NPS Form 10-900
1024-0018
United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

4074

National Register of Historic Places Registration Form

OMB No.

This form is for use in nominating or requesting determinations for individual properties and districts. See instructions in National Register Bulletin, *How to Complete the National Register of Historic Places Registration Form.* 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.

1. Name of Property

Historic name: Morristown Feed Mill
Other names/site number: Schroeder Bros. Feed Mill
Name of related multiple property listing:
N/A
(Enter "N/A" if property is not part of a multiple property listing

2. Location

Street & number: 205 Bloomer Street East
City or town: Morristown State: MN County: Rice
Not For Publication: ☐ Vicinity: ☐

3. State/Federal Agency Certification

As the designated authority under the National Historic Preservation Act, as amended,

I hereby certify that this X 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 X meets ___ does not meet the National Register Criteria. I recommend that this property be considered significant at the following level(s) of significance:

___national ___statewide X local

Applicable National Register Criteria:

X A ___B ___C ___D

4/8/19

Signature of certifying official/Title: Amy Spong, Deputy SHPO, MN Dept. of Admin. **Date**

State or Federal agency/bureau or Tribal Government

In my opinion, the property ___ meets ___ does not meet the National Register criteria.

Signature of commenting official: **Date**

Title : **State or Federal agency/bureau or Tribal Government**

4. National Park Service Certification

I hereby certify that this property is:

X entered in the National Register

___ determined eligible for the National Register

___ determined not eligible for the National Register

___ removed from the National Register

___ other (explain:) _____

Alexis Abernethy 6/17/2019

Signature of the Keeper Date of Action

5. Classification

Ownership of Property

(Check as many boxes as apply.)

Private:	☐
Public – Local	x
Public – State	☐
Public – Federal	☐

Category of Property

(Check only **one** box.)

Building(s)	x
District	☐
Site	☐
Structure	☐
Object	☐

Number of Resources within Property
(Do not include previously listed resources in the count)

Contributing	Noncontributing	
1	1	buildings
		sites
	1	structures
	1	objects
1	3	Total

Number of contributing resources previously listed in the National Register 0

6. Function or Use
Historic Functions
(Enter categories from instructions.)
INDUSTRY/PROCESSING/EXTRACTION/manufacturing facility

Current Functions
(Enter categories from instructions.)
RECREATION AND CULTURE/museum

7. Description

Architectural Classification
(Enter categories from instructions.)
OTHER/Timber frame

Materials: (enter categories from instructions.)
Principal exterior materials of the property: CONCRETE
METAL/Steel
WOOD/Shingle

Narrative Description
(Describe the historic and current physical appearance and condition of the property. Describe contributing and noncontributing resources if applicable. Begin with **a summary paragraph** that briefly describes the general characteristics of the property, such as its location, type, style, method of construction, setting, size, and significant features. Indicate whether the property has historic integrity.)

Summary Paragraph

The Morristown Feed Mill is a single, individually eligible building with one non-contributing structure (picnic shelter), one non-contributing building (schoolhouse), and one non-contributing object (water wheel) located within the property boundaries. As the result of a 1991 restoration project, the Morristown Feed Mill retains a good level of historic integrity. The feed mill currently functions as a museum dedicated to the preservation of the mill and its contents, and to the education of visitors about the history of milling in Rice County. The feed mill retains equipment representing a range of milling practices, with the majority of the equipment specific to the process of feed milling.

The Morristown Feed Mill is located in the northeast corner of the city of Morristown, Rice County, Minnesota, on the west bank of the Cannon River and adjacent to County Road 44 (Bloomer Street). The present feed mill was constructed in 1911 on the foundation of an 1860, water-powered flour mill and near an earlier, 1856, water-powered flour mill. The property boundaries mark the land that contributes to the significance of the property and retains sufficient integrity to the period of significance.

The Morristown Feed Mill is comprised of the 1911 feed mill (40- by 30-foot, 2-story building) and two additions: a ca.1940, 20- by 24-foot engine house on the north and a ca.1931, 15- by 10-foot addition on the west. The mill is heavy timber and balloon-frame construction with a foundation of rubble stone mortar. The exterior of the feed mill is sheathed in pressed metal siding in a brick pattern with stenciled signage "Morristown Feed Mill" prominently displayed.

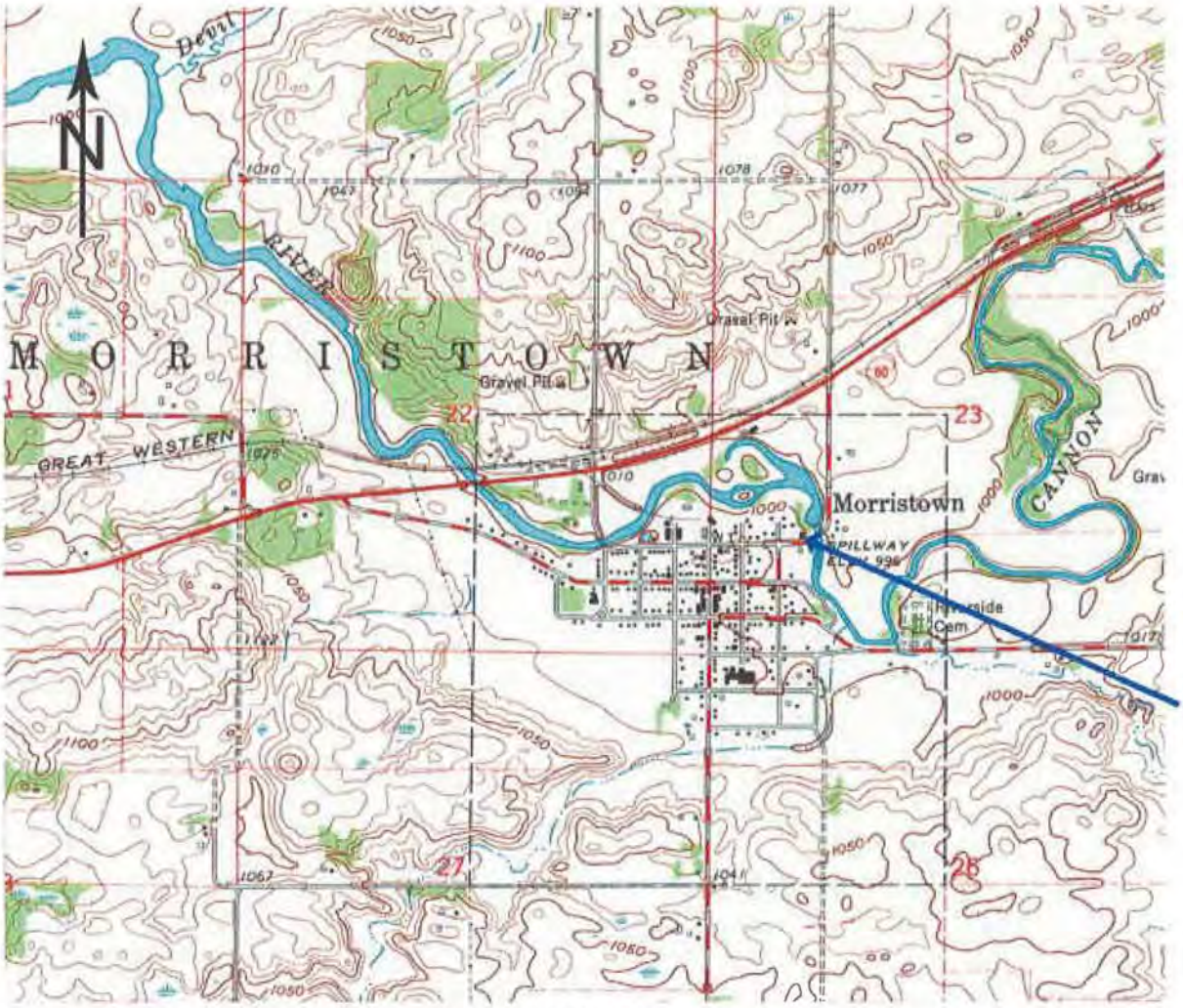
While it did not undergo formal review, the 1991 restoration project relied upon the Secretary of the Interior's Standards for Rehabilitation to guide the work. That approach to treatment returned the feed mill building to its configuration during the period of significance, which required the removal of later additions and the return the engine house and west additions to their original locations from elsewhere on the property. The restoration retained the historic foundation, the historic wood timber and balloon frame structure, wood plank floors, and some of the exterior siding. It also resulted in the appropriate, in-kind replacement of severely deteriorated materials and features, including windows, deteriorated metal siding, and historic signage. This effort, combined with retention of original location and historic association to the Cannon River and to the primary transportation route of County Road 44 (Bloomer Street), resulted in a good level of historic integrity.

Narrative Description

The Morristown Feed Mill is located in the northeast corner of the city of Morristown, in Morristown Township, Rice County, Minnesota (Figure 01). The Cannon River crosses the township from west to east, with the feed mill situated on the west bank of the Cannon River. The feed mill is sited on Lot 2 in Block 4 of the Original Plat of Morristown, adjacent to Bloomer Street on the south. The property boundary (Figure 02) is loosely marked by Bloomer Street on the south, the Cannon River on the east, a point just north of the low-head dam on the north, then angling southwest to the west property boundary marked by the centerline of the driveway that provides access to both the feed mill and the Hershey residence sited northeast of the feed mill site.

As noted, the Morristown Feed Mill underwent a historic restoration in 1991, at which time non-historic alterations were reversed, structural deficiencies were repaired, deteriorated wood windows were replaced using existing models and historic images, the non-historic roof sheathing was returned to the historic wood shingles, exterior signage was repainted, pressed metal siding was repaired and replaced as necessary, and the millrace and sluiceway were excavated, thus returning the pre-1911 power source to the feed mill.

Figure 01. USGS 7.5 Minute Topographic Map – Morristown Quad, 1962



(SOURCE: https://store.usgs.gov. Last accessed 12/04/2017.)

Site Description

The present nomination represents the portion of the site directly associated with the function of the Morristown Feed Mill specific to the period of significance. The parcel is currently owned and maintained by the City of Morristown.

The site of the Morristown Feed Mill is irregular in elevation, with the feed mill structure sitting at the low spot on the site (Photos 01-02). The feed mill sits about 2-feet lower than Bloomer Street on its south; the grade rises gradually, moving west from the mill to the west property line. On the east, grade remains steady from the mill to the west riverbank before dropping off to the river. Immediately northwest of the mill, the site rises to a small swell at the location where the

schoolhouse now stands. This change in elevation accommodates the path of the millrace at the point it runs underground before entering the feed mill. The balance of the site continues to vary from flat areas to modest swells. The site is absent vegetation, with stands of mature deciduous trees located immediately outside the north property boundary and adjacent to the millrace.

A public sidewalk runs along Bloomer Street and adjacent to the south property line. A shared driveway, a portion of which is located within the property boundaries, provides vehicular access to the site from Bloomer Street. Near its mouth, the 30-foot wide driveway widens to provide three handicapped accessible, paved parking spaces in a notched area between the mill and the schoolhouse. Moving north, the driveway narrows to approximately 15-feet before passing out of the property boundary (Figure 02).

Figure 02. Property Boundary Map

(https://beacon.schneidercorp.com. Last accessed 04/13/2018.)

The property boundary is noted. In addition to the 1911 mill, the boundary encompasses the historic property directly associated with the feed mill during the period of significance.

Photo 01. Site view looking southwest across the Cannon River from CR-44

(Image by AKAY Consulting, September 21, 2017.)

Photo 02. Site view looking east along E. Bloomer Street

(Image by AKAY Consulting, September 21, 2017.)

Property Description

The Morristown Feed Mill consists of the 1911 mill and two historic additions. The 1911 mill is a 40- by 30-foot, two-story building with a basement. A ca.1940, 20- by 24-foot engine house addition extends to the north and a ca.1931, 15- by 10-foot addition extends to the west.

The 1911 feed mill is a heavy timber and balloon-frame structure with a side-facing, gable roof and an exterior clad in metal-siding pressed in a brick pattern (Photo 03). The metal siding is painted gray. The building's eaves, door and window openings, and window sash are painted red. Replicated historic signage is painted in black, block letters on the west, south, and east elevations. The wood shingle roof is moderately pitched, with a shallow overhang on all sides. The 1911 feed mill has a rubble stone mortar foundation, approximately one-foot thick. The foundation extends about two-feet above grade.[1] An unfinished opening is located on the north foundation wall accommodating the restored sluiceway (water channel) entering the mill.

[1] Farid J. Sabongi, "Historical Structure Report on Morristown Feed Mill 1860," June 01, 1990: 15.

Photo 03. View of the feed mill looking northeast across E. Bloomer Street

(Image by AKAY Consulting, September 21, 2017.)

In this view looking northeast from E. Bloomer Street, we can see the 1911 feed mill, with the ca.1931 addition in the foreground and the ca.1940 engine house extending north from the main building. The edge of the schoolhouse is in view at far left.

Primary pedestrian entrance to the feed mill is on the primary (south) elevation, facing Bloomer Street (Photo 04). The entrance door, located on-center, is the original, metal-clad, Dutch-style door with a four-pane, fixed-sash window in the top half. Wood frame, double-hung windows (30- by 60-inches) with 6-over-6 light configurations are located on either side of the door - two on the first floor and two on the second. The window openings are trimmed in wood with wood sills; as noted, they are painted red. A number of the windows were replaced in 1991, using historic images documenting window type and glazing configuration. The name "Morristown Feed Mill" is painted in black, block letters on the metal siding between the two floors. Product advertising appears in painted black, block letters below the building name - "Cornmeal, Buckwheat, Rye, Flour on Hand At All Times" on the west side of the entrance and "Wire Fence, Garden Seed, Fence Posts, Kerosene" on the east. The current signage dates to the 1991

restoration, its appearance and content being modeled from historic images. A non-historic, split rail fence runs the length of the façade at the property line, extending north some 8-feet from the east corner of the feed mill.

Photo 04. View of the primary (south) elevation, looking north across E. Bloomer Street

(Image by AKAY Consulting, September 21, 2017.)

Product advertising on the south elevation dates to the 1991 restoration; its font, scale, tone, and content were modeled from historic images.

The west elevation of the feed mill features two, double-hung windows with a 6-over-6 light configuration on the second story; window placement is aligned with those of the east elevation (Photo 05). Two windows of matching size and configuration are located on the first story, flanking the addition and in alignment with the second story windows. The window openings are trimmed in wood with wood sills. The name "Morristown Feed Mill" is painted in large, black, block letters in the area between the upper story windows.

The ca.1931, west addition is recessed approximately 10-feet from the 1911 feed mill's south wall plane. The addition, which had been removed from the mill and used elsewhere, was returned to its historic location as part of the 1991 restoration. The addition features a side-gable roof sheathed in standing-seam metal and no foundation; rather, the addition rests on wooden blocks on grade. The exterior walls are sheathed in pressed metal in a brick pattern and painted gray. The addition has two fixed windows, one on the west elevation and the other on the south. A door opening on the south elevation has been sheathed in metal siding, but remains discernible.

Photo 05. View of the west elevation, looking due east

(Image by AKAY Consulting, September 21, 2017.)

The feed mill's east elevation features double-hung windows (30- by 60-inches) with 6-over-6 light configurations on the second story, with one window of the same size and configuration located on the first story, in alignment with the second story, south window (Photo 06). A small, four-light, fixed sash window is located above the north window, near the eave line. A door aligns with the north window of the second story – cut here for a porch addition made outside the period of significance and later removed (see property history). Like that on the primary

elevation, the door is a Dutch door in form and operation; it remains operable. There are two basement windows on the east foundation. On the second story, the name "Morristown Feed Mill" is painted in large, black, block letters in the area between the upper story windows. The sign is painted across paired, wooden, half-height doors (Photo 07).

Photo 06. View of the mill looking southwest across the Cannon River

(Image by AKAY Consulting, September 21, 2017.)

From this perspective the 1997, replica water wheel and fencing is in view. The picnic shelter is at right.

Photo 07. Detail view of east elevation

(Image by AKAY Consulting, September 21, 2017.)

Detail view of pressed metal siding in a brick pattern, windows, and signage. These specific elements appear on the east elevation, but are representative of the building.

The feed mill's north elevation is dominated by the ca.1940 engine house addition, which is attached to the 1911 feed mill, with west elevations aligned (Photo 06). An approximate, six-foot setback from the east elevation of the 1911 feed mill accommodates the restored sluiceway and the 1997 wooden waterwheel, which is fenced to ensure the safety of visitors (Photo 08).[2] The engine house addition has a cast-in-place concrete foundation and features a shed roof sheathed in standing-seam steel roofing. A chimneystack passes through the roof near its attachment to the 1911 mill. The engine house addition is sheathed in pressed metal siding with a brick pattern, painted gray. The addition has one double-hung window with a 6-over-6 light configuration and a metal clad door on the west elevation; one, fixed-sash window near the north end of the east elevation; and one fixed-sash window located on-center of the north elevation.

[2] The replica waterwheel is associated with the pre-1911 flour mill, which was water-powered. During the period of significance, feed milling was powered by gas and/or diesel fueled engines.

Photo 08. Detail view of the north elevation - sluiceway

(Image by AKAY Consulting, September 21, 2017.)

View of restored sluiceway.

Interior Description

The interior of the Morristown Feed Mill is comprised of three main sections following the descriptions of the building composition noted previously. The 1911 feed mill, with a basement and two-floors, accounts for the majority of the interior space.

The first floor of the 1911 feed mill is characterized by a single open space, exposed heavy timber and balloon-frame structural system, early industrial appearance, and milling equipment (Photos 09-10). The balloon-frame wall system is composed of 2x6 studs spaced 16-inches on center with a 1x6 let-in ribbon placed below the 2x8 joists at the second floor. The joists are spaced 16-inches on center and are spiked in to the studs. The wall sheathing is one-inch thick boards placed horizontally.[3]

[3] Sabongi, 15.

The first-floor framing system is 2x10 joists spaced 12-inches on center framing to 10x12 wood girders on center, which in-turn frame into 10x10 wood columns. The floor joists are sheathed with 12-inch thick wood boards. The 2x10 joists bear at the exterior on a sill piece in which the structural system is exposed to view.[4]

Photo 09. Interior view – First floor looking southeast

(Image by AKAY Consulting, September 21, 2017.)

[4] Sabongi, 16.

Photo 10. Interior view – First floor looking southwest (entrance at left)

(Image by AKAY Consulting, September 21, 2017.)

The mill's main room contains several pieces of feed mill equipment of varying ages including two Bearcat roller mills, a hammer mill, a Monarch Ball-Bearing attrition mill, two Sidney feed mixers, one mineral mixer, two stand-alone elevator legs, and one bank of two elevator legs (Figure 03).[5] In the case that the existing equipment is not the original model first used in the mill, it likely a replacement of an early model that wore out due to use. Some milling equipment not specific to the function of the Morristown Feed Mill has recently been introduced as part of the education program.

[5] Emily Ganzel, "Evaluation of the Morristown Feed Mill and Millrace for Eligibility for the National Register of Historic Places," completed for the City of Morristown, 2015: 10.

Photo 11. Interior view – First floor – Chicken Feed Mixer (F)

(Image by AKAY Consulting, September 21, 2017.)

Chicken feed mixer (F), retained on the first floor.

Photo 12. Interior view – First floor looking southwest to feed mixers

(Image by AKAY Consulting, September 21, 2017.)

First floor, feed mixers (G and H) retained.

Photo 13. First floor equipment – Feed mixer with feeding chart

(Image by AKAY Consulting, September 21, 2017.)

Feeding chart on first floor, feed mixer (G).

The ca.1940 engine house addition - characterized by its relatively small scale, sloped ceiling, and early industrial feel - is entered from the first floor of the 1911 feed mill through a board-and-batten door with four steps down to the engine house's floor (Photo 14). An opening to the basement is located below the steps. The engine house is divided east to west into two rooms; the engine room itself is situated in the south with a shop on the north. The wood-frame wall between the two rooms has horizontal planks on the shop side and stamped metal siding on the engine room side; a four-paneled wooden door connects the two rooms.

The interior walls of the engine house are clad in horizontal wood planks with a mix of materials also appearing as finishes (of a sort). The shop uses stamped metal siding, horizontal wood planks and some chicken wire to cover the walls. The ceiling rafters in the shop have been covered with stamped metal siding; the rafters in the engine room remain exposed. Floors are poured concrete. A brick chimney stands in the northeast corner of the engine room.[6]

[6] Ganzel: 15.

Photo 14. Interior view – First floor, Engine House Addition, looking west

(Image by AKAY Consulting, September 21, 2017.)

The interior of the ca.1931 addition on the west is characterized by its small scale and thoroughly functional appearance. The addition is entered from the feed mill's first floor down a sloped, wooden hinged ramp, which can be raised to allow loose grain from wagons or trucks to be dropped into a wooden pit in the basement where it would be moved by a horizontal screw-conveyor to the boot of the elevator leg. The basement equipment for this operation remains.

The ca.1931 addition has rough, wood-plank flooring and horizontal, wood-plank walls similar to the mill building's walls. A built-in wooden counter extends across the north wall of the room facing the exterior board-and-batten door on the south wall. The exposed rafters of the gable roof are visible overhead.

A wood staircase in the southeast corner of the main building leads down to the basement and up to the second floor.

Photo 15. Interior view – Second floor looking west

(Image by AKAY Consulting, September 21, 2017.)

Feed mill equipment retained on the second floor (in seen in this view looking west) include wheat holding bin (D), cross augers (J), grain elevator (A), and shelled corn delivery bin (B). See Figure 04.

The feed mill's second story is characterized by a sense of volume created by the ceiling height, ambient light, exposed structural system, and arrangement of milling equipment (Photo 15). Like the first floor, the second floor has wood-plank flooring and heavy square timber posts with exterior walls consisting of horizontal wood planks behind the exposed 2x4s of the building's balloon-frame construction. The second story floor system is 2x8 joists spaced 16-inches on

center framing to 10x10 wood girders, which in turn frame into 10x10 wood columns. The floor joists are sheathed with two layers of one-inch wood boards, which are exposed to view.[7]

The gable roof framing is 2x6 joists spaced 24-inches on center framing into 6x6 wood beams, which in turn frame in 6x6 wood columns. The sheathing is one-inch thick and is placed perpendicular to the sloping roof joints. The 6x6 wood roof beams are tied with 6x4 wood members spaced at the columns. Several diagonal knee braces are placed between the wood columns and the wood roof beams. The roof structure is exposed to view.[8]

Feed mill equipment on this floor includes two wooden hoppers, a wooden grain cleaner, two metal mixers, and equipment used to distribute the raw and processed grain throughout the mill: a horizontal wooden auger, spouts angling down to the attrition mill on the first floor and elevator legs. A variety of disconnected pulleys remain suspended from the roof rafters (Figure 04).

Photo 16. Interior view – Second floor looking south

(Image by AKAY Consulting, September 21, 2017.)

Looking south (stairs at left) with bagging mixers (G and H). See Figure 04.

[7] Sabongi: 16.
[8] Ibid.

Photo 17. Interior view – Second floor

(Image by AKAY Consulting, September 21, 2017.)

Chicken feed mixer (E) and pulley system.

The basement of the feed mill is characterized by its low ceilings, limited lighting, exposed structural system, primitive foundation, and sluiceway running through the basement floor from north to south (Photos 18-19). The floor and walls are poured concrete, the latter with extremely irregular aggregate. The south wall, adjacent to the road, has been reinforced and repaired with modern concrete. This concrete repair also partially covers the two basement windows on the

south wall and the window on the west wall (beneath the west addition). Another fixed window is visible on the east wall at the bottom of the stairs. Original heavy square timber posts are stabilized with concrete piers at the floor; these posts and other braces support the original floor joists with herringbone struts.[9]

An opening to a space under the engine house is cut through the foundation wall. During the period of significance, the opening allowed the main drive belt from the gas and diesel engines above to reach the main drive shaft in the basement.

An opening on the north foundation wall channels the water source from the millrace through the building via the concrete sluiceway. The water passes out of the basement through the south wall leading to a storm sewer and to the Cannon River below the dam. The sluiceway was excavated as part of the 1991 restoration project. Although the feed mill was not water-powered, the sluiceway remained largely intact through the 1950s, when it was in-filled.[10] The poured concrete form of the sluiceway today dates to the restoration, the path, width, and depth was determined based on field evaluation.[11]

Photo 18. Interior view – Basement looking north

(Image by AKAY Consulting, September 21, 2017.)

The 1991 restoration included recreation of the sluiceway.

[9] Ganzel: 13.
[10] Sabongi: 12.
[11] Field visit and interview with Loren Dahle, mill historian, August 21, 2017.

Photo 19. Interior view – Basement structural system

(Image by AKAY Consulting, September 21, 2017.)

Historic milling equipment, representing the various milling functions, is retained in the building. The following is a summary of equipment by floor, which are coded to the floor plans. Please note that the plans included in the following figures were drawn in advance of the 1991 restoration project; subsequent to completion of the project, some equipment was removed or altered.[12] The following notes indicate those changes with the equipment that remains today highlighted in the 1990 plan drawings (Figures 03-05).

Equipment on the **first floor** (Figure 03) includes:

A. MOVED to storage after 1990: Unloading winch (Kelly Duplex electrical truck hoist).
B. Dump hole for Hammer Mill whole ear corn.
C. MOVED, but retained on the first floor: Burr Mill used for cracking and/or grinding grain for hogs, chickens, horse and calf feed (Sprount Wadron & Co, Mulvaney, USA).
D. Bag dump pit; original holding area for flour and later for grain milling
E. MOVED, but retained on the first floor: Bear Cat 12R: Roller mill used to smash grain for hog, horse and calf feed (Western Land Roller Co., Hastings, NE).
F. Chicken feed mixer and later mineral mixer fed by basement grain leg (K) (Kelly Duplex, No. 4, Springfield, OH).
G. Bulk and mixer. Molasses could be added to feed in this mixer
H. Bagging mixer and bulk unloading; (C) and (D) are Sydney Grain Machinery Co., Sidney, OH.
I. Dump hole to sheller; whole ear corn
J. Molasses meter (Niagara meter).

Equipment on the **second floor** (Figure 04) includes:

A. Shelled corn delivery bin (sides removed post-1990)
B. Grain cleaner
C. Corn screener from sheller to screener then to either storage bin or to other mills in the building
D. Wheat holding bin; original holding, possibly dates to late 1800s
E. Mineral and chicken feed mixer (first mixer in the building)
F. Shelled corn storage (ca.1958) (sides removed post-1990)
G. Bagging mixer
H. Bulk and bagging mixer
I. Ground corn cob and ground ear corn delivery bin
J. Cross auger to grain leg and first mixer (ca.1950)
K. Cross auger from milling machines to either A or B mixer
L. Dust collector for basement hammer mill and blower; Jacobson hammer mill REMOVED
M. Unloading winch (homemade)
N. Oat storage bin REMOVED

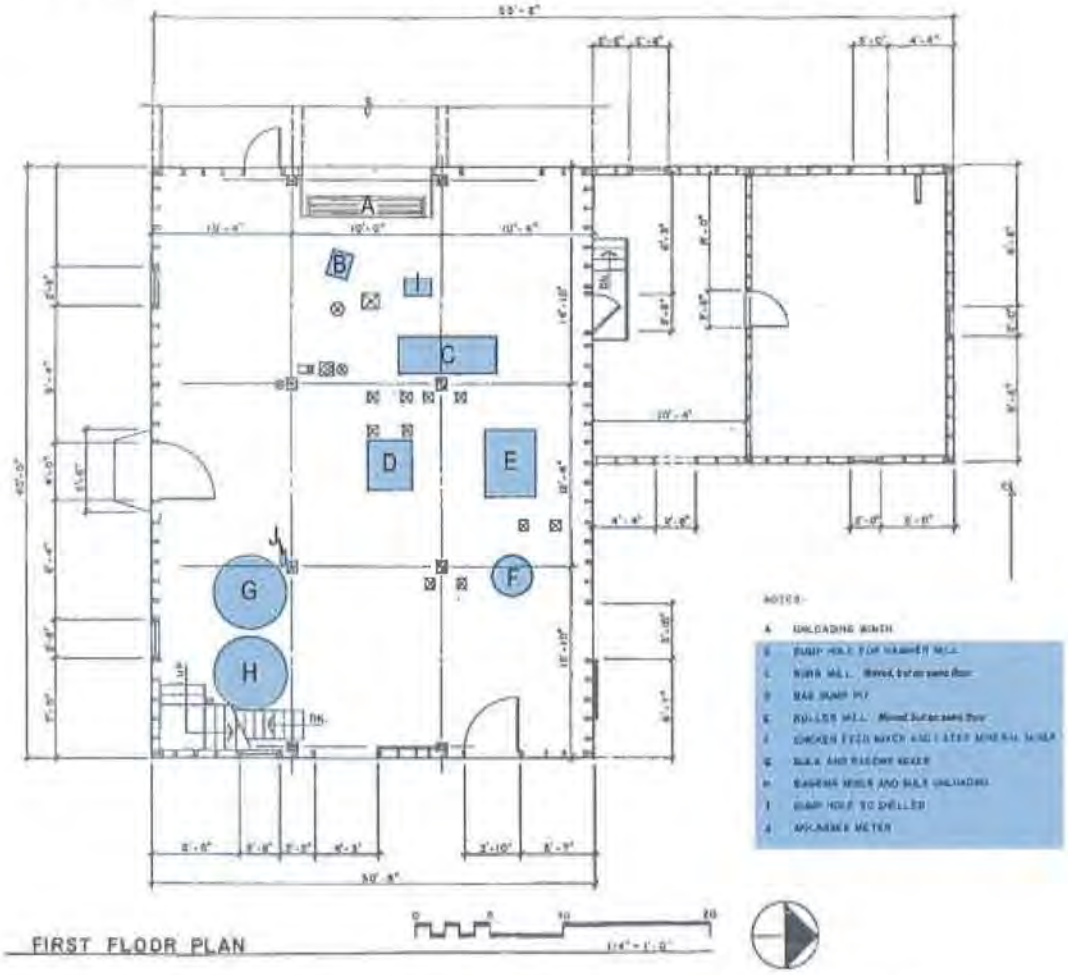
Equipment in the **basement** (Figure 05) includes:

A. Jacobson holding bin and dump pit with corn crusher and auger (Jacobson Machine Works Inc., Minneapolis, Minnesota
B. MOVED to first floor after 1990: Hammer Mill & Blower, which is used to smash whole ears of corn or other grains for use in making cow and hog feed.
C. Grain legs; double set and single set

[12] Email correspondence from Loren Dahle, mill historian, January 17, 2018.

D. REMOVED after 1990: Blower that blew feed to dust collector on roof-feed then fell into second floor auger
E. Altered after 1990: Sump pit (now part of the discharge race)
F. Viking molasses pump; pumped to the meter on first floor
G. REMOVED after 1990: Molasses holding tank
H. Triumph corn sheller, which removes the corn from the cob and separates them from each other (C.D. Bartlett and Snow Co., Cleveland, OH)
I. Auger that transfers shelled corn from the sheller to the grain legs
J. Auger that transfers grain from pit (A) to the grain leg (F). This auger was used before the Jacobson crusher (A) was installed.
K. Elevator to Hammer Mill corn or other grains entered first floor
L. Grain leg boot single set
M. Grain leg boot

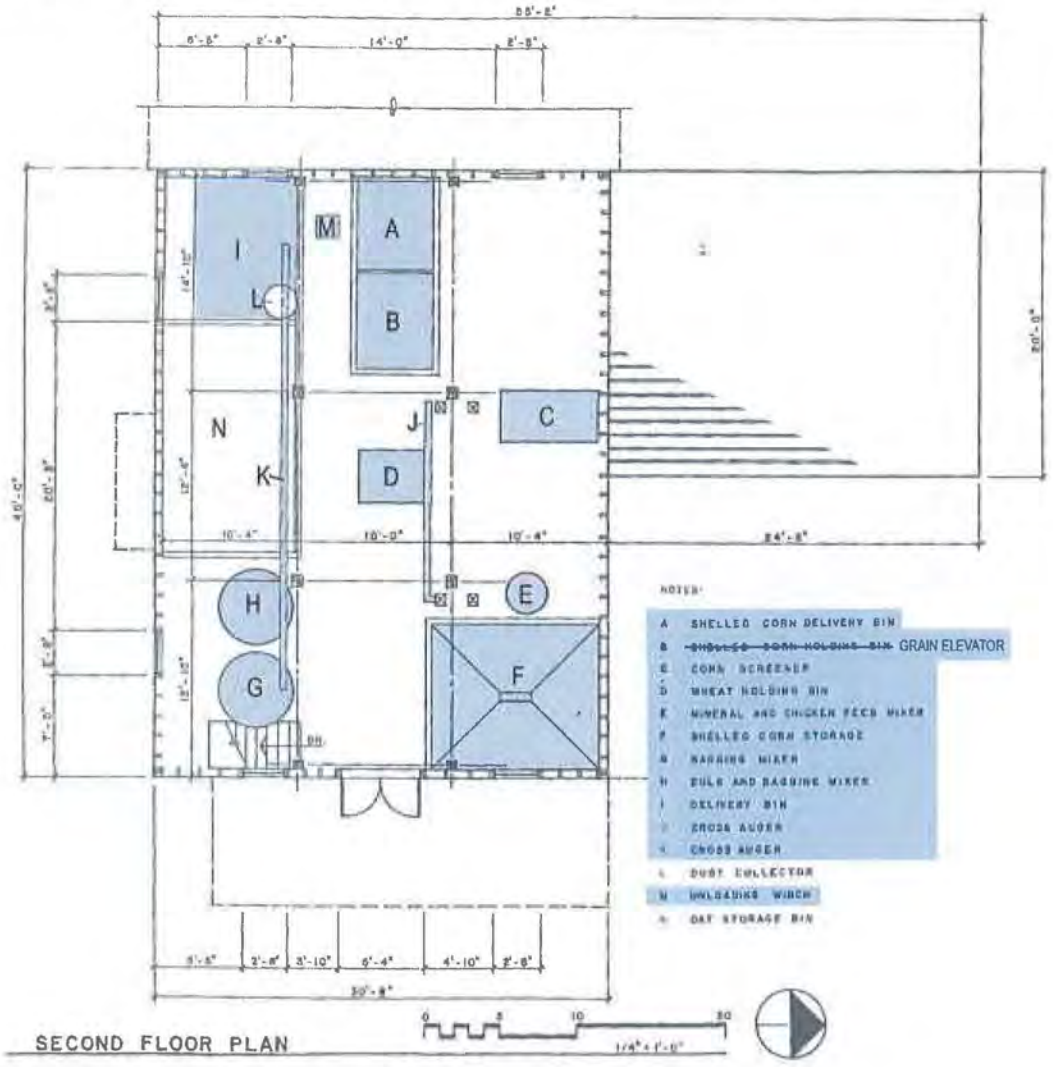
Figure 03. First floor plan showing current location of milling equipment



(Source: "Historic American Buildings Survey," Short-Elliott-Hendrickson, Inc., 1990.)

All highlighted equipment remains on the first floor, with some pieces shifted to new locations on the same floor.

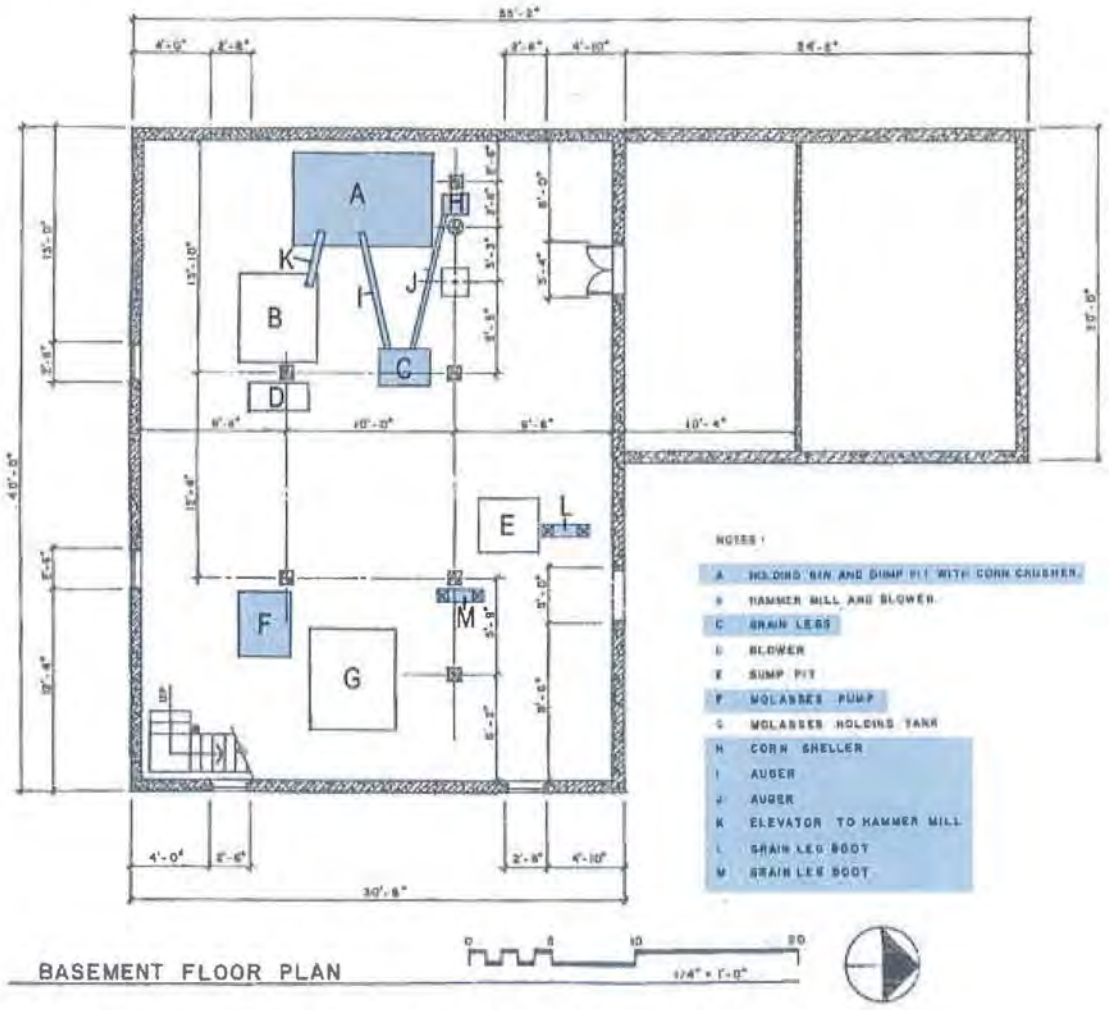
Figure 04. Second floor plan showing current location of milling equipment



(Source: "Historic American Buildings Survey," Short-Elliott-Hendrickson, Inc., 1990.)

The location of equipment (highlighted) has been updated from the 1990 record to reflect the current conditions.

Figure 05. Basement plan showing current location of milling equipment



(Source: "Historic American Buildings Survey," Short-Elliott-Hendrickson, Inc., 1990.)

The location of equipment (highlighted) has been updated from the 1990 record to reflect the current conditions.

Non-Contributing Resources

Non-contributing resources within the property boundaries include a 40- x 20-foot picnic shelter on a concrete slab, which is sited northeast of the feed mill. The structure consists of 6x6 wood corner posts supporting a simple gable roof sheathed in asphalt shingles. The picnic shelter was constructed in 1991 following the mill restoration. Its introduction to the site was intended to facilitate visitor comfort; its design intended to minimize the visual impact on the feed mill.

In ca.2010 an historic, one-room country schoolhouse was relocated to the property. The diminutive building is situated some 60-feet northwest of the feed mill. The building is a wood-frame structure with a front-facing gable roof. It is located on a concrete block foundation, with a wood ramp providing access to the building from the parking lot on the west.

A replica water wheel, located adjacent to the east elevation of the ca.1940 engine house was added in 1997. Although the sluiceway remained through the 1950s, the feed mill was not water-powered. The re-introduction of a water wheel references the non-extant flour mill.

Integrity Discussion

When considering all seven aspects of historic integrity – location, setting, association, design, workmanship, materials, and feeling - the Morristown Feed Mill retains a generally good level of historic integrity.

The Morristown Feed Mill retains a very good level of historic integrity as it relates to location, remaining as it does at its original location.

The Feed Mill retains a good level of historic integrity as it relates to the setting. The property boundaries include the portion of the historic site directly associated with the functioning of the feed mill. Further, the historic setting, which relied in great part on the natural landscape features (river, trees, and topography), remains largely intact. The primary alterations of the natural setting are those that occur naturally over the course of time (e.g. tree growth, bank erosion, etc.).

The most significant negative impact to integrity of setting relate to the 1991 construction of the picnic shelter and the ca.2010 relocation of the schoolhouse to the property. While obtrusive, their presence does not eliminate the ability to understand the historic setting.

As it relates to historic integrity of association, the Morristown Feed Mill retains a very good degree of integrity. The function of the feed mill relied on proximity to Bloomer Street (CR-44) as the primary route to and from the surrounding farms. Although the path of the roadway has been altered somewhat, retention of proximity to that association is significant to historic integrity.

As it relates to historic integrity of design, integrity remains very good. The 1991 restoration project removed non-historic additions and returned the ca.1931 west addition and ca.1940 engine house addition to the 1911 feed mill, thus returning the feed mill to its appearance within the period of significance. Further, the project replaced deteriorated windows with windows that match the material, configuration, and size of the historic; repaired exterior metal siding; replicated historic signage; returned wood shingles to the roof of the main building; provided structural repairs where required; and excavated the millrace. All of these items contributed significantly to the integrity of design.

As it relates to historic integrity of materials, integrity remains good. The 1991 restoration required replacement of some historic materials, including roofing, some exterior metal siding, and some of the windows. However, following the Secretary of the Interior's Standards, those replacements were made when rehabilitation was not possible and using in-kind materials. That quality of care along with the retention of the historic foundation, the historic wood timber and balloon frame structure, wood plank floors, and some of the exterior siding, results in a good level of historic integrity of materials.

Historic integrity of workmanship likewise remains very good, with construction practices (i.e. timber structure, balloon wall framing, rough stone foundation construction) specific to the period of construction retained in very good condition.

The Morristown Feed Mill retains integrity of feeling. This is due to retention of integrity of design, materials, historic equipment, and association to the millrace, the dam, the river, and the roadway which result in an experience that is much as it would have been historically despite the incursions on the site (picnic shelter and schoolhouse).

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.)

- [ ] A. Owned by a religious institution or used for religious purposes
- [ ] B. Removed from its original location
- [ ] C. A birthplace or grave
- [ ] D. A cemetery
- [ ] E. A reconstructed building, object, or structure
- [ ] F. A commemorative property
- [ ] G. Less than 50 years old or achieving significance within the past 50 years

Morristown Feed Mill
Name of Property

Rice County, MN
County and State

Areas of Significance
(Enter categories from instructions.)
INDUSTRY

Period of Significance
1911-1949

Significant Dates
1911
ca.1931
ca.1940

Significant Person
(Complete only if Criterion B is marked above.)

Cultural Affiliation

Architect/Builder

Statement of Significance Summary Paragraph (Provide a summary paragraph that includes level of significance, applicable criteria, justification for the period of significance, and any applicable criteria considerations.)

The Morristown Feed Mill is eligible for the National Register of Historic Places under Criterion A in the area of Industry. The building is locally significant in association with the history of milling, specifically to the work of feed milling. The site upon which the Morristown Feed Mill is located has been associated with milling since 1856, with the present feed mill constructed in 1911. Shortly after its construction the feed mill converted from flour to feed milling, representative of a shift in milling processes that occurred across the state, but also illustrative of the growing role of scientific-based preparation of livestock feed.

The Period of Significance is 1911 through 1949, marking construction of the present feed mill through the post-World War II expansion of farming that led to the automation of the feed mill industry. The period includes construction of the 1911 feed mill on an existing foundation, as well as that of the ca.1931 west addition and the ca.1940 engine house addition.

From its conversion from flour to feed milling in 1911, the mill at Morristown continued to serve the area as a feed mill for the coming six decades, most of those as the Schroeder Bros. Feed Mill. The Schroeders responded to the demands of scientific feed milling by adapting the mill to accommodate expanded storage requirements and converting from gas- or diesel-power to electric-powered processing.[13] Multiple mills in the region transitioned to feed milling after years of operating as a flour mill. The Albertville Roller Mill in Wright County (non-extant), the Seppman Mill in Blue Earth County (extant), the Phelps Mill/Maine Roller Mill in Otter Tail County (extant), and the Pickwick Mill in Winona County (extant) are such examples.[14] The Morristown Feed Mill commands elevated significance as the only remaining mill of its type in Rice County.

[13] Sabongi, 12.
[14] Ganzel, 23.

Narrative Statement of Significance (Provide at least **one** paragraph for each area of significance.)

Historical Background

The history of the mill at Morristown begins with the arrival of father and son Jonathan and Walter Morris in 1855. Jonathan Morris was born in Pennsylvania on January 9, 1804. At just four years of age, Morris's father died, prompting his mother to move the family to Ohio; they resettled there in 1809. Although not formally educated, Morris acquired a good grasp of the common branches of education, and entered the ministry, preaching for 25 years through the states of Indiana and Ohio.[15] Walter Morris was born in Ohio in ca.1832.[16]

Jonathan and Walter Morris traveled from their home in Ohio to St. Paul, Minnesota in 1853. The following spring, they purchased an interest in the town site of Faribault, relocating there in that same year. In the spring of 1854, father and son traveled by boat up the Cannon River in search of a site for a water-powered saw mill. With a site on the river's west bank settled upon, the Morrises wasted no time starting construction on the mill's foundation; the mill was in use by the fall of 1855.[17]

Figure 06. Morristown Original Plat – 1856

(Source: Rice County Auditor, County Plat Book, 1856.)

The highlighting indicates the location of the 1856 mill and mill yard.

[15] Neill, 585.
[16] United States Federal Census, 1860.
[17] Neill, 590.

A number of other settlers arrived in the area during the summer and fall of 1855, prompting Morris to layout a portion of his claim into village lots. In 1856, a flaw in the mill foundation, which allowed water to seep into the mill basement, required its replacement. Jonathan Morris fell during the reconstruction and became ill soon thereafter. He died in November of 1856.[18]

The mill reconstructed by Jonathan and Walter Morris was one of two sawmills built in Morristown in 1856. In contrast to the other mill, which was steam-powered, Morris' mill was water-powered, with a dam and a race constructed on the adjacent Cannon River to supply the power.

Shortly after his death, Jonathan Morris's widow Sarah Morris filed the tract of land she and her husband had settled upon. During the winter of 1856-57, she traveled to Winona and pre-empted the original filing. In the spring, Sarah Morris secured the services of Mr. C.C. Perkins, who surveyed a portion of her claim into town lots.[19] The plat (Figure 06) identifies the location of a "Mill Yard" in the bend of the Cannon River and adjacent to Block 4 of the Original Town.[20]

With the death of his father, Walter Morris assumed responsibility for the saw mill.[21] Reconstruction of the flawed foundation was completed and the new operation was up and running and processing lumber by the fall of 1856.[22] Local newspaper accounts illustrate the challenges of the fledgling operation:

> "The water mill, which [Jonathan Morris] had erected and got in operation before his death, washed out and has since been a continued expense without profit, though, in the hands of competent mill-men, it would have succeeded, as the site is superior to the one at Warsaw. It is now owned by W. Morris who has expended considerably in the erection of a new mill, and feels confident that as soon as spring removes the icy fetters, he will commence operation."[23]

As predicted, with the passage of winter and the arrival of spring, the new sawmill was in operation with predictions made for its success appearing in local news accounts:

> "The want of success which hitherto has attended this mill has kept Morristown from making the improvement it otherwise could not have failed to make. But a steam saw mill is now in successful operation and prospects begin to brighten."[24]

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[18] Neill, 590.
[19] Ibid.
[20] Rice County Auditor, County Plat Book, 1856.
[21] "Morristown," Uncited newsclipping, March 19, 1857.
[22] Steve Kallestad was a longtime Morristown resident, with a great interest in local history particularly related to the mill. Over a number of years Kallestad actively collected historic accounts, letters, and interviews about the mill, which he organized in a notebook referred to here as the "Kallestad notebook" and "The Hershey Grist Mill," uncited source.
[23] Kallestad Notebook.
[24] "Morristown," Uncited newsclipping, March 19, 1857.

Morristown "effected an organization in 1858" with the first township meeting held on May 11 of that year and town officials elected the following year.[25] At a special meeting of the Board of County Commissioners held on April 14, 1858, a petition was received from Walter Morris asking that township 109, range 22, be called Morristown.[26]

In the spring of 1858, Walter Morris faced another challenge at the mill when the dam washed out. It was repaired, however, and the sawmill resumed operation. That repair held, with the dam remaining unchanged through 1882.[27]

In 1859, Walter Morris sold the land and the mill to Christian Hershey, Jr. for $1,000.[28] Like timber milling on the statewide level, local milling dwindled with diminished demand and, with the rise of flour milling in the state, many of the small-scale mills, which managed to escape being burned to the ground, were often converted to flour or grist mills. After buying the mill property, Hershey used the foundation of the 1856 saw mill to construct a two-and-a-half-story building with "one run of stones and the necessary flouring machinery and commenced grinding."[29] The Hershey Mill was a mainstay in Morristown for many years. Reflecting the impact of the middling purifier on the production of flour, the mill expanded in 1870 to include two run of stone with the capacity to grind 15,000 bushels of wheat and produce 3,000 barrels of flour and feed per year."[30]

Christian Hershey, Jr., born in 1836 in Canada, was an early Rice County resident. With his wife Jane and 6-year old daughter Mary, Hershey came to Warsaw Township (via Wisconsin) in 1855. The Hershey family remained in Warsaw Township until 1859, when they moved to Morristown. Jane Hershey died in 1863 and in 1869 Christian married Ann S. Hurt. The second marriage produced three children, Rutee Anna who died in infancy, Nora and Phylena.[31]

In August of 1860, Hershey defaulted on the mortgage and the land was sold at public auction to Nathan Morris for $1,272. Nathan Morris would have been entitled to a "conveyance of the premises" but Christian Hershey was able to redeem the land from sale under foreclosure in July of 1862.[32]

In 1865, Christian Hershey erected a sawmill on the east bank of the Cannon River, across the waterway from his flourmill. The 30- by 40-feet mill housed an upright saw, with a dam and a wooden reaction waterwheel. The sawmill ran with a capacity of 3,000-board feet per day. The

[25] Curtiss-Wedge, 174.
[26] Ibid., 194.
[27] Kallestad, "The Hershey Grist Mill," uncited source and Neill, 588.
[28] Kallestad, "The Hershey Grist Mill," uncited source.
[29] Ibid.
[30] Emily Ganzel, "Evaluation of the Morristown Feed Mill and Millrace for Eligibility for the National Register of Historic Places," completed for the City of Morristown, 2015: 16.
[31] Morristown Historical Society records.
[32] Sabongi, 6 and uncited source, "Mortgage Sale." June 19, 1861.

mill had been in operation for ten years when the riverbank washed away, leaving the remains of the mill almost in the middle of the river.[33]

In 1876 the "Morristown Mill" was organized upstream from the Morristown Feed Mill. This eventually led to the construction of the Big Diamond Flour Mill on the south bank of the Cannon River in Morristown. The four-story building had a stone basement and an engine house. Its propelling power was a 120 horse-power steam engine, and, with an 8 run of stones, the capacity was about 200 barrels per day.[34] In 1880, the property was purchased by George W. Newell, who undertook a number of modifications and, within a couple of years, the operation was one of the largest in the country, certainly the largest enterprise in Morristown, employing about 30 men with capacity of 250 barrels per day.[35] By 1909, the plant size had increased significantly and included an elevator that was 87-feet in height with a capacity of 40,000. In that year the name was changed to the Big Diamond Mill after the owner, the Big Diamond Milling Co. of Minneapolis.[36] Beginning in approximately 1895, the tailings from the bigger flourmill were sent to Hershey's mill to be made into animal feed. This was a precursor to the period after 1903 when the mill's primary production would be animal feed.[37] The Big Diamond Mill was destroyed by fire in February of 1933.[38]

In 1877 Christian Hershey partially remodeled his flourmill, making a number of improvements including a wooden reaction water wheel, which increased the daily capacity to 100 barrels.[39]

In 1882, with a population of 100, Morristown reportedly had two stores, one steam saw mill, one water saw and grist mill, two taverns, one cabinet shop with water power, two blacksmith shops, one schoolhouse, one house of public worship, and a post-office.[40] In that year, the long awaited Cannon Valley Railroad was completed with service from Red Wing through Northfield, Faribault, and Morristown to Mankato.[41] The village of Morristown was incorporated the following year.[42]

Although no historical documents address the impact of the railroad on the mill of Christian Hershey, alterations and updates reflect continued prosperity, which may have been tied to the increased market access. In 1889, it was reported that Hershey was preparing to drive piles above his dam to protect it from the ice. The old dam had recently been replaced by a dam of "good solid structure of oak, designed and built by Charles Buck of Morristown."[43]

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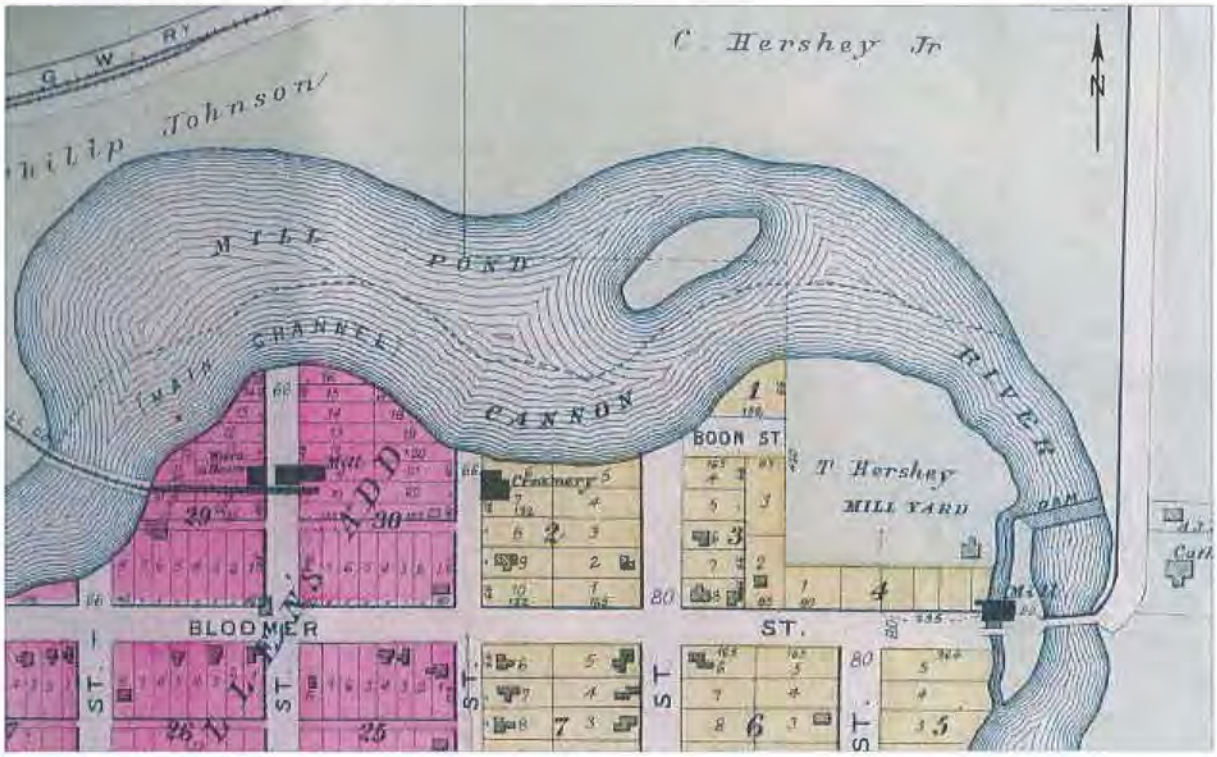
[33] Kallestad, "The Hershey Grist Mill," uncited source and Neill, 588.
[34] Neill, 587.
[35] Ibid., 588.
[36] Kallestad notebook, uncited clipping, "Big Diamond Milling Company."
[37] Ganzel.
[38] Kallestad notebook, uncited clipping, "Big Diamond Milling Company."
[39] Neill, 588.
[40] Ibid.
[41] Kallestad notebook, uncited newsclipping.
[42] Curtiss-Wedge, 230.
[43] Susan McKenna, "Looking back ... 100 years ago," Uncited news source, 1989.

Figure 07. Morristown Plat – 1900



(Source: Rice County Auditor, County Plat Book, 1900.)

The 1900 plat of Morristown documents the configuration of the mill resources including a dam over the Cannon River, the mill (blackened) with a millrace passing under it from north of the dam to cross under Bloomer Street where it re-entered the river in Block 5. The gray structure north of the mill is the Hershey Residence.

By 1895 it was reported that Morristown had "an improved water-power on the Cannon River" that furnished power for buhr and roller flouring mills, planning mills, sawmills, hoop and barrel factories and other factories. At about that time, Hershey's mill was processing the tailings from the Big Diamond Mill into animal feed – a precursor to the shift that was to come.[44] In December of 1905, Christian Hershey sold the mill and the surrounding land to Ernestina Karow for $3,500.

Hershey died March 12, 1906.[45] In 1909 John Stirens purchased the mill and all of Block 4 except Lot 5 from Ernestina Karow. Stirens proceeded to complete "considerable repairing on it, making it a first class gristmill."[46]

44 "Reported Earlier," *The Saint Paul Globe*, January 30, 1900: 1.
45 Ancestry.com. https://search.ancestry.com/cgi-bin/sse.dll?indiv=1&dbid=60525&h=38083517&tid=&pid=&usePUB=true&_phsrc=xzM14 &_phstart=successSource. Last accessed 01/02/2018.
46 "Morristown Fire." *Faribault Democrat*. December 02, 1910.

The approach to feeding livestock had begun a marked evolution in the closing years of the 19th century; once driven by the practical notion of feeding livestock what was on hand, feeding took a decidedly more scientific turn, relying instead on "proven scientific methods." The 1888 establishment of the School of Agriculture at the University of Minnesota with its system of experiment stations brought the changing ideas and practices in livestock feeding to the state, resulting in an increased demand for more refined feed mixtures. Feed mills answered this demand with specialized feeds customized for a particular livestock breed.

The growing demand for refined feed mixtures coincided with the decline in the state's flour production by small milling facilities. Small operations like Christian Hershey's mill were at a particular disadvantage relative to competitors such as the Big Diamond Mill, which benefitted from ready access to markets provided by rail service with dedicated spurs. Typical across the state, as flourmills became larger and more commercial with wider markets facilitated by railroads, it was the smaller feed mills like the mill at Morristown that continued the tradition of custom milling. In this way the rise of scientific agriculture in the first part of the 20th century brought about an increase in small, local feed mills during the same period.[47]

This became more apparent in the early 1930s, when a drop in grain prices raised the demand for local feed mills, as explained in *Consolidated Grain Milling Catalogs*, a publication that combined information on the latest milling equipment with the latest trends in the business. In 1932, the publication noted that the declining grain prices were impacting how the feed milling business supplied scientifically made rations for livestock and poultry. As a result, the average, small farmer was no longer able to ship his grain to market and then buy back his grain in mixed feed form. Rather, the farmer had to have his grain ground locally and then locally mixed with feed concentrates specific to his needs.[48]

On November 21, 1910, fire "…. Broke out in the Hershey mill bur[n]ing it to the ground, destroying all the machinery and a large amount of grain…" Stirens quickly "fixed up a [temporary] building at his place near the site of the old mill, where he is prepared to do grinding of all kinds." He soon had construction of a new mill underway on Lot 2 of Block 4.[49] In 1915, Stirens' operation appears in area directories as the Morristown Feed & Saw Mill.[50] Although local records do not address the moment the mill converted from flour and grist milling to "Feed & Saw Mill," it appears likely that Stirens shifted production to feed milling at the time the new mill was completed in 1911. The statewide trend away from small-scale flour mill and toward feed milling likely impacted the direction Stirens headed with his new facility.

In 1917, the mill was sold to W.A. and Laura Harding. Ownership changed multiple times in the subsequent years. In ca.1928, a young man by the name of Meril Witter worked at the mill. In a communication with Steve Kallestad, Witter's widow passed on information he had given her about his time there. Witter noted that the mill was making cow and hog feed - ground oats,

[47] Ganzel, 20.
[48] Ibid.
[49] "Morristown. The Hershey Mill Is Burned." *Faribault Republican*, November 30, 1910 and "Caught on the Run. Morristown Mills Burn," *Albert Lea Evening Tribune*, November 28, 1910: 2.
[50] *Faribault City Directory* (St. Paul: R.L. Polk & Co., 1915), 351.

barley, wheat, and corn – for which they charged 8-cents a sack. The mill ran on diesel fuel.[51] In December of 1930, the mill was purchased by Herb and Arnold Schroeder.[52] From that time, the mill was operated as Schroeder Bros. Feed Mill, though the painted sign on the building (Image 08) advertises the "Morristown Feed Mill."

Many changes occurred under the ownership of Herb and Arnold Schroeder, most significant among them noted as the mill's conversion from a one-cylinder diesel to a 6-cylinder diesel and then to electricity. Bulk tanks, a large storage warehouse, office rooms, and a delivery bulk trucks were also added during that period.[53]

Herb Schroeder relayed to Steve Kallestad that the water wheel was gone at the time the brothers purchased the mill in 1930. The millstones were sold by the Shroeders. The 4-inch shaft in the basement (still present today) was part of the original mill equipment. Though not used by the Schroeders, it was too heavy to remove.[54]

Figure 08. Historic Image – 1931

(Image courtesy of the Morristown Historical Society.)

Note that the west addition was in place by this time.

[51] Kallestad notebook, letter from Mrs. Meril Witter to Steve Kallestad, dated August 28, 1989.
[52] Kallestad notebook.
[53] Ganzel.
[54] Kallestad notebook.

Figure 09. Historic Image – 1940

(Image courtesy of the Morristown Historical Society.)

View of the mill, looking southeast toward Bloomer Street (CR-44). Note that the engine house addition was in place by this date. Also, the structure at right is on the opposite side of Bloomer Street and does not appear to have been associated with the mill. It is non-extant.

Coming in the depths of the Great Depression, President Franklin Roosevelt's election signaled the beginning of new federal programs designed to revive the American economy – the New Deal. One of the first programs to be introduced, the Emergency Conservation Work Program, more popularly known as the Civilian Conservation Corps or CCC, brought together the efforts of a number of government agencies to relieve unemployment and promote the conservation of the country's natural resources. Soil Conservation was one of the agencies involved and Soil Conservation Service (SCS) camps were set up in Minnesota, particularly in the hilly, southeastern region.[55]

To address the receding lake water levels in Le Sueur County and the surrounding area in the 1930s, SCS Camp 10 was established at Waterville, six miles west of Morristown. In addition to soil conservation, SCS Camp 10 was charged with water conservation, forest conservation, and

[55] Ganzel, 29.

wild life preservation. By the beginning of 1936, SCS Camp 10 was responsible for building dams at the outlets of several lakes on the Cannon River to manage the spring runoff and increase the lakes' water level.[56]

The Morristown dam was one of the first to be built by SCS Camp 10. In February 1936, before the camp at Waterville even had a name for its newsletter, it published a progress report, noting that the Morristown dam was engineered by George Dean and would be the "largest thus far." A plaque at the Morristown dam identifies the work of the SCS Camp 10. The accompanying spillway diverts the overflow of water that might occur when the dam is in use.[57]

In the 1930s, the Schroeders installed a "Cummins" diesel fuel engine in the mill. Also during the 1930s, a storage shed was added to the feed mill for the storage of minerals, salt, and bone meal ingredients. The storage shed was 20- by 20-feet.[58]

Sometime before 1940, the CCC built a retaining wall just north of the mill to plug the water route under the building.[59] A pipe was placed in the new retaining wall so that, in the event that the pending war resulted in rationing of gas and diesel fuel, the waterway could be accessed to power the feed mill.[60]

Figure 10. Pre-Restoration Image – South Elevation - 1990

(Source: Sabongi, 1990.)

In this 1990 image, the west addition in its late 1950s form is seen at left.

[56] Ganzel, 29.
[57] Ibid.
[58] Sabongi, 12.
[59] Kallestad notebook, "Morristown trying to save 130-year- old feed mill," uncited source, ca.1990.
[60] Kallestad notebook.

Figure 11. Pre-Restoration Image – East Elevation - 1990

(Source: Sabongi, 1990.)

In this 1990 image, the expanded form of the north storage shed is documented. The ca. 1940 engine house addition had been separated from the feed mill and used elsewhere on the site; it was restored to the building in 1991.

In the years following the Second World War, expansion of farming led to the automation of the feed mill industry. That transition marks the end of the period of significance for the Morristown Feed Mill. Advancements in agriculture and the rise in use of fertilizers, chemical pesticides, antibiotics, and hormones favored a trend of consolidation in the feed industry and led to an increase in farm consolidations. Automation of the feed mill evolved to minimize feed cost per unit of animal produced and to maximize the efficient production of feed. Over time, processing technology continued to improve, elevating the quality and control in a variety of milling processes, including ground ingredient particle size characteristics, batching and mixing, pellet processing, extrusion processing, post-pellet applications, process control, and feed delivery logistics.[61]

The Schroeders converted the mill from diesel power to electricity in the late 1950s and filled in the sluice from the feed mill to the river. Multiple additions were made to the feed mill in the late 1950s. This included a second addition made to the storage shed, which increased the shed to

[61] D. Coffey and others, "Review of the feed industry from a historical perspective and implications for its future," *Journal of Applied Animal Nutrition,* Vol. 4 (2016). https://doi.org/10.1017/jan.2015.11.

some 67-feet in length by 40-feet in width.[62] The west addition was expanded in the 1950s, with two delivery sheds also added to the west elevation.[63]

After operating the Morristown Feed Mill for 40 years, Herb and Arnold Schroeder sold the enterprise on May 1, 1971, to Clifford and Elizabeth Wilson.[64] Carl Klinder, longtime mill employee, assumed "responsibility" of the mill at that time.[65] The Wilsons sold the mill to Karl and Elinor Ostlund in April, 1977. In January of the following year, the mill was sold to Gerald and Linda Hruska. The Hruskas sold the mill to Morristown Feed and Grain, Incorporated, in February, 1984 – the corporation being owned by the Hruskas,[66]

In February of 1984, the Morristown Feed and Grain, Inc. was sold to Jim Havens who, in 1989, sold the property to the City of Morristown.[67] With the significant support of the Morristown Historical Society and a number of committed volunteers, the City has faithfully maintained the mill, undertaking an historic structures report and restoration in the early 1990s.

Figure 12. Schroeder Bros. Advertisement – Undated

(Source: Kallestad Notebook. Uncited clipping.)

[62] Ganzel, 12.
[63] Ibid., 13.
[64] Sabongi, 6.
[65] "Carl Klinder will be new Manager at The Morristown Feed Mill," uncited news clipping, 1971.
[66] Sabongi, 6.
[67] Sabongi, 8.

Feed Milling

The approach to feeding livestock in the United States began a marked evolution in the closing years of the 19th century; once driven by the practical notion of feeding livestock what was on hand, feeding took a decidedly more scientific turn, relying instead on "proven scientific methods." This shift was driven in large part by the 1887 passage of the Hatch Act, which provided funding to individual states for the creation of experimental stations directed at development of new farming methods.

When constructed in 1911, the Morristown Feed Mill, as it came to be called, represented agriculture's changing approach to feeding livestock, particularly in Minnesota. Mid-nineteenth century views on hog feeding, for example, were summed up by American veterinary scientist William Youatt in his 1858 treatise *The Hog*, in which he wrote, "The feeding of pigs will always… depend upon the circumstances of the owner, upon the kind of food he has at his disposal and can best spare…"[68]

Although nutrition as a scientific discipline had existed in European countries since the early 1800s, it wasn't until 1874 that advancements in the mathematical assessment of nutritional value based on chemical analysis of feedstuffs was brought to the attention of American researchers. The first feed standards based on nutrition were published 1880 by H.P. Armsby in his book, *Manual of Cattle Feeding.* The standards were adapted and published in 1880 as *Feeds and Feeding* and then again revised in 1915.[69] Such revisions resulted from ongoing research and the evolution of understanding related to the value of feed composition for optimum performance. For example, from the 1920s to the 1940s, investigation focused on understanding the mineral and vitamin requirements of various animal species, with numerous studies published. It wasn't until 1942, however, that these findings impacted feeding standards. In that year L.A. Maynard directed the Committee on Animal Nutrition of the National Research Council in the U.S. to form subcommittees to prepare nutrient requirement tables for farm and laboratory animals. These were first published in 1944 and subsequently updated as deemed necessary.[70]

The foundations of scientifically-based agricultural education in the United States were laid with the 1862 passage of the Morrill Act establishing a system of land-grant colleges. Although the Morrill Act preceded the creation of agricultural experiment stations by some 25 years, its passage established institutions in each state with the focused intent to study and disseminate scientifically-based information about agricultural practice. The use of scientific investigation and experimentation was, from the beginning, a part of the work of the land-grant colleges.[71] Passage of the Hatch (Experiment Station) Act in 1887 was the funding mechanism that

[68] Ganzel, 18.
[69] Alfred Charles True, *A History of Agricultural Education in the United States 1875-1925* (Washington, DC: U.S. Printing Office, 1929).
[70] Ibid.
[71] Calvin and Atucha Pearson, "Agricultural Experiment Stations and Branch Stations the United States," Natural Science Education, 44. 1-5.

supported the intent of the Morrill Act. Through annual grants, the Hatch Act funded the establishment of experiment stations under the direction of land-grant colleges for the purpose of advancing agriculture in the rapidly industrializing United States.[72] Land-grant colleges utilized the existing textbooks to advance the understanding of scientifically based nutrition for livestock feed. In addition to Armsby's *Manual of Cattle Feeding,* Johnson's *How Crops Grow and How Crops Feed* was required reading at the fledgling agricultural schools.[73]

The University of Minnesota, which first opened its doors as a preparatory school without agricultural courses in 1851, was established as the state's land-grant college with passage of the 1862 Morrill Act. Although immediately intent on developing an agriculture college, the School of Agriculture at the University of Minnesota was not formed until 1888. Until then, the University employed a variety of strategies to bring agricultural education to the state's farming community, including public meetings and lectures.[74] With the 1887 passage of the Hatch Act, funds were made available to the country's land-grant colleges for the purpose of creating farming experiment stations. It was the Hatch Act that made possible the dissemination of scientifically-based practices in livestock feeding that resulted in an increased demand for more refined feed mixtures.[75] The state's feed mills answered this demand with specialized feeds customized for a particular livestock breed.

With its establishment, the University's School of Agriculture incorporated the existing agricultural experiment station located in St. Anthony, Minnesota (location of the St. Paul campus of the University of Minnesota). The mission of the newly established school was to provide practical instruction in agricultural methods to Minnesota farmers. One means of accomplishing that goal was the development of bulletins illustrating and publicizing the school's research findings. The 1901 bulletin, "The Feeding Value of Wheat" focused on the impact of feeding practices on hog stock. The bulletin specifically encouraged farmers to stop previous practices of feeding whatever was on hand and the bulletin offered experimentally based guidance about the impact of varying combinations of protein, fiber, and carbohydrates a hog could digest from ground wheat versus ground corn.[76]

The University of Minnesota expanded its School of Agriculture to reflect the growing experimental environment. In 1895, the Northwest Agricultural Experiment Station opened in Crookston, with the North Central station at Grand Rapids established in 1896. Expanded funding by the State Legislature in 1911 supported the opening of two additional "sub-experiment and demonstration farm[s]" to demonstrate, among other things, "the best methods [for] … the breeding, feeding and caring of dairy cows and other farm animals." With an

[72] Norwood Allen Kerr, *The legacy: a centennial history of the state agricultural experiment stations, 1887-1987* (Columbia, MO: University of Missouri-Columbia, 1987): xi.
[73] True, 324.
[74] http://www.mnopedia.org/event/origins-university-minnesota-extension-service. Last accessed 04/15/2018.
[75] Alfred Charles True, *A History of Agricultural Education in the United States 1785-1925* (Washington, DC: U.S. Printing Office, 1929).
[76] Ganzel, 18.

available $65,000, the Northeast Station at Duluth was opened in 1913 and $35,000 created the Southeast Station at Waseca, which opened in the spring of 1913.[77]

Waseca's Southeast Station was located on approximately 246-acres in Waseca County just 15 miles southwest of Morristown. The station devoted a little more than 37-acres to an "experimental unit ... [to study] soil, crop, and livestock problems." As noted in the Southeast Station report for 1913 to 1918, "[the station] has placed the resources, information, and influence of the University where the people of this part of the state may derive direct benefit from it." Proximity of the Southeast Station to Morristown most certainly had a direct impact on the operation of the Morristown Feed Mill. The production of a regular "Ask University Farm" column in the *Waterville Advance,* along with crop reports for the Southeast Station, was one avenue to disseminate information.[78]

Following the trends of the national movement toward scientifically-based feed, refinements and expansion continued across the Midwest. Dr. Elmer Verner McCollum at the University of Wisconsin conducted one such experiment between 1907 and 1912. Through his experiments, McCollum demonstrated that butterfat in the diet of young animals improved growth rates.

With its focus on the specific ingredients of a livestock breed's diet, the University of Minnesota's experiments encouraged farmers to demand more refined feed mixtures. Feed mills answered this demand with specialized feeds customized for a particular livestock breed. In fact, mixers in the Morristown Feed Mill bear feed charts with instructions for proper mixing based on breed (Photo 13).

In Morristown, dual market forces were at play in the conversion from flour to feed milling that occurred in 1911. With the market for flour milling diminishing after the turn of the 20th century and the growing demand for scientifically-based livestock feed on the rise, conversion from flour to feed milling was a clear response to a significant change in the industry.

Small mills like that at Morristown were, during this period, feeling the negative effects of the growing scale of flour mills; as large mills expanded to wider markets facilitated by railroads, it was the small feed mills that continued the tradition of custom milling. In this way, the rise of scientific agriculture in the first part of the 20th century brought about the increase in small local feed mills.[79] This trend became more apparent in the early 1930s, when the drop in grain prices raised the demand for local feed mills. As addressed in a 1932 *Consolidated Grain Milling Catalog*, (a publication that combined information on the latest milling equipment with the latest trends in the business):

> The ... decline in grain prices has had far-reaching effects on ... the feed milling business supplying scientifically made rations for livestock and poultry. No longer can the average small farmer ship his grain to market, and ... buy back his grain in mixed feed form ...

[77] Ganzel, 18.
[78] Ibid., 19.
[79] Ibid.

> from distant points. He must have his grain ground locally. It must be mixed locally with feed concentrates suited to the particular needs of his locality.[80]

Known as the Morristown Feed & Saw Mill beginning in 1912, the business represented agriculture's changing approach to feeding livestock.[81] The Morristown mill continued to operate as a feed mill following its purchase by Herb and Arnold Schroeder in 1930. As the Schroeder Bros. Feed Mill, many changes were made indicative of the continued influence of the scientific methods for livestock feed. Among them was the installation of bulk tanks, construction of a large storage warehouse, and purchase of bulk delivery trucks – all required for a 20th century feed mill.[82]

Conversion of the Morristown mill from flour milling to feed milling coincides with a changed approach to feeding livestock, which had been evolving since the closing years of the 19th century. The development of a scientifically-based approach to feeding livestock was replacing the longstanding methods that had relied on the practical approach of feeding livestock with whatever was readily on hand, without the benefit of nutritional balance.

The Morristown Feed Mill represents a period in the history of Minnesota milling tied to the development of scientifically-based livestock feed. The mill business, which had been an industrial presence in Morristown since the town itself was established, adapted to the decline in flour production specific to small-scale operations and to the growing demand for nutritionally balanced livestock feed. That transition and the decades of successful existence that followed illustrate the impact of the move to scientifically-based feed on small-scale mills and on the Morristown mill specifically. It also highlights the important role held by the University of Minnesota through the extension services provided by the School of Agriculture's system of experiment stations, which disseminated that knowledge to the state's farming community.

[80] Ibid., 20.
[81] *Faribault City Directory* (St. Paul: R.L. Polk & Co., 1915), 351.
[82] Ganzel, 22.

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Rice County Historical Society, Faribault, Minnesota.

Stephen Kallestad Collection. A personal collection of newspaper clippings, images, etc. specific to the Morristown Feed Mill. Held by Loren Dahle, Morristown.

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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 # _____
____ recorded by Historic American Landscape Survey # _____

Primary location of additional data:

_x_ State Historic Preservation Office
____ Other State agency
____ Federal agency
____ Local government
____ University
____ Other
Name of repository: _____

Historic Resources Survey Number (if assigned): RC-MTC-014

9. Geographical Data

Acreage of Property less than one

Use either the UTM system or latitude/longitude coordinates

Latitude/Longitude Coordinates
Datum if other than WGS84:_____
(enter coordinates to 6 decimal places)

1. Latitude: 44.228793 Longitude: -93.440145
2. Latitude: 44.228663 Longitude: -93.440423
3. Latitude: 44.228691 Longitude: -93.440759
4. Latitude: 44.228934 Longitude: -93.440297
5. Latitude: 44.29088 Longitude: -93.440297

Or

UTM References
Datum (indicated on USGS map):

Morristown Feed Mill
Name of Property

Rice County, MN
County and State

☐ NAD 1927 or ☐ NAD 1983

1. Zone:	Easting:	Northing:
2. Zone:	Easting:	Northing:
3. Zone:	Easting:	Northing:
4. Zone:	Easting :	Northing:

Verbal Boundary Description (Describe the boundaries of the property.)

The property boundary (Figure 02) is marked by Bloomer Street on the south, the Cannon River on the east, a point just north of the low-head dam on the north, then angling southwest to the west property boundary marked by the centerline of the driveway that provides access to both the mill and the Hershey residence sited northeast of the mill site. The mill itself (sited on Lot 2 in Block 4 of the Original Plat of Morristown) faces Bloomer Street to the south.

Boundary Justification (Explain why the boundaries were selected.)

The boundary represents the existing parcel (2023351001), which is owned by the City of Morristown. The City parcel embraces the portion of the historic site directly associated with the mill during the period of significance (1911-1949). The parcel is notched on the southeast and southwest corners, which represents the boundary between the City-owned property and the county right-of-way associated with CR-44; the adjacency of the mill to the roadway precludes a county right-of-way at that point of the parcel, resulting in the notched boundary. The proximity of the mill to the roadway is the result of alterations to the roadway. The most recent alterations were made in the 1990s with a project to upgrade the roadway and adjacent bridge that posed a potential for an adverse impact to the mill and the site. Modifications to the project diminished the risk of damage due to run-off, but increased the encroachment of the right-of-way on the historic site. The adverse impact of the loss of those portions of the historic site at the SE and SW corners is moderated by the benefit provided to the historic site by the project alterations made to protect it. The west boundary, which runs north-south through the driveway includes a portion of the driveway, which is historically a shared feature of the site.

10. Form Prepared By

name/title: Alexa McDowell/Architectural Historian
organization: AKAY Consulting
street & number: 4252 Oakland Avenue
city or town: Minneapolis state: MN zip code: 55407-3123
e-mail alexa@akayconsulting.com
telephone: 515-491-5432
date: 12/03/2018

Additional Documentation

Submit the following items with the completed form:

- **Maps:** A **USGS map** or equivalent (7.5 or 15 minute series) indicating the property's location.
- **Sketch map** for historic districts and properties having large acreage or numerous resources. Key all photographs to this map.
- **Additional items:** (Check with the SHPO, TPO, or FPO for any additional items.)

Photographs

Submit clear and descriptive photographs. The size of each image must be 1600x1200 pixels (minimum), 3000x2000 preferred, at 300 ppi (pixels per inch) or larger. Key all photographs to the sketch map. Each photograph must be numbered and that number must correspond to the photograph number on the photo log. For simplicity, the name of the photographer, photo date, etc. may be listed once on the photograph log and doesn't need to be labeled on every photograph.

Photo Log

Name of Property: Morristown Feed Mill
City or Vicinity: Morristown
County: Rice
State: Minnesota
Photographer: Alexa McDowell
Date Photographed: 09/21/2017

Description of Photograph(s) and number, include description of view indicating direction of camera:

Photo 1 of 19 — Site view looking southwest across the Cannon River from CR-44
MN_RiceCounty_MorristownFeedMill_0001

Photo 2 of 19 — Site view looking east along E. Bloomer Street
MN_RiceCounty_MorristownFeedMill_0002

Photo 3 of 19 — View of the feed mill looking northeast across E. Bloomer Street
MN_RiceCounty_MorristownFeedMill_0003

Photo 4 of 19 — View of the primary (south) elevation, looking north across E. Bloomer Street
MN_RiceCounty_MorristownFeedMill_0004

Photo 5 of 19 — View of the west elevation, looking due east
MN_RiceCounty_MorristownFeedMill_0005

Photo 6 of 19 — View of the mill looking southwest across the Cannon River
MN_RiceCounty_MorristownFeedMill_0006

Photo 7 of 19 — Detail view of east elevation
MN_RiceCounty_MorristownFeedMill_0007

Photo 8 of 19 — Detail view of the north elevation - sluiceway
MN_RiceCounty_MorristownFeedMill_0008

Photo 9 of 19 — Interior view – First floor looking southeast
MN_RiceCounty_MorristownFeedMill_0009

Photo 10 of 19 — Interior view – First floor looking southwest (entrance at left)
MN_RiceCounty_MorristownFeedMill_0010

Photo 11 of 19 Interior view – First floor – Chicken Feed Mixer (F)
MN_RiceCounty_MorristownFeedMill_0011

Photo 12 of 19 Interior view – First floor looking southwest to feed mixers
MN_RiceCounty_MorristownFeedMill_0012

Photo 13 of 19 First floor equipment – Feed mixer with feeding chart
MN_RiceCounty_MorristownFeedMill_0013

Photo 14 of 20 Interior view – First floor, Engine House Addition, looking west
MN_RiceCounty_MorristownFeedMill_0014

Photo 15 of 19 Interior view – Second floor looking west
MN_RiceCounty_MorristownFeedMill_0015

Photo 16 of 19 Interior view – Second floor looking south
MN_RiceCounty_MorristownFeedMill_0016

Photo 17 of 19 Interior view – Second floor equipment
MN_RiceCounty_MorristownFeedMill_0017

Photo 18 of 19 Interior view – Basement looking north
MN_RiceCounty_MorristownFeedMill_0018

Photo 19 of 19 Interior view – Basement structural system
MN_RiceCounty_MorristownFeedMill_0019

Estimated Burden Statement: Public reporting burden for this form is estimated to average 100 hours per response including 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 Office of Planning and Performance Management. U.S. Dept. of the Interior, 1849 C. Street, NW, Washington, DC.


MORRISTOWN
FEED MILL


MUSEUM
HISTORIC MILL
MORRISTOWN
FEED MILL

MORRISTOWN
FEED MILL

MORRISTOWN FEED MILL
CORN MEAL
BUCKWHEAT
RYE
WIRE FENCE
GARDEN SEED
FENCE POSTS


MORRISTOWN FEED MILL
CORN MEAL
BUCKWHEAT
RYE
WIRE FENCE
GARDEN SEED
FENCE POSTS


MORRISTOWN
FEED MILL


MORRISTOWN
MILL


MORRISTOWN
FEED MILL


WEIGHING BUGGY


Morristown

SEED CORN GRADER

This machine was used to sort and separate corn into uniform sizes before planting. Odd-shaped kernels would plug up the planter.


FEEDING CHART
Morristown
FEED
MILL
torical Site

FEEDING CHART

LEAN CUT+GRIND AND MIX PROGRAM

15 - 4(	40 - 90 lb	90 - 150 lb	150 lb - Market
500 lb Lean Cut+	500 lb Lean Cut+	400 lb Lean Cut+	300 lb Lean Cut+
200 lb Transformer™ Pack	100 lb Transformer™ Pack	1600 lb Corn	1700 lb Corn
1300 lb Corn	1400 lb Corn	2000 lb Total	25 lb Super 13 Mineral
2000 lb Total	2000 lb Total		2025 lb Total

Medications to combat specific disease conditions can be supplied from Lean Cut+ medicated options or with Hubbard Health Performance Packs.

SOW POWER PROGRAM

GESTATION	FARROWING	LACTATION
1 Week before breeding to 7 days before farrowing	7 Days prior to 7 days after farrowing	7 Days after farrowing to weaning
50 lb Sow Power Pack	50 lb Sow Power Pack	50 lb Sow Power Pack
400 lb Lean Cut+	400 lb Lean Cut+	400 lb Lean Cut+
1550 lb Grain	10 lb Sow Laxative Pack	1550 lb Grain
25 lb Super-13 Mineral	1540 lb Grain	25 lb Super-13 Mineral
2025 lb Total	25 lb Super-13 Mineral	2025 lb Total
	2025 lb Total	


Folgers
MAXWELL HOUSE


ANIMAL
HEALTH

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
EVALUATION/RETURN SHEET

Requested Action:	Nomination
Property Name:	Morristown Feed Mill
Multiple Name:	
State & County:	MINNESOTA, Rice

Date Received:	Date of Pending List:	Date of 16th Day:	Date of 45th Day:	Date of Weekly List:
5/3/2019	5/16/2019	5/31/2019	6/17/2019	6/24/2019

Reference number:	SG100004074
Nominator:	SHPO

Reason For Review:

X Accept _____ Return _____ Reject **6/17/2019** Date

Abstract/Summary Comments:

Recommendation/ Criteria

Reviewer Control Unit Discipline _____

Telephone _____ Date _____

DOCUMENTATION: see attached comments : No see attached SLR : No

If a nomination is returned to the nomination authority, the nomination is no longer under consideration by the National Park Service.

Minnesota State Historic Preservation Office
50 Sherburne Ave., Suite 203, St. Paul, Minnesota 55155
651-201-3293

TO: Joy Beasley, Keeper
National Register of Historic Places

FROM: Ginny Way

DATE: April 30, 2019

NAME OF PROPERTY: Morristown Feed Mill

COUNTY AND STATE: Rice County, Minnesota

SUBJECT: National Register:

- ☒ Nomination
- ☐ Multiple Property Documentation Form
- ☐ Request for determination of eligibility
- ☐ Request for removal (Reference No.)
- ☐ Nomination resubmission
- ☐ Boundary increase/decrease (Reference No.)
- ☐ Additional documentation (Reference No.)

DOCUMENTATION:

- ☒ Original National Register of Historic Places Registration Form
- ☐ Multiple Property Documentation Form
- ☒ Continuation Sheets
- ☐ Removal Documentation
- ☒ Photographs
- ☒ CD w/ image files
- ☐ Digital Map
- ☐ Sketch map(s)
- ☐ Correspondence
  - ☐ Owner Objection

    The enclosed owner objections
    Do☐ Do not ☐ constitute a majority of property owners

STAFF COMMENTS: