1097

NPS Form 10-900
(January 1992)
Wisconsin Word Processing Format (Approved 1/92)

OMB No. 10024-0018

United States Department of Interior
National Park Service

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 Oregon Water Tower and Pump House
other names/site number

2. Location

street & number	134 Janesville Street						N/A	**not for publication**	
city or town	Oregon						N/A	**vicinity**	
state	Wisconsin	**code**	WI	**county**	Dane	**code**	025	**zip code**	53575

3. State/Federal Agency Certification

As the designated authority under the National Historic Preservation Act, as amended, I hereby certify that this X 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 X meets _ does not meet the National Register criteria. I recommend that this property be considered significant _ nationally statewide X locally. (_ See continuation sheet for additional comments.)

Signature of certifying official/Title — Date: 8/30/07

State Historic Preservation Officer - Wisconsin

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 commenting official/Title — Date

State or Federal agency and bureau

Oregon Water Tower and Pump House	Dane County	Wisconsin
Name of Property	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:)

Edson H. Beall — 10.16.07

for

Signature of the Keeper — Date of Action

5. Classification

Ownership of Property (check as many boxes as as apply)

	private
X	public-local
	public-State
	public-Federal

Category of Property (Check only one box)

	building(s)
	district
X	structure
	site
	object

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

contributing	noncontributing	
1		buildings
		sites
1		structures
		objects
2	0	total

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

N/A

Number of contributing resources is previously listed in the National Register

0

6. Function or Use

Historic Functions (Enter categories from instructions)	**Current Functions** (Enter categories from instructions)
INDUSTRY/PROCESSING/EXTRACTION: waterworks	VACANT/NOT IN USE

7. Description

Architectural Classification (Enter categories from instructions)	**Materials** (Enter categories from instructions)	
	Foundation	CONCRETE
Late 19th and Early 20th Century American Movements	walls	STEEL
	roof	ASPHALT
	other	BRICK

Narrative Description

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

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.)

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

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

X C Property embodies the distinctive characteristics of a type, period, or method of construction or represents the work of a master, or possesses high artistic values, or represents a significant and distinguishable entity whose components lack individual distinction.

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

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

Property is:

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

_ B removed from its original location.

_ C a birthplace or grave.

_ D a cemetery.

_ E a reconstructed building, object, or structure.

_ F a commemorative property.

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

Areas of Significance
(Enter categories from instructions)

ARCHITECTURE

Period of Significance

1899-1921

Significant Dates

1899
1921

Significant Person
(Complete if Criterion B is marked)

N/A

Cultural Affiliation

N/A

Architect/Builder

Unknown

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

9. Major Bibliographic References

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

Previous Documentation on File (National Park Service):
- _ 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:
- X State Historic Preservation Office
- _ Other State Agency
- _ Federal Agency
- _ Local government
- _ University
- X Other

Name of repository: Oregon Historical Society

10. Geographical Data

Acreage of Property Less than one acre

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

	Zone	Easting	Northing
1	16	305462	4755077
2			
3			
4			

☐ 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	Timothy Smith, Christine Gesick, and Emily Pettis, Architectural Historians				
organization	Mead & Hunt, Inc.			**date**	June 2006
street & number	6501 Watts Road			**telephone**	608-273-6380
city or town	Madison	**state**	WI	**zip code**	53719

Oregon Water Tower and Pump House	Dane County	Wisconsin
Name of Property	County and State	

Additional Documentation

Submit the following items with the completed form:

Continuation Sheets

Maps A U.S. Geological Survey 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/title	Village of Oregon				
organization				**date**	June 2006
street&number	117 Spring Street			**telephone**	608-835-3118
city or town	Oregon	**state**	WI	**zip code**	53575

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.

Description

The water tower and pump house are located at 134 Janesville Street, in the Village of Oregon, Dane County, Wisconsin. According to a local historical marker, the tower and pump house are located on the site of Oregon's first home, built in 1843 by C.P. Mosley. The pump house and tower were built in 1899, the wood water tank was replaced in 1921, and the water utility functioned until 1981. Currently, the pump house and tower are situated on a green lot punctuated with deciduous trees and shrubbery. A paved driveway intersects Janesville Street on the south side of the pump house.

Pump House
The pump house is a one-story brick building with a simple rectangular footprint. It has a hip roof with asphalt shingles and a stepped gable with concrete caps on the facade (northeast elevation). Boxed eaves overhang the side and rear elevations. The pump house sits upon a concrete foundation, and a concrete sidewalk extends around the side and rear elevations.

Centered within the stepped gable on the facade is an oval name plate that is delineated by brick headers and reads "City Water." Two concrete panels flank the name plate to read "1899." The front entrance is centrally located and displays a five-panel wooden door. Two historic two-over-two, double hung sash windows flank the entrance. The windows are placed in historic wood surrounds with arched brick lintels, composed of headers and concrete sills.

Both the southeast (side) and southwest (rear) elevations display a glass block window with 45 lights that extends from the roof line to just above the foundation. The brick work surrounding the windows is not original. The northwest (side) elevation displays an original six-over-six, double-hung sash window with a wood frame. The side and rear elevations display some brick discoloration and wall deterioration.

Water Tower
The water tower is a 100-foot pyramidal trestle comprised of four steel legs and mounted by a large steel water tank. The legs of the tower are oriented toward the cardinal directions, rest on concrete pilings, and straddle the rear half of the pump house. The main pipe that feeds water from the pump house to the steel tank is exposed in the center of the pyramidal construction. The pipe enters the pump house at its roof ridge towards the rear of the building.

The cylindrical water tank is constructed of riveted steel panels. The base of the water tank is hemispherical, and the main pipe intersects at its center. A metal walkway with a triangular-patterned balustrade encircles the tank. A ladder extends from the walkway to the tank's low-pitched conical roof.

Each of the four structural steel legs is made of two steel plates with riveted lattice work bracings. A cylindrical climbing ladder is attached to the east leg and culminates at the water tank's walkway. Each plane of the trestle tower is divided into five panels braced with tie rods. These diagonal reinforcements are anchored at the intersections of the

leg and the horizontal braces which delineate the tower's panels. The horizontal member of the bottom panel intersects the pump house on its northwest elevation. Additionally, a diagonal steel pipe intersects the northwest elevation of the pump house.

Alterations and Condition

The water tower and pump house remain in excellent condition. The building has undergone some minor alterations, such as the introduction of two glass block windows. Although there is some brick deterioration, the structure has been well maintained overall, and the minor alterations and deteriorations do not detract from its historic integrity.

Statement of Significance

The Village of Oregon water tower and pump house are eligible at the local level for the National Register of Historic Places (National Register) under *Criterion C: Architecture* as examples of the pump house and water tower building types. Constructed in 1899, the utilitarian building features a stepped gable, its original two-over-two windows, and decorative brickwork. The water tower was built in 1899 with a wooden water storage tank, which was replaced with the current steel tank in 1921. Both the pump house and tower retain good integrity. The period of significance corresponds to the construction date of 1899 and 1921, the year the wooden tank was replaced.

Historic Context

Historical Background

The Village of Oregon, located in south-central Dane County, was originally known as "Rome Corners." Rome Township originally encompassed an area that included the towns of Fitchburg, Dunn, Rutland, and Oregon. In 1842 C.P. Mosley built a cabin, which was also a tavern, on what is now Janesville Street, near the present site of the water tower. I.M. Bennett soon purchased the property and opened a general store. Approximately one year later, James Coville constructed the village's second cabin on the corner of Main and Grove streets, present site of Oregon High School, and operated a cobbler business from his home. A permanent settlement gradually took shape and Oregon Township was officially formed in 1847 after Rome Township was divided.[1]

In 1848 the first post office was established, with its first postmaster, erecting the first frame house in the future village a year later. The first church in Oregon was the First Presbyterian Church, constructed in 1855. The original plat of the village was filed on April 7, 1857, after Charles Waterman had his 40-acre parcel surveyed as "Oregon." However, the village was still known as "Rome Corners" until the arrival of the railroad in the 1860s.[2]

The Beloit and Madison Railroad arrived in 1864. The original train depot was named Oregon, which led to the settlement being known as Oregon rather than "Rome Corners."[3] The railroad provided Oregon with commercial and economic advantages over smaller nearby communities.[4] In 1876 a new depot (nonextant) was built west of the

[1] "Souvenir of the Oregon Centennial," *Oregon Observer*, 26 June 1941, 9-10; Elizabeth Miller, "South Main Street Historic District," National Register of Historic Places, National Park Service, 2000, n.p.

[2] Miller, "South Main Street Historic District," n.p; "Souvenir of the Oregon Centennial," 15.

[3] "Souvenir of the Oregon Centennial," 39.

[4] Miller, "South Main Street Historic District," n.p.

railroad tracks near the intersection of Market and Lincoln (then Third) streets. Stockyards and a water station were also added in the railroad corridor.[5]

By 1880 the population of Oregon was 527.[6] At this time, the downtown commercial district was established along Main Street with enterprises such as general stores, groceries, a hardware store, and a hotel. Oregon served as a commercial center for residents of the surrounding agricultural landscape. In 1883 Oregon incorporated as a village with 581 inhabitants, and the population was 595 in 1890.[7]

The village continued to prosper between 1890 and 1900 with the addition of a flour and grist mill and a creamery. The first bank was established in 1892 by Wiggins and Starbuck, but quickly failed. The livestock trade was a significant component to Oregon's economy during this time, which contributed to Oregon's position as the busiest stop for grain and livestock between Madison and Chicago on the Chicago and NorthWestern Railroad.[8] A second main railroad track was constructed in 1897.

Village of Oregon Pump House and Tower
Numerous commercial buildings in Oregon were destroyed by fire prior to 1890, including several structures on Main Street. As a result, community concern grew over fire protection and water supply. Beginning in 1894 a hand pumping engine distributed water from cisterns located throughout the city. This was followed by the erection of the water tower and water mains system in 1899.[9] The new pump house contained the pump, gasoline engine, and controls required to operate the well and tank, and it is efficiently located directly beneath the elevated water tank, within the footprint of the water tower.

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[5] "Souvenir of the Oregon Centennial," 13.

[6] Miller, "South Main Street Historic District," n.p.

[7] "Souvenir of the Oregon Centennial," 39. Elizabeth Miller, "Oregon High School," National Register of Historic Places, National Park Service, 1998, n.p.

[8] Miller, "South Main Street Historic District," n.p.

[9] W. L. Ames, *History of Oregon and Trade Territory* (Oregon, Wisc.: W. L. Ames, 1924), 20-21, 25.

In September of 1898 John Nader, a civil engineer from Madison, proposed building a brick water tower with a steel tank west of South Main Street. Although the design and site of this proposal were not accepted, village board minutes indicate increased attention was given to the erection of a water tower. By March 1899 bonds were issued in the amount of $7,000 to provide for the real estate, pipes, hydrants, and the erection of a tower. Fairbanks, Morse, and Company proposed a steel truss tower with a wooden tank on March 18, 1899. Materials for the construction were purchased in April 1899, and the tower was completed by the end of the year. The tower became well-known locally as residents from Sun Prairie and Poynette visited the site in preparation for the construction of their own waterworks. In 1921 the 15,000-gallon wooden water tank was replaced with a 30,000-gallon steel tank. The replacement included the installation of a new insulated pipe from the pump to the tank.[10] Due to the construction of two new water towers to meet local demand, the 1899 pump house and water tank were drained in 1981, and the site was left vacant.

Architecture

The Village of Oregon's water tower is an example of an elevated water storage tank supported by a steel trestle. This elevated tank type of water tower construction was developed in the 1890s, and by 1905 it had surpassed the masonry water tower and standpipe as the preferred structural form for water storage. The earliest and most popular form of the all-metal elevated tank, or "classic tin man," was introduced in 1894 and was characterized by a hemispherical bottom storage tank mounted on a four post trestle tower. The trestle tower was derived from numerous sources, including railroad service tanks and windmill construction. Between 1870 and 1895, the trestle evolved from a wooden, variable form into a standardized metal trestle that could be easily erected anywhere. The hemispherical, or curved bottom tank, was the other important component of the elevated tank water storage form, and it represented a reduction in weight, materials, and costs compared to flat bottom water storage units.[11] The new metal tank installed in 1921 represents these changes in available technology and the evolving forms and materials of tank design in the early twentieth century. By the 1910s trade publications promoted steel tanks as an alternative to wood tanks and many communities replaced the original tanks in the 1910s and 1920s with the standardized and commercially manufactured steel examples.

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[10] Glen Campbell, "History of the Village of Oregon Water Utility," 1981, 1-4; "Oregon's Senior Citizen," *Oregon Observer*, 23 December 1982, n.p; Florice Paulson, *A Walk Back in History: Did You Know?: The History of Oregon, Wisconsin* ([Oregon, Wisc.]: n.d.), n.p.

[11] Carol A. Dubie, "The Architecture and Engineering of Elevated Water Storage Structures: 1870-1940" (Master's in American Civilization, George Washington University, 1980), 59, 62, 81. More detailed information on the history of standpipes and water towers may be found in the National Register nomination for the Monroe Water Tower (Green County, Wisconsin), prepared by Carol Cartwright in 2005.

The first generation of metal elevated tanks, including those built between 1894 and 1902 represent an improvement over traditional masonry water tower and standpipe construction. The elevated tank cost considerably less and was coupled with a design interest in the economy of materials. Architectural and surface decoration were eliminated as the all-metal elevated tank derived its utilitarian aesthetic from the arrangement of structural elements and its relationship to vernacular wood trestles of the 1870s and 1880s.[12] The Village of Oregon's water tower is a good example of a type of construction that was initially an economical adaptation of the masonry water tower and standpipe forms but quickly became the standard structural type for water storage in the early twentieth century.

The brick pump house is an example of a utilitarian building type with minimal decorative detail. It features its original two-over-two windows, stepped gable, and decorative brickwork on the facade. Because of its close association with the function and use of the water tower, the pump house is a contributing element.

Preservation Activity
In 1984 the Village Board named the site a local cultural landmark. The Village of Oregon and the Oregon Historic Preservation Commission have been very active in initiating preservation activities, including a 2004 intensive survey of the village that identified the Village of Oregon pump house and water tower as potentially eligible for the National Register. In addition, these local entities have been active in educating property owners in the village as to the importance and value of historic preservation, including acting as the sponsor of this nomination.

Archaeological Potential
Research indicates that C.P. Mosley built the first home in Oregon at the site of this structure, and, therefore, it is possible that historic archaeological remains exist on the property. No information about possible pre-historic remains on the property was found during the course of research. It is likely that any remains of pre-European cultures located on the property would have been greatly disturbed by the building activity associated with subsequent development in the area.

[12] Dubie, "The Architecture and Engineering of Elevated Water Storage Structures: 1870-1940," 107-110.

Bibliography

Ames, W. L. *History of Oregon and Trade Territory.* Oregon, Wisc.: W. L. Ames, 1924.

Campbell, Glen. "History of the Village of Oregon Water Utility." 1981.

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

Miller, Elizabeth. "Oregon High School." National Register of Historic Places, National Park Service, 1998. Available at Wisconsin State Historic Preservation Office.

"Oregon Referendum Eyed to Decide Water Tower's Fate." *Oregon Observer.* 17 October 1998.

"Oregon's Senior Citizen." *Oregon Observer.* 23 December 1982.

Paulson, Florice. *A Walk Back in History: Did You Know?: The History of Oregon, Wisconsin.* [Oregon, Wisc.], n.d.

-----. "South Main Street Historic District." National Register of Historic Places, National Park Service, 2000. Available at Wisconsin State Historic Preservation Office.

"Souvenir of the Oregon Centennial." *Oregon Observer.* 26 June 1941.

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

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places
Continuation Sheet

Geographical Data

Verbal Boundary Description
The boundary is an irregular polygon that corresponds to the Original Plat Block 4, part of Lot 2 in the Village of Oregon. Beginning at the east corner of the parcel, the boundary proceeds southwest along the lot line approximately 107.5 feet before turning north and proceeding 26 feet. It then turns west and follows the lot line approximately 8.5 feet before turning northeast and following the lot line approximately 107.5 feet. The boundary then turns southeast and proceeds along the back edge of the sidewalk approximately 78.5 feet.

Boundary Justification
The historic boundary encompasses the historic structure and provides an appropriate setting.

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places
Continuation Sheet

Photographs

The following information pertains to the following photographs:

Oregon Water Tower and Pump House
134 Janesville Street
Oregon, Wisconsin
Photographer: Timothy Smith, March 2006

Photograph No. 1 of 8
Oregon Water Tower and Pump House – front and side (northeast and southeast) elevations
View looking west

Photograph No. 2 of 8
Oregon Water Tower and Pump House – front (northeast) elevation
View looking southwest

Photograph No. 3 of 8
Oregon Pump House – front (northeast) elevation
View looking southwest

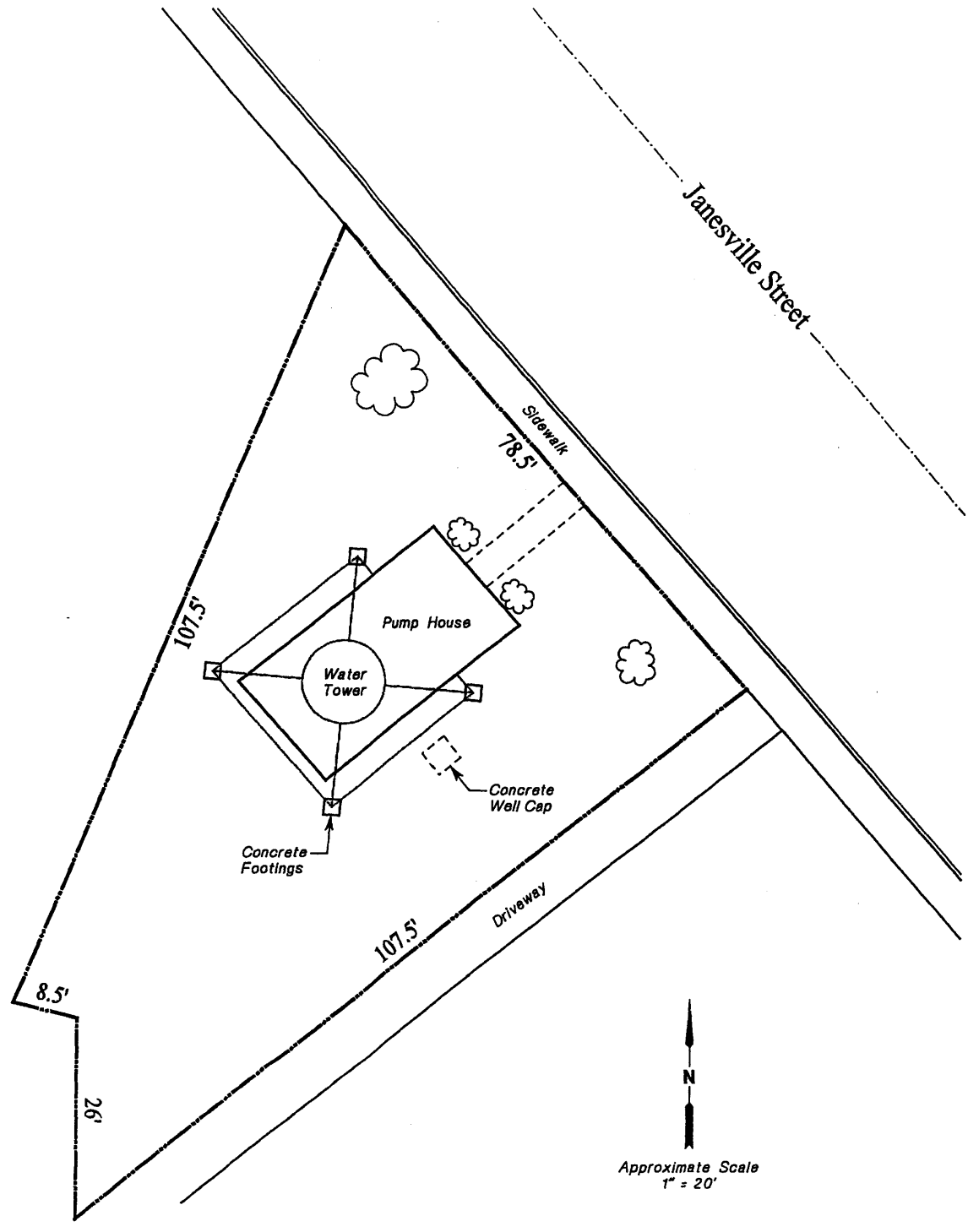
Photograph No. 4 of 8
Oregon Pump House – detail of front (northeast) elevation
View looking southwest

Photograph No. 5 of 8
Oregon Pump House – front and side (northeast and northwest) elevations
View looking south

Photograph No. 6 of 8
Oregon Pump House – rear and side (southwest and southeast) elevations
View looking north

Photograph No. 7 of 8
Oregon Pump House – side and front (southeast and northeast) elevations
View looking west

Photograph No. 8 of 8
Oregon Water Tower– detail of water tank
View looking southwest



Key:

Historic Boundary

Contributing

OREGON WATER TOWER AND PUMP HOUSE

134 Janesville Street

Village of Oregon, Dane County, WI