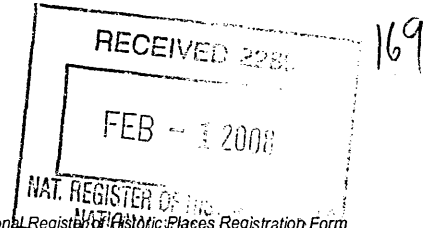


United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

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 Wauneta Roller Mills

Other names/site number CH06-013

2. Location

Street & number 112 S Arapahoe

Not for publication

City or town Wauneta

Vicinity

State Nebraska

Code NE

County Chase

Code 029

Zip code 69045

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.)

Michael J. ...
Signature of certifying official

1-29-08
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

Date

State or Federal agency and bureau

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 3.12.08

Barc
Signature of Keeper

Date of Action

Wauneta Roller Mills

Name of Property

Chase County, Nebraska

County and State

5. Classification

Ownership of Property

(Check as many boxes as apply)

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

Category of Property

(Check only one box)

- X Building(s)
District
Site
Structure
Object

Number of Resources within Property

(Do not include previously listed resources in the count.)

Table with 2 columns: Contributing, Noncontributing. Rows: Buildings (3, 0), Sites, Structures, Objects, Total (3, 0).

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/PROCESSING/EXTRACTION/
manufacturing facility
DOMESTIC/single dwelling

Current Functions

(Enter categories from instructions.)

INDUSTRY/PROCESSING/EXTRACTION/
manufacturing facility
DOMESTIC/single dwelling

7. Description

Architectural Classification

(Enter categories from instructions.)

NO STYLE
LATE 19th AND 20th CENTURY AMERICAN
MOVEMENTS/Craftsman

Materials

(Enter categories from instructions.)

Foundation CONCRETE
Walls STEEL/galvanized; Brick
Roof STEEL/galvanized; Brick
Other

Narrative Description

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

Wauneta Roller Mills

Name of Property

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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 patterns 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

1925 - 1958

Significant Dates

1925

1929

Significant Person

(Complete if Criterion B is marked above.)

N/A

Cultural Affiliation

N/A

Architect/Builder

XX Century Mill Mfg Co.

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:

Wauneta Roller Mills

Name of Property

Chase County, Nebraska

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10. Geographical Data

Acreage of property Less than one

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

	Zone	Easting	Northing		Zone	Easting	Northing
1.	14	298462	4476098	3.			
2.				4.			
				[]	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 Stacy Stupka-Burda / National Register Coordinator
 organization Nebraska State Historical Society date 12/05/07
 street & number 1500 R ST / PO Box 82554 telephone 402-471-4770
 city or town Lincoln state NE zip code 68501-2554

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 See continuation sheet
 street & number _____ telephone _____
 city or town _____ state _____ zip code _____

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.

United States Department of the Interior
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National Register of Historic Places Continuation Sheet

Wauneta Roller Mills

Name of Property

Chase County, Nebraska

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Section 7 Page 1

The Wauneta Roller Mills is located in Wauneta, Nebraska, a community situated in the southwestern portion of the state. Located approximately 280 miles generally southwest of Lincoln, the capital city, the population of Wauneta was 625 in 2000 (US Census). Located along the south end of the community, the Wauneta Roller Mills is situated along the Santa Fe/Burlington Northern Railroad tracks and just a few blocks from U.S. Highway 6. This nomination features three contributing buildings, the Wauneta Roller Mills building, the Maxfield family home and an associated garage/shop building.

Constructed in 1925, the Wauneta Roller Mills has grown organically through the years. The footprint of the building is roughly ell shaped. Covered primarily in galvanized steel, the large industrial structure features several gables. The original mill building, a large two story gambrel roofed barn, is visible along the north side of the ell. A concrete foundation supports the entire structure. A loading dock is present along the south side of the mill. Windows have been kept to a minimum and are found primarily in the gable end of the attic areas. The roof is metal.

A one story stucco building with a mansard roof, added in 1962, is present on the east end of the main mill building. This one story addition houses the current office space. The mill building itself consists of a basement, two milling floors and elevator heads in the attic area. A small lab is located directly off of the office, and the remainder of the interior is taken up by equipment used to process and bag flour as well to produce pellet animal feed. A newer warehouse area is located on the northwest corner of the building.

The roller mill used in current milling operations is the original one installed by Bert Maxfield in 1925. Originally operated by diesel power, it is now powered by 68 electrical motors.

Located directly north of the mill building is a clay tile bungalow constructed by Bert Maxfield in 1929 for his family. This three bedroom house features end gables and a hipped front porch with brick and wood columns. The house was constructed on a concrete foundation and the roof is asphalt shingle. Windows present in this house include three-over-one double-hung windows typical to homes of this period. As with the exterior, the interior of this house retains excellent integrity. This home's woodwork is rich and inviting, and includes built-in glass-fronted cabinets between the living room and the dining room. The floors are currently covered in carpet, but hardwood remains beneath.

Located northwest of the house, the hipped roof garage was constructed sometime prior to the house, and served as the Maxfield home while the bungalow was completed. After serving as a temporary family home, this building did double duty as both a garage and a shop area. Painted white, the garage is clad with wood clapboard siding, has an asphalt shingle roof and a concrete foundation. Rafter ends are exposed and a pair of two-over-two windows is present on the north side of the building. This two-bay garage is accessed on the west side of the building, along an alley.

The physical integrity of this property is good. The mill building has seen physical change related to changing operations of the roller mill. However, the mill retains sufficient integrity to convey its significance as a flour mill, an industry significant in our past. The associated house and garage retain excellent integrity and taken with the flour mill, help to relate the story of flour milling in Wauneta, Nebraska.

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National Register of Historic Places Continuation Sheet

Wauneta Roller Mills

Name of Property

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Section 8 Page 2

The Wauneta Roller Mills is significant at the local level under Criterion A for its association with the industry of grain processing, including flour milling. Playing an important economic roll within the community, the Wauneta Roller Mills has provided an outlet for area grain producers since 1925.

Originally from Canada, Bert Maxfield gained practical milling experience while working at milling operations in Nebraska and in South Dakota. In 1925, four years after Wauneta's water powered mill was destroyed by fire, Maxfield and his wife Edna constructed the modern Wauneta Roller Mills. The Maxfield mill was not water powered, but was instead powered by a diesel engine. When constructed, the mill produced primarily wheat flour, though grain for use as animal feed was also custom ground for area farmers.

While establishing the mill business, the Maxfield's also constructed domestic structures alongside the mill building, including a garage that served as a temporary home while the family home was planned and completed in 1929.

In the 1930's, the mill was converted from diesel power to electrical power. By 1935, the first mechanical feed mixer was installed.¹ Bert and Edna's son Raymond joined the operation around 1939. Sisters Emma Jean and Dorothy followed suit. In 1940, the mill began producing animal feeds in pellet form.² During World War II, the Wauneta Roller Mills contracted with the U.S. military, proudly providing three railroad carloads under each contract.

Throughout the mid to late 1940's, local wheat growers produced crops that were low in protein, threatening the quality of Wauneta's Best Flour. Gone were the days in which the only testing done on batches of flour was Edna's baking, and reliance on outside labs in the Midwest equaled delays in flour milling. Raymond made inquiries until he found a university that would agree to teach him how to use equipment to test protein levels on site. Raymond and his family traveled to the University of Lincoln's Agricultural campus in 1947 so that he could learn procedures for protein testing. While Raymond learned all he needed during just a few days, it took nearly two years for them to acquire the necessary testing equipment. After re-teaching himself protein testing techniques, the Wauneta Roller Mills has been testing all wheat on site, saving valuable time while ensuring the quality of Wauneta's Best Flour.

The Wauneta Roller Mills was the third mill operated in Wauneta, a community platted in 1887. While not the earliest mill in the community, the Wauneta Roller mill continued to play the important role of the mill in the local agricultural economy. The Wauneta Roller Mill provided area grain producers with a local outlet for their grain. Most of the wheat used in the flour is grown within a 100 mile radius of Wauneta.³ In the earliest days of the establishment, producers could choose to sell their grain outright, or could choose to have their grain milled into flour for their own use. Producers who took their grain to the Wauneta Roller Mills for sale then had a ready opportunity to purchase other goods available in the community.

Flour and grain milling played an important economic role throughout Nebraska's history. The first mills in Nebraska were grist mills established in the eastern portion of the state, coinciding with the earliest population centers in the state. At the turn of the century, the number of flour mills in Nebraska peaked, with a total of 260 mills in operation.⁴ The turn of the century also brought significant change to the milling industry as small mills closed and operating mills consolidated. By 1925 when Bert Maxfield established the Wauneta Roller Mills, the number of mills in the state had decreased to 110.

¹ Wauneta Breeze, Volume 114, No. 14.

² McCook Daily Gazette, September 18, 1981.

³ Wauneta Breeze, April 14, 1983.

⁴ Ibid.

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Continuation Sheet**

Wauneta Roller Mills

Name of Property

Chase County, Nebraska

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Section 8 Page 3

Tom Buecker attributes the decline of the small mill in Nebraska to three factors: 1) market demand for uniform flour; 2) large scale production and purchasing capabilities of large mills; 3) excessive costs of updating equipment.⁵ The Wauneta Roller Mills business model went against each of these factors. Most of the wheat used at the Wauneta Roller Mills was grown within a 100 mile radius of Wauneta. Onsite management and testing insured a product that was both consistent and of high quality. The Maxfield family did not move toward large scale production. Rather, they continually produced excellent products while providing individualized service. Bert Maxfield's choice to diversify his operation to include processing grain for animal feed was an industry-wide trend in Nebraska and helped to insure that the Wauneta Roller Mills remained in operation. Finally, the Maxfield family did not choose to invest in costly new equipment. Rather, in the tried and true method of resourceful Nebraskans they have continued to repair original equipment. These factors, taken together with a strong family work ethic, secured the economic viability and the economic importance of the Wauneta Roller Mills.

The Wauneta Roller Mills is eligible at the local level under Criterion A for its association with the industry of flour and grain milling in Nebraska. Throughout its history, the Wauneta Roller Mills has played a significant role in the agricultural industry and the economy of the local area.

⁵ Buecker, Thomas. Flour Milling in Nebraska. Educational Leaflet No. 17.

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**National Register of Historic Places
Continuation Sheet**

Wauneta Roller Mills

Name of Property

Chase County, Nebraska

County and State

Section 9, 10, 11 Page 4

Section 9

Bibliography

Buecker, Thomas. *Flour Milling in Nebraska*. Educational Leaflet No. 17. Nebraska State Historical Society, n.d.

Newspapers:

McCook Daily Gazette

Wauneta Breeze

Personal communication with Raymond Maxfield and Emma Jean (Maxfield) Maris.

Section 10

Verbal Boundary Description

Lots 5-6-7 Block 9, Original Town of Wauneta.

Boundary Justification

The area described above includes the property historically associated with the Wauneta Roller Mills.

Section 11 – Property Owners

Raymond Maxfield
336 N Arikaree
Wauneta, NE 69045

Dorothy Dudek
123 N Shawnee
Wauneta, NE 69045

Emma Jean Maris
166 W Legion
Wauneta, NE 69045

Wauneta Roller Mills (NeHBS #CH06-013)
112 North Arapahoe
Wauneta, Chase County, Nebraska
Not to scale

