NPS Form 10-900 OMB No. 1024-0018 (Expires 5/31/2012)

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NAT. REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

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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 National Register Bulletin, *How to Complete the National Register of Historic Places Registration Form.* If any 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 certification comments, entries, and narrative items on continuation sheets if needed (NPS Form 10-900a).**

1. Name of Property

historic name Minnesota Linseed Oil Company

other names/site number Minnesota Paints; Valspar Buildings 1 and 4

2. Location

street & number 1101 South Third Street and 312 Eleventh Avenue South [N/A] not for publication

city or town Minneapolis [N/A] vicinity

state MN code MN county Hennepin code 053 zip code 55415

3. State/Federal Agency Certification

As the designated authority under the National Historic Preservation Act, as amended,

I hereby certify that this _X_ 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 _X_ meets ___ does not meet the National Register Criteria. I recommend that this property be considered significant at the following level(s) of significance:

___ national _X_ statewide __local

Barbara Howard April 5, 2013
Signature of certifying official/Title Barbara Mitchell Howard, Deputy State Historic Preservation Officer, MN Historical Society Date

State or Federal agency/bureau or Tribal Government

In my opinion, the property ___ meets ___ does not meet the National Register criteria.

Signature of commenting official Date

Title State or Federal agency/bureau or Tribal Government

4. National Park Service Certification

I hereby certify that this property is:

✓ entered in the National Register

___ determined eligible for the National Register

___ determined not eligible for the National Register

___ removed from the National Register

___ other (explain:) _____

Signature of the Keeper Date of Action 5-28-13

Minnesota Linseed Oil Company
Name of Property

Hennepin County, MN
County and State

5. Classification

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

- [X] private
- [ ] public - Local
- [ ] public - State
- [ ] public - Federal

Category of Property
(Check only **one** box.)

- [X] building(s)
- [ ] district
- [ ] site
- [ ] structure
- [ ] object

Number of Resources within Property
(Do not include previously listed resources in the count.)

Contributing	Noncontributing	
2	0	buildings
		sites
		structures
		objects
2	0	**Total**

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

N/A

Number of contributing resources previously listed in the National Register

N/A

6. Function or Use

Historic Functions
(Enter categories from instructions.)

INDUSTRY/PROCESSING/EXTRACTION /
manufacturing facility
INDUSTRY/PROCESSING/EXTRACTION /
industrial storage

Current Functions
(Enter categories from instructions.)

VACANT/NOT IN USE
OTHER

7. Description

Architectural Classification
(Enter categories from instructions.)

LATE VICTORIAN / Renaissance
NO STYLE

Materials
(Enter categories from instructions.)

foundation: STONE; BRICK; CONCRETE
walls: BRICK; STONE / sandstone; CONCRETE
roof: ASPHALT
other: TERRA COTTA

Narrative Description

(Describe the historic and current physical appearance of the property. Explain contributing and noncontributing resources if necessary. Begin with **a summary paragraph** that briefly describes the general characteristics of the property, such as its location, setting, size, and significant features.)

Summary Paragraph

See continuation sheet.

Narrative Description

See continuation sheet.

Minnesota Linseed Oil Company
Name of Property

Hennepin County, MN
County and State

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.)

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 old or achieving significance within the past 50 years.

Areas of Significance
(Enter categories from instructions.)

INDUSTRY

Period of Significance
1904–1949

Significant Dates
1904
1913
1927

Significant Person
(Complete only if Criterion B is marked above.)

N/A

Cultural Affiliation
N/A

Architect/Builder
LONG, FRANKLIN B. (architect)
LONG, LOUIS L. (architect)
LAMOUREAUX, LOWELL A. (architect)
CROFT, ERNEST (architect)
BOERNER, FRANCES C. (architect)

Period of Significance (justification)
1903–1949
See continuation sheet.

Criteria Considerations (explanation, if necessary)
N/A

Statement of Significance Summary Paragraph (Provide a summary paragraph that includes level of significance and applicable criteria.)

See continuation sheet.

Narrative Statement of Significance (Provide at least **one** paragraph for each area of significance.)

See continuation sheet.

Developmental history/additional historic context information (if appropriate)

9. Major Bibliographical References

Bibliography (Cite the books, articles, and other sources used in preparing this form.)

See continuation sheet.

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 #_____
____recorded by Historic American Landscape Survey #_____

Primary location of additional data:

____State Historic Preservation Office
____Other State agency
____Federal agency
____Local government
____University
__X__Other
Name of repository: Valspar Corporate Archives; Special Collections, Hennepin County Central Library, Minneapolis

Historic Resources Survey Number (if assigned): HE-MPC-0604; HE-MPC-0614; HE-MPC-0615

10. Geographical Data

Acreage of Property 3.29
(Do not include previously listed resource acreage.)

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

	Zone	Easting	Northing		Zone	Easting	Northing
1	15	479958	4980114	3			
2				4			

See continuation sheet.

Verbal Boundary Description (Describe the boundaries of the property.)
Block 122 and Lots 6 to 10 of Block 105, Town of Minneapolis (Morrison, Smith and Hancock Addition to Minneapolis) excluding railroad right-of-way.

Boundary Justification (Explain why the boundaries were selected.)
These boundaries encompass the property owned by the Minnesota Linseed Oil Company during the period of significance.

Minnesota Linseed Oil Company
Name of Property

Hennepin County, MN
County and State

11. Form Prepared By

name/title Stephanie K. Atwood, Charlene K. Roise, and Penny A. Petersen

organization Hess, Roise and Company date December 2012

street & number 100 North First Street telephone (612) 338-1987

city or town Minneapolis state MN zip code 55401

e-mail roise@hessroise.com

Additional Documentation

Submit the following items with the completed form:

- **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. Key all photographs to this map.

- **Continuation Sheets**

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

Photographs:

Submit clear and descriptive photographs. The size of each image must be 1600x1200 pixels at 300 ppi (pixels per inch) or larger. Key all photographs to the sketch map.

See continuation sheet.

Minnesota Linseed Oil Company
Name of Property

Hennepin County, MN
County and State

Property Owner:

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

name The Valspar Corporation

street & number P. O. Box 1461 telephone (651) 851-7000

city or town Minneapolis state MN zip code 55440

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.460 et seq.).
Estimated Burden Statement: Public reporting burden for this form is estimated to average 18 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 Office of Planning and Performance Management. U.S. Dept. of the Interior, 1849 C. Street, NW, Washington, DC.

DESCRIPTION

Summary

The Minnesota Linseed Oil Company property is located east of downtown Minneapolis.[1] It is composed of two brick-walled buildings, both owned by the Valspar Corporation, the successor to the Minnesota Linseed Oil Company. The building at 1101 South Third Street held offices and manufacturing facilities for the companies (Photographs 1 and 2). It served as the headquarters for the Valspar Corporation until that function moved to a downtown Minneapolis office tower in 2009. The building has since been vacant. It has three sections: the five-story "Original Building" and the single-story "Engine House," both dating from 1903–1904, and the three-story "Addition" on the east wall of the Original Building, erected less than a decade later. All are located on Block 122 of the Town of Minneapolis and are today known as Building 4. The two-story "1926 Varnish Building" (Building 1) stands across the street to the west at 321 Eleventh Avenue South, on Lots 6 to 10 of Block 105 (Photograph 17).[2] Today it houses laboratories for the company. The north facades of both buildings and the west facade of Building 4 abut public sidewalks. A parking lot fills the property south and west of Building 1. Some modern landscaping is to the southeast, by the main entry, and at the west end of the lot. There is also parking south of Building 4 (Photograph 4), edged to the south by a small, modern, sunken picnic area.

NARRATIVE DESCRIPTION

Buildings 1 and 4 are situated on city lots in what was originally an industrial area of Minneapolis. Some older industrial buildings remain north and northwest of the property, but most now hold commercial or other nonindustrial functions. In recent decades, Valspar has purchased older buildings on the block north of the 1926 Varnish Building, but these were not historically associated with the company. Freeway construction has greatly altered the land in other directions. Access ramps for Interstate 35W, which is in a depressed corridor to the east, are east, south, and southwest of the property. A light-rail mass transit line and bicycle trail now occupy a former railroad corridor running northwest-southeast along the property's southwest boundary. The corridor historically cut across Block 105, giving the lot a triangular shape. Beyond to the southwest is the massive Hubert H. Humphrey Metrodome.

Building 4

Original Building

This flat-roof structure rises five stories above a basement and features an L-shaped plan. It has heavy timber construction with load-bearing walls of dark red brick. The brick has been painted a matching color on the first floor of the north and west facades to cover graffiti. The primary facades on the north (front) and west are similar in design, and have the majority of the exterior's ornamentation. The north facade is nine bays wide and the west facade is twelve bays wide. The central bay on the ground floor on the north facade, which originally held the main entrance, projects slightly. The location of the stairs has been filled with a brick wall, flanked by small, modern, concrete panels with cross patterns. The opening above, which has been converted into a window, is topped by a semicircular arch with a

[1] Third Street and Eleventh Avenue are not aligned on cardinal points. To simplify the discussion, this description assumes that Third Street runs east-west and Eleventh Avenue is runs north-south.

[2] The names of the buildings have changed over the years. "Building 1" and "Building 4" are the names given to the buildings by the Valspar Corporation.

Portage Entry red sandstone keystone and voissoirs.[3] The single window openings in the end bays of both facades have the same arch detail, on a smaller scale.

The remaining bays on the ground floor, which extend to concrete sills at grade, hold large window openings, most with original wood-frame windows with two-light transoms. Glazing below the ground-floor windows that once illuminated the basement has been replaced by wood panels. The ground-floor/basement openings are separated by brick piers, with several courses stepping out at the division between the ground-floor and basement windows. Between the end bays, with their single arch-headed windows, the remaining bays on the upper floors hold paired, wood-frame, double-hung sash windows with straight lintels, except for two openings on the north facade that have non-historic multiple-light units. Each paired-window bay is recessed slightly from the facade, creating a series of pilasters between the second and fifth floors. The windows on the north facade have sandstone sills, while those on the west facade have glazed terra-cotta sills. The sills on both facades are partially covered with painted metal flashing.

A shallow sandstone cornice with dentils separates the first and second floors. At the roofline, a broader, dentillated, sandstone cornice with a raised egg-and-dart design extends along both facades and wraps around the northeast and southwest corners. Above this is a brick parapet wall coped with reddish-brown terra-cotta tiles.

The parapet wall above the rest of the building is capped with terra-cotta coping and varies in height as the gravel ballast roof slops from the front facade to the rear. Because of the L-shaped footprint, the building's south facade is in two sections. Both have punched window openings with three-rowlock-high segmental-arch brick lintels and brick sills. Most hold two-over-two, wood-frame, double-hung windows. In the five-bay west section, there are metal bars over the openings in the easternmost bay, which houses a freight elevator. A large, cube-shaped, elevator penthouse extends above the roofline of this bay. In the adjacent bay on the second floor, the bottom of a window opening has been bricked in, reducing it to half of its original size. A one-story, shed-roofed, concrete-block addition extends across the entire first floor of the west section of the south facade. The east section of the south facade is four bays wide with a projecting chimney in a central bay and a freight elevator with barred windows and a low penthouse in the east bay.

In the 1970s, a large, multi-color mural designed by artist Peter Busa was painted on the south facades and also on the south section of the building's two-section east facade (Photograph 3). This south section is five bays wide, with a blank wall in the southernmost bay where the elevator is located. In the other bays, the openings and windows on second through fifth floors match the dominant window type on the south facade. On the north half of the facade, only the top two stories are visible above the Addition. The window openings have been filled with bricks and the wall is painted black and holds a sign with individual, lighted letters reading "Valspar." The paint on the south and west facades has cause extensive deterioration of the original brick.

Built for manufacturing, the interior of the building has large floor plates interrupted at regular intervals by structural wood posts (Photographs 9 and 10). The posts are topped by metal caps on every story except the fifth, which has narrower posts with wood caps. The floors are hardwood and the ceilings

[3] The sandstone is mentioned in "New Plant for Paint Factory," *Minneapolis Journal*, February 11, 1904.

are unfinished, leaving the joists of the floors above exposed. The interior has had a variety of uses over time, resulting in differing degrees of alterations on the floors. The third floor is the most modernized, with carpet tiles, a dropped acoustic-tile ceiling, and gypsum-board partitions. The wood posts have been covered with gypsum board. The fourth and fifth floors have had the least amount of alterations. On the other floors, much of the historic material is exposed and painted. Some partition walls have been inserted. In some areas, the wood floors have substantially deteriorated and are patched with steel plates and other modern materials; in other areas, they are covered with layers of spilled paints and chemicals.

The building has two freight elevators. One is at the southeast corner of the east-west leg. There is a small tile-block alcove or room, depending on the floor, west of this elevator; the small rooms have a counter-weighted door. West of the alcoves/rooms is a historic brick-walled stairwell with wood steps. The concrete-floor landings are separated from the flights of wood steps at each floor by two counter-weighted metal fire doors. The second elevator is at the southeast corner of the north-south leg. A modern staircase with metal stairs, concrete landings, and metal-tube railings runs between the first and third floors in the bay adjacent to it.

Interior doors connect the Original Building, Engine House, and Addition. Window openings between the Original Building and the Addition have been bricked in. A tunnel running underneath Eleventh Avenue South connects the basements of the Original Building and the 1926 Varnish Building (Photograph 11).

Engine House

The brick-walled Engine House extends from the south wall of the Original Building and the Addition; there is a narrow open space between the west wall of the Engine House and the east wall of the Original Building. The parapet has tile coping. The flat, gravel-ballast roof is divided by a second parapet wall that runs north-south near its center. A concrete-block addition covers part of the building's south wall. Like the south and east facades of the Original Building, the exterior walls were painted with a mural in the 1970s and the west wall has been painted as well; this has resulted in substantial deterioration of the brick. Original window and door openings have segmental-arch lintels. Most of the doors and windows are not original, and the openings have been partly blocked to hold the newer units. Louvers have been inserted in the walls. Modern conduits extend across the east wall, and a modern awning at the northeast corner turns to continue along the south wall of the Addition.

The interior space of the Engine House is two stories in height, with the floor close to the same elevation as the basement of the Addition. A long, subterranean corridor runs between the Addition's basement and the Engine House. The Engine House is also accessed by an exterior door at grade on its east facade; inside the door is a metal landing and stairs that descend to the Engine House floor. The building holds several rooms including the boiler room (Photograph 12), which contains two cast-iron boilers, one largely disassembled, and related equipment. The brick walls are painted.

Addition
Built as an addition extending from the east wall of the original building, this three-story, flat-roofed structure has a high basement; the floors align with the floors of the original building. The addition's structure is poured, reinforced-concrete columns, beams, and floors. Curtain walls are red brick with tinted mortar on the exterior and yellow common brick on the interior and at the south facade.

The primary facades on the north (front) and east are similar in design and have the majority of the exterior's ornamentation. The north facade is fourteen bays wide (Photograph 7), while the east facade has six bays. Each bay holds a single window opening at each floor with a slightly projecting brick course forming the lintel and sill, with one exception: a modern, aluminum-frame entryway has been installed in a bay off-center on the first floor of the north facade, extending down to grade. The window openings in the end bays have a single, multi-light sash. In most of the window openings in the other bays, there are three multi-light, steel-frame sashes; the middle sash is completely fixed, while the flanking sashes have central operable hoppers. One opening has a modern replacement window and another has been filled in with brick. Basement window openings at grade with window wells originally held four-light, wood-frame hoppers; the openings have been filled in. The exterior walls were once painted red; the paint was subsequently removed by sandblasting, damaging the brick. Colorful paint remains at the entrance bay (Photograph 8).

A simple brick pilaster is between each bay. Like the pilasters on the original building, they have several stepped courses near their base forming a water table that continues across the bays. The pilasters continue to the roofline and end at a projecting decorative cornice. At the northeast and southeast corners, the pilasters continue above the roofline, ending with simple decorative capitals that bracket curved brick parapets (Photograph 8).

The design of the rear (south) facade is plainer than that of the front facade. As with the Original Building, the wall was painted as part of a mural in the 1970s, and the brick has substantially deteriorated as a result. The windows match those on the primary facades, but some of the third-floor windows have been replaced with modern aluminum-frame, three-light, fixed windows. Some window openings on the second floor have been filled in with brick. The Engine House partially covers the southwest corner of the first floor. A modern, one-story, concrete-block addition has been constructed at the southeast corner. A modern awning, ducts, louvers, and conduits are attached to the wall in various locations. Several freight loading door openings on the first floor near the center of the facade have been filled in completely with concrete blocks or with a combination of concrete blocks and modern doors. A modern person door is accessed from a small concrete loading dock near the west end of the first floor. A modern person door is east of the loading doors, and a modern aluminum-frame entryway is further east.

On the interior, the basement has an open floor plan regularly interrupted by cylindrical, reinforced-concrete columns (Photograph 16). Simple, square, reinforced-concrete pilasters are at the exterior brick walls (Photograph 15). The columns and pilasters support the reinforced-concrete slab for the first floor, which serves as the basement's ceiling. Structural reinforced-concrete beams extend below the slab. The brick walls are painted, as is most of the concrete structural system. Parts of the concrete floor are covered in commercial rubber tiles; exposed areas are scored in a grid pattern.

On the first through third floors, the structural columns, pilasters, and beams are like those in the

basement and are likewise painted or boxed with gypsum board. These floors have been converted into office space with modern partitions and dropped acoustic-tile ceilings (Photograph 13). Much of the perimeter is lined by single offices ringing large, open areas in the middle of the floor plate (Photograph 14). The exterior walls of some of these individual offices have been insulated with gypsum-board walls that form an air pocket; these insulating walls have windows to bring in natural light from the original windows on the building's exterior. Other sections of the brick exterior walls have been exposed; they were apparently painted at one time and have been sandblasted to remove the paint. Most of the floors have been covered with modern commercial carpeting.

When the entrance was created on the north facade of the addition in the mid-twentieth century, an entrance lobby and stair were constructed. The lobby has a green terrazzo floor. A staircase with terrazzo treads and a metal railing rises to the floors above. An enclosed, interior stairwell is at the center of the rear wall. Its concrete steps are covered in modern tiles excepted for the flight between the first and basement levels, which has painted steps. A second interior stairway is to the west (Photograph 16). It has concrete steps with a rubber surface on the treads. Both stairs have simple pipe railings. Wood panels have been attached to some sections of the west stair's railing.

1926 Varnish Building (Building 1)
This flat-roofed building has a reinforced-concrete structure and brick walls. Because there have been additions and alterations over time and original plans are no longer extant, it is difficult to trace every step of the structure's evolution, although most changes can be documented through historic photographs and physical evidence. The most visible additions have occurred on the roof, within the footprint of the irregular, somewhat L-shaped original plan. Some alterations occurred during the period of significance and some were later. In general, the building retains relatively good integrity from the period of significance, and later additions are sympathetic to the original design and function.

The east-west leg of the "L" forms the building's Third Street frontage (Photograph 17), while the wider north-south leg is set back from Eleventh Avenue. The 1926 building permit gives the overall dimensions as 144 feet by 154 feet, the approximate outer dimensions that the structure retains today. The permit lists the structure's height as 20 feet, a single story on a high basement. The latter was required for the manufacturing process: a contemporary newspaper reported that the building would have "a basement extending several feet above the street level to allow installation of special machinery."[4] A 62-foot by 62-foot, 10-foot-high second story was constructed on the northeast section of the building in 1942; it is visible in a 1945 aerial photograph and in an undated photograph that appears to date from around that time (Figure 3). A penthouse added along the southwest wall in 1944 had a door and stairs leading to the ground. Another second-floor addition 12 feet high and measuring 40 feet by 82 feet was erected in 1953, apparently on the north-south section. More was added to the second floor in 1963, this time a 21-foot by 57-foot section rising 13 feet. Most of these sections are united by a low parapet with terra-cotta coping, which edges the mechanical units and other equipment on the roof that are related to the building's ongoing industrial use.[5]

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[4] "Linseed Firm to Construct Varnish Plant," August 6, 1926, and "Oil Paint Firm Plans $150,000 Varnish Plant," August 7, 1926, unattributed newspaper articles in Valspar clippings file, Minneapolis Collection, Hennepin County Central Library, Minneapolis; *And in 1870*, 7.

[5] Minneapolis Building Permits A18099 (dated August 16, 1926), B269832 (January 14, 1942), B280254 (dated November 1, 1944), A30922 (dated July 17, 1953), and A35305 (dated August 12, 1963); undated photograph, circa 1940s, in possession of

Because of the building's irregular footprint, the east facade is divided into two sections (Photograph 25). The south section is set back from the sidewalk. Its brick facade has been painted black. The main entrance is in a modern, angular extension that is off center in the facade. The entry is at the level of a concrete platform that was originally a loading dock. A modern, utilitarian metal stairway connects the platform and a sidewalk at grade. The platform extends south, going around a beveled corner to the southwest side of the building. Window openings on the basement and second floors are narrow and horizontal, while those on the first floor are tall and vertical. All have been fitted with modern, aluminum-frame windows. Similar windows with painted frames have been installed in the openings on the north part of the east facade. The irregular shape and placement of the window openings reflect the various periods of construction.

The south facade that extends between the two sections of the east facade has been painted black (Photograph 21). The wall has long, horizontal window openings on the basement floor, large, rectangular window openings on the first floor, and long, horizontal window openings on the second floor. A sign with individual letters reading "Valspar" is attached to the wall above a former concrete loading dock surrounded by a modern metal railing. A metal awning covers the dock, as it did historically. Mechanical equipment is in the yard directly to the south.

As on the east side, the eastern two-thirds of the north facade is two stories in height, with a basement level that rises partially above grade. Most of the wall is red brick, but an addition on the upper story is faced in variegated red brick, reflecting its construction in the 1950s. The window openings on the basement level are vertical in shape, while those on the first floor are large and rectangular with concrete sills. Those on the second floor vary in shape. The western one-third of the building is one story in height with a very high basement. It has small, square window openings. All of the windows on this facade are new, painted, fixed, metal units, but most of the openings appear to be original.

The brick west wall is painted and has few window openings; the windows are similar to those on the other facades. An angled section at the south end has a stepped ("sawtooth") parapet, something noted in a Sanborn insurance map. A small, single-story, concrete-block extension from that wall appears to have been built in recent decades; adjacent equipment also appears to be newer (Photographs 18).

The southwest wall of the building was constructed at an angle in response to an existing railroad corridor, which has been converted into a light-rail line (Photograph 19). The wall was painted in 1982 with an abstract geometric mural (Photograph 20) by Peter Busa titled "Sport." A large, narrow chimney at the west end of the facade once served the varnish cooking room, according to the Sanborn map. Projecting brick letters read "Minnesota Varnishes" on both sides, but the lettering is concealed with paint on the chimney's southwest face. Metal rungs on the northeast side of the chimney lead to its top. A historic opening off center at ground level holds a modern door. A doorway above it on the second floor is accessed by modern metal stairs; the door is in the section added in 1944. Window openings on the first floor have modern windows.

Valspar Corporation; aerial photographs from 1937, 1938, 1940, 1945, 1947, 1953, 1957, and 1964, available at the John R. Borchert Map Library, University of Minnesota, Minneapolis; Sanborn Map Company, *Insurance Maps of Minneapolis, Minnesota,* vol. 2 (New York: Sanborn Map Company, 1912, updated to 1951), sheet 252.

A landscaped yard is to the southeast, and there is more landscaping west of the building. Paved parking lots are to the south and west.

The interior has two original levels, a first floor and basement. Each of these floors has two elevations, dividing the floors into east and west sections. The added second story, located above the east section, has only one level.

The east section of the original construction was dominated by a tank room, an area lit by large windows on the first floor. The elevation of the first floor is higher in the west section, where processing rooms were located. The first floor did not extend throughout the entire west section; on the southwest end, a varnish cooking room rose from the basement to the roof. The elevation of the floor of the west section of the basement is close to grade. Stairs descended to the east section of the basement, which is partially below grade.

This general configuration remains today, although the location of many interior partitions has changed, reflecting the building's current use as a state-of-the-art laboratory. Original brick and tile walls are painted. The most notable modification has occurred in the area that is now the entry lobby on the east side. Some sections of walls and floors were removed; an elevator, stairs, and partial metal mezzanine (Photograph 22) were inserted; and a skylight was installed. The varnish cooking room was retained and has been converted into a library space (Photograph 23). The remainder of the interior is outfitted for labs and offices (Photograph 24). Poured, reinforced-concrete structural members—columns, floors, and ceilings—are visible in many areas. Some columns are cylindrical and mushroom-capped; others are square with flared capitals (Photograph 22). Dropped ceilings obscure the tops of the columns in some areas (Photograph 24), but in other cases the dropped ceiling is pulled back to reveal the entire column. Wood formwork is evident in the poured concrete ceilings, while other rooms have panned concrete ceilings.

INTEGRITY

As neither Building 4 nor Building 1 has been moved, both retain integrity of **location**. The buildings' exterior walls are and the structural systems are the original materials. Building 4 maintains the majority of the historic wood- and steel-frame windows installed at the time of construction. While the windows in Building 1 are modern, they conform to the shape of the historic openings. More importantly, its footprint and overall form were produced during the period of significance. Thus, both building have integrity of **materials** and **design**. The preservation of the historic materials has given both structures integrity of **workmanship**, which can be seen in the stonework, brickwork, and timber structure of the Original Building and in the reinforced concrete construction of the Addition and Building 1. The property also has integrity of **association** as it is owned by Valspar, which merged with the property's original owner, the Minnesota Linseed Oil Company. Alterations to the site have occurred over time as the operations and ownership of the company have changed. The industrial **feeling** and **setting** have been diminished by the loss of industrial facilities in the area and by modern construction.

The Minnesota Linseed Oil Company maintains integrity of **location**, **design**, **materials**, **workmanship**, and **association**.

STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE

Summary

For representing Minneapolis's predominant producer of linseed oil and flaxseed products, one of the state's key industries in the early twentieth century, the Minneapolis Linseed Oil Company property has statewide significance under **Criterion A** in the category of **Industry** with a period of significance beginning in 1904 and ending in 1949. The property reflects the statewide historic context "Urban Centers, 1870–1940."

When Godfrey Scheitlin founded the Minnesota Linseed Oil Company in the late 1860s, he not only secured his financial future but also bolstered the fledgling flaxseed and linseed oil industry in Minnesota. By the first decades of the twentieth century, the state would become the world's largest producer of flaxseed and related products. Scheitlin's company had laid the foundation by providing the seed for the crops that fed its mills, controlling virtually all of the flax grown in the state. Within a few years, the company was producing around 500 gallons of oil per day, and its oil cake was being shipped as far away as Europe.[1]

It launched a new era around 1878, using its linseed oil to manufacture paint. This venture was so successful that it led to the incorporation of a separate venture, the Minnesota Linseed Oil Paint Company, in 1889. By the close of the nineteenth century, the twenty-five-year-old linseed oil company's production levels had outgrown its facilities, and its success was symbolized by the construction of a new plant at Eleventh Avenue and Third Street.[2]

By the early twentieth century, the Minnesota Linseed Oil Company was the largest manufacturer of linseed oil in the state. As such, the company played a major role in making Minneapolis the Northwest's "market and distributing center" for the linseed oil industry and, according to two contemporary sources, the world leader in the output of linseed oil and its by-products, which were shipped throughout North and South America, Europe, and Australia.[3]

By the 1920s, linseed oil was Minneapolis's fourth-largest industry. Minnesota led the country in flax seed production for eighteen of the twenty-nine years between 1921 and 1950, producing half of the nation's crop in 1931 and more than one-third in 1948. The growing importance of paint to the company's business, however, led to the formal adoption of the name Minnesota Paint in the following year. At the same time, the need to increase linseed oil production led to a joint venture that began distancing the company from its linseed oil roots. The new entity constructed a state-of-the-art linseed oil processing facility in the suburbs in 1949. Marking a major change in the role of the Minneapolis

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[1] "An Oleaginous Item," *Minneapolis Tribune*, July 28, 1871; *And in 1870: Minnesota Paints*, commemorative book (Minneapolis: Minnesota Linseed Oil Paint Company, 1945), Minnesota Historical Society Collections, Saint Paul, 3–4.
[2] "Miscellaneous Manufacturing," *Minneapolis Tribune*, January 1, 1896.
[3] George Odlum, "The Heart of Minneapolis," commemorative brochure (Minneapolis, 1912), Special Collections, Hennepin County Central Library, Minneapolis; "Minneapolis Supreme as Market of Linseed," *Minneapolis Tribune*, October 24, 1912; N. J. Holmberg, "The Linseed Industry," *History of the Minnesota State Dairy and Food Department and Department of Agriculture* [Minnesota, s.n., BRW, Inc., Hess, Roise and Company, and Foth and Van Dyke, "Phase I and II Cultural Resources Investigations of the Central Corridor: Minneapolis, Hennepin County, and Saint Paul, Ramsey County, Minnesota," 1995, available at the State Historic Preservation Office, Minnesota Historical Society, Saint Paul, 9-110.

facility, this ended its period of significance that had begun with the property's development in 1903.[4]

NARRATIVE STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE

Milling a New Product

Endowed with Saint Anthony Falls, the young city of Minneapolis was an established milling center by the mid-nineteenth century. Lumber and flour were key to the local economy. With this base, the city was ripe for other entrepreneurial efforts.

Swiss immigrant Godfrey Scheitlin recognized this, although he did not meet with immediate success. After arriving in Minneapolis in October 1856, he worked as a merchant for three years before investing in ginseng, which he obtained locally, processed, and exported to China. This venture proved a failure, though, and he got out of the business in 1868. The entrepreneurial Scheitlin was not deterred, and he soon "recognized in the incipient metropolis the future flax center of the country. Beyond [Minneapolis] lay the great Northwest, still new but a potential source of the world's best flax. Minneapolis would be the hub of rail and waterways . . . to gather in the flax and distribute its product to the world. What better location for a great linseed mill?" Around 1867 or 1868, Scheitlin erected a linseed mill in Minneapolis near the corner of Tenth and Washington Avenues South. At the same time, the Minnesota Linseed Oil Company was established by Scheitlin, H. K. Sidle, and David C. Bell.[5]

The company was officially incorporated in 1870 by Robert Hale of Chicago, J. K. Sidle, Bell, H. G. Sidle, Scheitlin, Maurice Arnbach, and William S. King. In June of that year, the first mill was destroyed by fire. Undeterred by this setback, the company planned a new plant for the same location, but the "buildings to be erected [would] differ in many respects from the old ones, the main difference being in the size." The one-story central building would be 86 by 41 feet, significantly larger than its 40-by-36-foot predecessor. The site also included a one-story, 34-by-44-foot boiler and engine house, a 16-by-32-foot office building, and a 50-by-28-foot oil boiling house. All new construction would be of "native blue limestone." The company also planned to build a 30-by-44-foot, 50-foot-tall seed elevator the following year. Production of oil was expected to recommence in 1871, and the projected annual consumption of flaxseed would be 90,000 to 100,000 bushels. The *Minneapolis Tribune* reported in December 1871 that the buildings were nearing completion.[6]

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[4] B. W. Phillips, "The Linseed Oil Industry of Minneapolis," c. 1936; BRW, Inc., Hess, Roise and Company, and Foth and Van Dyke, "Phase I and II Cultural Resources Investigations," 9-110.

[5] *And in 1870*, 4. *And in 1870* was issued in celebration of the firm's seventy-fifth anniversary. The dedication notes that all the early business records had been destroyed or lost, which may account for the discrepancies between this publication and other sources on issues such as the construction of the mill, which it gives as 1867. An 1881 publication, *History of Hennepin County and the City of Minneapolis*, claims that Scheitlin built the mill in 1868. An advertisement in the *1873–1874 Minneapolis City Directory* provides a short history of the firm and also gives the date as 1868. Another source claims Scheitlin founded a linseed oil processing plant in 1862. George E. Warner and Charles M. Foote, *History of Hennepin County and the City of Minneapolis* (Minneapolis: North Star Publishing Company, 1881), 627–628; *Tribune's Minneapolis City Directory for 1873–1874* (Minneapolis: Tribune Printing Company Publishers, 1873), 56–57; Whitney Eastman, *History of the Linseed Oil Industry in the United* States (Minneapolis: T.S. Denison and Company, 1968), 49. H. K Sidle is either Henry G. Sidle, a banker from Pennsylvania, or his brother Jacob K. Sidle, both founders of First National Bank of Minneapolis. Both might also have been involved with the linseed oil company.

[6] Filing No. 16982-AA, dated September 9, 1870. Warner and Foote, *History of Hennepin County*, 419–420; "Re-building the Old Mill," *Minneapolis Tribune*, September 28, 1870; "Short City Items," *Minneapolis Tribune*, December 22, 1870.

The mill was running by the following year. The *Tribune* reported its daily production capacity at 600 gallons and noted that the company held the monopoly on Minnesota's flaxseed crop, for "nearly or quite all the seed raised in the State is contracted for by the company before being sown, they in the most instances furnishing the original seed for putting in the crops."[7]

In addition to producing oil, the plant manufactured "oil cake," made from the pressed seed meal after oil extraction. Farmers purchased the by-product as feed, and the company promised that their "ground oil cake for milch cows [would] largely increase the flow of milk, and for all kinds of stock it is the most healthful and nutritious food." By the mid-1870s, the company was producing 500 gallons of oil per day, and customers as far away as Amsterdam, Belfast, England, and Germany purchased its oil cake.[8]

Expanding into the Paint Industry

Around a decade after the company's founding, it diversified into a new product line, paint, using its own linseed oil as the base. This marked a significant turning point for the company. It initially offered two products, a house paint and a barn paint. The former was available in eight colors, in addition to black and white. An advertisement for the new line of paints appeared in the first issue of the *Minneapolis Journal* in 1878. Highlighting the convenience of the product, it read: "House Paint—It needs no mixing. Is all ready to put on out of the Little Tin Kettle." There was also a change in management during this period when David C. Bell took over as president in 1880. At some point, Scheitlin and his wife, Sophie, relocated to Knoxville, Tennessee.[9]

It was a prosperous time for Minneapolis. In January 1882, the *Minneapolis Tribune* reported that city businesses had generated $47,435,139 in the previous year. Lumber and flour were still the main industries, composing $34 million of the total. The total given for the Minnesota Linseed Oil Company and its competitor in the oil and paint business, Liquid Paint, was $250,000. Minnesota Linseed aggressively promoted its products, placing advertisements in out-of-state newspapers. One in the *Free Press* in Eau Claire, Wisconsin, mentioned that the company's products were available at the local lumberyard, and another in the *Jackson Sentinel* in Maquoketa, Iowa, touted the company's "pure Oil-Cake Meal."[10]

The company experienced another management transition in 1885 when David Bell retired as president. William S. Benton, who had been a director since 1881, was elected president. The move was a natural one. Benton had experience running other businesses. In the early 1880s, he had bought a large amount of the linseed company's stock, and he had been active in the company's

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[7] "An Oleaginous Item."

[8] *Tribune's Minneapolis City Directory for 1873–1874*, 524; *And in 1870*, 3–4.

[9] *And in 1870*, 6; Minnesota Linseed Oil Company advertisement, *Minneapolis Journal*, November 26, 1878. Warner and Foote in the *History of Hennepin County* note that the company began to manufacture paint around 1879 or 1880 (page 419). The Scheitlins' son, Godfrey, lived in Knoxville. Scheitlin died in that city on May 30, 1896. Herbert Ivan Scheitlin, *Genealogy of the Scheitlin Families National and International* (Richmond, Va.: Whittet and Shepperson, 1970), 8.

[10] "Manufacturing: $47,345,139 Represented in the Products of Minneapolis Industries for 1881," *Minneapolis Tribune*, January 1, 1882; "Local News," *Eau Claire* (Wisc.) *Free Press*, June 2, 1881; "Pencilings," *Jackson Sentinel* (Maquoketa, Iowa), December 20, 1883.

management. William A. Ramsey, who had also been involved with the company for many years, continued in his position as secretary and treasurer as he had under Bell. By now, the line of paints had become so successful that it seemed appropriate to make that business a separate entity rather than keep it as a subdivision of the linseed oil company. Thus, in 1889, the Minnesota Linseed Oil Paint Company was incorporated. It remained, however, very closely affiliated with the Minnesota Linseed Oil Company. Under the new structure, the line of paints continued to grow, branching out to include floor paint, carriage paint, enamels, and stains.[11]

Nearly three decades after Scheitlin established the linseed mill, the flaxseed crop in the Northwest and the associated processing industry in Minneapolis had come far from its humble beginnings. The *Minneapolis Tribune* reported: "With the large increase of the flax crop of the Northwest and the trebled receipts of flax seed at the Minneapolis market there has been a substantial increase in the manufacture of the seed into linseed oil and oil cake." It continued: "The Minnesota Linseed Oil Company, one of the oldest institutions of its kind in the West, having been established 25 years, has manufactured more oil and cakes [between August 1 and January 1] than it did during the entire 12 months proceeding." The mill's capacity was 500,000 bushels of seed, from which 25,000 barrels of oil and 10,000 tons of cake could be produced.[12]

In 1899, at the dawn of a new century, the outlook for the company looked propitious. It was at this time that William Ramsey, after two decades of service to Minnesota Linseed Oil, took the helm as president upon Benton's death. During his tenure as president, he would lead the company to new heights of success and prosperity.[13]

A New, Modern Plant

One of Ramsey's early major acts as president was to expand the company's production through the construction of a larger, state-of-the-art processing plant. The company's "present congested quarters" could not meet the demand of the growing national market. In addition, the company apparently did not own the plant, and its lease term was ending. Beginning in July 1902, the Minnesota Linseed Oil Company began acquiring land southeast of Minneapolis's downtown in an industrial corridor at Eleventh Avenue and Third Street.[14]

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[11] Thomas Wasmoen, "Minnesota Paints Inc., 1867–1971," paper written in 1971 for Foster Dunwiddie class at University of Minnesota, available at Northwest Architectural Archives, Elmer L. Andersen Library, University of Minnesota, Minneapolis; *And in 1870*, 4, 6. The Minnesota Secretary of State has no listing for this name, "Minnesota Linseed Oil Paint Company," although it does have one registration dating from 1948 for Minnesota Linseed Oil Plant Company, most likely a misspelling of "Paint." "Walter S. Benton Dead," *Minneapolis Journal*, January 20, 1900. Benton's first Minneapolis venture was the Diamond Sawmill.

[12] "Miscellaneous Manufacturing"; "One Step Farther," *Minneapolis Tribune*, May 28, 1896; *And in 1870*, 7.

[13] *And in 1870*, 7.

[14] Hennepin County Deeds Books 579, page 361 (dated July 8, 1902, recorded September 17, 1903); Deeds Book 572, page 383 (dated August 8, 1902, recorded September 17, 1903); Deeds Book 581, page 1 (dated July 8, 1902, recorded September 17, 1903). The property includes Lots 1, 2, 3, 9, and 10 of Block 122 in Morrison, Smith, and Hancock's Addition to Minneapolis (also Town of Minneapolis). The deeds were not filed for recording until September 1903. An example of the company's national scope is in "Just Received," advertisement, *Yakima* (Wash.) *Herald*, April 22, 1903. See also "New Plant for Paint Factory," *Minneapolis Journal*, February 11, 1904. The National Linseed Oil Company purchased Minnesota Linseed Oil's original plant in 1890 (Eastman, *History of the Linseed Oil Industry*, 49).

The need for a new facility was underlined in July 1903, when its existing grain elevator caught on fire. The damage, which was primarily restricted to the roof, amounted to around $2,500. The *Minneapolis Journal* noted that "the fire occurred at a time most opportune to the company, as there was only about two carloads of flax in the elevator," and that product was entirely covered by insurance.[15]

A building permit for the new factory and office building was taken out in March 1904. It listed Pike and Cook as the contractor for the building, which would measure 117 feet by 153 feet, rise 70 feet, and cost an estimated $56,000 (Figure 1). Pike and Cook would be paid $9,620 for their work. This five-story paint and office building was the "first of a series of buildings necessary to a modern and complete paint and oil manufacturing plant," according to an article in the *Minneapolis Tribune*. Other structures would include an oil mill, a grain storage elevator, and oil storage tanks. By August 1904, work on the oil tanks was nearing completion.[16]

The main building would be "heavy mill construction of [the] modern type." The dark-red pressed brick exterior would have terra-cotta and Portage sandstone "trimmings," with plate-glass shop windows along the first floor. The freight elevators, shafts, and stairways were to be fireproofed, and a modern sprinkler system would be fed by a large water tank on the roof. For added safety, an iron fire escape was attached to the exterior. In October 1903, the *Improvement Bulletin* had reported that architects Franklin B. and Louis Long had drawn up plans for the construction of a new building at Eleventh Avenue and Third Street. It noted that the five-story structure would have a high basement and be of heavy mill construction, with pressed brick and cut stone on the exterior. An engine house extending from the south facade would supply heating, power, and lighting with "a battery of two boilers and a 250-horse power engine."[17]

Although the Long and Long building would house several functions, it was called the "office building." On the interior, most of the floors were maple, but the offices on the first floor had a higher-quality birch and the entrance vestibule was ornamented with tile. The offices of the advertising department were on the fifth floor. The multipurpose building also accommodated a gravity-driven system for paint production, which remained the company's standard manufacturing method until 1990. As materials passed from the top to the bottom floor through a system of tanks, they were ground, tinted, and mixed, transforming them into paint. Turpentine, pigments, and linseed oil were pumped to tanks on the upper floors. Generally, liquids were on the fifth floor and dry minerals and grinding pigments were on the fourth floor; minerals were stored in the basement. The manufacturing process began on the third floor, where there were thirty tanks with capacities ranging from 200 to 300 gallons. Sitting flush with the third-floor ceiling, they were accessed through trap doors on the floor above. Raw materials were ground and tinted in these tanks. The mixture then flowed through pipes in the bases of the tanks to a 5,000-gallon mixing tank on the second floor. After mixing, the paint was canned and sent on a conveyor belt to the first floor, where it was placed on pallets for shipping.[18]

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[15] "A Thirty-minute Stop," *Minneapolis Journal*, July 9, 1903.
[16] Minneapolis Building Permit B57885 (dated March 3, 1904); "New Big Warehouse," *Minneapolis Tribune*, October 4, 1903; "New Plant for Paint Factory"; "Howard Condon Falls to Death," *Minneapolis Tribune*, August 19, 1904.
[17] Ibid.; *And in 1870*, 6.
[18] Ibid.; BRW, Inc., Hess, Roise and Company, and Foth and Van Dyke, "Phase I and II Cultural Resources Investigations,"9-106–9-107.

Minneapolis, the Center of Linseed Products

Over the next decade, Minneapolis maintained its stronghold on the linseed market. In 1911, the city shipped out 97,563,755 pounds of linseed oil as well as 178,438,643 pounds of linseed cake. A 1912 brochure placed the linseed industry on par with some of the city's other major industries, proclaiming that Minneapolis was the "market and distributing center for a rich territory compromising Minnesota, North and South Dakota, Montana, Western Wisconsin and Northern Iowa. . . . Backed by this great productive region Minneapolis has become a great wholesale market and one of the first manufacturing cities in the country. For years she has stood first in the world in flour milling, lumber production, linseed production, the making of sash, doors and inside furnishings, and in receipts of wheat."[19]

In October of that year, the *Minneapolis Tribune* also extolled the city's manufacturing trade, focusing particularly on its position in the linseed oil industry: "Minneapolis leads the world in the output of linseed oil and its by-products. The oil industry ranks with that of flour milling in placing this city in a conspicuous place on the commercial map. Six huge linseed crushers combine in creating an annual supply of oil and oil cake that causes all other marketers of these goods to stand aside in respect. . . . The oil mills located here have agencies all over this country and in many foreign lands. Their output is sold from coast to coast and line to line, in Canada, England, the Continent, Australia, and South America." The 1912 Minneapolis city directory listed nine companies as sellers or manufacturers of linseed oil.[20]

It is not surprising, then, that the Minnesota Linseed Oil Company embarked on an expansion of its facility. After noting that construction had been slow in previous months, the *Tribune* reported in September 1912 on a sudden rush of plans into the building inspector's office, including a set from Minnesota Linseed. The company had commissioned the same architectural firm, now known as Long, Lamoreaux, and Long, to design the addition to the east side of the 1903 Building, and Pike and Cook would again be the contractor for the $50,000 project. On October 29, the city issued a permit for a "brick and reinforced-concrete warehouse" measuring 214 feet by 90 feet and standing 42 feet tall. Although it was to be built with only three stories on a basement level sitting slightly above grade, it was designed with future expansion in mind. The building permit noted that its "construction [was] sufficient for five (5) stories."[21]

The new structure had a more industrial appearance than its predecessor, with unornamented pilasters, long rectangular window openings, and fixed multi-pane steel windows with pivoting central panels rather than double-hung wood sash. At the same time, design elements alluded to the older building and united the two structures stylistically. The addition had a small, projecting cornice that referenced the decorative cornice on the original building, and the first-floor windows of both buildings were taller than those of the upper floors. A curved parapet design at the exterior corners of the

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[19] Odlum, "Heart of Minneapolis," preface.
[20] "Minneapolis Supreme as Market of Linseed," *Minneapolis Tribune*, October 24, 1912; *Davison's Minneapolis City Directory* (Minneapolis: Minneapolis Directory Company, 1912).
[21] "Fall Building Rush Is On," *Minneapolis Tribune*, September 2, 1912; Minneapolis Building Permit B101405 (dated October 29, 1912).

addition echoed the arched window openings at the original building's exterior bays.

"Unique in the Annals of Minneapolis Manufacturing"
The Minneapolis Linseed Oil Company flourished in the 1920s (Figure 2), boosted by the quality of its products and postwar prosperity. It ran an advertisement for Minnesota Paints in the *Minneapolis Tribune* in 1922 that mused: "It's wonderful what a coat of good paint will do." The company's paints "form a tough, elastic, non-porous film that holds its color and does not blister, fade, or chalk, . . . contain pure carbonate of lead, oxide of zinc and our own pure, Minnesota Linseed Oil, all accurately ground and mixed by machinery. . . . For over half a century these paints have *proved* their ability to resist the severe weather changes of our Northwest climate."[22]

Another 1922 article in the *Tribune* discussed the durability of paints manufactured in the state, and noted: "Paints which were recognized for their high quality by various Northwestern states after the passage of the pure paint laws and which will play an important part in the spring building campaign will be displayed by the Minnesota Linseed Oil Paint Company." The article highlighted the company's success: "The growth of the company is unique in the annals of the Minneapolis manufacturing and represents the efforts of more than 50 years to create a product which would stand the most severe tests. The growth of the business had kept pace with the developments of the Northwest and to care for this, the firm had increased its manufacturing facilities until it now has one of the largest and best equipped factories in this section." It also introduced marketing innovations in the 1920s such as "a color book which not only showed illustrations of homes and individual rooms in full color but which gave alternate color schemes through the medium of actual paint colors, decorative elevations made up of chips of paint."[23]

The company also grew through diversification. In June 1926, the company purchased Lots 6 through 9 of Block 105 of the Town of Minneapolis, a parcel located directly across Eleventh Avenue South from its linseed facility, for "a modern manufacturing plant for the preproduction of a high-grade varnish." The new site was approximately 30,000 square feet in area. Tracks from the Milwaukee Railroad ran at an angle along the southwest side of the lots, making the parcel triangular in shape. The new varnish building, designed by the Minneapolis architectural firm Croft and Boerner, responded to this shape with an angled rear wall that paralleled the tracks. Estimated to cost $150,000, the 20-foot-tall plant had a single story above a full basement that rose a few feet above grade "to give necessary space for the specialty equipment to be installed," according to a contemporary newspaper report. The company believed that "the new plant [would] keep Minneapolis, now the leading linseed oil producing center of the country, abreast of the most modern method in the manufacture of varnish, and strengthen the city's position as a paint and varnish manufacturing center." According to Valentine Wurtele, the company's vice president: "The program for the expansion of the production of this company has been decided on because the company, which has grown up with Minneapolis and the northwest, has confidence in the future of the northwest." Completed in 1927, the facility was considered "one of the most modern large varnish plants in the country."[24] Changes were also taking

[22] Minnesota Paints advertisement, *Minneapolis Tribune*, April 27, 1922.
[23] "Paints Made in Minnesota Defy Weather," *Minneapolis Tribune*, March 19, 1922; *And in 1870*, 8.
[24] Hennepin County Torrens Index Page, registered June 9, 1926, Book 113, page 36200; "Linseed Firm to Construct Varnish Plant," August 6, 1926 newspaper article, and "Oil Paint Firm Plans $150,000 Varnish Plant," August 7, 1926 newspaper

place within the company's management. When long-time president William Ramsey died in 1931, Wurtele took on that position.[25]

Wurtele faced the severe economic downtown of the Great Depression, but the local industry continued to prosper. The flaxseed and linseed product industry had grown during the Twenties and the Twin Cities were well entrenched as the center of the industry in the state, with a crushing capacity of twelve million bushels. By the 1930s, the Minneapolis Civic and Commerce Association asserted that Minneapolis was the world's largest producer of linseed products. It was the city's fourth-largest industry, with mills processing 16.7 million bushels of flax to manufacture 893,000 barrels of linseed oil and 327 tons of linseed cake.[26]

While Minnesota Linseed Oil's production continued to thrive—by the late 1920s, the plant pressed 100,000 pounds of raw oil daily—it was being outpaced by the paints and finishes business. Signaling how greatly the industry had changed since the company's founding, the Minnesota Linseed Oil Company sold its assets to the Minnesota Linseed Oil Paint Company on September 1, 1936. For the next twelve years, the oil company would operate as a division of the paint company that it had spawned.[27]

The Minnesota Linseed Oil Paint Company adapted to the times. In 1940, as the federal government prepared for a probable entry into World War II, the company received a contract from the War Department for 97,349 gallons of paint for buildings at Camps Livingston, Beauregard, and Claiborne in Louisiana and Shelby in Hattiesburg, Mississippi. For most of the war, around 40 percent of the company's linseed oil as well as 20 percent of its paint and varnish went towards the war effort.[28]

In late 1944, the Minnesota Linseed Oil Paint Company employed 260 workers, 50 more than before the war. The *Minneapolis Daily Times* referred to it as the "oldest manufacturing firm west of the Mississippi." The company knew that the end of the war would mean an end to a major market, so it continued to innovate with new products, such as a one-coat varnish and a long-lasting floor varnish that resembled a rubber coating. The substantial 62-foot by 62-foot second-floor addition on the northeast section of the varnish building in 1942 reflected this initiative (Figure 3). The company also made plans to remodel production lines, install new machinery, and expand marketing of "regular lines in new geographical areas." Many buildings on the home front had been neglected during the war, and returning soldiers would be looking for new housing—both auspicious trends. Paint industry experts

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article, Valspar clippings file, Minneapolis Collection, Hennepin County Central Library, Minneapolis; *And in 1870*, 7.

[25] "The Walls Came Tumbling Down!" *The Primary Line, The Official Publication of Minnesota Paints, Inc.* 2 (Spring 1970); BRW, Inc., Hess, Roise and Company, and Foth and Van Dyke, "Phase I and II Cultural Resources Investigations," 9-107; *And in 1870*, 8. Valentine Wurtele, a native of Fergus Falls, Minnesota, began his career in the Canadian grain business.

[26] N. J. Holmberg, "The Linseed Industry," *History of the Minnesota State Dairy and Food Department and Department of Agriculture* [Minnesota, s.n., 1926?], 19, 21; B. W. Phillips, "The Linseed Oil Industry of Minneapolis," c. 1936, Special Collections, Hennepin County Central Library, Minneapolis.

[27] "The Walls Came Tumbling Down!"; "Minnesota Linseed Oil Company," typewritten timeline and history, Valspar corporate archives, Minneapolis; Eastman, *History of the Linseed Oil Industry*, 50.

[28] "City Firm Is Given Army Paint Order," *Minneapolis Star Journal*, December 27, 1940; "City Paint Firm Gets U.S. Contract," December 27, 1940 newspaper article from Special Collections, Hennepin County Special Collections, Minneapolis; Burnett Anderson, "Minneapolis Looks Ahead: Paint Firm Sees Big Trade, Jobs," *Minneapolis Daily Times,* September 23, 1944.

predicted an increase in annual sales from $600 million in 1943 to more than $1 billion within three years after the war's end, a growth of more than 40 percent.[29]

The Second Minnesota Linseed Oil Company

In 1947, the Minnesota Linseed Oil Paint Company announced a $5 million expansion plan, the first step of which was the construction of a new oil processing plant. The $2 million plant would be situated on a twenty-acre site five miles north of the existing facility in Fridley, a suburb of Minneapolis. As part of this change, the company's linseed oil processing division was spun off into a new, independent company, with 51 percent of the shares owned by the National Lead Company of New York and the remainder by the Minnesota Linseed Oil Paint Company. The purpose of the new entity, which had a capitalization of $6 million, was to engage "in the business of processing flaxseed and other oil-yielding materials and of the further processing, selling and distributing the resulting products."[30] It was noteworthy that the plant could process soybeans as well as flax, introducing a major new product. The New York firm would be in charge of managing the Fridley plant, which operated on a significantly larger scale and faster pace than its downtown Minneapolis predecessor. The new facility's massive storage elevator had a capacity of 1 million bushels. Three spurs of the Northern Pacific Railway with a combined length of 4,000 feet ran along the plant's west side.[31]

The plant utilized a modern solvent extraction process in which a screw press first removed the oil from the whole flaxseed, leaving 15 to 20 percent oil within the remaining flaked grain. A solvent was then sprayed on these flakes as they spun in perforated iron baskets inside a 62-foot-high tower. Each basket held 500 pounds of flakes, while the tower used 125,000 gallons of solvent per day. As the baskets spun in a contraption resembling a Ferris wheel, the solvent drained off, leaving "new process" linseed meal, a product that was 36 percent protein. The facility had a daily capacity of nearly one-quarter of a million pounds of oil and 4,000 sacks of linseed meal.[32]

The opening of the Fridley plant in January 1949 heralded a "new era in the Upper Midwest oil processing industry." More significantly for the company, though, the joint ownership of the plant highlighted a shift away from linseed oil, which had been the company's core product from the beginning. This was reinforced in March when the Minnesota Linseed Oil Paint Company officially changed its name to Minnesota Paints.[33] The formal adoption of this name and the departure of oil processing from the Minneapolis plant marked the end of a major period in the company's history.

New Priorities

As Minnesota Paint, the company strengthened its position as one of the largest independent paint

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[29] Anderson, "Minneapolis Looks Ahead: Paint Firm Sees Big Trade, Jobs."

[30] "$2,000,000 Linseed Plant Starts Production," *Minneapolis Star*, January 19, 1949; Agreement, July 12, 1948, Valspar Corporate Archives, Minneapolis.

[31] "$2,000,000 Linseed Plant Starts Production"; "Paint Firm to Change Name after 75 Years," *Minneapolis Star*, February 5, 1949.

[32] "$2,000,000 Linseed Plant Starts Production"; "The Walls Came Tumbling Down!"

[33] The company had been using "Minnesota Paints" on its products for decades, and had even taken out a patent on the name in 1914. U.S Department of the Interior, Patent Office, "Minnesota Paints," Patent No. 3572 (dated April 9, 1914); "$2,000,000 Linseed Plant Starts Production"; "Paint Firm to Change Name after 75 Years." (The latter headline misstates the company's age, which was actually seventy-nine years.)

producers in the country. By the mid-1950s, its paint was sold in "38 states east of the Rockies." In addition to Minneapolis, it had manufacturing plants in Atlanta, Dallas, and Fort Wayne, Indiana, that employed over three hundred people. Various alterations were made to the Minneapolis campus to keep up with company expansion, including brick additions to the second story of the 1926 Varnish Building in 1954 and 1963.[34]

In the 1950s, latex displaced linseed oil in paint, marginalizing the need for the Fridley facility. As a result, Minnesota Paints and National Lead sold their Minnesota Linseed Oil Company stock to Interoceanic Industries (First Interoceanic Corporation) in 1961. In 1964, the Farmers Union Grain Terminal Association (GTA) purchased the Fridley plant, with Interoceanic operating the plant under a management contract until 1967. By 1968, Minnesota Linseed functioned as a division of GTA.[35]

Minnesota Paints continued to improve its Minneapolis campus. One of the most visible changes occurred in 1967, when the round flax storage tanks that had been constructed in 1912 were cleverly painted to resemble stacked cans of Minnesota Paint. The labels of the company's paint towered 25 feet over the corner of Fourth Street and Twelfth Avenue.[36]

The 1960s, however, were not a frivolous time. When C. Angus Wurtele, son of Valentine Wurtele, became company president in 1965, he felt that the company's business model was outdated. He recognized that the paint industry was "consolidating rapidly and that the outlook was not good for medium-sized regional paint companies like Minnesota Paints." The rule of thumb was that a company had to sell 3 to 4 million gallons of paint per year to stay competitive, and Minnesota Paint's volume hovered at 2.5 million gallons. Wurtele examined options to sell the company, acquire another company, or merge. The latter course was ultimately chosen. In July 1970, Minnesota Paints merged with the Valspar Corporation, a company that was then based in Rockford, Illinois, and claimed an even longer history in the paint business. In a transition that took two to three years, plants and warehouses around the country of the two companies were consolidated, and some were closed.[37]

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[34] "Pioneer Flax Company Leads in Paint Field," *Minneapolis Tribune*, September 5, 1954; BRW, Inc., Hess, Roise and Company, and Foth and Van Dyke, "Phase I and II Cultural Resources Investigations," 9-107; Minneapolis Building Permit A31267 (dated April 6, 1954); Minneapolis Building Permit A35305 (dated August 12, 1963).

[35] Wasmoen, "Minnesota Paints Inc., 1867–1971"; Eastman, *History of the Linseed Oil Industry*, 50, "Minnesota Linseed Oil Company," typewritten timeline and history, Valspar corporate archives, Minneapolis.

[36] Minneapolis Building Permit B403747 (dated July 25, 1967); photograph with caption, *Minneapolis Star*, January 18, 1967.

[37] Wasmoen, "Minnesota Paints Inc, 1867–1971"; Wayne Christensen, "More than a Fresh Coat of Paint," *Corporate Report* (December 1979); "The Modern Math of Merger Works for the Valspar Corporation," *Valspar Scope 1* (1971?).

Valspar traced its history to 1806 and the Boston paint shop of Samuel Tuck. By 1856, Lawson Valentine, Augustine Stimson, and Otis Merriam had combined their resources to form "Paints, Oils and Varnishes." Ten years later, Merriam and Stimson had retired, while Valentine's brother, Henry, had joined the company. In 1870, Valentine and Company moved to New York City and brought on a representative to generate business on the West Coast. Eight years later, it opened its first Midwest office in Chicago. By the close of the nineteenth century, the company's capital stock was worth $1.25 million. In 1906, L. Valentine Pulsifer, grandson of Lawson Valentine, developed "Valspar," the first varnish that would not turn "white"; it was also extremely durable and hardened overnight. In the late 1920s, the company began a period of expansion and acquisition that helped it survive through the Great Depression and World War II. Further acquisitions and expansions marked the next decades, with one of the most important being a merger with the Rockcote Paint Company in 1960. For additional information, see "160 Years of Valspar History, 1806–1966," commemorative book, available at Special Collections, Hennepin County Central Library, Minneapolis.

The new entity took on the Valspar name, but its corporate headquarters landed in Minneapolis. To make the campus a showpiece that would reflect the company's ambitions, the original building underwent significant interior remodeling. Upgrading the exterior was also an issue. Angus Wurtele, now the board chairman, and company president E. G. Balassie believed "that the environment in the neighborhood would improve if their building could be made to look better." To draw attention to the company's headquarters and promote its main product, they commissioned a nationally renowned local artist, Peter Busa, to design a mural that was painted on the rear of the building. These facades had been exposed by a change to the campus that was not initiated by the company: In June 1970, the famous grain storage bins were demolished to make way for a new interstate highway ramp.[38]

Around 1975, the company adopted a goal to be among the top ten paint companies in the nation by 1980. Following its pattern from the previous decade, the company reached this goal through acquisitions and diversification. In addition to the twenty million gallons of paint it sold annually, it also had a line of custom-molded plastics and industrial coatings that it sold to companies like John Deere and General Electric. It distributed latex and oil-based paints, stains, and varnishes under the name Valspar as well as the other names familiar to customers—Minnesota Paints, Elliott, Armstrong, and Chief.[39]

Interstate construction had altered the area to the east and south of the company's headquarters in the 1970s, and more changes came in the following decades. Buildings on many blocks to the south were razed for the construction of the Hubert H. Humphrey Metrodome, which opened in 1982. This made the rear facades of the Valspar buildings even more prominent, leading the company to commission a second mural from Peter Busa that was painted on the rear of the 1926 Varnish Building. In honor of the Metrodome, he gave the piece the title "Sport."[40]

The company's growth continued during the decade. In 1984, in its largest acquisition to date, Valspar purchased Mobil Chemical Coatings, which added nine plants and around 1,200 employees. In the next eleven years, the company grew by 300 percent. Valspar was soon a world leader in packaging coatings for items such as aerosol cans and food and beverage containers as well as industrial coating resins. In 2000, a writer for the *Minneapolis Star Tribune* described the company as "a low-cost operator with a great environmental record in a tough industry . . . [and] a savvy acquirer of smaller, more inefficient operations."[41]

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[38] "Many Departments Will Benefit by Remodeling at Minneapolis Site," *Scope: The Valspar Corporation* 3 (Summer 1973): 1; "Decorator Uses Color and Graphics to Put 'Life' into New Laboratory," *Scope: The Valspar Corporation* 4 (July 1974): 1, 4; "Color Used to Put New Life in Old Laboratory," *Scope: The Valspar Corporation* 5 (July 1975): 1; Barbara Flanagan, "Busa Work Is Big, Beautiful," *Minneapolis Star*, September 27, 1973; Christensen, "More Than a Fresh Coat of Paint"; "The Walls Came Tumbling Down!"; "Paint Them Disappearing," photograph with caption, *Minneapolis Star*, June 5, 1970; "Front Row, Center," photograph spread with caption, *Minneapolis Star*, June 12, 1970.

[39] Mike Meyers, "Valspar Formula Facing Its Biggest Test," *Minneapolis Star and Tribune*, June 18, 1984; "Doing-It-Themselves Means More Than Just a Lunchroom for Minneapolis Employees."

[40] Ballparks of Baseball, "Metrodome, Minneapolis, MN," http://www.ballparksofbaseball.com/past/Metrodome.htm (accessed June 28, 2012); Roger Skophammer, "Artistry in Paint on Another Valspar Building," *Minneapolis Tribune*, October 17, 1982.

[41] Meyers, "Valspar Formula Facing Its Biggest Test"; Dick Youngblood, " 'One of the Best CEOs in Town': Wurtele Plays a Major Role at Valspar," *Minneapolis Star Tribune*, June 22, 1995; Susan E. Peterson, "Valspar Announces Plan to Buy Cargill Division," *Minneapolis Star Tribune*, May 21, 1993; Susan E. Peterson, "Valspar Plans to Buy Coates Coating Operations of

As the company expanded in the late twentieth century, it acquired more property around its downtown headquarters. In 1987, it purchased a lot across Third Street from the 1926 Varnish Building. Six years later, it acquired the three-story S. R. Sikes Company Building on the northwest corner of Third Street and Eleventh Avenue, which had been constructed in 1915, as well as a one-story concrete-block addition to the west dating from 1950. By the early twenty-first century, it was looking beyond the immediate environs to office space in downtown Minneapolis. In the spring of 2008, it leased two floors of the Ameriprise Customer Solutions Center Building at 901 Third Avenue South. The following year, the corporate headquarters and around four hundred employees were moved to the new location. The facilities on the southeast corner of Third Street and Eleventh Avenue were left vacant. Various options were considered, including sale, but the company ultimately decided to rehabilitate the property into a new "Valspar Applied Science and Technology Center" (VAST), which will consolidate several laboratories that were previously located around the country.[42]

French-based Total S. A.," *Minneapolis Star Tribune*, February 27, 1996; Susan E. Peterson, "Valspar to Acquire Ohio Aerosol Paint Company," *Minneapolis Star Tribune*, March 7, 1998; Susan E. Peterson, "Valspar to Acquire Australian Company That Makes Industrial Coatings, Resins," *Minneapolis Star Tribune*, March 24, 1998; Neal St. Anthony, "Continued Growth of Valspar Paints a Pretty Financial Picture," *Minneapolis Star Tribune*, June 16, 2000; Susan E. Peterson, "Valspar Plans to Buy Global Packaging Coatings Maker," *Minneapolis Star Tribune*, August 26, 1998.

[42] Minneapolis Building Permit A12720 (dated February 9, 1915); Hennepin Country Property Tax Information, "26-029-24-12-0049," "26-029-24-12-0050," and "26-029-24-12-0051"; Sam Black, "Valspar Will Move Corporate HQ to Ameriprise Building," *Minneapolis/Saint Paul Business Journal*, February 6, 2009.

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National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places Continuation Sheet

Minnesota Linseed Oil Company
Name of Property
Hennepin County, MN
County and State
N/A
Name of multiple listing (if applicable)

Photographs Page 1

Photographs:

Submit clear and descriptive photographs. The size of each image must be 1600x1200 pixels at 300 ppi (pixels per inch) or larger. Key all photographs to the sketch map.

Name of Property: Minnesota Linseed Oil Company
City or Vicinity: Minneapolis
County: Hennepin County
State: Minnesota
Name of Photographer: Charlene K. Roise
Date of Photograph: April 2012

MN_HennepinCounty_MinnesotaLinseedOilCompany_0001
View to southeast from intersection of Washington and Eleventh Avenues South showing (l-r) north (front) facades of Addition and north and west facades of Original Building.

Name of Property: Minnesota Linseed Oil Company
City or Vicinity: Minneapolis
County: Hennepin County
State: Minnesota
Name of Photographer: Stephanie K. Atwood
Date of Photograph: October 2012

MN_HennepinCounty_MinnesotaLinseedOilCompany_0002
View to southwest of (l-r) north (front) facades of Addition and north (front) and west facades of Original Building.

Name of Property: Minnesota Linseed Oil Company
City or Vicinity: Minneapolis
County: Hennepin County
State: Minnesota
Name of Photographer: Charlene K. Roise
Date of Photograph: April 2012

MN_HennepinCounty_MinnesotaLinseedOilCompany_0003
View to north showing light rail tracks and (background, l-r) southwest, east, and south facades of 1926 Varnish Building, Eleventh Avenue South, and west and south (rear) facades of Original Building.

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places Continuation Sheet

Minnesota Linseed Oil Company
Name of Property
Hennepin County, MN
County and State
N/A
Name of multiple listing (if applicable)

Photographs Page 2

Name of Property: Minnesota Linseed Oil Company
City or Vicinity: Minneapolis
County: Hennepin County
State: Minnesota
Name of Photographer: Stephanie K. Atwood
Date of Photograph: October 2012

MN_HennepinCounty_MinnesotaLinseedOilCompany_0004
View to northwest of (l-r) south (rear) and east facades of Original Building and south (rear) facade of Addition from southeast corner of parking lot.

Name of Property: Minnesota Linseed Oil Company
City or Vicinity: Minneapolis
County: Hennepin County
State: Minnesota
Name of Photographer: Stephanie K. Atwood
Date of Photograph: July 2012

MN_HennepinCounty_MinnesotaLinseedOilCompany_0005
View to north of (l-r) south (rear) and east facades of Original Building, east facade of Engine House, and south (rear) facade of Addition.

Name of Property: Minnesota Linseed Oil Company
City or Vicinity: Minneapolis
County: Hennepin County
State: Minnesota
Name of Photographer: Stephanie K. Atwood
Date of Photograph: June 2012

MN_HennepinCounty_MinnesotaLinseedOilCompany_0006
View to southwest of (l-r) east and north (front) facades of Addition.

Name of Property: Minnesota Linseed Oil Company
City or Vicinity: Minneapolis
County: Hennepin County
State: Minnesota
Name of Photographer: Stephanie K. Atwood
Date of Photograph: October 2012

MN_HennepinCounty_MinnesotaLinseedOilCompany_0007
View to southwest of (l-r) north (front) facade of Addition and east and north (front) facades of Original Building.

Name of Property: Minnesota Linseed Oil Company
City or Vicinity: Minneapolis
County: Hennepin County
State: Minnesota
Name of Photographer: Charlene K. Roise
Date of Photograph: April 2012

MN_HennepinCounty_MinnesotaLinseedOilCompany_0008
View to southwest of (l-r) east and north (front) facades of Addition and east and north (front) facades of Original Building.

Name of Property: Minnesota Linseed Oil Company
City or Vicinity: Minneapolis
County: Hennepin County
State: Minnesota
Name of Photographer: Stephanie K. Atwood
Date of Photograph: October 2012

MN_HennepinCounty_MinnesotaLinseedOilCompany_0009
View to northwest of third floor of Original Building.

Name of Property: Minnesota Linseed Oil Company
City or Vicinity: Minneapolis
County: Hennepin County
State: Minnesota
Name of Photographer: Stephanie K. Atwood
Date of Photograph: July 2012

MN_HennepinCounty_MinnesotaLinseedOilCompany_0010
View to northwest of fourth floor of Original Building showing painted hardwood floor, painted post-and-beam structure, and ceiling joists.

Name of Property: Minnesota Linseed Oil Company
City or Vicinity: Minneapolis
County: Hennepin County
State: Minnesota
Name of Photographer: Stephanie K. Atwood
Date of Photograph: July 2012

MN_HennepinCounty_MinnesotaLinseedOilCompany_0011
View to west of tunnel connecting basement of Original Building with basement of 1926 Varnish Building.

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places Continuation Sheet

Minnesota Linseed Oil Company
Name of Property
Hennepin County, MN
County and State
N/A
Name of multiple listing (if applicable)

Photographs Page 4

Name of Property: Minnesota Linseed Oil Company
City or Vicinity: Minneapolis
County: Hennepin County
State: Minnesota
Name of Photographer: Stephanie K. Atwood
Date of Photograph: October 2012

MN_HennepinCounty_MinnesotaLinseedOilCompany_0012
View to northeast of boiler room in Engine House.

Name of Property: Minnesota Linseed Oil Company
City or Vicinity: Minneapolis
County: Hennepin County
State: Minnesota
Name of Photographer: Stephanie K. Atwood
Date of Photograph: October 2012

MN_HennepinCounty_MinnesotaLinseedOilCompany_0013
View to northeast of first-floor open office area in Addition showing (l-r) brick walls with historic steel-frame windows and concrete columns.

Name of Property: Minnesota Linseed Oil Company
City or Vicinity: Minneapolis
County: Hennepin County
State: Minnesota
Name of Photographer: Stephanie K. Atwood
Date of Photograph: October 2012

MN_HennepinCounty_MinnesotaLinseedOilCompany_0014
View to northeast of open office area on east side of Addition's second floor. Small offices at north and east walls are at rear.

Name of Property: Minnesota Linseed Oil Company
City or Vicinity: Minneapolis
County: Hennepin County
State: Minnesota
Name of Photographer: Stephanie K. Atwood
Date of Photograph: October 2012

MN_HennepinCounty_MinnesotaLinseedOilCompany_0015
View to southeast of landing of west stairs on second floor of Addition showing painted brick walls, concrete floor and ceiling, and historic steel-frame windows.

Name of Property: Minnesota Linseed Oil Company
City or Vicinity: Minneapolis
County: Hennepin County
State: Minnesota
Name of Photographer: Stephanie K. Atwood
Date of Photograph: October 2012

MN_HennepinCounty_MinnesotaLinseedOilCompany_0016
View to northeast of basement of Addition showing concrete floor covered with commercial tiles, poured concrete post and beam system, and poured concrete ceiling.

Name of Property: Minnesota Linseed Oil Company
City or Vicinity: Minneapolis
County: Hennepin County
State: Minnesota
Name of Photographer: Charlene K. Roise
Date of Photograph: November 2012

MN_HennepinCounty_MinnesotaLinseedOilCompany_0017
View to southwest of (l-r) east and north facades of 1926 Varnish Building.

Name of Property: Minnesota Linseed Oil Company
City or Vicinity: Minneapolis
County: Hennepin County
State: Minnesota
Name of Photographer: Charlene K. Roise
Date of Photograph: November 2012

MN_HennepinCounty_MinnesotaLinseedOilCompany_0018
View to south of 1926 Varnish Building (l-r) showing west facade, cooking room chimney, and modern one-story addition.

Name of Property: Minnesota Linseed Oil Company
City or Vicinity: Minneapolis
County: Hennepin County
State: Minnesota
Name of Photographer: Charlene K. Roise
Date of Photograph: April 2012

MN_HennepinCounty_MinnesotaLinseedOilCompany_0019
View to northeast (l-r) of west and southwest facades of 1926 Varnish Building. The historic cooking room chimney and stepped parapet of the original west wall are visible.

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places Continuation Sheet

Minnesota Linseed Oil Company
Name of Property
Hennepin County, MN
County and State
N/A
Name of multiple listing (if applicable)

Photographs Page 6

Name of Property: Minnesota Linseed Oil Company
City or Vicinity: Minneapolis
County: Hennepin County
State: Minnesota
Name of Photographer: Stephanie K. Atwood
Date of Photograph: July 2012

MN_HennepinCounty_MinnesotaLinseedOilCompany_0020
View to northwest of southwest facade of 1926 Varnish Building.

Name of Property: Minnesota Linseed Oil Company
City or Vicinity: Minneapolis
County: Hennepin County
State: Minnesota
Name of Photographer: Charlene K. Roise
Date of Photograph: April 2012

MN_HennepinCounty_MinnesotaLinseedOilCompany_0021
View to northwest of (l-r) east and south facades of 1926 Varnish Building.

Name of Property: Minnesota Linseed Oil Company
City or Vicinity: Minneapolis
County: Hennepin County
State: Minnesota
Name of Photographer: Stephanie K. Atwood
Date of Photograph: June 2012

MN_HennepinCounty_MinnesotaLinseedOilCompany_0022
View to northwest from entry lobby of 1926 Varnish Building showing (l-r) metal mezzanine level and west basement, square column with flared capital, elevator and mushroom-capped column, and doorway to first-floor laboratory.

Name of Property: Minnesota Linseed Oil Company
City or Vicinity: Minneapolis
County: Hennepin County
State: Minnesota
Name of Photographer: Stephanie K. Atwood
Date of Photograph: June 2012

MN_HennepinCounty_MinnesotaLinseedOilCompany_0023
View to southwest from mezzanine level in 1926 Varnish Building showing (l-r) fire door and cooking pot alcoves in brick wall of former varnish cooking room at southwest wall of basement.

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places Continuation Sheet

Minnesota Linseed Oil Company
Name of Property
Hennepin County, MN
County and State
N/A
Name of multiple listing (if applicable)

Photographs Page 7

Name of Property: Minnesota Linseed Oil Company
City or Vicinity: Minneapolis
County: Hennepin County
State: Minnesota
Name of Photographer: Stephanie K. Atwood
Date of Photograph: June 2012

MN_HennepinCounty_MinnesotaLinseedOilCompany_0024
View to east of first-floor laboratory space in east section of 1926 Varnish Building. The dropped ceiling is pulled back to reveal top of mushroom-capped columns.

Name of Property: Minnesota Linseed Oil Company
City or Vicinity: Minneapolis
County: Hennepin County
State: Minnesota
Name of Photographer: Charlene K. Roise
Date of Photograph: November 2012

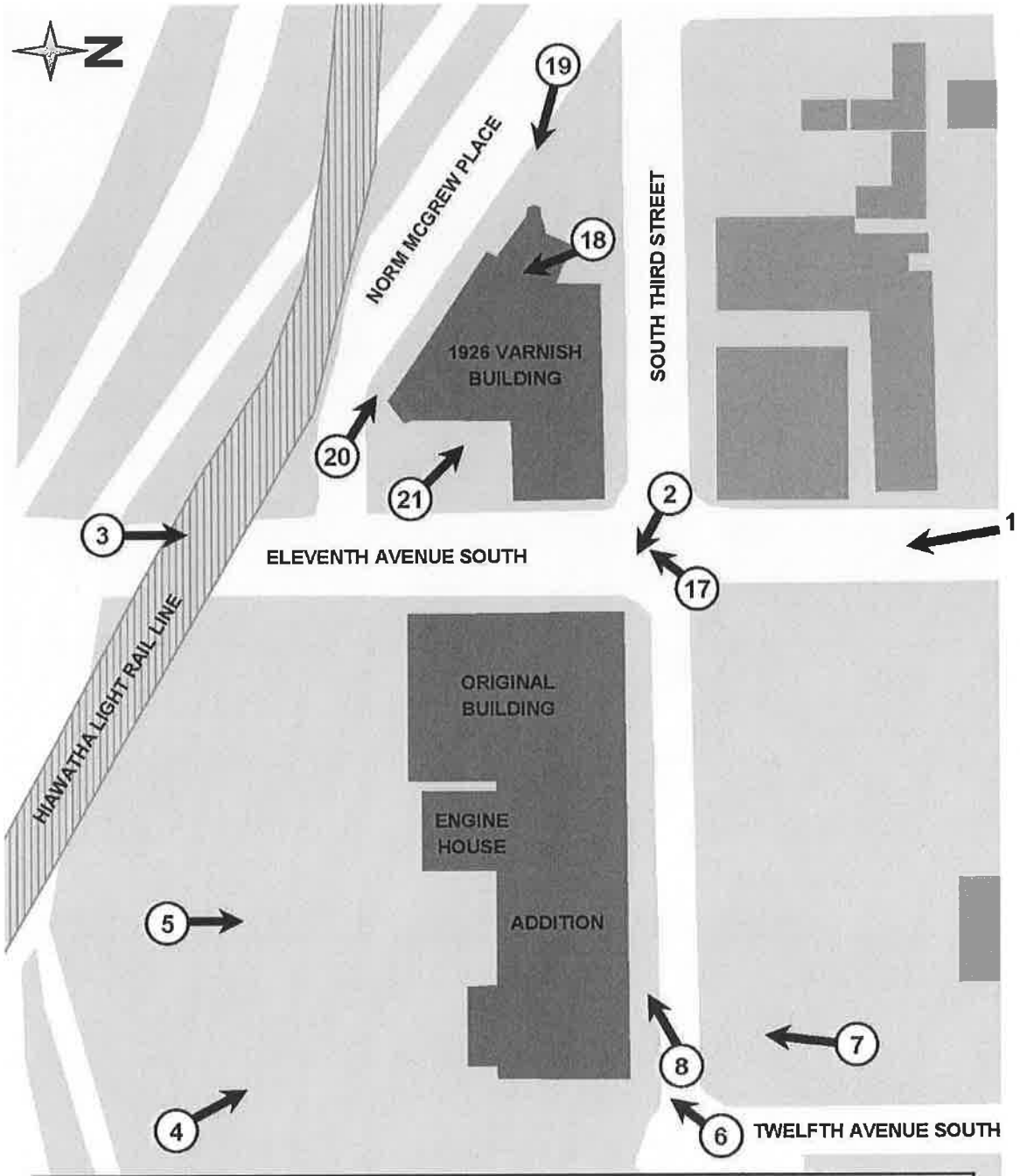
MN_HennepinCounty_MinnesotaLinseedOilCompany_0025
View to south of basement in 1926 Varnish Building showing round concrete column, floor, and ceiling.

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

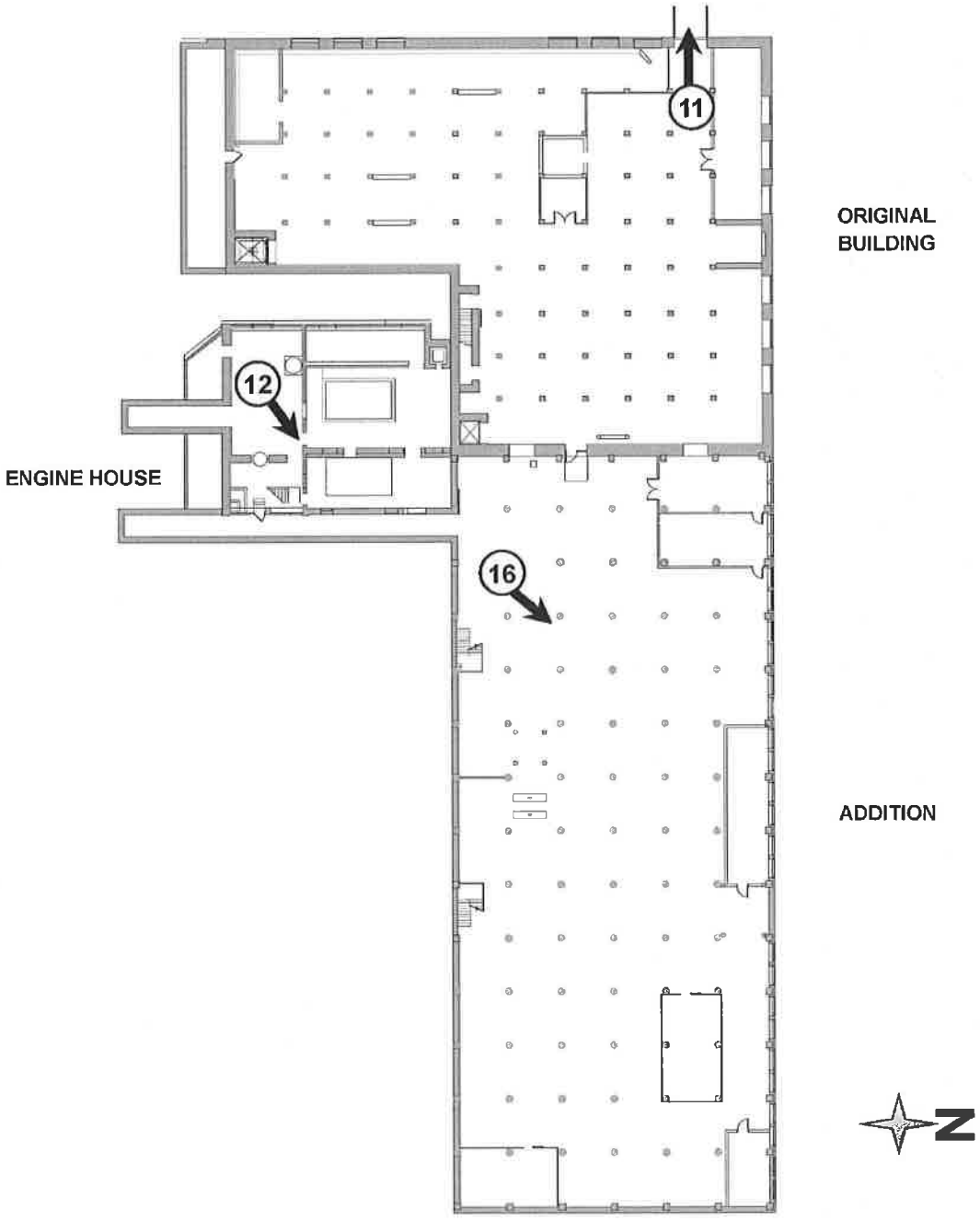
National Register of Historic Places
Continuation Sheet

Minnesota Linseed Oil Company
Name of Property
Hennepin County, MN
County and State
N/A
Name of multiple listing (if applicable)

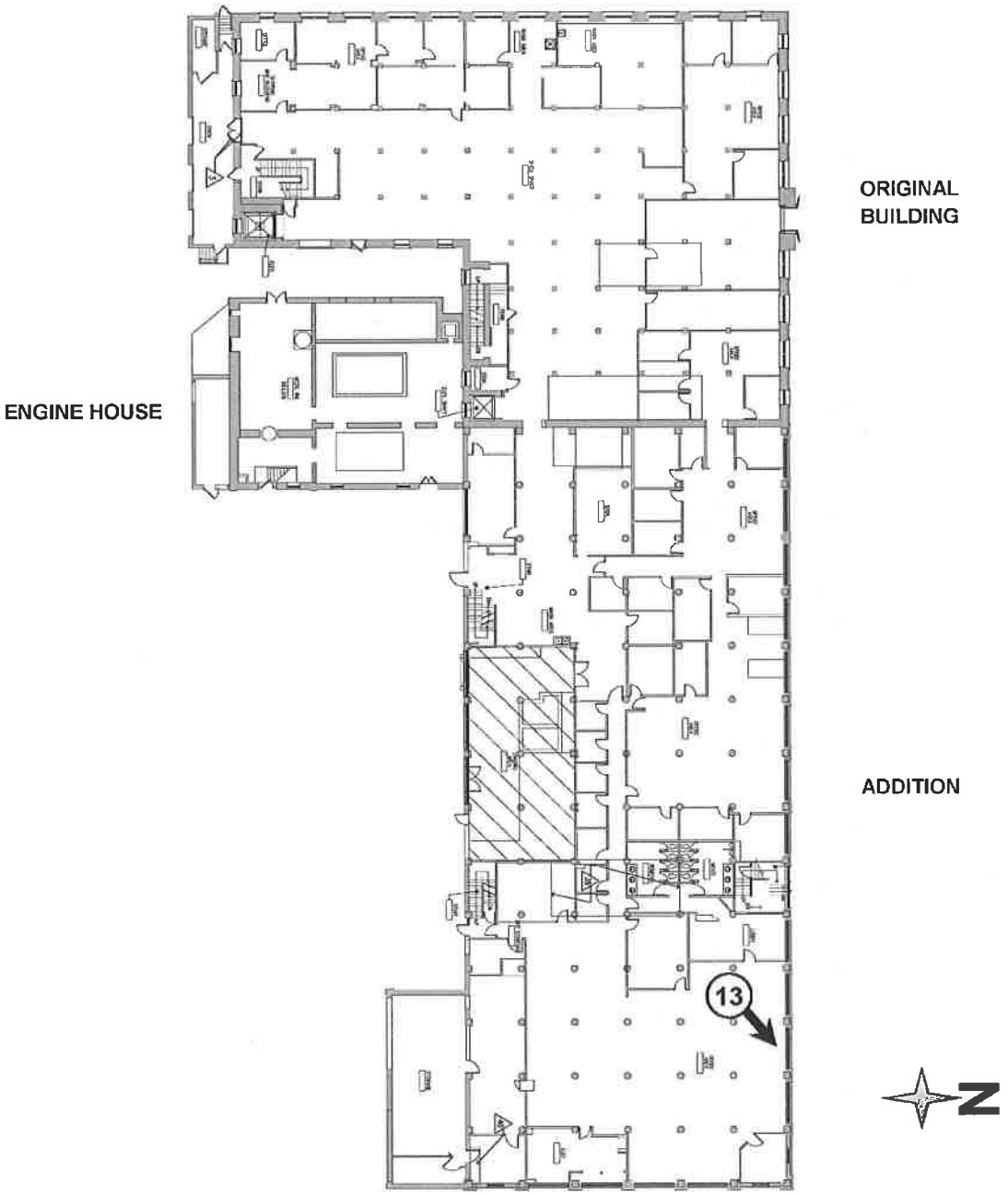
Additional Information—Photo Key Sketch Map Page 1



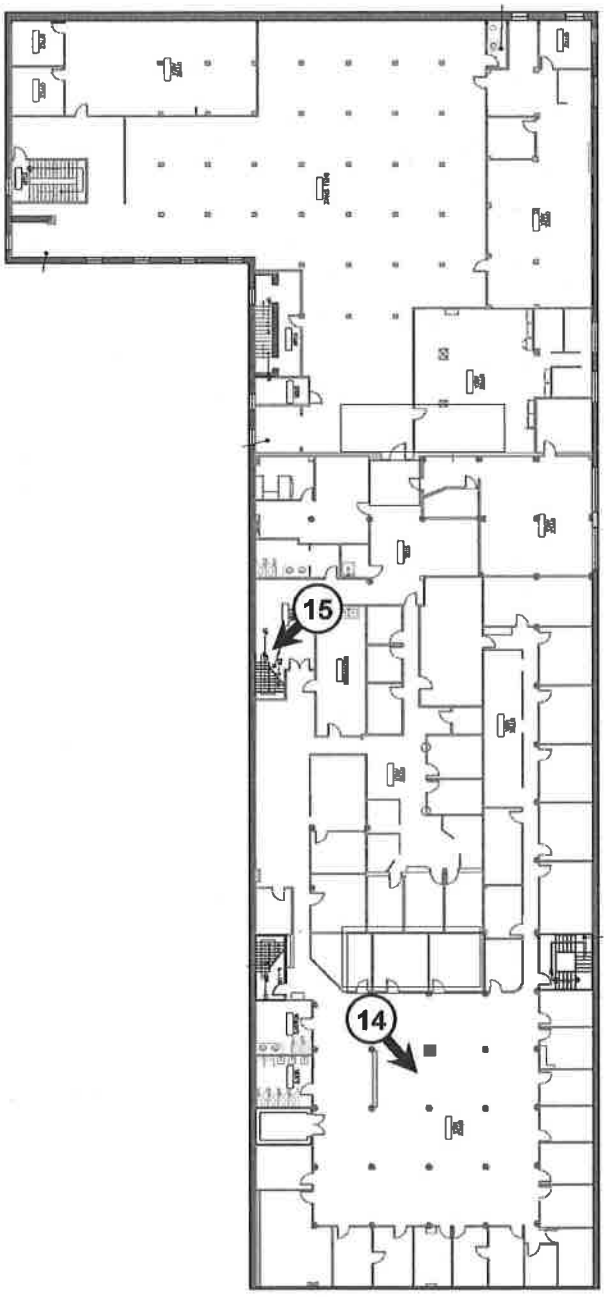
MINNESOTA LINSEED OIL COMPANY (Exterior)
Minneapolis
Hennepin County
Minnesota
Photographers: Stephanie K. Atwood and Charlene K. Roise
April 2012–November 2012



MINNESOTA LINSEED OIL COMPANY (Lower Level)
Minneapolis
Hennepin County
Minnesota
Photographers: Stephanie K. Atwood and Charlene K. Roise
April 2012–November 2012



MINNESOTA LINSEED OIL COMPANY (First Floor)
Minneapolis
Hennepin County
Minnesota
Photographers: Stephanie K. Atwood and Charlene K. Roise
April 2012–November 2012

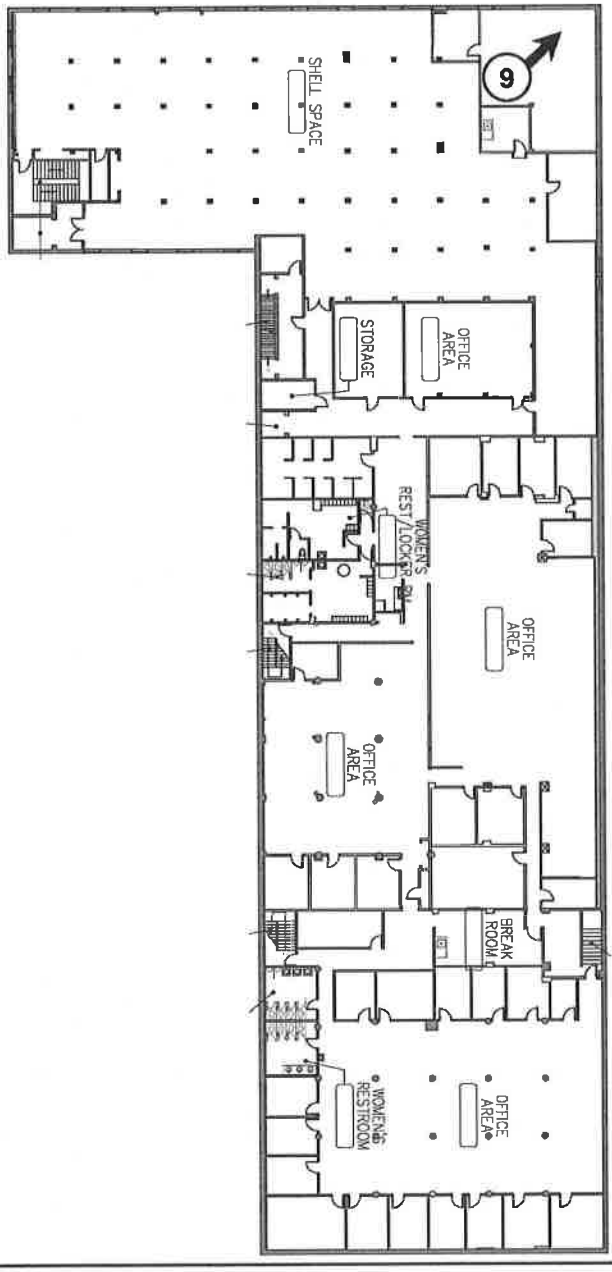


ORIGINAL BUILDING

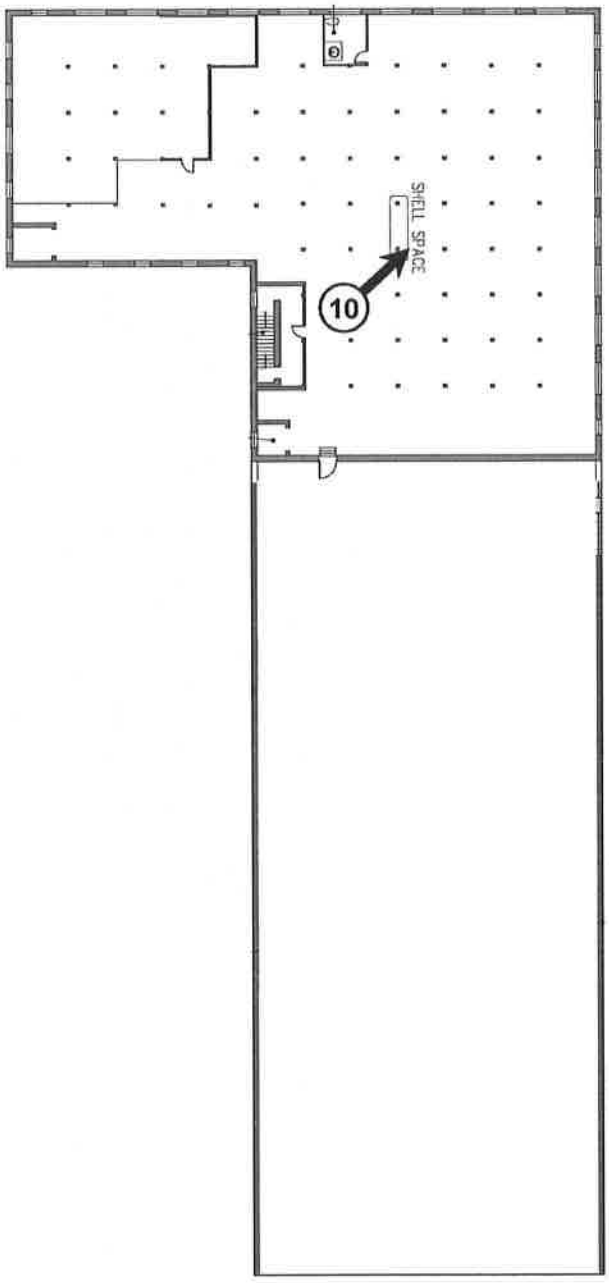
ADDITION

N

MINNESOTA LINSEED OIL COMPANY (Second Floor)
Minneapolis
Hennepin County
Minnesota
Photographers: Stephanie K. Atwood and Charlene K. Roise
April 2012–November 2012



MINNESOTA LINSEED OIL COMPANY (Third Floor)
Minneapolis
Hennepin County
Minnesota
Photographers: Stephanie K. Atwood and Charlene K. Roise
April 2012–November 2012



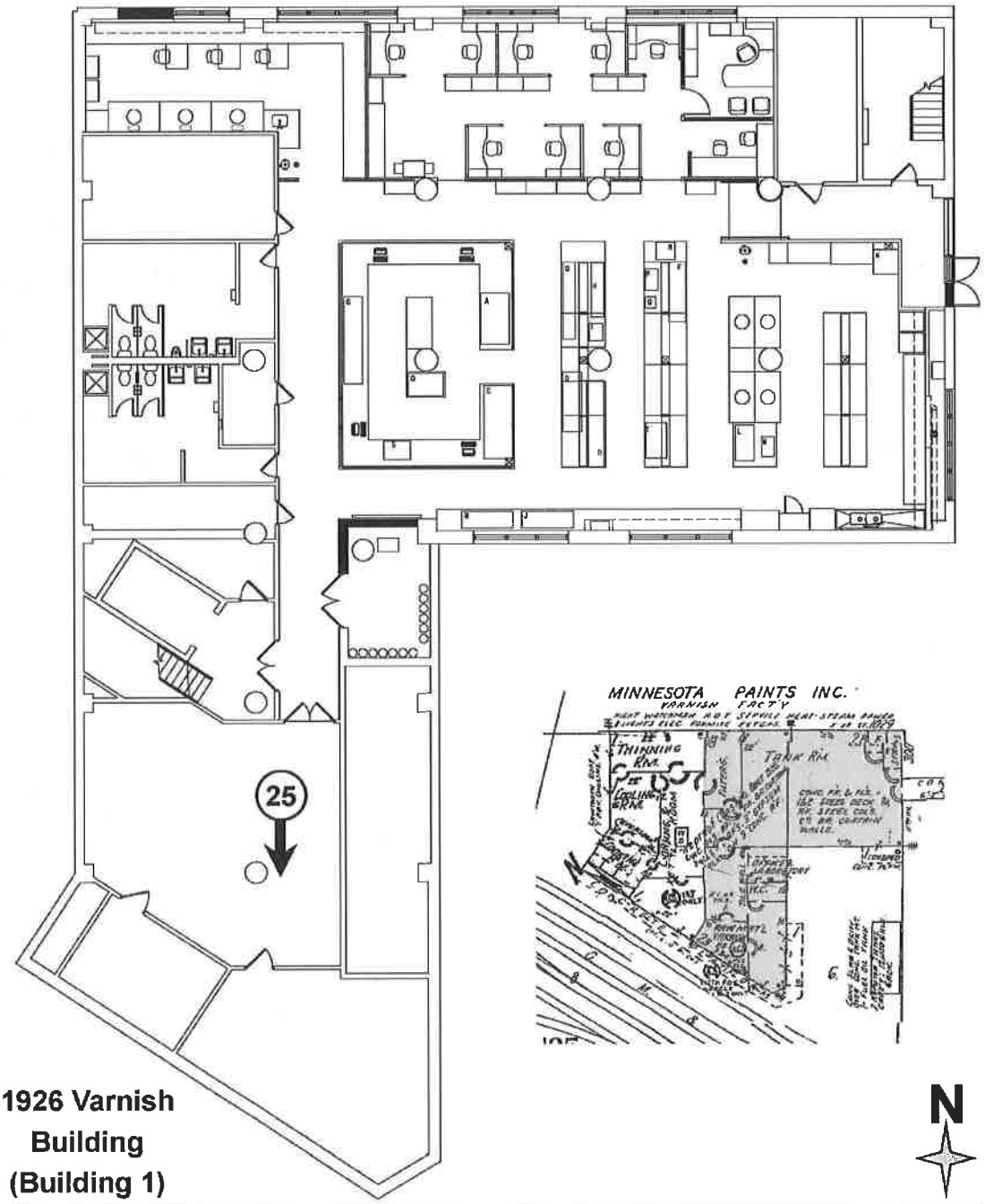
MINNESOTA LINSEED OIL COMPANY (Fourth Floor)
Minneapolis
Hennepin County
Minnesota
Photographers: Stephanie K. Atwood and Charlene K. Roise
April 2012–November 2012

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places
Continuation Sheet

Minnesota Linseed Oil Company
Name of Property
Hennepin County, MN
County and State
N/A
Name of multiple listing (if applicable)

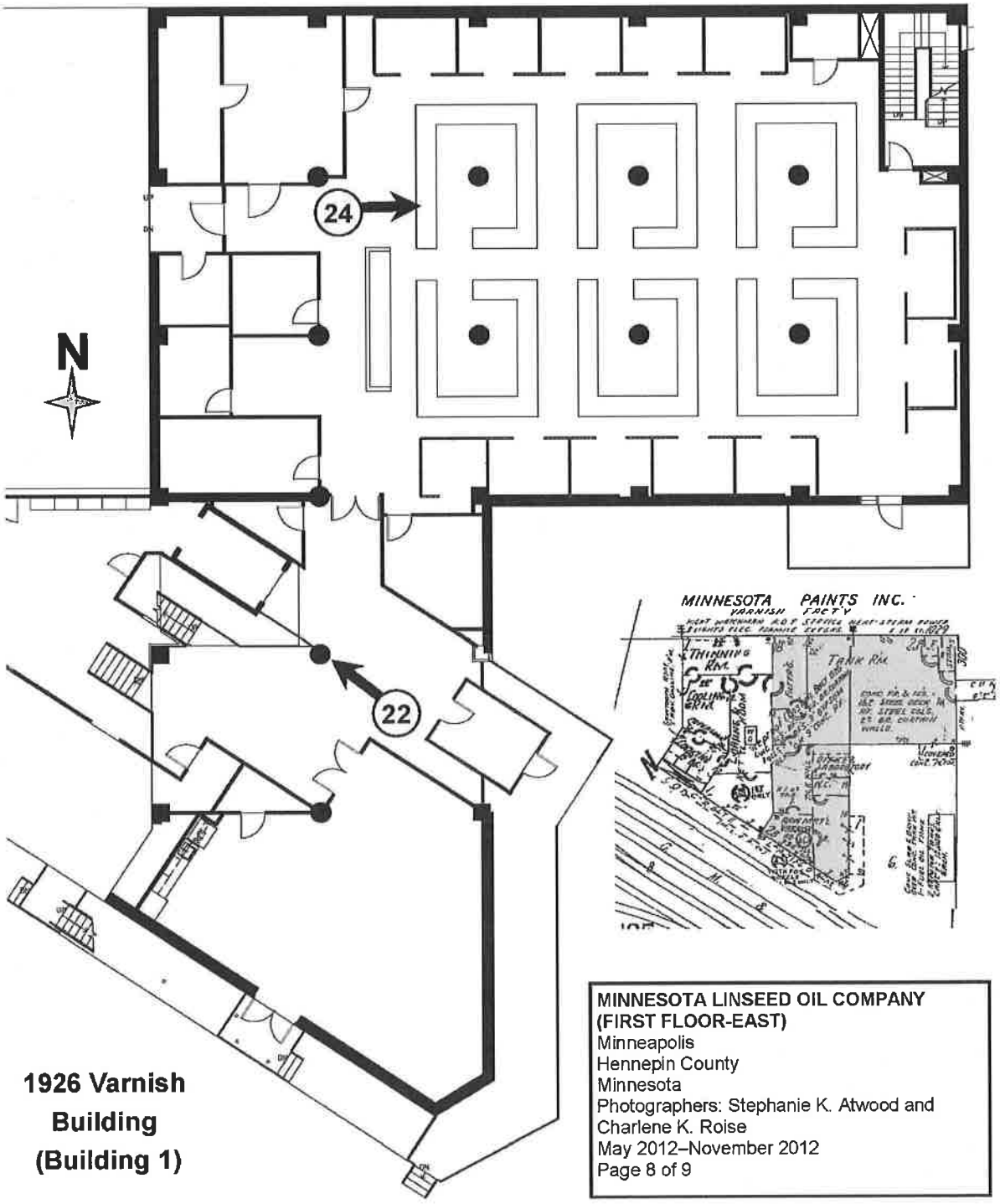
Additional Information—Photo Key Sketch Map Page 7



1926 Varnish Building (Building 1)

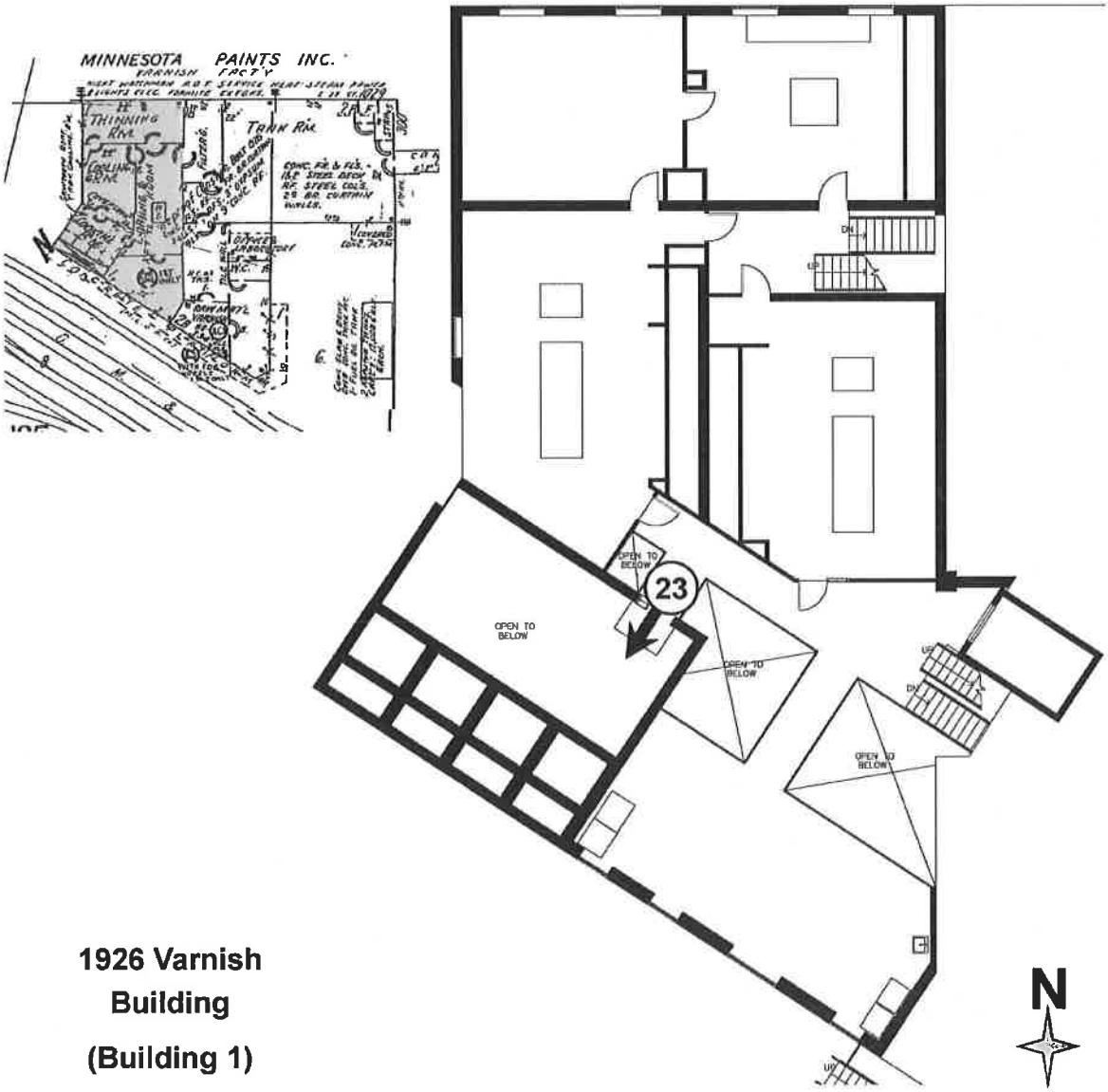
N

MINNESOTA LINSEED OIL COMPANY (BASEMENT-EAST)
Minneapolis
Hennepin County
Minnesota
Photographers: Stephanie K. Atwood and Charlene K. Roise
Aoril 2012–November 2012



1926 Varnish Building (Building 1)

MINNESOTA LINSEED OIL COMPANY
(FIRST FLOOR-EAST)
Minneapolis
Hennepin County
Minnesota
Photographers: Stephanie K. Atwood and Charlene K. Roise
May 2012–November 2012
Page 8 of 9



1926 Varnish Building

(Building 1)

MINNESOTA LINSEED OIL COMPANY (FIRST FLOOR-WEST)
Minneapolis
Hennepin County
Minnesota
Photographers: Stephanie K. Atwood and Charlene K. Roise
May 2012–November 2012

INDEX OF FIGURES

Figure 1. Photograph of the Original Building shortly after construction, view to southeast, c. 1904. (Minnesota Historical Society Collections)

Figure 2. C. 1920 illustration of the Minnesota Linseed Oil Company showing (l-r) Addition and Original Building. (*Minnesota Paints: What They Are for and How to Use Them*)

Figure 3. View of Minnesota Linseed Oil (Paint) Company complex, view to east, c. 1945. The 1942 62' x 62' addition on the second floor of the Varnish Building has been constructed. (Valspar corporate archives)

Figure 1.

Figure 2.

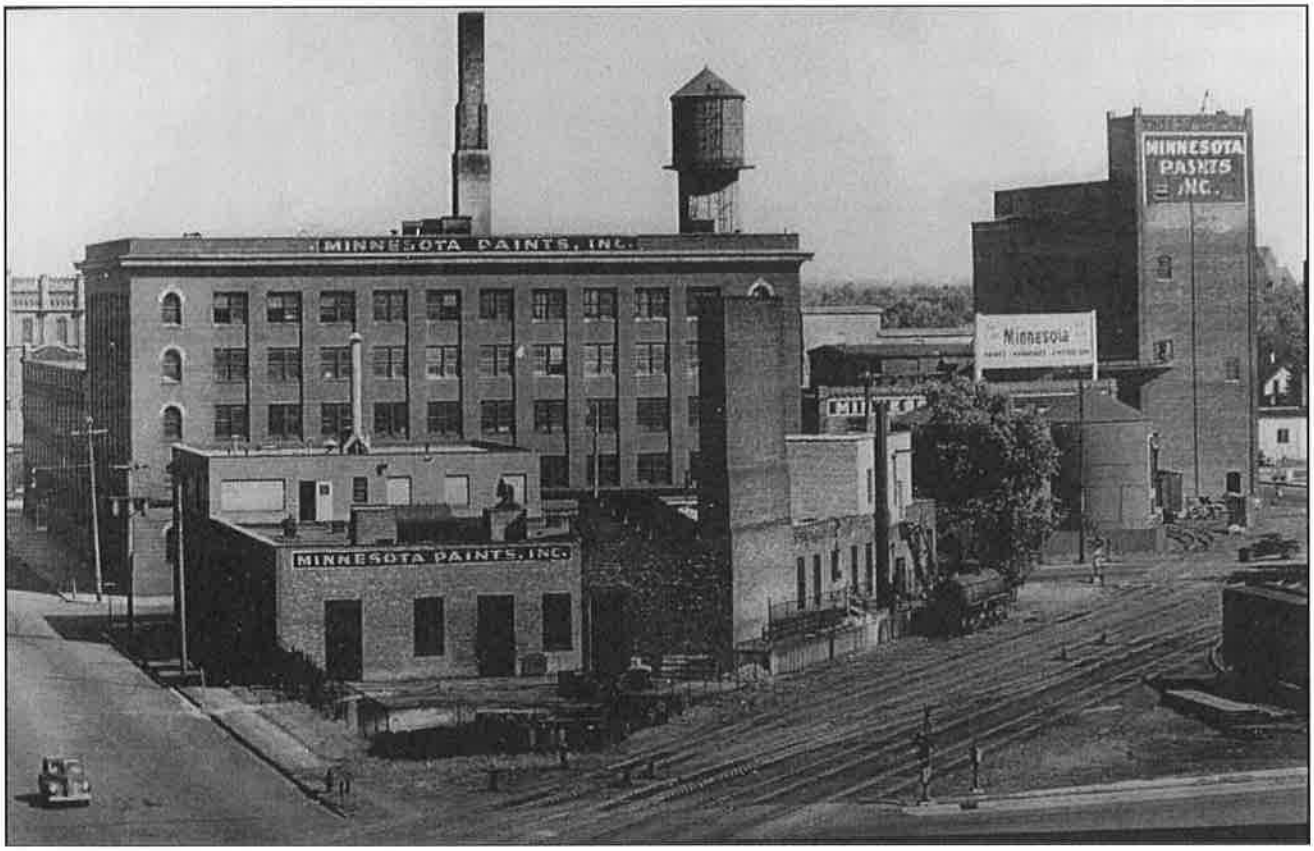

MINNESOTA PAINTS, INC.
MINNESOTA PAINTS, INC.
MINNESOTA PAINTS INC.
Minnesota

Figure 3.

UNITED STATES
DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
GEOLOGICAL SURVEY

MINNEAPOLIS SOUTH QUADRANGLE

MINNESOTA-HENNEPIN CO.
7.5 MINUTE SERIES (TOPOGRAPHIC)

7374 III SW (OSSEO)
7374 II SW (NEW BRIGHTON)
7374 III SE (MINNEAPOLIS NORTH)
7373 IV NW (HOPKINS)
7373 I NW (ST PAUL WEST)
7373 IV SW (EDEN PRAIRIE)
7373 I SW (ST PAUL SW)

93°22'30" 45°00' 93°15' 44°52'30"

Minnesota Linseed Oil Company Minneapolis, Hennepin County, Minnesota

UTM REFERENCE
15: 479958: 4980114

USGS NEO HISTORICAL MAP ARCHIVES
AUG 17 1993
REC'D FILE COPY

Produced by the United States Geological Survey

Control by USGS, NOS/NOAA and USCE

Topography by photogrammetric methods from aerial photographs taken 1947. Field checked 1952. Revised from aerial photographs taken 1966. Field checked 1967. Map edited 1967

Hydrography compiled from information furnished by Minnesota Department of Natural Resources

Projection and 10,000-foot grid ticks: Minnesota coordinate system, south zone (Lambert conformal conic)
1000-meter Universal Transverse Mercator grid ticks, zone 15, shown in blue
1927 North American Datum (NAD 27)

North American Datum of 1983 (NAD 83) is shown by dashed corner ticks
The values of the shift between NAD 27 and NAD 83 for 7.5-minute intersections are given in USGS Bulletin 1875

Red tint indicates areas in which only landmark buildings are shown

SCALE 1:24 000

1 MILE
1000 0 1000 2000 3000 4000 5000 6000 7000 FEET
1 KILOMETER

CONTOUR INTERVAL 10 FEET
NATIONAL GEODETIC VERTICAL DATUM OF 1929

UTM GRID AND 1993 MAGNETIC NORTH DECLINATION AT CENTER OF SHEET

THIS MAP COMPLIES WITH NATIONAL MAP ACCURACY STANDARDS
FOR SALE BY U.S. GEOLOGICAL SURVEY
DENVER, COLORADO 80225, OR RESTON, VIRGINIA 22092
A FOLDER DESCRIBING TOPOGRAPHIC MAPS AND SYMBOLS IS AVAILABLE ON REQUEST

ROAD CLASSIFICATION
Heavy-duty — Light-duty
Medium-duty — Unimproved dirt
Interstate Route · U.S. Route · State Route

QUADRANGLE LOCATION

Revisions shown in purple and woodland compiled in cooperation with State of Minnesota agencies from aerial photographs taken 1991 and other sources. This information not field checked. Map edited 1993

MINNEAPOLIS SOUTH, MINN.
44093-H3-TF-024

1967
REVISED 1993
DMA 7373 IV NE-SERIES V872

INTERIOR—GEOLOGICAL SURVEY, RESTON, VIRGINIA—1993

Parking

FedEx
FedEx

RAILROAD CROSSING
LOOK
STOP
20

valspar

valspar

LOT
A
ENTER ONLY
ONE CAR ONLY
CAUTION
DO NOT USE ENTRANCE WHEN CAR GATE IS OPERATING!

valspar

CAUTION
S 12th Av

R-D
CAUTION LOW CEILING
CAUTION

2

S 11th Av

MINNESOTA
ARNISHES
CENTURY
FENCE
CENTURY
FENCE

MINNESOTA
VARNISHES

valspar
27015

FIRE
EXTINGUISHER
MODULINE
EMERGENCY
SPILL RESPONSE
EQUIPMENT