

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

For NPS use only

National Register of Historic Places
Inventory—Nomination Form

received OCT 5 1987
date entered NOV - 5 1987

See instructions in *How to Complete National Register Forms*
Type all entries—complete applicable sections

1. Name

historic Belton Waterworks Tower

and/or common Belton Standpipe (preferred)

2. Location

street & number McGee Street

N/A not for publication

city, town Belton vicinity of

state South Carolina code 045 county Anderson code 007

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 type="checkbox"/> building(s)	<input type="checkbox"/> private	<input type="checkbox"/> unoccupied	<input type="checkbox"/> commercial
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> structure	<input type="checkbox"/> both	<input type="checkbox"/> work in progress	<input type="checkbox"/> educational
<input type="checkbox"/> site	Public Acquisition	Accessible	<input type="checkbox"/> entertainment
<input type="checkbox"/> object	<input type="checkbox"/> in process	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> yes: restricted	<input type="checkbox"/> government
	<input type="checkbox"/> being considered	<input type="checkbox"/> yes: unrestricted	<input type="checkbox"/> industrial
		<input type="checkbox"/> no	<input type="checkbox"/> military
			<input type="checkbox"/> museum
			<input type="checkbox"/> park
			<input type="checkbox"/> private residence
			<input type="checkbox"/> religious
			<input type="checkbox"/> scientific
			<input type="checkbox"/> transportation
			<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> other: water storage

4. Owner of Property

name Belton Town Council

street & number 306 Anderson Street

city, town Belton vicinity of state South Carolina 29627

5. Location of Legal Description

courthouse, registry of deeds, etc. Anderson County Courthouse

street & number 100 Court Square

city, town Anderson state South Carolina 29621

6. Representation in Existing Surveys

Inventory of Historic Places
title in South Carolina

has this property been determined eligible? yes no

date 1987 federal state county local

depository for survey records South Carolina Department of Archives and History

city, town Columbia state South Carolina 29211

7. Description

Condition

excellent
 good
 fair

deteriorated
 ruins
 unexposed

Check one

unaltered
 altered

Check one

original site
 moved date

Describe the present and original (if known) physical appearance

The Belton Standpipe is a 155-foot high concrete water tower located on McGee Street near the intersection of Campbell Street, one block east of the central business district of Belton. The standpipe, which was constructed in 1908-09, is basically unaltered although the exterior has weathered. Minor alterations include the sealing of the windows and the erection of a metal star, lighted only at Christmas, on top of the tower.

ADDITIONAL INFORMATION

The Belton Standpipe continues in use as a water storage source. The upper fifty-five feet of the tower serve as a reservoir with a capacity of 165,000 gallons. The tower is freestanding and of concrete construction in segmented rings. The rings were created by the pouring of concrete in stages, giving the effect of stone construction.

The structure extends thirty feet into the ground, widening out in a funnel shape. From the ground level, where it is forty-four feet in diameter, the standpipe tapers inward for 100 feet to the point where the water tower begins. From that point the tower ranges outward again to thirty feet in diameter and upward fifty-five feet to the cap, crowned by crenelations. Window openings, now sealed with plywood to keep birds and insects out, are clearly evident and were intended to provide light and ventilation during construction. There are no stairs on the interior, as with some other towers of this type.

A ground level entrance to a storage area is framed by a classical, proportional door surround containing a lintel with simulated radiating voussoirs. There is an exterior ladder on the north side, beginning twelve feet from the ground and extending to the top.

Water flows through a ten-inch cast-iron pipe in the center of the structure. Deep wells, located under the standpipe and once used to supply the municipality's water, are no longer used. While it is commonly known as the "Belton Standpipe," the structure is actually a water tower, as a standpipe normally stores water its entire length.

Surroundings: Commercial buildings face the streets on O'Neal and Campbell Streets. Privately-owned property adjoins the site on McGee Street.

8. Significance

Period	Areas of Significance—Check and justify below			
<input type="checkbox"/> prehistoric	<input type="checkbox"/> archeology-prehistoric	<input checked="" 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/
<input type="checkbox"/> 1700-1799	<input type="checkbox"/> art	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> engineering	<input type="checkbox"/> music	<input type="checkbox"/> humanitarian
<input type="checkbox"/> 1800-1899	<input type="checkbox"/> commerce	<input type="checkbox"/> exploration/settlement	<input type="checkbox"/> philosophy	<input type="checkbox"/> theater
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 1900-	<input type="checkbox"/> communications	<input type="checkbox"/> industry	<input type="checkbox"/> politics/government	<input type="checkbox"/> transportation
		<input type="checkbox"/> invention		<input type="checkbox"/> other (specify)

Specific dates 1908-1909 Builder/Architect Builder - J. C. McMurray

Statement of Significance (in one paragraph)

The Belton Standpipe, a 155-foot tall concrete tower built for the town's water supply, is the major landmark for the Anderson County town of Belton. It is significant as one of the state's earliest extant examples of water storage facilities in concrete construction, which gained popularity in the United States in the early twentieth century. It is also significant as an intact remnant of and symbol of an important period of growth and development in the town's history.

ADDITIONAL INFORMATION

The town of Belton grew rapidly in the late nineteenth and early twentieth centuries; the population rose from 494 in 1890 to 1,652 in 1910. By 1908 citizens had decided that a municipal water system was needed. In an election on May 12, 1908, voters gave the Belton Town Council approval to issue bonds in the amount of \$12,500.00 to erect a plant for the waterworks.(1) The town had purchased one-third of an acre in 1907 for the site.(2) J. C. McMurray, a contractor, was chosen to prepare plans and construct the standpipe.(3) Work began in 1908 and the structure was 100 feet high by January 3, 1909.(4) Bonds were not issued, however, until January 1, 1909, after ratification by the South Carolina General Assembly.(4) When completed the Belton Standpipe had a capacity of 165,000 gallons of water.(6)

There is a similar water tower in Walterboro, S. C., which was built in 1915; it is 132 feet high and has a capacity of 100,000 gallons. Belton and Walterboro have the only two water towers of this type yet to be identified in South Carolina.

Community Planning/Engineering

As populations became more concentrated in communities in the late nineteenth and early twentieth centuries, numerous municipalities constructed water works facilities. Elevated storage tanks were an important part of these municipal water systems.(7) These structures also were symbols of municipal improvement and reflected the prosperity and progressive outlook of their sponsors.(8) The use of picturesque architecture both contrasted with and provided a means by which the public could accept technological changes in construction techniques, while allowing the greatest freedom for the engineer and the designer. Aesthetic concerns in architectural treatments can be found in such contemporaneous publications as Designs for Water Towers, Pumping and Power Stations(1893) and Elevated Tank Designs (1931).(9) The

9. Major Bibliographical References

See Continuation Sheet

10. Geographical Data

Acree of nominated property one-third acre

Quadrangle name Belton East, S.C.

Quadrangle scale 1:24 000

UTM References

A 17 363080 3820900
Zone Easting Northing

B
Zone Easting Northing

C

D

E

F

G

H

Verbal boundary description and justification

The boundary of the Belton Standpipe is shown on the accompanying Anderson County Tax Map, Plat #249-03, drawn to a scale of 100 feet to 1 inch. The nominated property includes only the standpipe and the parcel on which it is situated.

List all states and counties for properties overlapping state or county boundaries

state N/A code county N/A code

state N/A code county N/A code

11. Form Prepared By

name/title Hurley E. Badders, Executive Director

Edited by Andrew W. Chandler,
S.C. Department of Archives and History

organization Pendleton District Historical and
Recreational Commission

date March 26, 1987

street & number 125 Queen Street

telephone (803) 646-3782

city or town Pendleton

state South Carolina 29670

12. State Historic Preservation Officer Certification

The evaluated significance of this property within the state is:

 national X state local

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

Christie Z. Jaul, DS/H20

George L. Vogt

title State Historic Preservation Officer

date 9/28/87

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

for Nelson Byrum
Keeper of the National Register

National Register

date 11-5-87

Attest:

date

Chief of Registration

**United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service**

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first decade of the twentieth century brought reinforced concrete into use in the construction of water storage facilities. It was thought to be a substitute for steel, to be "durable, inexpensive and attractive ...with the insulating qualities of brick."(10)

NOTES

(1) The Peoples Advocate (Anderson, S. C.), 14 May 1908; U. S. Department of Commerce and Labor, Bureau of the Census, Thirteenth Census of the United States, 1910: Abstract Supplement for South Carolina, p. 574.

(2) Book 4G, p. 14, Anderson County Deeds, Anderson County Courthouse, Anderson, S. C.

(3) Telephone interview with A. R. "Skipper" Maynard, Mayor of Belton, S. C., 24 September 1987.

(4) Max Williams Grubbs, "A History of the Social, Economic, and Political Development of Belton, South Carolina" (Master's thesis, Clemson College, 1940), p. 40.

(5) Belton Town Council Minutes Book, Belton City Hall, Belton, S. C., 16 February 1940, pp. 1-10.

(6) Grubbs, p. 44.

(7) Carol Ann Dubie, "The Architecture and Engineering of Elevated Water Storage Structures: 1870-1940" (Master's thesis, George Washington University, 1980), p. 1.

(8) Ibid., p. 2.

(9) Ibid., p. 4.

(10) Ibid., p. 55.

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- Kay, William P. Belton, S. C. Interview, 22 January 1987.
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