Brothers Charles and Albert Griggs built the Rochester Elevator in 1880 along the Detroit and Bay City Railroad (later known as the Michigan Central Railroad) at its current location at the corner of University Drive and Water Street. Construction of the grain elevator was big news in Rochester. A November 8, 1880, report in the Rochester Era predicted the elevator would make Rochester “one of the most important business points in this portion of the State.”

Until 1970 Rochester area farmers brought their grain to the elevator for shipping to various markets across the country.

In the early years of operation as a farm elevator many products were purchased from the farming community. The products purchased included such produce as wheat, corn, oats, buckwheat, barley, and other grains along with hay and straw.

Today, the elevator operates primarily as a supply store selling wholesale farm supplies, animal feed, hay, straw, lawn and garden supplies, mulch and other specialty items.