

Grain elevators



The Midway elevator (later Bunge) was among the early structures, at 12th Ave. SE and the Great Northern tracks. It was a wood structure that was expanded several times, most significantly in 1936-1937, when the tower and new row of elevators were built of reinforced concrete. The Bunge Midway elevator continued in operation until 2003.

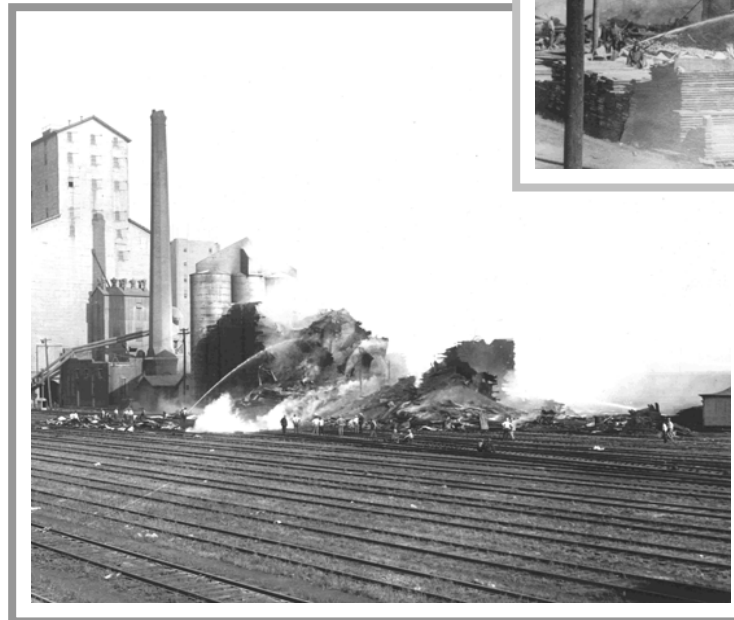
*Upper left photo of Bunge Elevator:
1938, Bunge Corporation*

*Lower right photo of the Devereux
Elevator Co. blast on 25th Ave. SE:
Minneapolis Star-Journal, 1930,
Minnesota Historical Society*

Railroads existed in Como before residential development began: the first division of the St. Paul and Pacific Railroad (later Great Northern) ran along its southern edge from 1868 and the Northern Pacific Railway cut through on a NW to SE diagonal in the 1870s. Minneapolis's years of intensive lumber business was gradually giving way to grain milling, and the elevators that stored and ground the wheat already proliferated along the railroads.

Other landmark elevators forming the vistas on the edges of the Como neighborhood did not last that long after the "peak year" (1920) for Minneapolis grain milling. Several of them burned down: the gigantic Pillsbury elevators along the Great Northern tracks just west of Como, at 9th Ave. and 9th St. SE, were consumed in a 1938 conflagration.

The Albert Dickinson elevator and the Devereux elevator fires (both pictured here) were huge and devastating fires that were felt throughout Como. Many elevators that sat to the south of the neighborhood, toward University Ave. SE, were demolished in the past 20 years, and most of the remaining elevators are on borrowed time.



*Middle right photo of the Albert
Dickinson's Seed House fire at
2500 Elm St. SE: 1924, Minnesota
Historical Society*