

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

FOR NPS USE ONLY	
RECEIVED	JUN 21 1979
DATE ENTERED	JUL 27 1979

**NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
INVENTORY -- NOMINATION FORM**

SEE INSTRUCTIONS IN *HOW TO COMPLETE NATIONAL REGISTER FORMS*
TYPE ALL ENTRIES -- COMPLETE APPLICABLE SECTIONS

1 NAME

HISTORIC Waterworks Building

AND/OR COMMON
The Pump House

2 LOCATION

STREET & NUMBER
119 King Street

__NOT FOR PUBLICATION

CITY, TOWN
La Crosse

CONGRESSIONAL DISTRICT

__ VICINITY OF

Third

STATE
Wisconsin

CODE
55

COUNTY
La Crosse

CODE
063

3 CLASSIFICATION

CATEGORY	OWNERSHIP	STATUS	PRESENT USE	
<input type="checkbox"/> DISTRICT	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> PUBLIC	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> OCCUPIED	<input type="checkbox"/> AGRICULTURE	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> MUSEUM
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> BUILDING(S)	<input type="checkbox"/> PRIVATE	<input type="checkbox"/> UNOCCUPIED	<input type="checkbox"/> COMMERCIAL	<input type="checkbox"/> PARK
<input type="checkbox"/> STRUCTURE	<input type="checkbox"/> BOTH	<input type="checkbox"/> WORK IN PROGRESS	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> EDUCATIONAL	<input type="checkbox"/> PRIVATE RESIDENCE
<input type="checkbox"/> SITE	PUBLIC ACQUISITION	ACCESSIBLE	<input type="checkbox"/> ENTERTAINMENT	<input type="checkbox"/> RELIGIOUS
<input type="checkbox"/> OBJECT	<input type="checkbox"/> IN PROCESS	<input type="checkbox"/> YES: RESTRICTED	<input type="checkbox"/> GOVERNMENT	<input type="checkbox"/> SCIENTIFIC
	<input type="checkbox"/> BEING CONSIDERED	<input type="checkbox"/> YES: UNRESTRICTED	<input type="checkbox"/> INDUSTRIAL	<input type="checkbox"/> TRANSPORTATION
		<input type="checkbox"/> NO	<input type="checkbox"/> MILITARY	<input type="checkbox"/> OTHER:

4 OWNER OF PROPERTY

NAME
City of La Crosse

STREET & NUMBER
505 North Sixth Street

CITY, TOWN
La Crosse

__ VICINITY OF

STATE

Wisconsin 54601

5 LOCATION OF LEGAL DESCRIPTION

COURTHOUSE,
REGISTRY OF DEEDS, ETC. La Crosse County Courthouse

STREET & NUMBER
400 North Fourth Street

CITY, TOWN
La Crosse

STATE

Wisconsin 54601

6 REPRESENTATION IN EXISTING SURVEYS

TITLE
Wisconsin Inventory of Historic Places

DATE
1978

FEDERAL STATE COUNTY LOCAL

DEPOSITORY FOR
SURVEY RECORDS State Historical Society of Wisconsin

CITY, TOWN
Madison

STATE
Wisconsin 53706

7 DESCRIPTION

CONDITION

EXCELLENT DETERIORATED
 GOOD RUINS
 FAIR UNEXPOSED

CHECK ONE

UNALTERED
 ALTERED

CHECK ONE

ORIGINAL SITE
 MOVED DATE _____

DESCRIBE THE PRESENT AND ORIGINAL (IF KNOWN) PHYSICAL APPEARANCE

The Waterworks Building, constructed in the Romanesque Revival style, is situated 250 feet east of the Mississippi River in one of the oldest industrial sections of the city of La Crosse. The overall plan of the building is rectangular with a short, square central tower projecting from the south facade. The steel frame structure is faced with dark red brick laid in common bond and terminates in an intersecting hipped roof.

The core of the building was erected in 1880, a much smaller rectangular structure of brick with a gable roof. In about 1890 the building was enlarged to its present form with the older core incorporated in the east wing. Subsequent additions in the 1930's and 1940's have further modified the building.

The massive tower, once three stories to accommodate a large standpipe, was shortened in the 1940's to its present height. It is pierced with a central flat-arched entrance and fitted with a triple door. A stringcourse directly above the entrance marks the impost of a large round arch. The tympanum of the arch is filled with decorative, alternately laid brick. Above the arch is an inset stone plaque that reads "pump house." The plaque, originally located above the main entrance of the 1880 building, was re-installed in the c.1890 tower. Four courses of corbelled brick encircle the tower above the plaque, meeting the cornice of the east wing. Above the corbelling the corners of the tower are truncated. On three sides of the tower there are pairs of recessed brick panels directly below a denticulated cornice. Like the main building, the tower has a hipped roof.

At the west end of the facade the first story is pierced by two round arched tripartite windows. The window flanking the tower replaces a vehicular door installed in the 1940's. The second story features two sets of three deeply set sash windows with stone sills. These windows also appear on the second story of the east end of the facade. The first story of the east end of the facade features a central door flanked by a pair of large multi-paneled windows.

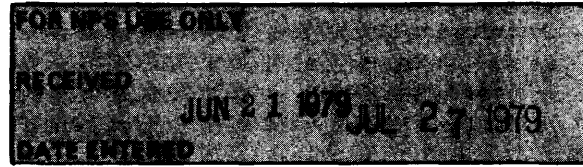
The east wall of the building has been altered through additions in the 1930's and 40's. Two large round arched windows have been changed to rectangular multi-paned windows. The cornice of the original 1880 building and three round-arched openings of a later date are now bricked over. Six segmental arched windows have also been bricked in. In the 1940's a small bay with large vehicular doors was added on the east wall. The north wall of the building is nondescript.

The building is sparsely decorated. A plain stone water table crosses the facade and provides a horizontal emphasis. This horizontality is heightened by the massive hipped roof, the squat tower and the broad pierced openings. Ornate bronze cresting, similar to the original that once highlighted the roof ridge, is now being installed.

The main feature of the interior of the waterworks building, two pumps purchased from the George F. Burke & Co. Duplex Pump Company in the 1880's, was removed in the 1940's. When the pumps were removed a floor was installed at the second story to replace the original catwalk. A shaft 35' x 45' surrounded by a balcony directly beyond the tower entrance rises from the first floor to the second floor ceiling. Also remaining is the original ceiling of inlaid wood strips, accented by a decorative wood cornice. Much of the woodwork surrounding the second story windows is also original. After 1940 the building served as a garage for city maintenance crews and the interior deteriorated badly.

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

**NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
INVENTORY -- NOMINATION FORM**



CONTINUATION SHEET

ITEM NUMBER 7

PAGE 1

DESCRIPTION (continued)

In 1977 the waterworks building was leased from the city of La Crosse by Western Wisconsin Regional Arts and a major restoration project was undertaken. Salvage from the old La Crosse post office, a Romanesque revival structure demolished in 1977, provided a staircase, doors, window frames, lighting and ceiling fans for refurbishing the interior. Restoration was far enough underway by December of 1978 to allow the building to be opened to the public. Upon completion, the structure will provide assembly, conference and art exhibition rooms and dance, art and photo studios for the city of La Crosse and a seven county area. A cement block addition to the waterworks building was erected in the 1940's. The addition, featuring a false front with stepped parapet and three large vehicular doors, projects beyond the facade of the main building and obscures all of the west wall. Plans regarding the addition, currently leased by a car dealer, are uncertain. It will either be recessed from the facade and faced with brick or removed entirely.

8 SIGNIFICANCE

4

PERIOD	AREAS OF SIGNIFICANCE -- CHECK AND JUSTIFY BELOW				
<input type="checkbox"/> PREHISTORIC	<input type="checkbox"/> ARCHEOLOGY-PREHISTORIC	<input type="checkbox"/> COMMUNITY PLANNING	<input type="checkbox"/> LANDSCAPE ARCHITECTURE	<input type="checkbox"/> RELIGION	
<input type="checkbox"/> 1400-1499	<input type="checkbox"/> ARCHEOLOGY-HISTORIC	<input type="checkbox"/> CONSERVATION	<input type="checkbox"/> LAW	<input type="checkbox"/> SCIENCE	
<input type="checkbox"/> 1500-1599	<input type="checkbox"/> AGRICULTURE	<input type="checkbox"/> ECONOMICS	<input type="checkbox"/> LITERATURE	<input type="checkbox"/> SCULPTURE	
<input type="checkbox"/> 1600-1699	<input type="checkbox"/> ARCHITECTURE	<input type="checkbox"/> EDUCATION	<input type="checkbox"/> MILITARY	<input type="checkbox"/> SOCIAL/HUMANITARIAN	
<input type="checkbox"/> 1700-1799	<input type="checkbox"/> ART	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> ENGINEERING	<input type="checkbox"/> MUSIC	<input type="checkbox"/> THEATER	
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 1800-1899	<input type="checkbox"/> COMMERCE	<input type="checkbox"/> EXPLORATION/SETTLEMENT	<input type="checkbox"/> PHILOSOPHY	<input type="checkbox"/> TRANSPORTATION	
<input type="checkbox"/> 1900-	<input type="checkbox"/> COMMUNICATIONS	<input type="checkbox"/> INDUSTRY	<input type="checkbox"/> POLITICS/GOVERNMENT	<input type="checkbox"/> OTHER (SPECIFY)	
		<input type="checkbox"/> INVENTION			

SPECIFIC DATES 1880, c.1890¹ BUILDER/ARCHITECT John A. Cole (c. 1890 addition)²

STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE

The Waterworks Building achieves local significance as the first water pumping station for the city of La Crosse to serve fire hydrants. As in most small cities founded in the mid 1800's, La Crosse's first water supply came from private wells and cisterns. The movement toward a public supply of water was necessitated by a demand for protection against fire. In 1857 a major fire devastated much of the young city and prompted the organization of a volunteer fire department. Although the department itself was well established within twenty years, a ready and ample source of water was sorely lacking. Until that time the public water supply consisted of fifteen cisterns filled with river water. In 1877, following the example of nearby Winona, the city laid a network of water mains and made arrangements with two privately owned mills to pump water through them. This system was used for three years until the growth of the city proved it inadequate.

In 1880, to meet the increasing demands for a public water supply, the city erected a pumphouse on lower King Street. A pump with a guaranteed capacity of 2.5 million gallons every twenty-four hours was installed along with new hydrants and mains. In 1884 a second pump with a capacity of 4 million gallons was added. This arrangement produced a much needed supply of water for many years. The Waterworks Building served as a pumping station until the 1940's. At that time the pumps were removed and the building was altered for use as a city garage and paint shop. In 1977 the building was leased from the city of La Crosse by Western Wisconsin Regional Arts. In its current role as a resource center for the arts the Waterworks Building is a fine example of successful adaptive reuse.

The Waterworks Building is a good example of the brick version of the Romanesque Revival, a style widely used throughout the midwest in the latter half of the nineteenth century for important buildings. La Crosse once boasted five public structures built in this popular style; the jail, county courthouse, city hall, post office and waterworks building. Of these five, only the Waterworks Building remains. The plans for the building were done by John A. Cole, civil engineer of Chicago. The structure varies somewhat from the original plans, most notably in the absence of two rounded arched window openings to the east of the tower. In the 1940's, when the pumps were removed, the tower was shortened. The original tower shown in the plans appeared in photographs of the Waterworks Building as late as 1935.¹

9 MAJOR BIBLIOGRAPHICAL REFERENCES

Bryant, Benjamin F., Ed., Memoirs of La Crosse County, Madison, 1907, pp. 96-97.
 Crocker, Dr. Leslie F., Letter to Western Wisconsin Regional Arts, Nov. 16, 1977.
History of LaCrosse County, Wisconsin, Chicago, 1881, p. 504.
 Stanford, T. Nirshheimer, A History of LaCrosse, Wisconsin, 1841-1900, LaCrosse, 1951
 p. 127.

10 GEOGRAPHICAL DATA

ACREAGE OF NOMINATED PROPERTY .88

QUADRANGLE NAME La Crescent Minnesota-Wisconsin

QUADRANGLE SCALE 1:24000

UTM REFERENCES

A 15 640510 4852100

B

C

D

E

F

G

H

VERBAL BOUNDARY DESCRIPTION

Lots 4,5,6 and 9 in Block 5 of Dunn, Dousman and Cameron's Addition to the City of LaCrosse.

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

STATE	CODE	COUNTY	CODE

11 FORM PREPARED BY

NAME / TITLE

Patricia Mueller, Preservation Assistant

(continued)

ORGANIZATION

State Historical Society of Wisconsin

DATE

April 4, 1979

STREET & NUMBER

816 State Street

TELEPHONE

CITY OR TOWN

Madison

STATE

Wisconsin 53706

12 STATE HISTORIC PRESERVATION OFFICER CERTIFICATION

THE EVALUATED SIGNIFICANCE OF THIS PROPERTY WITHIN THE STATE IS:

NATIONAL

STATE

LOCAL X

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

STATE HISTORIC PRESERVATION OFFICER SIGNATURE

Richard H. Huxey

TITLE Director, State Historical Society of Wisconsin

DATE

5/10/79

FOR NPS USE ONLY

I HEREBY CERTIFY THAT THIS PROPERTY IS INCLUDED IN THE NATIONAL REGISTER

Charles H. ...
 KEEPER OF THE NATIONAL REGISTER

DATE

7.27.79

ATTEST: *Cornelia ...*
 CHIEF OF REGISTRATION

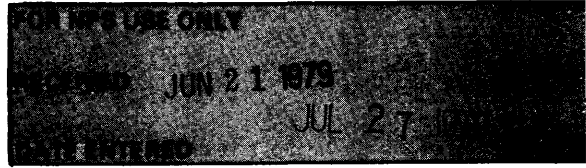
DATE

7.27.79

Regional Coordinator

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

**NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
INVENTORY -- NOMINATION FORM**



CONTINUATION SHEET

ITEM NUMBER 8, 11 PAGE 1

8. SIGNIFICANCE (continued)

¹Stanford, Hirshheimer, 127

²Cole, John A., blueprints, c.1890 Waterworks Building.

11. FORM PREPARED BY (continued)

David L. Henke, Curator

La Crosse County Historical Society

429 North Seventh Street

La Crosse

April 4, 1979

Wisconsin 54601