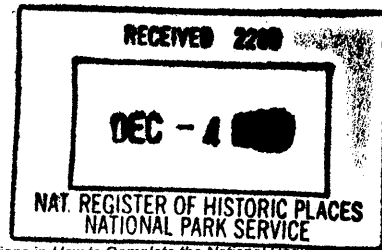


United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service



1569

National Register of Historic Places
Registration Form

This form is for use in nominating or requesting determinations for individual properties and districts. See instructions in *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 Spalding Power Plant and Dam
other names/site number GY00-163, GY00-164

2. Location

street & number 10 County Road not for publication
city or town Spalding vicinity
state Nebraska code NE county Greeley code 077 zip code 68665

3. State/Federal Agency Certification

As the designated authority under the National Historic Preservation Act of 1986, as amended, I hereby certify that this 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 meets does not meet the National Register Criteria. I recommend that this property be considered significant nationally statewide locally. (See continuation sheet for additional comments.)

[Signature]
Signature of certifying official

11/10/98
Date

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

State or Federal agency and bureau

Date

4. National Park Service Certification

- I, hereby certify that this property is:
 entered in the National Register.
 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): _____

Edson H. Beall

12/31/98

Signature of Keeper

Date of Action

5. Classification

Ownership of Property
(Check as many boxes as apply)

Category of Property
(Check only one box)

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

- private
- public-local
- public-state
- public-Federal

- building(s)
- district
- site
- structure
- object

Contributing	Noncontributing	
2		buildings
2		sites
1		structures
		objects
5		Total

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

Number of contributing resources previously listed in the National Register
n/a

6. Function or Use

Historic Functions
(Enter categories from instructions)

INDUSTRY/ manufacturing facility

INDUSTRY/ energy facility

RECREATION AND CULTURE/ sports facility

Current Functions
(Enter categories from instruction)

INDUSTRY/ energy facility

RECREATION AND CULTURE/ sports facility

7. Description

Architectural Classification
(Enter categories from instructions)

No style

Materials
(Enter categories from instructions)

foundation CONCRETE

walls CONCRETE

roof OTHER: tar

other CONCRETE

Narrative Description

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

8. Statement of Significance

Applicable National Register Criteria

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

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

Criteria Considerations

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

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.
[] 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

Period of Significance

1913-1948

Significant Dates

1913

1919

1923, 1927

Significant Person

(Complete if Criterion B is marked above.)

n/a

Cultural Affiliation

n/a

Architect/Builder

n/a

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.
[] 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
[] Other
Name of repository:

10. Geographical DataAcreage of Property Approximately 58 acres.

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

	Zone	Easting	Northing		Zone	Easting	Northing
1.	14	553390	4614720	3.	14	553070	4614230
2.	14	553320	4614720	4.	14	553290	4614210

[] 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 Byname/title Cora Eschorganization n/astreet & number RR 1, Box 140city or town Spaldingdate September 1998telephone (308) 497-2628state NE zip code 68665**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 Village of Spaldingstreet & number 211 East Joseph St.city or town Spaldingtelephone (308) 497-2501state NE zip code 68665**Paperwork Reduction Act Statement:** This information is being collected for applications to the National Register of Historic Places to nominate properties for listing or determine eligibility for listing, to list properties, and to amend existing listings. Response to this request is required to obtain a benefit in accordance with the National Historic Preservation Act, as amended, (16 U.S.C. 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.

United States Department of the Interior
National Park ServiceNational Register of Historic Places
Continuation SheetSpalding Power Plant and Dam

Name of Property

Greeley County, Nebraska

County and State

Section 7 Page 1

The Spalding Power Plant and Dam is located in Spalding, Greeley County, Nebraska. The entire complex is composed of two buildings, one housing electrical generating engines and another, the wheel house, containing water powered turbines; one structure that includes the dam, water race, and headgates; and two sites, a golf course that has historically been associated with the property, and a lake which was created by the dam and provides water for the race. All this is located on approximately 65 acres.

The Spalding Power Plant and Dam is located on the southwest edge of Spalding's city limits. Constructed in 1899, the original dam, built of logs, brush, and earth was used to supply power for a flour mill. In 1901 Jacob Vandenburg bought the mill from the original owners and began to make improvements. The dam, which is west of the wheel house, was improved several times until the present concrete structure was constructed in 1923. It is 165 feet long and 10 feet high. It has electrically operated sluice gates to regulate water levels. In 1994 rain storms caused extensive damage to the dam. The Village of Spalding received a grant from the Environmental Trust Fund to repair the dam. After consulting with the Nebraska State Historic Preservation Office, repairs, conforming to the "Secretary of the Interior's Standards for Rehabilitation", were made in 1995.

The lake, which is also west of the wheel house, was created by the dam and covers approximately 30 acres. It forms a storage of water to ensure the race remains operable. The lake is connected to the race by a relatively narrow waterway.

The head race, which flows from the lake, passes from west to east through flood gates before passing under the wheel house. The tail race then exits at the back of the wheel house. The water eventually returns to the Cedar River.

Constructed in 1913 to replace an older wooden structure, the stucco covered concrete wheel house is a simple building. The only distinguishing features are the parapet gabled walls on the north and south facades. Additionally, on the west side of the building are trash gates designed to catch debris that comes down the head race.

The wheel house contains two water turbines. Manufactured by the Electric Machinery Manufacturing Company they are rated at 2,400 volts and 164 rpm. Originally, it also housed a 75 horsepower diesel motor with a 40 kilowatt alternator. The motor was manufactured by the James Leffel Company and has a type HR Woodward governor. It runs at 163 rpm and is connected to a General Electric generator. The generator is rated at 2,300 volts and 900 rpm. This equipment was necessary to operate the turbines when the water level was insufficient. The wheel house also contains a three panel switchboard. There is one panel for each of the two turbines. The third panel measures the amount of energy generated by the turbines.

In 1919, a rectangular concrete block building was added to the complex just north of the wheel house. Again, this was a simply designed structure with no distinguishing exterior features. This addition was used to help facilitate the expanding demand for electricity generated by the power plant. The diesel engine and alternator were moved from the wheel house to this new building. Aside from housing the old generating unit it also contained an office and store room. In 1927 an addition was added to the north side to accommodate a new generator. The new engine was a model type "y" manufactured by Fairbanks-Morse. It was rated at 2,400 volts and 257 rpm.

The increased usage of electricity prompted the purchase of another Fairbanks-Morse diesel engine in 1949. This one was a 700 horsepower, 488 kilowatt, opposed piston type. In addition, a 100 kilowatt General Electric vertical unit was purchased to replace the old 40 kilowatt alternator. A metal addition was constructed on the north side of the building to accommodate this new equipment.

The nine hole golf course, which is west of the wheel house and south of the dam, is on land historically associated with the Spalding Power Plant and Dam. Some of the local citizens developed the land and by 1923 the course was open for play. The golf course is bounded on the east side by a county road. A service road and the dam

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Continuation Sheet**

Spalding Power Plant and Dam

Name of Property

Greeley County, Nebraska

County and State

Section 7 Page 2

create the north boundary. A fence line marks the western boundary. The south is bounded by a fence and the Cedar River which flows from the dam through the center of the course.

Aside from the creek running through the golf course there are few other obstacles. On the south, immediately north of the river is a heavily wooded area. Other trees are dispersed along the river as it runs through the course. Otherwise, it is relatively flat with a slight rise from east to west.

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Spalding Power Plant and Dam

Name of Property

Greeley County, Nebraska

County and State

Section 8 Page 1

The Spalding Power Plant and Dam located in Spalding, Greeley County, Nebraska is eligible at the local level under Criterion A for its association with industry. Originally the site contained a dam and flour mill. However, a few years after Jacob Vandenburg bought the property in 1901, he began to use the facilities to generate electricity. First for his own use and eventually for all of Spalding. As the demand increased he improved the power plant by adding diesel engines to supplement the electricity generated by the water powered turbines. Not only does the power plant, dam, and associated properties retain a high degree of integrity, but the original water turbines and diesel engines are still in use. The period of significance extends from 1913 when the earliest existing building, the wheel house, was constructed to 1948 which marks the 50 year criterion. This nomination consists of the following eligible properties: two buildings, two sites, and one structure

The Spalding Municipal Light Plant originally began as the Spalding Mill. This operation was started by W.H. Ward and W.R. Carter in 1889. They picked a suitable location on a bend of Cedar River to dig a diversion dam and mill race. The dam, mill, and race were constructed between 1889 and 1890. Flour and feed were manufactured at the mill by Ward and Carter for several years. Activity at the mill temporarily ended when a flood destroyed the diversion dam. Ward and Carter rebuilt the dam and began milling operations once again. In November 1901 Jacob Vandenburg bought the mill and its supporting facilities from the original owners. Vandenburg came to Spalding from Badger, Holt County, Nebraska where he had also operated a mill. The reestablished business became known as The Cedar Valley Roller Mills.

Jacob Vandenburg's two sons, Louis and George, were the first to make an improvement at the mill. Using lanterns for light, it was their job to get up every morning to oil the machinery and check equipment. After a few years they became tired of carrying the lanterns, so they belted a direct current generator to a turbine shaft thus creating enough electricity to light the mill and their adjoining house. This was the first use of electricity in Spalding.

The citizens of Spalding, after seeing what electric power did for the mill and Vandenburg house, approached the Vandenburgs about the possibility of supplying electricity to the village. In 1910 an agreement was reached to furnish the village with electricity. A Metz and Wiers 75 horsepower diesel engine and a 40 kilowatt alternator were installed in a newly constructed building adjoining the mill. The generator was also connected with the mill turbine. The diesel engine was necessary for times when the volume of water was insufficient to operate the turbine. Power lines were then constructed from the new power plant to Spalding. On February 1, 1911 the electricity was officially turned on to light Spalding's homes and businesses. Power was available from 6 a.m. to 8 a.m. and 6p.m. to 10 p.m. On dance night electricity was supplied until midnight.

The next improvement, to what had by now become the power plant, came in 1913. At that time the old diversion dam, which was constructed of logs, brush, and mud was replaced with a concrete structure. This dam had sluice gates which were operated by an electric gate lifter.

Over a period of time the citizens of Spalding came to rely more heavily on the use of electricity and the conveniences it offered. Finally, it reached a point where they wanted electricity 24 hours a day. To accommodate this desire a new power house was built in 1919. It contained a vertical 40 kilowatt Electric Machinery Alternator directly connected to a 24 inch, type Z Leffel turbine. To drive the original alternator a 40 inch Samson-Leffel turbine was also installed. This new equipment allowed all day service, but power was shut off at night because there was no load. In order to have a load and thus 24 hour service, the Village Council voted to have night street lights installed.

In 1923 a new, and current, dam was constructed. It is 165 feet long and 10 feet high. The dam provided a 16 foot head which supplied enough water to operate both turbines.

As previously mentioned, aside from the power plant and associated properties, Vandenburg bought some surrounding land. Since his interest was strictly in the power plant, he had no use or plans for the additional land.

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Spalding Power Plant and Dam

Name of Property

Greeley County, Nebraska

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Section 8 Page 2

Consequently, the citizens of the community approached Mr. Vandenburg about using the land to develop into a golf course. Vandenburg had no objections so strictly through the use of volunteer time and private donations the course was built in 1923. From its inception, the village did not own or maintain the course, rather the up-keep was the responsibility on concerned citizens.

By 1924, power demand was increasing and 75 horsepower diesel could no longer handle peak loads. So a new 150 horsepower Fairbanks-Morse diesel engine was installed that same year. In the 1940s the demand for electricity continued to increase. To alleviate this problem an additional engine and generator were added.

After being held in private hands from its inception, the village finally purchased the electrical facility from The Cedar Valley Roller Mills in 1954. The village owned power plant is still in operation today and most of the original equipment is still in place and operational. Part of the electricity continues to be generated by water power.

The Spalding Power Plant and Dam is a unique property for a number of reasons. Despite its age, the facility still supplies electricity to the Village of Spalding using the original equipment. This includes the diesel engines and water powered turbines which, although once plentiful, are now very rare in Nebraska. The importance and significance of the power plant to Spalding, both materially and historically, cannot be overstated. The community has gone to great lengths to maintain and preserve the historical integrity of the power plant while keeping it in working condition. Additionally, the golf course, which is one of the oldest in the state, began as a community project and is currently run and maintained by the city.

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Continuation Sheet

Spalding Power Plant and Dam

Name of Property

Greeley County, Nebraska

County and State

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Bibliography

Esch, Cora, et al. Early Days of Spalding. 1976.

Rapp, William and Susan Beranke. The Industrail Archeology of Nebraska. Crete, Nebraska: J-B Publishing Co. 1984.

Verbal Boundary Description

A tract of land in the South Half of the Southeast Quarter of Section Twenty, Township Twenty North, Range Nine West, and described as follows:
Commencing 191 feet South of the Northeast corner of the South Half Southeast Quarter of Section Twenty, Township Twenty North, Range Nine, West of the Sixth P.M., running thence West at right angles on a line parallel with the North line of the South Half Southeast Quarter, 923 feet; thence South at right angles on a line parallel with the East line of said Southeast Quarter, 255 feet; thence West at right angles on a line parallel with the North line of the South Half Southeast Quarter, 1717 feet, more or less to intersect the West line of the South Half Southeast Quarter; thence South along the West line of the South Half Southeast Quarter, 874 feet, more or less, to the Southwest corner of the Southeast Quarter; thence East at right angles along the South line of the Southeast Quarter, 2640 feet, more or less, to the Southeast corner of the Southeast Quarter; thence North at right angles along the East line of the Southeast Quarter, 1129 feet, more or less, to the place of beginning, and containing 58 acres, more or less.

Boundary Justification

This includes all the land historically associated with the site and currently owned by the Village of Spalding.

Spalding Power Plant and Dam

KEY

1. Power Plant
2. Wheel House
3. Flood Gates
4. Head Race
5. Tail Race
6. County Road
7. Golf Course
8. Cedar River
9. Fence Line
10. Service Road
11. Dam
12. Lake

