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United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

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National Register of Historic Places
Registration Form

NATIONAL
REGISTER

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.

1. Name of Property

historic name Lake City Water Standpipe
other names/site number none

2. Location

street & number 100 Block of West Washington Street not for publication
city, town Lake City vicinity
state Iowa code 19 county Calhoun code 025 zip code 51449

3. Classification

Ownership of Property

- private
- public-local
- public-State
- public-Federal

Category of Property

- building(s)
- district
- site
- structure
- object

Number of Resources within Property

Contributing	Noncontributing
_____	_____ buildings
_____	_____ sites
<u>1</u>	_____ structures
_____	_____ objects
<u>1</u>	<u>0</u> Total

Name of related multiple property listing:
Historic and Architectural Resources of Lake City
Iowa, 1854-1940

Number of contributing resources previously listed in the National Register 0

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.
[Signature] 7/3/90
Signature of certifying official Date
Bureau of Historic Preservation
State or Federal agency and bureau

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

Signature of commenting or other official Date

State or Federal agency and bureau

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:)

[Signature] 8/27/90

Signature of the Keeper Date of Action

6. Function or Use

Historic Functions (enter categories from instructions)

GOVERNMENT/public works

Current Functions (enter categories from instructions)

GOVERNMENT/public works

7. Description

Architectural Classification
(enter categories from instructions)

Other: Standpipe

Materials (enter categories from instructions)

foundation concrete

walls steel

roof steel

other n/a

Describe present and historic physical appearance.

8. Statement of Significance

Certifying official has considered the significance of this property in relation to other properties:

nationally statewide locally

Applicable National Register Criteria A B C D

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

Areas of Significance (enter categories from instructions)

Engineering
Social History

Period of Significance

1893
1893

Significant Dates

1893
1893

Cultural Affiliation

N/A

Significant Person

N/A

Architect/Builder

A. F. Paige Co., Builder (Sioux City)

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

See continuation sheet

9. Major Bibliographical References

See continuation sheet

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

Specify repository:

Iowa Bureau of Historic Preservation

10. Geographical Data

Acreage of property .8 acre

UTM References

A

1	5
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3	5	6	9	8	0
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4	6	8	0	8	6	0
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 Zone Easting Northing

C

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B

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 Zone Easting Northing

D

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See continuation sheet

Verbal Boundary Description

The boundary encompasses the South 1/3 of lot 7 Block 7. The boundaries include only the Standpipe.

See continuation sheet

Boundary Justification

This is the parcel of land deeded to the Incorporated Town of Lake City in June of 1891 for the purpose of developing a water system.

See continuation sheet

11. Form Prepared By

name/title Rebecca Conard, Ph.D. (Research assistance by Vivian Campbell and Rose Rosendahl)
 organization PHR Associates date March 22, 1990
 street & number 725 Garden Street telephone (805)965-2357
 city or town Santa Barbara state CA zip code 93101

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places Continuation Sheet

Section number 7 Page 1

CFN-259-1116

7. Description

The Lake City water standpipe is a cylindrical structure 90' tall and 12' in diameter. It is fabricated of hot-riveted steel plates. A metal ladder attached to the outside provides access to the top for maintenance. A concrete block retaining wall lines a walkway around the base of the structure below ground level. Constructed in 1893, the original location, design, materials, and construction of the standpipe remain completely unchanged. It also has been in continuous use as part of the city water system since 1893, although its function was downgraded to that of a back-up delivery system when the first elevated tank was constructed in the 1920s. It is regularly maintained by repainting the exterior and by flushing rust from the interior cavity.

City Council minutes show that May 10, 1893, the Council negotiated a contract with A.F. Paige Co. of Sioux City to build a complete water system including a standpipe, boiler, pump, and heater, and to repair and test an existing well for the sum of \$7600. Construction began after voters approved an \$8000 bond issue. The City Council accepted the completed system in November 1893, and then authorized another \$3500 in bonds to extend 4000' of water mains, also laid by the A.F. Paige Co.

Although City Council minutes list the A.F. Paige Co. as the builder, the materials possibly were supplied by the Chicago Bridge & Iron Co. An article appearing in the June 27, 1940 issue of the Graphic attributed its construction to another firm on the basis of information appearing in a 50th anniversary publication released by the Chicago company. According to the newspaper account, the contract was "let through George E. King of Des Moines to the Chicago Bridge & Iron Co." The news account seems to be in error on this point, but the materials nonetheless may have been fabricated by that company. It is also possible that A.F. Paige subcontracted the work to King who in turn subcontracted to Chicago Bridge & Iron.

At some undetermined date during the 1920s, a new water tank was erected next to the standpipe. This structure is no longer extant, having been replaced in recent years by a larger structure situated on the southeast edge of town. In 1940, Lake City used Works Progress Administration funds to construct a new building for the Water Works Department adjacent to standpipe on the west. The building, still in existence, has been substantially altered and converted for use as City offices and City Council chambers. For this reason, the Water Works building has been excluded from the nomination.

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places Continuation Sheet

Section number 8 Page 1

CFN-259-1116

8. Significance

The water standpipe is significant under Criterion A as the first public works project undertaken by the City in its effort to transform Lake City from a boom town into a modern community providing its citizens with the public services and amenities that late 19th century civic reformers decried as necessary to promote the health and welfare of society. Its construction in 1893 marks the beginning of the Progressive Community Era. The City actually began planning the project in 1890, when the Council attempted to bond the City for \$10,000. The bond was rejected on the grounds that the amount exceeded the limit to which the City could legally indebted itself. Two years later, in 1892, the City Council restarted the project by ordering a special election in July of 1893 to vote on an \$8000 bond issue and by drawing up an ordinance to create a Water Works Department. In the intervening months, the Council drew up specifications for a water system and called for bids. A.F. Paige Co. of Sioux City was the successful bidder, and work began after voters passed both the bond measure and Ordinance 30, which created the Water Works Dept.

The laying of water mains in 1894 enabled the City to deliver water directly to the homes of most Lake City residents. Equally and perhaps more important, the water system enabled the City to provide adequate fire protection throughout the town rather than relying on a water truck filled from the public well. Fire was a major concern to growing towns during the 19th century, and Lake City was no exception. Most buildings were constructed of wood and, as development expanded, the bucket-brigade method of fighting fires was rendered totally inadequate. In an effort to reduce the threat of fire in Lake City, the City Council passed a Fire District Ordinance in 1889. The ordinance required that commercial buildings around the public square be replaced with brick structures. This ordinance, however, had no effect on the threat to residential neighborhoods. It is not coincidence, then, that a water system was the first public service to be provided in Lake City. A central water supply and delivery system was considered to be of primary importance for the safety and welfare of the citizenry.

The Lake City water standpipe is also significant under Criterion C as a rare historic example of a type of engineering structure in vogue from about 1860 to the turn of the century. Cylindrical standpipes were fairly common water storage structures during the late 19th century. For the most part, standpipes were erected in smaller towns situated on relatively flat terrain. In such locations, the great height and small diameter combined to obtain sufficient head to maintain water pressure, and the storage capacity was sufficient for smaller populations. As of this date, only two other standpipes are known to be extant in Iowa: one located in Charter Oak, the other in Tiffin.

A few standpipes were constructed of brick, but the preferred technology was riveted plates of iron or steel. Because some people found aesthetically displeasing these "plain cylinders of

United States Department of the Interior
National Park ServiceNational Register of Historic Places
Continuation SheetSection number 8 Page 2

CFN-259-1116

iron thrust up into the air like enormous steam boilers," the basic structure occasionally was cloaked with a stylish masonry tower to resemble a carillon or commemorative monument (Engineering News, September 8, 1892). Others were ornamented, such as the rolled steel standpipe erected in Des Moines in 1892 (nonextant), which was capped with a burnished and swirled copper cone. Beneath the fancy wrap, however, always stood a plain standpipe.

How many of these structures are extant across the country is unknown, but many of them did not survive the 19th century. As of late 1888, Engineering News, the major engineering trade publication of the day, stated that there were 282 known standpipes in existence throughout the United States. However, between 1868 and 1894, at least 28 standpipes collapsed because of design or materials flaws or because severe storms toppled them. About the time the Lake City structure went up, standpipe failures were generating great concern among engineers. Between 1888 and 1895, Engineering News ran several lengthy articles detailing the suspected or verified causes of failure for reported collapses. Engineers were spared the need to ponder these structural failures unduly, though, since technological advances in the manufacture of steel made the standpipe an obsolete structure. By the early 20th century, steel water tanks elevated on light steel trusses replaced the standpipe. The new design reduced water storage weight by eliminating the need to rely on water in the bottom half of the standpipe to obtain the head required to sustain water pressure. Water tanks also required less building material, hence they cost less.

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places Continuation Sheet

Section number 9 Page 1

CFN-259-1116

9. Major Bibliographical References

Engineering News 20 (October 6, 1888); 25 (February 7, 1891); 26 (August 15, 1891); 27 (May 19 and April 9, 1892); 28 (September 8, 1892); 29 (March 16, 1893); 31 (April 5 through June 7, 1894); 34 (August 22, 1895).

Lake City, City of. Abstract of Title for Water Works.

Lake City, City of. Minutes of the City Council, May 12, 1890 through December 3, 1894.

Lake City Graphic. January 1893-November 1893 passim; June 27, 1940.

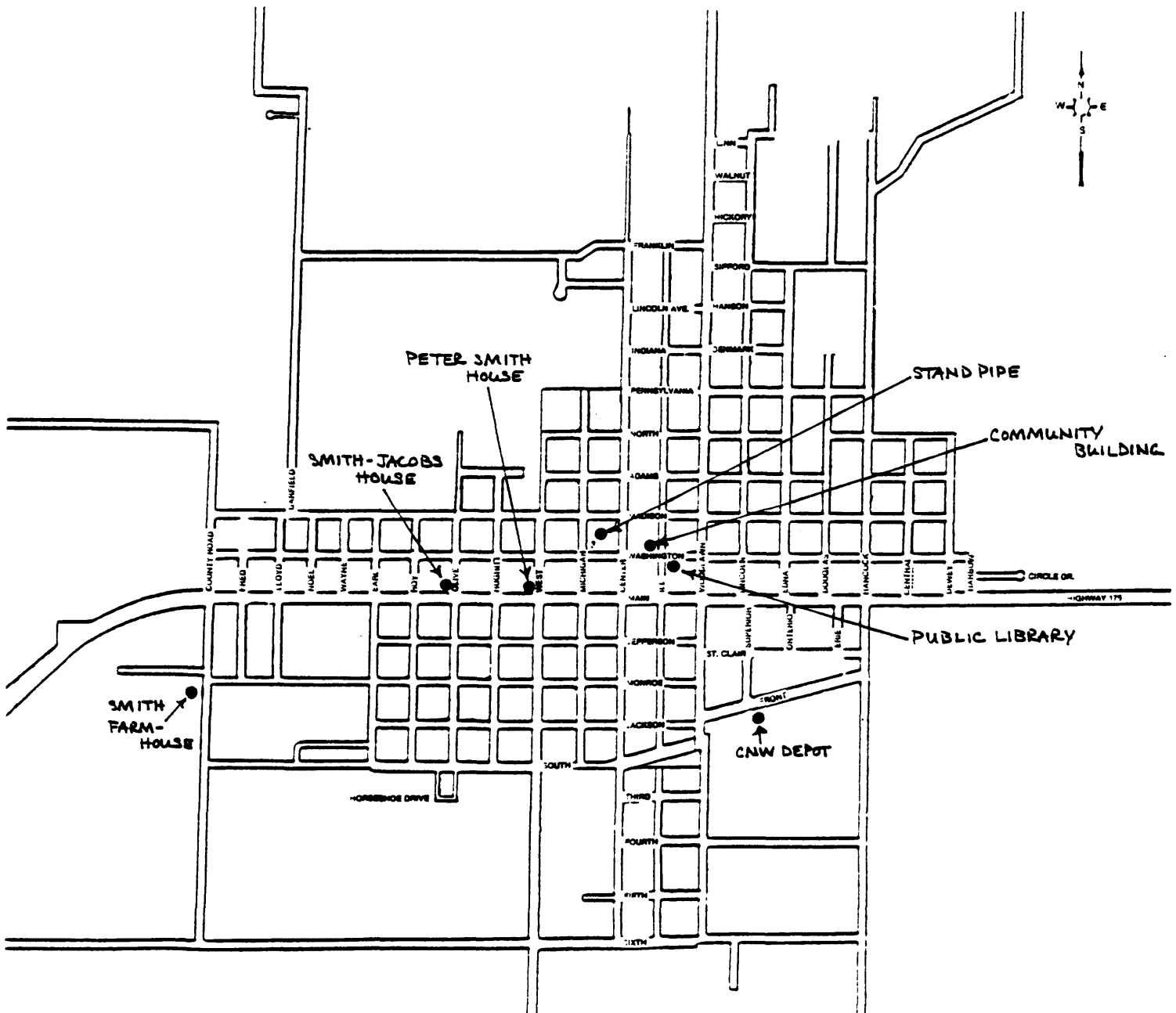
United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places Continuation Sheet

Section number 10 Page 1

CFN-259-1116

Map 1: Lake City Vicinity Map



United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places Continuation Sheet

Section number 10 Page 2

CFN-259-1116

Map 2: Lake City Water Standpipe Site Plan

