

FLOUR MILLING HISTORY at East Bank Mills Site 1879 - 1984

- 1879:** LeRoy S. Buffington is hired for the planning of the Pillsbury "A" Mill. A West Side location was first envisioned, but sentiment for the East Side laborers by John S. Pillsbury caused the mill to be built there.
- 1880:** Land is purchased in February on the East Side, located on Main Street and Third Avenue Southeast.
- 1880:** The construction contract is let to George McMullen on March 6. The interior design is given to the firm of Gunn & Cross. Jack Finch, Head Millwright, was in charge of the equipment installation.
- 1880:** Work begins on the building foundations on June 15.
- 1881:** The East "A" milling unit is completed. Power to drive the mill is derived from Water Wheel No. 1.
- 1881:** The Bran House is completed in October.
- 1882:** The West "A" milling unit is completed, with Water Wheel No. 2 as the power source. Total cost for both the East and West "A" milling units is \$650,000.00.
- 1884:** The Pillsbury "A" Mill becomes the first at St. Anthony Falls to use steam power.
- 1889:** An English syndicate purchases all Pillsbury holdings, including the "A" Mill property. The name of the firm is changed to Pillsbury-Washburn Flour Mills Company, and Charles A. Pillsbury is named as the Managing Director.
- 1893:** Interior of the Bran House gutted by a large fire.

- 1894:** A world record of 9,490 bbls of flour milled in one day is set on December 1.
- 1899:** Charles A. Pillsbury dies at age 57, putting Henry L. Little in charge.
- 1901:** Plans for a brick and stone Boiler House and smoke stack are granted, which will later become the Vitos Building.
- 1909:** The company name is changed to Pillsbury Flour Mills Company.
- 1909:** Plans begin for the erection of the Red Tile Elevator. Space is allotted between the existing building the elevator to allow for future milling and cleaning units.
- 1912:** The interior of the "A" Mill is rebuilt and reinforced with steel.
- 1914:** The Concrete Elevator is designed and constructed by Barnett and Record Co.
- 1915:** The Machine Shop is added on to the Bran House, with a Blacksmith Shop nearby.
- 1915:** The original grain storage elevator adjacent to the "A" Mill is demolished.
- 1916:** The Pillsbury Flour Mills Company purchases the Phoenix Mill Company property at Main Street and Third Avenue Southeast.
- 1916:** The South "A" Mill and Warehouse No. 1 are erected on Block 50.
- 1917:** The north half of the Supply House is constructed on Block 36.
- 1917:** Production of "Health Bran", which is packaged on the third floor of the Bran House, begins on March 21.
- 1918:** Pancake flour production begins at the Bran House.
- 1918:** Warehouse No. 2 is constructed on Block 50.
- 1924:** East "A" Mill is equipped to make "Pure Bran".

- 1925:** Warehouse No. 3 is built at Main Street Southeast and Fifth Avenue Southeast.
- 1925:** Electrical service is provided to all facilities after a contract is signed with NSP.
- 1926:** Warehouse No. 4 is erected at Main Street Southeast and Sixth Avenue Southeast.
- 1927:** The name of the company is changed to Pillsbury Flour Mills, Inc.
- 1928:** The South "A" Mill begins cake flour production.
- 1929:** All cereal, bran, and pancake operations are transferred to the Springfield, Illinois plants.
- 1932:** The East "A" Mill is dismantled, and the "A" Durum unit from the Lincoln Mill in Anoka is installed in its place.
- 1937:** The West "A" Mill is dismantled, and a Rye milling unit is installed in place of the "B" Durum unit.
- 1939:** The wooden floor in the "A" Mill basement is removed and filled with concrete.
- 1941:** A concrete tank is installed in the Dairy Rations plant for molasses production.
- 1942:** A flake cereal plant is installed at the West "A" Mill, donut production is installed in the Bran House, and a Cinnamon Base plant is erected in the Rye Mill.
- 1943:** Equipment is installed in the "A" Mill for the production of dehydrated soup, cereal, and wheat base concentrates.
- 1944:** Equipment for pre-cooked cereal manufacturing is installed in the "A" Mill.
- 1944:** Company name is changed to Pillsbury Mills, Inc.

- 1944:** The "PILLSBURY'S BEST FLOUR" red neon sign is replaced on the Red Tile elevator.
- 1946:** A 5,000 lb. capacity freight elevator is installed in the "A" Mill.
- 1950:** Warehouse No. 210 is demolished.
- 1953:** The Rye and Durum units at the "A" Mill are removed.
- 1955:** The use of water power is discontinued.
- 1955:** The Bran House is remodeled to hold the mill offices.
- 1959:** The Blacksmith Shop and Warehouse No. 6 are demolished.
- 1961:** Flour operations are discontinued at Warehouse No. 3.
- 1966:** The Research Library and Main Entry Building are constructed.
- 1974:** The Hydroprocessing plant is constructed adjacent to the Red Tile elevator. The process was patented for the steeping of wheat and separation into starch, gluten and husk.
- 1976:** The mill offices are relocated to the second floor of the Products Control Building.
- 1978:** The Hydroprocessing plant is leased to the Manildra Milling Corporation of Australia.
- 1980:** The Research Pilot Plant, Lab, and Offices are built on Lot 35.
- 1980:** The Products Control Building is demolished.
- 1981:** Computer Building is erected on Block 49.
- 1984:** The Storage Building for perishable goods is built on Block 35.

*All data compiled and corrected by
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