

Memorandum

To: File
From: Cindy Savage
RE: National Register Eligibility

The Yukon Best Mill Elevator is not eligible for the National Register of Historic Places because of a loss of historic integrity due to the demolition of the mill building and steel storage tanks in 1991. The demolition of these resources destroys the historic association between the elevator and the flour mill industry.

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
REGISTRATION FORM

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1. Name of Property

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historic name Yukon Best Mill and Elevator

other names/site number Yukon Mill and Grain Company

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2. Location

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street & number Jct. Main and South Third Streets not for publication N/A

city or town Yukon vicinity N/A

state Oklahoma code OK county Canadian code 017 zip code 73099

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5. Classification
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Ownership of Property (Check as many boxes as apply)

- private
- public-local
- public-State
- public-Federal

Category of Property (Check only one box)

- building(s)
- district
- site
- structure
- object

Number of Resources within Property

Contributing	Noncontributing
<u>0</u>	<u>0</u> buildings
<u>0</u>	<u>0</u> sites
<u>1</u>	<u>1</u> structures
<u>0</u>	<u>0</u> objects
<u>1</u>	<u>1</u> Total

Number of contributing resources previously listed in the National Register 0

Name of related multiple property listing (Enter "N/A" if property is not part of a multiple property listing.) Grain Storage and Processing Facilities
in Western Oklahoma

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6. Function or Use

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Historic Functions (Enter categories from instructions)

Cat:	<u>Agriculture/Subsistence</u>	Sub:	<u>Processing</u>
	<u>Agriculture/Subsistence</u>		<u>Storage</u>
	_____		_____
	_____		_____
	_____		_____
	_____		_____
	_____		_____

Current Functions (Enter categories from instructions)

Cat:	<u>Agriculture/Subsistence</u>	Sub:	<u>Storage</u>
	_____		_____
	_____		_____
	_____		_____
	_____		_____
	_____		_____
	_____		_____

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7. Description

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Architectural Classification (Enter categories from instructions)

Other: Concrete Country Elevator

Materials (Enter categories from instructions)

foundation concrete

roof concrete

walls concrete

other _____

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

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8. Statement of Significance
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Applicable National Register Criteria (Mark "x" in one or more boxes for the criteria qualifying the property for National Register listing)

- 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 a grave.
- D a cemetery.
- E a reconstructed building, object, or structure.
- F a commemorative property.
- G less than 50 years of age or achieved significance within the past 50 years.

Areas of Significance (Enter categories from instructions)

Agriculture
Industry

Period of Significance 1916-1950

Significant Dates 1916

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8. Statement of Significance (Continued)

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Significant Person (Complete if Criterion B is marked above)

N/A

Cultural Affiliation N/A

Architect/Builder McDonald Engineering, builder

Narrative Statement of Significance (Explain the significance of the property on one or more continuation sheets.)

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9. Major Bibliographical References

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(Cite the books, articles, and other sources used in preparing this form on one or more continuation sheets.)

Previous documentation on file (NPS)

 preliminary determination of individual listing (36 CFR 67) has been requested.

 previously listed in the National Register

 previously determined eligible by the National Register

 designated a National Historic Landmark

 recorded by Historic American Buildings Survey # _____

 recorded by Historic American Engineering Record # _____

Primary Location of Additional Data

 x State Historic Preservation Office

 Other State agency

 Federal agency

 Local government

 University

 Other

Name of repository: _____

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10. Geographical Data
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Acreage of Property ca. 3 acres

UTM References (Place additional UTM references on a continuation sheet)

	Zone	Easting	Northing	Zone	Easting	Northing
1	<u>14</u>	<u>613660</u>	<u>3929780</u>	3	___	_____
2	___	_____	_____	4	___	_____

N/A See continuation sheet.

Verbal Boundary Description (Describe the boundaries of the property on a continuation sheet.)

Boundary Justification (Explain why the boundaries were selected on a continuation sheet.)

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11. Form Prepared By
=====

name/title George O. Carney - Professor of Geography
organization Department of Geography date 3/1/93
street & number Oklahoma State University telephone (405) 744-9167
city or town Stillwater state OK zip code 74078

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Additional Documentation
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Submit the following items with the completed form:

Continuation Sheets

Maps
A USGS map (7.5 or 15 minute series) indicating the property's location.
A sketch map for historic districts and properties having large acreage
or numerous resources.

Photographs
Representative black and white photographs of the property.

Additional items (Check with the SHPO or FPO for any additional items)

USDI/NPS NRHP Registration Form
Yukon Best Mill and Elevator
Canadian County, Oklahoma
Grain Storage and Processing Facilities in Western Oklahoma Page 8

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Property Owner
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(Complete this item at the request of the SHPO or FPO.)

name Mid-Continent Farmers Coop

street & number 11101 S. Cemetery Road telephone (405) 376-4266

city or town Yukon state OK zip code 73099
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Yukon Mill Elevator
name of property
Canadian County, Oklahoma
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name of multiple property listing

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Summary:

The Yukon Mill Elevator is a 140' high concrete country elevator resting on a 40' x 145' concrete slab foundation. It is classified as a self-contained unit with all elevating machinery, bins, and spouting system located within the main house. Situated near the intersection of Main (Route 66) and Third streets in the downtown section of Yukon, the nominated property is an imposing structure towering over the central business district. The old Rock Island railroad tracks (now owned by Union Pacific) run along the north side of the elevator, but are not used. The Yukon Mill Elevator, currently owned by the Mid-Continent Farmers Cooperative, serves as a wheat storage facility for surrounding farmers with a majority of grain trucked to Houston. The Dobry Mill and Elevator stands across Main Street (Route 66) to the north. In 1954, a ten cylinder concrete annex (110' high resting on a 40' x 105' base) was added to the north side of elevator (Photo 1). Although physically separated by approximately 5', it is connected to the elevator by a concrete enclosed gallery running from the headhouse. Total storage capacity of the elevator and annex is 677,000 bushels. The 1918 mill building and steel storage tanks, located on west side of complex, were completely razed in 1991 following the 1990 "Thematic Survey of Grain Elevators in Western Oklahoma, 1889-1950" conducted by Dr. David Baird for the Oklahoma Historic Preservation Office. The 1954 set of ten concrete bins are considered noncontributing resources to the nominated property because of age eligibility requirements; however, it does not compromise the integrity of the Yukon Mill Elevator because of similar construction materials and function. The ten concrete bins, in fact, should meet National Register criteria once they have fulfilled the registration qualifications for age.

Description:

The bin portion of the structure is 90' high surmounted by a 50' high, four story, rectangular headhouse. The bins and headhouse have flat roofs of concrete. The concrete walls are approximately 8" thick reinforced with horizontal and vertical steel rods 3/4" in diameter. Two side grain dumps are attached to the east wall (Photo 1). Located on the south end of the east side is a one story, flat roofed, one bay dump with open air driveway. On the north end of the east side is a one-story, shed-roofed, two-bay dump with open air driveway. Also a one story, gable roofed, one bay, side grain dump is attached

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to the west wall of the 1954 annex (Photo 3).

The four sides of the headhouse each have four sash windows. The east side of the bins has ten square bin portals (Photo 1). The west side of the bins has seven square bin portals in the top and twelve similar openings in bottom (Photo 3). The west elevation also includes four sash windows in the workhouse (Photo 3). The south elevation of bins has one square bin portal in top and one in the bottom (Photo 2). The east and west sides of gallery each have five casement windows and the north end of gallery has a 16-paned casement window. A unique advertising feature for the complex are the two large signs; one atop the elevator bins and the other rests on the annex tanks. The 30' high derrick setting on the south end of the elevator bins sports an electric-powered sign reading "Yukon's Best Flour" and the second sign on the north end of the annex bins reads "Yukon Mills" (Photos 1 and 2).

Although the mill building and steel storage tanks were removed in 1991, the original elevator and bins retain their architectural integrity as constructed in 1916. All original wood elevating machinery and spouting system have been modified over time with new steel and electric-powered replacements. The ten annex bins are fed from the headhouse of the elevator by a 24" rubber conveyor belt that runs above the annex bins through a concrete enclosure known as a gallery, or Texas house. The conveyor carries the grain over the annex bins until a tripper drops it into a selected bin. Grain is moved from the annex to the elevator on a 24" tunnel conveyor belt which runs below the bins.

Summary:

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The Yukon Mill Elevator in Yukon, constructed in 1916, is significant because of its historic association with western Oklahoma's wheat trade and flour milling industry. During the 1920s, the elevator served as a processing facility for the largest single milling operation in Oklahoma and was one of the first terminal storage complexes in the state. Finally, it is the oldest extant elevator in Canadian County, once considered the milling center of Oklahoma, associated with the milling industry (Criterion A). Contextually, the Yukon Mill Elevator relates to "Grain Storage and Processing Facilities in Western Oklahoma, 1889-1950". The associated property type is Grain Processing Facilities, subtype Flour Mill Elevators.

Historic Significance:

The Yukon Mill and Grain Company began in 1914 when J.B. Kroutil and A.F. Dobry formed a corporation and purchased a small 50 barrel milling plant in Yukon. Two years later, Kroutil and Dobry contracted McDonald Engineering of Chicago, Illinois to build one of the first modern, fireproof, concrete elevators and mills in Oklahoma, most of which were not built in the state until the 1930s and 1940s.

Located in the center of Oklahoma's wheat belt, the Yukon Mill and Elevator joined with the El Reno Mill and Canadian Mill (El Reno) to make Canadian County the most important milling center in Oklahoma by the mid-1920s. Yukon Mill's "Best Flour" was being shipped to all 48 states as well as Europe, South America, and the West Indies.

By 1928, it had become the largest single milling operation in the state (producing 2,000 barrels of flour per day) where milling had become the third largest industry with a daily output of 23,000 barrels of flour. The Yukon Elevator had also become a major terminal facility in western Oklahoma receiving and storing grain for a number of country elevators in the region. In the mid-1930s, family disagreements between the Kroutils and Dobrys caused the dissolution of the original company of 1914. As a result of the breakup, the Kroutils retained ownership of Yukon Mill and Dobry built a new mill across the street in 1936.

In the 1940s, daily output of the mill reached 2,000 barrels of flour and 500 barrels of cornmeal from a daily intake of 8,000 bushels of wheat and 2,000 bushels of white corn. By 1950, annual production of the mill was estimated at 400,000 barrels of flour and 100,000 barrels of cornmeal with about one-third of the flour exported overseas in 110 lb. sacks and the remaining two-thirds

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shipped domestically in 24 and 48 lb. sacks. At this time, the mill and elevator complex employed more than 100 people making it one of the most important businesses in Yukon's local economy.

As consumption of bread and pastries declined, so did flour sales. Combined with this fact was the growth and expansion of the large corporate mills, such as General Mills, which began to capture the national market. Furthermore, locally-owned mills began to merge with each other. In the case of the Yukon Mill, the Kroutil family, which had owned the mill since its construction in 1916, sold to Shawnee Milling of Shawnee, Oklahoma in 1970. Shawnee Mills dismantled all mill machinery and moved some of it to their mill. Two years later, Shawnee Mills sold the complex to Mid-Continent Farmers Cooperative.

In 1991, the Yukon Mill Building and adjacent steel storage tanks were razed due to their deteriorated condition. The 1916 Yukon Mill Elevator and 1954 Annex, however, continue to serve the surrounding wheat producers as a major storage facility in western Oklahoma with their 677,000 bushels capacity, thereby retaining the nominated property's historic function. The external features of the 1916 structure remain intact and the overall character and design of the historic property remain present much as it appeared when constructed.

The 1954 annex of ten concrete bins are noncontributing resources to the Yukon Mill Elevator because of their recent construction date; however, it does not compromise the architectural or historic integrity of the nominated property because of similar construction materials and function.

Major Bibliographical References:

United States Department of the Interior
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Directory of Oklahoma Grain and Feed Dealers. Enid, OK: Oklahoma
Grain and Feed Dealers Association, 1940.

El Reno Mid-Century Progress History Report (Agricultural Edition), 1951,
pp. 55-56.

Goodman, Danny (current president of coop). Interviewed by George O.
Carney. 7 February 1993.

Rudebush, Larry (current manager). Interviewed by George O. Carney.
7 February 1993.

Sanborn Fire Insurance Maps for Yukon (1943).

Tulp, Margaret (ed.) A History of Canadian County Oklahoma. El Reno:
Canadian County History Book Associates, 1991, p. 335.

Verbal Boundary Description:

From the point of beginning at the intersection of W. Main Street and
Third Street, proceed 403' south along Third Street, then proceed 360'
east through an empty lot on the south side of the nominated property,
then proceed 403' north through a grassy area on the east side of the
nominated property, finally, proceed 360' west along W. Main Street to
the point of beginning.

Boundary Justification:

The Yukon Mill Elevator and original concrete bins of 1916 as well as the
1954 set of ten concrete tanks (noncontributing resource) are located
within the boundaries as described above.



