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FARMER'S SQUARE DEAL COOPERATIVE,
GRAIN ELEVATOR
I&M Canal National Heritage Corridor
Liberty and Division streets
Morris
Grundy County
Illinois

HARR No. IL-88

PHOTOGRAPHS

WRITTEN HISTORICAL AND DESCRIPTIVE DATA

Historic American Engineering Record
National Park Service
Department of the Interior
P.O. Box 37127
Washington, D.C. 20013-7127

HISTORIC AMERICAN ENGINEERING RECORD

FARMER'S SQUARE DEAL COOPERATIVE, GRAIN ELEVATOR
I&M Canal National Heritage Corridor

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Location: I & M Canal National Heritage Corridor
Liberty and Division Streets, on south
side of Rock Island Railroad
Morris, Grundy County, Illinois

UTM: 16 E.380950 N.457990
Quad: Morris

Date of Construction: 1913

Builder: Unknown

Present Status: Abandoned

Significance: The fireproof grain elevator built for
the Farmer's Square Deal Cooperative is
an early example of reinforced concrete
construction.

Project Information: The Illinois and Michigan Canal was
designated a National Heritage Corridor
in 1984. The following year HABS/HAER
embarked on an extensive inventory and
documentation project of the 100 mile-
long corridor. Field work for this
project was concluded in 1988. Final
editing of the documentation was
completed in 1992.

Historians: David Kelliher and Timothy Whittaker,
1986.

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An elevator has stood on or near this site since the end of the nineteenth century. According to an 1894 Sanborn Insurance map, the M. N. Hull & Sons Company owned a wooden grain elevator powered by steam at this location. This wooden elevator had a capacity of 10,000 bushels. Fuel was provided by coal and cobs; equipment included one corn sheller, two cleaners, and two fans. The original all-wood elevator was replaced in 1901 by a wooden elevator with iron cladding and a capacity of 60,000 bushels. The present elevator (capacity of 40,000 bushels) dates from 1913 and was owned by the Farmers' Square Deal Cooperative until that organization went bankrupt in 1965. Formerly served by the Rock Island Line, the elevator has been abandoned for many years.

The grain elevator is composed of fireproof reinforced concrete with steel frames and measures approximately 60' x 25' with a height of about 70'. Painted on the side of the elevator is "Square Deal Grain Co., See Grain, Fencing." A one story brick storeroom is attached to the west. The structure is a very early example of reinforced concrete construction.

SOURCES:

Sanborn Map Co., Morris, Illinois (New York: Sanborn Map Co., 1894, 1907, 1916, 1927).

Interview, Fred Aellig, (former plant manager, Morris Grain Co., 1957-1975), June 24, 1986.