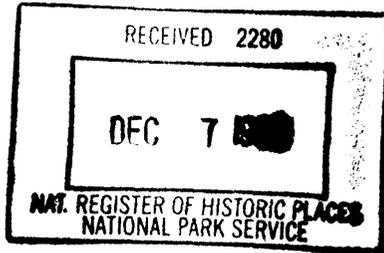


United States Department of Interior
National Park Service



1598

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 How to Complete the National Register of Historic Places Registration Form (National Register Bulletin 16A). Complete each item by marking "x" in the appropriate box or by entering the information requested. If an 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. Place additional entries and narrative items on continuation sheets (NPS Form 10-900A). Use a typewriter, word processor, or computer, to complete all items.

1. Name of Property

historic name Benton Stone Water Tower

other names/site number n/a

2. Location

street & number 49 Water Street n/a not for publication

city or town Benton n/a vicinity

State Wisconsin code WI County LaFayette code 065 zip code 53803

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 nationally statewide locally. (See continuation sheet for additional comments.)

Alicia J. [Signature] 11/19/93
Signature of certifying official/Title Date
Deputy State Historic Preservation Officer-WI

State or Federal agency and bureau

In my opinion, the property meets does not meet the National Register criteria.
(See continuation sheet for additional comments.)

Signature of certifying official/Title Date

State of Federal agency and bureau

Benton Stone Water Tower
Name of Property

LaFayette County, WI
County and State

4. National Park Service Certification

- I hereby certify that the property is:
entered in the National Register.
- See continuation sheet.
- determined eligible for the
National Register.
- See continuation sheet.
- determined not eligible for the
National Register.
- See continuation sheet.
- removed from the National
Register.
- other, (explain:)

Signature of the Keeper: Edna H. Beall
Date of Action: 1/7/99

5. Classification

Ownership of Property (check many boxes as apply)	Category of Property (Check only one box)	Number of Resources within Property (Do not include listed resources within as the count)	
		Contributing	Noncontributing
<input type="checkbox"/> private	<input type="checkbox"/> building(s)	<u>0</u>	<u>1</u> buildings
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> public-local	<input type="checkbox"/> district		<u> </u> sites
<input type="checkbox"/> public-state	<input type="checkbox"/> site	<u>1</u>	<u> </u> structures
<input type="checkbox"/> public-federal	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> structure		<u> </u> objects
	<input type="checkbox"/> object	<u>1</u>	<u>1</u> Total

Name of related multiple property listing (Enter "N/A" if property is not part of a multiple property listing.)

Number of contributing resources previously listed in the National Register

n/a

0

6. Function or Use

Historic Functions
(Enter categories from instructions)

Current Functions
(Enter categories from instructions)

GOVERNMENT - PUBLIC WORKS

GOVERNMENT-PUBLIC WORKS

7. Description

Architectural Classification
(Enter categories from instructions)

Materials
(Enter categories from instructions)

Late 19th and 20th Century Revivals

foundation Stone

walls Stone

roof Steel

other Iron

Narrative Description

(Describe the historic and current condition of the property on one or more continuation sheets.)

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

**National Register of Historic Places
Continuation Sheet**

Section 7 Page 1 Benton Stone Water Tower
Benton, Lafayette County, WI

INTRODUCTION

The Benton Stone Water Tower stands on a hilltop in the center of the village of Benton, population approximately 900, in the hilly terrain of the driftless area of southwestern Wisconsin. The tower is easily the most prominent structure in Benton. The stone base of the tower was built in 1899. The original wooden tank, topped by a windmill which pumped the water from an underground reservoir beneath the tower, was replaced in 1922 by a steel tank. The tower is being nominated under Criterion C because it embodies the characteristics of a type of water tower constructed in the late 19th century when water systems were first being installed by municipalities in Wisconsin.¹ It is also being nominated under Criterion A because it recalls a critical upsurge in public will to organize and finance a major public improvement to the village in 1899 that led to improvements in sanitation and fire protection in the village.

DESCRIPTION

The stone base of the tower rises approximately 67 feet. It is 23' in diameter. The 1922 steel tank adds approximately 30 feet in height.² The tower is constructed of local limestone, rough cut in blocks 7" high and random width, coursed. The specifications were nothing if not specific about the masonry:

"...Excavation for tower to be covered one foot in thickness with Portland cement and stone. Footing course six feet in width, of rock one foot thick...all limestone, trimmed courses of two-faced masonry, the

¹ Stone water towers are found in southern Wisconsin at Beloit, Clinton, and Sun Prairie. Because it was a mining town, many Benton citizens were familiar with the techniques of blasting, excavation and pumping that were required to dig the well and reservoir, and their familiarity with mine shaft construction is probably reflected in the detailed account of the timber and iron beam supports for the water tank, included in the specifications approved by the village board.

² The specifications for the water tower were quoted at length in the Mining Times, July 21, 1899. The overall height of the tower and tank was measured by a high school class in 1997 and reported to Benton Utilities Manager John Perkins. Mr. Perkins was interviewed for this nomination on 2/20/98.

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

**National Register of Historic Places
Continuation Sheet**

Section 7 Page 2 Benton Stone Water Tower
Benton, Lafayette County, WI

outside to have pitched-faced joints, no sprouls between joints or layers, the stone used at the top of the tower to be not less than six inches thick, two feet long and one foot wide; mortar to be made of two parts sharp sand and one part Louisville cement, outside joints pointed with Portland cement mortar, with not less than ten headers through the entire wall in each course, a water table not less than twelve inches thick and ten inches wide around the tower, the face to be of stone bush-hammered; the belting course upon which steel eye beams rest is to be pitched faced stone eight inches thick, eighteen inches wide and two feet in length."

The water table circles the tower just below the belting course, forming a collar just below the tank. The specifications continue:

"...Main entrance double door, two and a half feet by seven feet, with transoms... (These have since been replaced by wooden panels. The present doors are made of three vertical boards. The doors are set in a handsome segmental arched opening with a keystone)... a balcony door two and a half feet by seven feet. (The balcony is on the north side of the tower, about twelve feet below the water table. It is supported by decorated iron brackets. Its door is set in a plain rectangular opening)... Windows (there are three) four foot circular opening, American glass, (since replaced with brick) ladder landings to have platforms three feet by four, with joists set into the masonry walls, the balcony platform to have iron posts and one and a half inch gas pipe railings; the floor supporting the tank to have two fifteen foot steel eye beams, each weighing sixty-seven pounds per lineal foot, sixteen feet long, between beams of timber, twelve inches square, sixteen feet long, placed and bolted securely, binding them together, eight joists four by eight feet, extending sufficiently beyond the tower for support of an octagonal balcony (this no longer exists; the specifications continue with the details of support for the wooden tank) ...all lumber to be of sound pine...two by four joists to be placed over the tank ceiling ...over which is a layer of mortar one inch thickness, a roof of one inch sheeting and shingles, woodwork to receive two coats of linseed oil and white lead." The tank was to be "of standard make and good lumber, eighteen feet in diameter and eighteen feet high, with suitable ladders."

An historic photo (Exhibit 1) shows the completed water tower, with wooden tank and windmill. The photo shows a glazed light with radiating muntins in the arch above the door. An exterior ladder led from the balcony to a flanged walkway at the top of the masonry tower. Around the

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

**National Register of Historic Places
Continuation Sheet**

Section 7 Page 3 Benton Stone Water Tower
Benton, Lafayette County, WI

base of the tower were a number of small barns and fenced yards and an outhouse.

The specifications then continued with the details of piping: "...four inch wrought iron pipe to be placed in the well to a depth of forty-six feet, fitted with three and three-quarters inch brass artesian well cylinder, suction pipe and strainer, pump to be operated by an Aeromotor windmill, back geared, fifteen feet in diameter, the windmill to be mounted on the tower, extending about twenty feet above the roof of the tank, a pipe to convey water to the tank to be a diameter of six inches, with a six inch gate valve with an expansion joint, float valve and float, a water indicator on the outside of the tank, three hydrants, thirteen hundred feet of six inch cast iron pipe to extend from the Elliot hotel to the rock store on Railroad Street."

The mains were specified to be "...of bell and spigot pattern best cast iron, tested to three hundred pounds pressure, Six inch mains are to weigh thirty pounds per foot, four inch mains, twenty pounds. Excavation of the ground for the mains is to be six feet, six inches deep...standard make hydrants, two and a half inch nozzles, six inch connection to mains..."

Even before the contractor for the tower had been selected, excavation was begun on the well. The Mining Times reported on July 14, 1899 that, "The water works well is completed. The shaft is fifty feet deep and from it leads a chamber thirteen feet long, ten feet high and five feet, six inches wide. On one side of this chamber is a smaller one, seven feet long, ten feet high and seven feet six inches side. These two chambers take in the upper and lower levels, and a smaller chamber seven feet long, four feet high and four feet six inches wide, on the other side of the main chamber takes in the upper level. The water rises to eight feet in the chambers when it seeks its own level. There is a good feeder to the well and the water is of excellent quality. The underground reservoir contains over 1100 cubic feet of water which will be an adequate amount to supply Benton's needs."

Inside the tower today, a flight of stone steps curves down from the entrance to approximately 12' below ground level. A standpipe rises from the floor of this pit to the tank above. (The reservoir beneath the tower was filled and capped in 1995.³)

³ Interview with village President Keith Farrey, January 19, 1998.

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

**National Register of Historic Places
Continuation Sheet**

Section 7 Page 4 Benton Stone Water Tower
Benton, Lafayette County, WI

In 1922-23 the wooden tank was replaced with a 30,000 gallon cylindrical steel tank with a hemispherical bottom, made by the Chicago Bridge and Iron Works.⁴ The tank is made of rectangular steel plates with riveted seams. It is smaller in diameter than the tower, allowing a narrow steel walkway, protected by a steel guard rail, around its base. On the north side of the tower, a steel ladder, inside a steel guard cage, is mounted on the outside of the tower, extending from ground level to the roof of the tank. This was, presumably, added when the steel tank was installed. A reinforcing band, with paired steel supports between the band and the base of the tower, circles the bottom of the tank about three feet from its base. The steel tank has a conical steel roof, which overhangs the tank, topped by a silver colored ball. A steel catwalk leads from the top of the outside ladder to the roof peak.

The tank is lettered on its south side, facing Main Street:

BENTON

SETTLED 1844

INC.1892

The three windows in the tower, originally glazed, are filled in with red brick. In the masonry at the level of the balcony, about 12' below the top of the masonry tower, are iron lugs which anchor two reinforcing rods which cross the interior of the tower below the tank. At ground level, the base of the tower is circled by a foundation course of large limestone blocks, approximately 10" by 2 1/2 feet, which extends 3" beyond the circumference of the tower. From inside the tower, the foundation, built of blocks of limestone approximately 30" square, laid in courses, is seen to descend approximately 12' below ground level. Above the door of the tower is a wooden plaque which reads "Fever River Trail #24".⁵

⁴ Benton Advocate, August 11, 1922

⁵ The Fever River trail was a points-of-interest tour designed in the 1980s. There are 26 sites in Hazel Green, Benton, New Diggings, and Lead Mine. The group of citizens who designed the trail and a brochure no longer meets. (Information from Peg Roberts, of Benton, 4/5/98.)

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

**National Register of Historic Places
Continuation Sheet**

Section 7 Page 5 Benton Stone Water Tower
Benton, Lafayette County, WI

The tower will continue to be a landmark in Benton, although its function will soon be served by a new water tower on the west edge of the village.

SETTING

Immediately to the west of the tower is a 10' by 18' storage shed, covered with pressed metal "brick" siding. This noncontributing shed occupies the southwest corner of the property being nominated. To the east of the tower a new street, opened in 1996 and named Water Street, leads to the tower from the east and then swings north, passing the tower close to its east wall and defining the northeast boundary of the nominated property. Across Water Street from the tower is a concrete pump house, built in 1952, replacing an earlier pump house on the same spot. East and north of the pump house, the outline of a reservoir, 35' in diameter, probably constructed in 1921 and still in use, rises a few feet in a grassy area. The city property containing the pump house, the reservoir and a second storage shed northeast of the pump house, extends to an acute angle northeast of the reservoir. These elements of the waterworks system are outside of the nominated boundary for the water tower. The areas to the north, east and west of the tower and the reservoir are residential. The municipal building, facing Main Street, is to the south, flanking the municipal building and across Main Street are businesses mixed with residential buildings. Between the water tower and Main Street is a two-story, brick municipal building, dated 1916, which houses the village library, police department and clerk.

INTEGRITY

The exterior of the water tower, as it was after the 1922 modifications, is well preserved. Of the original equipment, described in the Mining Times in 1899, the wooden tower and windmill and the octagonal balcony at the top of the stone tower are gone. Inside the tower, only the joists and reinforcing rods at the level of the balcony are certainly original. The glazing in the three windows and in the arch above the door has been replaced with brick and wooden doors, respectively. The quality of the tower as a landmark, recalling Benton's history and identity, is unimpaired.

Benton Stone Water Tower
Name of Property

Lafayette County, WI
County and State

8. Statement of Significance

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

Areas of Significance
(Enter categories from
instructions)

A Property is associated with events
that have made a significant
contribution to the broad patterns of
our history.

Community Planning and
Development
Architecture

B Property is associated with the lives
of persons significant in our past.

Period of Significance

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.

1899-1948

D Property has yielded, or is likely to
yield, information important in
prehistory or history.

Significant Dates

1899-1900

Criteria Considerations
(Mark "x" in all the boxes that apply.)

Significant Person
(Complete if Criterion B is
marked above)

n/a

A owned by a religious institution or
used for religious purposes.

Cultural Affiliation

B removed from its original location.

n/a

C a birthplace or grave.

D a cemetery.

Architect/Builder

E a reconstructed building, object, or
structure.

Tschirgi, M. *
Kirkpatrick, George**

F a commemorative property.

*(Benton) Mining Times,
7/21/1899

G less than 50 years of age achieved
significance within the past 50 years.

** Shullsburg Pic and Gad
8/24/1899

Narrative Statement of Significance

(Explain the significance of the property on one or more continuation sheets.)

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places
Continuation Sheet

Section 8 Page 1

Benton Stone Water Tower
Benton, Lafayette County, WI

INTRODUCTION

The Benton Stone Water Tower is locally significant under Criterion A as an especially visible and enduring product of political organization and will in an early Wisconsin community. It is also significant under Criterion C as an example of a type of early public works engineering and for its fine stone work. The tower was built in 1899. Determination to build a waterworks marked an important step in the evolution of community spirit and willingness to raise taxes for a common purpose. The original tower was built after a serious fire, and led directly to the formation of the Benton fire department, which has been for almost 100 years an important feature of the public life of Benton.

HISTORY OF BENTON

The village of Benton was a center of lead and zinc mining from its founding in 1844 into the 1950s. The village is one of several settlements dating from the period 1820-1850 which together constitute the Lead Region of southwestern Wisconsin and northwestern Illinois. Other lead mining settlements include Shullsburg, Hazel Green, New Diggings, Platteville, Mineral Point, and Linden, Wisconsin and Galena, Illinois. Lead mining was Wisconsin's first industry and is represented in tandem with agriculture on the State seal. Today Benton is an agricultural service center for surrounding farms. The angled streets of the original settlement help to preserve its early character, and some of the "fine new houses" boasted by the local newspaper in the boom year of 1899, when the water tower was built, are still standing.

The first settlement on the bend of the Fever River that marks the site of Benton occurred in the spring of 1827, when Andrew Murphy built a mill race across the bend. Only transient miners lived in the area until after the Blackhawk War, when Murphy and his brothers built a blast furnace. Lead mining expanded between 1839 and 1842, and there began to be a market for flour, beef and pork. The village was laid out in 1844. St. Patrick's Catholic Church was built in 1846 by Father Mazzuchelli. In 1848, 526 votes were cast in the Town of Benton, but the following year much of the population left for California. In 1852 a stone church was built, and the wooden church became a ladies' academy run by Dominican sisters. In 1867 the order moved to Sinsinawa. In 1873 a narrow gauge railroad was laid between Benton and Platteville, and by 1881 the population of the village was 250; there were four general stores, a grocery store, a hotel and three churches.¹ The village was

¹ History of LaFayette County Chicago, Western Historical Society, 1881, pp. 553,557-8.

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places
Continuation Sheet

Section 8 Page 2

Benton Stone Water Tower
Benton, Lafayette County, WI

named for U.S. Senator Thomas H. Benton. The town received a boost when it escaped the cholera epidemic of 1853-54, when it was said that "types of diseases incident to unsanitary conditions and impurity of air are of rare occurrence."²

CREATION OF A PUBLIC WATERWORKS IN BENTON

In the winter of 1898-99 fire destroyed Whaley's store, the principal business building in Benton, and two houses.³ "The only fire fighting apparatus that was on hand," the paper reported, "were several Babcock fire extinguishers..." On February 10, the Mining Times reported that the village board had decided to call a mass meeting "for the purpose of getting the opinion of the people on the waterworks question..." "Attend the meeting and put yourself on record for or against," the editor exhorted. The same issue carried an editorial, "Waterworks Must Come." Growth of the town, it argued, demands protection from fire. "All of us are of one opinion on one point--that if we had had the waterworks on the night of February 2, the fire could have been confined to the Whaley building...let us not stand back from our duty or out of a few dollars in taxes...what is a few dollars compared with the protection of life and property?" But the clincher was not so much public safety as the identity and future of Benton: "Benton's future is hampered by being shackled with the fear of fire," and "State newspapers noted that the town has no fire protection...a poor advertisement for Benton, indeed," noted the Times. On February 17 came the triumphant report of the mass meeting, called to order by President J.S. Loomey: "Not a Dissenting Voice," reads the headline. Frank Whaley moved a standing ballot, and "every man present stepped to the right." A committee was appointed to investigate "waterworks in this part of the state." The paper praised its members as "men in whom the people can place their confidence...the fact that they will be criticized by some...will have nothing to do with their report...The Times believes that a system of waterworks in Benton is assured." On March 10 the committee recommendation was reported and the Village Board moved to buy a system for about \$4000, with a tank 60 feet or higher and a windmill-driven pump, to be paid for with bonds. Bonding was placed on the spring ballot. It carried, 84 to 24.⁴

² LaFayette County History-1910, bound clippings from the Republican Journal, Darlington, in the collection of the State Historical Society of Wisconsin.

³ (Benton, Wisconsin) Mining Times, February 3, 1899.

⁴ Mining Times, April 7, 1899. The same issue reported that "Benton will have the largest building boom this year...there will be ten buildings and stores...for sure, and no doubt more

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places
Continuation Sheet

Section 8 Page 3

Benton Stone Water Tower
Benton, Lafayette County, WI

By July, specifications for a contract had been issued and bids received. The contract specified a tower, tank, windmill, deep water pump, water mains and hydrants, to be finished by October 15, 1899 on penalty of \$5 a day thereafter.⁵ W. D. Lovell of Des Moines offered to build a stone tower for \$3600, or a steel tower for \$3580. James Fox of Big Patch offered a (wooden?) tower and windmill for \$2000. M. Tschirgi of Dubuque won the contract with a bid of \$3272 for a stone tower.

In May a lot was purchased "in the rear of T.J. Froggett's residence," from John McCaffrey, for \$175. The newspaper reported that "work will soon be started to sink a well..."⁶ In June the well was 50 feet deep, water had been struck and was in fact a problem, as it had to be pumped out before work could continue. "It is the intention to blast out the rock at the bottom and make a large reservoir..."⁷ The well had been dug by the time the paper reported⁸ an election to decide whether to sell ten bonds, for a total of \$3600, at 5% interest, payable beginning March 1, 1901, one coming due each year until 1910, "for a complete system of waterworks to supply water for domestic and sanitary purposes and for extinguishing fires." The election was later declared invalid, and had to be advertised and held again the following August. "The proposition will carry easily," opined the Times, "as everyone is in favor of the waterworks."

Construction of the waterworks increased the visibility and the impact of government in the daily life of Benton. On September 8 it was reported that "last Wednesday Charles Lee made an objection to some of the workmen at the waterworks tower who were driving the derick horse on the street past his residence. Mr. Lee claimed it was a private road and ordered the men not to drive on it. Mr. Tschirgi called Marshal Blades who explained to Mr. Lee that the contractor had a right to use the

...besides the waterworks...P.H. Whaley is back in business ... contented now he is behind the counter again."

⁵ Mining Times, July 21, 1899.

⁶ Mining Times, May 5, 1899.

⁷ Mining Times, June 16, 1899.

⁸ Mining Times, August 18, 1899.

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places
Continuation Sheet

Section 8 Page 4 Benton Stone Water Tower
Benton, Lafayette County, WI

road." (Marshal R.A. Blades was one of four barbers in town. He acted as the contract supervisor during construction.)

Further newspaper accounts reported:

October 6: "The mason work on the tower is completed and the work on the erection of the tank will commence in a few days."

October 13, a cryptic note, probably related to the sale of the waterworks bonds: "Benton is getting to be quite a stock market."

On October 10 it was reported: "Our water works will be completed in a short time. James Fox, of Big Patch, is here putting up the large sixteen foot wheel windmill." The Shullsburg Pic and Gad reported (October 12): "The tower for the Benton waterworks is completed. It can be seen from the Shullsburg tower when the day is clear. The tank will soon be placed in position." (The neighboring village of Shullsburg was also installing a water system. The Times reported on April 26, 1899, that their water tower stood 50 feet above the highest hill, and had a capacity of 2000 barrels. The nearby town of Lancaster installed an interesting but very different waterworks in 1895, when the town bought the hydrants and mains left from the 1893 World's Fair in Chicago. A spring was enclosed by a stone springhouse and pumping station and the water pumped three miles to the town, at a cost of \$24,000: "A crowd of curious spectators and anxious yet confident councilmen watched with breathless interest the experiment that was to determine whether glorious success or humiliating failure was to be the reward of the management of the works..."⁹)

On November 11 the paper reported that the windmill was installed, and the mains filled. "Some water was pumped into the tank but a leak was discovered at a joint of the water main." This was the first of what was to become, in the years that followed, an incessant item in the reports of the village board: repairs to the water system. By April 1900, the village board had voted to place a six inch band in three sections, with double lugs, around the water tank and flanges on the stand pipe. Many more measures, large and small, would follow. Still, the Times concluded, "The tower undoubtedly surpasses any other tower in southwestern Wisconsin in the way of beauty and strength."

Despite the slight overrun on the contracted finish date, the weather cooperated. On November 24th, it was reported that the leaks in the mains had been stopped, and there was an unusual bloom of dandelions.

⁹ "Lancaster waterworks has long history," Grant County Herald Independent, October 14, 1987.

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places
Continuation Sheet

Section 8 Page 5

Benton Stone Water Tower
Benton, Lafayette County, WI

The new water system soon received its first test. On December 1, 1899 the Times reported a kitchen fire: "It was some time before the waterworks system was brought into play owing to the fact that the water gate...was closed but when...the water was turned on everyone was agreeably surprised at the heavy pressure of water." The next issue reported "a watering trough for stock has been placed at the corner of Main and Van Buren streets. The water supply is from the waterworks."

The construction of the water tower led to changes in the village. The newspaper reported the following items:

December 15: "The Times wishes to call attention...Benton is greatly in need of a well organized Fire Department. We have a good waterworks system, a good hose cart and hose...(but) there must be discipline in fighting a fire..."

December 22: "Large boxes have been placed around the hydrants...they will be packed with a material to keep the hydrants from freezing..."

February 2, 1900: "R.A. Blades will add a bath room to his tonsorial parlors as soon as it is possible to get water from the village waterworks. Mr. Blades has ordered a first-class outfit and will build an addition to his shop in a short time. Benton is large enough to support a bathing room and we hope Mr. Blades will receive the patronage he merits by his enterprise." Yet another benefit of the waterworks was noted in August, when the Fire Department sprinkled the streets to keep the dust down.

Organization of the fire company was reported on February 16. The company held its first ball the following April. On April 13, the Times reported: "The fire company made a run from the hose house to the hydrant in front of P.H. Whaley's store Friday night. They made a coupling, threw a line of hose across the street and turned on the water in a short space of time."

On February 16 the paper noted with satisfaction: "During the past twelve months Benton has made rapid progress. A large number of fine residences and the mammoth P.H. Whaley block has been erected. A good system of waterworks has been completed, a fire company organized and a great deal of new sidewalk has been laid." On April 27, the Times reported, "A village hall, eighteen by thirty-two feet, is being erected on the waterworks lot...as a hose house and for other village purposes." Matt Bruner did the mason work on the foundation, Joseph Temple the carpentry. (This building was superceded in 1916 by the present, brick, two-story village hall, also adjacent to the water tower.) The waterworks had clearly energized Benton, its influence being felt in many areas, in addition to its original purpose of fire protection.

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places
Continuation Sheet

Section 8 Page 6

Benton Stone Water Tower
Benton, Lafayette County, WI

In the winter of 1919-20 the women of Benton, organized as the Fortnightly Club, had investigated the possibility of getting a sewer system for Benton. "The mayor was approached on the subject and advised the Club that the present water system was inadequate to take care of any system of sewage disposal that might be installed and there was nothing to do until a water system, ample for all purposes, should be established."¹⁰ But when a special election was advertised in the Benton Advocate on February 11, 1921 to approve \$5000 in bonding to improve the waterworks, and \$10,000 for street improvements, the women questioned whether it would be wise to vote for the proposed bonding, pointing out that "it would surely be unwise to make any repairs on the water system that would not include plans for the future. The electors, both male and female, were urged "to give this matter careful consideration before going to the polls." In the same issue of the Advocate was an open letter from Belle Quinlan: "Voters Attention--...it is my opinion that the election so ordered is illegal...the bonds would not be marketable...every elector should vote no...--Belle Quinlan, attorney at law." Although he printed Quinlan's letter, the editor's opinion appeared on the same page: "Vote for the Bonds--Just now is a very good time to spend money in the Village so that local labor which is now idle may find employment. Let's pass the bond issue and start the new work at once." On March 4 there was a letter from S.E. Smalley: "In my opinion your village board has provided in a legal manner...separate ballots should be provided for improvement of the water works and the improvement of Main Street..." A mass meeting was advertised for Monday evening at 8 o'clock, in the Blende Theater. Mr. C.M. Baker, state Sanitary Engineer, would speak on needs in regard to a permanent system of water works and also "instruction in regard to the possibility and practicability of a sewerage system." Both bond issues carried, the water bonds 180 votes to 48, the street bonds 122 to 105. On April 8 the paper reported that Smalley had been elected Circuit judge. J.F. Kenney was elected Village President.

The times were not as prosperous as they were in 1899, when the waterworks was originally installed. The Advocate reported on April 15, 1921 that nearly every mine in the district was closed down. The village board minutes show many payments for individuals for shoveling snow. Nonetheless, on May 20 the village board passed a resolution authorizing a tax levy to pay principal and interest on bonds for the waterworks. On June 17 it was moved by T. Baxter, seconded by J. Meloy, to let a bid for the laying of water mains. On August 12, 1921, H.W. Monahan was reported to have bought the bonds. On August 19, bids were announced on repairs to the reservoir: Staner and Company, \$2898 without a top, \$3424 with a top. R. R. Coulon, without a top, \$2490, with top, \$2990. Both

¹⁰ Benton Advocate, February 25, 1921.

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places
Continuation Sheet

Section 8 Page 7 Benton Stone Water Tower
Benton, Lafayette County, WI

were rejected, and time was extended on the bids. On September 9, a new bid of \$2887 from Staner, for repairs including a lumber top, was accepted. At the same time, Staner was also contracted for a bridge. A.Y. McDonald was paid \$928.45 for a pump and \$46.76 for fittings. On October 7 the Advocate reported: "The main part of the reservoir has been finished. It is ready for the roof. Staner has started on the bridge." On December 23, the board paid bills of \$174.15 for pipe, \$99.14 for supplies and \$51.94 for labor on the waterworks.

Municipal elections were held in March 1922. The Advocate reported on March 24 that Belle Quinlan had been defeated by A.J. Side. But on April 7, 1922 the paper reported "Two Women Elected." Belle Quinlan became the "Mayor" (i.e. Village President) by a vote of 169 to 124 for Side. Xenia P. Bent, "Dr. Bent," also received 169 votes, to 80 for Thomas Hacker, for a seat on the board. "News of the election of Mrs. Quinlan as Mayor of Benton and Dr. Bent as trustee has been heralded throughout the country in nearly every daily and weekly paper," reported the Advocate.

Quinlan's election coincided with a period of renewed prosperity and reform. Lead prices went up, to a high mark of \$65 a ton. The new mayor announced a clean up week, and published an account of village income and expenditures for 1921. The Fortnightly Club honored the new "Mayoress" and trustee. A Health Office, funded at \$30 a year, was established, overseen by an elected board. Wages to be paid by the village were standardized at 35 cents an hour for common labor and 70 cents for labor with a team. Ordinances regulating rubbish and storage of gunpowder were passed. The State firemen chose Benton for their annual tourney.¹¹

But these harbingers of a new day were only background to Quinlan's main objective. In the May 5 issue of the Advocate, a letter from the new Village President appeared in which Quinlan announced that she had made a survey of the needs of the village and had discovered an \$11,000 debt. "What is done cannot be undone," she observed, but now was the "day of reckoning." She proposed a new system of collecting taxes, and separate accounts for water, electricity, streets, and general expenses. She observed that maintenance costs were, overall, too high. In a separate section, headed Water Department, she pronounced, "It is quite evident to me that the village has a large amount of money invested in its various properties and that as matters now stand there is no one invested with responsibility for the safe keeping and maintenance of our waterworks." She proposed a superintendant of waterworks, to make recommendations and to hire and pay employees. On a motion by Dr. Bent,

¹¹ Benton Advocate, April 14, 28, May 5, June 20, 1922.

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places
Continuation Sheet

Section 8 Page 8 Benton Stone Water Tower
Benton, Lafayette County, WI

the recommendations were approved and J. Meloy appointed president of the Water Board.

The June 16 issue reported a motion by Meloy that plans submitted by Henry Kleinhammer for a new tank on the waterworks be accepted and the village advertise for bids. Kleinhammer was a Platteville, Wisconsin, architect. On June 20th a notice appeared: "Sealed proposals will be received for labor and material required for a new waterworks tank to be erected on the present masonry tower including pipe and valve connections with necessary plans and specifications for same on file... Proposals for steel and also for a wood tank will be considered. On July 28 the paper announced a new accounting system, in compliance with recommendations of the Wisconsin Tax Commission. "For this reason and also because of the financial condition of the village...stringent rules in regard to the operations of public utilities (are needed)... service on delinquent water and light bills will be discontinued..." The old system of bill collection, in which the marshal advertised when he was available to be paid, was replaced by a "card system" run by the Benton State Bank.

On a motion by Gus Piquett, the village board voted to erect a steel tank on the stone tower. On a motion by J.F. Meloy the bid of Chicago Bridge and Iron Works, of \$3775, was accepted, for a 30,000 gallon tank, with a hemispheric bottom, to be completed on or before the last day of October. The village would pay \$1000 upon arrival of the material, \$1000 with 6% interest on or before January 31, 1923 and \$1775 with 6% interest from the day of completion on or before January 31, 1924. The board voted to pay its water department \$35 per hydrant, \$40 per water trough and \$16 per drinking fountain, and to pay Mr. Kleinhammer \$132.25 for the plans used to solicit bids for a water tank. The paper ran a feature article on the virtues of running water, with a picture of a sink and faucet "on tap day and night." A notice signed by Belle Quinlan warned residents to pay their water bills quarterly at the Benton State Bank, for service to delinquents would be discontinued after October 20th, and a penalty would be charged after the 10th.

On February 2nd the village board voted to "pay off Staner" for \$2080, to come from current taxes. "The work on the construction of the new steel tank...will be completed in another week. The work has been done most efficiently...it is a job that will endure indefinitely," noted the Advocate on February 9th. The auditor from the Wisconsin State Tax Commission audited the village books: "The new system installed in the Village is the system which law will soon compel every Village and City to install." The Advocate ran a poem about taxes: "...tax the water,

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places
Continuation Sheet

Section 8 Page 9

Benton Stone Water Tower
Benton, Lafayette County, WI

tax the air/ tax the sunlight if you dare/ But close your eyes so you can't see/ The coupon clipper go tax free."¹²

But the Advocate, true to its name, could not help but show enthusiasm for the new village amenity: "Turn On the Lights--The new steel tank will be completed this week. It is a credit to the Construction Company and the Village. It has been suggested that the Village place a large light at the top of the tank. Why not erect a steel tube pointing in the four directions, North, South, East, and West, and from the end of the four points place a 500 power light. It could be seen for miles and would light up the whole village." (This suggestion apparently met with no success.)

On March 23, Belle Quinlan's summary of the year appeared in the paper: "It early became apparent that something must be done with the old water tank...Careful investigation showed that any money whatever expended on the old tank would be money wasted; the only thing that could be done was to advertise for bids to ascertain the probable cost of a new one and then see if we could...manage the finances..the lowest estimate was \$4000. (With) no provision in the tax levy for a new tank (and) \$2300 on hand, and (expenses including the fire department, etc.)..leaving \$700 to run the village for 9 months...it was decided that if certain leaks could be stopped we might be able to save sufficient out of the tax levy to pay for a new tank...(W)e debated (whether) to pay the whole amount (but decided) it was better to secure an extension at 6% and try to take up the Staner 8% note for \$2000...This was done because the payment of the note was made conditional upon their waiver of their claim against the village for a compensation insurance premium amounting to \$224." The report also noted over \$500 in delinquent accounts collected, and the successful containment of outbreaks of measles, skin diseases and flu in the school. The gratitude of the village was not unbounded, however. In the April, 1923 municipal election, Belle Quinlan was defeated by J. Beck, 55 to 172.¹³

Nonetheless, Quinlan's reforms had created a momentum. That summer the board voted to install water meters at four businesses, the high school and the depot, and ruled that domestic water hydrants must be moved inside. Water rates were set at 85 cents per month minimum, with meter rates at 30 cents for the first 1000 cubic feet, 25 cents for the second

¹² Benton Advocate, August 4 and 11, 1922, May 6, 1923.

¹³ Benton Advocate, May 6, 1923. It is interesting to compare the vote totals for 1922 and 1923: 293 in 1922, 227 in 1923. J. Beck received only 48 more votes to win in 1923 than Side had received in losing in 1922, but the 169 votes cast for Quinlan in 1922 dwindled to only 55 in 1923.

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places
Continuation Sheet

Section 8 Page

10

Benton Stone Water Tower
Benton, Lafayette County, WI

and 20 cents above that. The water ordinance, first adopted in January 1923, was affirmed and the board voted to publish it in January, 1924. Village proceedings continued to include frequent bills for repairs to the water system. In August the Advocate's first ever banner headline announced that the Benton Fire Company had won a silver trophy.¹⁴

THE SIGNIFICANCE OF THE BENTON WATER SYSTEM

The first water main system in this country was installed in Boston in 1652. New York and Philadelphia had water systems by 1799. It was nearly a century later, in the 1870s and 1880s that water systems spread rapidly in other places.¹⁵

Municipal water systems were a hot topic in turn-of-the-century engineering literature.¹⁶ A Santa Rosa, California councilman lauded the rise of public services, which, he said, would produce "healthy, educated, happy and contented people." The same article cited justice to the poor and disease prevention, freedom from the expense and annoyance of bill collection, and increase in land value, as arguments for free water service. Many other articles, however, cited the growing expense of wasted water, and articles promoting metering multiplied in the journals.¹⁷

European models were reported in the American engineering journals. The same journal that carried the article cited above noted in a brief item

¹⁴ Benton Advocate June 15, July 13, 27, August 4, 17, October 12, November 23, 1923, January 11, 1924.

¹⁵ Earle L. Watermann, Elements of Water Supply Engineering, New York, Wiley, 1934, p. 5

¹⁶ Sources are shown in the bibliography. The quote is from J.W. Keegan, "Should Water be Served by Municipalities Free?" Municipal Journal and Engineer, 12:251, June, 1902.

¹⁷ Metering brought its own problems, as it turned out. In Shullsburg, a fight broke out between W. H. Jones and Alderman Andrew Hebenstreit when Jones was discovered using water he was not entitled to. A knife was drawn and Hebensteit was arrested. "Both parties (are) old enough to settle their differences without recourse to personal encounters," was the judgement of the Advocate, June 6, 1923. In Benton, waste of water had become an issue by 1923, and the water ordinance was amended on August 10 of that year to allow for metering of all customers in the future.

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places
Continuation Sheet

Section 8 Page 11

Benton Stone Water Tower
Benton, Lafayette County, WI

titled "Masonry Towers:¹⁸" "It is the common practice in Europe to support the tank on a masonry structure, and also to enclose it with masonry or wood. This form of construction readily lends itself to architectural treatment and should be more often adopted in this country. The bottom details are arranged as shown...The tank resting upon the wall..." Water and Water Supplies¹⁹ cited the municipal system of Leckdale, Gloucester, England, population 1,250: a windmill with 18 foot sails, a 60,000 gallon tank on a brick tower, with a double action pump inside and the windmill on top. A shaft went through the tank to the pump. The system had standpipes in the streets, with an annual fee for in-house connection.

By 1918 American technology had taken on a life of its own, and more precise information was offered on the stresses involved and details of tank and pipe construction. Edward Wegmann explained,²⁰"When steel tanks were first introduced, about 40 or 50 years ago, (i.e. 1870-80) their bottoms were flat...This plan is, however, very costly. Some tanks were made with conical bottoms, but this plan has no advantages. Finally, in 1894, the bottoms were made spherical, and this plan is now generally adopted, as it gives great strength to the bottom."

In Benton, the sense of excitement generated by the technology and accompanying engineering problems can be judged from the running accounts given in the Times as installation of the waterworks and then the mains proceeded during 1899, 1900 and 1901. (One can surmise, also, that the problems of excavation and pumping out water were of especial interest in an area where most of the male population were miners.) In September, the Times reported with tongue-in-cheek: "A man sitting in front of the Hotel Central said he couldn't understand how the water tower could be filled with water when there is a big door in the bottom...he understood the tower to be a standpipe."²¹ One item was not

¹⁸ "Masonry Towers," p. 734.

¹⁹ John C. Thrush, 3rd ed., Philadelphia, P. Blakiston's, 1901.

²⁰ Conveyance and Distribution of Water for Water Supplies, New York, Van Nostrand, 1918, p. 384. On page 377: "In flat regions, the elevated tank is preferable to a standpipe, as practically its whole capacity is available for fire protection. For this purpose, however, its bottom should be placed at least 80 to 100 feet above the top of the highest building in the town." The greater height required by this later standard would make masonry towers impractical.

²¹ Mining Times, September 22, 1899.

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places
Continuation Sheet

Section 8 Page 12

Benton Stone Water Tower
Benton, Lafayette County, WI

so upbeat: "Edward Nicholas, employed at the water works tower, was injured badly last Tuesday. He was holding the steering line of the hoisting boat...when the rock ascended, his legs became entangled in the line and he was carried high into the air before Contractor Tschirgi, who was driving the horse, heard. As (it was being lowered,) the hoisting boat knocked against the the tower, rock fell on his head, and he fell to the ground." Despite eight stitches to his scalp and injuries to his shoulder and stomach he was reported "getting along nicely."²²

An intensive survey of the lead region, conducted in 1982, found the water tower to have architectural significance as "one of three examples of nineteenth century stone construction that remain in Benton. More important the water tower has become the visual landmark that identifies Benton geographically from miles away in the surrounding countryside."²³

An attempt was made to trace the development of the Benton waterworks between 1899 and 1921 and after 1921 to the present. While this nomination is in preparation, the steel tank on its stone base is still used to provide pressure to water mains in Benton. A concrete block pump house, constructed in 1952,²⁴ stands east of the tower, on the other side of Water Street. An underground reservoir, 35' in diameter can be seen in the hillside east and north of the pump house. Water is pumped in two stages, from the well to the reservoir and from the reservoir to the tower.²⁵ In 1998 a new water tower on the west side of the village will replace the historic water system.

As mentioned, repairs to the water system became a constant theme in the records of the Benton Village Board. Minutes of the board are missing

²² Mining Times, September 22, 1899.

²³ Rausch, Joan, An Intensive Architectural and Historical Survey of Mining Communities in Portions of LaFayette and Grant Countys, Wisconsin, Planning Report #54, Southwest Wisconsin Regional Planning Commission, 1983.

²⁴ Benton Advocate, June 20, 1952: Village Board proceedings reports a bid let to V.E. Construction, of Platteville for \$9472, for a new pump house. The board also moves to buy a new pump, and approves payments for "water labor."

²⁵ Interviews were conducted February, 19 and 20, 1998 with Village President Keith Farrey and with Utilities Manager John Perkins. Although neither had a complete understanding of the sequence of events leading from construction of the tower in 1899 to the present, some facts were established. Unless otherwise noted, the information provided here came from these interviews.

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places
Continuation Sheet

Section 8 Page 13

Benton Stone Water Tower
Benton, Lafayette County, WI

before 1920. Beginning with the May 1920 meeting, the following is a list of main events and some typical entries for the 1920s and 1930s:

September 14, 1920: Contract with Viril Cottingham for \$75 to remove the windmill from the water tank.

September 21, 1920: Fixing the water tank to be left to Joe Alderson; J.F. Meloy is to "send a man to fix the water works so pumping can be done into mains directly."

October 12, 1920: Labor on tank, \$102.

November 9, 1920: J.C. Alderson, labor on tank \$190.

March 29, 1921: A special tax levy is recommended for pumping water for fire protection.

May 1921: Mains are being extended.

July 25, 1921: Resolve to advertise for bids on the reservoir. (It is not clear whether this was for original construction of the reservoir to the northeast of the tower, or if an earlier reservoir was being repaired/expanded.)

August 22, 1921: A hoist is purchased for "pulling pumps," probably from the pit in the base of the tower.

August 29, 1921: Village clerk is authorized to go to Platteville for plans for the reservoir.

September 5, 1921: A bid of \$2887 by Mr. Staner for the reservoir is accepted. A.Y. McDonald is paid \$928.46 for a pump, \$46.76 for fittings.

November 8, 1921: Mr. Kleinhammer is paid \$34 for plans for the reservoir.

April 11, 1922: First meeting of the new village board. Except for J.F. Meloy, there is a complete turnover in membership.

May 2, 1922: J.F. Meloy is appointed superintendent of the water department.

June 27, 1922: Duties of the village marshall: "#1, daily fill the tank and reservoir with water...This is done by electricity, no manual labor is required."

July 11, 1922: Bids are received on a steel water tank: Pittsburg

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places
Continuation Sheet

Section 8 Page 14

Benton Stone Water Tower
Benton, Lafayette County, WI

DesMoines Steel Company, \$4100, Clinton Bridge Works, \$4000, Chicago Bridge and Iron, \$3775. Bids on a wood tank: A.S. Wind Engine and Pump Company, Batavia, IL, \$2450.

July 26, 1922: Bid of Chicago Bridge and Iron is accepted.

August 31, 1922: Water system is valued at \$20,000.

January 9, 1923: Water ordinance adopted: no free service, all connections must have a permit. There will be an annual inspection for waste. Annual charge is \$6 per house; with toilet and bath, \$10. (The village was still without a sewer system; households relied on cesspools.)

June 12, 1923: The new board votes to install water meters at four businesses, the creamery, the depot and the high school.

July 10, 1923: The first of many entries for "pump labor:" 7 men in amounts ranging from \$40.25 to \$2.10. Repair bills, apparently on the pump, totalled \$103.23. This is a constant item throughout the minutes for the 1920s and 1930s: repairs to the pump, and "pump labor," often paid to half a dozen or more men.

December 9, 1923: Rewind pump motor, \$43.45.

November 10, 1925: Motion to purchase a new pump. Paint for tank, \$30.

November 9, 1926: C.H. Piquette, water labor, \$186.64

December 12, 1926: Repairs to pump, A.Y. McDonald, \$131.72.

April 2, 1929: An oil-powered pump is bought for \$500.

May 14, 1929: A.Y. McDonald, pump parts, \$370.08

July 9, 1929: A Fairbanks-Morse gas-driven pump is purchased.

December 8, 1931: Worthington pump repaired: \$196.00

June 29, 1933: Water rates reduced by order of the Public Service Commission.

June 12, 1934. Greenlee Construction Company contracted to paint the tower, inspect the tanks and perform any needed repairs.

December 5, 1935: Motion to employ a water and electric superintendent to read meters, collect bills and do maintenance.

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places
Continuation Sheet

Section 8 Page 15

Benton Stone Water Tower
Benton, Lafayette County, WI

An effort to find someone who understood the repeated payments for "pump labor" was unsuccessful. The present utilities manager, John Perkins, states that the concrete block pump house, built in 1952, stands on the site of an earlier pump house, in which the pump(s?) sat in a pit below the present floor level. The system at the time of this nomination uses both the 1921 reservoir and the stone water tower with steel tank, essentially the system installed during the brief tenure of Belle Quinlan as Mayor.

Cultural Resource Management in Wisconsin does not discuss waterworks nor stone towers. Stone water towers are listed in the Register as part of historic districts in Beloit and Clinton. The tower at Beloit was built in 1889. While much larger, it was similar in having had a wooden tank, which collapsed in 1914, to be replaced by a steel tank, and an interior stairway and an outside balcony, according to the nomination. There is a stone water tower similar in size and appearance to the one in Benton in Sun Prairie, Wisconsin.

CONCLUSION

The stone water tower in Benton is an enduring symbol of the community and its history. The establishment of public utilities in Benton in 1899 marked a significant milestone in the development of the community. The construction of the water tower led to the formation of a local fire department. In addition to fire protection, the water tower contributed to changes in lifestyle for village residents, with the availability of indoor plumbing and bathing facilities.

The stone water tower is also significant as one of only a few instances of stone water towers in the state and for the quality and excellent state of preservation of its fine, masonry construction. The stone base tower is an example of the evolution of this property type. Early standpipes led to stone base towers, which later became the modern, metal towers. Benton's stone base water tower is a rare example of its type in Wisconsin and retains a high degree of integrity related to its areas of significance.

Benton Stone Water Tower
Name of Property

LaFayette County, WI
County and State

9. Major Bibliographic References

Bibliography

(Cite the books, articles, and other sources used in preparing this form on one or more continuation sheets.)

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 # _____

Primary location of additional data:
 State Historic Preservation Office
 Other State Agency
 Federal Agency
 Local government
 University
 Other
Name of repository: _____

10. Geographical Data

Acres of Property less than 1 acre

UTM References (Place additional UTM references on a continuation sheet.)

1	<u>1/6</u>	<u>7/1/4/8/20</u>	<u>4/7/1/6/2/80</u>	3	<u>/</u>	<u>/ / / / /</u>	<u>/ / / / /</u>
	Zone Easting	Northing			Zone Easting	Northing	
2	<u>/</u>	<u>/ / / / /</u>	<u>/ / / / /</u>	4	<u>/</u>	<u>/ / / / /</u>	<u>/ / / / /</u>
	Zone Easting	Northing			Zone Easting	Northing	

___ see continuation sheet

Verbal Boundary Description (Describe the boundaries of the property on a continuation sheet)

Boundary Justification (Explain why the boundaries were selected on a continuation sheet)

11. Form Prepared By

name/title Jane Eiseley
organization _____ date April 15, 1998
street & number 3433 Richard Street telephone 608-249-8818
city or town Madison state WI zip code 53714

NPS Form 10-900-a
(Rev. 8-86)
Wisconsin Word Processing Format
(Approved 1/92)

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

**National Register of Historic Places
Continuation Sheet**

Section 9 Page 1 Benton Stone Water Tower
Benton, Lafayette County, WI

BIBLIOGRAPHY:

Benton (Wisconsin) Advocate. 1921-1924, 1952, 1955.

(Benton, Wisconsin) Mining Times. 1898-1901.

Calvert, Steve. Interviews, February, 19-20, 1998.

Engineering Record. 1893-94.

Farrey, Keith. Interviews, Benton, WI, February 19-20, 1998.

History of LaFayette County, Wisconsin. Chicago: Western Historical Society, 1881.

Keegan, J.W. "Should Water be Served by Municipalities Free?" Municipal Journal and Engineer. 12:251, June, 1902.

LaFayette County History--1910 (Darlington, Wisconsin) Republic Journal, 1910.
(Bound excerpts in the State Historical Society of Wisconsin library.)

Perkins, John, Interview, Benton, WI, February 20, 1998.

Rausch, Joan. An Intensive Architectural and Historical Survey of Mining Communities in Portions of LaFayette and Grant Counties, Wisconsin. Planning Report #54, Southwest Wisconsin Regional Planning Commission, 1983.

Roberts, Peg. Interview, Benton, WI, February 20, 1998.

Shullsburg (Wisconsin) Pick and Gad. 1899, 1952.

Thrush, John C. Water and Water Supplies. Philadelphia: P. Blakiston's, 1901.

Village of Benton. Village Board Minutes, 1920-1939.

Watermann, Earle L. Elements of Water Supply Engineering. New York: Wiley, 1934.

NPS Form 10-900-a
(Rev. 8-86)
Wisconsin Word Processing Format
(Approved 1/92)

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

**National Register of Historic Places
Continuation Sheet**

Section 9 Page 2 Benton Stone Water Tower
Benton, Lafayette County, WI

Wegmann, Edward. Conveyance and Distribution of Water for Water
Supplies. New York: Van Nostrand, 1918.

Wyatt, Barbara, ed. Cultural Resource Management in Wisconsin. Madison:
State Historical Society of Wisconsin, 1986.

NPS Form 10-900-a

(Rev. 8-86)

Wisconsin Word Processing Format

(Approved 1/92)

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places
Continuation Sheet

Section 10 Page 1

Benton Stone Water Tower
Benton, Lafayette County, WI

VERBAL BOUNDARY DESCRIPTION

The boundary description is based on a lot purchased by the Village of Benton in 1899: "Commencing at the South East Corner of Thomas J. Froggatts lot in Benton which he bought from John McCaffrey and now in a Southeasterly course along side of Main Street in said Village, six feet thence in a Northeasterly Course parallel with said Froggetts lot one hundred and thirty feet, thence to a point fourteen feet, from said Froggetts Northeast corner of lot and in line with the South East side of said lot then continue from said point on line with said South East side of Froggetts lot, in a North Easterly course one hundred and Thirty Three feet, thence in a Westerly course to a point eighty three feet from Froggetts North West corner of lot and in line with the North West Side of his lot and now thence to the North West corner of said Froggetts lot, thence in a South Easterly course along the North end of said lot sixty six feet to his North East corner, thence along the South East Side of his lot to the Street at the place of commencement one hundred and twenty feet."

The boundary as described above is shown on the attached sketch map. The nominated property excludes the 6' wide strip of land to the northwest of the municipal building, and all the land north and east of present day Water Street. Thus, the southwest boundary of the nominated property is a straight line extending southeast 72' from the northwest corner of Froggetts lot, and the north and east boundary is a curve following the southwest curb of Water Street to its intersection with the southeast boundary of the original lot, and then southwest to intersect with the southwest boundary described above.

BOUNDARY JUSTIFICATION

The verbatim text of a warranty deed recorded in Vol 49, page 261, dated eleventh day of May, 1899, between John McCaffrey and Margaret McCaffrey his wife and the Village of Benton, Lafayette County is the basic rationale for the boundary. The boundary described in that document encloses a quadrilateral lot plus a 6' wide strip extending southwest between Froggatt's lot and the present municipal building to Main Street. The site was purchased by the Village of Benton expressly for the construction of a well, underground reservoir and water tower. Today a shed and the water tower are the only structures on that lot. A new street, Water Street, opened in 1996, bisects the lot north and east of the water tower and the shed, forming a visual boundary between the water tower and the newer municipal waterworks to the northeast. The boundaries of the original and nominated properties are shown on the attached sketch map.

Benton Stone Water Tower
Name of Property

LaFayette County, WI
County and State

Additional Documentation

Submit the following items with the completed form:

Continuation Sheets

Maps

A USGS map (7.5 or 15 minute series) indicating the property's location.

A sketch map for historic districts and properties having large acreage or numerous resources.

Photographs Representative black and white photographs of the property.

Additional Items (Check with the SHPO or FPO for any additional items)

Property Owner

Complete this item at the request of SHPO or FPO.)

name Village of Benton, Wisconsin
street & number Box 91, 48 W. Main Street telephone 608 759-4455
city or town Benton state WI zip code 53803

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. 470 et seq.).

Estimated Burden Statement: Public reporting burden for this form is estimated to average 18.1 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 Chief, Administrative Services Division, National Park Service, P.O. Box 37127, Washington, DC 20013-7127; and the Office of Management and Budget, Paperwork Reductions Projects, (1024-0018), Washington, DC 20503.

NPS Form 10-900-a
(Rev. 8-86)
Wisconsin Word Processing Format
(Approved 1/92)

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

**National Register of Historic Places
Continuation Sheet**

Section Photos 1

Benton Stone Water Tower
Benton, Lafayette County, WI

Photo 1 of 6
BENTON STONE WATER TOWER
Benton, LaFayette County, WI
Photo by Jane Eiseley, September, 1997
Negatives at the State Historical Society of Wisconsin
View looking northeast from Main Street

Photo 2 of 6
BENTON STONE WATER TOWER
Benton, LaFayette County, WI
Photo by Jane Eiseley, September, 1997
Negatives at the State Historical Society of Wisconsin
View looking southwest from reservoir

Photo 3 of 6
BENTON STONE WATER TOWER
Benton, LaFayette County, WI
Photo by Jane Eiseley, September 1997
Negatives at the State Historical Society of Wisconsin
View looking north from municipal building

Photo 4 of 6
BENTON STONE WATER TOWER
Benton, LaFayette County, WI
Photo by Jane Eiseley, September, 1997
Negatives at the State Historical Society of Wisconsin
Detail of balcony and ladder

Photo 5 of 6
BENTON STONE WATER TOWER
Benton, LaFayette County, WI
Photo by Jane Eiseley, September, 1997
Negatives at the State Historical Society of Wisconsin
Detail of window and walkway

Photo 6 of 6
BENTON STONE WATER TOWER
Benton, LaFayette County, WI
Photo by Jane Eiseley, February, 1998
Negatives at the State Historical Society of Wisconsin
Interior

NPS Form 10-900-a
(Rev. 8-86)
Wisconsin Word Processing Format
(Approved 1/92)

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

**National Register of Historic Places
Continuation Sheet**

Section Exhibits Page 1 Benton Stone Water Tower
Benton, Lafayette County, WI

- 1) Benton Water Tower about 1900, with windmill.
- 2) Village of Benton, State Dept of Transportation, 1986ff.
- 3) Sketch map of water tower lot.

DATE OF LAST CORR.	STATE TRUNKS	COUNTY TRUNKS	LOCAL STREETS
1-1-89		.39	5.08
1-1-90			
1-1-88		.39	5.08

LEGEND	
US & STATE HIGHWAYS	CORPORATE LIMITS
COUNTY TRUNK HWYS	AIRPORT
STREETS	NAME
CEMETERY	

WISCONSIN DEPARTMENT OF
TRANSPORTATION
VILLAGE OF
BENTON
TOWN: BENTON
COUNTY: LAFAYETTE
Certified as correct

42
33-107
D
GX902
W81
198-
C
Signature _____ Title _____

YEAR OF LAST COMPLETE INVENTORY—1986
last assigned street number is 00126

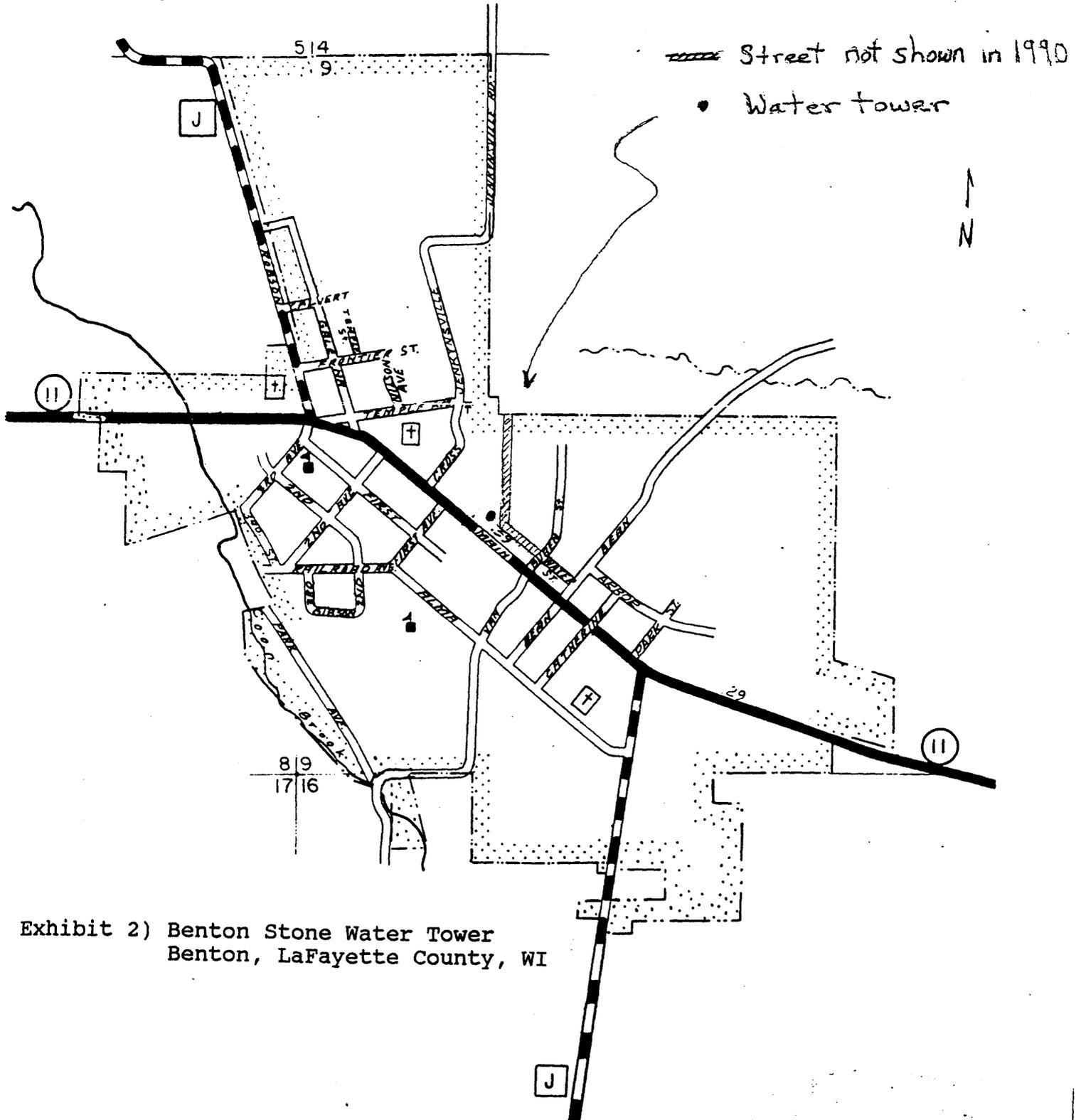
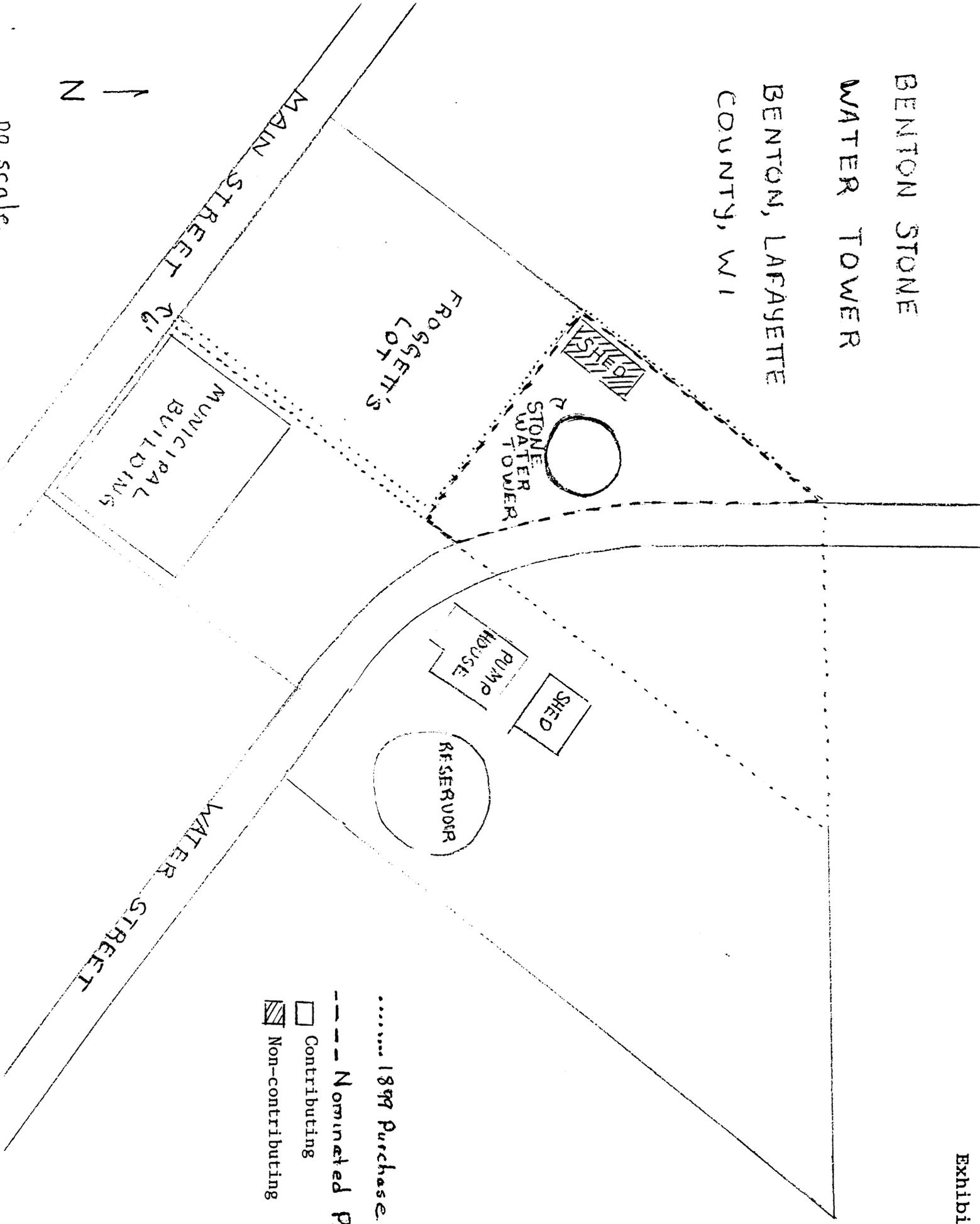


Exhibit 2) Benton Stone Water Tower
Benton, LaFayette County, WI

BENTON STONE
WATER TOWER
BENTON, LAFAYETTE
COUNTY, WI



..... 1899 Purchase
 --- Nominated Property

- Contributing
- Non-contributing

no scale.



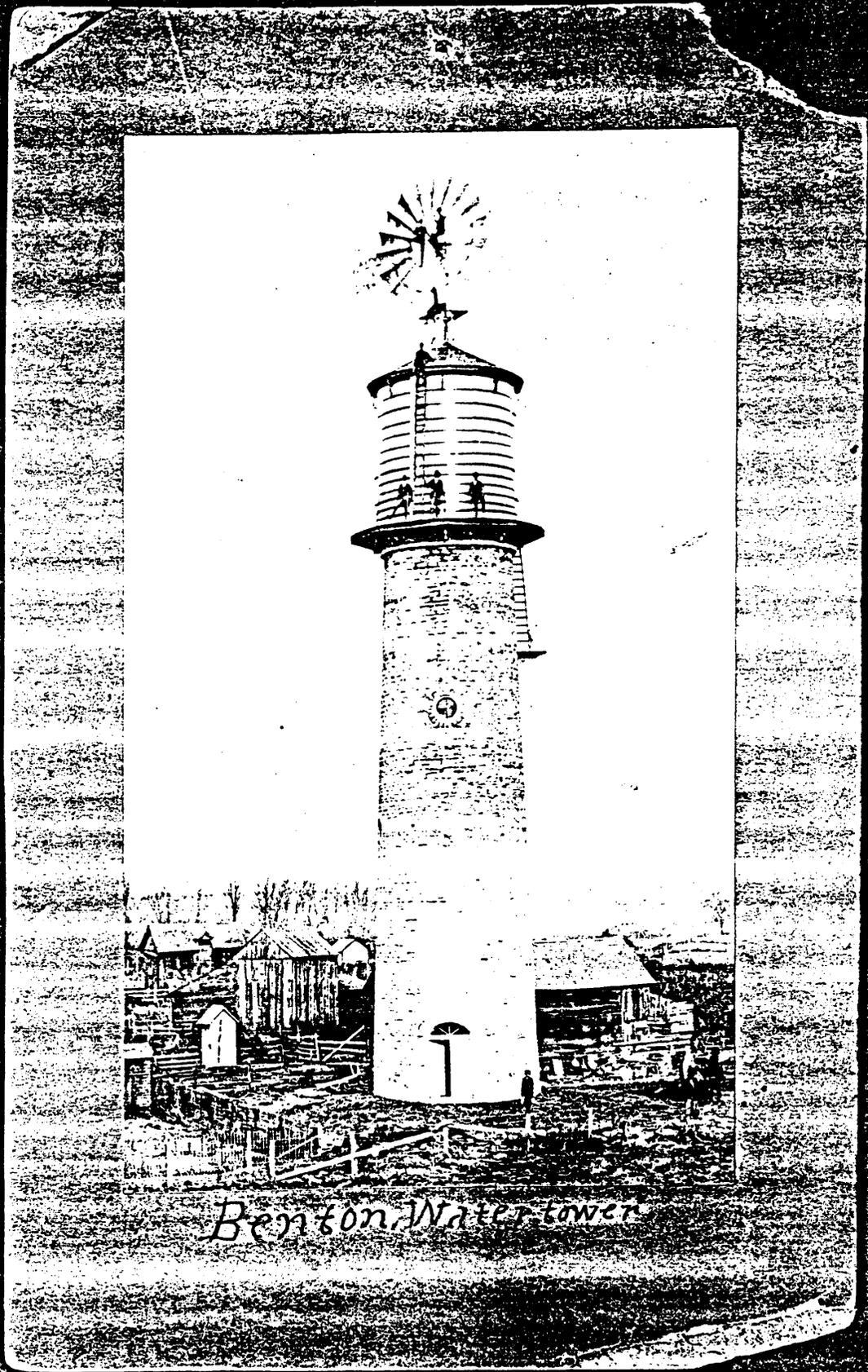


Exhibit 1) Benton Stone Water Tower
Benton, LaFayette County, WI
c 1900