

# St. Anthony Elevators Collection

## COLLECTION SUMMARY

**Collection number:** B531, Accession #2019.009.0001-2019.009.0003

**Collection repository:** Hennepin History Museum  
2303 Third Ave  
Minneapolis, MN 55404

**Collection title:** St. Anthony Elevators

**Dates:** 1938 - 1992

**Extent:** 1 box and 2 oversized folders; 4.8 linear feet

**Creator:** Dr. Robert Frame III, F. H. Peavey and Company, International Mineral and Chemical Company

**Language of material:** English

**Processed by:** Caitlin Silberman, 2019

## ADMINISTRATIVE HISTORY

The St. Anthony Elevator Company was a grain storage and processing facility in the Midway Elevator District of Minneapolis. The company was incorporated in 1886 by Frank H. Peavey, William Hood Dunwoody, John Crosby, Charles J. Martin, and Theodore B. Casey. It primarily served the Washburn Mill Company, which later became Washburn-Crosby Company and then General Mills, Inc. The facility comprised three terminal elevators: two wood-cribbed elevators, built in 1888 and 1892, and an elevator constructed of hollowed burned clay tiles, built in 1901. The clay tile elevator, St. Anthony Elevator Number 3, exemplified a form of fireproof elevator construction developed and popularized in Minneapolis. The tile system was patented by Ernest V. Johnson and James L. Record of Barnet-Record Company in 1895.

The St. Anthony Elevator Company dissolved in 1925. After the company's dissolution, one of its former owners, Frank H. Peavey, formed his own company, which continued to use the three elevators for grain storage. F. H. Peavey & Company later became the Peavey Division of Van Dusen Harrington Company. Over the next fifty years, changes in processing and transportation made these elevators less useful. The company began using Elevator Number 3 as a storage facility for potash, a potassium compound used in agriculture. By 1976, Elevators 1 and 2 had deteriorated such that they failed to meet government requirements for worker health and safety and pollution control. Elevator Number 3 was still operational but had deteriorated on account of the acidic reaction of the potash. In 1977, Van Dusen Harrington Company sold the elevators to International Minerals and Chemical Corporation (IMCC), which razed Elevator Number 2 and

continued using Elevator Number 3 for potash storage. In 1982, IMCC also raised Elevator 1 following damage caused by a tornado.

In 1991, Carl Bolander and Sons purchased St. Anthony Elevator Number 3. They made plans to demolish the elevator. Upon pressure from the Minneapolis Heritage Preservation Commission, they agreed that the building could first be documented for the Historic American Engineering Record, part of the Historical American Buildings Survey. This project was conducted in early 1992 by historian Dr. Robert M. Frame III, who contracted with the historical consulting firm Hess, Roise and Company. The elevator was then razed. Clay tile elevators still standing in 2019 include the Washburn Crosby elevator in Buffalo, New York and the Pillsbury “A” Mill in Minneapolis, which is made of tile but does not follow the original Johnson-Record patent.

## **SCOPE AND CONTENT**

The St. Anthony Elevators collection houses insurance and real estate appraisals, technical drawings, and building photographs created for F. H. Peavey and Company and International Mineral and Chemicals Corporation between 1938 and 1982, along with materials related to the documentation of St. Anthony Elevator Number 3 for the Historical American Buildings Survey in 1992. Together these materials follow the use, deterioration, and demolition of structures once central to the early Minneapolis flour milling industry.

The collection is arranged into 3 series with no subseries. The series include:

- Series 1: Historic American Engineering Record documentation
- Series 2: F. H. Peavey and Company records
- Series 3: International Mineral and Chemical Corporation records

The “Historic American Engineering Record documentation” series dates from 1991 to 1992. Its single folder contains a photocopy of the history prepared by Dr. Robert Frame III and Jeffrey A. Hess for the Historic American Buildings Survey in 1992, along with correspondence related to this project. This first series provides a historical background for the St. Anthony Elevator Company, focusing especially on the significance of St. Anthony Elevator Number 3.

The “F. H. Peavey and Company records” series dates from 1938 to 1976, with the bulk of the material dating from 1949 to 1961. This series includes appraisals and technical drawings of the St. Anthony Elevators building and equipment. The technical drawings were created by the Fire Underwriters Inspection Bureau, Industrial Electric Company, Westinghouse Electric Corporation, Hudson Viking Sprinkler Company, Van Dusen Harrington Company, and George F. Cook Construction Company. The technical drawings are housed in two oversized folders. Oversized 2 is stored separately, at M13.B.1-30. A 1976 real estate appraisal by Newcombe & Hansen Appraisals, Inc., offers an overview of how the facility was used in the 1970s, as well as the challenges that preceded its sale to International Mineral and Chemical Corporation.

The “International Mineral and Chemical Corporation records” series dates from 1977 to 1991. It contains insurance appraisals and structural reports on Elevator Number 3. The final structural report, conducted by S. P. Asrow Associates, Ltd., in 1991, recommends the demolition of Elevator Number 3. The series also contains extensive photographs of the interior of Elevator

Number 3 along with the razing of Elevator 1 after damage by a storm. At the time of archival processing, these photographs followed no observable order, so they have been organized based on theme and follow the order of their negatives when possible.

## **ACCESS**

The collection is open for researchers. Please note that folder B531.1 contains financial material (accession #2019.009.0004), which may be restricted.

## **COPYRIGHT**

The researcher assumes the responsibility for ensuring copyright is followed. When and where possible the archive will provide information related to the copyright owners, but it will be the responsibility of the researcher to ensure copyright laws are followed. Requests for permission to publish material in this collection should be directed to the Archivist.

## **RELATED MATERIALS**

Hennepin History Museum:

- B563 F. H. Peavey & Company publications
- B103 Industries, Milling contains Robert M. Frame III, "Millers to the World: Minnesota's Nineteenth Century Water Power Flour Mills," 1977
- B562 Prospect Park neighborhood collection: Box 1 contains other historical preservation research by Hess, Roise, and Company
- Various materials and collections related to flour milling as well as to the home and family of F. H. Peavey

Minnesota Historical Society:

- Peavey Company records
- Historic American Buildings Survey records: Box 6 contains project files for Saint Anthony Elevator No. 3 (HAER MN-57), 1992

Northwest Architectural Archive, University of Minnesota:

- N30 John Wunder collection: contains architectural drawings of repairs, waterproofing to St. Anthony elevator, 1915
- N115 Minneapolis Plan Vault Collection: Box 18 contains plan sets for St. Anthony Elevator (Peavy Elevator Company/ Archer Daniels Midland), 1910-1993
- N75 Peavey Elevators collection: contains original drawings St. Anthony Elevator

Library of Congress:

- Historic American Engineering Record HAER MN-57, photos digitized at <https://www.loc.gov/item/mn0557/>

## ACQUISITION

No acquisition information has been found relating to this collection. The materials regarding the Historic American Engineering Record appear to have at one time belonged to Robert Frame or to Jeffrey A. Hess or Charlene Roise of Hess, Roise, and Company, but all three have been contacted and none has a record of donating the items.

## COLLECTION INVENTORY

### Series 1: Historic American Engineering Record documentation

#### Folder

1 Historic American Engineering Record documentation, 1991-1992

### Series 2: F. H. Peavey and Company records, 1938-1976

#### Folder

2 Appraisal – Appraisal Service Company – building construction, 1961  
 3 Appraisal – Appraisal Service Company – equipment, 1961  
 4 Appraisal – Appraisal Service Company – notes, 1960s-1980s  
 5 Appraisal – Newcombe & Hansen Appraisals, Inc., 1976  
 6 Instruction manuals, circa 1950s  
 Oversized 1 Fire Underwriters Inspection Bureau diagrams, 1938, 1960  
 Oversized 2 Technical drawings, 1949-1960

### Series 3: International Minerals and Chemical Corporation records, 1977-1991

#### Folder

7 Appraisal – Patchin Appraisals, Inc., 1977  
 8 Correspondence – Siebert Engineers, Inc., 1977  
 9 Structural Survey of Potash Storage Facility – Tillitt & Associates, Inc., 1980  
 10 Structural Survey of Potash Storage Facility (photocopy) – Tillitt & Associates, Inc., 1980  
 11 Calculations – Tillitt & Associates, Inc., 1980  
 12 Report on Analysis of Wall Collapse Work House Number 3 – Tillitt & Associates, Inc., 1984  
 13 Review of Potash Storage Facility – Tillitt & Associates, Inc., 1990  
 14 Investigation and Report Potash Storage Facility – S. P. Asrow Associates, Ltd., 1991  
 15 Tillitt & Associates workhouse photographs – basement, circa 1980  
 16 Tillitt & Associates workhouse photographs – first floor, circa 1980  
 17 Tillitt & Associates workhouse photographs – second floor, circa 1980  
 18 Tillitt & Associates workhouse photographs – third floor, circa 1980  
 19 Tillitt & Associates workhouse photographs – fourth floor, circa 1980  
 20 Tillitt & Associates workhouse photographs – fifth floor, circa 1980  
 21 Tillitt & Associates workhouse photographs – trusses, circa 1980  
 22 Tillitt & Associates workhouse photographs – tunnels, circa 1980  
 23 Tillitt & Associates workhouse photographs – bins, circa 1980  
 24 Tillitt & Associates workhouse photographs – conveyer, circa 1980

- 25 Demolition photographs –Polaroids, 1982
- 26 Demolition photographs and negatives – Roll 1, circa 1982
- 27 Demolition photographs and negatives – Rolls 2-3 (incomplete), circa 1982
- 28 Demolition photographs and negatives – Rolls 4-6 (incomplete), circa 1982
- 29 Demolition photographs – uncategorized, circa 1982



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