

PILLSBURY “A” MILL HIGHLIGHTS



*Pillsbury “A” Mill complex.
Minneapolis, MN.*

MINNEAPOLIS, Minnesota -- The cessation of milling at the Pillsbury “A” Mill complex brought an end to the 182-year history of Minneapolis riverfront milling. This National Historic Landmark was the last of the continually functioning giant flour mills that transformed Minneapolis into the milling capital of the country between 1880 and 1930. Being the largest, most advanced mill in the world at the time of its completion in 1881, the "A" Mill was the standard by which all other mills were measured. For this reason, it is one of the state’s most significant historical and cultural resources.

A local development partnership bought the complex in 2003 and proposed a \$300 million project that would reuse six existing historic buildings, add six new mixed-use buildings six to twenty-seven stories in height, and excavate portions of the site for underground parking.

Midwest Office staff and our partners at the **Minnesota Historical Society (MHS)** provided extensive comment and public testimony before the City on omissions in the preliminary Environmental Assessment Worksheet (EAW) concerning the potential negative impact on the “A” Mill’s cultural resources. After an initial setback at the Planning Commission hearing, the City Council voted to require a full Environment Impact Statement (EIS) to investigate and document the historic and architectural features of the site, identify all potential negative impacts and devise mitigation strategies. As the EIS document is drafted, the Midwest Office continues to serve as a consulting party along with the **MHS** and the local **Heritage Preservation Commission**.