

**United States Department of the Interior
Heritage Conservation and Recreation Service**

**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 Washburn Park Water Tower

and/or common Washburn Park Water Tower

2. Location

street & number 401 Prospect Avenue N/A not for publication

city, town Minneapolis N/A vicinity of congressional district Fifth

state Minnesota code 22 county Hennepin code 053

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"/> museum
<input type="checkbox"/> building(s)	<input type="checkbox"/> private	<input type="checkbox"/> unoccupied	<input type="checkbox"/> commercial <input type="checkbox"/> park
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> structure	<input type="checkbox"/> both	<input type="checkbox"/> work in progress	<input 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 checked="" type="checkbox"/> in process	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> yes: restricted	<input type="checkbox"/> government <input type="checkbox"/> scientific
	<input type="checkbox"/> being considered	<input type="checkbox"/> yes: unrestricted	<input checked="" 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 Minneapolis, Water Department

street & number 221 City Hall

city, town Minneapolis N/A vicinity of state Minnesota

5. Location of Legal Description

courthouse, registry of deeds, etc. Registry of Deeds, Hennepin County Government Center

street & number 300 South 6th Street

city, town Minneapolis state Minnesota

6. Representation in Existing Surveys

title N/A has this property been determined eligible? yes no

date N/A N/A federal N/A state N/A county N/A local

depository for survey records N/A

city, town N/A state N/A

7. Description

Condition
 excellent deteriorated
 good ruins
 fair unexposed

Check one
 unaltered
 altered

Check one
 original site
 moved date N/A

Describe the present and original (if known) physical appearance

The Washburn Park Water Tower is situated on a knoll, surrounded by vegetation, in a densely populated residential area in southwest Minneapolis. The area is bordered on the East, West and Southwest by Highview, and on the North by Prospect Avenue.

The engineer for the water tower was William S. Hewitt who developed the "Hewitt System" of prestressed concrete tank construction. Hewitt's design for the cylindrical tower consists of a poured concrete inner shell reinforced by adjustable steel bands consisting of circumferential rods which were then tightened after the shell had hardened. A second layer of concrete was then applied over the bands to protect and provide additional reinforcement as well as adding aesthetic interest to the structure. The 110 foot water tower, which still performs its original function, has a holding capacity of 1.35 million gallons of water. Minneapolis architect Harry W. Jones created the tower's austere design which, with its domed crown and enigmatic figures, is medieval in tone. Eighteen foot high guardian of health figures and eight foot high eagles are the creation of sculptor John K. Daniels. The concrete figures, first moulded in clay, were made from plaster piece molds at a cost of \$1,800.00. The figures ornament each of the tower's eight ribs which converge at the top of the dome forming the base of the tower cupola.

The structure is in excellent condition and is virtually unaltered from its original design.

8. Significance

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 checked="" type="checkbox"/> architecture	<input type="checkbox"/> education	<input type="checkbox"/> military	<input type="checkbox"/> social/
<input type="checkbox"/> 1700-1799	<input checked="" 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	1931 - 1932	Builder/Architect	Architect: Harry Jones Engineer: William S. Hewitt
Statement of Significance (in one paragraph)			Sculptor: John K. Daniels

The Washburn Park Water Tower is significant for its collaborative design by three men individually distinguished in their respective fields. Architect Harry Wild Jones created the design for the structure. Jones was responsible for several notable Minneapolis buildings including the Butler Brothers Building, 1906 (National Register, 1971). Lakewood Memorial Chapel, 1908-10, and the Oakland Apartments, 1888. The water tower sculptures were designed by John K. Daniels a prominent local artisan who also created the milling figures on the Washburn Flour Mills' Utility Building, 1914. William S. Hewitt, the consulting project engineer, was the inventor of the widely used "Hewitt System" of reinforced concrete construction. The collective effort of the talented trio produced a functional, simply designed structure, artistically appealing to the eye. The water tower, constructed in 1931-32, presents the appearance of a medieval fortress, sheltered and protected within its forest-like setting. The Washburn Park Water Tower also represents the only surviving water tower in Minneapolis still enjoying its original function.

9. Major Bibliographical References

Minneapolis Planning Department, Heritage Preservation Commission. Heritage Preservation Designation Study: Washburn Park Water Tower.

See Continuation Sheet Page 5.

10. Geographical Data

Acreage of nominated property Approximately one acre

Quadrangle name Minneapolis South

Quadrangle scale 7.5

UMT References

A

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4	7	7	5	8	0
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4	9	7	2	8	6	0
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 Zone Easting Northing

B

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 Zone Easting Northing

C

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Verbal boundary description and justification

Block 11 Washburn Park

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

state N/A code N/A county N/A code N/A

state N/A code N/A county N/A code N/A

11. Form Prepared By

name/title Camille Kudzia

organization City of Minneapolis Heritage Preservation Commission date August, 1981

street & number 210 City Hall telephone 612-348-6655

city or town Minneapolis state Minnesota

12. State Historic Preservation Officer Certification

The evaluated significance of this property within the state is:

national 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 Heritage Conservation and Recreation Service.

State Historic Preservation Officer signature Russell W. Fridley

Russell W. Fridley
 title State Historic Preservation Officer

date 8/30/83

For HCRS use only I hereby certify that this property is included in the National Register Entered in the National Register date <u>10/6/83</u>	
<u>for Melissa Byers</u> Keeper of the National Register	date
Attest:	date
Chief of Registration	

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

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

FOR NPS USE ONLY

RECEIVED

DATE ENTERED

Washburn Park Water Tower, Minneapolis, Hennepin County

CONTINUATION SHEET

ITEM NUMBER 9 PAGE 5

Balcom, Tom. "The Washburn Water Tower: Its Historic, Functional, and Aesthetic Significance to the City of Minneapolis and the Washburn Park - - Tangletown Neighborhood". Twin Cities Industry: An Introduction to Historical Sources, University of Minnesota, 1981.