

MINNESOTA HISTORIC PROPERTIES INVENTORY FORM

HISTORIC NAME: Swany White Flour Mill & Miller's House

COUNTY: Stearns

MAR 11 1982

CURRENT NAME:

CITY/TWP.: Freeport

LEGAL DESC.: See continuation sheet

ADDRESS:
Mary St., S. of tracks,
Freeport

CLASSIFICATION:	CONDITION:	SIGNIFICANCE:	THEME/S:
Buildings <u>x</u>	Excellent _____	Local <u>x</u>	Primary Industry _____
Structure _____	Good <u>x</u>	State _____	Secondary _____
Object _____	Fair _____	National _____	Others _____
District _____	Deteriorated _____		

OPEN TO THE PUBLIC: Yes ___ No x Restricted ___
 VISIBLE FROM THE ROAD: Yes x No ___
 OCCUPIED: Yes x No ___

PRESENT USE:
Flour mill and residence

DATE CONSTRUCTED: 1898-1900

ORIGINAL USE: Flour mill and residence

ORIGINAL OWNER: Anthony Hoeschen

ARCHITECT/BUILDER: Unknown

OWNER'S NAME AND ADDRESS:
See continuation sheet

ACREAGE: Less than one acre x

LOCAL CONTACT/ORG.:
N/A

UTM REFERENCE:
15 / 368490 / 5057650
Freeport, MN. Quad. 7.5

FORM PREPARED BY: Thomas Harvey
 DATE: October 1980

DESCRIPTION:
 The Swany White Flour Mill is a three-story frame building clad in silver painted tin sheeting, stamped to resemble stone blocks. The building sits on a slightly raised stone basement. Attached to the rear, southwest side of the mill is a single story brick powerhouse, which originally housed the boiler and steam engine. The original brick smokestack stands just west of the power house. Both the power house and smokestack have granite foundations. A low warehouse extends off the southeast wall of the building, as do four cylindrical metal grain bins connected by a conveyor. The mill office sits between the grain bins and the mill. Two new grain bins have been built just south of the warehouse.

The miller's house is located immediately adjacent to the mill on its southwest side. The white frame, two-story house has a front-facing gable. In the gable is decorative woodwork with the date 1900. The house has single-story, front and rear porches, now enclosed.

Inside the mill, most of the early equipment remains intact and in use. Only the steam engine has been removed. The original equipment was replaced in 1928; however the replacement equipment is of a type in use from the 1880s to the 1930s. A list of the mill equipment is attached.

SIGNIFICANCE:

The Swany White Flour Mill and Miller's House form an important mill complex retaining much of its original integrity. The mill continues to operate with an unusually complete selection of equipment typical of the 1880-1930 period. Only the power source has changed-from steam to electricity in 1966. The mill was one of eight pre-1900 steam mills in Stearns County. (There were sixteen 19th century water powered mills in the county.) It was built in 1898 by Anthony Hoeschen and changed hands several times in the early years of operation. Kuepers and Sons owned the mill in 1900 and Hubert Thelen bought the mill property in 1903 and Peter Thelen resided in the house. The Thelens enlarged the mill in 1912 by adding the third story to the building. Output was more than doubled from 50 to 125 barrels per day. The mill remains in the Thelen family. The miller's house is no longer owned by Swany White Flour Mills, but with the mill it forms a significant reminder of the once common milling industry in Stearns County.

Legal Description

Mill: West 40' of Lot 1, vacated alley between Lots 1 & 2, Lot 2, and East $\frac{1}{2}$ of vacated Mary Street adjacent to Lot 2, Block 11, Original Plat of Freeport.

Miller's House: Lot 1, Block 11, beginning on the northeast border 40' southeast of the northwest corner of the block, 200' southeast along the northeast border; right 90^o, thence 58.9'; right 90^o, thence 100'; left 90^o, thence 114; right 90^o, thence 100'; right 90^o, thence 172.9' to point of origin.

Owners

Mill: Swany White Flour Mills
 Rt. 2, Box 215
 Freeport, Minnesota 56331

House: Gilbert & Rose Beste
 Freeport, Minnesota 56331