

FINAL

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places
Registration Form

This form is for use in nominating or requesting determinations for individual properties and districts. See instructions in How to Complete the National Register of Historic Places Registration Form (National Register Bulletin 16A). Complete each item by marking "x" in the appropriate box or by entering the information requested. If an 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. Place additional entries and narrative items on continuation sheets (NPS Form 10-900a). Use a typewriter, word processor, or computer, to complete all items.

1. Name of Property

historic name Noblesville Milling Company Mill
other names/site number Model Mill 057-464-37076

2. Location

street & number South 8th Street N/A not for publication
city or town Noblesville N/A vicinity
state Indiana code IN county Hamilton code 057 zip code 46060

3. State/Federal Agency Certification

As the designated authority under the National Historic Preservation Act, 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 36CFR 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.)
J.C. St 10.25.01
Signature of certifying official/Title _____ Date _____
Indiana Department of Natural Resources D-SAPO
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 certifying official/Title _____ Date _____
State or Federal agency and bureau _____

4. National Park Service Certification

I hereby certify that the 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 the Keeper _____ Date of Action _____

FINAL

**United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service**

**National Register of Historic Places
Registration Form**

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Signature of certifying official/Title Indiana Department of Natural Resources 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 certifying official/Title _____ Date _____
State or Federal agency and bureau _____

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I hereby certify that the property is:

<input type="checkbox"/> entered in the National Register. <input type="checkbox"/> See continuation sheet.	_____ Signature of the Keeper	_____ Date of Action
<input type="checkbox"/> determined eligible for the National Register <input type="checkbox"/> See continuation sheet.	_____ Signature of the Keeper	_____ Date of Action
<input type="checkbox"/> determined not eligible for the National Register	_____ Signature of the Keeper	_____ Date of Action
<input type="checkbox"/> removed from the National Register	_____ Signature of the Keeper	_____ Date of Action
<input type="checkbox"/> other, (explain:)	_____ Signature of the Keeper	_____ Date of Action

Noblesville Milling Company Mill
Name of Property

Hamilton IN
County and State

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
- district
- site
- structure
- object

Number of Resources within Property

(Do not include previously listed resources in the count)

Contributing	Noncontributing	
1	0	buildings
0	0	sites
0	0	structures
0	0	objects
1	0	Total

Name of related multiple property listing

(Enter "N/A" if property is not part of a multiple property listing.)

Grain Mills in Indiana

Number of contributing resources previously listed in the National Register

0

6. Function or Use

Historic Functions

(Enter categories from instructions)

INDUST/PROC/EXTR: Manufacturing Facility
INDUST/PROC/EXTR: Storage
AGRICULTURE/SUBSIST Processing

Current Functions

(Enter categories from instructions)

WORK IN PROGRESS

7. Description

Architectural Classification

(Enter categories from instructions)

LATE VICTORIAN:

Materials

(Enter categories from instructions)

foundation STONE: Limestone
walls BRICK
METAL: Steel
roof
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.)

- 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.)

Property is:

- 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 of age or achieved significance within the past 50 years.

Areas of Significance

(Enter categories from instructions)

ARCHITECTURE

INDUSTRY

Period of Significance

1891-1941

Significant Dates

1892

1903

Significant Person

(Complete if Criterion B is marked above)

N/A

Cultural Affiliation

N/A

Architect/Builder

Unknown

Narrative Statement of Significance

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

9. Major Bibliographic References

Bibliography

(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:

- State Historic Preservation Office
- Other State agency
- Federal agency
- Local government
- University
- Other

Name of repository:

10. Geographical Data

Acreeage of Property Less than 1 acre

UTM References

(Place additional UTM references on a continuation sheet.)

1 16 584010 4432650
Zone Easting Northing

3 Zone Easting Northing

2 Zone Easting Northing

4 Zone Easting Northing

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.)

11. Form Prepared By

name/title Carol Ann Schweikert; Historic Preservation Consultant
organization _____ date 07-18-2001
street & number 307 N. 10th Street telephone 317/ 776-1239
city or town Noblesville state IN zip code 46060

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)

Property Owner

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

name Hassan "Rocky" Shanehsaz
street & number P.O. Box 995 telephone _____
city or town Noblesville state IN zip code 46061

Paperwork Reduction Act Statement: This information is being collected for applications to the National Register of Historic Places to nominate properties for listing or determine eligibility for listing, to list properties and to amend existing listings. Response to this request is required to obtain a benefit in accordance with the National Historic Preservation Act, as amended (16 U.S.C. 470 et seq.).

Estimated Burden Statement: Public reporting burden for this form is estimated to average 18.1 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 Chief, Administrative Services Division, National Park Service, P.O. Box 37127, Washington, DC 20013-7127; and the Office of Management and Budget, Paperwork Reductions Projects (1024-0018), Washington, DC 20503.

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National Park Service

**NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
CONTINUATION SHEET**

Section 7 Page 1

Noblesville Milling Company Mill
name of property
Hamilton County, IN
county and State

EXTERIOR

The Noblesville Mill is a large brick structure covering ½ of a city block. It was built in several sections by two different men spanning thirty years. Today, the various pieces of the brick structure are connected to each other on the interior. Despite the multi-construction periods, attempts were made to blend the new pieces with the old. The pilasters, corbeled brick at the roof line, arched windows, limestone window sills and brick facades all tie the building together.

The oldest section (E) of the Noblesville Mill, built around 1872, is found on Division Street. It starts at 8th Street and runs 72 feet toward the alley. Its original roof lines on 8th Street and the alley were arched with a brick circle in the center. With the addition of the sections for the Noblesville Mill, this roof line was changed to a stepped roof line, probably to blend with the newer construction. The roof lines of the two sides are straight with no steps or curves. This section has the pilasters found elsewhere on the Model Mill, but on this part they stop short of the roof line at a single row brick course projecting from the facade. The windows in this portion are all single with single row brick arches. The alley facade of this portion of the mill had several single windows that have all been enclosed. An office projection was removed from this building around the turn of the century.

The primary facade today is the Mulberry Street or south facade. The sections on this facade are two, three and four stories tall with a raised basement under each. The limestone in the basement is slightly visible. This facade has three primary sections, each built separate from one another but with several common elements. Each roof line is stepped. Pilasters in each section visually divide each bay. These pilasters blend into the brick corbeling along the roof line. All of the windows have limestone sills and brick arches three rows tall.

The middle section (B) is four stories tall with a small fifth floor room. This portion was the second part built of the existing structure. It is three bays wide with a stepped roof line. The windows in this section are paired and a mix of six over six, nine over nine and four over four.

The west section (C) was built next, shortly after the middle one. It does not appear that Section C's location adjoining Section B was originally planned. On the interior, bricked in windows are visible along the shared wall. In addition, pilasters are visible on this wall in Section C indicating this was originally an exterior wall. If the two buildings had been planned together, but built in stages, there would have been no need for these windows and pilasters. Section C also has a stepped roof line and is three bays wide, but only three stories tall. The two-story office projection was added later, probably with Section A. The office projection has awnings over several windows. The paired windows are a mix of twelve over twelve, six over six, and one over one.

The east section (A) was added several years after the first two and was likely part of the building project with the office projection. The stepped roof line was again carried over, but this portion is only two bays wide and three stories tall. This section was not immediately joined to the previous two, but rather a space of several feet

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was left between and joined by walkways at each floor constructed toward the back of the buildings and parallel to Mulberry Street. The water tower is visible through this open space. Even though sections A and B are built close to one another, the same decorative corbeling was incorporated along the "alley" side. The windows in this section are eight over eight and six over six.

A primary visual feature across these three sections is the one-story loading dock. An earlier loading dock was enlarged with the addition of the Section A. The dock was obviously built in stages with the construction materials including brick, concrete block, poured concrete and wood planks. There are three sets of concrete steps to access the dock and it has been partially enclosed in the middle with a modern garage door.

The 8th Street or west side contains many of the same elements as the south facade: pilasters, triple row arched windows and limestone foundation and sills. The buildings that make up this facade were built in only two stages. Currently this facade is dominated by an aluminum enclosure that will be removed with the renovations. The intact windows are eight over eight and six over six. Several original openings have been changed or boarded up. There were originally four docks with large doors along this facade. A spur from the railroad tracks on 8th Street ran along here for ease in shipping both in and out of the mill. Only one door remains intact and the one story docks shown on the 1914 Sanborn maps have all been removed. Two of the original doors were replaced with windows and one was infilled with brick. The later section (D) undulates or curves slightly out and then back in to meet the oldest section.

The alley or east facade is comprised of four portions. The southern portion (A) has two loading docks which have changed over the years and only one of which is found on the Sanborn maps. The existing windows are eight over eight or have been boarded up. Behind this section is a one-story infill portion, (F), brick with one un-arched window and a set of doors. This section is physically separate from the previous one by an alley. There are two small rooms in this section accessed only from this alley. The next one-story section (G) is joined to Section F and is slightly taller with casement or fixed windows, arches two brick rows tall and a stepped facade on the south side. Section G projects north beside the water tower and contains a modern garage door and may have been used for deliveries in later years. Sections F and G were the last constructed.

The fourth section on the alley is the water tower which sits several feet off Division Street near the corner of the alley and Division. It was built c. 1903 with Section D and held water for the sprinkler system.

INTERIOR

Overall the interior is a factory/warehouse with exposed beams and little finish work like plaster. The walls are brick, and usually painted. The floors are wood in a variety of species, finishes, widths and patterns. The

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ceiling is almost always exposed to the supports, which are primarily wood with metal braces and bolts. The main columns and ceiling supports are all wood and painted. Throughout the building, the sprinkler system pipes are all exposed.

Section C was originally used for a warehouse. By 1898, a small section was converted to office space while the rest remained warehouse. A small 2-story addition was added to this section and used for offices. When Section D was completed and Section E purchased, most of this section was converted from a warehouse to flour and bran packing. It continued to be used for packing until the mill closed. Section B was used continuously as a flour mill and Section A as a corn mill from their construction until the mill closed. Section D and E were used as warehouses while Section F was primarily for mechanicals.

The interior is described by the floors and sections referenced on the floor plans.

5th Floor Room

The small fifth floor room in section B is comprised of two brick walls and two frame walls. The small roof access door faces 8th Street. The flooring boards are approximately 4 inches wide.

4th Floor

The fourth floor is one large room in section B. The walls are brick. The room is visually divided by the wood support columns that run in two rows dividing the room into thirds. A third row of cast iron columns runs along the east side. A wide plank floor has been laid over the original narrow width boards through the middle third of the room. The wood stairway to the fifth floor is in the northeast corner, to the third floor is in the northwest corner. Both are open.

3rd Floor

The third floor is comprised of four rooms in four different sections of the building. Section A is a long narrow room with one row of square wood columns down the middle. Windows are found on three of the four walls. The floor is oak laid diagonally. The ceiling height in this room is taller than anywhere else in the building at 14'7". This room can be closed off from the joint and remaining sections by a sliding metal door operated with a rope and weight system. There is one set of stairs to the 2nd floor along the east wall and it has been enclosed with paneling.

The third floor room in section B is larger, but with a ceiling height of only 11 feet. Two rows of square wood columns visually subdivide the room. A small section in the southeast corner was enclosed and tiled on the floor and walls for bathrooms, but the fixtures are gone. Two stairways, one to the fourth and one to the second, are found along the west wall. They have both been enclosed with paneling. The sliding metal door to Section A was originally a window. The arch is visible above the door.

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Joints connect A to B from the basement to the third floor. The walls are horizontal wood like the added baths on floors 2 and 3. Each has a small, square inoperable window for light. They likely date to the construction of Section A because of the shape of A with the inset wall where the joint connects and because the basement rooms are connected in the same way.

The third floor room in section C has two rows of square wood columns dividing the room into thirds. This room has no stairway up or down. There are windows on the two outside walls. The north wall has one shadow of a window that is now bricked up indicating this was originally an exterior wall. This room can also be shut off from the two adjoining rooms in Section B and D with the sliding metal doors. The east wall also has a bricked up window and pilasters that were on the exterior of B when it was originally built. Another indication that this was an exterior wall is the slight ledge created on the exterior when the wall thickness thinned as it was built up. The floor in this room curves out around this ledge.

The third floor room in section D is slightly L-shaped and dominated by a large freight elevator. This room has a narrow width wood floor and a ceiling of less than 10 feet. The floor in this room is approximately 3 feet lower than the its adjoining one in Section C. In place of steps, a wood ramp connects the two. The stair to the second floor is found on the south wall of this room. Windows are found only on the 8th Street or west facade. Four rows of columns support the roof. The south wall of this room was originally the exterior wall of Section C so there are interior pilasters with star brackets on this wall. To the east of the ramp is a small enclosed area where a bath was added.

2nd Floor

The 2nd floor is larger than the third with two additional sections. Section A remains much the same as the third floor with the same columns, windows and stair locations. Section B is again much the same as its third floor with the addition of a conveyor belt for the seed operation used to transport items from this floor to the first floor loading dock on Mulberry. This conveyor belt will be removed with the renovations. Originally there were windows on the back wall, but those are bricked up except for one where there is a doorway into Section F. The sliding metal door replaced another window on the east wall.

Area C changed significantly from its third floor with divisions into several rooms, plus the added space of the office projection. The arrangement of the interior walls is changing with the renovations. This room, unlike its third floor, has a staircase to the floor below, probably for ease in office personnel moving back and forth. The primary walls are brick and the interior partitions are a mix of materials. The north wall of this room had three windows with arches that were only two brick rows high. Two are now bricked and one became the doorway to Section D with a sliding metal door.

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Section D is much the same as its third floor with a few changes. There are doorways to Sections E and F. The north wall of Section D has the interior pilasters indicating this was an exterior wall for Section E.

Section E on this floor is the top floor of the oldest section built c. 1870. Unlike the other rooms in the mill, this room has no columns subdividing the space. It contains one staircase to the 1st floor in the southwest corner. The bricked-up windows can be seen on the inside east and south walls of this room. The doorway between sections D and E has been enlarged in recent years with no attempt to minimize the affects to the brick wall. The existing threshold is narrower and you can see three brick wythes in the section of the wall. The arches on the windows are visible only on the exterior unlike those in the later sections of the building. The interior window headers are wood.

Section F is one room with three walls brick and one wood frame, horizontal like the joints and baths. The windows are six over six. The floor is wood. The south wall had three windows, two are bricked up and one is a doorway to Section B.

1st Floor

The first floor plan is much more complicated than the upper floors.

Section A remains much the same as its upper floors, except for two garage doors for the docks on the alley. This room also has a sliding wood door on the south end of the west wall. A sliding metal door on the north end of the west wall closes the room off from Section B. A stair to the basement is found on the west wall. The floor is again diagonal in this room.

Due to the enclosed dock, section B is darker than its upper floors. There are two rows of columns dividing this room. The east wall had a large window that is now bricked up. The west wall had windows with 2 brick row arches that are now bricked up. A single overhead garage door provides access to the outside dock. Like the upper floor, a sliding metal door can close this room from Section A. The door to the enclosed dock is in this room. The conveyor belt from the 2nd floor runs through the ceiling of this room and through an original window on the south wall to end on the dock. The door to this room is a single door with transom and a window adjacent to it. The window itself is missing. The floor in this room is a wide plank floor like those on the outside areas of the dock. Section C is divided with frame partitions for offices. The existing partitions are being changed with the renovations.

Section D remains much the same with the addition of doorways into Section G and to the water tower room. This room because of the awning covering the window openings is much darker than the upper floors.

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Section E, the oldest section, has two rows of columns supporting the upper floor and has a concrete slab floor for the east 1/3 and wood for the remaining 2/3. The staircase up is in the southwest corner and there is no stair to the basement. Two large holes with a metal covers provide one access to the basement. Doors between Sections D and E are hinged double metal doors. There are two openings to the dock area under the metal awning, one double and one single. Another set of wooden doors made with diagonal wood strips opens for the dock on Division Street.

Section F is similar to its 2nd floor with the addition of two freezer/refrigerator rooms installed later. The floor is concrete and the primary walls brick.

Section G is a large room which shares a wall with Section D. This wall has pilasters in Section G indicating it was an exterior wall originally. The windows here are small square casement. The dock and garage door adjacent to the water tower are accessed from this room.

A basement runs under the majority of the building with the exception of Section G. The rooms are primarily open with column supports and limestone walls. The floor is concrete slab for all. There are three sets of stairs in Areas A, D and E. The boiler room is in the basement in Section F.

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STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE

Noblesville Milling Company Mill qualifies for the National Register under the guidelines set forth in the Multiple Property Documentation Form, Grain Mills in Indiana. The Noblesville Mill meets Criteria A and C. Under Criterion A, both its role in a critical Central Indiana industry, and close association to a leader in that industry, are well known. Architecturally, the building is an exemplary early 20th century industrial building. The property type analysis for mills cites the importance of brick construction, regular fenestration, and heavy duty wood interior construction in urban mill construction - all of which are seen in the Noblesville Mill. It is the largest historic industrial building left in Noblesville, and is likely the oldest. While lacking its milling equipment, the level of integrity of the building itself, its industrial qualities, and well-documented historic significance qualify it for the Register.

Architecturally, the building is an impressive structure for the turn of the century. It spans one-half of a city block and is constructed almost entirely of brick. In 1891, the improvement value on these three lots while owned by two different men was \$1,900. By 1895 it had increased to more than \$10,000 and in 1903 to \$15,000. These figures alone show that a substantial structure was built over a period of just twelve years. While obviously built at different times, the builder took great care in tying each new piece to the old through the decorative elements. Section E is the most unique section, because it was built by someone else 20 years before the next section was built. However, it too has a cohesiveness to the rest of the structure. Each section has a stepped roof line, pilasters running the full height of the building, brick arched windows, and brick corbeling at the roof line.

The interior was built with all the latest fireproofing methods including solid brick walls. Flour mills were highly flammable making this an important concern for the owner. The doorway openings between sections of the building were equipped with steel doors that would close when the rope in the weight system holding them open burned. This helped contain a fire by shutting it off from adjoining rooms. The only wood used in the building is in the window frames, rafters, beams, columns and floor. The primary fire containment feature of the structure is the sprinkler system running throughout the building. As a new section was added, the sprinkler system was continued. Originally, a smaller water tower appears to have been on the roof of one of the buildings, but around 1903 the existing brick tower was constructed, providing the larger water source needed for a structure this size. The pipes for the sprinkler system likely date to the construction of each section, so the piping in sections B and C would have been connected to the smaller water tower. The exception to this would be Section E which was likely retrofitted with the sprinkler system due to its much earlier construction date.

The existing structure of the Noblesville Milling Company Mill, also known as the Model Mill, began as a brick building constructed by Williams, Gigger and Durfee around 1870. Its original use was as a planing mill. A frame sawmill sat next to this building, but was later removed to enlarge the Noblesville Mill. According to an

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1873 newspaper ad, Williams, Gigger and Durfee manufactured doors, sashes, blinds, door and window frames, brackets, and moldings. The company had been active in Hamilton County since the 1860s, building several bridges including ones in Cicero, Noblesville and Strawtown. As evidence of their success, in the 1870 census, Josiah Durfee had ten male "bridge carpenters" living in his household. In Helms' history of Hamilton County, he describes the company as having their mill "fitted with all the necessary equipment including special machinery for building bridges and powered by a steam engine." In his career, Durfee would build at least six covered bridges in Hamilton and Marion Counties. It is likely that portions of Potter's Bridge, Hamilton County's only existing covered bridge, were built in the brick planing mill since the building was nearly finished in July of 1870 and in October, the Commissioners contracted with Josiah Durfee to build Potter's Bridge. Unfortunately the early success of these three men did not last. After several lost bids and a railroad contract that did not bring in the expected business, the property was sold by Sheriff's Deed to A.R. Colburn in 1880. This deed specified that the sale included all mills and machinery likely leaving Durfee and his partners with little specialized equipment. This oldest portion of the Model Mill then passed to Nathan Hiatt and then to H.M. Caylor in 1882 who operated the planing mill and sawmill until 1903 when he sold it to Daniel Marmon.

Daniel W. Marmon was not new to Noblesville or to this block. In 1890, he had purchased the corner lot and part of the middle block just south of the Caylor Mill from Alfred J. Sohl, a prominent Noblesville businessman. According to the deed, until July of 1891, Sohl retained access to his office, the only improvement on the property, but Marmon could begin construction on his mill. The Model Mill was begun with the construction of Section B. Soon after this section was completed, Section C was built. While Section B was completed on the 1892 Sanborn map, Section C was not. Due to the enclosed windows on their shared wall, Section C or its location adjoining Section B may not have been part of his original plans. Section C was labeled on this map as a warehouse while Section B was a flour mill with a capacity of 50 barrels in 24 hours.

Around the turn of the century, Marmon again expanded with Section A and an office enlargement onto Section C. Section A was then used as a corn mill. Then in 1903, Marmon expanded his property holdings to the planing mill and the construction of Section D and the water tower. With this major construction period, Section C was changed to flour packing and bran room uses while D and E were used as warehouses. The Noblesville Milling Company or Model Mill was owned solely by Daniel Marmon until 1903, when he transferred the title to the Nordyke and Marmon Company, the Indianapolis-based milling equipment company he was president of.

While the Marmon family is best known for their association with the automobile industry, they were first known internationally as an outstanding builder of milling equipment with the Nordyke and Marmon Company. Their reputation according to one history of the Marmon heritage was unequalled for product quality and integrity of management. They were one of the leading manufacturers of milling machinery in the United States for many

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years. Nordyke and Marmon advertised the ability to erect a complete mill of any capacity, flour, corn, buckwheat, rye, and cereal. They could also supply elevators and feed mills with or without a power plant. They were able to furnish detailed building and machinery plans.

The company, Nordyke and Marmon, began as E & A.H. Nordyke Co. in Richmond, Indiana in 1851 by father and son, Ellis and Addison Nordyke. After graduating from Earlham College, Daniel Marmon went to work for the Nordykes, and in 1866, he became a partner and the firm name changed to Nordyke and Marmon Co. In 1875, they relocated to Indianapolis. Addison Nordyke retired from the company in 1898 and Daniel Marmon became President. Then, in 1903, Marmon purchased Nordyke's interest in the company. Marmon remained President until his death in 1909 when his sons assumed control with Walter as president and Howard as designer and manager of the engineering department.

The Nordyke and Marmon Company manufactured mill machinery exclusively until 1903 when it entered the automobile industry. This new venture by the company stemmed from Daniel's son, Howard's interest in automobiles. In 1902, he completed the design of his first car and in 1904, put a 4-cylinder model on the market. The company's involvement in the automobile sector grew and in 1911, the Marmon Wasp won the International Sweepstakes Five Hundred Mile Race at the Indianapolis Motor Speedway.

Intending to focus their energy on the car industry, in 1926, the Marmons sold the Nordyke and Marmon Milling Company to Allis-Chalmers, but retained the Noblesville mill. They renamed their automobile company The Marmon Motor Car Co. Unfortunately, the long success of the milling business did not carry over to the car company. They went bankrupt in 1936.

Nordyke and Marmon boasted in a price list that "We keep abreast of the time, and all of the latest improvements are embodied in our machines and milling systems." The Model Mill in Noblesville was built for experimental purposes to support the manufacturing side of the company. New improvements could be tested at the mill before being marketed. An added benefit was that out-of-town clients could actually view the machinery at work. Expert millers from the wheat regions of the world, (U.S., China, Japan and others), were taken to see the latest machinery perform. The idea of a model mill was not new to the company. They had constructed a model mill near their shops in Richmond for the same purpose. The Noblesville Model mill was eventually enlarged and became a commercial enterprise although it was still used experimentally and for demonstrations until the 1930s. It manufactured and sold flour under at least three names, Kismet, Noble and Diadem. When the mill first opened it had a capacity of 200 barrels per day for a 24 hour run. By 1905 with their expansion to a commercial enterprise, capacity had increased to 1,200 barrels per day and remained there through the 1930s.

The operation of the Model Mill in Noblesville was financially beneficial to Noblesville and Hamilton County. In 1913, the mill was one of the largest manufacturing concerns in the county, employing about seventy men. It

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not only supported the community this way, but also supported the farmers here by purchasing a portion of their wheat from the county.

In addition to his mill business activities, Daniel Marmon was a charter member of the Columbia Club, President of the Indianapolis Light and Heat Company and active in the Second Presbyterian Church of Indianapolis. He was also actively associated with the Model Mill until his death in 1909 when it passed into the hands of his wife and sons. Walter succeeded his father as President of the Noblesville Milling Company Mill. The Noblesville Mill was sold in 1941 to Acme-Evans and closed. In 1946, it was sold to the Doughnut Corporation of America. In the late 1950s, the Doughnut Corporation moved out and McMahan Foods was located here. In 1974, Indiana Seed moved in and used the building for their seed business until around 2000.

The significance of the Marmon family with the mill was strong. The family and their company owned and operated this mill from 1892 until 1941. The family was influential in Indianapolis business sector and among local organizations. The mill was a significant employer for the city of Noblesville and its impact on the economy was significant spanning a period of 50 years.

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Verbal Boundary Description

Begin at the northeast corner of 8th and Mulberry and run east to the alley. Turn north and run along the property line to the northeast property corner at Division Street. Turn west and run along the property line to the northwest property corner at 8th Street. Turn south and run south along the property line to place of beginning.

Boundary Justification

These boundaries define the property on which the structure sits. It includes all of the contributing structures and does not include neighboring properties or property with non-contributing structures. The original complex was much larger historically, but these have changed significantly and would not contribute to the nomination.