

440



# National Register of Historic Places Registration Form

This form is for use in nominating or requesting determinations for individual properties and districts. See instructions in National Register Bulletin, *How to Complete the National Register of Historic Places Registration Form*. If any item does not apply to the property being documented, enter "N/A" for "not applicable." For functions, architectural classification, materials, and areas of significance, enter only categories and subcategories from the instructions.

## 1. Name of Property

Historic name Oshkosh Water Tower  
Other names/site number GD03-036  
Name of related multiple property listing N/A  
(Enter "N/A" if property is not part of a multiple property listing)

## 2. Location

Street & Number 103 East Avenue E  
City or town Oshkosh State Nebraska County Garden  
Not for publication  Vicinity

## 3. State/Federal Agency Certification

As the designated authority under the National Historic Preservation Act, as amended, I hereby certify that this  nomination  request for determination of eligibility meets the documentation standards for registering properties in the National Register of Historic Places and meets the procedural and professional requirements set forth in 36 CFR Part 60.

In my opinion, the property  meets  does not meet the National Register Criteria. I recommend that this property be considered significant at the following level(s) of significance:  national  statewide  local

Applicable National Register Criteria:  A  B  C  D

SHPO/Director

5/22/17

Signature of certifying official/Title:

Date

Nebraska State Historical Society

State or Federal agency/bureau or Tribal Government

In my opinion, the property  meets  does not meet the National Register criteria.

Signature of Commenting Official

Date

Title

State of Federal agency/bureau or Tribal Government

## 4. National Park Service Certification

I, hereby certify that this property is:

- entered in the National Register.
- determined eligible for the National Register.
- determined not eligible for the National Register.
- removed from the National Register.
- other, (explain):

Signature of Keeper

6.26.2019

Date of Action

Oshkosh Water Tower  
 Name of Property

Garden County, Nebraska  
 County and State

**5. Classification**

**Ownership of Property** (Check as many boxes as apply)

- Private
- Public-local
- Public-state
- Public-federal

**Category of Property** (Check only **one** box)

- Building(s)
- District
- Site
- Structure
- Object

**Number of Resources within Property** (Do not include previously listed resources in the count.)

Contributing	Noncontributing	
_____	<u>1</u>	Buildings
_____	_____	Sites
<u>1</u>	_____	Structures
_____	_____	Objects
<u>1</u>	<u>1</u>	Total

Number of contributing resources previously listed in the National Register 0

**6. Function or Use**

**Historic Functions** (Enter categories from instructions.)

Government: Public Works  
 Industry/Processing/Extraction: Waterworks  
 \_\_\_\_\_  
 \_\_\_\_\_  
 \_\_\_\_\_  
 \_\_\_\_\_  
 \_\_\_\_\_

**Current Functions** (Enter categories from instructions.)

Recreation and Culture: outdoor recreation  
 Landscape: Plaza  
 Landscape: Garden  
 \_\_\_\_\_  
 \_\_\_\_\_  
 \_\_\_\_\_  
 \_\_\_\_\_

**7. Description**

**Architectural Classification** (Enter categories from instructions.)

OTHER  
 \_\_\_\_\_  
 \_\_\_\_\_  
 \_\_\_\_\_

**Materials** (enter categories from instructions.)

Principal exterior materials of the property:

Water Tower - Foundation: Concrete; Legs/Walls/Roof: Steel.  
 Well House - Walls: Concrete block/stucco; Roof: Metal.

Oshkosh Water Tower  
**Name of Property**

Garden County, Nebraska  
**County and State**

## Description

**Summary Paragraph** (Briefly describe the general characteristics of the property, such as its location, type, style, method of construction, setting, size, and significant features. Indicate whether the property has historic integrity.)

The City of Oshkosh (2010 population: 884)<sup>1</sup> is located in south central Garden County in the Nebraska Panhandle along US Highway 26. The city sits closer to the capitals of neighboring Colorado (Denver, 175 miles southwest) and Wyoming (Cheyenne, 125 miles west) than it is to Nebraska's capital city of Lincoln, 300 miles to the east. The Oshkosh Water Tower stands one-half block east of Main Street and one block north of the Oshkosh business district. It is an elevated steel water tower built in 1920 and retired as the primary water delivery system for the city in February 2018. It is the tallest structure in the city and can therefore be seen from most places in town and for many miles when approaching Oshkosh; it is a city and county landmark. The Oshkosh Water Tower retains a high degree of all seven aspects of integrity.

**Narrative Description** (Describe the historic and current physical appearance and condition of the property. Describe contributing and noncontributing resources if applicable.)

The Oshkosh Water Tower is a 120 ft. elevated steel water tower. The structure is a pyramid shaped trestle comprised of four steel legs supporting a cylindrical tank made up of riveted steel panels. The tank has a conical steel cap, a hemispherical bottom and a balcony surrounding the tank where the bottom attaches to the tank. There is a riser pipe in the center of the trestle structure which fed the water from the well at the base of the tower to the tank at the top.

The tower legs are attached at the bottom to riveted steel plates secured to the concrete footers with steel anchor bolts. The pyramid shaped footers are concrete measuring three (3) feet square on the surface and seven (7) feet square at their base which is five (5) feet deep.

The legs are made up of two steel girders joined by riveted steel lattice braces. The steel girders are impressed with "BETHLEHEM", the mark of the Bethlehem Steel Company of Bethlehem, Pennsylvania. They are further supported by round steel tie rods and horizontal girders which provide lateral bracing between the legs. A ladder is attached to the leg on the northwest corner and extends to the top of the tower where the balcony meets the tank bottom. A riser pipe, protected by a riser insulation jacket made of galvanized sheeting, extends from the ground to the center of the hemispherical tank bottom. Just below, centered under and attached to the tank bottom is a small platform, intersected by the riser pipe, used for maintenance. The entire leg structure, tie rods, ladder, tank bottom, riser pipe and platform are painted black.



Figure 1: 1920 view of Oshkosh, looking northwest (owner's private collection).

<sup>1</sup> United States Census Bureau webpage, <https://factfinder.census.gov/faces/nav/jsf/pages/index.xhtml>, accessed November 8, 2018.

Oshkosh Water Tower  
**Name of Property**

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The water tank is constructed of riveted, curved steel panels and the name “OSHKOSH” is painted in dark blue on the South side, facing the Main Street business district. A metal balcony encircles the tank at the point where the hemispherical bottom meets the tank structure and features a handrail with a distinctive X pattern attaching it to the balcony. A ladder is attached to the tank from the balcony to and onto the roof to allow for inspections to the structure and into the tank itself. The roof is conical with a vent and screen on top. The tank is painted white, the balcony black and the roof blue. There is a cell antenna attached on the Southwest side and a cable antenna cantilevered from the Northwest side.

There is a small, non-contributing well house on the back side of the lot, under the southwest leg of the water tower. The well house building is made of stucco covered concrete block and has a wood roof that is covered in metal. It is no longer used as a well house. While the date of construction is unknown, historic images (Figure 1) demonstrate that it was not built at the same time as the water tower nor does it have any distinguishing features that would lead to it be considered a historic property.

**INTEGRITY OF THE OSHKOSH WATER TOWER**

The Oshkosh Water Tower remains in exceptional condition and is an excellent example of an early 1900s elevated water tower in rural Nebraska. It was built in 1920 and remains in its original location where it has served the community’s water needs for ninety years, only being retired as the main water delivery system for Oshkosh in February 2018. The original design of the water tower remains as it was built in 1920 with the exception of the paint color on the roof and the addition of steel plates to the exterior of the lower legs to prevent people from climbing. Communications and cable antennae have also been attached to the tank structure. The water tower retains the original steel and concrete materials that were used in its construction reflecting the original riveted steel design by Omaha Structural Steel Works Company. The tower is considered a landmark in the community and the residents of the City of Oshkosh and Garden County wish to maintain and preserve the structure in recognition of the courage, foresight and ingenuity of the residents of Oshkosh.



**Figure 2: Oshkosh Opera House (GD03-001) with Oshkosh Water Tower featured in the background; looking east, 1975 (Nebraska SHPO site files).**

Oshkosh Water Tower  
**Name of Property**

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**8. Statement of Significance**

**Applicable National Register Criteria**

(Mark "X" in one or more boxes for the criteria qualifying the property for National Register listing.)

- A** Property is associated with events that have made a significant contribution to the broad patterns of our history.
- B** Property is associated with the lives of persons significant in our past.
- C** Property embodies the distinctive characteristics of a type, period, or method of construction or represents the work of a master, or possesses high artistic values, or represents a significant and distinguishable entity whose components lack individual distinction.
- D** Property has yielded, or is likely to yield information important in prehistory or history.

**Criteria Considerations**

(Mark "X" in all the boxes that apply.)

Property is:

- A** Owned by a religious institution or used for religious purposes.
- B** Removed from its original location.
- C** A birthplace or a grave.
- D** A cemetery.  
A reconstructed building, object, or structure.
- E** A commemorative property.
- F** Less than 50 years of age or achieved significance within the past 50 years.

**Areas of Significance**

(Enter categories from instructions.)

Community Planning and Development

Engineering

**Period of Significance**

1920

**Significant Dates**

N/A

**Significant Person**

(Complete if Criterion B is marked above.)

N/A

**Cultural Affiliation**

N/A

**Architect/Builder**

Omaha Structural Steel Works

**Statement of Significance Summary Paragraph** (Provide a summary paragraph that includes level of significance, applicable criteria, justification for the period of significance, and any applicable criteria considerations.)

The Oshkosh Water Tower is being nominated to the National Register of Historic Places under Criterion A: Community Planning and Development, at the Local level of significance for its role in the establishment and growth of Oshkosh, Nebraska. The Oshkosh Water Tower is also being nominated to the National Register of Historic Places under Criterion C: Engineering at the Local level of significance as a fine example of a once common property type in the early 1900s that is no longer being constructed due to the evolution of water tower



Oshkosh Water Tower

Garden County, Nebraska

**Name of Property**

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engineering and construction. The Period of Significance for this property corresponds with its date of construction: 1920.

**Narrative Statement of Significance** (Provide at least **one** paragraph for each area of significance.)

In 1885, five men - John Robinson, H.W. Potter, George Kendall, Alfred Gumaer and Henry Gumaer – near St. Paul, Nebraska, heard there were many acres of land which could be leased for ranching in the Nebraska Panhandle. They needed more land for their herds so they drove their cattle and horses from St. Paul to what was then part of Cheyenne County to start their ranch. Alfred and Henry Gumaer were from Oshkosh, Wisconsin and suggested calling their spread the Oshkosh Land and Cattle Company. They established their ranch headquarters near the present site of Oshkosh, Nebraska and in 1889 built a two-story frame building. Thus began the town of Oshkosh. The building contained the company store, a small post office, a drug store, and a bank. Upstairs was a printing office and hotel rooms which later became living quarters for the merchant and post master. The Union Pacific railroad came to Garden County in 1907, reaching Oshkosh on August 8, 1908, with much fanfare from the inhabitants. In 1909, the people of what was then northern Deuel County overwhelmingly voted for division of the county, creating Garden County with Oshkosh as its county seat in early 1910.<sup>2</sup>

*Community Planning and Development*

Oshkosh, the newly established county seat, had a population of 200 people in 1910, which grew to 725 by 1920. As the population grew, Oshkosh began the business of providing its residents with needed amenities and in March of 1918 the City Council met to discuss a light and water system. On August 9, 1919 sealed bids were opened and awarded for city water works and to provide electric lighting for the city. Omaha Structural Steel Iron Works won the bid to install the Oshkosh Water Tower as the central structure for the new water works for the city.<sup>3</sup> The city purchased the land the water tower resides upon from Otta M. Wisner, Ray A. and Gertrude C. Wisner, and Harry J. and Mabel E. Wisner on December 22, 1919.<sup>4</sup> There is very little information about the construction of the water tower. What is known is that on June 5, 1920, the City of Oshkosh paid Omaha Structural Steel Company \$5,540.40 from the water works fund. It is probable that the final payment was made shortly after the tower was completed and was in operation.<sup>4</sup>

Not only did the construction of a steel water tower and subsequent water system serve the established businesses and residents in fledgling communities, but it also was a symbol of progress and potential for young towns across the Plains. According to the Pittsburg-Des Moines Steel Company, a contemporary manufacturer of steel water towers, “no one thing marks more clearly the departure of a village from obscurity to a position of prominence and wealth than the installation of the first and most vital public improvement – a water works. This step invariably marks the beginning of a more rapid growth in population and with it the addition of manufacturing plants, which means an increased and assured financial prosperity.”<sup>5</sup>

Between 1920 and 1930, Oshkosh grew from 707 residents to 843, an increase of nearly 20 percent for the decade.<sup>6</sup> To serve the growing town, multiple businesses were established during the same time period, many of which were agricultural-based, especially important in a rural, western Nebraska county. Seeing the current need and future business potential in Oshkosh, the Farmers Co-op, a meat processing operation, a separate meat market and grocery store, Riverside Dairy, and numerous Cream stations – one of which sold cream to Fairmont Cream

<sup>2</sup> Historical Society of Garden County, *Garden County History, 1886 – 1986*, (Dallas, TX: Curtis Media Corporation, 1986) pg. 18-9.

<sup>3</sup> City Council, “Opening and awarding sealed bids on city waterworks and Electric Lights,” *Official Proceedings of the Board of Trustees of the Village of Oshkosh, Nebr.* August 9, 1919.

<sup>4</sup> Garden County (NE) Register of Deeds, “Deed Record, 1920,” County Clerk’s Office, Oshkosh, NE.

<sup>5</sup> Pittsburgh-Des Moines Steel Company. *Steel Water Tanks for Public Service*, (Pittsburgh, PA: The Company, 1915), 3.

<sup>6</sup> “Population of Oshkosh, NE,” <https://population.us/ne/oshkosh/> accessed March 6, 2019.

Oshkosh Water Tower

Garden County, Nebraska

**Name of Property**

**County and State**

Company of Omaha – all came to Oshkosh in the 1920s.<sup>7</sup> However, it was not ‘all work and no play’ in Oshkosh as the ag-based businesses were joined by the Garden Theatre, a pool hall that included a single bowling lane (1928, GD03-064), a nine hole golf course, and multiple places to dine. Not to be left behind amongst all the progress, the Oshkosh Opera House (1907, GD03-001) transitioned its use to show silent films. In addition to smaller buildings and businesses, the growing county seat added a number of prominent buildings downtown, including a new Garden County Courthouse (1921, GD03-003; NPS #89002231), the A.F. & A.M. Commercial Building/Masonic Hall (1927, GD03-059), and the G.H. Morris Hotel (1929, GD03-060). Even taking into account the stock market crash of 1929, the Oshkosh State Bank (1917, GD03-061) increased its holdings from \$350,000 in 1920 to \$542,000 in 1930, an increase of 65 percent during this period of growth.<sup>8</sup>

Along with the water tower and the associated water delivery system, city planners also brought electricity to Oshkosh. Approved at the same meeting as the water system improvements, the contract was approved for the construction of the municipal light plant building.<sup>9</sup> Located adjacent to the water tower at the southeast corner of Main Street and East Avenue E, the simple one and a half story brick building has been significantly altered over the years. Openings have been enclosed and/or enlarged and an entire façade has been covered with vinyl siding, diminishing the aspects of integrity needed to convey its significance. Further improvements were made in downtown Oshkosh near the close of the 1910s, when the city replaced the wooden sidewalks with concrete, adding a sense of modernity and prosperity around the commercial core of the city.<sup>10</sup>

The introduction of a city water system played an integral part in the development of Oshkosh from a village to a prosperous community in the early days of this Great Plains settlement. Thanks, in part, to the community planning vision of and action taken by the City of Oshkosh to install modern amenities, such as the water system, Oshkosh thrived throughout the 1920s.

*Engineering*

During the 1890s, the development of a new elevated water tank transformed the elevated water storage field, introducing new concepts into the design of these structures. By 1905, the elevated tank was the preferred structure throughout the United States, as the basic form of the 1890s design was advanced to create an early-twentieth century style. The earliest form of all metal elevated tank remained the most widely used type until after World War II and was a familiar silhouette for residents on both the urban and rural landscape. This form, the hemispherical bottom tank, or "tin man," consists of a four post trestle tower, composed of lattice channels or other solid members and divided into three to five panels braced with tie rods. The trestle posts are attached directly to the sides of a tank of riveted rings of steel plates having a rigid hemispherical bottom; the tank is capped with a conical roof with ball finial. The riser pipe enters the bottom of the tank and may be enclosed in a protective "frost box" casing of board or metal siding.<sup>11</sup> The Oshkosh Water Tower is a classic example of this "tin man" type elevated tower as it displays, with the exception of a ball finial, all of the key features described above. As water tower design evolved to adapt to changing technology and the need for greater storage capacity,

<sup>7</sup> Helen M. Robinson, "Recollections," *Garden County News*, August 16, 1984. Helen M. Robinson, "Recollections," *Garden County News*, November 8, 1984. Helen M. Robinson, "Recollections," *Garden County News*, January 3, 1985. Helen M. Robinson, "Recollections," *Garden County News*, February 13, 1986.

<sup>8</sup> Helen M. Robinson, "Recollections," *Garden County News*, March 20, 1986. Helen M. Robinson, "Recollections," *Garden County News*, August 21, 1986. Helen M. Robinson, "Recollections," *Garden County News*, April 10, 1986. Helen M. Robinson, *Helen M. Robinson's Recollections*, (self-published, 1987), 159-164. Helen M. Robinson, "Recollections," *Garden County News*, November 8, 1984. Helen M. Robinson, "Recollections," *Garden County News*, May 8, 1986. Helen M. Robinson, "Recollections," *Garden County News*, September 13, 1984.

<sup>9</sup> City Council, "Opening and awarding sealed bids on city waterworks and Electric Lights," *Official Proceedings of the Board of Trustees of the Village of Oshkosh, Nebr.* August 9, 1919.

<sup>10</sup> Helen M. Robinson, "Recollections," *Garden County News*, May 15, 1986.

<sup>11</sup> Carol A. Dubie, "The Architecture and Engineering of Elevated Water Storage Structures: 1870-1940" (Master's Thesis, George Washington University, 1980) pg. 59.

Oshkosh Water Tower

Garden County, Nebraska

**Name of Property**

**County and State**

these water towers began to be removed and replaced by larger more bulb shaped water towers. Although ubiquitous in the early 1900s, many of the “tin man” water towers have been taken down and this unique type of structure is endangered in current society.

As one of the more visible aspects of public water works and civil engineering, these structures reflect how critical the control of water has been to the growth of towns and cities in the late nineteenth and twentieth centuries. Their impact has been immense, affecting both the everyday life and surroundings of most Americans.<sup>12</sup>

The Oshkosh Water Tower, constructed in 1920, served Oshkosh and its residents until February 2018 when the wells it utilized were no longer safe to use. New wells were located outside of town and the tower was retired. It was a critical asset to the growth of the early frontier town of Oshkosh, served it successfully for ninety-eight years and is a fine example of a 1920s “tin man” type steel, elevated water towers that sprang up all over the Great Plains of the United States in the early 1900s. As a vital contributor to the establishment of Oshkosh and as a fine representation of an early twentieth century property type, the Oshkosh Water Tower is eligible for listing in the National Register of Historic Places at the Local level of significance under Criterion A: Community Planning and Development, and under Criterion C: Engineering.

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<sup>12</sup> Ibid., pg. 150.





Oshkosh Water Tower  
Name of Property

Garden County, Nebraska  
County and State

**9. Major Bibliographic References**

**Bibliography** (Insert bibliography here – cite the books, articles and other sources used in preparing this form.)

City Council, "Opening and awarding sealed bids on city waterworks and Electric Lights," *Official Proceedings of the Board of Trustees of the Village of Oshkosh, Nebr., August 9, 1919.* Oshkosh, NE, August 9, 1919.

City Council, "Paid Omaha Structural Steel Co." *Official Proceedings of the Board of Trustees of the Village of Oshkosh, Nebr. June 5, 1920,* Oshkosh, NE, June 5, 1920.

Dubie, Carol A. "The Architecture and Engineering of Elevated Water Storage Structures: 1870-1940" (Master's Thesis, George Washington University, 1980.

Garden County (NE) Register of Deeds, "Deed Record, 1920," County Clerk's Office, Oshkosh, NE.

*Garden County News*, Oshkosh, Nebraska, 1984-1986.

Historical Society of Garden County, *Garden County History, 1886 – 1986*, Dallas, TX: Curtis Media Corporation, 1986.

Pittsburgh-Des Moines Steel Company, *Steel Water Tanks for Public Service*, Pittsburgh, PA: The Company, 1915.

Robinson, Helen M., *Helen M. Robinson's Recollections*, self-published, 1987.

**Previous documentation on file (NPS):**

- preliminary determination of individual listing (36 CFR 67 has been requested)
- previously listed in the National Register
- previously determined eligible by the National Register
- designated a National Historic Landmark
- recorded by Historic American Buildings Survey #
- recorded by Historic American Engineering Record #
- recorded by Historic American Landscape Survey #

**Primary location of additional data:**

- State Historic Preservation Office
- Other State agency
- Federal agency
- Local government
- University
- Other (Name of repository)

Historic Resources Survey Number (if assigned): GD03-036

**10. Geographical Data**

Acreeage of property Less than 1 USGS Quadrangle Oshkosh

**Latitude/Longitude Coordinates**

Datum if other than WGS84: \_\_\_\_\_

- |    |          |                  |           |                    |
|----|----------|------------------|-----------|--------------------|
| 1. | Latitude | <u>41.406771</u> | Longitude | <u>-102.343817</u> |
| 2. | Latitude | _____            | Longitude | _____              |
| 3. | Latitude | _____            | Longitude | _____              |
| 4. | Latitude | _____            | Longitude | _____              |

Oshkosh Water Tower

Garden County, Nebraska

**Name of Property**

**County and State**

**Verbal Boundary Description** (Describe the boundaries of the property.)

The Oshkosh Water Tower stands on Lot 7, Block 1 of the Original Town of Oshkosh. The parcel is bounded on the north by East Avenue E, on the west by a gravel driveway that separates the tower from an adjacent building, on the south by a gravel road and on the east by a strip of land which is currently a Union Pacific right of way.

**Boundary Justification** (Explain why the boundaries were selected.)

The proposed boundary encompasses the foot print of the water tower and the associated, non-contributing well house to the north. This is the property historically associated with the water tower.

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**11. Form Prepared By**

---

name/title	Jo Lynn Petty Blackwell	date	26 November 2018
organization	Oshkosh Water Tower	telephone	(720) 277-6411
street & number	P. O. Box 602	city or town	Oshkosh
city or town	Oshkosh	state	NE
email	pawlet@comcast.net	zip code	69154

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**Additional Documentation**

Submit the following items with the completed form:

- **Maps:** A **USGS map** or equivalent (7.5 or 15 minute series) indicating the property's location.
- **Sketch map** for historic districts and properties having large acreage or numerous resources. Key all photographs to map.
- **Additional items:** (Check with the SHPO for any additional items.)



Oshkosh Water Tower

Garden County, Nebraska

# Oshkosh Water Tower, 103 East Avenue E, Oshkosh, Garden County, NE



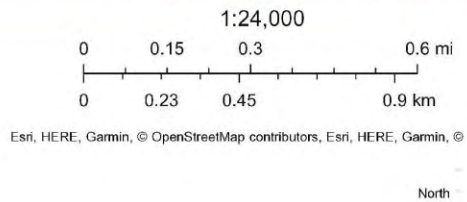
11/27/2018, 11:21:21 AM



Oshkosh Water Tower



Garden County Courthouse  
National Register listed (NPS #89002231)







Oshkosh Water Tower  
Name of Property

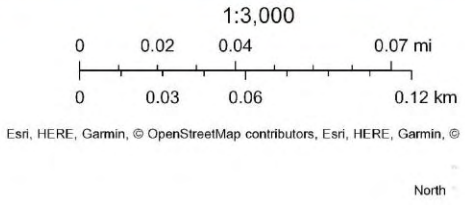
Garden County, Nebraska  
County and State

# Oshkosh Water Tower, 103 East Avenue E, Oshkosh, Garden County, NE



11/27/2018, 11:20:29 AM

-  Oshkosh Water Tower
-  Garden County Courthouse  
National Register listed (NPS #89002231)



Esri, HERE, Garmin, © OpenStreetMap contributors, Esri, HERE, Garmin, ©

Oshkosh Water Tower  
**Name of Property**

Garden County, Nebraska  
**County and State**

**Photographs**

Submit clear and descriptive photographs. The size of each image must be 1600x1200 pixels (minimum), 3000x2000 preferred, at 300 ppi (pixels per inch) or larger. Key all photographs to the sketch map. Each photograph must be numbered and that number must correspond to the photograph number on the photo log. For simplicity, the name of the photographer, photo date, etc. may be listed once on the photograph log and doesn't need to be labeled on every photograph.

**Photo Log**

Name of Property Oshkosh Water Tower

City or Vicinity Oshkosh County Garden State Nebraska

Photographer Jo Lynn Petty Blackwell Date Photographed 24 March 2018

Description of Photograph(s) and number, include description of view indicating direction of camera.

**Image 1: Oshkosh Water Tower; view facing north.**

**Image 2: Oshkosh Water Tower; view facing southeast.**

**Image 3: Oshkosh Water Tower; view facing southeast.**

**Image 4: Oshkosh Water Tower; view from underneath tank.**

**Image 5: Oshkosh Water Tower; support leg detail.**

**Image 6: Oshkosh Water Tower; steel stamp detail.**

**Image 7: Oshkosh skyline and Water Tower from Hwy 26/92; view facing northwest.**

**Image 8: Well house north of water tower; view facing west.**

**Paperwork Reduction Act Statement:** This information is being collected for applications to the National Register of Historic Places to nominate properties for listing or determine eligibility for listing, to list properties, and to amend existing listings. Response to this request is required to obtain a benefit in accordance with the National Historic Preservation Act, as amended (16 U.S.C.460 et seq.).

**Estimated Burden Statement:** Public reporting burden for this form is estimated to average 100 hours per response including time for reviewing instructions, gathering and maintaining data, and completing and reviewing the form. Direct comments regarding this burden estimate or any aspect of this form to the Office of Planning and Performance Management, U.S. Dept. of the Interior, 1849 C. Street, NW, Washington, DC.





OSHKOSH

















WHELFEM



BETHLEHEM











UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR  
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES  
EVALUATION/RETURN SHEET

Requested Action: Nomination

Property Name: Oshkosh Water Tower

Multiple Name: \_\_\_\_\_

State & County: NEBRASKA, Garden

Date Received: 5/24/2019      Date of Pending List: 6/11/2019      Date of 16th Day: 6/26/2019      Date of 45th Day: 7/8/2019      Date of Weekly List: \_\_\_\_\_

Reference number: SG100004140

Nominator: SHPO

Reason For Review: \_\_\_\_\_

Accept       Return       Reject      6/26/2019 Date

Abstract/Summary Comments: The water tower is directly tied to the town's efforts to provide city services, including piped water and fire suppression. The tower/tank is a good example of the design technology of such structures in the 1920s and it retains a high degree of integrity. Significant locally in engineering and community planning and development.

Recommendation/ Criteria: Accept / A & C

Reviewer Jim Gabbert      Discipline Historian

Telephone (202)354-2275      Date \_\_\_\_\_

DOCUMENTATION:    see attached comments : No    see attached SLR : No

If a nomination is returned to the nomination authority, the nomination is no longer under consideration by the National Park Service.

May 22, 2019

Jim Gabbert  
NPS-National Register of Historic Places  
1849 C Street, NW  
Mail Stop 7228  
Washington, DC 20240



Re: Oshkosh Water Tower, Oshkosh, Garden County, NE

Dear Mr. Gabbert,

Enclosed is the complete nomination packet for the Oshkosh Water Tower, in Oshkosh, Garden County, Nebraska. The enclosed contents are as follows:

- The signed first page of the Oshkosh Water Tower nomination;
- One (1) archival disc with the true and correct copy of the nomination for the Oshkosh Water Tower to the National Register of Historic Places in PDF format; and
- One (1) archival disc with the photographs for the Oshkosh Water Tower nomination.

If you have any questions regarding the submitted materials, feel free to contact me at the phone number or email address below.

Sincerely,



David L. Calease  
National Register Coordinator  
Nebraska State Historic Preservation Office

Phone: 402-471-4775  
[david.calease@nebraska.gov](mailto:david.calease@nebraska.gov)

Enclosures (3): Signed National Register nomination cover sheet  
1 disc with Nomination  
1 disc with National Register Photographs

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