

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

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RECEIVED JUN 28 1984
DATE ENTERED AUG 1 1984

**NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
INVENTORY -- NOMINATION FORM**

SEE INSTRUCTIONS IN *HOW TO COMPLETE NATIONAL REGISTER FORMS*
TYPE ALL ENTRIES -- COMPLETE APPLICABLE SECTIONS

1 NAME

HISTORIC

Queen Bee Mill

AND/OR COMMON

Queen Bee Mill

LOCATION

STREET & NUMBER

North Weber Avenue, Falls Park

NA NOT FOR PUBLICATION

CITY, TOWN

Sioux Falls

NA VICINITY OF

CONGRESSIONAL DISTRICT

First

STATE

South Dakota

CODE

46

COUNTY

Minnehaha

CODE

099

CLASSIFICATION

CATEGORY

- DISTRICT
- BUILDING(S)
- STRUCTURE
- SITE
- OBJECT

OWNERSHIP

- PUBLIC
- PRIVATE
- BOTH
- PUBLIC ACQUISITION**
- NA IN PROCESS
- BEING CONSIDERED

STATUS

- OCCUPIED
- UNOCCUPIED
- WORK IN PROGRESS
- ACCESSIBLE**
- YES: RESTRICTED
- YES: UNRESTRICTED
- NO

PRESENT USE

- AGRICULTURE
- COMMERICAL
- EDUCATIONAL
- ENTERTAINMENT
- GOVERNMENT
- INDUSTRIAL
- MILITARY
- MUSEUM
- PARK
- PRIVATE RESIDENCE
- RELIGIOUS
- SCIENTIFIC
- TRANSPORTATION
- OTHER:

OWNER OF PROPERTY

NAME

City of Sioux Falls, Mayor Rick Knobe

STREET & NUMBER

City Hall, 224 West 9th Street

CITY, TOWN

Sioux Falls

NA VICINITY OF

STATE

South Dakota

LOCATION OF LEGAL DESCRIPTION

COURTHOUSE,
REGISTRY OF DEEDS, ETC.

Register of Deeds

STREET & NUMBER

Minnehaha County Courthouse, Dakota Avenue

CITY, TOWN

Sioux Falls

STATE

South Dakota

6 REPRESENTATION IN EXISTING SURVEYS

TITLE

Sioux Falls Historic Sites Suurvey

site not been determined eligible

DATE

Summer 1980

FEDERAL STATE COUNTY LOCAL

DEPOSITORY FOR
SURVEY RECORDS

Historical Preservation Center

CITY, TOWN

Vermillion

STATE

South Dakota

7 DESCRIPTION

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

DESCRIBE THE PRESENT AND ORIGINAL (IF KNOWN) PHYSICAL APPEARANCE

The Queen Bee mill complex consisted of four structures on a two acre site on the east bank of the Big Sioux River, just north of the downtown commercial district of Sioux Falls. Today, only two foundations remain, while the evidence of a third is a pile of quartzite rubble.

The major structure is the mill. Measuring 80 by 100 (80' 1" by 100' 3"), the mill was seven stories in height. Five bays along the gable side and seven along the axial, the mill was built of rubble masonry Sioux quartzite. Presently, the story-and-a-half walls remain. This foundation has been filled in with some rubble, although concrete pads are still visible. A concrete and brick foundation for machinery is located in the northeast corner. Metal pipes enter the structure at three points along the rear wall, and two, brick vaulted channels with stone abutments are built into the hillside along the east wall. These channels lead to the second foundation, the old elevator. A wall, which is buried in the hillside emerges on the southwest corner of the building. This area may have been the channel for the water. Other features which are still evident are the brick arches over windows as well as cut granite sills.

A second foundation is the grain elevator, located to the east. Recently the foundation was filled, although photographs reveal the channels in the foundation floor. This quartzite rubble masonry wall is six feet in height at the highest point. Two feet thick, the remaining wall measures 80' 1" by 45' 9".

South of the main structure is the dam area and retaining walls. Two large pipes, four to five feet in diameter, are visible and lead from the headworks to the wheel pit in the mill.

The two other structures were a warehouse and cooper shop.

The area has been extensively disturbed and so no archaeological material remains. The site is being nominated for its historic significance.

8 SIGNIFICANCE

PERIOD		AREAS OF SIGNIFICANCE -- CHECK AND JUSTIFY BELOW				
<input type="checkbox"/> PREHISTORIC	<input type="checkbox"/> ARCHEOLOGY-PREHISTORIC	<input type="checkbox"/> COMMUNITY PLANNING	<input type="checkbox"/> LANDSCAPE ARCHITECTURE	<input type="checkbox"/> RELIGION		
<input type="checkbox"/> 1400-1499	<input type="checkbox"/> ARCHEOLOGY-HISTORIC	<input type="checkbox"/> CONSERVATION	<input type="checkbox"/> LAW	<input type="checkbox"/> SCIENCE		
<input type="checkbox"/> 1500-1599	<input type="checkbox"/> AGRICULTURE	<input type="checkbox"/> ECONOMICS	<input type="checkbox"/> LITERATURE	<input type="checkbox"/> SCULPTURE		
<input type="checkbox"/> 1600-1699	<input type="checkbox"/> ARCHITECTURE	<input type="checkbox"/> EDUCATION	<input type="checkbox"/> MILITARY	<input type="checkbox"/> SOCIAL/HUMANITARIAN		
<input type="checkbox"/> 1700-1799	<input type="checkbox"/> ART	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> ENGINEERING	<input type="checkbox"/> MUSIC	<input type="checkbox"/> THEATER		
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 1800-1899	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> COMMERCE	<input type="checkbox"/> EXPLORATION/SETTLEMENT	<input type="checkbox"/> PHILOSOPHY	<input type="checkbox"/> TRANSPORTATION		
<input type="checkbox"/> 1900-	<input type="checkbox"/> COMMUNICATIONS	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> INDUSTRY	<input type="checkbox"/> POLITICS/GOVERNMENT	<input type="checkbox"/> OTHER (SPECIFY)		
		<input type="checkbox"/> INVENTION				

SPECIFIC DATES 1879-1881 BUILDER/ARCHITECT J. W. McKeen, designer, builder
Minneapolis, MN

STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE

Built during a two year period, the Queen Bee Mill is significant in the areas of commerce, engineering and industry. As the largest mill in South Dakota, the Queen Bee represents one of the most ambitious industrial enterprises in Sioux Falls. The size of the operation and its early date of construction add to its significance as a bold and overly optimistic project. Today, as part of an industrial park, it serves as a local landmark of Sioux Falls' history.

The mill was built through the efforts of R. F. Pettigrew, promoter and United States Senator. At the height of the Dakota Boom in 1878, Pettigrew believed that the city of Sioux Falls was in need of a major mill. He wrote, "I remember seeing a string of two thousand teams one behind the other, reaching clear beyond the Brandon crossing, waiting to unload, at the little warehouse which railroad people had constructed. This impressed me very forcibly, and therefore I took the train and went to St. Paul and told about the wonderful string of teams and about the wonderful water power here at Sioux Falls." W. W. Brookings, who owned the land and held the rights to the falls gave his permission to Pettigrew to pursue investors. First, he contacted R. R. Drake, President of the St. Paul and Sioux City Railroad, and then George Seney, President of the Metropolitan Bank of New York. Seney, on behalf of the investment group, purchased the property and the rights to the water power. Construction of the mill was begun under the direction of the Sioux Falls Water Power Company.

J. W. McKeen of Minneapolis designed the mill, which was constructed between 1879 and 1881. George W. Cooley, a hydraulic engineer was assisted by H. W. Stearn, Peter Paff, William H. Bailey and O. A. Pray in the design and construction of the Queen Bee. The existing dam was modified to meet the requirements of the large mill operation, which had a daily capacity of 1200 barrels. Two miles of elevators, three of conveyors and eight of spouting were used. The elevator had a 1000 bushel capacity, while the warehouse was a full four stories. A railroad siding, with a 22 car capacity, connected the mill to the city's five rail lines.

For all its size, the mill never operated at its full capacity, due to insufficient water power and other problems. It opened in 1881 and was closed by bankruptcy in 1883. Changing hands several times, the mill never reached the expectations of the promoters who had stretched the truth about the water power available from the Big Sioux.

9 MAJOR BIBLIOGRAPHICAL REFERENCES

see continuation sheet

10 GEOGRAPHICAL DATA

ACREAGE OF NOMINATED PROPERTY two acres

QUADRANGLE NAME Sioux Falls East

QUADRANGLE SCALE 1:24 000

UTM REFERENCES

A 14 684000 4824960

B

C

D

E

F

G

H

VERBAL BOUNDARY DESCRIPTION

See continuation sheet

LIST ALL STATES AND COUNTIES FOR PROPERTIES OVERLAPPING STATE OR COUNTY BOUNDARIES

STATE NA CODE COUNTY CODE

STATE CODE COUNTY CODE

11 FORM PREPARED BY

NAME / TITLE

Tom Lubeck and Carolyn Torma

March 23, 1984

ORGANIZATION

Historical Preservation Center

605-677-5313

STREET & NUMBER

University of South Dakota

TELEPHONE

CITY OR TOWN

Vermillion

STATE

South Dakota 57069

12 STATE HISTORIC PRESERVATION OFFICER CERTIFICATION

THE EVALUATED SIGNIFICANCE OF THIS PROPERTY WITHIN THE STATE IS:

NATIONAL

STATE

LOCAL

As the designated State Historic Preservation Officer for the National Historic Preservation Act of 1966 (Public Law 89-665), I hereby nominate this property for inclusion in the National Register and certify that it has been evaluated according to the criteria and procedures set forth by the National Park Service.

STATE HISTORIC PRESERVATION OFFICER SIGNATURE

TITLE

Director, Office of Cultural Preservation

DATE

06/30/84

FOR NPS USE ONLY

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

Alvin Byers
KEEPER OF THE NATIONAL REGISTER

Entered in the
National Register

DATE

8-1-84

ATTEST:

CHIEF OF REGISTRATION

DATE

**United States Department of the Interior
Heritage Conservation and Recreation Service**

**National Register of Historic Places
Inventory—Nomination Form**

Queen Bee Mill SD
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received

date entered

As milling techniques changed, the Queen Bee became outdated. Finally, in 1906 the Sioux Falls Light and Power Company purchased the Queen Bee property with the idea of reopening the mill. However, it was sold again in 1907 to the United Flour Milling company. Changing hands again in 1911, the mill passed to the Quinn-Shepherdson company and again, in 1917, to the Larrabee Mills Corporation the mill was eventually converted it to a warehouse. Ben Margulles, an automobile dealer purchased the building in 1937 and was still owner on January 30, 1956, when a fire destroyed the Queen Bee. The city obtained the property in the mid 1970s and converted the area into a park.

The Queen Bee dates from the earliest years of speculation. Sioux Falls, it was firmly believed, would rival Minneapolis and St. Paul as a milling center and commercial metropolis. However, South Dakota never recovered from the economic depression of the late 1880s and early 1890s and so monumental structures such as this remain as evidence of the easy money and speculator schemes of the Dakota Boom.

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The Pantagraph. May 4, 1879, May 21, 1879, July 2, 1879, July 30, 1879,

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Queen Bee Mill
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The sites lies in Tract 6, Lot 1 of the Equitable Realty Company's Subdivision of the Plat of Sioux Falls. The lot lines on the north and west form the boundaries of those sides. The southern boundary is a line located two-thirds of the lot from the north or 195.72 feet from the north edge of the lot line. The eastern boundary is formed by the railroad track, which bisects the lot in a southwest-northeast line.