

# DATA SHEET

Form 10-300  
(Rev. 6-72)

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR  
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

## NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES INVENTORY - NOMINATION FORM

(Type all entries - complete applicable sections)

STATE: Colorado
COUNTY: Jefferson
FOR NPS USE ONLY
ENTRY DATE APR 24 1975

### 1. NAME

COMMON: Tiller's Moving & Storage, Inc.
AND/OR HISTORIC: Arvada Flour Mill <i>Use this</i>

### 2. LOCATION

STREET AND NUMBER: 5580 Wadsworth Boulevard			
CITY OR TOWN: Arvada		CONGRESSIONAL DISTRICT: 2	
STATE Colorado	CODE 08	COUNTY: Jefferson	CODE 059

### 3. CLASSIFICATION

CATEGORY (Check One)	OWNERSHIP	STATUS	ACCESSIBLE TO THE PUBLIC
<input type="checkbox"/> District <input type="checkbox"/> Site <input type="checkbox"/> Object <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Building <input type="checkbox"/> Structure	<input type="checkbox"/> Public <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Private <input type="checkbox"/> Both	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Occupied <input type="checkbox"/> Unoccupied <input type="checkbox"/> Preservation work in progress	Yes: <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Restricted <input type="checkbox"/> Unrestricted <input type="checkbox"/> No
PRESENT USE (Check One or More as Appropriate)			
<input type="checkbox"/> Agricultural <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Commercial <input type="checkbox"/> Educational <input type="checkbox"/> Entertainment	<input type="checkbox"/> Government <input type="checkbox"/> Industrial <input type="checkbox"/> Military <input type="checkbox"/> Museum	<input type="checkbox"/> Park <input type="checkbox"/> Private Residence <input type="checkbox"/> Religious <input type="checkbox"/> Scientific	<input type="checkbox"/> Transportation <input type="checkbox"/> Other (Specify) _____ _____

### 4. OWNER OF PROPERTY

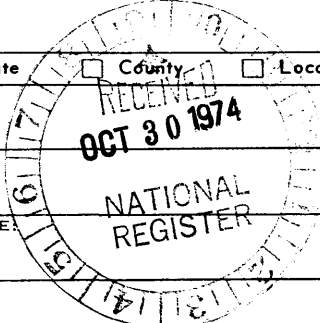
OWNER'S NAME: Fred Tiller Jr.	STATE: Colorado
STREET AND NUMBER: 5580 Wadsworth Boulevard	
CITY OR TOWN: Arvada	
STATE: Colorado	
	CODE 08

### 5. LOCATION OF LEGAL DESCRIPTION

COURTHOUSE, REGISTRY OF DEEDS, ETC.: Jefferson County Courthouse		STATE: Colorado
STREET AND NUMBER:		
CITY OR TOWN: Golden	STATE: Colorado	
	CODE 08	

### 6. REPRESENTATION IN EXISTING SURVEYS

TITLE OF SURVEY: None	<input type="checkbox"/> Federal <input type="checkbox"/> State <input type="checkbox"/> County <input type="checkbox"/> Local
DATE OF SURVEY:	
DEPOSITORY FOR SURVEY RECORDS:	
STREET AND NUMBER:	
CITY OR TOWN:	STATE: Colorado
	CODE



SEE INSTRUCTIONS

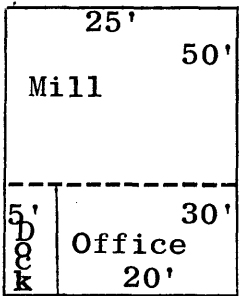
STATE: Colorado  
COUNTY: Jefferson  
ENTRY NUMBER: 241975  
DATE: APR 24 1975  
FOR NPS USE ONLY

7. DESCRIPTION

CONDITION	(Check One)					
	<input type="checkbox"/> Excellent	<input type="checkbox"/> Good	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Fair	<input type="checkbox"/> Deteriorated	<input type="checkbox"/> Ruins	<input type="checkbox"/> Unexposed
	(Check One)			(Check One)		
	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Altered	<input type="checkbox"/> Unaltered		<input type="checkbox"/> Moved	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Original Site	

DESCRIBE THE PRESENT AND ORIGINAL (if known) PHYSICAL APPEARANCE

LANDMARK: Tiller's Mill



The 50' x 25' building has three floors and a full basement -- a small (23' x 20') office protrudes at the front of the structure and has a basement and attic.

- Floor and roof are 2" x 6" wood joists
- Flooring is softwoodpine (100%)
- Hip roof made of corrugated, galvanized iron
- Exterior walls-unlined wood siding and galvanized iron
- Interior walls - 100% unfinished
- Ceiling - 100% unfinished
- Elec. wiring is conduit
- Ventilation - none
- Plumbing - one water closet, one lavatory

Eugene Emory Benjamin secured a 99 year lease from the Colorado and Southern Railroad and stated his mill. He had help from his brother-in-law, Bert Wales, and itinerant carpenters, and they built a mill and attached grain elevators, completing the project in 1923. When completed the building included a total of 44,700 square feet and stood 32' tall.

The mill was built on a concrete and rock foundation. Two of the interior posts are 10" x 10" x 8'. Some of the large beams are 8" x 8" x 50'. Between the track and the wide loading door, Mr. Benjamin installed a truck scale so that truck and grain could be weighed before unloading. He paid \$1,000 for the scale. The large grinder roos cost him \$200 each, and he sent to Switzerland for large rolls of fine white cloth to sift his flour in the final finishing process.

The old heating facility -- a pot belly stove -- is available when the mill is restored.

There are 4 doors on the main level -- one in the front of the office, and a double door on the north side of the office -- one opening onto a covered porch (should be main entry) and another double door on the north side (could be used for large objects being moved into the building). There is one abandoned door at the basement level (partially hidden by landfill) and another on the top floor used to go into the storage bins but they now have been removed. The 16 double sash windows are small and flush and high.

See Continuation of Description Attached

SEE INSTRUCTIONS

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES  
INVENTORY - NOMINATION FORM

(Continuation Sheet)

STATE Colorado	
COUNTY Jefferson	
FOR NPS USE ONLY	
ENTRY NUMBER	DATE
	APR 24 1975

(Number all entries)

#7 continued:

The property is in the right-of-way of the Colorado and Southern Railroad. There is ample parking and there are no trees, shrubs, or grass.



**6. SIGNIFICANCE**

PERIOD (Check One or More as Appropriate)

- Pre-Columbian |  16th Century |  18th Century |  20th Century  
 15th Century |  17th Century |  19th Century

SPECIFIC DATE(S) (If Applicable and Known) **1923 (Building) 1880's (for Equipment)**

AREAS OF SIGNIFICANCE (Check One or More as Appropriate)

- |  |   |  |  |
|--|---|--|--|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Aboriginal              | <input type="checkbox"/> Education              | <input type="checkbox"/> Political           | <input type="checkbox"/> Urban Planning        |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Prehistoric             | <input type="checkbox"/> Engineering            | <input type="checkbox"/> Religion/Philosophy | <input type="checkbox"/> Other (Specify) _____ |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Historic                | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Industry    | <input type="checkbox"/> Science             | _____  |
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Agriculture  | <input type="checkbox"/> Invention              | <input type="checkbox"/> Sculpture           | _____  |
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Architecture | <input type="checkbox"/> Landscape Architecture | <input type="checkbox"/> Social/Humanitarian | _____  |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Art                     | <input type="checkbox"/> Literature             | <input type="checkbox"/> Theater             | _____  |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Commerce                | <input type="checkbox"/> Military               | <input type="checkbox"/> Transportation      | _____  |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Communications          | <input type="checkbox"/> Music                  |  |  |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Conservation            |   |  |  |

STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE

SIGNIFICANCE

The first gold discovery in the State of Colorado was in the Arvada area--in a little mountain stream--named for its discoverer, Louis Ralston. The gold in Ralston Creek was float gold, and gold mining played only a small part in the history of the area. Disappointed prospectors quickly realized the potential in the fertile soil of the Ralston Valley, and a thriving agricultural community developed.

A feed grinding mill was built in 1897, and this mill at times processed grain for flour. It was not until 1923 that the community had its own flour mill, built by Eugene Emory Benjamin.

Gene Benjamin was born in 1879 shortly after his parents came west in a covered wagon. He was involved in milling enterprises in Jefferson County as a youth, and after his marriage to Maggie May Waller in 1905, began thinking of owning his own mill. He was in partnership in several milling ventures. In the summer of 1922, Gene and Maggie and a young daughter, Dorothy, made an extended trip over a large part of the United States looking for the best place to build a mill. When they returned home, it was the family decision that "Arvada was the best place to settle down", and the mill was started.

The flour milling machinery was purchased from another older mill and thus the machinery is older than the mill itself.

Mr. Benjamin is remembered for the fine quality of his white flour. He conducted a contest to name this high quality flour, and "Arva-Pride" was the prize-winning name. It can be seen on the side of the mill in the photograph. Mr. Benjamin also realized that flour sacks were the only source of cotton material for many poor families, and he was the first miller in the west to package flour in colorful print bags.

See attached for continuation

SEE INSTRUCTIONS

**9. MAJOR BIBLIOGRAPHICAL REFERENCES**

Tax Assessor's Office, Jefferson County, Golden, Colorado  
 Mrs. Meyer, the family history of her father, E. E. Benjamin  
 written 1973  
 Mr. Fred Tiller, oral history (1973) and family documents.

**10. GEOGRAPHICAL DATA**

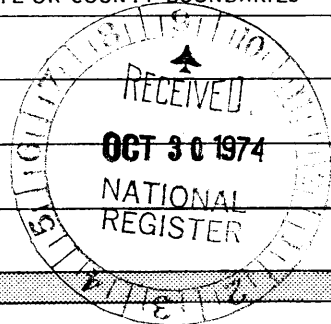
LATITUDE AND LONGITUDE COORDINATES DEFINING A RECTANGLE LOCATING THE PROPERTY			OR	LATITUDE AND LONGITUDE COORDINATES DEFINING THE CENTER POINT OF A PROPERTY OF LESS THAN TEN ACRES		
CORNER	LATITUDE	LONGITUDE		LATITUDE	LONGITUDE	
	Degrees Minutes Seconds	Degrees Minutes Seconds		Degrees Minutes Seconds	Degrees Minutes Seconds	
NW	° ' "	° ' "		39° 47' 55"	105° 4' 50"	
NE	° ' "	° ' "				
SE	° ' "	° ' "				
SW	° ' "	° ' "				

13/493080  
 440518L  
 CO

APPROXIMATE ACREAGE OF NOMINATED PROPERTY: **one-fourth (1/4) acre**

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

STATE:	CODE	COUNTY	CODE
STATE:	CODE	COUNTY:	CODE
STATE:	CODE	COUNTY:	CODE
STATE:	CODE	COUNTY:	CODE



SEE INSTRUCTIONS

**11. FORM PREPARED BY**

NAME AND TITLE:  
**Kathy Settgest - Site Committee Chairman**

ORGANIZATION: **Arvada Historical Society** DATE: **2/2/1974**

STREET AND NUMBER:  
**P. O. Box 419**

CITY OR TOWN: **Arvada** STATE: **Colorado** CODE:

**12. STATE LIAISON OFFICER CERTIFICATION NATIONAL REGISTER VERIFICATION**

As the designated State Liaison 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. The recommended level of significance of this nomination is:

National  State  Local

Name *[Signature]*

Title *Acting State Liaison Officer*

Date *10/22/74*

I hereby certify that this property is included in the National Register.

*[Signature]*  
 Director, Office of Archeology and Historic Preservation

Date *4/24/75*

ATTEST:  
*[Signature]*  
 Keeper of the National Register

Date **APR 23 1975**

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES  
INVENTORY - NOMINATION FORM

(Continuation Sheet)

STATE	Colorado
COUNTY	Jefferson
FOR NPS USE ONLY	
ENTRY NUMBER	DATE
	APR 24 1975

(Number all entries)

Statement of Significance

Page 3

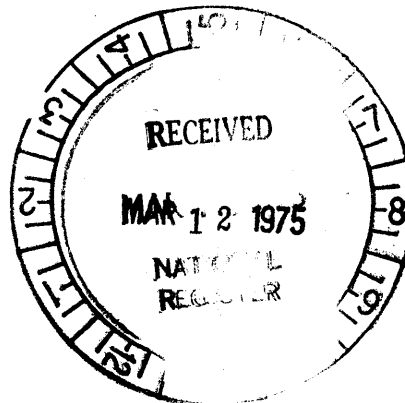
Arvada needed a mill to grind the grain grown by its many farmers. Until the mill was built, only a small grinding wheel was available for personal use.

The mill provided jobs for residences of Arvada. The Company built two houses across the street for the millers to live in.

Eugene Emory Benjamin secured a 99 year lease from the Colorado and Southern Railroad and started his mill. He had help from his brother-in-law, Bert Walls, and itinerant carpenters, and they built a mill and attached grain elevators, completing the project in 1923. When completed the building included a total of 44,700 square feet and stood 32 feet tall.

The mill was built on a concrete and rock foundation. Two of the interior posts are 10 inches x 10 inches x 8 feet. Some of the large beams are 8 inches x 8 inches x 50 feet. Between the track and the wide loading door, Mr. Benjamin installed a truck scale so that rruck and grain could be weighed before unloading. He paid \$1,000.00 for the scale. The large grinder roos cost him \$200.00 each, and he sent to Switzerland for large rolls of fine white cloth to sift his flour in the final finishing process.

When the mill closed, the machinery was not cleaned up and the contents was left in the machinery as it was the day the mill closed its doors.



NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES  
INVENTORY - NOMINATION FORM

(Continuation Sheet)

STATE Colorado	
COUNTY Jefferson	
FOR NPS USE ONLY	
ENTRY NUMBER	DATE
	APR 24 1975

(Number all entries)

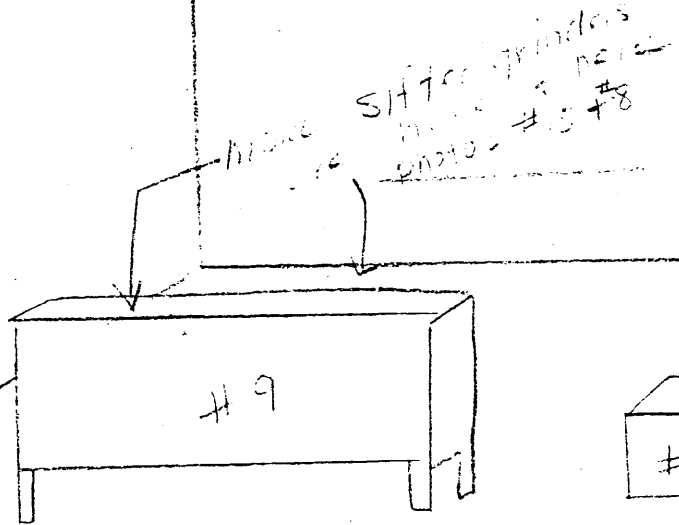
#8 Continued:

In 1944, Benjamin sold the mill to Louis Schaaf and Frank Tiller. The Arvada Flour Mill had passed into good hands. Frank Tiller's father had come to Colorado to work in the gold mines of Central City where Frank was born. Frank Tiller eventually bought Louis Schaaf's interest in the mill and when flour milling was down, he began to help people by moving furniture and farm equipment for them. Eventually, the Tiller's business became Tiller's, Inc.---primarily concerned with moving and storage. The mill ceased manufacturing flour during the 1950's.



It is in our estimation a matter of significance that both the structure and the machinery in the structure deserve National Register recognition.

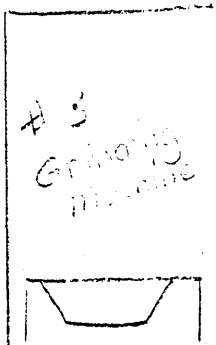
3rd FLOOR



2nd FLOOR



OFFICE DOOR



Storage bins

#1 Motor

This rough drawing is to point out the locations of the equipment in the photographs - the numbers refer to photo numbers.



Lat. 39° 47' 55"  
Long. 105° 4' 50.6"

LANDMARK: [REDACTED]

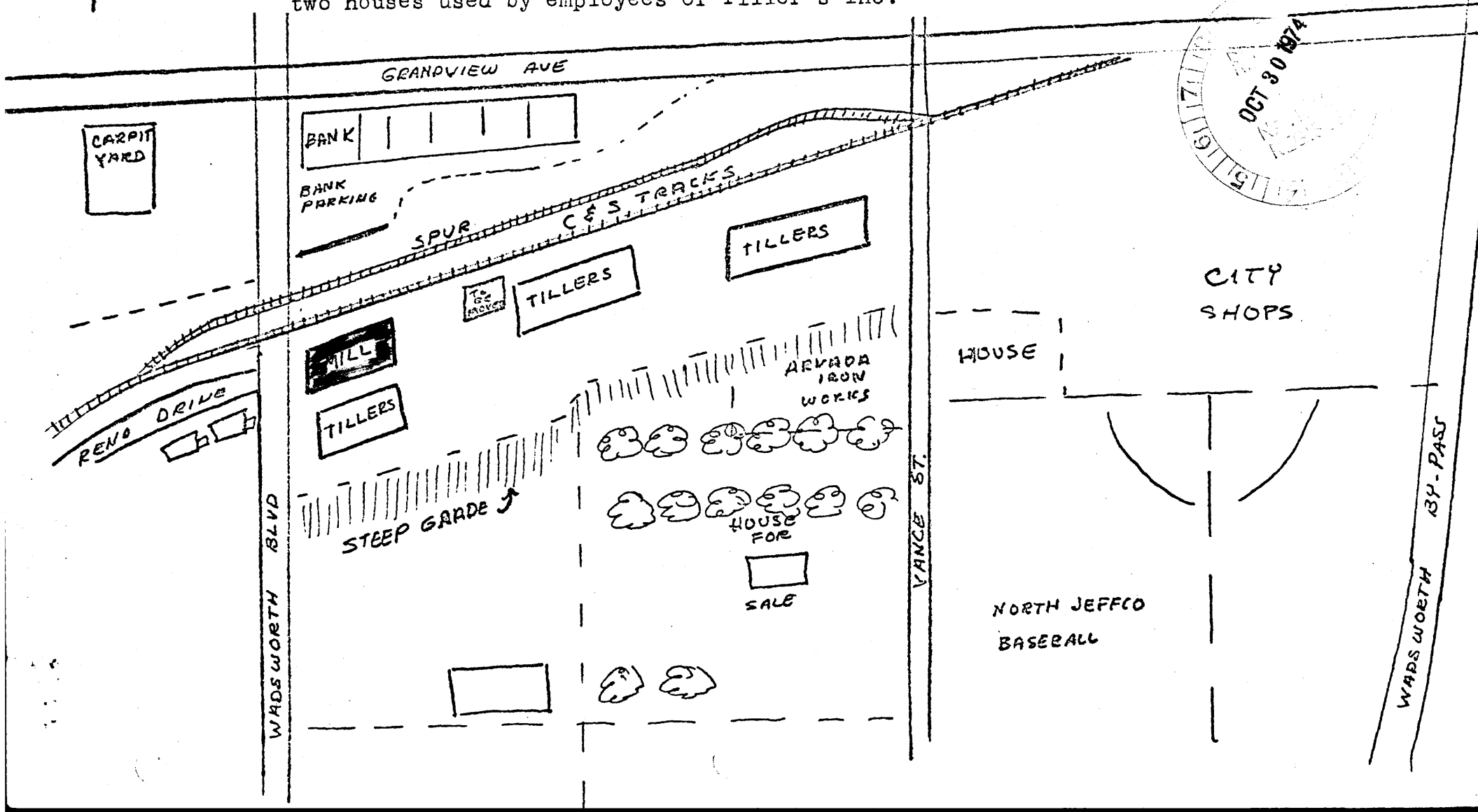
This map is not to exact scale.

North: The railroad tracks (still used 4 times each day) an unused spur, and the rear of the businesses along Grandview St.

East: Storage buildings of Tiller's Moving and Storage--beyond is the City of Arvada Shops and North Jeffco Baseball Park.

South: About 20' is Tiller's Office, a steep grade and open land.

West: Wadsworth Blvd. -- the Railroad tracks and open land -- and two houses used by employees of Tiller's Inc.



Form No. 10-301  
Rev. 7-72

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR  
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

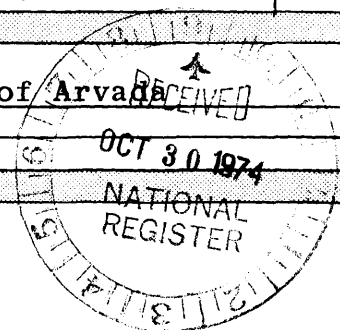
**NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES  
PROPERTY MAP FORM**

*(Type all entries - attach to or enclose with map)*

STATE	
COUNTY	
FOR NPS USE ONLY	
ENTRY NUMBER	DATE
	APR 24 1975

SEE INSTRUCTIONS

<b>1. NAME</b>			
COMMON:		Tiller's Moving & Storage, Inc.	
AND/OR HISTORIC:		Arvada Flour Mills	
<b>2. LOCATION</b>			
STREET AND NUMBER:			
5580 Wadsworth Boulevard			
CITY OR TOWN:			
Arvada			
STATE:	CODE	COUNTY:	CODE
Colorado		Jefferson	
<b>3. MAP REFERENCE</b>			
SOURCE:			
Hand drawn from aerial view taken by City of Arvada			
SCALE: 1" = 100'			
DATE: 2/2/74			
<b>4. REQUIREMENTS</b>			
TO BE INCLUDED ON ALL MAPS			
1. Property boundaries where required.			
2. North arrow.			
3. Latitude and longitude reference.			



INT: 155-72