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NPS Form 10-900
(Rev. 9/86)
Wisconsin Word Processor Format (1331D)
(Approved 3/87)

OMB No. 1024-0018

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

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NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
REGISTRATION FORM

SEP 25 1993

This form is for use in nominating or requesting determinations of eligibility for individual properties or districts. See instructions in Guidelines for Completing National Register Forms (National Register Bulletin 16). Complete each item by marking "x" in the appropriate box or by entering the requested information. If an item does not apply to the property being documented, enter "N/A" for "not applicable." For functions, styles, materials, and areas of significance, enter only the categories and subcategories listed in the instructions. For additional space use continuation sheets (Form 10-900a). Type all entries. Use letter quality printer in 12 pitch, using an 85 space line and a 10 space left margin. Use only archival paper (20 pound, acid free paper with a 2% alkaline reserve).

NATIONAL REGISTER

1. Name of Property

historic name Menasha Dam

other names/site number N/A

2. Location

street & number Fox River at Mill Street

N/A not for publication

city, town Menasha

N/A vicinity

state Wisconsin

code WI

county Winnebago

code 139

zip code 54952

3. Classification

Ownership of Property	Category of Property	No. of Resources within Property	
<input type="checkbox"/> private	<input type="checkbox"/> building(s)	contributing	noncontributing
<input type="checkbox"/> public-local	<input type="checkbox"/> district	_____	_____ buildings
<input type="checkbox"/> public-State	<input type="checkbox"/> site	_____	_____ sites
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> public-Federal	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> structure	<u>1</u>	_____ structures
	<input type="checkbox"/> object	_____	_____ objects
		<u>1</u>	<u>0</u> Total

Name of related multiple property listing:

Waterway Resources of the Lower Fox River

No. of contributing resources
previously listed in the
National Register N/A

4. State/Federal Agency Certification

As the designated authority under the National Historic Preservation Act of 1966, 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. ___ See continuation sheet.

Dr. William L. Kaut
Signature of certifying official
Corp of Engineers
State or Federal agency and bureau
Date 14 Oct '93

In my opinion, the property meets ___ does not meet the National Register criteria. ___ See continuation sheet.

[Signature]
Signature of commenting or other official
State Historic Preservation Officer-WI
State or Federal agency and bureau
Date 8/2/92

5. National Park Service Certification

I, hereby, certify that this 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.
- ___ removed from the National Register.
- ___ other, (explain:)

Beth Boland
Signature of the Keeper
12/7/93
Date

6. Functions or Use

Historic Functions
(enter categories from instructions)

Current Functions
(enter categories from instructions)

Transportation/water related

Transportation/water related

7. Description

Architectural Classification
(enter categories from instructions)

Materials
(enter categories from instructions)

Other: Concrete Dam

foundation Concrete

walls Concrete

roof N/A

other Steel

Describe present and historic physical appearance.

The Menasha dam is a concrete structure with an overall length of 402 feet. Built in 1937¹, it is located on the Lower Fox River, immediately east of an industrial section of the City of Menasha that includes the George Banta Printing Company and the John Strange Paper Company. It is oriented on a NNW/SSE axis.

The dam is anchored to steel sheet piles, and consists of two sections. The northern section, the one that accounts for the greatest portion of the dam's length, is a 246 foot spillway. The spillway is twenty four feet wide, and fixes the maximum level of the pool behind the dam [Lake Winnebago] at 745.03 feet above Sea Level. The southern portion of the dam is 154 feet, and contains six sluiceways, each of which contains an eleven by twenty foot, steel Tainter gate. The gates are operated by a "crab," a small electrically operated mechanism that moves from gate to gate on a track. The "crab" contains a winch, to which the chain on each end of the gate is attached. As the winch is activated, the chain is taken in or let out, and the height of the gate is adjusted accordingly. A steel catwalk, which facilitates inspections and maintenance, extends the length of the dam.

Placed atop the dam is a single story front gabled shed that was erected to shelter the electric "crab." Spanning the abutments adjacent to the first gate, the lift house is reached by the catwalk. It is clad with drop siding and roofed with asphalt shingles, and has walls bounded with pilaster strips. The single window in each side wall and the panelled door at the right of the lockside endwall have simple surrounds. A pair of heavy wooden doors in the opposite endwall swing out to allow passage of the "crab" to whichever gate must be adjusted.

The need for a new dam was noted by the Corps of Engineers in 1934, when its annual report stated the old dam was badly deteriorated and had "inadequate flood-discharge capacity for the proper regulation of Lake Winnebago." The report continued that it must be rebuilt when the money became available.² The old crib dam was removed and a new one built of concrete in 1937, presumably in the same place. It was constructed

¹ Annual Report of the Chief of Engineers, 1937: Extract - Report upon the Improvement of Rivers and Harbors in the Milwaukee, Wis., District (Washington, D.C.: Government Printing Office, 1938), 1192.

² Annual Report of the Chief of Engineers, 1934: Extract - Report upon the Improvement of Rivers and Harbors in the Milwaukee, Wis., District (Washington, D.C.: Government Printing Office, 1935), 1042.

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CONTINUATION SHEET

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by hired labor at a cost of \$84,686.04.³

Since its construction, changes to the dam have been minimal. Two new Tainter gates were installed in 1941.⁴

³ Annual Report (1937), 1192.

⁴ Annual Report of the Chief of Engineers, 1941: Extract - Report Upon the Improvement of Rivers and Harbors in the Milwaukee, Wis., District (Washington, D.C.: Government Printing Office, 1941), 1546.

8. Statement of Significance

Certifying official has considered the significance of this property in relation to other properties: nationally X statewide locally

Applicable National Register Criteria X A B C D

Criteria Considerations (Exceptions) A B C D E F G

Areas of Significance

(enter categories from instructions)

 Transportation

Period of Significance

 1937-1941

Significant Dates

 1937¹

Cultural Affiliation

 N/A

Significant Person

 N/A

Architect/Builder

 N/A

State significance of property, and justify criteria, criteria considerations, and areas and periods of significance noted above.

Statement of Significance:

The Menasha Dam is a significant component in the Lower Fox River Waterway System, a system which, as discussed in Cultural Resource Management in Wisconsin, was initially envisioned as part of the larger Fox-Wisconsin Waterway.² Originally constructed by private interests between 1850 and about 1860, and rebuilt by the US Army Corps of Engineers between 1872 and 1941, the Lower Fox River system operated between Lake Winnebago and Green Bay. It is historically significant as a complete and operable mid-nineteenth century example of a river/canal, slack water transportation system, the technology of which was so well suited that it works effectively today. It is the only such system extant in Wisconsin. The system is also significant for its role in the evolution of Wisconsin's nineteenth century political and constitutional history. Further, it is an interesting chapter in the transportation history of the state.

History:

The Menasha Dam was responsible for creating and maintaining the head that flooded the Menasha lock, and thereby facilitated passage from Lake Winnebago to Lake Little Butte Des Morts on the Lower Fox River Waterway.

¹Annual Report of the Chief of Engineers, 1937: Extract - Report upon the Improvement of Rivers and Harbors in the Milwaukee, Wis., District (Washington, D.C.: Government Printing Office, 1938), 1192.

²Barbara Wyatt, ed., Cultural Resource Management in Wisconsin (Madison: State Historical Society, Historic Preservation Division, 1986), Transportation 2/2.

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Menasha Dam
Winnebago County, WI

The Menasha Dam consists of an historic dam built between 1937-1941 that meets the registration requirements set forth in Waterway Resources of the Lower Fox River multiple property form. The property possesses integrity of location, design and materials and is significant in the operation of the waterway.

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Section number 10 Page 1 Menasha Dam
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VERBAL BOUNDARY DESCRIPTION: *see note Section 10, page 2

North Abutment: Those parts of lots 1, 2, and 3 in block 1 in Menasha, according to the plat thereof recorded May 28, 1849, in plat book 1, page 22, in Winnebago County, Wisconsin, and that part of the northeast quarter of section 22, township 20 north, range 17 east, city of Menasha, bounded on the north by the United States Canal, bounded on the west by the easterly line of said lot 3 in block 1, and bounded on the south by the Fox River, and further described as commencing at a Bernsten Extendable Monument set for the southeast corner of the northeast quarter of said section 22 and recorded as corner no. 100 in said county; thence north 00 degrees 28 minutes 18 seconds east (measured) (north 00 degrees 25 minutes 10 seconds east recorded) 2200.49 feet along the east line of said quarter; thence North 89 degrees 31 minutes 42 seconds west, 858.26 feet, perpendicular to said east line to a rebar with an allied cap stamped "USAED DETROIT BOUNDARY MARK", for the point of beginning, said rebar being located on the common boundary of lots 2 and 3 in said block 1 and 19 feet southerly from the northwest corner of said lot 2 as measured along the west line of said lot 2; thence north 30 degrees 01 minutes 20 seconds west, 10 feet, more or less, along said west line to the southerly bank of the United States Canal; thence westerly, 50 feet, more or less, along the southerly line of said canal to the westerly line of said lot 3; thence south 30 degrees 01 minutes 19 seconds east, 201 feet, more or less, along the westerly line of lot 3, and said westerly line extended, to the northerly shore of the Fox River; thence northeasterly, along said northerly shore and along abutment of the United States Dam, a total distance of 353 feet, more or less, to the intersection of the southerly bank of said United States Canal; thence southwesterly along said southerly bank, a total distance of 214 feet, more or less, to the westerly line of said lot 2 at a point 10 feet, more or less, northerly of the point of beginning; thence south 30 degrees 01 minutes 20 seconds east 10 feet, more or less, to the point of beginning, all in Winnebago County, Wisconsin, and containing 0.39 acre, more or less.

South Abutment: Those parts of lots 3 and 49 in the subdivision of the reservation of block A, Town of the Island, City of Menasha, according to the plat thereof recorded July 26, 1878 in plat book 3, page 42, Winnebago County, Wisconsin, and that part of the northeast quarter of section 22, township 20 north, range 17 east, City of Menasha, described as commencing at a Berntsen Extendable Monument set for the southeast corner of said northeast quarter and recorded as corner no. 100 in said county; thence north 00 degrees 28 minutes 18 seconds east (measured, north 00 degrees 25 minutes 10 seconds east recorded) 1930.02 feet (measured, 1928.5 feet recorded),

X See continuation sheet

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along the east line of said quarter; thence north 89 degrees 31 minutes 42 seconds west 416.90 feet (measured, 416 feet recorded), perpendicular to said east line to a rebar with an allied cap stamped "USAED DETROIT BOUNDARY MARK" set over a U.S. Government stone for the point of beginning; thence south 43 degrees 51 minutes 30 seconds west 150 feet to a rebar with allied cap stamped as noted above; thence south 71 degrees 07 minutes 30 seconds west, 45 feet, more or less, to the southerly shore line of the Fox River; thence northeasterly along said shore line, and the northerly face of the structure at the southerly side of the Menasha Dam a total distance of 222 feet, more or less, to a point that is north 46 degrees 08 minutes 30 seconds west, 37 feet, more or less, from the point of beginning; thence south 46 degrees 08 minutes 30 seconds east, 37 feet, more or less, to the point of beginning, except any part thereof falling within vacated Curtis Reed Plaza (formerly Naymut Street) in said subdivision, all in City of Menasha, County of Winnebago, Wisconsin, and containing 0.140 acre, more or less.

*The property boundary descriptions given have not been audited or verified. They are not, at any time, to be used for any legal boundary descriptions. They are used here only for the purpose of describing the approximate property location.

___ See continuation sheet

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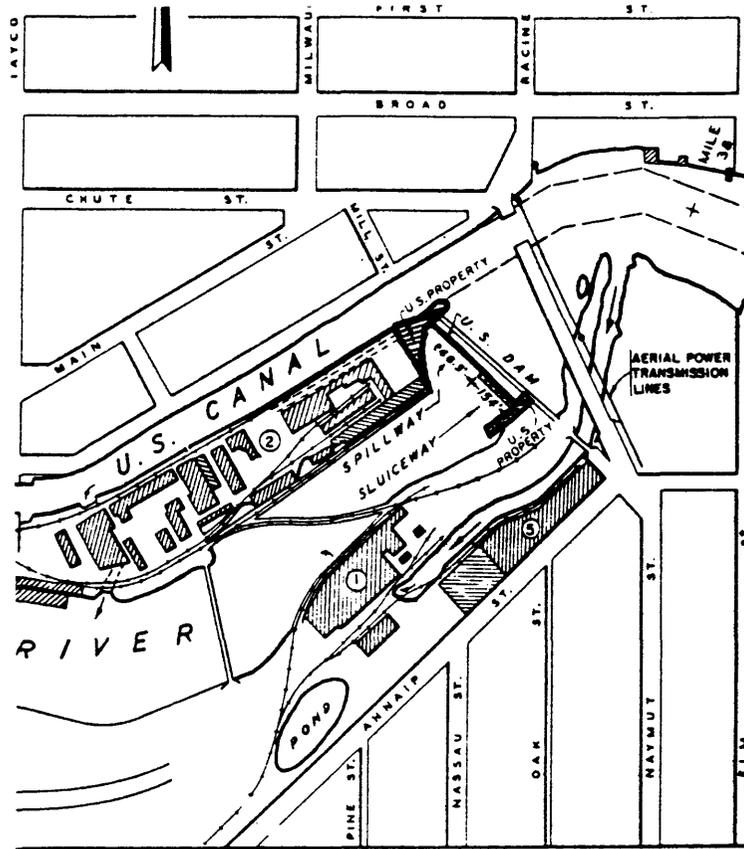
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Section number Photographs Page 1

Menasha Dam
Winnebago County, WI

MENASHA DAM
Fox River at Mill Street
Menasha, Winnebago County
Photo by Bill O'Brien
October 1988
View to North Northeast
Photo #1 of 1

____ See continuation sheet



MENASHA DAM
FOX RIVER
WISCONSIN

IN 1 SHEET SCALE OF FEET SHEET NO. 1

100 0 500 1000 1200

CORPS OF ENGINEERS CHICAGO, ILLINOIS

30 JUNE 1970



U.S. Gov't Property/Historic District