Chicago Railroad (currently Conrail) rail line on the south, and a spur of the west row of the CCC & St. Louis Railway along the east.

Kosciusko County, Indiana

County and State

Boundary Justification (Explain why the boundaries were selected.)

The boundaries encompass the entire parcel of land associated with the Little Crow milling Company Factory in Warsaw, Kosciusko County, Indiana.

11. Form Prepared By

name/title: <u>Emily Ramsey / Consulting Sr. Affiliate</u> organization: <u>MacRostie Historic Advisers, LLC</u> street & number: <u>53 W. Jackson Blvd., Suite 1142</u> city or town: <u>Chicago</u> state: <u>Illinois</u> zip code: <u>60604</u> e-mail__ <u>emily@ramseyhcinc.com</u> telephone: <u>312-786-1700</u> date: <u>February 23, 2018</u>

Additional Documentation

Submit the following items with the completed form:

- **Maps:** A **USGS map** or equivalent (7.5 or 15 minute series) indicating the property's location.
- **Sketch map** for historic districts and properties having large acreage or numerous resources. Key all photographs to this map.
- Additional items: (Check with the SHPO, TPO, or FPO for any additional items.)

Photographs

Submit clear and descriptive photographs. The size of each image must be 3000x2000 at 300 ppi (pixels per inch) or larger. Key all photographs to the sketch map. Each photograph must be numbered and that number must correspond to the photograph number on the photo log. For simplicity, the name of the photographer, photo date, etc. may be listed once on the photograph log and doesn't need to be labeled on every photograph.

Photo Log

Name of Property:	Little Crow Milling Company Factory
City or Vicinity:	Warsaw, Indiana
County:	Kosciusko County
State:	Indiana
Photographer:	Mary Nastasi, MacRostie Historic Advisers, LLC
Date Photographed:	February 13, 2018
Location of original file:	MacRostie Historic Advisers, LLC, 53 W. Jackson
	Blvd., Suite 1142, Chicago, IL 60604

Description of Photograph(s) and number, include description of view indicating direction of camera:

1 of 13 North (left) and west (right) elevations, taken facing southeast IN_KosciuskoCounty_LittleCrowMillingCompanyFactory_0001

> 2 of 13 West elevation, taken facing northeast IN_KosciuskoCounty_LittleCrowMillingCompanyFactory_0002

3 of 13

West (left) and south (right) elevations, taken facing northeast IN_KosciuskoCounty_LittleCrowMillingCompanyFactory_0003

4 of 13

South (left) and east (right) elevations, taken facing northwest IN_KosciuskoCounty_LittleCrowMillingCompanyFactory_0004

5 of 13

East elevation, taken facing northwest IN_KosciuskoCounty_LittleCrowMillingCompanyFactory_0005

6 of 13

East (left) and north (right) elevations, taken facing southwest IN_KosciuskoCounty_LittleCrowFactory_0006

7 of 13

First floor interior, taken facing north IN_KosciuskoCounty_LittleCrowMillingCompanyFactory_0007

8 of 13

First floor interior, historic stair detail (right), taken facing west IN_KosciuskoCounty_LittleCrowMillingCompanyFactory_0008

9 of 13

First floor interior, taken facing south IN_KosciuskoCounty_LittleCrowMillingCompanyFactory_0009

10 of 13 First floor interior, taken facing west IN_KosciuskoCounty_LittleCrowMillingCompanyFactory_0010

11 of 13 Third floor interior, taken facing southwest IN_KosciuskoCounty_LittleCrowMillingCompanyFactory_0012

12 of 13 Third floor interior, taken facing southeast IN_KosciuskoCounty_LittleCrowMillingCompanyFactory_0013

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13 of 13 Fourth floor interior, taken facing north IN_KosciuskoCounty_LittleCrowMillingCompanyFactory_0014

List of Additional Figures:

Historic Map 1: Sanborn Insurance Map of Kosciusko County, IN, 1928 Historic Map 2: Sanborn Insurance Map of Kosciusko County, IN, 1964 Historic Image 1: The Little Crow Milling Company Factory, circa 1924 - west elevation Historic Image 2: The Little Crow Milling Company Factory, circa 1954 - west elevation Historic Image 3: The Little Crow Milling Company Factory, circa 1953 - west elevation Historic Image 4: The Little Crow Milling Company Factory, early product packaging

Little Crow Factory GIS Coordinates Site Plan, Photo key – 201 South Detroit Street First Floor Plan, Photo key – 201 South Detroit Street Second Floor Plan, Photo key – 201 South Detroit Street Third Floor Plan, Photo key – 201 South Detroit Street Fourth Floor Plan, Photo key – 201 South Detroit Street

Paperwork Reduction Act Statement: This information is being collected for applications to the National Register of Historic Places to nominate properties for listing or determine eligibility for listing, to list properties, and to amend existing listings. Response

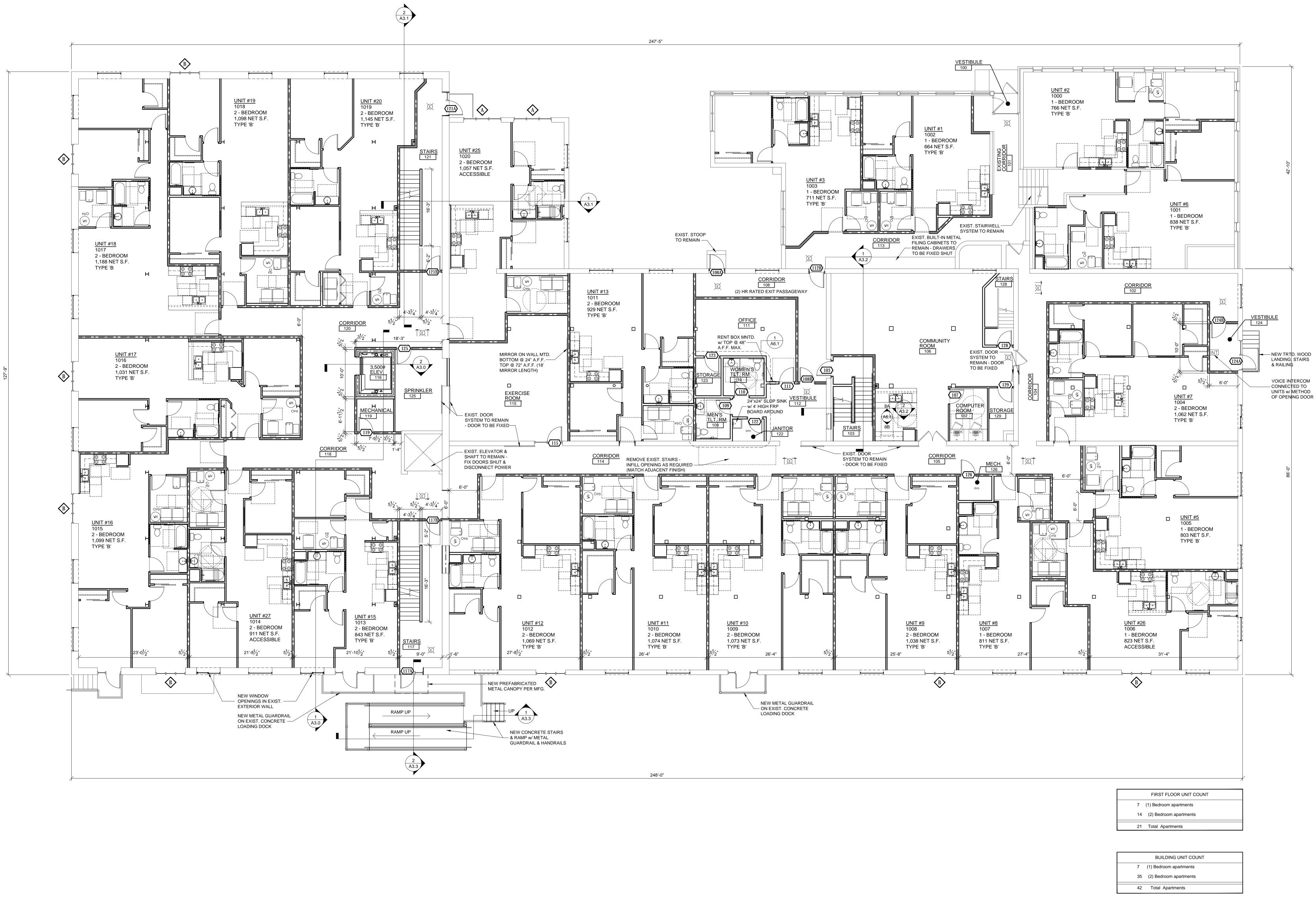
Little Crow Milling Company Factory

Name of Property

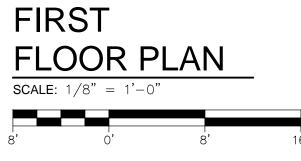
Kosciusko County, Indiana County and State

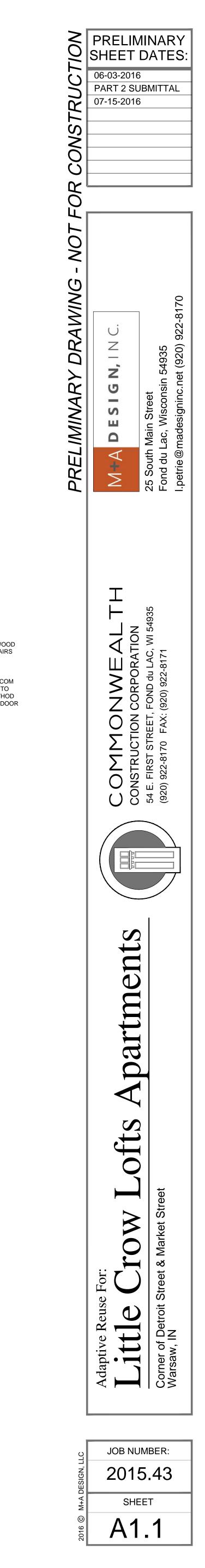
to this request is required to obtain a benefit in accordance with the National Historic Preservation Act, as amended (16 U.S.C.460 et seq.).

Estimated Burden Statement: Public reporting burden for this form is estimated to average 100 hours per response including time for reviewing instructions, gathering and maintaining data, and completing and reviewing the form. Direct comments regarding this burden estimate or any aspect of this form to the Office of Planning and Performance Management. U.S. Dept. of the Interior, 1849 C. Street, NW, Washington, DC.

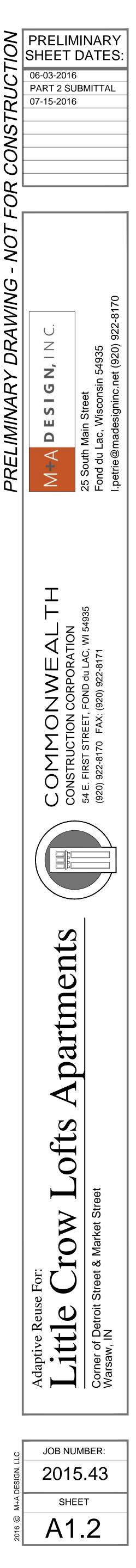


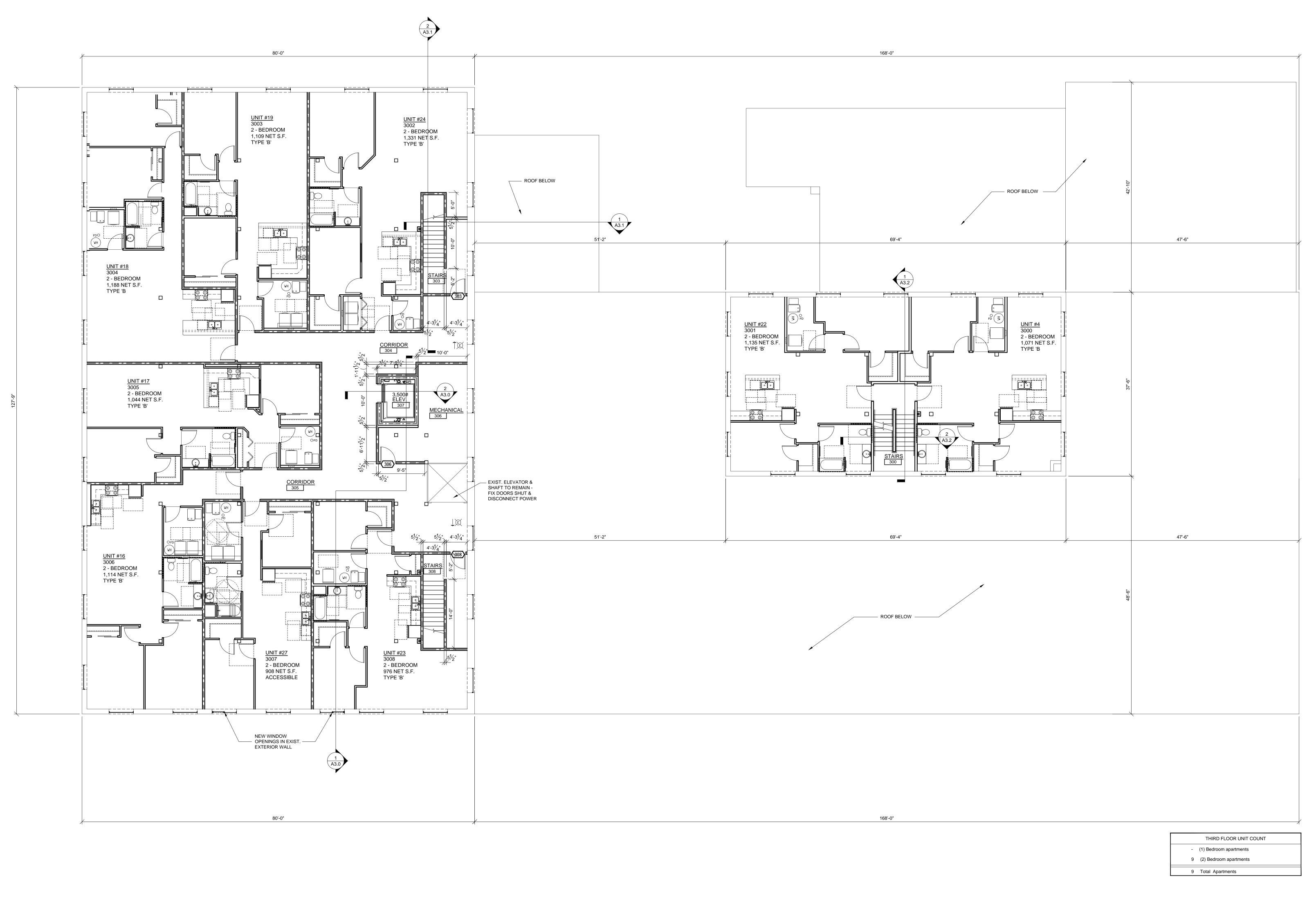




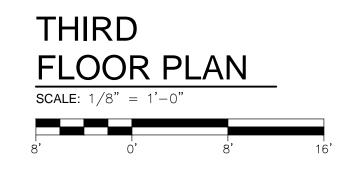




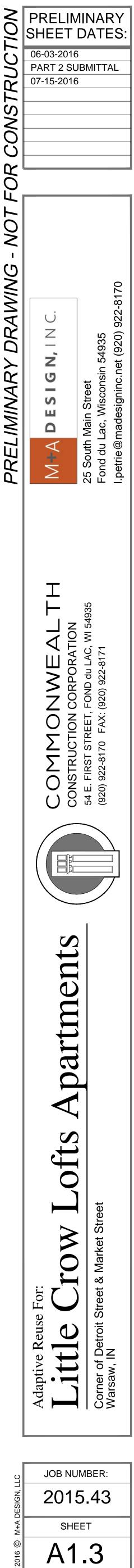




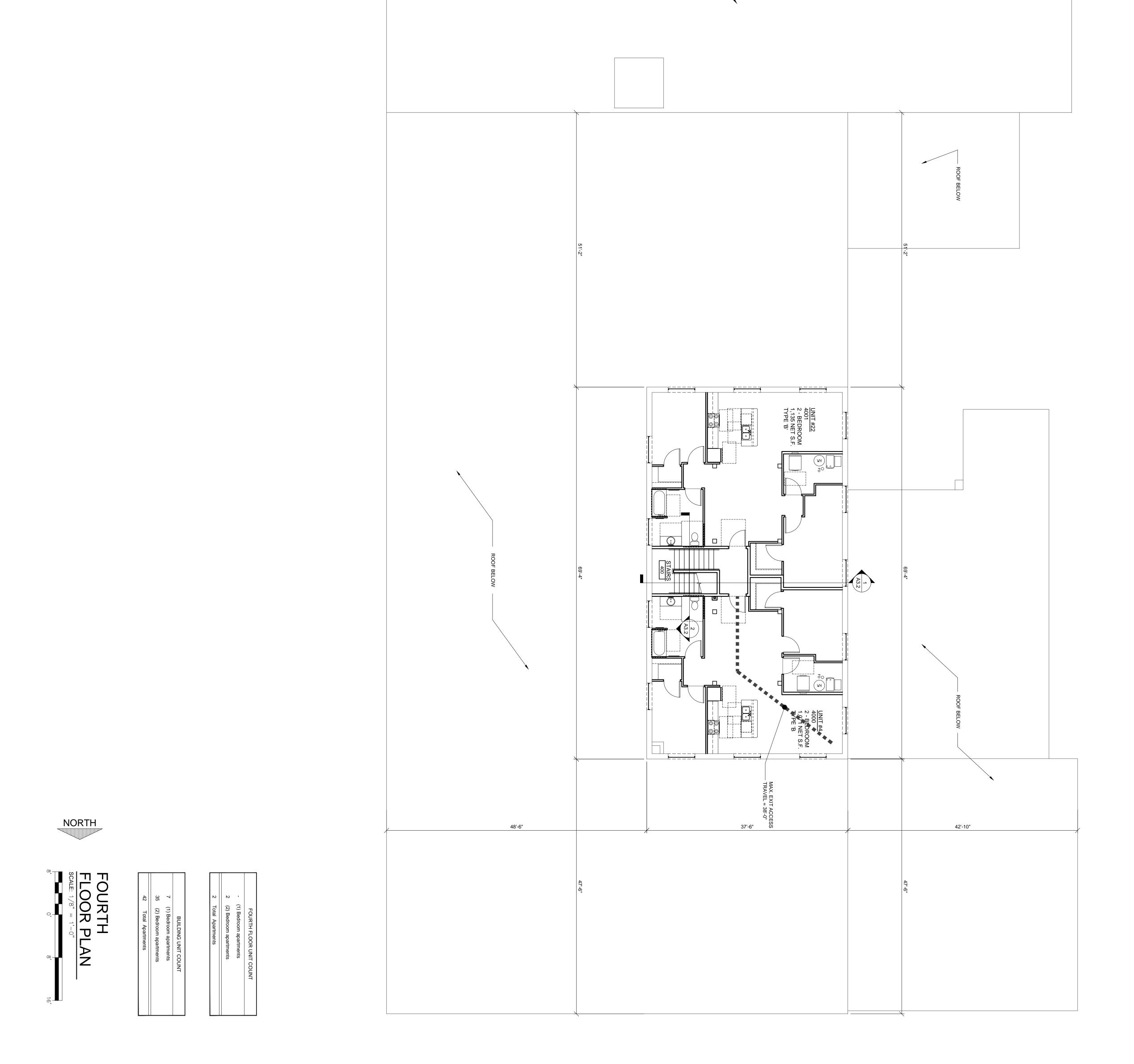
	BUILDING UNIT COUNT
7	(1) Bedroom apartments
35	(2) Bedroom apartments
42	Total Apartments



NORTH



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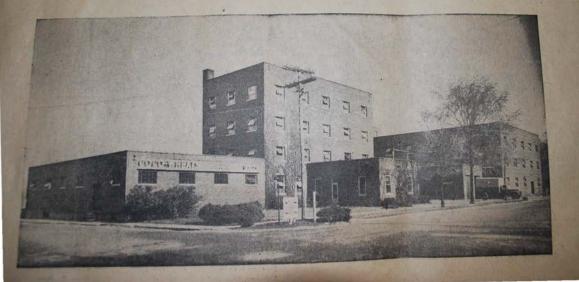


PRELIMINARY DRAWING - NOT FOR CONSTRUCTION

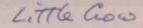


Section E

LITTLE CROW MILLING CO.,

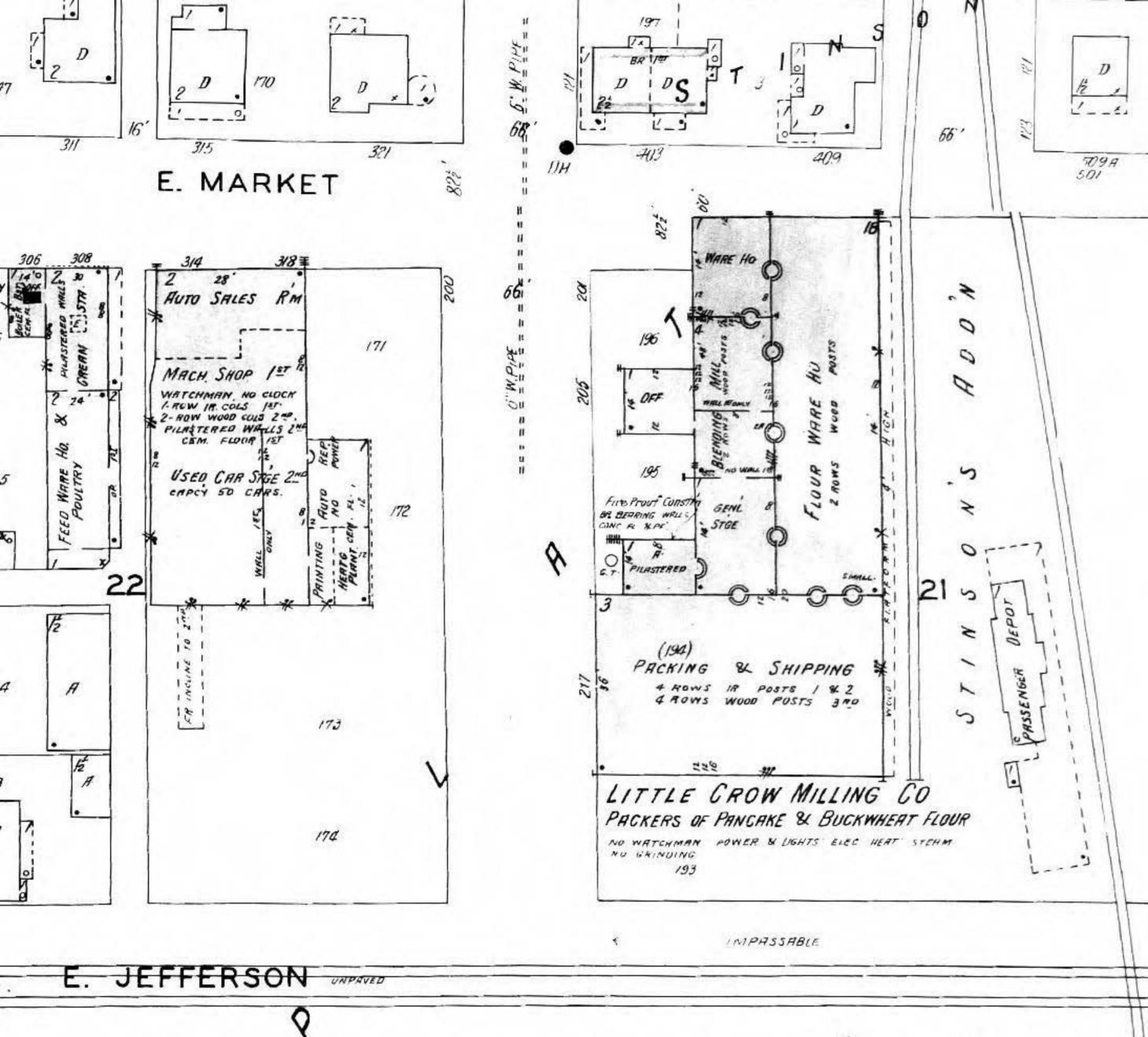


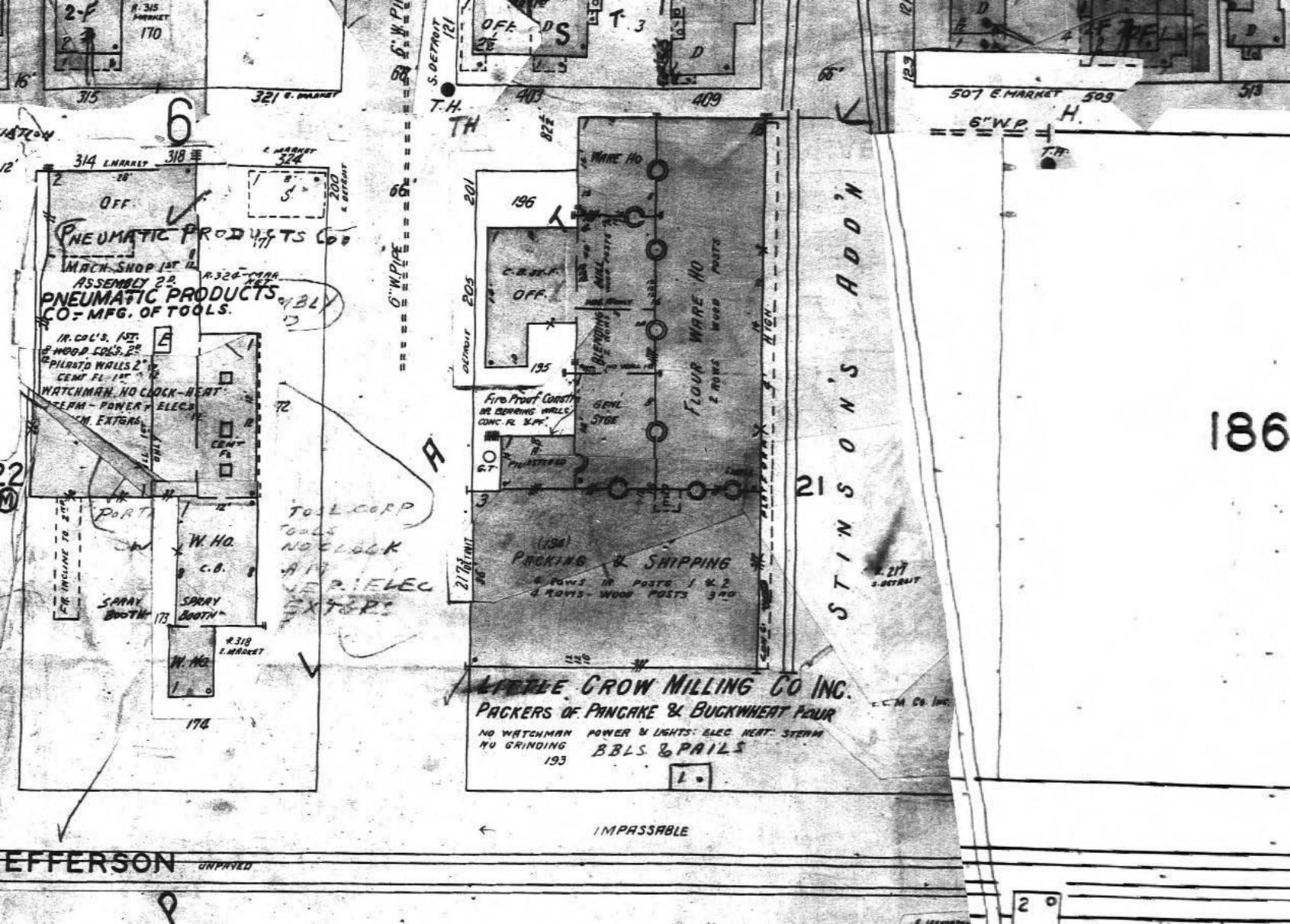








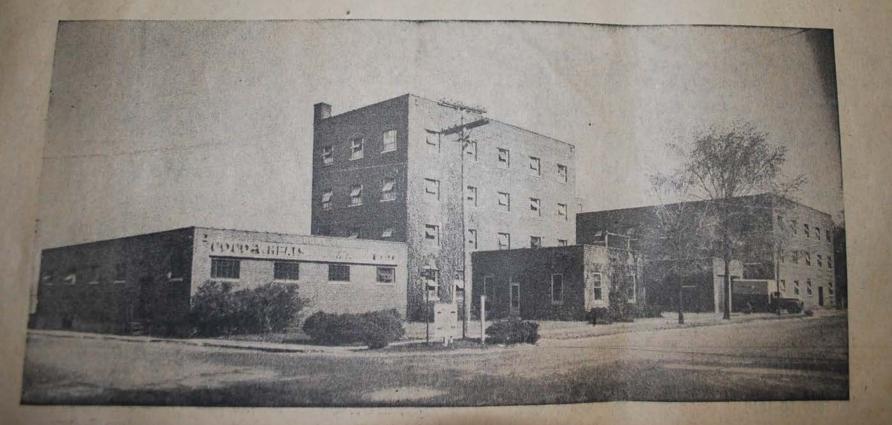




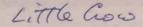


Section E

LITTLE CROW MILLING CO.,

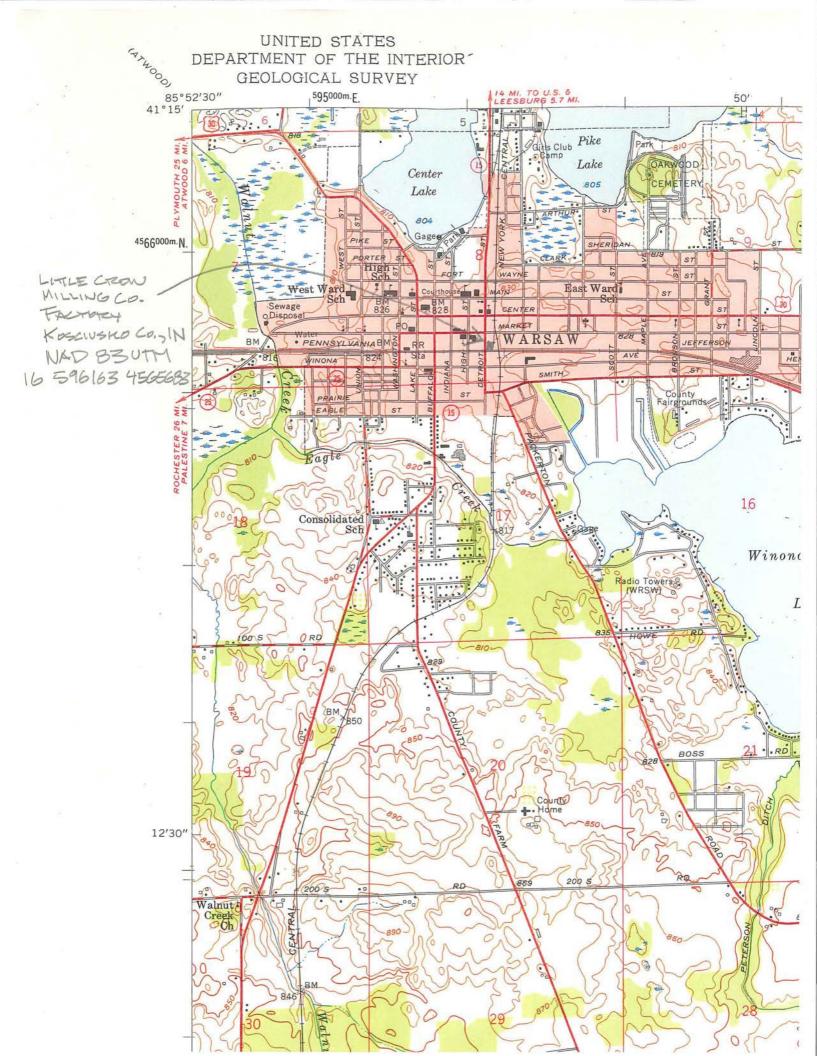












National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places Nomination Form Photos Little Crow Milling Company Factory - Warsaw, Kosciusko County, Indiana

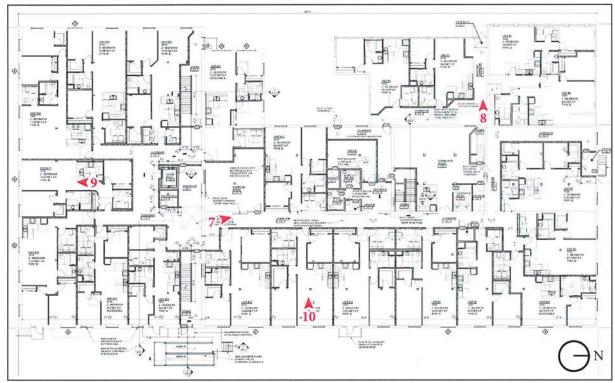


Little Crow Factory GIS Coordinates

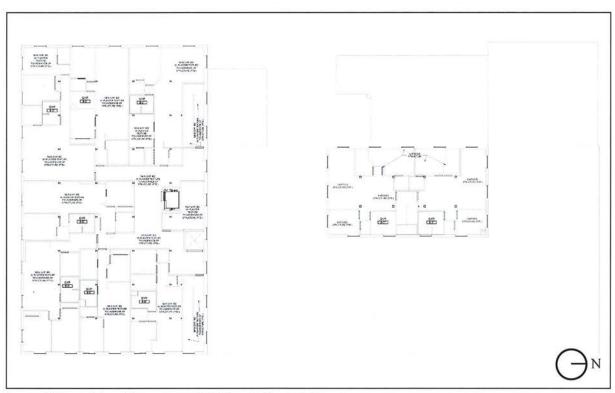


Site Plan, Photo key - 201 South Detroit Street Orange line denotes site boundary, red line denotes building boundary

National Park Service National Register of Historic Places Nomination Form Photos Little Crow Milling Company Factory - Warsaw, Kosciusko County, Indiana

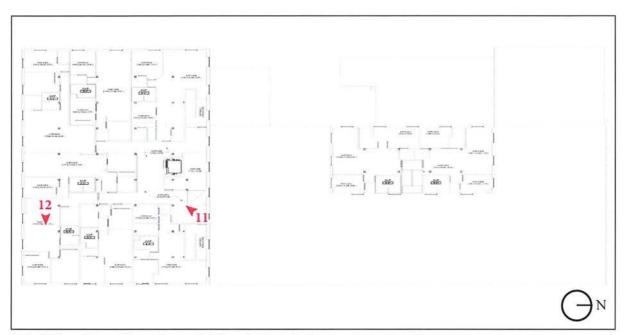


First Floor Plan, Photo key - 201 South Detroit Street

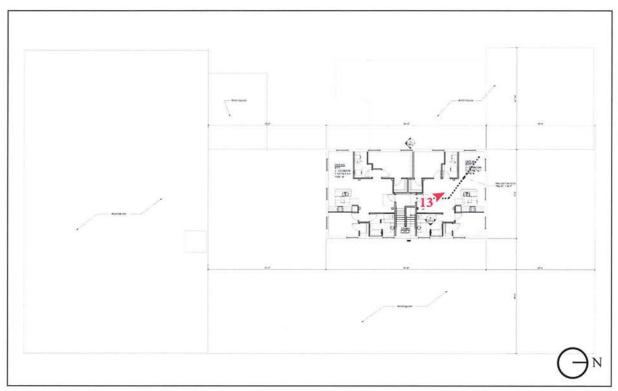


Second Floor Plan, Photo key - 201 South Detroit Street

National Park Service National Register of Historic Places Nomination Form Photos Little Crow Milling Company Factory - Warsaw, Kosciusko County, Indiana



Third Floor Plan, Photo key - 201 South Detroit Street



Fourth Floor Plan, Photo key - 201 South Detroit Street



























UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES EVALUATION/RETURN SHEET

Requested Action:	Nomina	ation			
Property Name:	Little Crow Milling Company Factory				
Multiple Name:					
State & County:	INDIANA, Kosciusko				
Date Rece 4/16/20		Date of Pending List: 5/4/2018	Date of 16th Day: [5/21/2018	Date of 45th Day: Date of Weekly List: 5/31/2018	
Reference number:	e number: SG100002488				
Nominator:	State				
Reason For Review	:				
Appea	ıl	XP	DIL	Text/Data Issue	
SHPO	Reques	stL	andscape	Photo	
Waiver			ational	Map/Boundary	
Resubmission			lobile Resource	Period	
Other		T	CP	Less than 50 years	
		C	LG		
X_Accept	-	Return	Reject5/24	/2018 Date	
Abstract/Summary Comments:	Part 1 approved				
Recommendation/ Accept / A Criteria				10. 1	
Reviewer Jim Gabbert			Discipline	Historian	
Telephone (202)354-2275			Date		
DOCUMENTATION	l: se	e attached comments : I	No see attached SL	.R : No	

If a nomination is returned to the nomination authority, the nomination is no longer under consideration by the National Park Service.



Indiana Department of Natural Resources Eric Holcomb, Governor Cameron F. Clark, Director

Division of Historic Preservation & Archaeology • 402 W. Washington Street, W274 • Indianapolis, IN 46204-2739 Phone 317-232-1646 • Fax 317-232-0693 • dhpa@dnr.IN.gov • www.IN.gov/dnr/historic

April 12, 2018

J. Paul Loether Keeper of the National Register National Register of Historic Places Mail Stop 7228 1849 C St, NW Washington, D.C. 20240





Re: Little Crow Milling Company, Kosciusko County, Indiana

Dear Mr. Loether,

Enclosed is a National Register of Historic Places nomination for the Little Crow Milling Company, Kosciusko County, Indiana. The Indiana Historic Preservation Review Board reviewed the application and voted to recommend its approval to the National Register of Historic Places.

The enclosed disc contains the true and correct copy of the nomination for the Little Crow Milling Company, Kosciusko County, Indiana to the National Register of Historic Places.

Please address any questions you or your staff may have about this nomination to my National Register staff members, Paul Diebold or Holly Tate.

Sincerely,

Comm F. Clac

Cameron F. Clark State Historic Preservation Officer

CFC:PCD:pcd

enclosure: nomination package

The DNR mission: Protect, enhance, preserve and wisely use natural, cultural and recreational resources for the benefit of Indiana's citizens through professional leadership, management and education.