

# The Minden Flour Mill: 1906-1950



Stephen Drew  
photo

Presented at the 2014 Virginia and Truckee Railroad History Conference

By Curtis Reid

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# Location:

Minden; the farthest point south on the V&T

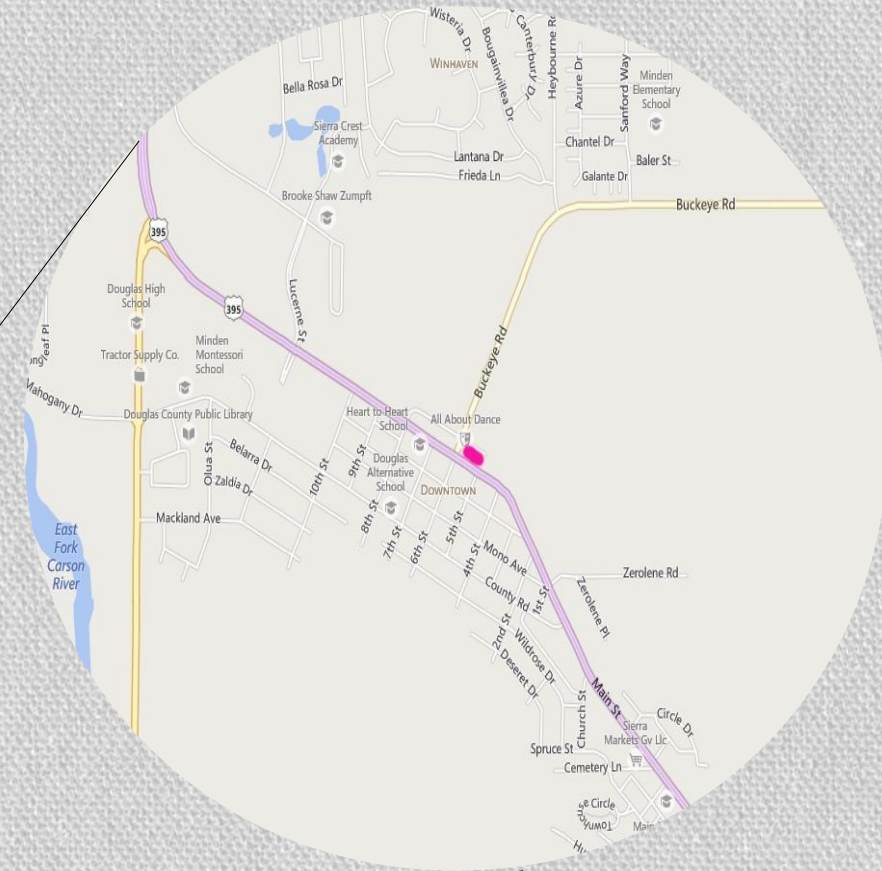
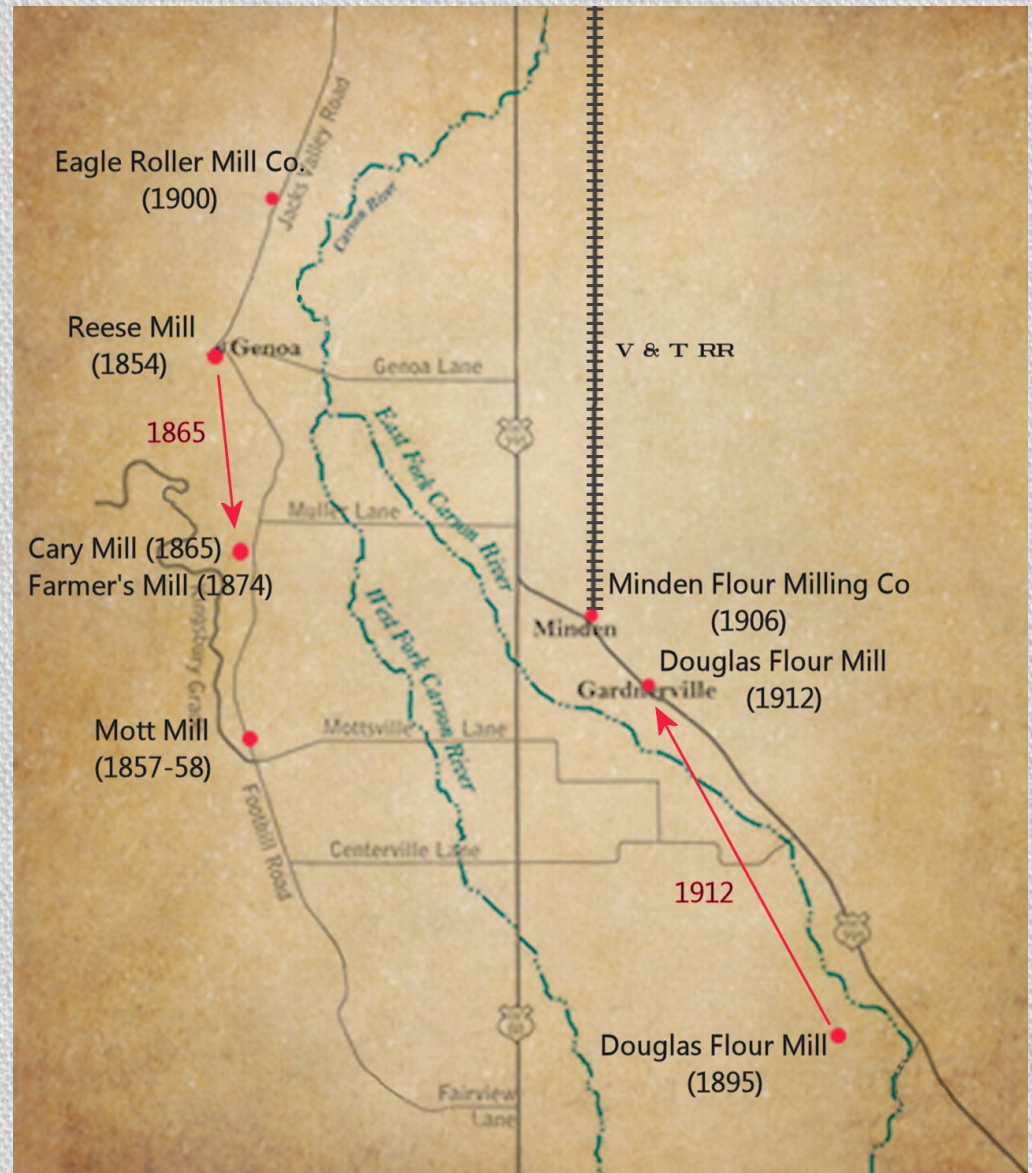


Image provided by Bing maps



# Flour Mills in the Carson Valley

- 5 mills total
- First mill built in 1854
- Last mill built in 1907





# Flour Mills in the Carson Valley

- Number 1 (Reese Mill):
  - Started operation 1854
  - Built by Thomas J. Knott for Colonel John Reese
  - On Mill St in Genoa
  - 1865; moved to the foot of Kingsbury Grade; becomes the 'Cary Mill'
  - 1874; becomes the Farmer's Mill; still in operation in the early 1900s.



Grace  
Dangberg



# Flour Mills in the Carson Valley

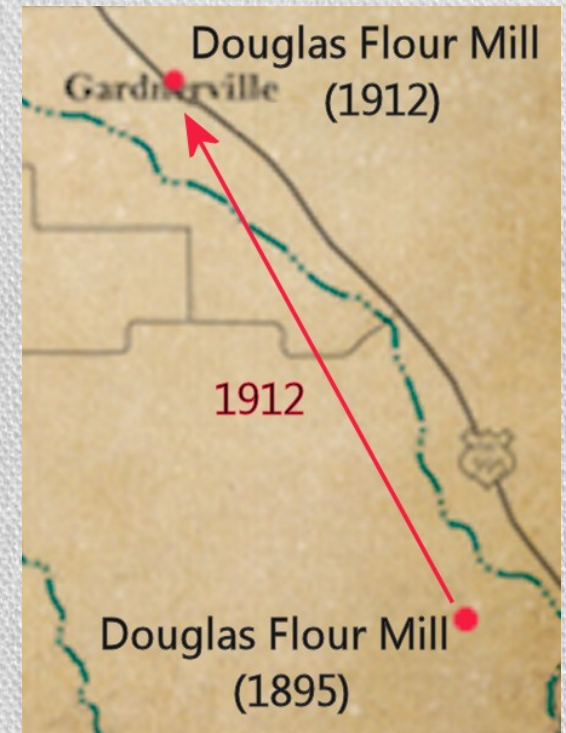
- The second flour mill in the valley:
  - Started operation 1857 or 1858
  - Built by Sam Silliman for Hiram Mott
  - On Mill Creek just north of Mottsville





# Flour Mills in the Carson Valley

- Number 3 (Douglas Flour Mill):
  - Built on Long Valley Creek in 1895
  - Machinery delivered by the V&T to Carson,
    - then carried by wagon
  - Capacity: 50 barrels per day
  - 1912; machinery moved to Gardnerville
    - and a new building was built



Grace Dangberg



# Flour Mills in the Carson Valley

- Number 4 (Eagle Roller Mill Company):
  - Started operation 1900
  - North of Genoa on Adams Creek





# Flour Mills in the Carson Valley

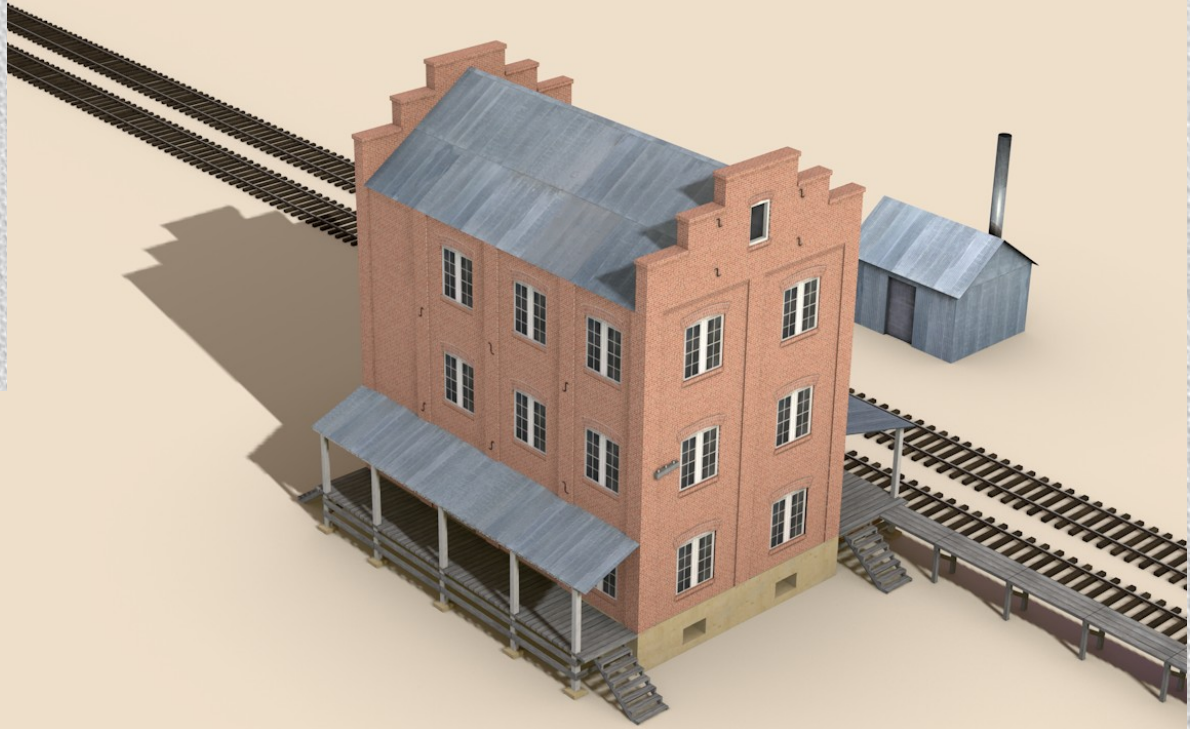
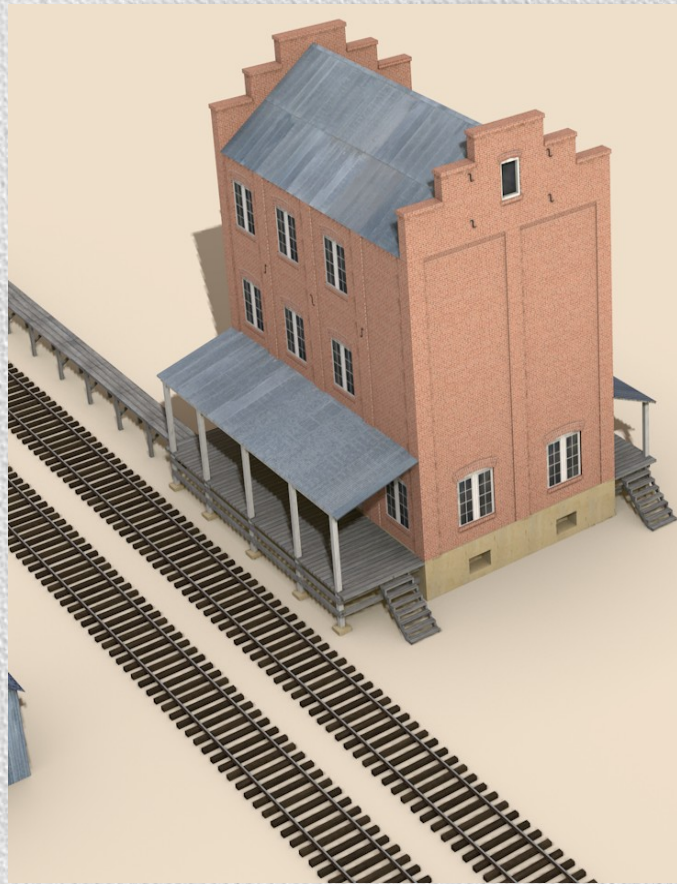
- Number 5 (Minden Flour Milling Company):
  - Construction started March 1906
  - Started operation October 1907; after a 6 month wait for electricity
  - Silos held 65,000 bushels of grain
  - Capacity listed as 100 barrels / day
  - 1942 – converted to a feed mill; 'Minden Milling Company'
  - Closed in the late 1960's
  - The only mill served by the V & T (or any railroad)
  - The only mill still standing



# Minden Flour Mill Physical History



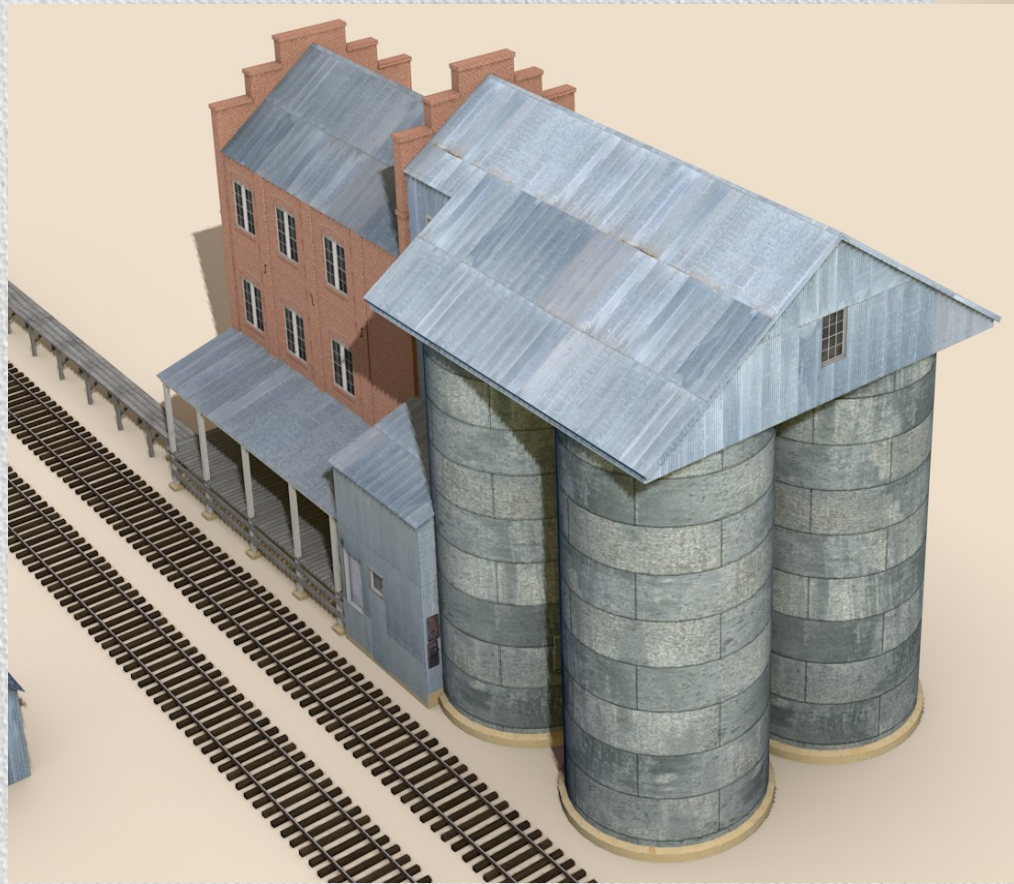
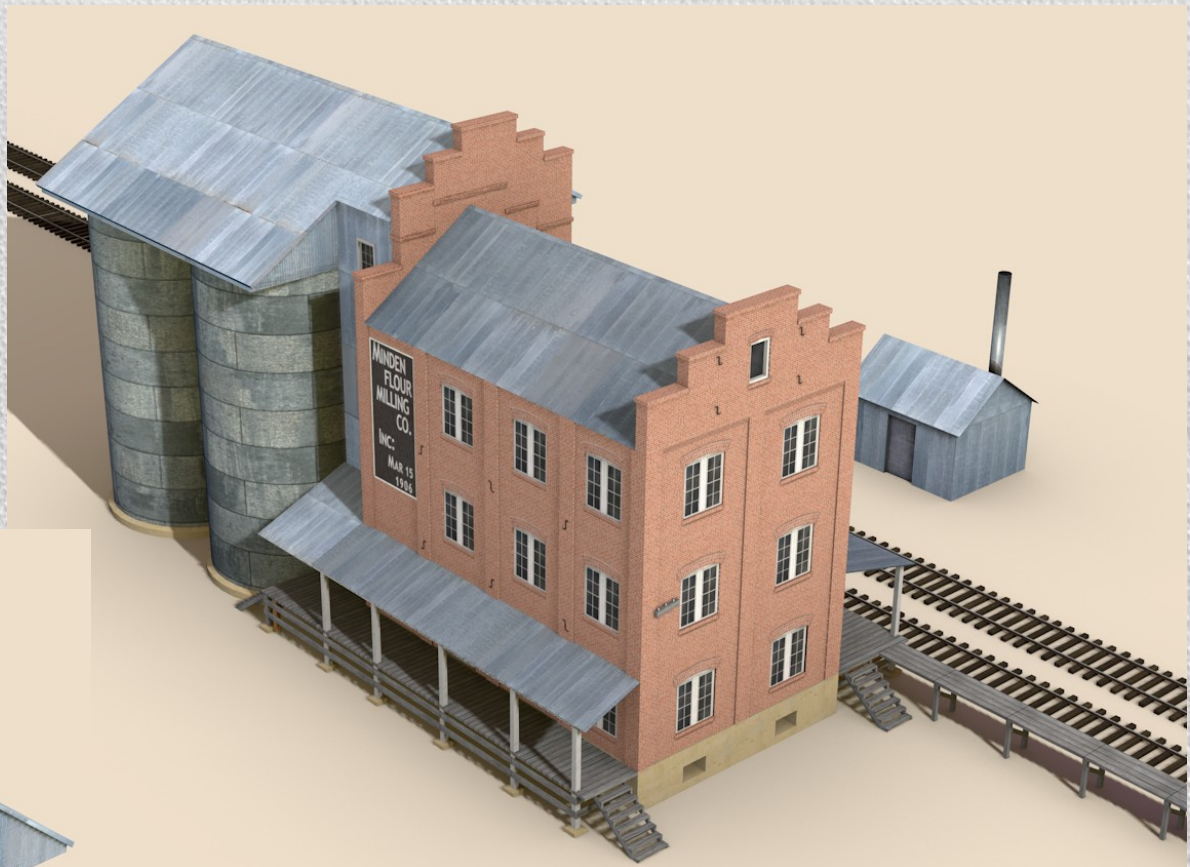
April 1907



The initial building is  
completed.  
Build on concrete  
foundation.



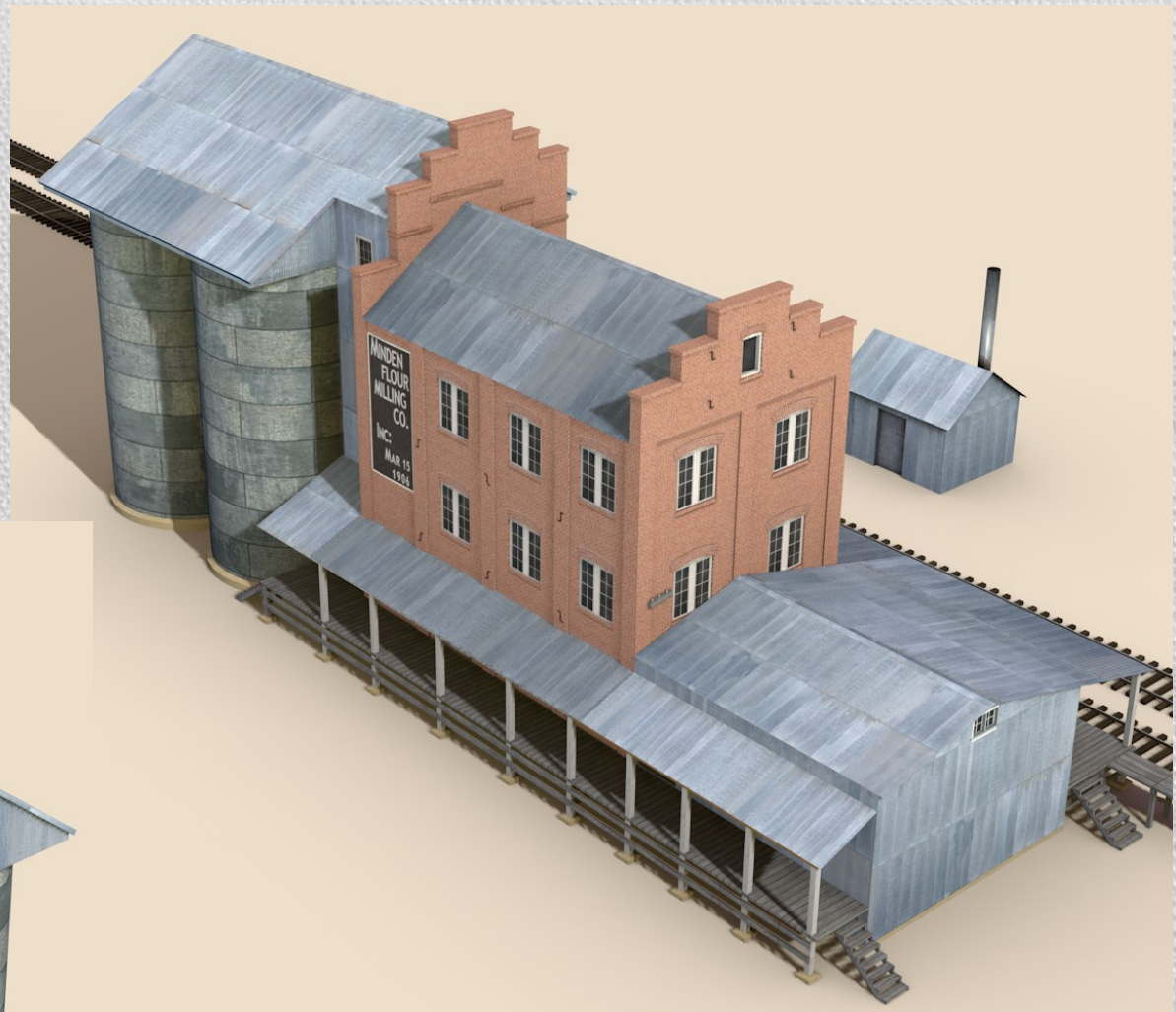
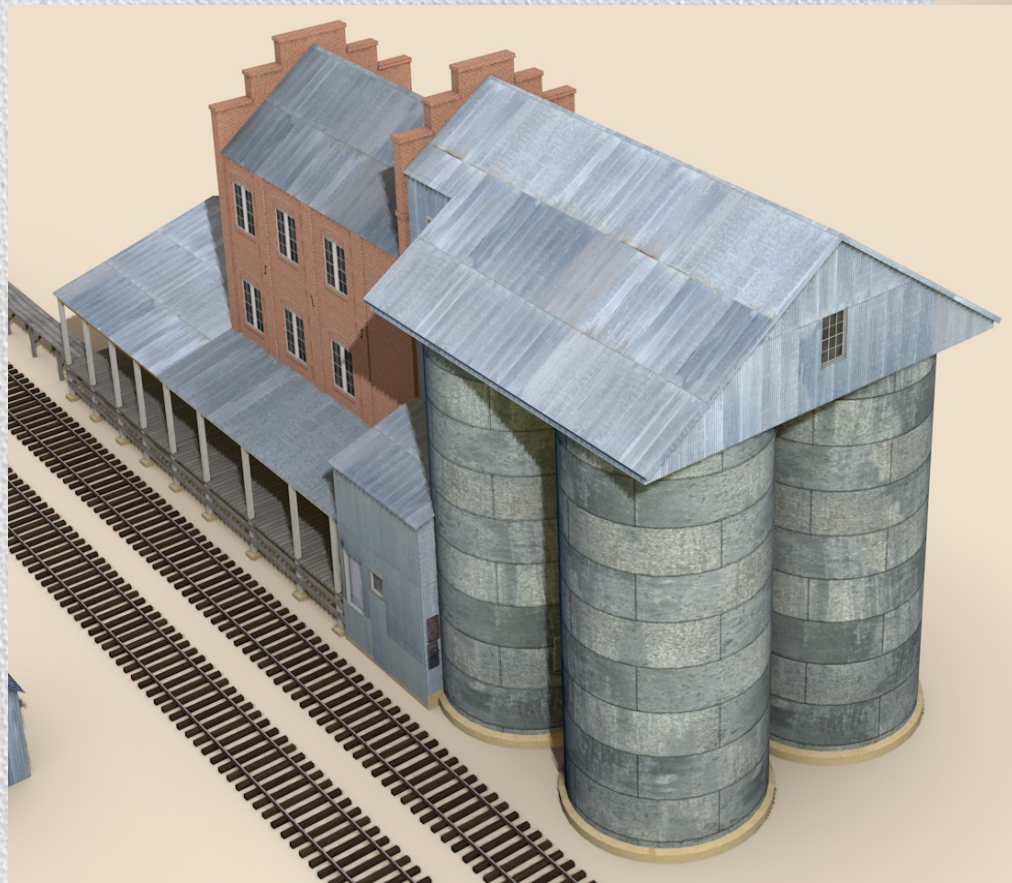
September 1908



Silos added (23' diameter; 45' tall) – and offset north from the building.  
Grain heater also? (shows on 1912 Sanborn)



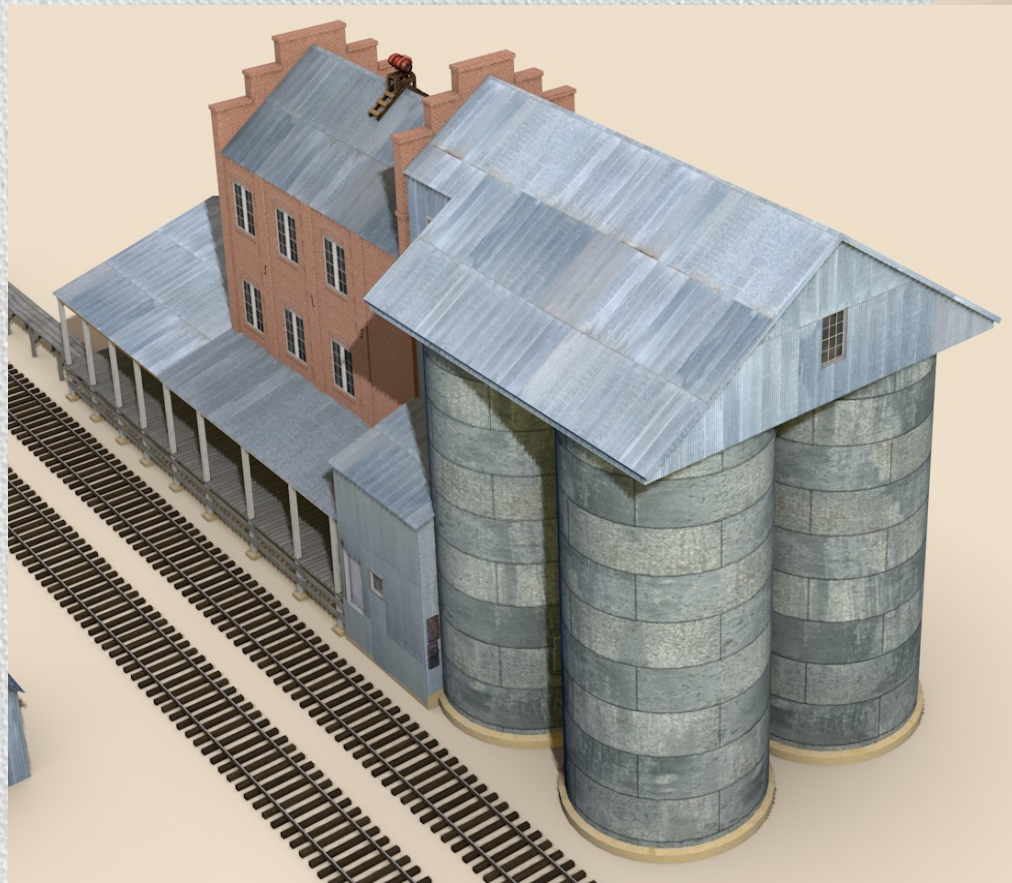
November 1908



Warehouse added



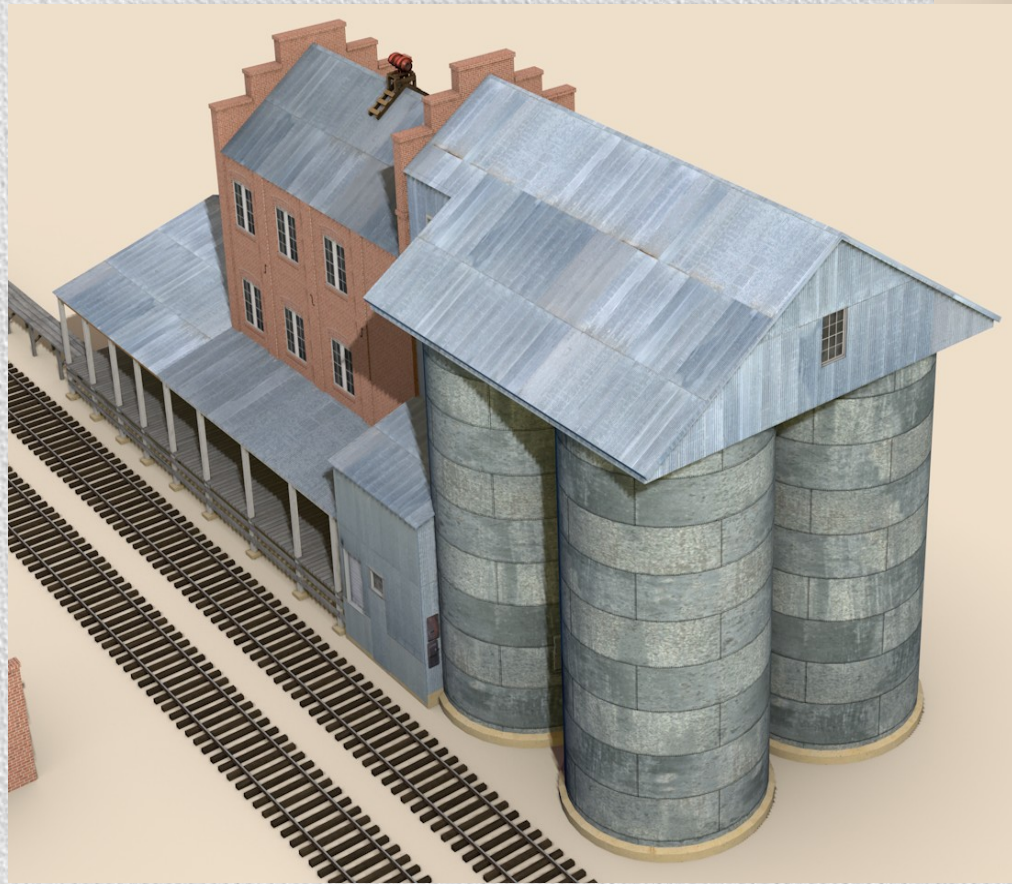
1921+



Fire siren added



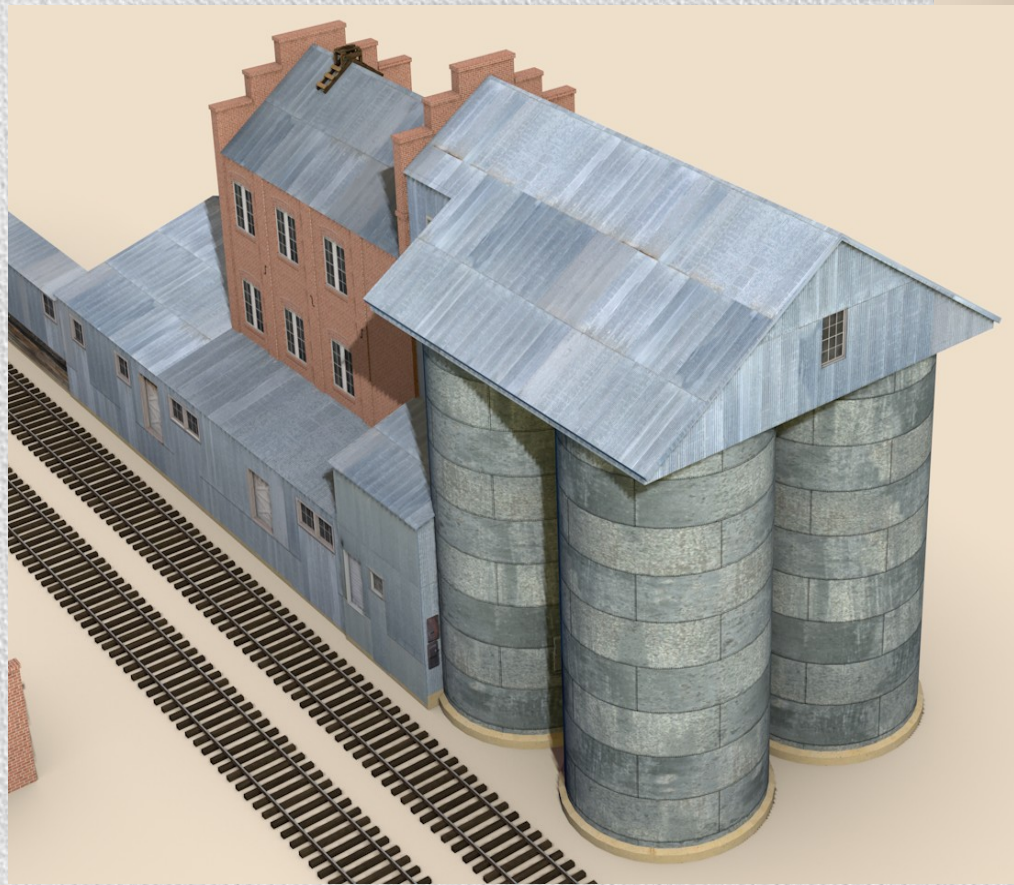
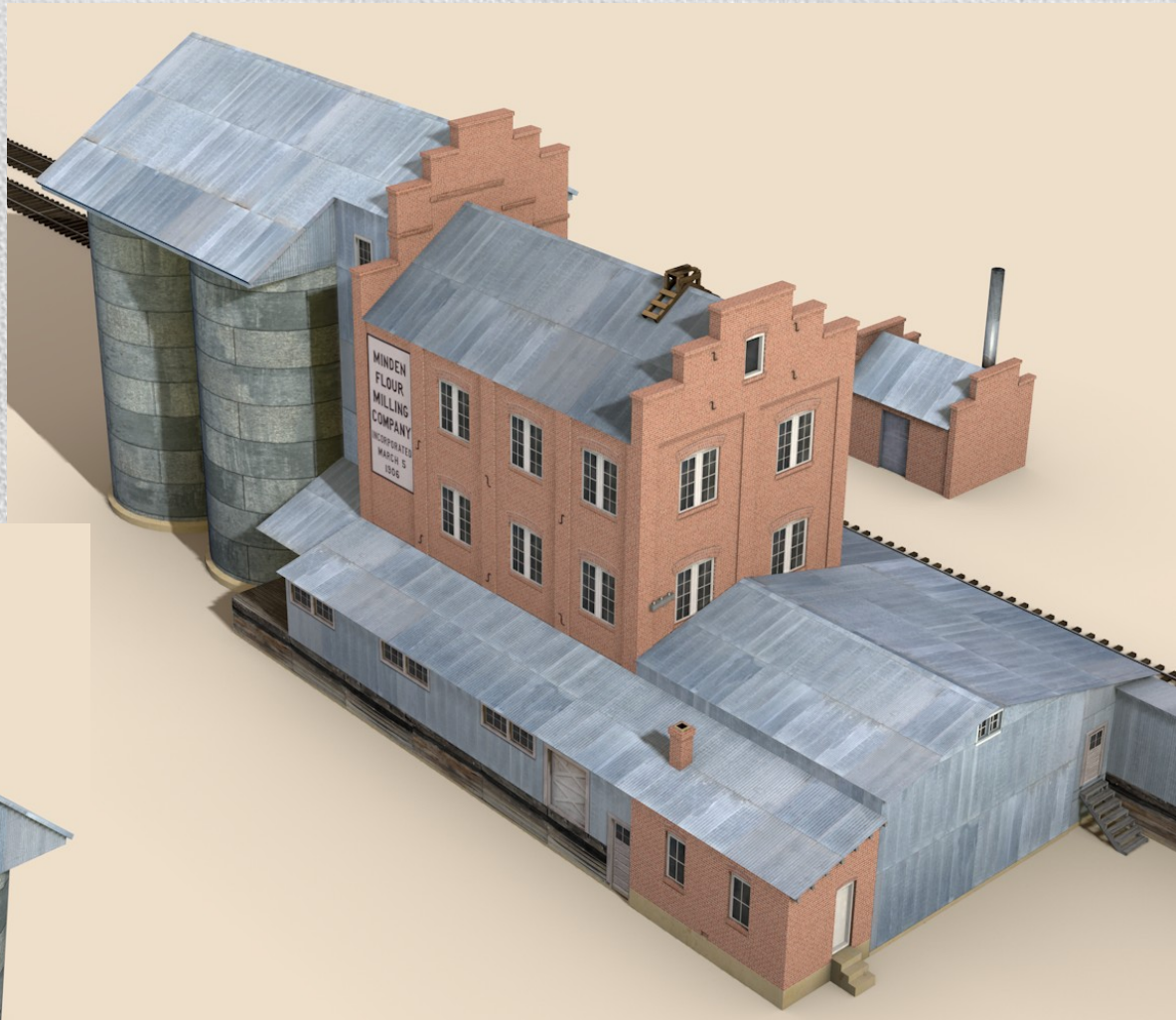
September 1924



Brick office added; south platform extended.  
Grain heater is brick by now  
– fire?



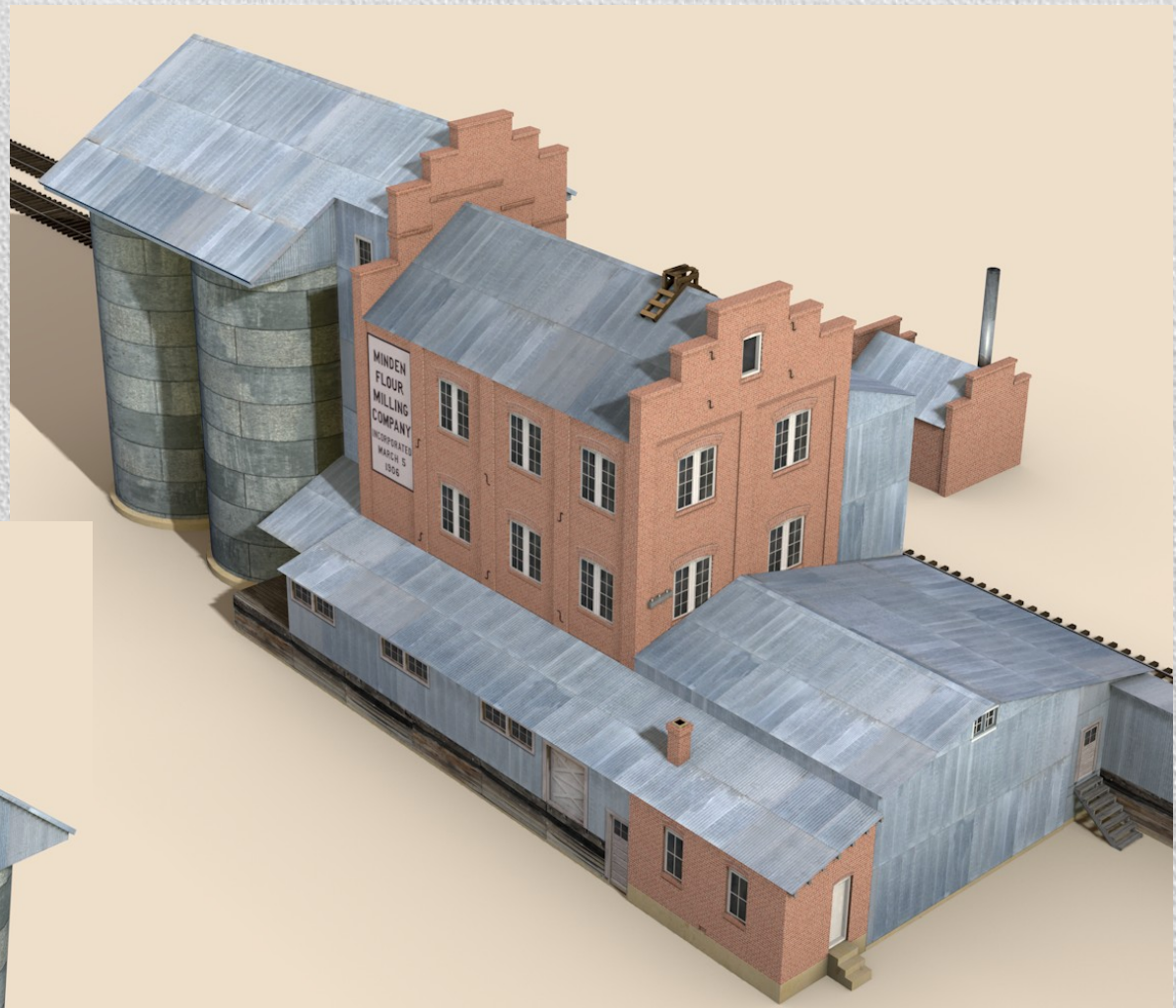
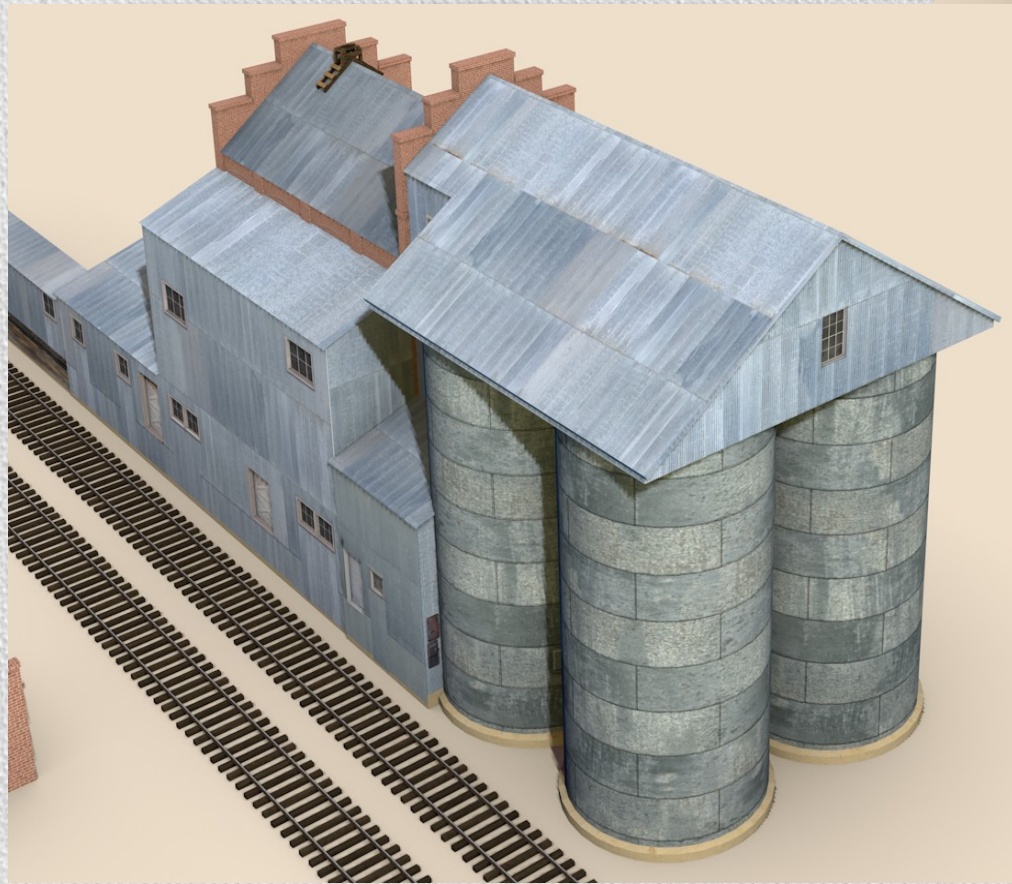
# Unknown



Platforms enclosed



1942



Converted to feed mill;  
Large enclosure built on the  
north side to enclose new  
molasses tanks.



# Historical Images





Historical Carson Valley

Before the silos were added. Shows the north side of the building; 3 rows of windows.



1900



Before the silos were added. Note elevated walkway to mercantile building.



1921-1924?



Carson

Valley Historic Photo Album

Shows fire siren in original location on the roof.  
Before the office addition in 1924.



1940



inden, Nevada: The  
Story of a Unique Town

Extreme blow-up from an aerial photo – large  
enclosure not installed on north side yet.



?



Historical Carson Valley

After the docks were enclosed, but before the large enclosure on the north side. Fire siren is gone, and the support moved east.



1950



M.H. Ferrell

On the last day of V&T Operation – photo may show the large enclosure on the north side





Evidence of 1<sup>st</sup> story west window





But no windows on the 2<sup>nd</sup> and 3<sup>rd</sup> stories – same as side walls on that end.





Only three rows of windows on the north side  
– matches exposed south side.





Jack Freer

Good view of offset silos



# References

## Print:

- Crow, C.C. “The Minden Flour Mill”. Mainline Modeler October 1988.
- Dangberg, Grace. *Carson Valley: Historical Sketches of Nevada's First Settlement*. Reno: The Carson Valley Historical Society, 1972.
- Ferrell, Mallory Hope. *Virginia & Truckee: The Bonanza Road*. Hong Kong: Hundman Publishing, 1999.
- Maule, Wynne M. *Minden, Nevada: The Story of a Unique Town 1906-1992*. The Carson Valley Historical Society, 1993.
- The Record-Courier. *Carson Valley: Historic Photo Album: The Early Years ~ 1860 – 1940*. Pediment Publishing, 2000.

## Web:

- Bently Heritage (Current owners of the mill). Location: <http://bentlyheritage.com/index.php>
- Historical Carson Valley Flickr photostream:  
<https://www.flickr.com/photos/carsonvalleynevada/sets/72157632885918979>
- Jack Freer (Overland Photography): <http://www.overlandphotography.us/>
- National Register of Historic Places Inventory – Nomination Form. United States Department of the Interior; National Park Service. 1978. Location: text: <http://pdfhost.focus.nps.gov/docs/NRHP/Text/78001721.pdf> photos: <http://pdfhost.focus.nps.gov/docs/NRHP/Photos/78001721.pdf>
- University of Nevada, Reno Maps Online:  
<http://contentdm.library.unr.edu/explore/NVMapsExplore/nvmaps/nvmaps-home.html>