

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

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**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 **Rome Clock Tower**
AND/OR COMMON **Rome Clock Tower**

2 LOCATION

off GA 101
In the northwest quadrant of the city
STREET & NUMBER **block bounded by East Second Street, East
Third Street, Fourth Avenue, and Fifth Avenue.**

CITY, TOWN **Rome** VICINITY OF **7th - Larry McDonald**
STATE **Georgia** CODE **13** COUNTY **Floyd** CODE **115**

3 CLASSIFICATION

CATEGORY	OWNERSHIP	STATUS	PRESENT USE
<input type="checkbox"/> DISTRICT	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> PUBLIC	<input type="checkbox"/> OCCUPIED	<input type="checkbox"/> AGRICULTURE <input type="checkbox"/> MUSEUM
<input type="checkbox"/> BUILDING(S)	<input type="checkbox"/> PRIVATE	<input checked="" 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 type="checkbox"/> IN PROCESS	<input type="checkbox"/> YES: RESTRICTED	<input type="checkbox"/> GOVERNMENT <input type="checkbox"/> SCIENTIFIC
	<input type="checkbox"/> BEING CONSIDERED	<input type="checkbox"/> YES: UNRESTRICTED	<input type="checkbox"/> INDUSTRIAL <input type="checkbox"/> TRANSPORTATION
		<input type="checkbox"/> NO	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> OTHER: Landmark

4 OWNER OF PROPERTY

NAME **City of Rome, Honorable Harold Hunter, Jr., Mayor**
STREET & NUMBER **P.O. Box 1433**
CITY, TOWN **Rome** VICINITY OF **Georgia 30161**

5 LOCATION OF LEGAL DESCRIPTION

COURTHOUSE, REGISTRY OF DEEDS, ETC. **Superior Court**
STREET & NUMBER **Floyd County Courthouse**
CITY, TOWN **Rome** STATE **Georgia**

6 REPRESENTATION IN EXISTING SURVEYS

TITLE **Historic Structures Field Survey: Floyd County, Georgia**
DATE **May, 1977** FEDERAL STATE COUNTY LOCAL
DEPOSITORY FOR SURVEY RECORDS **Historic Preservation Section,
Georgia Department of Natural Resources**
CITY, TOWN **Atlanta** STATE **Georgia**

(4)

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 Rome Water and Clock Tower is a decagonal brick tower, 63' tall and 33' in diameter, surmounted by a 41' wooden superstructure. The brick tower encloses a steel water tank, 26' x 60', which is encircled by a spiral steel staircase. The wooden superstructure contains a rectangular clock tower with clock faces on all four sides surmounted by a decagonal cupola. Detailing includes simple corner pilasters and arched windows on the brick tower and pilasters and brackets on the wooden clock tower and cupola.

The tower is sited on top of a hill in a residential neighborhood. The boundaries of the nominated area are defined by the tower itself and the small expanse of surrounding property owned by the City of Rome.

Within the boundaries of the nominated property and apparently just north of the clock tower, was an associated engine house which contained the water pumps. A no-longer-extant building appears immediately behind the clock tower in an early postcard of the site. It is possible that this two-story, apparently brick structure was the engine house.

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 checked="" type="checkbox"/> SOCIAL/HUMANITARIAN	
<input type="checkbox"/> 1700-1799	<input type="checkbox"/> ART	<input type="checkbox"/> ENGINEERING	<input type="checkbox"/> MUSIC	<input type="checkbox"/> THEATER	
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 1800-1899	<input type="checkbox"/> COMMERCE	<input type="checkbox"/> EXPLORATION/SETTLEMENT	<input type="checkbox"/> PHILOSOPHY	<input type="checkbox"/> TRANSPORTATION	
<input type="checkbox"/> 1900-	<input type="checkbox"/> COMMUNICATIONS	<input type="checkbox"/> INDUSTRY	<input type="checkbox"/> POLITICS/GOVERNMENT	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> OTHER (SPECIFY) Urban	
		<input type="checkbox"/> INVENTION			

SPECIFIC DATES 1871 - Present

BUILDER/ARCHITECT John W. Noble; Noble Brothers

STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE

The Rome Clock Tower is the surviving remnant of the first public water works in north Georgia. It is significant in architectural history as the earliest extant water tower in north Georgia. In addition, because of its tangible association with Rome's post-Civil War development, it is significant in urban and social history. The clock tower has been considered an important landmark in the city since its construction.

Prior to the construction of the Rome Clock Tower and waterworks system, water for domestic and mercantile uses was supplied by public and private wells. In late 1870, interested merchants and citizens proposed that the city build a public water works system. Such a large-scale system with elevated water storage would provide better fire protection, improved sanitation, and facilitate more extensive building operations throughout the city.

In September of 1870, the Georgia Legislature authorized the mayor and city council of Rome to borrow \$100,000 for internal improvements, which included among other things, "building and establishing waterworks." In November, John Noble and Mayor Charles H. Smith (better known as the journalist "Bill Arp") were appointed to visit Bowling Green, Kentucky, to inspect that town's waterworks. After considerable public debate, in February of 1871, the voters of Rome authorized the construction of the system.

The waterworks facilities, which included an engine and engine house in addition to the storage tower, were designed by John W. Noble and built by the Noble Brothers in 1871. The Noble family had moved to Rome in the late 1840s from Reading, Pennsylvania. They established a heavy-iron works in Rome, which included rolling mills, nail factory, railroad-car works, and a stone and hollow-ware factory. In addition, the Nobles built in Rome the first locomotive assembled south of Richmond, Virginia. John W. Noble was a master mechanic and artisan and was later associated with the planning and construction of facilities at Anniston, Alabama, an industrial community founded in the 1870s. The piping for the waterworks system was supplied by the Tredager Company of Richmond, the primary supplier of arms, munitions, and rails to the Confederacy. Thus, the Rome waterworks system was constructed by two important Southern industrial firms. The heavy steel tank inside the tower was built at the Noble Brothers iron works and had a storage capacity of 250,000 gallons.

[continued]

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9 MAJOR BIBLIOGRAPHICAL REFERENCES

Atlanta Constitution, January 5, 1871; October 31, 1872.
 "The Story of the Old Town Clock of Rome, Georgia," reprint by the Rome Area Chamber of Commerce of a 1932 radio broadcast.
 Battey, George Magruder, Jr. A History of Rome and Floyd County, Vol. I, Atlanta, 1922.

UTM NOT VERIFIED

10 GEOGRAPHICAL DATA

ACREAGE NOT VERIFIED

ACREAGE OF NOMINATED PROPERTY less than 1 acre

QUADRANGLE NAME Rome North, Georgia

QUADRANGLE SCALE 1:24,000

UTM REFERENCES

A 16 668585 37191585

B

ZONE EASTING NORTHING

ZONE EASTING NORTHING

C

D

E

F

G

H

VERBAL BOUNDARY DESCRIPTION

The boundary of the Rome Clock Tower is indicated on the enclosed property map by the heavy black line.

LIST ALL STATES AND COUNTIES FOR PROPERTIES OVERLAPPING STATE OR COUNTY BOUNDARIES

STATE	CODE	COUNTY	CODE
STATE	CODE	COUNTY	CODE

STATE	CODE	COUNTY	CODE
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11 FORM PREPARED BY

NAME / TITLE

Steve Henson, National Register Researcher

ORGANIZATION

Historic Preservation Sec., Dept. of Natural Resources

DATE

August 29, 1979

STREET & NUMBER

270 Washington St., S.W.

TELEPHONE

(404) 656-2840

CITY OR TOWN

Atlanta

STATE

Georgia 30334

12 STATE HISTORIC PRESERVATION OFFICER CERTIFICATION

THE EVALUATED SIGNIFICANCE OF THIS PROPERTY WITHIN THE STATE IS:

NATIONAL

STATE X

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

Elizabeth A. Lyon
Elizabeth A. Lyon

TITLE Acting State Historic Preservation Officer

DATE 11/29/79

FOR NPS USE ONLY

I HEREBY CERTIFY THAT THIS PROPERTY IS INCLUDED IN THE NATIONAL REGISTER

Sally G. Oldb
KEEPER OF THE NATIONAL REGISTER

DATE 2/8/80

ATTEST: *Walt A. Bahie*
CHIEF OF REGISTRATION

DATE 2/4/80

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
HERITAGE CONSERVATION AND RECREATION SERVICE

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The clock was made by the E. Howard Clock Company of Waltham, Massachusetts, and installed in October, 1872. It is important that the clock not be considered simply a decorative adjunct to the water tower. This choice of capping the tower with a clock rather than a purely ornamental cupola is important in the social history of post-Civil War Rome. During this period, a town clock was commonly referred to as a "regulator." And this is precisely the function it served. The relationship between industrial capitalism, work-discipline, and increasing public attention to regularizing time and labor is becoming increasingly clear in historians' understanding of "modernizing" processes. In Rome, the building of the waterworks with a clock tower coincided temporally with the construction of a new library, museum, cotton factory, and new railroads. Consequently, the combining in the Rome Clock Tower of the first public waterworks system, which helped facilitate further industrial development and improved standards of living, with a town clock to rivet the populace's attention to time, makes this an important marker in the city's early post-Civil War history when Rome considered itself Atlanta's chief rival for the status of Georgia's premier "New South" city.

Although the water-storage facility is no longer in use, the clock is still in operation and the area around the tower is maintained as a city park.

As there was a historically associated engine house which contained the water pumps apparently on this nominated property, there exists the potential for archaeological resources. Although no formal archaeology has been reported on the property, the potential for such resources should be considered in any future planning processes involving this site. The engine house with pumps was an integral element in the original 1871 waterworks system.

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