

**United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service**

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

For NPS use only

received DEC 5 1984

date entered JAN 3 1985

See instructions in *How to Complete National Register Forms*
Type all entries—complete applicable sections

1. Name

historic Kansas Sugar Refining Company Mill

and/or common Sugar Mill

2. Location

street & number 600 East 1st

N/A not for publication

city, town Hutchinson

N/A vicinity of

state Kansas

code 20

county

Reno

code 155

3. Classification

| Category | Ownership | Status | Present Use | |
|---|---|---|--|--|
| <input type="checkbox"/> district | <input type="checkbox"/> public | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> occupied | <input type="checkbox"/> agriculture | <input type="checkbox"/> museum |
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> building(s) | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> private | <input type="checkbox"/> unoccupied | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> commercial | <input type="checkbox"/> park |
| <input type="checkbox"/> structure | <input type="checkbox"/> both | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> work in progress | <input type="checkbox"/> educational | <input type="checkbox"/> private residence |
| <input type="checkbox"/> site | Public Acquisition | Accessible | <input type="checkbox"/> entertainment | <input type="checkbox"/> religious |
| <input type="checkbox"/> object | <input type="checkbox"/> in process | <input type="checkbox"/> yes: restricted | <input type="checkbox"/> government | <input type="checkbox"/> scientific |
| | <input type="checkbox"/> being considered | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> yes: unrestricted | <input type="checkbox"/> industrial | <input type="checkbox"/> transportation |
| | N/A | <input type="checkbox"/> no | <input type="checkbox"/> military | <input type="checkbox"/> other: |

4. Owner of Property

name William R. Wilbeck

street & number 38 Des Moines

city, town South Hutchinson

N/A vicinity of

state Kansas 67505

5. Location of Legal Description

courthouse, registry of deeds, etc. Register of Deeds

street & number Reno County Courthouse

city, town Hutchinson

state Kansas

6. Representation in Existing Surveys

title none

has this property been determined eligible? yes no

date N/A

federal state county local

depository for survey records N/A

city, town N/A

state

7. Description

| | | | |
|--|---------------------------------------|---|---|
| Condition | | Check one | Check one |
| <input type="checkbox"/> excellent | <input type="checkbox"/> deteriorated | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> unaltered | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> original site |
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> good | <input type="checkbox"/> ruins | <input 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 Hutchinson Sugar Mill is a rectangular limestone building constructed in 1881-82. It consists of a four-story central block, 30 x 34 feet, with a shallow roof behind an unadorned parapet. Attached on the east and west sides are two-story wings, about 28 x 33 feet and 25 x 33 feet respectively, which also have nearly flat roofs behind unadorned parapets. A former north wing, built of wood, was removed in 1965.

On the southwest corner of the west wing is a square chimney with a limestone base and a brick upper section. Originally there was a matching chimney on the southeast corner of the east wing, but it was removed sometime before or during the period in which the building was used as a soap factory, from 1888 to about 1900.

The south facade, which faces the street, has symmetrical fenestration. In the center block the ground floor has a wide double door in the center and one window on each side. The other three floors have three evenly-spaced windows. On the south face of each wing there were originally two windows on each floor, but the southeast window of the east wing and the southwest window of the west wing have been filled in. The east wall of the east wing has one door and one window, both on the ground floor. The west wall of the west wing has one door on the ground floor and two windows upstairs. The central block has side windows only on the fourth floor, two on each side. The north wall of the central block originally faced the north wing, and so it does not have windows; instead, there is a door on each level. The west wing has a wide door and a window on the north side, both on the first floor. The east wing's north face has one 10 x 10 foot double sliding door on the first floor and a single window on the second. All the openings have segmental arches with limestone voussoirs, except the topmost door on the north face, which has a wood lintel, and the north window of the east wing, which is capped with a flat lintel plate. Most of the windows have six-over-six double-hung wooden sashes, although a few have one-over-one wood sashes and several have been boarded up. A metal fire escape has been added to the center of the south facade.

The stonework of the walls is relatively uniform throughout, except at the top of the central block on the north facade. There, the west corner was repaired with brick, and in 1983-84 a deteriorated section of wall in the east corner was repaired with limestone blocks over a concrete block core. There are several places where windows or doors have been filled in with stone to match the walls, leaving a segmental arch to mark their former locations.

The central block contains a single large room on each floor, with a stairway near the center and an elevator shaft in the northeast corner. Removable partition walls have been added recently to subdivide these spaces. Each wing also has a single room on each level. The interior walls are bare stone, and there are no finished ceilings.

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 type="checkbox"/> engineering | <input type="checkbox"/> music | <input type="checkbox"/> theater |
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 1800-1899 | <input 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 built 1881-82 **Builder/Architect** builder/architect: unknown

Statement of Significance (in one paragraph)

The Hutchinson Sugar Mill is historically significant as the only structure known to remain today which was associated with the production of sugar in Kansas in the nineteenth century. It also has architectural significance as a well-preserved example of late nineteenth-century industrial construction.

The sugar mill was built in 1881-82 to house the processing plant of the Kansas Sugar Refining Company, which was established in 1881 by Professor W.H.C. Onderdonk. Ambitious plans were made to encourage the cultivation of sorghum for sugar manufacture, but the efforts of the promoters failed. After a little more than one year of production, the sugar mill shut down in February, 1884. It reopened in June of that year and operated for a few months longer, but closed permanently in March, 1885.

Legend has it that about 1886 the mill was used by the townspeople of Hutchinson as a fort, where they gathered for protection from an expected Indian attack which never took place.

In July, 1888, the Hutchinson Soap Factory began manufacturing operations in the former sugar mill building. Around 1900 the structure was purchased by the Nelson Manufacturing and Supply Company, producers of irrigation pumps and galvanized iron products, and later dealers in plumbing supplies. It continued to be used by the Nelson company until 1965. Other firms occupied the building until 1978, when it was abandoned. In 1983 William R. Wilbeck purchased the empty and decaying structure. He has stabilized it and returned it to productive use, providing space for a band rehearsal hall and rental storage rooms.

THIS STATEMENT REFLECTS CURRENT KNOWLEDGE AND IS SUBJECT TO CHANGE.

9. Major Bibliographical References

SEE CONTINUATION SHEET

10. Geographical Data

Acreeage of nominated property less than one acre

Quadrangle name Hutchinson, KS

Quadrangle scale 1:24,000

UTM References

A

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| | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| Zone | | Easting | | | | Northing | | | | | | | | |

Verbal boundary description and justification

Tract "c" of tract 65, City of Hutchinson. See attached legal description.

List all states and counties for properties overlapping state or county boundaries

state N/A code county code

state code county code

11. Form Prepared By

name/title Richard J. Cawthon, Architectural Historian

organization Kansas State Historical Society date November 21, 1984

street & number 120 West 10th telephone (913) 296-3251

city or town Topeka state Kansas

12. State Historic Preservation Officer Certification

The evaluated significance of this property within the state is:

national state local

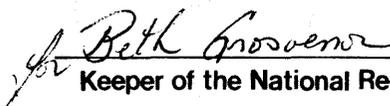
As the designated State Historic Preservation Officer for the National Historic Preservation Act of 1966 (Public Law 89-665), I hereby nominate this property for inclusion in the National Register and certify that it has been evaluated according to the criteria and procedures set forth by the National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

State Historic Preservation Officer signature 

title Executive Director, Kansas State Historical Society date November 21, 1984

For NPS use only

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

 date 1/3/85
Keeper of the National Register

Attest: date

Chief of Registration

**United States Department of the Interior
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date entered JAN 3 1985

Continuation sheet

Item number 9

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MAJOR BIOGRAPHICAL REFERENCES

Hutchinson News. January 28, 1881; February 3, 1881; March 2, 1882; April 20, 1882; June 7, 1883; February 2, 1884; June 1, 1884; March 25, 1885; September 22, 1887; December 1, 1887; April 19, 1888.

Mitchell, Pat. "How Sweet It Is." Unpublished paper, 1984.

Insurance Maps of Hutchinson, Kansas, 1884 and 1892.

This nomination was prepared from a draft submitted by William R. Wilbeck, owner of the nominated property.