Form No. 10-300 REV. (9/77)

CITY, TOWN

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

RECEIVED

AUG 29 1978

STATE

DEC 8

1978

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES **INVENTORY -- NOMINATION FORM**

DATE ENTERED SEE INSTRUCTIONS IN HOW TO COMPLETE NATIONAL REGISTER FORMS TYPE ALL ENTRIES -- COMPLETE APPLICABLE SECTIONS 1 NAME HISTORIC Mitchell Powerhouse and Dam Northeastern Iowa Power Company AND/OR COMMON LOCATION STREET & NUMBER Red Cedar River NOT FOR PUBLICATION CITY, TOWN CONGRESSIONAL DISTRICT Mitchell Third VICINITY OF COUNTY Mitchell CODE STATE CODE Iowa 13 **CLASSIFICATION CATEGORY OWNERSHIP STATUS PRESENT USE** __DISTRICT X_PUBLIC OCCUPIED _AGRICULTURE __MUSEUM __BUILDING(S) $\frac{X}{L}$ UNOCCUPIED __PRIVATE __COMMERCIAL __PARK XSTRUCTURE _BOTH _WORK IN PROGRESS __EDUCATIONAL __PRIVATE RESIDENCE __SITE **PUBLIC ACQUISITION** ACCESSIBLE __ENTERTAINMENT __RELIGIOUS __OBJECT IN PROCESS _YES: RESTRICTED _GOVERNMENT __SCIENTIFIC __BEING CONSIDERED \mathbf{X} YES: UNRESTRICTED _INDUSTRIAL __TRANSPORTATION __NO __MILITARY _OTHER: OWNER OF PROPERTY NAME Mitchell County Conservation Board STREET & NUMBER Courthouse CITY, TOWN STATE **Osage VICINITY OF** Iowa 50461 LOCATION OF LEGAL DESCRIPTION COURTHOUSE. Mitchell County Courthouse REGISTRY OF DEEDS, ETC. STREET & NUMBER STATE Iowa CITY, TOWN **Osage** REPRESENTATION IN EXISTING SURVEYS TITLE DATE __FEDERAL __STATE __COUNTY __LOCAL **DEPOSITORY FOR SURVEY RECORDS**

CONDITION

CHECK ONE

CHECK ONE

__EXCELLENT

X_FAIR

__DETERIORATED

__UNEXPOSED

__RUINS

X_ALTERED

X ORIGINAL SITE

__MOVED DATE_____

DESCRIBE THE PRESENT AND ORIGINAL (IF KNOWN) PHYSICAL APPEARANCE

The powerhouse and dam, constructed in 1925, are located on the Red Cedar River at the western edge of Mitchell. The powerhouse is on the north bank, adjacent to a public park. Across the river are wooded hills, many with limestone outcroppings.

The concrete dam consists of a permanent crest, approximately 100 feet long, with two tainter gates, each 32 feet wide, toward the south end. A third gate, at the extreme south end of the structure, was replaced with a permanent concrete spillway. The permanent crest is hollow, enabling the operator to walk from the powerhouse to the gates. The gates are raised with an electric winch suspended from a monorail.

The powerhouse is a one-story building, 28' x 61'. It is constructed of rock faced limestone, laid in a random ashlar pattern, on a stone and concrete foundation. Quoining is in smoothly-dressed stone, which is corbelled out at cornice level to meet the parapet gables on the north and south sides. Windows are tall, multi-light with 8-light gransoms, deeply recessed within dressed stone surrounds. There are 4 windows on east and west, and two on the south overlooking the dam. A smaller window is located to the left of the wide, double-door entrance. Set into the north wall are two concrete panels: the upper, from 1925, includes the Power Company's initials; the lower, which simply says "1859" commemorates the grist mill which originally occupied this site. Below the window in this wall is a grindstone from that same mill.

The interior space is one room, with plastered walls, concrete floor, and beaded-board ceiling. The water-power generators have been removed, but overhead chain winches are present and in working order.

SPECIFIC DATES 1925 STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE		BUILDER/ARCHITECT Fargo Engineering Co., Jackson, Michigan		
1600-1699 1700-1799 1800-1899 1900-	ARCHITECTUREARTCOMMERCECOMMUNICATIONS	educationengineeringexploration/settlement Xindustryinvention	MILITARYMUSICPHILOSOPHYPOLITICS/GOVERNMENT	SOCIAL/HUMANITARIANTHEATERTRANSPORTATIONOTHER (SPECIFY)
1400-1499 1500-1599	ARCHEOLOGY-HISTORICAGRICULTURE	CONSERVATIONECONOMICS	LAW LITERATURE	SCIENCESCULPTURE
PERIOD —PREHISTORIC	AF ARCHEOLOGY-PREHISTORIC	REAS OF SIGNIFICANCE CH COMMUNITY PLANNING	IECK AND JUSTIFY BELOW LANDSCAPE ARCHITECTURE	RELIGION

The little powerhouse and dam at Mitchell are a reminder of the era of small-scale, private utilies which flourished in the early 20th century before the advent of large, statewide or regional public power sources. It also represents a final chapter in (West) Mitchell's history as a community founded on and for a time made prosperous through the harnessing of water power.

During the 1850's, the western edge of Mitchell (platted in 1857 as 'West Mitchell") developed as a busy processing and manufacturing center, its saw, grist, flour and woolen mills all powered by the Red Cedar current. By the end of the century, however, most of these enterprises had become In 1917, the Northeastern Iowa Power Co. was incorporated at Clermont, Iowa. It appears to have been a family operation, all but three of the directors and company officers having the surname Miller. In 1924, the power company contracted with Fargo Engineering Co. (Jackson, Michigan) to build a powerhouse and dam at Mitchell. The site chosen was near that of the old stone Paragon Woolen Mill and the West Mitchell flour mill. Perhaps in recongition of the long history of water power at Mitchell, Fargo Engineering inserted an old buhr and a cement date plaque in the north wall of the powerhouse. In 1928 the holdings of the Northeastern Iowa Power Company were transferred to Central States Power and Light Co. (headquartered in Delaware), and, subsequently, to the Interstate Power Co. In 1963, the Mitchell County Conservation Board acquired the powerhouse, dam, and adjacent land for use as a public park.

Selected Corresponde	RAPHICAL KEFEKI ence, between Fargo Eng	ENCES gineering Co. and	the Northeastern Iowa
Power Co.: Sept. 1	19, October 23, Novembe	er 26, 1924 (copy	on file at Division of
Historic Preservat Northeastern Towa Po	tion, lowa City). ower Co., Articles of	Incorporation.	
			of Historic Preservation,
11 August, 1978/		·	ŕ
History of Mitchell	Co., Iowa. Springtie	ld: Union Publishi	ng Co., 1882, pp. 185-6,373-
10 GEOGRAPHICAL			5,
ACREAGE OF NOMINATED PROI QUADRANGLE NAME USA UTM REFERENCES		QUADA	RANGLE SCALE 1:24,000
A 1, 5 5 0, 9 6, 6, zone Easting	0 4,719,519,7,0 NORTHING	B 1, 5 5 0, 9 6 ZONE EASTING	11.5 4.7 9.5 9.2 0 NORTHING
ELJ		F	لبالا
GL LILL		H	
VERBAL BOUNDARY DESC Property includes 1	CRIPTION and presently occupied	d by Mitchell Dam	and Powerhouse. and
extends 200 feet do	ownstream on the north	bank of the river	, then due north 25
feet, then due west	: 200 feet, then due so	outh back to point	of origin.
LIST ALL STATES AN	ID COUNTIES FOR PROPERTIES	S OVERLAPPING STATE O	R COUNTY BOUNDARIES
STATE	CODE.	COUNTY	CODE
STATE	CODE	COUNTŶ	CODE
11 FORM PREPARE			·
11 FORM PREPARE NAME / TITLE W.R. Biede ORGANIZATION	ermann, President		DATE
11 FORM PREPARE NAME / TITLE W.R. Biede ORGANIZATION Mitchell Count			
TIFORM PREPARE W.R. Biede ORGANIZATION Mitchell Count STREET & NUMBER	ermann, President		DATE
11 FORM PREPARE NAME / TITLE W.R. Biede ORGANIZATION Mitchell Count	ermann, President		
TI FORM PREPARE W.R. Biede ORGANIZATION Mitchell Count STREET & NUMBER R.R. 4	ermann, President		TELEPHONE
TORM PREPARE W.R. Biede ORGANIZATION Mitchell Count STREET & NUMBER R.R. 4 CITY OR TOWN	ermann, President ty Historical Society		STATE Iowa 50461
TI FORM PREPARE NAME / TITLE W.R. Biede ORGANIZATION Mitchell Count STREET & NUMBER R.R. 4 CITY OR TOWN Osage 12 STATE HISTORIC	ermann, President ty Historical Society	OFFICER CERT	STATE IOWA 50461 IFICATION
TI FORM PREPARE NAME / TITLE W.R. Biede ORGANIZATION Mitchell Count STREET & NUMBER R.R. 4 CITY OR TOWN Osage 12 STATE HISTORIC	ermann, President ty Historical Society C PRESERVATION	OFFICER CERT	STATE IOWA 50461 IFICATION
THE EVA As the designated State Historice TARE PARE TO THE PARE	C PRESERVATION ALUATED SIGNIFICANCE OF THE STATE CONTROL OF THE STATE CONTROL OF THE STATE CONTROL OF THE NATION OF THE NATION OF THE NATION OF THE NATION OF THE NATIONAL PARK Service.	OFFICER CERT	STATE IOWA 50461 IFICATION E STATE IS: LOCAL X Act of 1966 (Public Law 89-665), I been evaluated according to the
THE EVA As the designated State Historic hereby nominate this property for criteria and procedures set forth	C PRESERVATION ALUATED SIGNIFICANCE OF THE STATE CONTROL OF THE STATE CONTROL OF THE STATE CONTROL OF THE NATION OF THE NATION OF THE NATION OF THE NATION OF THE NATIONAL PARK Service.	OFFICER CERT US PROPERTY WITHIN THE conal Historic Preservation a sister and certify that it has the constant of the constant	STATE IOWA 50461 IFICATION E STATE IS: LOCAL X Act of 1966 (Public Law 89-665), I been evaluated according to the
THE EVA As the designated State Historic hereby nominate this property for criteria and procedures set forth STATE HISTORIC PRESERVATION TITLE Director, Divi	C PRESERVATION ALUATED SIGNIFICANCE OF THE STATE C Preservation Officer for the National Region by the National Park Service. OFFICER SIGNATURE	OFFICER CERT US PROPERTY WITHIN THE	STATE IOWA 50461 IFICATION E STATE IS: LOCAL X Act of 1966 (Public Law 89-665), I is been evaluated according to the
THE EVA As the designated State Historic hereby nominate this property oriteria and procedures set forth STATE HISTORIC PRESERVATION TITLE Director, Divi	C PRESERVATION ALUATED SIGNIFICANCE OF THE STATE Preservation Officer for the National Register by the National Park Service. OFFICER SIGNATURE ISSION OF HISTORIC Preservation of Historic Prese	OFFICER CERT US PROPERTY WITHIN THE	STATE IOWA 50461 IFICATION E STATE IS: LOCAL X Act of 1966 (Public Law 89-665), I is been evaluated according to the