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

1. Name of Property

historic name __Yukon Best Mill and Elevator__________________________

other names/site number __Yukon Mill and Grain Company_____________________

2. Location

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 Main and South Third Streets__ not for publication N/A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__
3. State/Federal Agency Certification

As the designated authority under the National Historic Preservation Act of 1966, as amended, I hereby certify that this ___ nomination ___ request for determination of eligibility meets the documentation standards for registering properties in the National Register of Historic Places and meets the procedural and professional requirements set forth in 36 CFR Part 60. In my opinion, the property ___ meets ___ does not meet the National Register Criteria. I recommend that this property be considered significant ___ nationally ___ statewide ___ locally. ( ___ See continuation sheet for additional comments.)

Signature of certifying official  Date

State or Federal agency and bureau

In my opinion, the property ___ meets ___ does not meet the National Register criteria. ( ___ See continuation sheet for additional comments.)

Signature of commenting or other official  Date

State or Federal agency and bureau

4. National Park Service Certification

I, hereby certify that this property is:

___ entered in the National Register  See continuation sheet.  
___ determined eligible for the National Register  See continuation sheet.
___ determined not eligible for the National Register
___ removed from the National Register
___ other (explain):  

Signature of Keeper  Date of Action
USDI/NPS NRHP Registration Form  
Yukon Best Mill and Elevator  
Canadian County, Oklahoma  
Grain Storage and Processing Facilities in Western Oklahoma Page 3

5. Classification

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

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<th>Noncontributing</th>
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<td>0 buildings</td>
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<td>0 objects</td>
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<td>1 Total</td>
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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
USDI/NPS NRHP Registration Form
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6. Function or Use

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Historic Functions (Enter categories from instructions)

Cat: Agriculture/Subsistence  Sub: Agriculture/Subsistence
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Cat: Agriculture/Subsistence  Sub: Processing
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Current Functions (Enter categories from instructions)

Cat: Agriculture/Subsistence  Sub: Storage
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7. Description

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Architectural Classification (Enter categories from instructions)
Other: Concrete Country Elevator
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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.)
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  A owned by a religious institution or used for religious purposes.

B  B removed from its original location.

C  C a birthplace or a grave.

D  D a cemetery.

E  E a reconstructed building, object, or structure.

F  F a commemorative property.

G  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
8. Statement of Significance (Continued)

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.)

9. Major Bibliographical References

(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:  ____________________________
10. Geographical Data

Acreage of Property **ca. 3 acres**

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

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<th>Zone</th>
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Verbal Boundary Description (Describe the boundaries of the property on a continuation sheet.)

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

11. Form Prepared By

name/title **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**

Additional Documentation

Submit the following items with the completed form:

Continuation Sheets

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

Photographs
Representative black and white photographs of the property.

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


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.