



## Precast Wall Panels Part of Blast Resistant Facilities: Grain Processing Corporation



When [Grain Processing Corporation](#) in Muscatine, Iowa needed to replace its distillery control room from the 1960s, one of the requirements was that the room needed to meet blast wall requirements.

Grain Processing Corporation manufactures, distributes, and markets multiple products, mainly derived from corn.

According to Ken Gilkerson, Project Engineer with Grain Processing Corporation, the only two options for meeting the blast wall requirements were precast concrete or CMU.

"When you are doing a control room and you don't have a lot of penetrations through the walls, it's a no-brainer to do precast walls," Gilkerson said. "You get them on a truck, they set them in a week, and they are done."

Mid-States Concrete provided 23 [Walls Panels](#) for the control room project, or roughly 5,755 square feet.

The control room is where the people running the distillery process sit and control it. It's a two-story building with motor control electricity on the second floor.

"The main thing is, with the blast ratings we have now, the operators can be close to the process in a safe way," Gilkerson said. "In the past, they had to be farther away because there was no blast rating. It is also larger, so all the operators are in one room so they communicate easier."

When considering CMU versus precast, Gilkerson found significant savings as he estimates CMU would have taken a team of five roughly two months to complete, with a crane on site every day. Using precast concrete helped Gilkerson take the walls out of the critical path of the schedule.

"You don't have to deal with mortar mixers and masons all over your project for a month when you can be done in a week," he said. "We always start with precast panels first when we are designing a project and if we can't make precast work, in terms of schedule, then we go to CMU."

[Find all the latest Precast News on our Blog >>](#)

---

## **Precast Chalk Talk: Episode 35-1**



In the first half of this two-part Chalk Talk, President Hagen Harker talks with two of our four summer interns about their studies and what they are working on and learning at Mid-States.

[Watch now >>](#)

[Find every episode of Precast Chalk Talk here >>](#)

---

**Precast Chalk Talk: Episode 35-2**



In the second half of this two-part Chalk Talk, President Hagen Harker talks with two of our four summer interns about their studies and what they are working on and learning at Mid-States.

[Watch now >>](#)

[Find every episode of Precast Chalk Talk here >>](#)

---

**Precast Wall Panels Help With Interesting Design**





When [Winter Construction](#) began working on an expansion at [HALO Branded Solutions](#) in Sterling, Illinois, they were hoping to do something interesting with the exterior design.

"The precast kind of gave us an opportunity to paint what we wanted to - a unique, branded color pattern," said Scott Winter, Vice President Design/Build Services for Winter Construction. "The way it looked was pretty important to (the customer) and concrete wall panels can help achieve that. We did some kind of overlay panels, veneer type panels to create some geometries like the top white (area) that kind of sticks out."

Precast [Wall Panels](#) were selected for the \$26 million, 175,000-square-foot Halo Phase II Expansion project because it was a pretty high volume warehouse. Panels were 45+ feet tall. The customer wanted tall, clear height, and they wanted it to go up fast.

"Speed of construction on the ground was pretty important," Winter said. "There's always a lead time in getting wall panels produced, but they go up on the site extremely quickly and when you're trying to coordinate lots of other trades, getting the shell up quickly is pretty impactful on the overall schedule."

Due to the design standards of the Sterling business park where HALO is located, Winter's choice was between precast wall panels and insulated metal panels with a smooth finish. Using precast did offer some cost savings in terms of on site supervision and delivery.

"If you can have the shell of a building in a matter of weeks, and the quality control is fairly consistent so there's not a lot of time reworking things or things coming out

damaged, it's easier to plan for," Winter said.

Mid-States Concrete provided 185 Wall Panels for the [project](#), totaling roughly 92,000-square-feet. Winter Construction is often involved in design/build projects, so they try to bring the precaster in early to help with preconstruction detailing. Winter values his partnership with Mid-States, as it allows the whole team to work toward the completion deadline together.

"What's really critical for us, especially in current times where resources are scarce and lead times are issues with different product types, precast is still something that's fairly easy to get and it really condenses onsite schedule, which owners want," Winter said. "Start to finish in faster times than ever so they can get their products to market. We can do our job planning ahead with precast because of the speed of construction."

[Find all the latest Precast News on our Blog >>](#)

---

## About Mid-States Concrete Industries

Since 1946, we have produced structural and architectural precast concrete systems that provide our partners with high quality building materials with sustaining performance.

The biggest part of our story is you - our clients. For more than 75 years, you have trusted us to help with your projects. Each project offers its own unique goals and opportunities. We partner with you to find the right solutions for your project.

Over the years, Mid-States has helped ensure your projects come in on-time, on-budget and on-target through project assessment and planning, project strategy, single source installation, and completion confirmation. With dedicated sales, estimated, project management, engineering, design, production and construction teams, Mid-States will continue to meet your precast needs.

[Learn more >>](#)



**Jeremy Olivotti**  
Vice President of  
Preconstruction

608.751.1474 (c)  
800.236.1072 (w)  
815.389.2339 (f)



**MID-STATES**  
CONCRETE INDUSTRIES

[Blog](#) [YouTube](#) [Twitter](#) [LinkedIn](#) [Facebook](#)

500 South Park Ave., South Beloit, IL 61080, United States