

PH 0036773

Form 10-300  
(July 1969)

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR  
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES  
INVENTORY - NOMINATION FORM

(Type all entries - complete applicable sections)

STATE: <b>California</b>	
COUNTY: <b>Fresno</b>	
FOR NPS USE ONLY	
ENTRY NUMBER <b>71,10,06.0068</b>	DATE <b>10/14/71</b>

1. NAME

COMMON:  
**Old Fresno Water Tower**

AND/OR HISTORIC:

2. LOCATION

STREET AND NUMBER:  
**2444 Fresno Street**

CITY OR TOWN:  
**Fresno**

STATE <b>California</b>	CODE <b>06</b>	COUNTY: <b>Fresno</b>	CODE <b>019</b>
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3. CLASSIFICATION

CATEGORY (Check One)	OWNERSHIP	STATUS	ACCESSIBLE TO THE PUBLIC
<input type="checkbox"/> District <input type="checkbox"/> Site <input type="checkbox"/> Building <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Structure <input type="checkbox"/> Object	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Public <input type="checkbox"/> Private <input type="checkbox"/> Both	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Occupied <input type="checkbox"/> Unoccupied <input type="checkbox"/> Preservation work in progress	Yes: <input type="checkbox"/> Restricted <input type="checkbox"/> Unrestricted <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> No
PRESENT USE (Check One or More as Appropriate)			
<input type="checkbox"/> Agricultural <input type="checkbox"/> Commercial <input type="checkbox"/> Educational <input type="checkbox"/> Entertainment	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Government <input type="checkbox"/> Industrial <input type="checkbox"/> Military <input type="checkbox"/> Museum	<input type="checkbox"/> Park <input type="checkbox"/> Private Residence <input type="checkbox"/> Religious <input type="checkbox"/> Scientific	<input type="checkbox"/> Transportation <input type="checkbox"/> Other (Specify) _____ _____

4. OWNER OF PROPERTY

OWNER'S NAME:  
**City of Fresno**

STREET AND NUMBER:  
**City Hall**

CITY OR TOWN: <b>Fresno</b>	STATE: <b>California</b>	CODE <b>06</b>
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5. LOCATION OF LEGAL DESCRIPTION

COURTHOUSE, REGISTRY OF DEEDS, ETC.:  
**County of Fresno--Recorder Division**

STREET AND NUMBER:  
**Room 302, Hall of Records**

CITY OR TOWN: <b>Fresno</b>	STATE: <b>California</b>	CODE <b>06</b>
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6. REPRESENTATION IN EXISTING SURVEYS

TITLE OF SURVEY:  
**None**

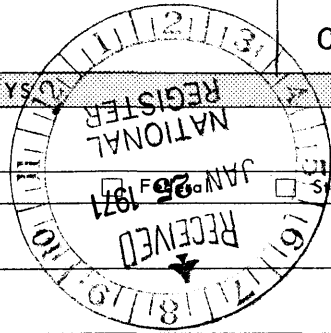
DATE OF SURVEY:

DEPOSITORY FOR SURVEY RECORDS:

STREET AND NUMBER:

CITY OR TOWN:	STATE:	CODE:
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SEE INSTRUCTIONS



STATE: **California**

COUNTY: **Fresno**

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DATE: **10/14/71**

**7. DESCRIPTION**

CONDITION

(Check One)

Excellent     Good     Fair     Deteriorated     Ruins     Unexposed

(Check One)

Altered     Unaltered

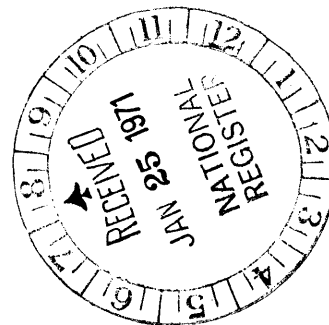
(Check One)

Moved     Original Site

DESCRIBE THE PRESENT AND ORIGINAL (if known) PHYSICAL APPEARANCE

The original water tower still stands in Fresno, having been kept and maintained in an excellent condition. The tower, approximately 100 feet high, and with a storage capacity of 250,000 gallons in its water tank, was completed in November of 1894. It is constructed of ordinary red bricks, each layer smaller than the one below it, to produce a beehive effect. It also has a thick inner wall, over two feet in thickness, and an outer wall of about fourteen inches. There is a passage, or hollow space, about three feet wide between the two walls. The outside of the tower has a painted surface over the brick construction.

Original plans called for three floors to be constructed under the tank itself, however, only a second floor was constructed with its entrance by a winding staircase. The second level then, has a very high ceiling.



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**SIGNIFICANCE**

PERIOD (Check One or More as Appropriate)

- Pre-Columbian |  16th Century |  18th Century |  20th Century  
 15th Century |  17th Century |  19th Century

SPECIFIC DATE(S) (If Applicable and Known)

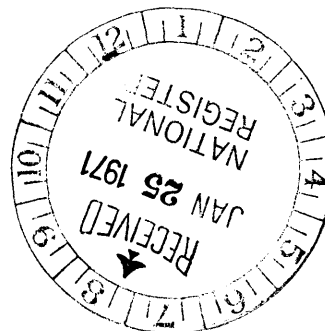
AREAS OF SIGNIFICANCE (Check One or More as Appropriate)

- |                                                  |                                                 |                                              |                                          |
|--------------------------------------------------|-------------------------------------------------|----------------------------------------------|------------------------------------------|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Aboriginal              | <input type="checkbox"/> Education              | <input type="checkbox"/> Political           | <input type="checkbox"/> Urban Planning  |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Prehistoric             | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Engineering | <input type="checkbox"/> Religion/Philosophy | <input type="checkbox"/> Other (Specify) |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Historic                | <input type="checkbox"/> Industry               | <input type="checkbox"/> Science             | _____                                    |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Agriculture             | <input type="checkbox"/> Invention              | <input type="checkbox"/> Sculpture           | _____                                    |
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Architecture | <input type="checkbox"/> Landscape Architecture | <input type="checkbox"/> Social/Humanitarian | _____                                    |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Art                     | <input type="checkbox"/> Literature             | <input type="checkbox"/> Theater             | _____                                    |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Commerce                | <input type="checkbox"/> Military               | <input type="checkbox"/> Transportation      | _____                                    |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Communications          | <input type="checkbox"/> Music                  |                                              | _____                                    |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Conservation            |                                                 |                                              | _____                                    |

STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE

In 1891 George W. Mayer, a Chicago architect, was commissioned to design Fresno's new water tower. The great Chicago fire had taken place twenty-three years earlier, and Mr. Mayer had been impressed by two things in that year of 1871. First the Chicago Public Library had been burned to the ground; and second, the Chicago Water Tower had survived and was used as a temporary city library as books began being replaced by various donors. Evidently Mr. Mayer thought highly of a library in the water tower, because his plans for the Fresno Tower were modeled after the Chicago tower and included provision for the library. Fortunately for future library patrons, this part of the architect's plan was never adopted. The second floor of the tower was built, but the third level was never added. The Fresno Water Tower, since its completion in 1894, was in constant use until 1963 when the pumping machinery was no longer adequate. The real value of the building, now that it no longer stores water, is to be found in its graceful beauty, its symmetry and its stately other century charm.

SEE INSTRUCTIONS



**9. MAJOR BIBLIOGRAPHICAL REFERENCES**

Fresno Past and Present, Vol 6, Number 4, "The Fresno Water Tower", Spencer Kendig.

**10. GEOGRAPHICAL DATA**

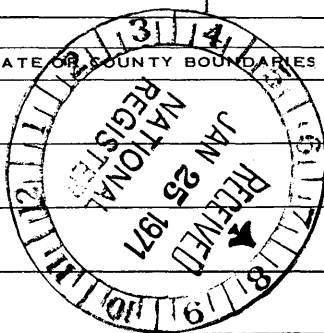
LATITUDE AND LONGITUDE COORDINATES DEFINING A RECTANGLE LOCATING THE PROPERTY			O R	LATITUDE AND LONGITUDE COORDINATES DEFINING THE CENTER POINT OF A PROPERTY OF LESS THAN TEN ACRES		
CORNER	LATITUDE	LONGITUDE		LATITUDE	LONGITUDE	
	Degrees Minutes Seconds	Degrees Minutes Seconds		Degrees Minutes Seconds	Degrees Minutes Seconds	
NW	° ' "	° ' "		36° 44' 21"	119° 47' 14"	
NE	° ' "	° ' "				
SE	° ' "	° ' "				
SW	° ' "	° ' "				

APPROXIMATE ACREAGE OF NOMINATED PROPERTY:  $\frac{1}{2}$  Acre

LIST ALL STATES AND COUNTIES FOR PROPERTIES OVERLAPPING STATE OR COUNTY BOUNDARIES

STATE:	CODE	COUNTY	CODE

UTM  
11/251210  
4069350  
CD



SEE INSTRUCTIONS

**11. FORM PREPARED BY**

NAME AND TITLE:  
**William E. Briam, Administrative Analyst**

ORGANIZATION: **Fresno County Administrative Office** DATE: **7-10-70**

STREET AND NUMBER:  
**Room 300, Hall of Records, 2281 Tulare Street**

CITY OR TOWN: **Fresno** STATE: **California** CODE: **06**

**12. STATE LIAISON OFFICER CERTIFICATION**

As the designated State Liaison Officer for the National Historic Preservation Act of 1966 (Public Law 89-665), I hereby nominate this property for inclusion in the National Register and certify that it has been evaluated according to the criteria and procedures set forth by the National Park Service. The recommended level of significance of this nomination is:

National  State  Local

Name William E. Briam

Title State Liaison Officer

Date October 16, 1970

**NATIONAL REGISTER VERIFICATION**

I hereby certify that this property is included in the National Register.

Ernest A. Connolly  
Chief, Office of Archeology and Historic Preservation

Date OCT 14 1971

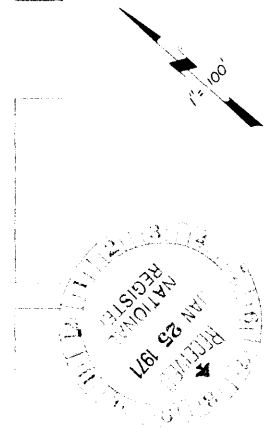
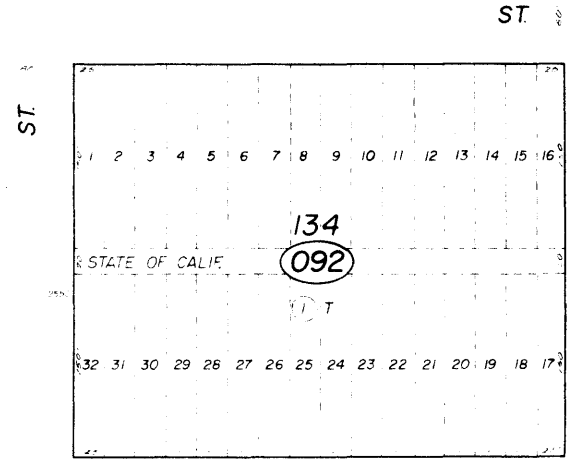
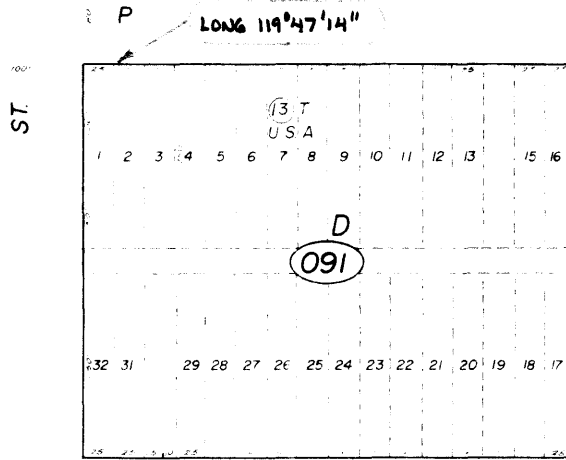
ATTEST:  
William E. Briam  
Keeper of The National Register

Date JUL 29 1971

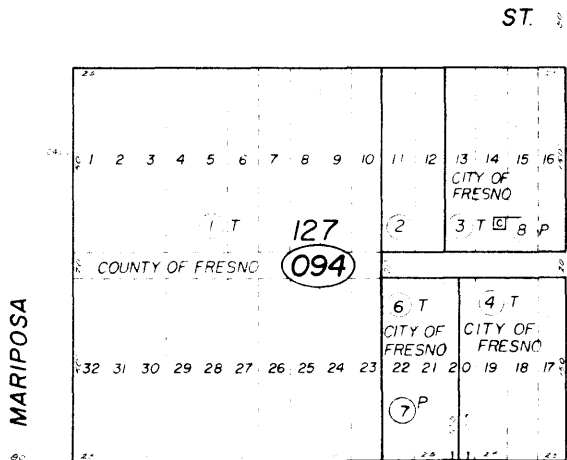
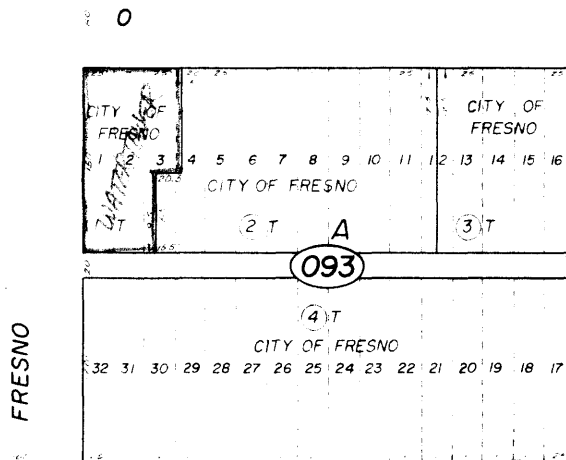
FRESNO CITY BLOCKS

Tax Area Code  
220-00

466-09



8



Bk. 468

LAT 36°44'21"

OLD FRESNO WATERTOWER