

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES  
INVENTORY - NOMINATION FORM

(Type all entries - complete applicable sections)

STATE: Kansas	
COUNTY: McPherson	
FOR NPS USE ONLY	
ENTRY NUMBER	DATE
	2-23-72

1. NAME	
COMMON: Smoky Valley Roller Mill	
AND/OR HISTORIC:	

2. LOCATION			
STREET AND NUMBER: Mill Street			
CITY OR TOWN: Lindsborg			
STATE Kansas	CODE 67456	COUNTY: McPherson	CODE 113

3. CLASSIFICATION			
CATEGORY (Check One)	OWNERSHIP	STATUS	ACCESSIBLE TO THE PUBLIC
<input type="checkbox"/> District <input type="checkbox"/> Site <input type="checkbox"/> Object	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Building <input type="checkbox"/> Structure <input type="checkbox"/> Public <input type="checkbox"/> Private <input type="checkbox"/> Both	<input type="checkbox"/> Occupied <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Unoccupied <input type="checkbox"/> Preservation work in progress	Yes: <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Restricted <input type="checkbox"/> Unrestricted <input type="checkbox"/> No
PRESENT USE (Check One or More as Appropriate)			
<input type="checkbox"/> Agricultural <input type="checkbox"/> Commercial <input type="checkbox"/> Educational <input type="checkbox"/> Entertainment	<input type="checkbox"/> Government <input type="checkbox"/> Industrial <input type="checkbox"/> Military <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Museum	<input type="checkbox"/> Park <input type="checkbox"/> Private Residence <input type="checkbox"/> Religious <input type="checkbox"/> Scientific	<input type="checkbox"/> Transportation <input type="checkbox"/> Other (Specify) _____ _____

4. OWNER OF PROPERTY	
OWNER'S NAME: McPherson County	
STREET AND NUMBER: McPherson County Courthouse	
CITY OR TOWN: McPherson	STATE: Kansas
	CODE 67460

5. LOCATION OF LEGAL DESCRIPTION	
COURTHOUSE, REGISTRY OF DEEDS, ETC: Register of Deeds	
STREET AND NUMBER: McPherson County Courthouse	
CITY OR TOWN: McPherson	STATE: Kansas
	CODE 67460

6. REPRESENTATION IN EXISTING SURVEYS	
TITLE OF SURVEY: NONE	
DATE OF SURVEY: <input type="checkbox"/> Federal <input type="checkbox"/> State <input type="checkbox"/> County <input type="checkbox"/> Local	
DEPOSITORY FOR SURVEY RECORDS:	
STREET AND NUMBER:	
CITY OR TOWN:	STATE:
	CODE

SEE INSTRUCTIONS

STATE: Kansas	COUNTY: McPherson	ENTRY NUMBER	DATE
------------------	----------------------	--------------	------

FOR NPS USE ONLY

# 7. DESCRIPTION

CONDITION	(Check One)					
	<input type="checkbox"/> Excellent	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Good	<input type="checkbox"/> Fair	<input type="checkbox"/> Deteriorated	<input type="checkbox"/> Ruins	<input type="checkbox"/> Unexposed
	(Check One)			(Check One)		
	<input type="checkbox"/> Altered	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Unaltered	<input type="checkbox"/> Moved	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Original Site		

DESCRIBE THE PRESENT AND ORIGINAL (if known) PHYSICAL APPEARANCE

The Smoky Valley Roller Mill is located on the left (northwest) bank of the Smoky Hill river in a scenic, tree-filled park at the south edge of Lindsborg. It is a three-story rectangular building approximately 46 feet long, 32 feet wide, and 50 feet high. A one-story office is attached at the southwest. There is also a full basement which houses some of the milling machinery. The mill is constructed of red brick laid in common bond. The lower portion of the structure is rough cut limestone. Topping the building is a low pitched gable roof covered with wood shingles. Window openings on all floors are simple rectangles with wood sills and low arched heads. Two courses of soldier bricks form the window lintels. The mill is in good condition and its outward appearance is practically unchanged since 1898. Most of the outbuildings, however, have been removed.

The original milling machinery was left in place after the mill ceased operations in 1955 and, according to milling experts, is in good condition. A high degree of craftsmanship is evident in the handmade square frame pipes which transported the grain and flour and in the handmade frame supports of the various machines.

Only some limestone blocks and concrete remain on both banks of the river to show where the dam was located. The concrete-lined mill race has been filled with mud to a depth of six or seven feet as a result of several minor floods during the 16 years the mill has stood idle.

The park, which is owned by McPherson county, contains more than 20 acres and is divided by the Smoky Hill river and Mill street into three sections. The area across the river from the mill has a campground and picnic area and is a popular place with fishermen. Between the river and Mill street are located the old mill, some of its smaller outbuildings, a museum, and a relocated log cabin. North of Mill street are several historic buildings which have been relocated in this area to preserve them.

SEE INSTRUCTIONS



## B. SIGNIFICANCE

PERIOD (Check One or More as Appropriate)

☐ Pre-Columbian☐ 16th Century☐ 18th Century☐ 20th Century☐ 15th Century☐ 17th Century☒ 19th Century

SPECIFIC DATE(S) (If Applicable and Known) 1898

AREAS OF SIGNIFICANCE (Check One or More as Appropriate)

Aboriginal

☐ Prehistoric☐ Historic☒ Agriculture☐ Architecture☐ Art☐ Commerce☐ Communications☐ Conservation☐ Education☐ Engineering☒ Industry☐ Invention☐ Landscape☐ Architecture☐ Literature☐ Military☐ Music☐ Political☐ Religion/Phi-

losophy

☐ Science☐ Sculpture☐ Social/Human-

itarian

☐ Theater☐ Transportation☐ Urban Planning☐ Other (Specify)

## STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE

The Smoky Valley Roller Mill played a major role in the development of the wheat industry in the Lindsborg area. In 1872 Charles Johnson of Lindsborg procured a permit to build a stone dam in the Smoky Hill river. Soon afterward a small wooden mill was constructed on the site where the present mill stands. In 1882 J. G. Bergsten purchased the mill and dam and renamed it "The Smoky Valley Roller Mill."

Theodore Teichgraeber, a German immigrant who had worked in several leading mills throughout the U. S., purchased the mill in 1889 and built the present three-story brick and cement mill in 1898 following a fire which destroyed the original building. During Teichgraeber's ownership other buildings on the property were an engine and boiler house, a dynamo room, an office, a wagon dump and scale house, a warehouse, and a wheat storage house. The dam, which was built of limestone laid in cement, was valued at over \$10,000 in 1902. The mill's capacity at that time was 125 barrels of flour per day with power provided by two turbine water wheels.

Following Teichgraeber's death in 1907 the mill was operated by his son-in-law, William Hagstrom. The Runbeck brothers--Clarence, Art, Leonard and Reginald--purchased the property from the Hagstroms in 1927 and continued to operate the mill until 1955. Several years later the Runbeck family donated the 15 acre site to McPherson county, and with some adjacent property it is now being developed as a historic site-educational center with the mill, a museum, and a number of relocated historic buildings. In preparation for the centennial celebration of the arrival of winter wheat in Kansas, the Smoky Valley Historical Association hopes to restore the dam and make the necessary repairs to have the mill operating again by 1974.

The Smoky Valley Roller Mill is believed to be the only water-powered flour mill left in Kansas which contains its original machinery, all in operating condition once maintenance is performed. The mill, which contributed to the success of the Kansas wheat industry, is the best surviving example of many such mills which were a vital part of the state's agricultural development.

# 9. MAJOR BIBLIOGRAPHICAL REFERENCES

Linguist, Emory Kempton, Smoky Valley People, A History of Lindsborg, Kansas (Rock Island, Ill., Augustana Book Concern, 1953), pp. 157, 158.  
New Century Pictorial Edition, Supplement to The McPherson Weekly Republican, May 23, 1902.  
 Nyquist, Edna, Pioneer Life and Lore of McPherson County, Kansas (McPherson, Kan., The Democrat-Opinion Press, 1932), pp. 23, 24.  
 "To Preserve Old Mill," Kansas City Star, March 18, 1959.  
 "Tourist Center Takes Shape," Wichita Eagle and Beacon, November 3, 1963.  
 "Wheat Centennial Planned," The Marketer, v. 2, no. 12 (November, 1970), pp. 8, 9.

# 10. GEOGRAPHICAL DATA

LATITUDE AND LONGITUDE COORDINATES DEFINING A RECTANGLE LOCATING THE PROPERTY			O R	LATITUDE AND LONGITUDE COORDINATES DEFINING THE CENTER POINT OF A PROPERTY OF LESS THAN TEN ACRES		
CORNER	LATITUDE	LONGITUDE		LATITUDE	LONGITUDE	
	Degrees Minutes Seconds	Degrees Minutes Seconds		Degrees Minutes Seconds	Degrees Minutes Seconds	Degrees Minutes Seconds
NW	0 0 0	0 0 0		0 0 0	0 0 0	0 0 0
NE	0 0 0	0 0 0		38 33 57	97 40 26	
SE	0 0 0	0 0 0				
SW	0 0 0	0 0 0				

APPROXIMATE ACREAGE OF NOMINATED PROPERTY:

two-three acres

LIST ALL STATES AND COUNTIES FOR PROPERTIES OVERLAPPING STATE OR COUNTY BOUNDARIES

STATE:	CODE	COUNTY	CODE
STATE:	CODE	COUNTY:	CODE
STATE:	CODE	COUNTY:	CODE
STATE:	CODE	COUNTY:	CODE

# 11. FORM PREPARED BY

NAME AND TITLE:

Richard Pankratz, Planner

ORGANIZATION

Kansas State Historical Society

DATE

May 28, 1971

STREET AND NUMBER:

120 West Tenth Street

CITY OR TOWN:

Topeka

STATE

Kansas 66612

CODE

20

# 12. STATE LIAISON OFFICER CERTIFICATION

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

National ☐ State ☒ Local ☐

Name

Nyle H. Miller

Title

Executive Secretary, Kansas State Historical Society

Date

Nov. 29, 1971

# NATIONAL REGISTER VERIFICATION

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

Chief, Office of Archeology and Historic Preservation

Date

ATTEST:

Keeper of The National Register

Date

SEE INSTRUCTIONS