NPS Form 10-900OMB
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No. 1024-0018

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NAT. REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

1-24

National Register of Historic Places [Amendment to NPS #6900012 8] Registration Form

This form is for use in nominating or requesting determinations for individual properties and districts. See instructions in *How to Complete the National Register of Historic Places Registration Form* (National Register Bulletin 16A). Complete each item by marking "x" in the appropriate box or by entering the information requested. 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. Place additional entries and narrative items on continuation sheets (NPS Form 10-900a). Use a typewriter, word processor, or computer to complete all items.

1. Name of Property

Historic name: Neligh Mill

Other names/site number: AP04-004 (NPS #6900128, Neligh Mill); AP04-006 (NPS #83003982, Neligh Mill Elevators); AP04-204 (NPS #92000724, Neligh Mill Bridge)

2. Location (AMENDED)

Street & number: Irregular Tracks in Block 22, Original Town, Neligh and the N ½ of the SE ¼ of Section 20, T25N, R6W (See Continuation Sheets) — Not for publication [ ]

City or town: Neligh — Vicinity [ ]

State: Nebraska Code: NE County: Antelope Code: 003 Zip code: 68756

3. State/Federal Agency Certification

As the designated authority under the National Historic Preservation Act of 1986, as amended, I hereby certify that this [x] nomination [] request for determination of eligibility meets the documentation standards for registering properties in the National Register of Historic Places and meets the procedural and professional requirements set forth in 36 CFR Part 60. In my opinion, the property [x] meets [] does not meet the National Register Criteria. I recommend that this property be considered significant [x] nationally [x] statewide [] locally. ([] See continuation sheet for additional comments.)

Signature of certifying official — Date: 2-4-10

Director, Nebraska State Historical Society
State or Federal agency and bureau

In my opinion, the property [ ] meets [ ] does not meet the National Register criteria. ([] See continuation sheet for additional comments.)

Signature of certifying official/Title — Date

State or Federal agency and bureau

4. National Park Service Certification

I, hereby, certify that this property is:

[X] entered in the National Register. — Linda McClelland — 4-2-10
[ ] see continuation sheet.
[ ] determined eligible for the National Register.
[ ] see continuation sheet.
[ ] determined not eligible for the National Register.
[ ] removed from the National Register.
[ ] other, (explain): _____

Signature of Keeper — Date of Action

5. Classification (AMENDED)

Ownership of Property
(Check as many boxes as apply)

- ____ Private
- ____ Public-local
- X Public-state
- ____ Public-federal

Category of Property
(Check only one box)

- ____ Building(s)
- X District
- ____ Site
- ____ Structure
- ____ Object

Number of Resources within Property
(Do not include previously listed resources in the count.)

Contributing	Noncontributing	
2	0	Buildings
2	0	Sites
6	0	Structures
0	0	Objects
10	0	Total

Name of related multiple property listing
(Enter "N/A" if property is not part of a multiple property listing.)

NA

Number of contributing resources previously listed in the National Register

5

6. Function or Use (AMENDED)

Historic Functions
(Enter categories from instructions.)

COMMERCE: Office Building
AGRICULTURE: Storage
INDUSTRY: Manufacturing Facility
INDUSTRY: Waterworks
INDUSTRY: Energy Facility
TRANSPORTATION: Road-related
TRANSPORTATION: Rail-related

Current Functions
(Enter categories from instructions.)

RECREATION / CULTURE: Museum
TRANSPORTATION: Rail-related
LANDSCPAPE: Unoccupied Land
LANDSCPAPE: Natural Features

7. Description (AMENDED)

Architectural Classification
(Enter categories from instructions.)

No Style

Materials
(Enter categories from instructions.)

Foundation
Walls BRICK, WOOD (weatherboard), METAL (corrugated siding)
Roof WOOD (shingle), METAL
Other EARTH (clay), CONCRETE, STEEL

Narrative Description
(Describe the historic and current condition of the property on one or more continuation sheets.)

Boundary Increase / Amendment Explanation
The Neligh Mill (NPS #69000128) was originally added to the National Register in 1969, however, at that time only the 1873-1874 Mill Building was listed.[1] Since that time extensive research has more comprehensively documented several other associated historic resources located adjacent to the Mill Building. In addition, our collective notion of industrial sites and the National Register has evolved greatly since 1969. Today a greater emphasis is placed on understanding the entire industrial process, and industrial sites such as mills are more commonly evaluated and documented as historic landscapes or districts than as individual building(s). This amendment and boundary increase is an attempt to include all of the historic resources related to the milling process as well as to create a holistic understanding of the property.

The process of improving the original nomination for this property was actually begun in 1983 when the nomination was amended to include the Neligh Mill Elevators (NPS #83003982). Constructed separately in 1886 and 1889, the Flour Warehouse, Wheat Elevator and Corn Elevator are separated from the Mill Building by a sidetrack of the Chicago & North Western Railroad (abandoned in 1992).[2]

The current amendment builds on that previous work by increasing the boundaries of the property and clarifying and expanding on previous documentation. Most notably, this document adds approximately 43 acres of land adjacent to the Neligh Mill that includes resources related to water power production.[3] This site includes a system of dikes, the ruins of the Merritt Cut-off dam and various channels and lagoons created from the utilization and manipulation of the Elkhorn River for the production of power.

A second main objective of this amendment is to clarify the level, period and areas of significance. One area of significance (engineering) has been added. In addition, one reconstructed resource (the flume and penstock) has been added as a contributing structure which necessitates a justification under Criterion Consideration E. The period of significance begins in 1873 / 1874 with the construction of the Mill Building and ends in 1924, when the use of water power was abandoned at Neligh Mill. Because of its exceptionally high level of integrity and national/international reach in the flour industry, the 1873 / 1874 Mill Building at Neligh Mill possesses national significance. The remainder of the historic district is significant at the statewide level.

Finally, this amendment addresses previously overlooked contributing and non-contributing resources and changes the overall classification for the Neligh Mill from building(s) to a district, which is more appropriate for an industrial complex.

Section 2: Location
The location has been amended to reflect the addition of property south of the Elkhorn River. The Neligh Mill historic district overlaps urban and rural systems of land division.

Section 5: Classification
To better reflect the nature of the expanded boundaries and resource count, the property category for the Neligh Mill has been changed from building(s) to district. This follows the guidelines established in *National Register Bulletin 15: How to Apply the National Register Criteria for Evaluation* and *National Register Bulletin 16A: How to Complete the National Register Registration Form.* In particular this change reflects the statement that, "The identity of a district results from the inter relationship of its resources, which can convey a visual sense of the overall historic environment or be an

[1] The 1883 Mill Office, moved to its current location in 1899, may have also been included in the original nomination, however, it was not specifically called out in Section 8, nor was it described in Section 7.
[2] Nebraska Sate Historical Society, "Neligh Mill State Historical Site, Neligh, Nebraska: A Self-Guided Tour," 1997.
[3] Buecker, Thomas R. "Research Notes," 3.

arrangement of historically or functionally related properties. For instance, a district can reflect one principle activity, such as a mill."[4]

The resource count has also changed considerably. In addition to the previously listed 1873 Neligh Mill (1 building) and Elevators (3 structures), it now includes seven additional contributing resources: the Office Building (building), the remains of the Mill Dam across the Elkhorn River (site), the reconstructed Flume and Penstock (structure), the Neligh Mill Bridge (structure), the Chicago and NorthWestern Railway boxcar (structure) and a 43 acre site containing a variety of water related-resources and ruins (site). This brings the resource count within the Neligh Mill historic district to two (2) contributing buildings, six (7) contributing structures and two (2) contributing sites.

The Neligh Mill Bridge was listed individually in 1992 under the Multiple Property Document, "Highway Bridges of Nebraska, 1870-1942." This amendment recognizes the individual significance of the Neligh Mill Bridge, but also includes this structure as a contributing resource within the boundaries of the newly formed Neligh Mill historic district.

[4] *How to Apply the National Register Criteria for Evaluation*, 5.

Introduction (added)
The Neligh Mill historic district is located on the southern fringes of Neligh (2000 pop. 1651), the county seat of Antelope County, Nebraska. Antelope County sits at the intersection of Nebraska's Sandhills, Northeast, Loess Hills and Lower Niobrara regions, although it is formally a part of the latter according to the *Nebraska Historic Buildings Survey Manual.* Neligh is located on the northern banks of the Elkhorn River, a tributary of the Platte River, which flows approximately 250 miles between its headwaters in Rock County, Nebraska and its mouth in Sarpy County, Nebraska. The Elkhorn is a braided, meandering stream that is prone to flooding. At Neligh the Elkhorn River flows through a wide valley with an elevation of approximately 1700 feet. Neligh was platted on the north bank of a northern bend in the river. North of town the elevation rises quickly with hills ranging from 1850 to 1900 feet in elevation; however, the climb from the Elkhorn River valley is much more gradual south of the river. Neligh is surrounded by croplands occasionally broken by sand hills, particularly to the west.

The district contains two irregularly shaped properties located diagonally from each other across the Elkhorn River, but connected by the historic Neligh Mill Bridge. The northern portion of the district encompasses approximately .20 acres and contains the Mill Building, Neligh Mill Elevators, Flume and Penstock and portions of the Mill Dam ruins. This area is open to the public as a Nebraska State Historical Society site and branch museum. The lawns and a small parking area are well maintained. Neligh's commercial district is located immediately to the north across the abandoned right-of-way of the Chicago & Northwestern Railroad and 2nd Street. City maintenance/storage shops and new residences flank this area to east and west, respectively, although the view shed is protected by mature trees. Beyond this, the north bank of the Elkhorn has been developed into Fred Penn Park and Riverside Park.

County Road 11 (or "N" Street) serves as the western boundary of the Neligh Mill building area. The Neligh Mill Bridge spans the Elkhorn River along this road, which becomes the eastern boarder of the historic district's large southern section. This 43 acre property contains resources related to the production of water power at Neligh Mill, including a system of dikes, the ruins of a dam and two alternative channels of the Elkhorn River. In contrast with the much smaller section north of the river, this area has been left virtually untouched since the 1920s, when water power was abandoned at Neligh Mill. The Water Power Resource Site is heavily wooded with cottonwoods, willows, brush and grasses typical to unmanaged riparian areas. A city dump is located to the south of the property. The vegetation opens up greatly west of a power line located just outside the western boundary of the property. Parkland and natural riparian lands are found across County Road 11 to the east. Overall the district contains two contrasting, but historically related areas: a small, maintained northern portion containing the mill itself and a large, upriver, southern portion that was historically dedicated to harnessing the Elkhorn River to power Neligh Mill.

Contributing Resources

Mill Building (**Contributing Building**, See Original Nomination, 1969)

Neligh Elevators (**3 Contributing Structures**, See Neligh Mill Elevators Amendment, 1983)

Mill Office (added)
The Mill Office was moved from its location east of the Neligh Mill Elevators to its current location in July of 1899.[5] Although this move occurred during the period of significance, the Mill Office does not need to meet Criterion Consideration B, because it is, "a moved building that is part of a complex but is of less significance than the remaining

[5] Nebraska State Historical Society, "Neligh Mill State Historical Site: A Self-Guided Tour."

(unmoved) buildings."[6] The Mill Office is a simple one-story, rectangular, frame building with a medium-pitched gable roof and overhanging eaves. This small, eave-fronted building faces north and sits along the abandoned rail spur of the Chicago & Northwestern Railway. Still clad in its original clapboard siding, the Mill Office also still retains early doors and 2-over-2 light windows, all covered with early screens. Entrances are located on the façade and the rear elevation.

A small gable-roofed addition known as the "south office" was added to the rear elevation of the Mill Office just after it was moved (c. 1902). The gable of this addition is perpendicular to the main building. A second small addition, the "east office," was added in 1910, and basically acts as an extension of the façade. The original building contains the entrance with a pair of windows to the east, while the east addition adds two more windows to the façade. As the office for the Neligh Mill and Neligh Mill Elevators, the concrete and steel scale located between the building and the tracks is also an important feature. The interior of the Office has been restored to include the original scale weights and a stand-up desk. Today the Mill Office houses the museum store and welcome center, as well as an office for Nebraska State Historical Society staff.

Despite the move in 1899, the Mill Office retains excellent historic integrity of materials, workmanship, design, feeling and association. The two small additions occurred within the period of significance and many of the original interior features have been maintained. The Mill Office was overlooked in both the 1969 nomination of Neligh Mill and the 1983 Amendment (possibly because it was moved); however, it is considered a contributing resource to the Neligh Mill historic district. **Contributing Building.**

Neligh Mill Bridge (added)
The Neligh Mill Bridge spans the Elkhorn River on County Road 11 immediately west of the Neligh Mill, and has changed little since its construction in 1910. The 1-span, pin-connected Pratt trough truss bridge was constructed for Antelope County in 1910 by the Western Bridge & Construction Company of Omaha, Nebraska. It is 145 feet long and approximately 20 feet wide and is constructed with steel. The Neligh Mill Bridge has a timber over I-beam stringer deck and is supported by concrete-filled cylindrical piers. It has changed very little since its date of construction. Other than maintenance-related repairs, the bridge remains essentially unaltered and it continues to carry vehicular traffic. The Neligh Mill Bridge today retains a high degree of integrity of location, design, setting, materials, workmanship, feeling and association.[7] **Contributing Structure.**

Flume and Penstock (added)
The Flume and Penstock was reconstructed by the Nebraska State Historical Society in 1975, in large part because it is essential to understanding the production and use of water power at the mill.[8] Reconstruction was based on historical research and modeled after the structure as it appeared and functioned in 1919. The Flume and Penstock is constructed mostly of wood, but fastening mechanisms like nails and the turbine and gears housed in the penstock are metal. A diversion channel of earth and concrete located directly above the Mill Dam is still readily apparent. Here water enters the flume through a wood head gate that regulates flow. The flume is a long, sunken structure that acts as a channel which guides water from the Elkhorn River to the penstock where power was generated. Wood support beams span the flume about every 8 feet. The reconstructed flume is 11 feet wide and measures 85 feet from the head gate to the penstock. It has a depth of approximately 8 feet.

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[6] National Park Service, *National Register Bulletin 15: How to Apply the National Register Criteria for Evaluation*, 29.
[7] Frasier, Clayton B., "National Register of Historic Places Nomination, Neligh Mill Bridge (NPS #92000724)," 2. Section 7 from this nomination has been paraphrased and in some placed converted into narrative form. The bridge was originally listed in the National Register in 1992 under the Multiple Property Document "Highway Bridges in Nebraska, 1870-1942."
[8] Nebraska State Historical Society, "Neligh Mill State Historic Site: A Self-Guided Tour."

From the flume, water travels through a protective metal grate and dumps into the penstock, which has a depth of approximately 12 feet. The reconstructed penstock is a 12 foot by 15 foot wooden box that houses replacement equipment similar to that which generated power at the mill until 1920. This reconstruction, however, lacks the protective roof that the original would have had. The machinery is a turbine system that includes a turbine housing that is turned by water, which turns a long shaft. The shaft is attached to a gear that turns a pulley. The energy created by all this movement was once transferred to the Mill Building via a leather belt. This connection has not been reconstructed, but its route is still illustrated through an opening in the south wall of the Mill Building that is on axis with the pulley. After traveling through the penstock, water exited through the tailgate and returned to the river.

The Flume and Penstock was reconstructed by the Nebraska State Historical Society based on historic research and photographic evidence. Its location is accurate in relation to the rest of the historic district, which retains excellent historic integrity. Furthermore, the flume was always a temporary-type structure that was moved and rebuilt on several occasions during the period of significance. **Contributing Structure.**

1909 Mill Dam Ruins (added)
The first "permanent" Mill Dam across the Elkhorn River was completed just below the Neligh Mill Bridge in November of 1903; however, it would be reinforced and rebuilt several times until 1920 when water power was abandoned. The ruins seen today are from the 1909 model of the Mill Dam and display damage from a 1920 flood and activities in 1924. The latter year is when the structure was removed due to obsolescence and concerns about sewage backup from the town of Neligh. At that time steel piling was pulled out with a jack and a 25 foot section of the dam's foundation was torn out leaving an unencumbered channel in the middle of the Elkhorn River.[9]

Today the ruins of the dam include concrete wings or abutments and steel pilings on both sides of the river. On the south side of the river the pre-1909 concrete abutment stretches from the east side of the Neligh Mill Bridge for approximately 30 feet to the remaining steel pilings. The interlocking steel pilings were driven in front of the abutment in 1909. They are 20 feet long, 1 foot wide, and each weighs approximately 840 pounds.[10] What remains of them on this side are even in height and extend approximately 10 feet into the river. The pilings on both sides of the river are very visible during low water. Sometime after 1909, the concrete abutment was extended about 10 feet to the east of the dam to prevent the river from cutting around the dam.

On the north side of the river, the concrete washed out during the flood of 1909 and a new concrete abutment was added along with (and on top of) the steel pilings.[11] Here the abutment curls around above the dam to the head gate of the reconstructed flume creating a diversion channel. A concrete wall on the other side of this diversion channel further directs the water. This concrete diversion channel is consistent with plans in 1909 to construct a concrete flume, which were eventually abandoned in favor of wood construction.[12] Remaining steel pilings on this side of the dam ruins are uneven in height. This is in contrast to the remaining pilings on the other side of the river, which probably better reflect the dam as it was designed and built.

Despite the removal of the dam, its location and function relative to the operation of the Neligh Mill is still readily apparent and contributes to an overall understanding of the historic district. In addition to integrity of setting and location, the dam ruins also display elements of this structure's original materials, workmanship and design. **Contributing Site.**

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[9] Buecker, "Water Power Notes," 9.
[10] Buecker, "Concrete Dam Period," 11.
[11] Ibid., 10.
[12] Ibid., 10.

Water Power Resource Site (added)
The Water Power Resource Site includes approximately 43 acres of heavily vegetated land located on the south side of the Elkhorn River and catty-corner from the Neligh Mill building area. At this northern meander of the Elkhorn River the north bank is the cut bank, while the south bank is the point bar. The south side of the river, therefore, is the most natural avenue for backwater and alternative river channels and the Water Power Resource Site contains a network of these channels. Its character and location with respect to the growing Neligh Mill made this area both an asset and a considerable challenge as mill owners struggled to utilize water power, particularly after the installation of a roller mill in 1886. Resources and landscape features that currently contribute to the Water Power Resource Site took shape between the 1880s and the mid-1920s. Water power was abandoned due to a disastrous flood in 1920. Four years later the Elkhorn River was permanently returned to its previous (and current) channel past the Neligh Mill and the Mill Dam was partially removed.

The south side of the river is characterized by a natural sandy bank covered with vegetation. Small eddies and inlets are present; however, none match the two major bypass / alternative channels found on the site. The westernmost, known as the Merritt Cut-off, is located near the western edge of the property. A second major channel (now dry) was created by the Flood of 1920. It runs southwest from the Elkhorn River and meets the Merritt Cut-off just east of the property boundary after both pass under the three-span Merritt Bridge.

Dike System
The dike system includes two earthen dike segments (Dike A and Dike B) that extend approximately one half mile west of the mill area on the south side of the Elkhorn River. The dikes parallel the river and are located approximately 200 feet from the south bank.[13] While Dike A and Dike B were once a continuous structure, they were severed during a severe flood in April of 1920. At this time the Elkhorn River created an alternative channel just east of the Merritt Cut-off that cut off the northern meander flowing by the mill, described below as the 1920 Flood Channel.[14]

The dikes are 5 to 8 feet tall and are approximately 2 to 5 feet across, although they are much wider at their base. Their design and construction is relatively simple. Workers formed earth into a linear mound of a relatively uniform height and width. [15] The easternmost dike, Dike A, begins 15 feet west of County Road 11 and extends west for 240 feet. A characteristic "cut" in the dike is found approximately 56 feet from the eastern edge of Dike A. These cuts are a "V" where the dike has collapsed or been cut by erosion, however, only a handful of these exist. After the cut, Dike A continues west until its end point on at the eastern edges of the 1920 Flood Channel.

Dike B is over twice as long as Dike A and it includes two branches, B-1 and B-2. It continues the dike system on the western side of the 1920 Flood Channel. This dike segment runs west approximately 450 feet until it reaches a six foot wide cut. After the cut it branched into two with Dike B-1 continuing another 90 feet west at roughly the same distance from the river as the previously discussed segments. The other branch, Dike B-2, turns southwest and away from the river. This segment contains the ruins of the Upper Dam (or Merritt Cut-Off Dam), constructed in 1912. From the cut, Dike B-2 runs 240 feet to the eastern side of the Upper Dam across the Merritt Cut-Off. It continues on the other side of the

[13] Measurements are estimates based on fieldwork. The dike system was carefully walked and a close count of strides taken was recorded. Due to the sometimes rugged nature of the terrain, however, a consistent stride was not always possible.
[14] Buecker, Thomas R., "Research Notes on Water Power at Neligh Mill," 8.
[15] Buecker, Thomas R., "Concrete Dam Period, 1903-1920," 7. The original construction of the dikes is not documented but later reinforcements used clay soil transported by wagon from "the hill north of town." It makes sense that clay would be brought in to construct the dikes. The bed of the Elkhorn River is extremely sandy which makes for poor dike building material.

dam until a point very near the western boundary of the Water Power Resource Site. Dike B-2 was likely constructed in 1912 in conjunction with the new dam.[16]

The historic integrity of the dike system is fair to good. The current appearance of the dike system reflects its configuration after the flood in April of 1920. Virtually no development or maintenance of the site has occurred since that time. Erosion and vegetation, therefore, are the most significant threats to integrity. Currently both dikes are covered with vegetation that ranges from short grasses to saplings and mature trees. Fallen trees and leaves also obscure the dike system. Erosion has produced a handful of small cuts and settling has naturally led to a reduction in the size of the dikes over the years. Despite these integrity issues, there is no escaping the scale and purpose of the dike system or the human energy behind its construction. The dike system most certainly retains sufficient integrity of design, materials, workmanship, setting, location, feeling and association to convey its historic association with the Mill.

Merritt Cut-off and 1912 Upper Dam Ruins
The Merritt Cut-off served as the Mill's preferred bypass and upper water control system beginning in the 1880s. A concrete dam was constructed at the junction of the dike system and the Merritt Cut-off channel in 1907, but it was completely washed out during high water in 1912. In the summer of that year a concrete and steel dam, very similar in design to the Mill Dam across the Elkhorn, was installed above the 1907 dam site. The dam ruins currently found across Merritt Creek are those of the 1912 Upper Dam.

Merritt Cut-off is a natural feature on the south side of the Elkhorn River that was exploited by the Neligh Mill to facilitate the production of water power. Most likely it was never an actual tributary to the Elkhorn, but a natural southeast bypass of the northern meander that flows past the town of Neligh and Neligh Mill.[17] Currently, it reconnects with the river in the northwest corner of Section 28, T25W, R6N. The bypass has a sandy bottom that proved challenging to dam construction. The Merritt Cut-off displays the effects of human intervention in its flow and vegetation patterns. Standing water has accumulated below the dam ruins, because it is unable to return to the Elkhorn River after periods of high water. The area immediately below the dam ruins is chocked with tall grasses. Tree branches, leaves and other natural debris have accumulated above the dam ruins.

The Upper Dam Ruins consist of concrete abutments on both banks and the concrete-capped steel pilings of the dam itself. The east abutment is highly deteriorated with one large semi-detached segment of concrete and a handful of much smaller detached segments. The western abutment, however, is virtually intact. It is approximately 1 foot thick and 8 feet tall and extends 30 feet down the natural embankment of the Merritt Cut-off. Its construction matches the 1909 Mill Dam with interlocking steel pilings capped with concrete, although the ruins of the upper dam are more complete because it was never removed. The 26 foot long steel pilings are 6 feet longer than those used on the Mill Dam but utilize the same fastening system.[18] Each piling has a round channel on one side and a matching bead on the other. This creates a solid steel wall of approximately 40 feet across the channel that is currently exposed at varying heights due to the uneven deposition of sediment and debris. In some places the concrete cap on the pilings has fallen off, while it remains as built in others. The initials "N.R." are carved into one segment of the concrete cap offering a poignant reminder of the countless workers responsible for constructing this particular historic working landscape.

[16] Buecker, "Concrete Dam Period," 13.
[17] It is not mentioned as a tributary in A. T. Andreas's 1882 *History of the State of Nebraska* and it appears as an intermittent bypass channel on current USGS maps. On a 1922 plat map of Neligh, the Merritt Cut-Off it is labeled as "Old Slough."
[18] Buecker, "Concrete Dam Period," 13.

The Merritt Cut-Off and Upper Dam ruins have fair to good historic integrity. Despite the deterioration of the dam and possible changes to the channel and surrounding vegetation, this resource is essential to the understanding of the Water Resource Site.

1920 Flood Channel
Located between the Neligh Bridge and the Merritt Cut-off, this now dry channel was created when the Elkhorn River broke through the dike system during a flood in 1920.[19] From 1920 through 1924, it served as the main channel of the Elkhorn River, which bypassed both the Neligh Mill and the town of Neligh during that period. While the creation of the 1920 Flood Channel was not a direct result of water power production at Neligh Mill, the manipulation of the surrounding landscape most certainly had an impact. The 1912 dam and associated dike buildup on the river's natural bypass, the Merritt Cut-off, meant the river was forced to break though at a weaker point in the dike system.

The town of Neligh and the Neligh Mill officials were successful in turning the river back to its original channel in 1924, leaving this channel dry except (presumably) during periods of high water. It runs in an east to southeast direction though the Water Power Resource Site until it connects with the Merritt Cut-off channel just east of County Road 11. It is a shallow channel with an extremely sandy bed. Some vegetation, mostly in the form of weeds, has taken root, but the channel itself remains mostly open. Its banks, however, are heavily vegetated with sapling and mature trees, as well as underbrush. There are several instances where trees once standing along the banks have fallen across the channel.

As a natural feature the integrity of the 1920 Flood Channel is difficult to evaluate. However, the creation of this channel brought about the end of water power for the historic district. The forced return of the Elkhorn River to its "original" channel in 1924 was the final major action taken by the Neligh Mill and the town of Neligh to manipulate the natural course of the river. It is an important component that represents the end of the historic district's period of significance.

Integrity of the Water Power Resource Site
Overall the Water Power Resource Site retains excellent historic integrity. All of the natural and manmade features that contribute to the site's historical association with the Neligh Mill during its period of significance are present. When considered together in their historical context these components readily tell the story of water power production at Neligh Mill until it was ultimately abandoned in the 1920s. The overgrown and abandoned Water Power Resource Site offers a contrasting definition of historic integrity when compared to the beautifully restored buildings and manicured landscape across the Elkhorn River. Ruins conjure "historic feeling" in a way that even the most authentically restored resources cannot match. Integrity of design, materials and workmanship, however, are not as readily apparent at the Water Resource Power Site as at the Neligh Mill building area.

Due to the ample vegetation cover, the Water Power Resource Site is not readily visible in aerial photographs. It is at the pedestrian scale when the dike systems, dam ruins and various channels become most recognizable. The complexity of landscape and the processes that shaped it would likely require some level of interpretation to facilitate public understanding of the Water Power Resource Site. The site is currently unfenced (and therefore semi-open to public use). The Nebraska State Historical Society is currently considering how to develop and interpret the site. **Contributing Site.**

[19] Buecker, "Notes on Water Power," 8.

Chicago & Northwestern Boxcar (added)
This is a standard, 44 foot boxcar of the Chicago & NorthWestern Railroad (the C&NW) that was donated to the Nebraska State Historical Society in 1982. The boxcar was built at the C&NW shops in West Chicago c. 1919 and was used on the railroad's branch line that crossed northern Nebraska on the way to its western terminus at Riverton, Wyoming. Prior to its donation, the boxcar was located at the rail yards in Chadron, Nebraska, a former division point of the C&NW.[20] It has its original wood siding, steel "dreadnought" ends and operating mechanisms. The boxcar has been restored to its original appearance and is painted red with white lettering. It reads "Chicago and Northwestern, CNW 47688," as well as other information about maximum load capacity and weight.

The boxcar is situated on a remnant of the sidetrack of the Chicago and Northwestern between the Mill Building and the Mill Elevators. National Register criteria recognize the eligibility of "properties designed to be moved" when and if they are located in a historically appropriate setting. The C&NW boxcar found within the Neligh Mill historic district meets that criterion. Furthermore, it is the type of railcar that would have been used to transport goods from Neligh Mill during the latter part of the district's period of significance. Its donation, placement and restoration are documented by the Nebraska State Historical Society and this structure contributes to an overall understanding of Neligh Mill. **Contributing Structure.**

[20] Bueker, Thomas R. "Telephone Correspondence with Bob Puschendorf (Deputy SHPO, NSHS), 04 January 2010.

8. Statement of Significance (AMENDED)

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

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

___ **B** Property is associated with the lives of persons significant in our past.

X **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.)

Property is:

___ **A** Owned by a religious institution or used for religious purposes.

___ **B** Removed from its original location.

___ **C** A birthplace or a grave.

___ **D** A cemetery.

X **E** A reconstructed building, object, or structure.

___ **F** A commemorative property.

___ **G** Less than 50 years of age or achieved significance within the past 50 years.

Narrative Statement of Significance
(Explain the significance of the property on one or more continuation sheets.)

Areas of Significance
(Enter categories from instructions.)

Industry
Agriculture
Commerce
Engineering

Period of Significance
1873-1924

Significant Dates
1886
1903
1920

Significant Person
(Complete if Criterion B is marked above.)
NA

Cultural Affiliation
NA

Architect/Builder
Western Bridge and Construction Company
A.J. Tyler, millwright

9. Major Bibliographical References

Bibliography
(Cite the books, articles, and other sources used in preparing this form on one or more continuation sheets.)

Previous documentation on file (NPS):

___ Preliminary determination of individual listing (36 CFR 67) has been requested
X 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 # _____.

Primary location for additional data:

X State Historic Preservation Office
___ Other State agency
___ Federal agency
___ Local Government
___ University
X Other
Name of repository: Neligh Mill Museum

Introduction (added)

The original 1969 nomination of the Neligh Mill building established this property as significant under Criterion A in the areas of agriculture, commerce and industry. Because of its exceptionally high level of integrity, longevity of operation and national/international reach in the flour market, the nomination's claim that Neligh Mill possessed national significance was accepted. This nomination, however, only included the 1873 / 1874 Mill Building and additions. The remainder of the historic district is significant at the statewide level, including those resources added by the 1983 Neligh Mill Elevators Amendment and those added through this Amendment / Boundary Increase.

The original period of significance for Neligh Mill was "19th Century" with a significant date of 1873 / 1874, the year of construction for the main Mill Building. The 1983 Amendment extended the period of significance to the 20th Century without providing a specific end date. Flour milling operations ended in 1959, creating a potential end date.[21] The Nebraska State Historical Society, however, has chosen to focus their interpretation on the period of water power at Neligh Mill, a decision that was solidified with the reconstruction the Flume and Penstock in 1975. A more appropriate end date, therefore, would be 1924, the year in which the Neligh Mill Dam was partially removed symbolizing the end of water power at Neligh Mill. Significant dates include the date the mill was constructed (1873 / 1874), the year a roller mill was installed and the mill operation was significantly expanded (1886), the year the first "permanent" concrete mill dam was constructed (1903), and 1920, when a disastrous flood effectively ended the water power period.

Amending the original nomination of Neligh Mill to include new property and previously overlooked contributing resources also leads to an added area of significance. Of the six newly recognized contributing resources, only two (the Mill Office and C&NW Box Car) does not convey significance in the area of engineering. The Water Power Resource Site, Flume and Penstock, and Mill Dam Ruins are all physical evidence of the great human effort exerted to extract power from the Elkhorn River for over 40 years. The impact of these efforts reached beyond the mill, as the town of Neligh capitalized and struggled right along with Stephen F. Gilman and other mill owners. Finally, the 1910 Neligh Mill Bridge, the sole transportation link between the mill and its upriver property, has been added to the district. This structure was individually listed in 1992 for significance in the area of engineering.

The Mill Office and the Flume and Penstock, both newly recognized contributing resources, require an assessment under Criterion Consideration B and E, respectively. It was determined that the Mill Office need not meet Criterion Consideration B, because, while it was moved during the period of significance, it is, "a moved building that is part of a complex, but is of less significance than the remaining (unmoved) buildings."[22] Conversely, the Flume and Penstock is considered a highly significant reconstructed structure, which necessitates a justification under Criterion Consideration E to be considered a contributing resource.

In conclusion, Neligh Mill is significant under Criterion A and C as an exceptional example of a water-powered flour mill in the Midwest. This historic district readily tells a significant story about the intersection of agriculture, industry, commerce and engineering that was repeated hundreds of times in Nebraska alone during the late 1800s and early 1900s. As a virtually intact complex that includes milling, storage, administrative and water power-related resources, Neligh Mill is a unique and important historic place deserving of its elevated status as a Nebraska State Historical Society Branch Museum. The district's period of significance lasts from the construction of the main Mill Building in 1873 through 1924, when water power was permanently, and irreversibly, abandoned with the removal of the Mill Dam.

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[21] Statements of Significance in Neligh Mill National Register Nomination and Neligh Mill Elevators National Register Nomination (Amendment).
[22] National Park Service, *National Register Bulletin 15: How to Apply the National Register Criteria for Evaluation*, 29.

Criterion A: Agriculture, Commerce, Industry (See Original Nomination and 1983 Neligh Elevators Amendment)

Criterion C: Engineering (added)
In addition to significance in the area of agriculture, industry and commerce, Neligh Mill is also significant under Criterion C in the area of engineering. Over the course of four decades, Mill owners and countless "gangs" of workers labored tirelessly to maintain the complex system of dams, dikes and machinery required to power the mill's rollers, and later the town of Neligh. Heavy investments in water power at Neligh Mill made its success crucial, which, in turn, promoted further investments. Such investments meant repairs and maintenance at the very least. Just as often, money spent went into the wholesale rebuilding of dams or flumes, or the construction of entirely new structures like the mill's first concrete dam in 1903. The effort and money expended at Neligh Mill obviously impacted the landscape that today speaks volumes about human manipulation of the natural landscape. At Neligh Mill, the processing of agricultural crops into flour also drove ingenuity in the field of engineering.

Flour milling was integral to Euro-American settlement of the Great Plains, and by the time Nebraska reached statehood in 1867 it was the leading industry. Initially steam was the most common power source, but that soon gave way to water power. The dramatic increase from 9 water powered mills in 1860 to roughly 150 in 1890 was almost matched by the steep decline in water power after that date. By 1900 steam had reclaimed its status as the leading power source. Seventeen years later only 45 flour mills in Nebraska used water power and by 1948 there were only 2 in operation.[23] Of the dozens of water powered mills that once dotted Nebraska's landscape, Neligh Mill was one of the most extensive sites and today is one of the best preserved. In fact, the landscape of dikes, dam ruins and bypasses adjacent to the Neligh Mill is unique among Nebraska's extant mills. The Neligh Mill historic district, is therefore, best able to convey the engineering achievements that, for a period, powered Nebraska's milling industry.

Like many of Nebraska's waterways, the Elkhorn River offered the tantalizing prospect of consistent water power to Euro-American settlers. In A. T. Andreas' 1882 *History of the State of Nebraska*, Professor Samuel Aughey reported that, "It has considerable fall, and its steady, large volumes of water will render it a most valuable manufacturing region."[24] Of course, Aughey had the benefit of hindsight as Neligh Mill had already been in operation for eight years. John Neligh, a successful miller in West Point, Nebraska must have seen the opportunity when he took a trip up the Elkhorn River in 1872 to the present day site of Neligh. He quickly purchased 520 acres from the Omaha & Northwestern Railroad, platted the town of Neligh and started building what would become one of Nebraska's premier flour mills.[25]

While the town of Neligh and its mill eventually proved to be a success, the struggle to harness the Elkhorn River for water power is better described as a story of frustration, and ultimately, failure. From the 1880s through 1920, the Elkhorn was both asset and adversary to Mill owners due to its naturally wide, sandy bed and a tendency to overflow its banks and find new channels.[26] In short, the Elkhorn was difficult to dam and difficult to control. Such a statement is supported by the fact that only four mills were ever constructed on the main course of the Elkhorn River, and by 1910 all but Neligh Mill had abandoned water power.[27] Ten years later, even the persistent folks in Neligh were forced to give up the dream of water power after a disastrous flood in April of 1920.

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[23] Buecker, Thomas R., "Water Powered Flour Mills in Nebraska," in passim.
[24] Aughey, Samuel. "Geology," in *Andreas' History of the State of Nebraska,* p. 87.
[25] Nebraska State Historical Society, "Self Guided Tour." No Pg #
[26] Buecker, Thomas R., "Water Powered Flour Mills in Nebraska," 3. For a complete list of Neligh Mill owners see Supplementary Materials, Section 10, page 25.
[27] Buecker, Tomas R., "Notes on Water Power," 2. Other mills on the Elkhorn River were at Arlington, West Point and Waterloo.

The Brush Dam Period (1873-1903)

Water power was used from the onset of flour production at Neligh Mill. The first dams constructed across the Elkhorn River at Neligh were brush dams. These were constructed with logs and stone or clay infill and were extremely susceptible to washout during times of high water.[28] At Neligh it is unclear how many times the brush dams were repaired or entirely rebuilt, but its maintenance would have obviously been a constant cause of concern for mill owners, mill employees and citizens of Neligh.

1886 was a particularly significant year at Neligh Mill as the operation converted from burrstones to steel rollers. The advent of steel rollers in the 1880s separated flour mills with a future from those destined to become obsolete, and Neligh Mill fell into the former group. As Thomas R. Buecker explains in his history of water powered flour mills in Nebraska, "Although the installation of the new machinery was very expensive, millers quickly realized that increased production and a better product would bring increased sales and profits." For some, however, the expense was too great, which led to "the demise of many smaller water mills that had been operating for many years." [29] The increased production capacity at flour mills installing rollers would obviously require more power.

At Neligh Mill this would eventually result in extensive changes to the surrounding landscape. At first these changes were more reactionary than part of a master plan for expansion. The raising of the brush dam to increase the fall of the Elkhorn River in 1886 caused water to back up and spill into the bottomlands to the south. This necessitated a system of dikes. When the dikes proved insufficient, the Mill decided to utilize the Merritt Cut-off at the western end of the dike system to store excess water.[30] The mill operation expanded upriver like a chain reaction.

Interestingly, the natural landscape at Neligh seemed to preclude the creation of a typical mill pond. Perhaps this was because the mill dam was thrown across the main channel of the wide Elkhorn River, which offered no natural area immediately behind the dam to store water. Most mills were constructed on tributaries or secondary forks of Nebraska's major rivers.[31] For instance, Stephan F. Gillman, owner of Neligh Mill from 1898-1915, built two other mills in Nebraska and both were on tributaries. In Pierce, Nebraska, Gillman constructed a mill in 1880 that utilized power from a dam across the North Fork River, a tributary of the Elkhorn. Later he built a mill in Valentine, Nebraska with a dam on Minnechaduza Creek, which is a tributary to the Niobrara River. Both had proper mill ponds.[32] At Neligh, however, Gillman inherited the mill site selected by John D. Neligh, who had already successfully dammed the Elkhorn at West Point, Nebraska prior to 1873. There was little use in moving the mill, especially considering its early success.

The dike and dam system created a massive mill pond at Neligh Mill by impounding the Elkhorn River. The dike system was constructed under the management of William Lambert and his associate William C. Gallaway, who purchased the mill from John D. Neligh in 1874. There is little documentation of the initial construction of the dikes, except that they were completed by 1898 when Gilman purchased the mill.[33] Their construction must have involved countless laborers. Because the bed of the Elkhorn is extremely sandy, it seems likely some clay was hauled by wagon from a location north of town to strengthen the dikes. A 1907 branch of the dike system was constructed in this manner. After being raised and reinforced in 1899, the dikes were six feet tall and five feet wide, indicating they were originally somewhat smaller.[34]

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[28] Ibid., 19.
[29] Ibid., 40.
[30] Buecker, Thomas R. "Notes on Water Power," 3.
[31] Buecker, Thomas R. "Water Powered Flour Mills in Nebraska," 6.
[32] University of Nebraska Lincoln, "Pierce," in *Virtual Nebraska: Nebraska...Our Towns* [Website] and United States Environmental Protection Agency, "Nebraska: Valentine Mill Pond" in *Section 319 Nonpoint Source Success Stories* [Website].
[33] Buecker, Thomas R. "Notes on Water Power," 4.
[34] Ibid.

The Concrete Dam Period (1903-1915)

When Stephen F. Gillman took over ownership of Neligh Mill in 1898, he immediately called for a rebuilding of the water power production system. Despite the efforts of his predecessors, harnessing the Elkhorn River was still problematic. The river either attempted to bypass the brush dam to the south, the brush dam washed out entirely or burrowing muskrats breached the dikes or dam.[35] Such occurrences cost money, both in terms of repairs to the water power systems and in work stoppages at the mill itself. Of all of the owners at Neligh Mill, Stephen F. Gilman oversaw and financed the most extensive alterations to the landscape.

The Mill Dam

The first phase of Gillman's plan was the reinforcement and heightening of the dikes explained above. Next, Gillman called for the construction of a "permanent" dam of concrete and timber across the Elkhorn River. Construction began in June of 1903, but in early September, "a large portion of the earth work on the south side of the mill dam washed out, and it was only by the efforts of a large body of men that a more serious catastrophe was averted...The loss will be heavy and will amount to several hundred dollars."[36] The permanence of the dam was tested before it was even completed. But Gillman pressed on and by November of 1903 the new mill dam was complete. According to one local paper,

> It is expected that the spillway is of sufficient length to accommodate all the water in the river except at its highest stages. In this instance the surplus will be carried off by the old Merritt cut-off and damage from the overflow of the surrounding land will be obviated. The expense of the new dam and other improvements including the raising of the dike, and placing of the additional water wheel, will reach well up into the thousands of dollars.[37]

The 1903 mill dam held for a time, but the spring of 1909 proved to be the death knell for the first permanent dam at Neligh Mill. On March 11th a large field of ice destroyed about half of the dam's spillway (50 feet). Gilman immediately brought in millwright, A. J. Tyler, who had seen Neligh Mill through an earlier expansion and "had experience in dams on similar streams to the Elkhorn."[38] Before repairs were completed, the temporary brush dam protecting the work washed out taking the remainder of the 1903 mill dam with it. All told, Gillman was out an estimated $8,000 with no dam to show for it.[39]

Despite the setback, Gillman persevered and spent the remainder of 1909, "trying to make [what gets] done this year permanent and the question of cost seems a secondary concern."[40] The answer to Neligh Mill's dam woes, at least in Gillman's assessment, was steel. Prior to the turn of the century, wood and occasionally cast iron piling had always been used, but by 1909 there were many more options available. The first all-steel sheet piling was patented in Germany in 1893, but not used in dam construction in the United States until 1902.[41] Looking to decrease costs and increase production, in 1899 American engineer Samuel K. Behrend patented a form of steel sheet piling that would involve less shop work. Six years later, the Carnegie Steel Company introduced United States Steel Sheet Piling, a modification of Behrend's design.[42]

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[35] Ibid., 3-4.
[36] Buecker, Thomas R. "Concrete Dam Period," 1.
[37] Ibid., 2.
[38] Ibid., 8.
[39] Ibid., 8 and 10.
[40] Ibid., 11.
[41] Wegmann, Edgar, *The Design and Construction of Dams*, 377-378.
[42] Ibid., 397.

The generic name, United States Steel Sheet Piling, begins to suggest this product's mass production and eventual mass appeal. Indeed by 1909, Frank W. Skinner was able to write that, "the United States Pile has had a great and well-deserved popularity," in that year's *Transactions of the American Society of Civil Engineers*.[43] Of course, that steel sheet piling was able to create sixty-four pages of discussion in *Transactions* indicates it was still a relatively new construction material in 1909, even among the nation's civil engineers.

How Gilman decided upon United States Steel Sheet Piling is unclear, but in 1909 it seemed to promise a potential end to Neligh Mill's decades-long struggle with damming the Elkhorn River.[44] The mill owner moved ahead with his plans despite an estimated $3000 price tag and by late August men from the Western Bridge and Construction Co. of Omaha, Nebraska had arrived along with the steel piling and a steam pile driver.[45] The pilings, sections of which are still visible in the Elkhorn River, are 20 feet long, one foot wide and weigh approximately 840 pounds each. All told the steel used to construct the mill dam weighed an estimated 44 tons. The community of Neligh was both impressed and optimistic about the new dam and its steel piling. One reporter wrote:

> This will make a solid wall of steel the entire length of the river, practically water tight, and driven 20 feet into the river bed. There is every reason to think this work will be of a permanent character and hereafter minimize the danger of the dam being undermined and at the same time furnish a solid foundation.[46]

The 1909 mill dam was indeed destined to hold. After the sheet piling was in place, workers successfully finished two concrete walls, repaired or replaced the concrete abutments, and constructed a new apron, which was "placed at a greater angle to make it less liable to destruction."[47] In fact, as Buecker notes in his detailed research on water power at Neligh Mill, the dam worked almost too well, because "after 1909, the main problem was trying to keep the river in the main channel past the mill."[48] After six years of relative peace at the mill dam, the Elkhorn River broke through the dike system in May of 1915, marking the beginning of the end for water power at Neligh Mill. On November 1st of that year, Stephen F. Gilman died, leaving Neligh Mill to his family.[49] At least Gilman was spared the knowledge that just five short years after his death water power would be completely abandoned at Neligh Mill.

The Upper (Merritt Cut-Off) Dam

As the drama played out on the Elkhorn River, Gillman also made improvements to the Merritt Cut-off. By 1907, the mill had been utilizing this cut-off channel to hold excess water for approximately 30 years. During that period temporary brush dams had been constructed to hold water back, but the relative success of the "permanent" 1903 mill dam was putting more pressure on the Merritt Cut-Off and its brush dams. There was simply too much water being backed up for the brush dams to continue being effective. Somewhere between the construction and extensive repairs in 1903, 1905 and 1909 at the main mill dam site, Gilman and his force of workers found time to build a "permanent" concrete dam on the Merritt Cut-off. While this 1907 dam washed out in 1912, its construction was well documented by local newspapers and is noteworthy, particularly in its description of Gilman's ingenuity:

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[43] American Society of Civil Engineers, *Transactions*..., V. 64, 1909, 467.
[44] It is the author's best guess that United States Steel Sheet Piling was used for both the 1909 Mill Dam and the 1912 Upper Dam. The exposed section of the piling was closely examined during field work and compared to period references and product catalogs, both of which contained drawings of several types of steel sheet pilings used in dam construction. United States Pile is the only exact match.
[45] Buecker, Thomas R. "Concrete Dam Period, 1903-1920," 11.
[46] Ibid.
[47] Ibid., 10.
[48] Bueker, Thomas. R. "Notes on Water Power," 5.
[49] NSHS, "A Self-Guided Tour," n.p.

> A big force of men are employed and are ably assisted by a novel concrete mixer invented by Mr. Gilman, which does the work thoroughly and more quickly than a half dozen laborers. A large box contains a screw carrier, the mixture being put in one end and by the time it reached the other end it is thoroughly mixed and properly dampened, the water being added at the proper time. Power is supplied by Mr. Gilman's automobile, the rear end being blocked up and a belt running from one of the wheels to the shaft of the mixer.[50]

Gilman clearly had developed a practical knowledge of mechanics and engineering from his long years as a mill entrepreneur. For complex engineering jobs, however, he typically relied on outside consultants or labor such as the Western Bridge and Construction Company or millwright A.J. Tyler.

Built two years before the final mill dam, the 1907 concrete dam on the Merritt Cut-off did not have the advantage of steel sheet piling. By 1909, the upper dam was already in need of extensive repairs and in the spring of 1912 water had undermined one of the abutments creating a large breach. Considering the relative success of the 1909 mill dam, Gilman decided to build an entirely new dam similar in design at a point above the 1907 upper dam.[51] This would require the demolition of part of the original dike and the construction of a new branch of the dike system to the south that would meet up with the new dam. When completed, the 1912 upper dam was 60 feet across with 30 foot concrete abutments on either side and held firmly in place by 26 foot long United States Steel Sheet Piling. Just as had been the case with the 1909 mill dam, everyone was optimistic about the permanence of this new structure. A local reporter noted that, the steel sheet piling made, "a solid steel wall...which is supposed to withstand any pressure that can be brought to bear against it, and of a depth sufficient to eliminate any danger of water forcing its way under."[52]

Both the 1909 mill dam and the 1912 upper dam did hold up well, even after the partial removal of the former. Today their ruins provide insight into engineering and dam construction. At the individual scale, the deteriorated state of both dams offers a glimpse into the interior core of early 20th Century dam construction that is not visible in dams that are still intact. In particular, both display the early use of steel sheet piling in dam construction. The integrity and significance of neither dam, however, can be assessed outside of the complete system of water power production and management at Neligh Mill. All components of this system depended on each other to ensure the mill could keep producing its very own So-Light Flour and Crescent Gold Corn Meal.

Making Power

The dike and dam system above Neligh Mill controlled the water, but it was only when water entered the flume and penstock that it was converted into usable power. Between 1904 and 1919 it seems the flume had two penstocks and two operating turbines to optimize power production, but this is somewhat unclear. Whatever the configuration of the flume, Buecker notes that throughout the years of water power at Neligh Mill it, much like the dams, frequently required repairs or replacement.[53] For instance, a new flume was constructed closer to the mill sometime between 1899 and 1903. By 1904 this flume was already in need of repair and in March of 1905 piling was driven between the spillway and the flume to secure the embankment. These temporary repairs held until September 1908, when, "the flume at the mill broke through ...and as a consequence the water power has been pushed as rapidly as possible." The next day, a follow up report added that the embankment between the flume and the dam had also collapsed.[54]

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[50] Buecker, Thomas R. "The Concrete Dam Period," 7.
[51] Ibid., 13.
[52] Ibid.
[53] Bueker, Thomas R., "Notes on Water Power," 5.
[54] Buecker, Tomas R. "The Concrete Dam Period," 8.

Since taking over Neligh Mill in 1898, Gilman had been pushing for a "complete and scientific" rebuilding of the water power system and by 1909 his ideas finally seemed to reach the flume structure. After the events of 1908, Gilman planned to build a permanent concrete flume, but this plan was eventually abandoned in favor of another wooden structure. While it was reported that this was "owing to the height of the water below the dam [concrete] was found to be impractical," it seems just as likely that Gilman was running out of time and financing as construction of the mill dam wore on during 1909.[55] At any rate, the flume never received the modern design and materials that was afforded to the dams. In 1919, the final flume, a wood structure, was constructed at Neligh Mill. By then it seems the water power period had passed its zenith, and only one penstock with one turbine was built. This 1919 flume was removed sometime after water power was abandoned in 1920, but reconstructed by the Nebraska State Historical Society in 1975.

Lighting Neligh

During dam construction in 1903, one local newspaper published the following plea to the citizenry of Neligh:

> Owing to the washout at the dam the power available for electric lighting purposes has been largely curtailed, and the request is made by Mr. Gilman that during the carnival all electric lights not absolutely needed in residences be shut off. This is necessary in order that the streets be properly lighted.[56]

Such a passage only begins to suggest the intimate connection between the mill and the town of Neligh. There was certainly mutual support between the two, and a spirit of "we're all in this together" usually prevailed in times of crisis. The mill provided stability to the town and jobs for its citizens. On the other hand, the community provided the labor behind many of the mill's planned engineering projects, as well as assistance in times of emergency. In addition, the town provided a market for the mill's products and by-products. By 1900, one such by-product was electricity for use in residences and business in Neligh.[57]

In *Water Powered Flour Mills in Nebraska*, Buecker notes the waterworks initially constructed to power mills became essential to early electrical production. In this case, Neligh was not alone. Mills at Crete and Ashland, Nebraska were producing electricity for municipal use by 1889, and by 1910 at least 25 mills had hydro-electric plants.[58] Three of these mills (Neligh, Valentine and Pierce) were owned by Gilman. At Neligh, a single turbine was used to produce electricity and power for the mill until 1904, when a second turbine was added. Gilman may have thanked the citizens of Neligh for their assistance after an emergency, as he did in September of 1903, but he still charged them for electricity.[59] Considering the inconsistency of water power at Neligh, numerous electrical outages and shortages must have occurred. By 1915, electrical production at Neligh Mill was fully converted to diesel power, which proved much more consistent.[60]

Although, electrical production through water power was short lived at Neligh, its occurrence further establishes the significance of the engineering structures and systems at Neligh Mill. They not only convey significance through their functionality and design, or through their primary use to power the mill. The engineering landscape still visible at Neligh Mill also had a significant impact on the everyday lives of the people who lived in its midst.

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[55] Ibid., 10.
[56] Buecker, Thomas R. "Concrete Dam Period," 1.
[57] Buecker, Thomas R. "Notes on Water Power," 6.
[58] Buecker, Thomas R. *Water Powered Flour Mills in Nebraska*, 58-59.
[59] Buecker, Thomas R. "Notes on Water Power," 6.
[60] Buecker, Thomas R. *Water Powered Flour Mills in Nebraska*, 59.

The Decline and Aftermath of Water Power at Neligh Mill (1915-1924)

When the Elkhorn River abandoned its main channel in 1915, it flowed through the Merritt Cut-off. The city of Neligh and the Neligh Mill succeeded in turning it back to its original channel by the summer of 1916, but over the next five years the promise of consistent water power seemed to slip away. In 1917, the river broke though the dike system in two places and could not be turned back until the next year. During those periods, the mill was primarily powered by the 100 horse power Fairbanks-Morse engine and a second engine added in 1915.[61] Despite these setbacks, the local newspaper could still report, "the mill wants the power and already has too large an investment in its development to permit it to lapse."[62] In addition to the effort and expense exerted in restoring the Elkhorn River to its main channel (not once, but twice) and the construction of a new flume, Neligh Mill also filed an application for water use with the Nebraska Board of Irrigation.[63] The intent of the Gilman family to press on was clear, but the flood of 1920 was insurmountable.

A severe snowstorm followed by warmer temperatures hit the Neligh area in early April of 1920. Compacted with the usual spring run-off, the Elkhorn River was soon overflowing its banks in what was described as, "the highest level of water in memory." [64] During previous floods, the Elkhorn had created small cuts in dikes and seeped into the bottomlands south of the river or abandoned its main channel for the already established Merritt Cut-off, but the food of 1920 was more dramatic. Dammed on both its main course and its most natural alternative channel, the water busted though the dike system at a point almost halfway in between. When all was said and done, the Elkhorn River had created a 250 foot wide channel straight through the dike that continued southeast until it connected with the Merritt Cut-Off. [65] Turning the water back this time seemed like too large of an undertaking, at least in the immediate future. The concrete and steel mill dam, only eleven years old, was useless. The age of water power at Neligh Mill was over.

Fortunately, Neligh Mill had two back up diesel engines brought in during similar, although less dramatic, floods in 1905 and 1915. In 1923, the mill added a 150 horse power engine to its operation.[66] Beginning in 1920, Neligh Mill was one of a growing number of diesel powered flour mills in Nebraska. Later it converted to electrical power. The saga of water power at Neligh Mill; however, was not quite over. Water below the dam now sat stagnant leading to a back-up of sewage from the city of Neligh. The river had to be restored to its pre-1920 channel in order to retain Neligh's sewage infrastructure, and after consultation from engineers, it was decided that the mill dam would have to be removed.[67] In 1924, the Elkhorn River was returned to its previous (and current) course past the mill and city of Neligh.

The Neligh Mill removed their own dam, leaving only the concrete abutments and two sections of United State Steel Sheet Piling. The upper dam across the Merritt Cut-off and the dikes was left to slowly deteriorate. Eventually the 1919 flume, built during the final days of water power, was removed, only to be reconstructed decades later. The 1920-1924 channel of the Elkhorn River left a 250 foot wide swath of sand that remains highly recognizable. Today, the engineering behind Neligh Mill is still highly visible, thanks in large part to the restoration and preservation efforts of the Nebraska State Historical Society. Under their ownership, the building area north of the Elkhorn River has been handsomely restored. The Water Power Resource Site has languished somewhat under benign neglect, but it has also been protected from the threat of new development. Overall, the Neligh Mill historic district displays an exceptional collection of water power-related resources. While none of the structures, ruins or natural features located within the district would be considered

[61] Buecker, Thomas R. "Concrete Dam Period," 16.
[62] Ibid., 17.
[63] Buecker, Thomas R. "Notes on Water Power," 8.
[64] Ibid.
[65] Ibid.
[66] Ibid.
[67] Ibid., 8-9.

individually eligible for the National Register, together they represent a distinguishable and significant entity eligible for recognition under Criterion C in the area of engineering.

Neligh Mill Bridge and Merritt Bridge

The Neligh Mill Bridge is the historic link between the mill on the north bank of the Elkhorn River and its upriver water power resources south of the river. The bridge was listed individually in 1992 under the Multiple Property Document "Highway Bridges in Nebraska, 1870-1942" for statewide significance in the area of engineering. While the Neligh Mill Bridge was constructed by Antelope County, and not the Neligh Mill, it belongs within the Neligh Mill historic district. As the 1992 nomination states:

> Now owned by the Nebraska Sate Historical Society, the restored Neligh Mill is one of the state's more interesting Historical sites, and the Neligh Mill Bridge accrues a degree of significance and site integrity for its association with and proximity to the mill complex...The Neligh Mill Bridge is technologically significant as an early, well-preserved example of the pinned Pratt through truss: a mainstay structural type of wagon bridges built throughout Nebraska between the 1880s and the 1920s.[68]

Constructed in 1910 by the Western Bridge and Construction Company of Omaha, which also helped build the mill dam just one year earlier, the Neligh Mill Bridge does gain significance from its proximity to Neligh Mill. However, the bridge also adds to the significance and integrity of the Neligh Mill historic district, particularly considering the addition of the Water Power Resource Site across the Elkhorn River. The Neligh Mill Bridge contributes to the engineering significance of the district as yet another early 20th century structure that retains its original design, materials and workmanship typical during the Neligh Mill's period of historical significance. Furthermore, the bridge contributes to the overall historic setting, feeling and association of the historic district, while also representing how mill officials, labors and materials moved between their adjacent properties after 1910.

A second bridge along County Road 11, the Merritt Bridge, also deserves mention here, although its sits just outside of the eastern boundary of the historic district. The steel pin-connected, Pratt pony bridge was constructed in 1912 by the Western Bridge and Construction Company over the Merritt Cut-off, because early timber bridges were washed out at this location on an almost annual basis. It seems likely pressure placed on the Merritt Cut-off from the Neligh Mill's water power systems contributed to the washouts. The bridge was declared ineligible for National Register listing due to a loss of integrity in the 1991 Nebraska Historic Bridge survey, as this once one-span structure now includes three spans of dissimilar trusses.[69] However, alterations to the Merritt Bridge were, at the very least, indirectly related to activities at Neligh Mill. For instance, this bridge now spans both the Merritt Cut-off and the 1920 flood channel. While the Merritt Bridge was not included in the historic district because it sits outside the historic mill property, it still contributes to an overall understanding of engineering efforts at Neligh Mill.

Criterion Consideration E (added)

The Flume and Penstock was reconstructed by the Nebraska State Historical Society in 1975. It meets the three requirements of Criterion Consideration E for reconstructed properties. The structure was reconstructed with historically accurate materials in its original location based on historical research and photographs. Nebraska State Historical Society staff based their reconstruction on the structure as it appeared and functioned in 1919. Furthermore, it is grouped with the remaining historic resources of the Neligh Mill (the Mill Building, Neligh Mill Elevators, Mill Office and Mill Dam Ruins), which as a whole retain excellent historic integrity. No other resource was extant that could illustrate the creation of water power when the Nebraska State Historical Society took possession of the property in 1969. The Flume and Penstock,

[68] Fraser, Clayton B. "National Register of Historic Places Nomination: Neligh Mill Bridge," 3.
[69] Renewable Technologies, Inc. "Nebraska Historic Bridge Survey: Merritt Bridge [APTE02], 1991.

along with the accompanying machinery, is essential to understanding the production and use of water power at the Neligh Mill during its period of significance. Finally, the Nebraska State Historical Society fully acknowledges that the structure is a reconstruction in their self-guided tour pamphlet, during guided tours and in other interpretive materials.

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Johnson, Lon (Renewable Technologies, Inc.), "Nebraska Historic Bridge Inventory Form, Merritt Bridge [APTE01]," for the Nebraska State Historical Society and Nebraska Department of Roads, 1991.

Magie, John Q. (Nebraska State Historical Society), "National Register of Historic Places Nomination Form, Neligh Mill," 1969. [NPS #69000128]

Nebraska Sate Historical Society, "Neligh Mill State Historical Site, Neligh, Nebraska: A Self-Guided Tour (revised)," 1997.

Rasmussen Land Surveying, LLC. "Legal Survey of Two Irregular Tracts of Land Located in the N ½ of the SE ¼ Section 20, T25N, R6W...," 12 June 2009. On file at the Nebraska State Historic Preservation Office.

Wegmann, Edgar C.E. *The Design and Construction of Dams: Including Masonry, Earth, Rock-fill, Timber and Steel Structures and the Principle Types of Movable Dams* [Sixth Edition, Revised], New York, NY: John Wiley & Sons, [1899, 107, 1911, 1918], 1918. Accessed on Google Books at http://books.google.com/books?id= L6AgAAAAMAAJ.

University of Nebraska Lincoln, "Pierce," in *Virtual Nebraska: Nebraska...Our Towns*. Website at http://www.casde.unl.edu/ history/counties/pierce/pierce/. Accessed 12 December 2009.

United States Environmental Protection Agency, "Nebraska: Valentine Mill Pond" in *Section 319 Nonpoint Source Success Stories*. Website at http://www.epa.gov/nps/success/state/ne.htm. Accessed 12 December 2009.

United States Steel Company, "General Catalog," New York, NY: United States Steel Company, General Office, 1920. Accessed on Google Books at http://books.google.com/books?id=xi4KAAAAIAAJ.

10. Geographical Data (AMENDED)

Acreage of property Approximately 43 Acres

UTM References (place additional UTM references on a continuation sheet).

	Zone	Easting	Northing		Zone	Easting	Northing
1.	14	579525	4663587	**3.**	14	580088	4663972
2.	14	579525	4663722	**4.**	24	580088	4663991

[X] See continuation sheet

Verbal Boundary Description
(Describe the boundaries of the property on a continuation sheet.)

Boundary Justification
(Explain why the boundaries were selected on a continuation sheet.)

11. Form Prepared By

name/title Jessie Nunn / National Register Coordinator
organization Nebraska State Historical Society date November 27, 2009
street & number 1500 "R" Street telephone 402-471-4775
city or town Lincoln state NE zip code 68501

Additional Documentation

Submit the following items with the completed form:

Continuation Sheets

Maps
A **USGS map** (7.5 or 15 minute series) indicating the property's location.
A **Sketch map** for historic districts and properties having large acreage or numerous resources.

Photographs
Representative **black and white photographs** of the property.

Additional items
(Check with the SHPO or FPO for any additional items.)

Property Owner

(Complete this item at the request of the SHPO or FPO.)

name/title Nebraska State Historical Society and others (see Continuation Sheets)
street & number 1500 "R" Street telephone 402-471-3270
city or town Lincoln state NE zip code 68501

Paperwork Reduction Act Statement: This information is being collected for applications to the National Register of Historic Places to nominate properties for listing or determined eligibility for listing, to list properties, and to amend existing listings. Response to this request is required to obtain a benefit in accordance with the National Historic Preservation Act, as amended, (15 USC 470 et seq.).

Estimated Burden Statement: Public reporting burden for this form is estimated to average 18.1 hours per response including the 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 chief, Administrative Services Division, National Park Service, P.O. Box 37127, Washington, DC 20013-7127; and the Office of Management and Budget, Paperwork Reductions Project (1024-0018). Washington, DC 20503.

UTM Coordinates (continued from Section 10)

Point 5	Zone 14	E580103	N4663991
Point 6	Zone 14	E580103	N4664067
Point 7	Zone 14	E580203	N4664067
Point 8	Zone 14	E580203	N4663975
Point 9	Zone 14	E580127	N4663975
Point 10	Zone 14	E580127	N4663939
Point 11	Zone 14	E580067	N4663939
Point 12	Zone 14	E580067	N4663587

Note: Points 5 through 9 encompass the portion of Neligh Mill already listed in the National Register.

Boundary Description
The Neligh Mill Historic District is an irregular tract that overlaps urban and rural systems of land division found on either side of the Elkhorn River. The district is found within Block 22, Original Town Plat, Neligh, Antelope County, Nebraska and the North ½ of the SE ¼ of Section 20, T25N, R6W of the 6th P.M., Antelope County, Nebraska. The following description corresponds with points plotted on the accompanying sketch map.

Commencing at Point 1 (the SW corner of the SE ¼ of Section 20, T25, R6W) the boundary proceeds due north approximately 500' to Point 2 (the centerline of the Elkhorn River). The boundary then proceeds east to northeast along the centerline of the Elkhorn River until reaching the Neligh Mill Bridge at Point 3. The boundary then proceeds north approximately 75' to the northern end of the Neligh Bridge at Point 4, where it turns east for approximately 20' until reaching the eastern right of way line of County Road 11 at Point 5.

Commencing at Point 5, the boundary heads north approximately 300' to West 2nd Street at Point 6, turning due east for approximately 300' until reaching Point 7. From here it turns due south for approximately 240' to Point 8 (the NE corner of N ½ of SE ¼ of Section 20, T25, R6W). [This portion is already listed in the National Register and is described as the West ½ of Block 22, lots 7-12. See below.]

From Point 8, the boundary turns due west for approximately 240' to the eastern edge of the ruins of the Mill Dam at Point 9 (located in the Elkhorn River), then turns south for approximately 100' to Point 10 (a point parallel with the southern boundary of the Neligh Mill Bridge).Commencing at Point 10, the boundary proceeds west approximately 50' to Point 11, crossing County Road 11. Then the boundary turns south and follows the western right of way of County Road 11 for approximately 1280' feet to Point 12. Here the boundary turns due west for approximately 1780' returning to Point 1.[70]

[70] Measurements are estimates based on the June 12, 2009 legal survey by Rasmussen Land Surveying, LLC. (Scale 1" = 400') and a 1922 Plat Map of Neligh, NE by George A. Olge & Co. (Scale 1" = 100').

Boundary Justification
The expanded boundaries of Neligh Mill reflect the change in classification of this property from building(s) to district as well as the recognition of previously overlooked contributing resources. They have been drawn to encompass all of the known resources that contribute to the historic significance and integrity of Neligh Mill. In large part, they also reflect historic and current property ownership boundaries. The vast majority of the nominated property was acquired by the Nebraska State Historical Society (NSHS) in a series or deed transfers between 1969 and 1980.

Those lands included in the expanded boundary not owned by NSHS are the Neligh Mill Bridge and the south bank of the Elkhorn River where portions of the Mill Dam Ruins are located. The Neligh Mill Bridge, owned by Antelope County, was individually listed in the National Register in 1992. It has been included within this boundary increase as an integral visual (and historically functional) link between the Mill building area and the Water Power Resource Site. The southern portion of the Mill Dam Ruins is owned by the City of Neligh. Because it would be inappropriate to bisect the Dam Ruins simply to accommodate current property ownership boundaries, the boundary was drawn to include this small portion of land.

Because the Neligh Mill once owned the SE ¼ of Section 20 in its entirety, it is possible more resources related to the Water Power Resource Site production are located outside the boundaries of the Neligh Mill historic district.[71] However, the areas adjacent to the Water Power Resource Site have been developed by the City of Neligh. The city dump is located immediately south of the Water Resource Site, in the S ½ of the SE ¼ of Section 20, while Russell Park is located east of County Road 11 (N Street). Any resources within these areas have likely lost historic integrity due to development.

Already Listed on the National Register
West ½ of Block 22, Lots 7-12, Original Town, Neligh, Nebraska, Antelope County. On the accompanying sketch map, this rectangular area is roughly defined by Points 5-9. The southern boundary of this rectangular parcel has been altered in this amendment to include the ruins of the Mill Dam and the Neligh Mill Bridge within the boundaries of the historic district.

Nationally Significant Property within the Neligh Mill Historic District
The 1873/1874 Mill Building and associated additions are nationally significant. The 1969 nomination for Neligh Mill provides the following boundary description: West ½ of Block 22, Lots 7-12, Neligh, Nebraska, Antelope County. However, this seems incorrect since the boundary description provided by the 1983 Neligh Mill Elevators amendment is identical and those structures only have statewide significance. Furthermore, the described area includes other newly recognized structures that contribute to the Neligh Mill historic district, but only have statewide significance. The boundary for the national significant property within the Neligh Mill historic district, therefore, needs to be amended as such:

The nationally significant property within the historic district at Neligh Mill is limited to the 1873/1874 Mill Building, its associated additions, and a five foot perimeter of land surrounding the building's footprint. It is less than one acre and is centered on the following UTM Point:

1. Zone 14 E580128 N4664244

[71] George A. Olge & Co. "Neligh: Count Seat of Antelope County," [Plat Map], 1922.

Neligh Mill Owners and Managers

John D. Neligh (1873-1874)

William C. Galloway & William Lambert (1874)

Henry Beckman of New Jersey (1974-1889)
Managers—Galloway & Lambert

William C. Galloway & William Lambert (1889-1892)

William C. Galloway (1892-1894)

Henry Griffiths (1894-1897)

William C. Galloway & Sons (1897-1898)

Stephen F. Gilman (1898-1915)

Stephen F. Gilman Family (1915-1938)
Manager—Joseph W. Spirk

Joseph W. and Grace Spirk (1938-1953)

Jay Ames & Adina Vidstedt (1953-1969)

Nebraska State Historical Society (1969-present)

[Compiled from "Neligh Mill State Historic Site: A Self-Guided Tour (revised)," Nebraska State Historical Society, 1997.]

Photo 01 of 16. Neligh Mill Bridge and Flume Head Gate, Aspect: NE

Photo 02 of 16. Mill Office (south elevation) and Flume, Aspect: S

Photo 03 of 16. Flume and Penstock, Mill Building (south elevation), C & NW Railroad Box Car, Aspect: SW

Photo 04 of 16. Detail of Penstock, Gears and Pulley System, Aspect: SW

Photo 05 of 16. Mill Building and Mill Elevator (east elevation), Eastern Boundary of District, Aspect: SE

Photo 06 of 16. Neligh Mill Bridge and Mill Dam Ruins, Aspect: E

Photo 07 of 16. Neligh Mill Ruins, South Abutment and Steel Sheet Piling, Aspect: W

Photo 08 of 16. Eastern Edge of Dike A with County Road 11 in Background, Aspect: W

Photo 09 of 16. Dike A, Aspect: E

Photo 10 of 16. Small Cut in Dike System, Aspect: S

Photo 11 of 16. Elkhorn River, Neligh Mill Bridge and Neligh Mill from 1920 Flood Channel, Aspect: SW

Photo 12 of 16. Upper Dam Ruins across Merritt Cut-Off (west abutment and steel sheet piling), Aspect: E

Photo 13 of 16. Detail of Steel Sheet Piling at Upper Dam Ruins, Aspect: N

Photo 14 of 16. East Abutment of Upper Dam Ruins, Aspect: NW

Photo 15 of 16. Merritt Cut-off from Merritt Bridge, Aspect: E

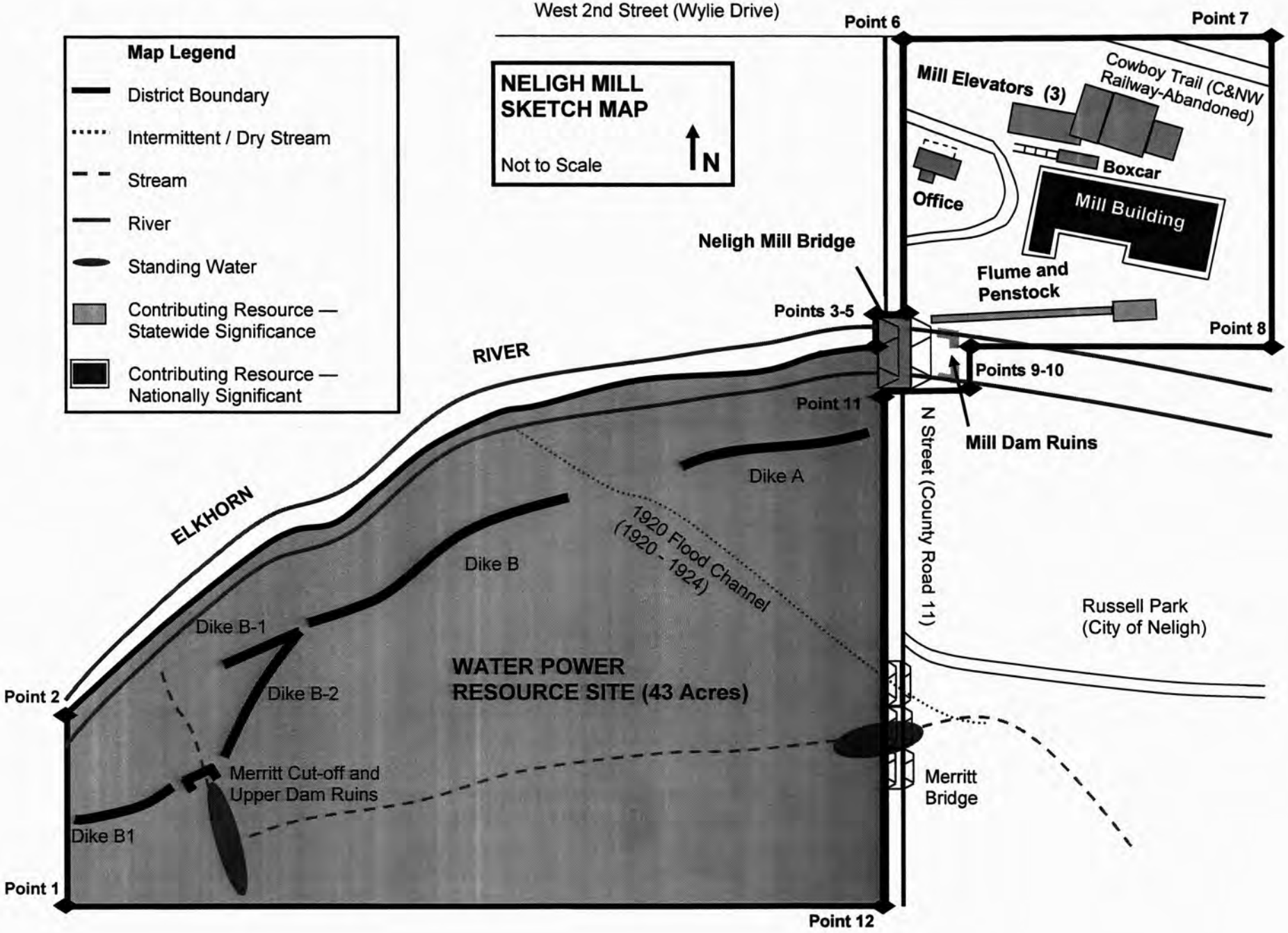
Photo 16 of 16. 1920 Flood Channel from Merritt Bridge, Aspect: SE

All photographs by Jessie Nunn, Nebraska State Historical Society. Photos 01, 02, 03, 05 and 06 were taken on August 7, 2009. All other photos were taken on November 12, 2009.

Nebraska State Historical Society
1500 "R" Street
Lincoln, NE 68501

City of Neligh
200 Main Street
Neligh, NE 68756

Antelope County
501 "M" Street
Neligh, NE 68756


Map Legend
District Boundary
Intermittent / Dry Stream
Stream
River
Standing Water
Contributing Resource — Statewide Significance
Contributing Resource — Nationally Significant
NELIGH MILL SKETCH MAP
Not to Scale
N
West 2nd Street (Wylie Drive)
Point 6
Point 7
Mill Elevators (3)
Cowboy Trail (C&NW Railway-Abandoned)
Boxcar
Office
Mill Building
Neligh Mill Bridge
Flume and Penstock
Points 3-5
Point 8
Points 9-10
Point 11
Mill Dam Ruins
RIVER
ELKHORN
Dike A
1920 Flood Channel (1920 - 1924)
Dike B
N Street (County Road 11)
Russell Park (City of Neligh)
Dike B-1
WATER POWER RESOURCE SITE (43 Acres)
Point 2
Dike B-2
Merritt Cut-off and Upper Dam Ruins
Merritt Bridge
Dike B1
Point 1
Point 12

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places Continuation Sheet

Name of Property

Section number ____ Page____

County and State

Name of multiple property listing (if applicable)

SUPPLEMENTARY LISTING RECORD

NRIS Reference Number: 10000134

Property Name: Neligh Mill (Boundary Increase)

County: Antelope State: Nebraska

Multiple Name:

This property is listed in the National Register of Historic Places in accordance with the attached nomination documentation subject to the following exceptions, exclusions, or amendments, notwithstanding the National Park Service certification included in the nomination documentation.

Signature of the Keeper April 2, 2010
Date of Action

==========

Amended Items in Nomination:

Section 8. Statement of Significance

The following clarification is made to the narrative on pages2 & 5.1 and 8. 10, in which reference is made to the original 1969 nomination for the mill: While the SHPO recommended that the original mill building be listed at the national level of significance, National Register records, including the NRIS, indicate that the property's significance was accepted at the State level. The claim for national significance in the original nomination was speculative, and no additional documentation supporting significance beyond the State level has been provided in either the 1983 boundary increase or the current boundary amendment/additional documentation. For these reasons all references to the national significance of the primary mill structure are, hereby, dropped and the amendment is being accepted at the State level.

The Nebraska Historic Preservation Office was notified of this amendment.

DISTRIBUTION:
National Register property file
Nominating Authority (without nomination attachment)

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
EVALUATION/RETURN SHEET

REQUESTED ACTION: NOMINATION

PROPERTY NAME: Neligh Mill (Boundary Increase)

MULTIPLE NAME:

STATE & COUNTY: NEBRASKA, Antelope

DATE RECEIVED: 2/19/10 DATE OF PENDING LIST: 3/04/10
DATE OF 16TH DAY: 3/19/10 DATE OF 45TH DAY: 4/05/10
DATE OF WEEKLY LIST:

REFERENCE NUMBER: 10000134

REASONS FOR REVIEW:

APPEAL:	N	DATA PROBLEM:	N	LANDSCAPE:	N	LESS THAN 50 YEARS:	N
OTHER:	N	PDIL:	N	PERIOD:	N	PROGRAM UNAPPROVED:	N
REQUEST:	Y	SAMPLE:	N	SLR DRAFT:	N	NATIONAL:	Y

COMMENT WAIVER: N

___ACCEPT ___RETURN ___REJECT _____DATE

ABSTRACT/SUMMARY COMMENTS:

Documentation justifies the expansion of the Neligh Mill and Grain elevator property which was listed in 2 segments in 1969 and 1983. It creates one large district that includes areas on both sides of the Elkhorn River associated with the development of the milling operation and water resources. Amendment treats 43-acre as a cultural landscape and focuses on process that is revealed by remaining structures and pattern of channels and lagoons, related to the utilization + management of the river for power. Domination is expanded to add (C) contributing flume (reconstruction included) (2) associated CNW railroad car on siding + other updates includes

RECOM./CRITERIA Accept A + C

REVIEWER L McClelland DISCIPLINE History

TELEPHONE _____ DATE 4/2/10

DOCUMENTATION see attached comments Y/N see attached SLR (Y)/N

If a nomination is returned to the nominating authority, the nomination is no longer under consideration by the NPS.

Previously listed Neligh Bridge (19) is included in district. Also Engineering is added as an area of sig. and period of significance is clarified as 1873 to 1924 to reflect level of sign.

Photo 1 of 16 NE_AntelopeCounty_Neligh Mill Amendment_0001

Neligh Mill (Boundary Increase/Amendment)
Antelope County, Nebraska

Photo 2 of 16 NE_AntelopeCounty-NeighMillAmendment 0002

Neligh Mill (Boundary Increase/Amendment)
Antelope County, Nebraska

Photo 3 of 16 NE_AntelopeCounty_NeighMillAmendment_0003

Neligh Mill (Boundary Increase / Amendment)
Antelope County, Nebraska

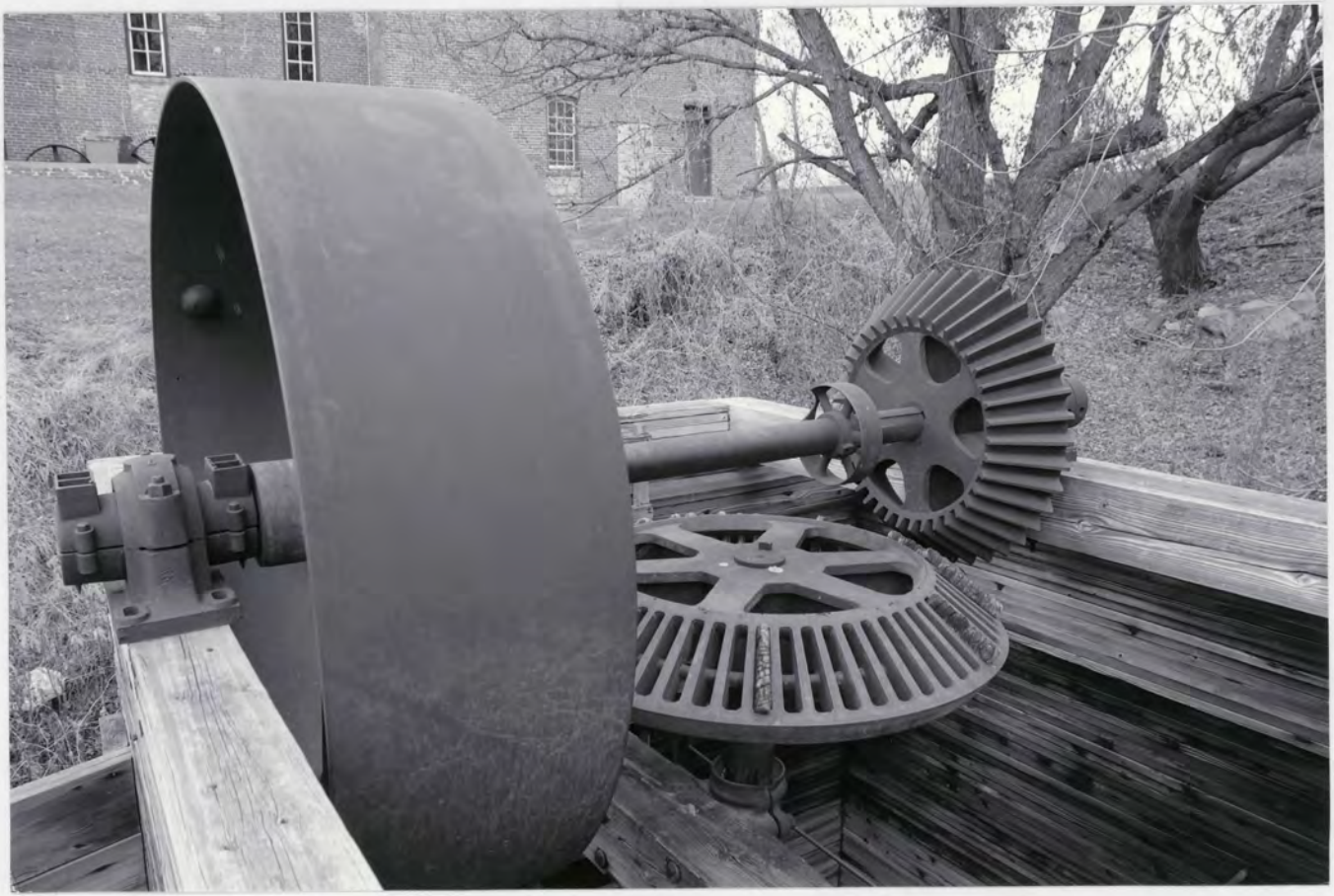


Photo 4 of 16 NE-AntelopeCounty-NeighMillAmendment_0004

Neligh Mill (Boundary Increase/Amendment)
Antelope County, Nebraska

Photo 5 of 16 NE_AntelopeCounty-Neligh Mill Amendment_0005

Neligh Mill (Boundary Increase/Amendment)
Antelope County, Nebraska

Photo 6 of 16 NE-AntelopeCounty-NeighMillAmendment_0006

Neligh Mill (Boundary Increase/Amendment)
Antelope County, Nebraska

Photo 7 of 16 NE_AntelopeCounty-NeighMillAmendment_0007

Neligh Mill (Boundary Increase/Amendment)
Antelope County, Nebraska

Photo 8 of 16 NE-AntelopeCounty-NeighMillAmendment_0008

Neligh Mill (Boundary Increase/Amendment)
Antelope County, Nebraska

photo 9 of 16 NE_AntelopeCounty_NeighMillAmendment_0009

Neligh Mill (Boundary Increase/Amendment)
Antelope County, Nebraska

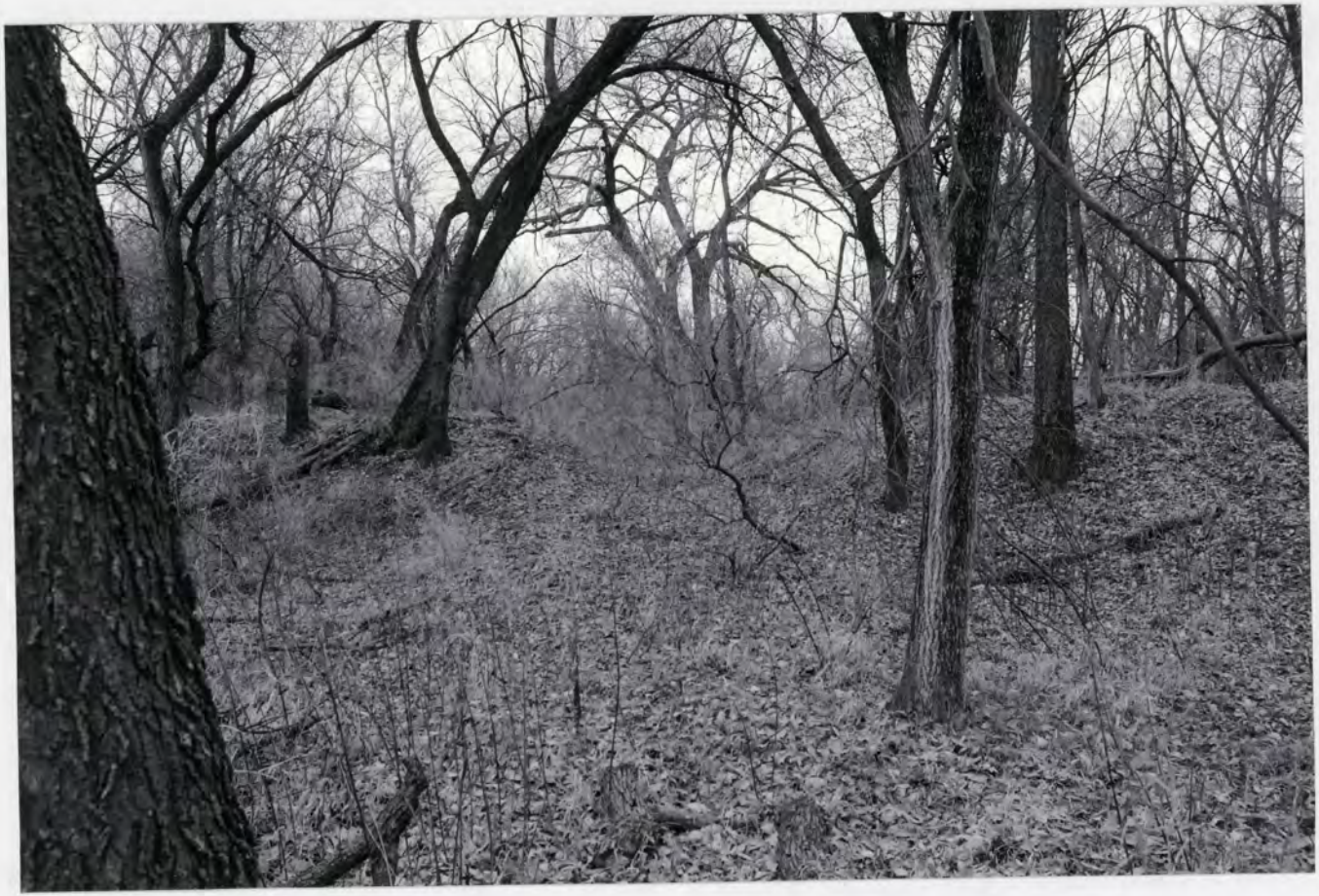


Photo 10 of 16 NE_AntelopeCounty_Neligh Mill Amendment_0010

Neligh Mill (Boundary Increase/Amendment)
Antelope County, Nebraska

Photo 11 of 16 NE_AntelopeCounty_NeighMill-Amendment_0011

Neligh Mill (Boundary Increase/Amendment)
Antelope County, Nebraska

Photo 12 of 16 NE_Antelope County_Neligh Mill Amendment_0012

Neligh Mill (Boundary Increase/Amend.)
Antelope County, Nebraska

Photo 13 of 16 NE-AntelopeCounty-Neligh Mill Amendment 0013

Neligh Mill (Boundary Increase / Amendment)
Antelope County, Nebraska

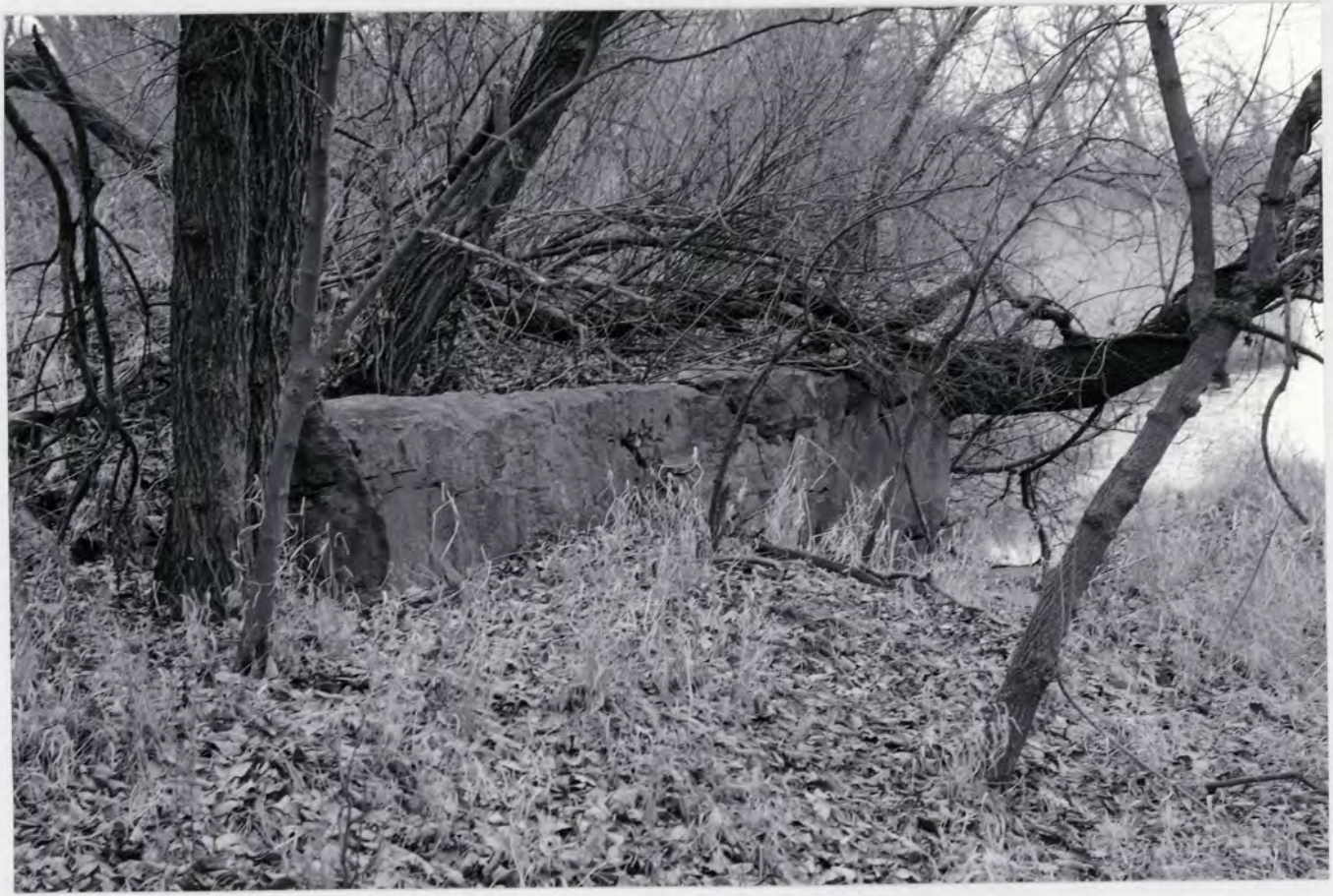


Photo 14 of 16 NE-AntelopeCounty_NeighMillAmendment_0014

Neligh Mill (Boundary Increase/Amendment)
Antelope County, Nebraska

Photo 15 of 16 NE-AntelopeCounty-Neligh Mill Amendment-0015

Neligh Mill (Boundary Increase/Amendment)
Antelope County, Nebraska

Photo 16 of 16 NE-AntelopeCounty_NeighMillAmendment_2016

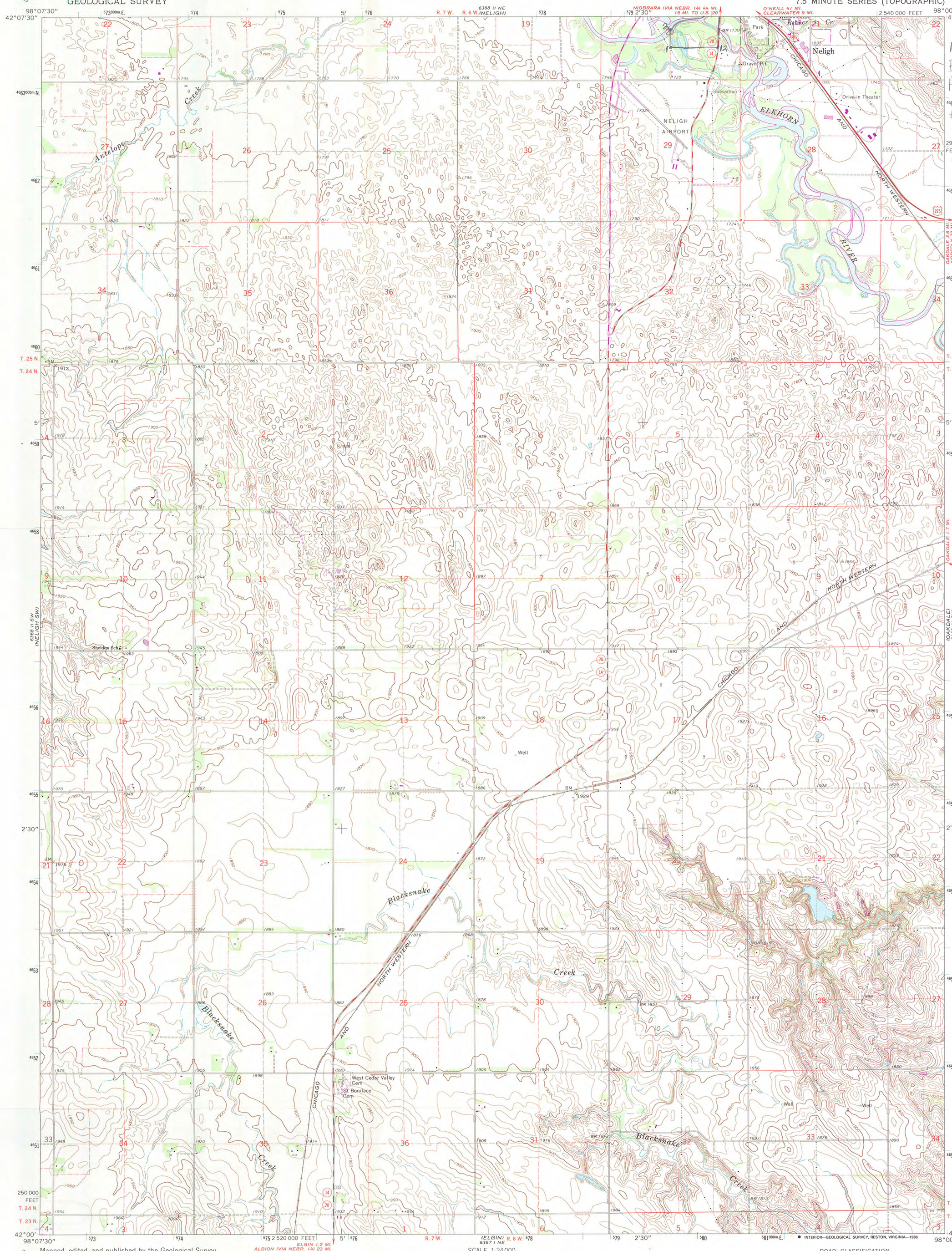
Neligh Mill (Boundary Increase/Amendment)
Antelope County, Nebraska

Points 3-12 on NELIGH Quad

UNITED STATES
DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
GEOLOGICAL SURVEY

NELIGH SE QUADRANGLE
NEBRASKA—ANTELOPE CO.
7.5 MINUTE SERIES (TOPOGRAPHIC)

Neligh Mill Boundary Increase/ Amendment
Antelope County, Nebraska
utm points: Zone 14
1. E579525 N4663587
2. E579525 N4663722
12. E580067 N4663587



Mapped, edited, and published by the Geological Survey as part of the Department of the Interior program for the development of the Missouri River Basin

Control by USGS, USC&GS, and U. S. Bureau of Reclamation

Topography by photogrammetric methods from aerial photographs taken 1961. Field checked 1963

Polyconic projection. 1927 North American datum
10,000-foot grid based on Nebraska coordinate system, north zone
1000-meter Universal Transverse Mercator grid ticks, zone 14, shown in blue

To place on the predicted North American Datum 1983, move the projection lines 5 meters north and 29 meters east as shown by dashed corner ticks

Revisions shown in purple and woodland compiled from aerial photographs taken 1984 and other sources
This information not field checked. Map edited 1986

UTM GRID AND 1986 MAGNETIC NORTH DECLINATION AT CENTER OF SHEET
MN GN 0°38' 11 MILS 8° 142 MILS

SCALE 1:24 000
1 MILE
7000 FEET
1 KILOMETER
CONTOUR INTERVAL 10 FEET
NATIONAL GEODETIC VERTICAL DATUM OF 1929

THIS MAP COMPLIES WITH NATIONAL MAP ACCURACY STANDARDS
FOR SALE BY U. S. GEOLOGICAL SURVEY, RESTON, VIRGINIA 22092
A FOLDER DESCRIBING TOPOGRAPHIC MAPS AND SYMBOLS IS AVAILABLE ON REQUEST

ROAD CLASSIFICATION
Primary highway, hard surface
Secondary highway, hard surface
Light-duty road, hard or improved surface
Unimproved road
Interstate Route
U. S. Route
State Route

NEBRASKA
QUADRANGLE LOCATION

NELIGH SE, NEBR.
42098-A1-TF-024

1963
PHOTOREVISED 1986
DMA 6368 II SE–SERIES V875

INTERIOR—GEOLOGICAL SURVEY, RESTON, VIRGINIA—1986

UNITED STATES
DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
GEOLOGICAL SURVEY

NELIGH QUADRANGLE
NEBRASKA—ANTELOPE CO.
7.5 MINUTE SERIES (TOPOGRAPHIC)

6368 I SW (ORCHARD)

6368 I SE (ROYAL)

6468 IV SW (BRUNSWICK)

98°07'30" 42°15' 573 000m E. 574 575 5' 576 R. 7 W. R. 6 W. 578 2'30" 580 581 2 540 000 FEET 98°00' 42°15' 340 000 FEET

NIOBRARA (VIA NEBR. 14) 36 MI.
7 MI. TO U.S. 20

11 MI. TO U.S. 275

School No 83

School No 38

School No 107

Well

Water Tank

Laurel Hill Cem.

High Sch

WTO

Neligh

Mill Building—Nationally Significant

Elkhorn River

Antelope Creek

Hall Creek

Beaver Creek

RED WING STATE WILDLIFE MANAGEMENT AREA

CHICAGO AND NORTH WESTERN

BM 1752

BR 1748

4676 000m N. 4675 4674 4673 4672 4670 4669 4668 4667 4666 300 000 FEET 4665 4664 000m N.

12'30" 10'

T. 26 N.
T. 25 N.

6368 II NW (CLEARWATER)

(TILDEN NW) 6468 III NW

O'NEILL 36 MI.
CLEARWATER 3.5 MI.

ELGIN 11 MI.
ALBION (VIA NEBR. 14) 33 MI.

OAKDALE 6 MI.
NORFOLK 34 MI.

(NELIGH SW) 6368 II SW

(OAKDALE) 6468 III SW

(NELIGH SE) R. 6 W. 6368 II SE

2 510 000 FEET

42°07'30" 98°07'30"

INTERIOR—GEOLOGICAL SURVEY, RESTON, VIRGINIA—1986

Mapped, edited, and published by the Geological Survey as part of the Department of the Interior program for the development of the Missouri River Basin

Control by USGS, USC&GS, and U. S. Bureau of Reclamation

Topography by photogrammetric methods from aerial photographs taken 1961. Field checked 1963

Polyconic projection. 1927 North American datum
10,000-foot grid based on Nebraska coordinate system, north zone
1000-meter Universal Transverse Mercator grid ticks,
zone 14, shown in blue

To place on the predicted North American Datum 1983, move the projection lines 5 meters north and 29 meters east as shown by dashed corner ticks

There may be private inholdings within the boundaries of the National or State reservations shown on this map

UTM GRID AND 1986 MAGNETIC NORTH DECLINATION AT CENTER OF SHEET
MN GN 0°38' 11 MILS 8° 142 MILS

SCALE 1:24 000
1 MILE 1000 0 1000 2000 3000 4000 5000 6000 7000 FEET
1 KILOMETER 1 5 0 1

CONTOUR INTERVAL 10 FEET
NATIONAL GEODETIC VERTICAL DATUM OF 1929

THIS MAP COMPLIES WITH NATIONAL MAP ACCURACY STANDARDS
FOR SALE BY U. S. GEOLOGICAL SURVEY, DENVER, COLORADO 80225
OR RESTON, VIRGINIA 22092
A FOLDER DESCRIBING TOPOGRAPHIC MAPS AND SYMBOLS IS AVAILABLE ON REQUEST

Points 1, 2, 12 located in Neligh SE

NEBRASKA
QUADRANGLE LOCATION

Revisions shown in purple and woodland compiled from aerial photographs taken 1984 and other sources
This information not field checked. Map edited **1986**

ROAD CLASSIFICATION
Heavy-duty — Light-duty
Medium-duty — Unimproved dirt
U.S. Route — State Route

NELIGH, NEBR.
42098-B1-TF-024

1963
PHOTOREVISED 1986
DMA 6368 II NE—SERIES V875

Mill Building—Nationally Significant

Zone 14
E 0580128
N 4664244

Neligh Mill Boundary Increase/ Amendment

Antelope County, Nebraska

utm points; Zone 14

3. E580088 N4663972
4. E580088 N4663991
5. E580103 N4663991
6. E580103 N4664067
7. E580203 N4664067
8. E580203 N4663975
9. E580127 N4663975
10. E580127 N4663939
11. E58008 N4663939

Nebraska
STATE HISTORICAL SOCIETY

RECEIVED 2280
FEB 19 2010
NAT. REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

February 8, 2010

J. Paul Loether
National Register—National Historic Landmarks Programs
National Park Service
1201 "I" Street NW, 8th Floor
Washington, DC 20005

RE: Neligh Mill (Amendment to NPS #69000128, 83003982, 92000724)
Neligh, Antelope County, Nebraska)

Dear Mr. Loether:

Please find enclosed the National Register of Historic Places nomination form for the above resource. This form has met all notification and other requirements as established in 36 CFR 60.

If you have any questions concerning this nomination, please let me know.

Sincerely,

Bob Puschendorf

L. Robert Puschendorf
Deputy State Historic Preservation Officer

Enclosure

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