NPS Form 10-900 OMB No. 1024-0018 (Expires 5/31/2012)

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NAT. REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

284

United States Department of the 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 National Register Bulletin, *How to Complete the National Register of Historic Places Registration Form*. If any 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 certification comments, entries, and narrative items on continuation sheets if needed (NPS Form 10-900a).**

1. Name of Property

historic name Elk River Water Tower

other names/site number

2. Location

street & number on Jackson Avenue NW at 4th Street NW | N/A not for publication

city or town Elk River | N/A vicinity

state Minnesota code MN county Sherburne code 141 zip code 55330

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 at the following level(s) of significance:

___ national ___ statewide _X_ local

Barbara Howard March 29, 2012
Signature of certifying official/Title Barbara Mitchell Howard, Deputy State Historic Preservation Officer Date

Minnesota Historical Society
State or Federal agency/bureau or Tribal Government

In my opinion, the property ___ meets ___ does not meet the National Register criteria.

Signature of commenting official Date

Title State or Federal agency/bureau or Tribal Government

4. National Park Service Certification

I hereby certify that this property is:

✓ entered in the National Register
___ determined eligible for the National Register
___ determined not eligible for the National Register
___ removed from the National Register
___ other (explain:)

for [signature] 5/23/12
Signature of the Keeper Date of Action

Elk River Water Tower
Name of Property

Sherburne, Minnesota
County and State

5. Classification

Ownership of Property
(Check as many boxes as apply.)

- [ ] private
- [X] public - Local
- [ ] public - State
- [ ] public - Federal

Category of Property
(Check only **one** box.)

- [ ] building(s)
- [ ] district
- [ ] site
- [X] structure
- [ ] object

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

Contributing	Noncontributing	
		buildings
		sites
1		structures
		objects
1		**Total**

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

N/A

Number of contributing resources previously listed in the National Register

N/A

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: hemispherical tank, steel water tower

Materials
(Enter categories from instructions.)

foundation:
walls: METAL/steel
roof: METAL/steel
other:

Narrative Description

(Describe the historic and current physical appearance of the property. Explain contributing and noncontributing resources if necessary. Begin with **a summary paragraph** that briefly describes the general characteristics of the property, such as its location, setting, size, and significant features.)

Summary Paragraph

The Elk River Water Tower, located in the corporate limits of Elk River in Sherburne County, Minnesota, is an all-steel water tower constructed in 1920 to store water and to maintain water pressure in the city water system. Although the city and its population ultimately benefited by the addition of water piped to homes and businesses, the construction of the municipal water system, and of the water tower specifically, was driven by the need to provide adequate fire protection. The water tower is a typical example of the property type of that era, featuring a suspended, hemispherical tank on a four-post, lattice-girder trestle tower. The water tower retains a high level of historic integrity and remains a prominent visual feature on the community's landscape.

Narrative Description

The Elk River Water Tower is sited on a .23-acre parcel of city property in the northeast corner of the intersection of Jackson Avenue NW and 4th Street NW. The parcel is located on the north side of Minnesota Highway 10 and of the Burlington, Northern & Santa Fe Railroad tracks, which run parallel to each other in an east-west route through the community (Fig. 2). Elk River's downtown commercial center is located two blocks south of the water tower, on the south side of Highway 10. A cross-section of commercial, governmental and residential properties are located in the immediate vicinity of the tower site. By in large, these properties post-date the water tower, with a number dating to the recent past. The water tower is set back from Jackson Avenue NW approximately fifty feet on a grassy site that is generally flat with mature trees planted on the north and south property lines. A paved maintenance driveway runs north of the water tower from Jackson Avenue on the west (Fig. 3).

The Elk River Water Tower features a cylindrical, riveted-steel tank with a suspended, hemispherical bottom. A conical roof with a finial caps the tank, which is encircled by a girder balcony stiffener (Image 0004). The 100,000-gallon tank is elevated on a four-post, lattice-girder trestle tower that rises to a full 129 feet. Diagonal tie rods provide additional stability to the tower (Images 0001-0003). The bases of each of the tower's four posts are bolted to small, poured-concrete pads. An 8-inch standpipe connects the tank with the underground water system; it is bolted at the base to a small concrete pad (Image 0005). A steel plaque reading "1920 Minneapolis Steel and Machinery Co Builders Minneapolis Minn. USA" is riveted to the tower's northwest leg. A caged access ladder rises on the same leg of the tower from a point just above the plaque to the roof peak.

The Elk River Water Tower currently sports a contemporary paint scheme of tan and green that features a non-historic logo, which local sources indicate was adopted in 1984 (Image 0004).[1] Historically, the water tower featured a palette typical of the structure's construction era: the tower and tank were painted in silver with the town name painted on the tank with black lettering, topped by the conical roof in red.

[1] Email correspondence with City staff, 12/09/10.

Statement of Integrity

The Elk River Water Tower retains a generally high level of historic integrity as it relates to all seven aspects of integrity: location, setting, association, design, workmanship, materials, and feeling.

As a resource considered eligible for registration under Criterion A, integrity of location, setting, and association are of specific concern. Because the water tower remains on its original site, the level of integrity as it relates to location is excellent. Local news accounts indicate that considerable discussion was involved in the decision to locate the tower on this site, which ultimately came down to the availability of a suitable water source. Because the location is integral to function, its retention is particularly significant in its contribution to an overall high level of historic integrity.

The integrity of the water tower's association is considered high. The structure remains north of the railroad line and the town's downtown commercial center, which is relevant to the historical association of the structure's functional relationship to the commercial resources, the protection of which drove the effort to construct the water tower. Retention of that association is significant to the overall level of historic integrity.

The integrity of setting, although somewhat diminished by nearby residential and commercial development dating to outside the period of significance, remains good.

As a resource considered eligible for registration under Criterion C, integrity of design and materials are of particular concern and the integrity of each of those is very high. With the exception of the contemporary paint scheme (which the community intends to restore to the original), no significant alterations have been made to the water tower. Further, as a representative of a specific period in the evolution of water tower design and engineering, retention of the historic form and the various components that create it are critical to the integrity of both design and materials. In the case of the Elk River Water Tower, which is an example of an all steel, elevated tank in the Hemispherical form, retention of the suspended hemispherical bottom, the four-post, lattice-girder trestle tower with diagonal tie rods, the 8-inch stand pipe, the balcony stiffener, and the conical roof with a ball finial (all being elements relating to design and materials) place it solidly within its construction period and mark it as an important example of the Hemispherical form of water tower.

Integrity of workmanship, which relates to the evidence of the "artisans' labor and skill," is manifested in the water tower in the methods utilized to construct it. The use of riveting specifically reflects the specialized skills required of the laborer and the level of workmanship necessary to construct a functioning water tower and is a reflection of the technological practices of both the property type and the construction period. As a result, the Elk River Water Tower retains a high level of integrity as it relates to workmanship.

The Elk River Water Tower also retains a high level of integrity as it relates to feeling. The very nature of any water tower makes it a visual landmark, contributing to the identity of the community that it services. Because the water tower at Elk River retains a very high level of integrity as it relates to the previous noted qualities, it remains identifiable as a significant element of the community's history.

Elk River Water Tower
Name of Property

Sherburne, Minnesota
County and State

8. Statement of Significance

Applicable National Register Criteria
(Mark "x" in one or more boxes for the criteria qualifying the property for National Register listing.)

- [X] 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 old or achieving significance within the past 50 years.

Areas of Significance
(Enter categories from instructions.)

COMMUNITY PLANNING AND DEVELOPMENT
ENGINEERING

Period of Significance
1920

Significant Dates
1920

Significant Person
(Complete only if Criterion B is marked above.)

Cultural Affiliation

Architect/Builder
Minneapolis Steel & Machinery Company

Period of Significance (justification)

The Period of Significance for the Elk River Water Tower is 1920 marking the year the resource was placed in service and in which the water tower made its most significant impact on the community in its capacity as a component of the village's first waterworks system, constructed for the purpose of supporting fire protection. The Significant Date for the Elk River Water Tower is also 1920, marking the year the resource was placed in service.

Criteria Considerations (explanation, if necessary)

Statement of Significance Summary Paragraph (Provide a summary paragraph that includes level of significance and applicable criteria.)

The Elk River Water Tower is eligible for listing on the National Register of Historic Places under Criterion A. The tower is considered locally significant in its association with the history of community planning and development in Elk River, specifically as it relates to the provision of a ready water source for fire protection.

Without adequate fire protection until the 1920 installation of the city waterworks that included the water tower, property in Elk River was lost to fire with dramatic effect - its historic downtown was a near complete loss in 1898. Historical news accounts published in the months prior to the erection of the Elk River Water Tower relate a clear story that the construction of the water tower was forced by the need to provide adequate fire protection. With fire insurance companies threatening significant increases in insurance rates due to the absence of adequate fire protection in Elk River, the Village Council[2] moved to create a fire department and to construct a waterworks system. The system would include a water tower that would provide the reserve water supply and proper pressure to deliver it and to support the function of the fire fighters. Logic supports the notion that the community likewise benefited from the water tower by the newly installed water system that provided running water to businesses and homes. However, local news accounts spent little ink on that aspect of the waterworks system.[3] Rather, it is clear that the pressure exerted by fire insurance companies forced the business community, the citizens, and the Village Council to develop an adequate system of fire protection through the organization of a permanent fire department and the construction of a modern waterworks system – a move that created a measure of stability and ultimately allowed Elk River to grow into the community it is today. The Elk River Water Tower marks that significant development in community history.

Further the Elk River Water Tower is eligible for listing on the National Register of Historic Places under Criterion C. The water tower is considered locally significant as an example of engineering practices applied to a structure that embodies the distinctive characteristics of a property type of a specific period: the Elk River Water Tower represents a specific type of water tower, the Hemispherical Bottom, that exemplifies the evolution of water supply systems during the period from the 1890s to about 1940. The elevated steel water tank was developed in the 1890s and by the early twentieth century was the typical type utilized in communities across the state and nation. Once a common landmark on the Minnesota landscape, this particular form of the water tower is quickly vanishing as the requirements of communities grow beyond the capacity of the early tower and are thus replaced by larger capacity structures. The Elk River Water Tower is an excellent representative of the type that featured distinctive characteristics including all steel materials, a conical roof, a riveted tank with a suspended, hemispherical bottom, and a tower of four lattice-channel posts with diagonal tie rods. The retention of a high degree of historic integrity - the altered paint scheme (which will be restored) being the sole, significant alteration – marks the Elk River Water Tower as well-preserved example of a representative form.

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[2] From its incorporation in 1880-1881 through 1978 when the Village of Elk River and Elk River Township merged to become the town of Elk River, the government body was referred to as the Village Council and after the merge as the City Council.

[3] Further, the poor quality of Village/City Council minutes (stored on microfiche) prevents one from utilizing that source to understand the impact to water service.

Narrative Statement of Significance (Provide at least **one** paragraph for each area of significance.)

The Pressure for Adequate Fire Protection

Although settlement of Elk River Township began in 1848 with the Village of Elk River incorporated in 1880-1881, the community did not have a waterworks system until 1920. In that year the Village Council, pressured by state insurance companies, issued bonds for the construction of a waterworks that included the Elk River Water Tower. The all-steel, elevated tank was erected on a site north of the Northern Pacific & St. Paul Railroad tracks, with mains running south to the business district and into portions of the residential district. Its construction signaled the end to an era of virtually unbridled destruction by fire that resulted in the loss of both physical assets and financial investments. The water tower remained in use, without significant alteration, through 1960 and stands today as it did when constructed in 1920.

The settlement of Elk River Township, located at the confluence of the Elk and Mississippi Rivers, began in 1848. Set in the southeast corner of Sherburne County, Elk River Township was one of the first in the county to be settled. The first settlement in the township was at Orono at the location of the area's ferry crossing of the Mississippi River and in the vicinity of the first bridge constructed across the river. The settlement became known as "Wich a wan" by the Native Americans, meaning, "where two rivers meet."[4]

Simeon P. Folsom and his family were the first to settle in what was to become the Village of Elk River (ca.1849); the location they chose lay about a mile east of the Orono settlement. In time the proximity of the two settlements caused Elk River to be commonly referred to as Lower Town and Orono as Upper Town. More substantial settlement of Elk River was spurred by the removal of Pierre Bottineau's hotel operation from Orono to Lower Town in 1850. The move appears to have been precipitated by the availability of a more "picturesque spot on the Mississippi River." The sale and subsequent expansion of the hotel in 1853 further spurred development of Lower Town, with new businesses constructed in the immediate vicinity of the hotel. The population of the Orono-Elk River area jumped from 7 in 1849 to 134 in 1857.[5]

As was true for any community, the coming of the railroad set a course for the town's future and signaled a nearly immediate economic and population boom. The St. Paul and Pacific Railroad extended its line to Lower Town in 1864 and in 1867 the community became a stop on the Saint Paul, Minneapolis, and Manitoba (later the Great Northern).[6] Businesses quickly grew up along a two-block stretch on the north side of the tracks. At that time, the business corridor was called State Street (now Railroad Drive). By the mid-1870s there were about eighteen mercantile businesses on State Street. Businesses were also located south of the railroad line, but that area was less concentrated and access to the stores less inviting; those on the north side having the benefit of wooden sidewalks.[7]

The influx of settlers to the rural farming area surrounding Elk River contributed significantly to the rapid expansion of the village. As the Anderson county history indicates, the village was the hub of the region's "potato belt" and it became a trading center for dairy and other agriculture products.[8] The increasing rural population supported the development of a business district that provided both the products and the services they required. The availability of ready railroad transportation of produce and goods heightened the potential for growth.

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[4] Sherburne County History Center, photocopied excerpt from: Anderson, *History of Sherburne County,* 102.

[5] Ibid.

[6] Ibid. and Charlene K. Roise. "A History of the Elk River Municipal Utilities," Prepared by Hess, Roise and Company for the Elk River Municipal Utilities Commission, May 1994, 3.

[7] *History of Sherburne County,* 104.

[8] Roise, 3.

Although the Village of Elk River was first platted in 1865 and then re-platted in 1868, it was not incorporated until the winter of 1880-1881, at which time Lower Town and Upper Town were merged to become a single village. Two existing additions to the early settlements, Houlton's Addition and Thomas' Addition, were included in the new village's corporate limits.[9] By 1889 the Village of Elk River had a population of approximately 1,000; an increase of some 866 over the 32 years since 1857. At that time, eight passenger trains of the Northern Pacific & St. Paul stopped daily.[10]

Over the years through the end of the nineteenth century, the pattern of community growth remained consistent: the business district was concentrated along State Street, north of the railroad tracks; some scattered businesses were located south of the tracks; and, the residential area was concentrated on the south side of the railroad line.

That pattern changed when, in the early hours of April 24, 1898, fire broke out in the business district along State Street and by day's end nearly the entire two-block business district north of the tracks had been lost. As the local newspaper reported, the fire was first seen by the night watchman in the front window of the grocery store in the S.C. Brown building and, had water been readily available, a few pails may have been all it took to put it out. Instead, the village, with no equipment dedicated to firefighting, relied on a length of hose and the water tank of the Great Northern Railroad. Further accounts indicate that a significant lack of both organized action and the proper equipment directly resulted in the significant damage caused by the fire. Immediately following the fire, losses were estimated at over $60,000 with little more than a third of that covered by insurance.

In an interesting postscript to the same news article, the paper noted that, "The volunteer fire department did excellent work, considering the lack of experience, and some of them had to pay for it with subsequent nervous prostration. We don't have fires often enough to keep in practice, and the faults of the fire department will be readily overlooked."[11]

In the days after the fire, the town's businessmen gathered to plan for reconstruction of the commercial district. At the center of the discussion was the idea of concentrating the businesses on the south side of the railroad tracks. Although such a plan would require significant ground-fill due to a large gully located near the center of that area, the loss of most of the buildings on the north side of the tracks seemed to sway the group to that choice. The group also resolved to recommend an ordinance requiring that new construction located between "the block occupied by the Babcock store and the one [block] west of that" be of brick only. In the coming weeks, the gully was indeed backfilled and the area became the village square upon which a bandstand was eventually erected. The new brick commercial buildings rose on the streets aligned with the square.[12] The 1898 reconfiguring of the downtown remains reflected in the area today, although recent development in the post-1898 downtown commercial center has significantly altered the early character.

As noted, at the time of the April 1898 fire, the village had very limited firefighting equipment and it lacked a formally organized fire department. A year later the Sanborn-Ferris Company, on the December 1899 fire insurance map for Elk River, indicates the following conditions for the Village of Elk River related to fire protection (which were clearly the same as those in place at the time of the April 1898 fire):

> "Elk River has no fire department, but 600' 2-1/2" hose on reel. Kept in Great Northern Railroad Depot to be connected in case of fire to hose connection of railroad water tank and pump. Cap[acity] 100 galls. per minute."

In early June of 1898 the volunteer fire department was praised in the local newspaper for its successful effort to save Burrell's Cash Store from fire with "well directed streams of water from the hose."[13] Other significant fires occurred in 1902 (downtown) and in 1903 (two, one downtown in January and one a flour mill in March). On April 7, 1915, an early

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[9] *History of Sherburne County,* 108.

[10] *Sherburne County Star News,* "Miniature Description of Elk River," February 28, 1889, 1.

[11] *Sherburne County Star News,* "Disastrous Fire. Half of the Business Portion of Elk River Goes Up in Smoke," April 28, 1898, 1.

[12] *History of Sherburne County,* 109.

[13] *Sherburne County Star News,* "A Holocaust of Horses. Elk River Again Visited by the Fire Fiend," June 2, 1898, 1.

morning blaze, which began in the Hulbert Building and moved on to destroy the Bank of Elk River, the Northwestern Telephone Co. building, Babcock's Big Store, the Post Office and W.H. Houlton's residence, resulted in losses estimated at over $100,000. Help was sent from Minneapolis to battle the blaze, but with an hour and a half travel time from the city to Elk River, the force arrived too late to prevent serious loss. As the newspaper article exclaimed, "How many more lessons of this kind do the business men of Elk River need, before some kind of adequate fire fighting equipment is procured?"[14]

Fire loss in the whole of Sherburne County in 1918 was reported as $10,106 from seven fires. The news article described those numbers as a "gratifying decrease as compared with the loss and number of fires in the county last year [1917]."[15] Despite the relief expressed by the *Sherburne County Star News*, the issue of fire protection remained a hot one in the Village of Elk River, taking top billing in 1919.

Following an inspection of the community in the early months of 1919, the General Insurance Inspection Company of Minneapolis issued a raise in insurance rates for the community and made it clear that further increases would be exacted if the village did not organize a fire department; without a fire department the company would move the village into Class-7, which represented a rate increase of fifteen to twenty percent in addition to the seven percent increase already levied by the company. The inspector also indicated that if the village did not make a move to install a water system of some kind further increases were undoubtedly forthcoming. In the wake of these revelations, the village Mayor immediately called a public meeting for the purpose of reorganizing the fire department.[16] At the meeting, sixteen men joined the department, with another fourteen enrolling in the following few days.[17]

Although the organization of the fire department positively impacted the pending insurance rate hike, the return of the General Insurance Inspection Company's representative in early April still brought an additional increase of two percent in the mercantile district. Further, because the residential section of the village had virtually no fire protection, residential insurance rates were raised between thirty and forty percent. At a meeting of the fire department and the Village Council, the inspector recommended that the village immediately purchase one or two, forty-gallon chemical engines and begin the process of either building cisterns in the downtown district or constructing a modern waterworks system. The inspector indicated that if the chemical engines were purchased the company would restore the business district to a Class-4-1/2 and the residential area to a Class-5, which would restore the insurance rates to the "old Fig.." Further discussion about the options for fire protection underscored the reality that the financial impact of raised insurance rates would by far surpass the financial investment required to provide the necessary fire protection.[18]

By late April of 1919 the local newspaper was reporting that the Village Council would put the issue of a bond for a waterworks before the citizenry for a vote. The decision came on the heals of a formal resolution submitted by the newly formed fire department to the Council urging the city to install a waterworks system for the purpose of providing adequate fire protection. A committee was created to explore the cost associated with the installation of such a system with the intention of providing the necessary information to bring to the community for a vote. The intention at that time was to install an "overhead tank water system fed from an eight-inch artesian well." Water mains would run into the business district and "as far west as the school house or a block beyond" and "across the railroad tracks to the residence district in the northeast part of town." Given the pressure exerted by the possibility of significant insurance rate increases, it appeared likely that such an action would easily pass.[19]

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[14] *Sherburne County Star News*, "Another Big Fire Loss," April 7, 1915, 1.

[15] *Sherburne County Star News*, "Decrease in Fire Losses," February 27, 1919, 1.

[16] *Sherburne County Star News*, "Fire Department Again Organized," April 3, 1919, 1.

[17] *Sherburne County Star News*, "Need for Better Fire Protection," April 10, 1919, 1.

[18] Ibid.

[19] *Sherburne County Star News*, "Voters to Decide on Waterworks," April 24, 1919, 1.

In May of 1919, the Elk River Village Council ordered a new "motor fire truck" to be added to the existing fire fighting equipment (which included a "highly efficient pumping machine") of the newly formed fire department. A local news article described the equipment as "the best and latest design." The equipment was a Victor Chemical Engine, manufactured by W.S. Nott of Minneapolis. The engine was mounted on a special Ford truck that also accommodated 2-40 gallon chemical tanks, fire fighting ladders, lanterns, hand extinguishers, fire hose, and various small tools. The new equipment required four men to "manipulate" it, but only one was necessary to "run it to the scene."[20]

A special election was set for June 24, 1919 for the purpose of bonding the Village of Elk River for the sum of $32,000 for a complete waterworks system. The town's citizens were asked to vote on three propositions, the first being whether the city should construct such a system at that cost. The second asked whether bonds should be issued to cover the cost. And the third proposition asked if $8000.00 in bonds should be issued to "provide for the floating indebtedness of the village."[21] Each of the three propositions passed handily.

In July of 1919 an engineer arrived in Elk River to inspect the area's water supply. Two locations were checked specifically, the spring utilized by the local creamery and the Houlton artesian well. Samples were taken from both locations and both were determined to be suitable sources for the waterworks. At this same time, the Village Council decided to construct a firehouse as part of the waterworks project. Initial reports indicate the firehouse would be relatively small in scale, measuring approximately 20 feet by 50 feet.[22]

The new village well was completed in January of 1920. The well, drilled to a depth of 310 feet, was tested under the direction of Village Engineer Buck and the contractor, McCarthy, who watched as the village fire engine pumped at an estimated rate of 240 gallons per minute. The news article reporting on the testing also noted that the main from the well to the business district would not be completed that winter, which was not a concern, as "the well would supply sufficient pressure for fire purposes without the tower." This is notable as it was speculated that the city lacked sufficient hose to reach from the new well to the commercial district. The mains to the business district and residential neighborhoods were scheduled for completion in the spring of 1920.[23]

In January of 1920 the members of the reorganized fire department addressed the Village Council seeking greater support. In response the Council passed a resolution promising such support and providing for a $3.00 payment to each fireman to report to duty for a call. Further, a payment of $10.00 would be made to the owner of the team of horses that was first to hitch to the fire engine. The resolution also indicated that the fire chief was authorized to keep the fire equipment in good condition and to make the necessary repairs with costs covered by the city. A motion was made and seconded to urge the purchase of a siren, rubber coats, and rubber boots. Another motion resulted in the districting of the town for the purpose of creating a better system of signaling in the case of a fire.[24]

In February of 1920 the city acquired the pump system for the new waterworks. Initially, the intent had been to purchase an electric powered pump, but one with a back-up power supply source (gasoline) was decided upon. This alternative cost an additional $1,100. The choice appears to have been precipitated by a major electrical power outage in the community which underscored the potential for disaster should the pump rely solely on electricity to operate. The news article indicates further that the contractor stated his crew would begin construction of the tower early in March with installation of the mains to begin as soon as the ground was free of frost.[25]

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[20] *Sherburne County Star News*, "Council Orders Motor Fire Truck," May 22, 1919, 1.

[21] *Sherburne County Star News*, "Special Bond Election Called," June 12, 1919, 1.

[22] *Sherburn County Star News*, "Chemical Engineer Arrives," July 10, 1919, 1.

[23] *Sherburne County Star News*, "New Well Given Thorough Test," January 08, 1920, 1.

[24] Ibid.

[25] *Sherburne County Star News*, "Progress on Waterworks," April 22, 1920, 1.

By April 22 of 1920 the local newspaper was reporting significant progress made on the waterworks system. The water tank and tower (at 100 feet above ground) were nearly completed by that time and the ditch digging machine was trenching for the main on Depot Street, with the pipe being quickly laid.[26] Although not identified in the newspaper, a plaque on the leg of the water tower documents the Minneapolis Steel & Machinery Company of Minneapolis as the builders of the Elk River elevated water tank and tower. The company, which was a consolidation of the Twin City Iron Works, the Minnesota Iron Works, and the Barrett & Record Co., was incorporated in Minneapolis, Minnesota in 1902 with a capital of $500,000.[27] The Minneapolis Steel & Machinery Company was organized by a group of Minneapolis men that included J.L. Record and George M. Gillette, who between them had extensive experience in steel production and construction.[28] From its plant at Minnehaha Avenue and Lake Street (non-extant), the company was employing 2,200 workers in 1916. Through the 1920s the company manufactured a variety of steel products including water tanks and towers, which were produced through its division, the Twin City Steel Water Tanks and Towers.[29] From 1902 through the 1920s, the Minneapolis Steel & Machinery Company erected elevated steel water tanks in Minnesota and across the Midwest. The Minneapolis Steel & Machinery Co. is perhaps best known for the production of tractors, threshing machines, and the Corliss engine. In 1929 the company merged with the Minneapolis Threshing Machine Company and the Moline Plow Company, becoming known as the Minneapolis-Moline Power Implement Company.

During this period the fire department was meeting on a monthly basis. At their April meeting the group tested the chemical engine and the fire pump.[30] This kind of testing proved useful in situations such as that which arose in early June when lightning set fire to a house occupied by Chas. Swanson family. The fire department responded to the alarm, with the chemical engine arriving first to the scene; the speed of response time allowed the chemical engine to smother the fire before it gained full steam. The pumping engine was also placed in action; the equipment was rushed down to the river and the hose laid. Although the pumping engine malfunctioned, the early effectiveness of the chemical engine prevented the spread of fire. The news article reporting on the fire related the anticipated relief to come with the new water system that would end the necessity for the department to locate a water supply for each fire. Further, the article noted that the pressure proved by the elevated tank would eliminate the need for the pump engine except in the outskirts of the village.[31]

As one might imagine, the dedication of the village's new $50,000 water supply system was an occasion for great celebration. Such was the case when, on Saturday, August 28, 1920 the Elk River Fire Department threw one of the biggest bashes the community had ever seen. The formal dedication of the new system began with a brief address followed by the opening of a hydrant near the village park where the mayor directed a stream of water across the park. Thousands attended the program that featured events and activities to engage people of all ages.[32]

The following week the firemen made a practice run from the fire station near the water tower. With 600 feet of hose the men had water shooting three blocks away within two minutes and five blocks away within five minutes. The pressure supplied by the new water tower was given much of the credit for the department's success. As noted by the newspaper, "Elk River has never had as good fire protection as it has right now."[33]

The completion of the waterworks system did not end debate about the issue of quality fire protection. In November of 1920 a full-blown showdown was in play between the Village Council and the fire department, with the department

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[26] *Sherburne County Star News*, "Voters to Decide on Waterworks," April 24, 1919, 1.

[27] *Railway Age* 33 (Jan. 1 to June 20, 1901): 724.

[28] Horace Bushnell Hudson, *A Half Century of Minneapolis* (Mpls., MN: Hudson Publishing Co., 1908).

[29] Andrew J. Schmidt, "Minnesota Architectural Inventory Form – Elk River Water Tower (SH-ERC-016)," 2008.

[30] *Sherburne County Star News*, "Firemen to Meet," April 29 1920, 1.

[31] *Sherburne County Star News*, "Lightning Sets Fire to House," June 3, 1920, 1.

[32] *Sherburne County Star News*, "Water System is Dedicated," September 2, 1920, 1.

[33] *Sherburne County Star News*, "Firemen Make Good Run," September 9, 1920.

demanding that the Village secure a siren and hose truck, which they considered "absolutely necessary to the fire department so that it can be effective." The fire department's official resolution stated that if the equipment were not ordered within thirty days the department would disband. The news article indicates that the department had struggled with inadequate, obsolete equipment for two years that prevented them from properly responding to fire calls. Clearly there was a feeling that the Village officials and the citizens of the village did not properly support the fire department.[34]

In response to the fire department's ultimatum, the Village Council issued an explanation, which was quoted in the local newspaper:

> "In view of the action taken by the firemen at their recent meeting the Village Council feels that the public should be acquainted with a few facts in connection with the matter. During the two years since the fire department was first organized, more money has been spent by the Village Council for fire protection than during the whole previous history of the village. Nine hundred feet of hose has been purchased at a cost of approximately $1,000, a chemical auto truck has been purchased at a cost of $2000.00. The fire department has been authorized by the Council to make all repairs necessary to keep the apparatus in good condition, which has been done and the best available quarters are rented for storing the apparatus. A gravity water distribution system costing the village almost $60,000.00 has been installed which is second to none found in any village of anywhere near the size of Elk River in the state. At the time the bonds were sold for the waterworks system the village had to issue bonds to the limit prescribed by law and could not then have undertaken the job if they had been assured that any warrants issued in excess of the $32,000 bonds first issued would be cashed by the bonding company. On account of the changing money conditions the bonding company now refuses to cash these warrants and within the next thirty to sixty day an election will have to be called to vote on the issuance of about $26,000.00 additional bonds to cover these warrants. Until these obligations have been taken care of in this manner the Village Council does not feel that it should incur other heavy obligations. Even when such bonds are issued it is a question whether it would be wise to stretch the credit of the village further by the expenditure of another $2,000 for the same cause, fire protection."

The Village went on to outline the details of their financial support of the department over the previous couple of years, underscoring their position that they had done all they could to provide equipment for fire protection. Further, the Council, while admitting that additional equipment was necessary, took umbrage at the impression given to the citizenry by the fire department that they did not support their efforts. In response, Chief Madsen indicated that the firemen believed it unwise, particularly in light of the substantial investment recently made in fire protection, to diminish the capability of the department because it lacked the equipment needed to quickly transport hose to the fire. "The needed apparatus .... can be purchased entirely on time and should be ordered at once."[35]

The battle between fire department and the Village Council continued over the coming days. News accounts help to illuminate the position of the fire department, which indicated that the task of protecting the village against fire was seriously hindered by the lack of a "good fire alarm." With only the bell of a local church and the telephone used to alert the department to fire, the concern was expressed that, in the case of an overnight fire, the firemen could easily sleep through a signal. A hose and ladder truck was also needed in order to ensure the protection of tall buildings such as the churches and the schoolhouse. Without the hose and ladder truck the men had to carry the equipment – a difficult, if not impossible, task. A hose and ladder truck would also allow the department to pull the pumping engine to fires in Upper Town, which remained without water pressure because that portion of the village was out of the service area provided by the new waterworks. Water for firefighting in Upper Town still had to be drawn from available sources using the pumping engine and delivered to the fire via the hose cart; without a truck, both the pumping engine and the hose cart required a team of horses to pull it, resulting in a significant delay in reaching the fire. The fire chief estimated the cost of the requested equipment at $2,100."[36] Just one week after explaining their demands, the importance of a readied fire department was underscored when a fire broke out at the Elk Theater. Although the theater was badly damaged and the

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[34] *Sherburne County Star News*, "Firemen Ask For Showdown," November 4, 1920, 1.

[35] *Sherburne County Star News*, "Council Makes Explanation," November 11, 1920, 1.

[36] *Sherburne County Star News*, "The Need of Equipment," November 18, 1920, 1.

adjacent buildings initially at risk, the department was able to extinguish the blaze with the pressurized water of the new waterworks.[37]

In early December, the department, upon considering the impact of the pending bond issue and related financial issues faced by the village, resolved to reconsider their decision to disband. The group voted to await the outcome of the pending bond issue and the subsequent disposal of the bonds. Then the department would again meet with the Village to readdress the issue of securing a siren and a hose truck. By that time the Council had assured the fire department that a siren, at least, would be purchased and that it would work toward the purchase of the truck.[38]

The additional bond issue came before the city later that year. As explained by Geo. H. Tyler, a local attorney, the issuance of bonds to pay for the completion of the waterworks system was necessitated by two factors, the change in the bonding company's agreement to carry the warrants necessary to fund the waterworks project and the expansion of the project after work had started. For a reason not explained by Attorney Tyler, the bonding company repudiated their initial statement in which they agreed to carry the required warrants. Rather than litigating, the Village chose to proceed with the much-needed project. Undoubtedly, the pressure plied by the insurance companies to secure proper fire protection was a powerful agent in the Council's decision to proceed with a project that was not, at that time, properly funded. In addition to the bonding snafu, it became apparent as the project progressed that the system should extend further than first planned; the Council approved the extension believing it to be in the best interest of the village. The previously noted change in the configuration of the pump engine's power supply also added to the project cost. As Tyler summarized, "The failure of the bonding company, and the foregoing reasons make it necessary to issue bonds to cover the additional expense, and to pay for the completion of the system of which we are all proud, and which no one would want removed. In the event that the bonds do not carry, the village must pay these contract prices just the same, but at a much greater expense than through a regular bond issue."[39] It appears the village had little choice but to approve the bonds, which they did with only one dissenting vote cast.[40] At a special meeting of the Village Council held just before Christmas, a vote was taken calling for bids for the purchase of the additional waterworks bonds in the sum of $26,000, the additional bond issue having been approved at the special election held on Monday, December 13 at the Odd Fellows Hall.[41] With that vote, a period was placed on the story of the development of Elk River's first waterworks system and the 1920 water tower.

The village's water supply system remained relatively unchanged until July 11, 1947 when the Council moved to create a Water, Light Power, and Building Commission to oversee all of the village's public utilities. In 1951 an insufficient water supply for the growing population resulted in the installation of a rotary centrifugal pump that significantly increased the pumping output. The new pump was used in periods of high demand, with an older pump remaining in use. Further population growth that decade required an overhaul of the water system in 1960. At that time a 100,000 gallon water tank, new water mains, a new removal facility, and new water pump were constructed. The most recent water tower was constructed by Hydrostorage, Inc. in 1985.[42]

The Hemispherical Bottom Within the Scheme of Water Tower Evolution

The concept of storing water at a raised elevation for the purpose of creating sufficient pressure to distribute it to a population has existed in various forms since antiquity. With the advancements of the Industrial Age and the

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[37] *Sherburne County Star News*, "Fire Damages Elk Theater," November 25, 1920, 1.

[38] *Sherburne County Star News*, "Bond Issue is Explained," December 9, 1920, 1.

[39] Ibid.

[40] *Sherburne County Star News*, "Voters Approve Bond Sale," December 16, 1920, 1.

[41] *Sherburne County Star News*, "Village Asks Bids on Bonds," December 23, 1920, 1 and *Sherburne County Star News*, "Call Special Bond Election," December 2, 1920, 1.

[42] Roise, 16.

requirements that came with the development of the railway system in America, the concept of water distribution that began with the aqueducts of Rome was transformed into the design of elevated water tanks (a.k.a., water towers). The earliest examples of water towers appeared in the U.S. in the 1880s to supply the boilers of steam engines and, when towns and cities grew up along a railroad line, water tower engineering was refined to provide fire protection and to pipe water to the growing communities. Water tower forms and scale changed through time, a reflection of technological advancements as well as an indication of increased demand resulting from an ever-growing population.

The Hemispherical Bottom water tower was considered the standard of the industry from the late 1890s to about 1940. The hemispherical form had the significant advantage of reducing stresses. Further, the tank's shape made securing it to the tower easier and provided ready access for ongoing maintenance. The form was also thought to be more pleasing to the eye.[43] Hemispherical tanks with a capacity of over 50,000-gallons (a 100,000-gallon elevated tank being considered large through ca.1910) typically had a conical roof of light, steel-plate and a projecting eave. A flagstaff was often used both as ornamentation and to provide rigidity to the roof.[44] Ladders were recommended to run along one of the legs beginning near the ground and extending to the roof. Such ladders required steel clip connections at regular intervals.[45] The balcony provided access to the tank but, just as importantly, acted as a support girder (often referred to as a stiffener) around the perimeter of the tank. Design guidelines recommended that plate steel with drain holes be utilized for the balcony deck rather than wood (Fig. 6).[46]

The task of painting the water tower required considerable effort; the proper finish reduced maintenance and assured the longevity of the structure. Beginning with a clean surface was paramount, followed by a primer and a finish coat. Red lead oxide, lampblack, and linseed oil were the primary elements of the paint primer with asphaltic varnish used as the finish coat.[47] Most water towers of the period sported a silver tower and tank, black lettering, and a red roof.

The earliest examples of the Hemispherical Bottom were constructed of riveted plates, with the use of welding technology coming into play with the advent of World War II. The major companies active in water tower construction developed variations on the hemispherical form. In the mid-1920s, the Pittsburgh-Des Moines Steel Company (PDM) began using what they termed an elliptical bottom; by diminishing the elongation of the tank form, the overall height of the tower could be lessened. The structure was otherwise the same as a hemispherical tower, utilizing laced channel columns and a cone roof. At that time, unofficial company trademarks were introduced in the design of the towers' balcony stiffeners. PDM utilized a running "V" while others adopted an "X" or vertical supports. This practice provided a ready means for identifying the builder of the water tower.[48]

The Elk River Water Tower retains all of the hallmark elements of a pre-World War II, Hemispherical Bottom type, including a riveted tank, conical roof, a four-post lattice tower with cross bracing and a balcony stiffener with a running "X" design, marking the tower as a construction by a company other than the Pittsburgh-Des Moines Steel Company.

Although the Minneapolis Steel & Machinery Co., the builder of the Elk River Water Tower, erected water towers across Minnesota and the Midwest, no comprehensive survey of water towers in Minnesota, Iowa, or the Dakotas has been completed to fully document their contributions. It is not known how many were built in Minnesota or, of those constructed by the company, which remain and in what condition. Two other companies, the Chicago Bridge and Iron Company (now CBI, Inc.) and the Pittsburgh-Des Moines Steel Company (now PDM, Inc.), dominated the water tower

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[43] J.N. Hazlehurst, *Towers and Tanks for Waterworks. The Theory and Practice of Their Design and Construction* (New York: John Wiley & Sons, 1907), 178.

[44] Ibid., 197.

[45] Ibid., 199.

[46] Ibid., 200.

[47] Ibid., 256.

[48] *Towering Over America*, 39.

construction business in the Midwest. As the following typological descriptions indicate, the majority of advancements in water tower engineering are attributed to one or the other of these two dominant companies.

The lack of a comprehensive survey of Minnesota water towers also limits our ability to make an extensive comparison between the Elk River Water Tower and other towers of the same era and/or type. Five Minnesota examples of the Hemispherical Bottom tank are listed on the National Register of Historic Places. Each of the five is located in the state's Iron Range, their significance attached, in part, to their historical association with the development of that region. The towers, located in Ironton, Trommald, Deerwood, Cuyuna, and Crosby, the construction components of which are described in the National Register, are typical of their period of construction and of the Hemispherical Bottom type.[49] The following table provides an overview of those towers along side that at Elk River.

Location	Type	Built	Built By	Capacity
Elk River	Hemispherical Bottom: Riveted	1920	Minneapolis Steel & Machinery Co.	100,000 gal.
Trommald	Hemispherical Bottom: Riveted	1918	Minneapolis Steel & Machinery Co.	50,000 gal.
Ironton	Hemispherical Bottom: Riveted	1913	Minneapolis Steel & Machinery Co.	75,000 gal.
Cayuna	Hemispherical Bottom: Riveted	1912	Minneapolis Steel & Machinery Co.	50,000 gal.
Crosby	Hemispherical Bottom: Riveted	ca.1920	Des Moines Bridge & Iron Co.*	100,000 gal.
Deerwood	Hemispherical Bottom: Riveted	1914	Des Moines Bridge & Iron Co.	50,000 gal.

* Des Moines Bridge & Iron Co. is the predecessor firm to the Pittsburgh-Des Moines Steel Company, now PDM.

The use of the Hemispherical Bottom water tower falls with a continuum of the development of the municipal water system; while dominating the industry for nearly fifty-years the Hemispherical Bottom form was neither the first nor the last in the evolution of the water tower.

The ***Flat Bottom*** (Fig. 7) is the earliest American form utilized for elevated water tanks. Such tanks, commonly associated with railroad lines, were generally wood construction – both tank and tower. However, PDM's predecessor firm, Jackson & Moss, constructed a 55,000-gallon wood tank on a steel tower in LaPorte City, Iowa in 1896. The company also erected a Flat Bottom steel tank on a brick tower in Correctionville, Iowa in 1915.[50] As one would expect, extant examples of the Flat Bottom type are rare; the Elysian Water Tower at Le Sueur, Minnesota (formerly listed on the National Register of Historic Places) was razed in 1989.

The ***Hemispherical Bottom*** (Fig. 8) was considered the standard of the industry from the late 1890s to about 1940; the Elk River Water Tower is an example of the Hemispherical Bottom. The hemispherical form had the significant advantage of reducing stresses. Further, the tank's shape made securing it to the tower easier and provided ready access for ongoing maintenance. The form was also thought to be more pleasing to the eye.[51] Hemispherical tanks with a capacity of over 50,000-gallons (a 100,000-gallon elevated tank being considered large through ca.1910) typically had a conical roof of light, steel-plate and a projecting eave. A flagstaff was often used both as ornamentation and to provide rigidity to the roof.[52] Ladders were recommended to run along one of the legs beginning near the ground and extending

[49] Minnesota State Historic Preservation Office, resource records. Accessed September 2010.

[50] *Towering Over America: The 100 Year History of Pitt-Des Moines, Inc.* (Pittsburgh: Pittsburgh-Des Moines, 1992), 36.

[51] J.N. Hazlehurst, *Towers and Tanks for Waterworks. The Theory and Practice of Their Design and Construction* (New York: John Wiley & Sons, 1907), 178.

[52] Ibid., 197.

to the roof. Such ladders required steel clip connections at regular intervals.[53] The balcony provided access to the tank but, just as importantly, acted as a support girder (often referred to as a stiffener) around the perimeter of the tank. Design guidelines recommended that plate steel with drain holes be utilized for the balcony deck rather than wood.[54]

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The earliest examples of the Hemispherical Bottom were constructed of riveted plates, with the use of welding technology coming into play with the advent of World War II. The major companies active in water tower construction developed variations on the hemispherical form. In the mid-1920s, the Pittsburgh-Des Moines Steel Company (PDM) began using what they termed an elliptical bottom; by diminishing the elongation of the tank form, the overall height of the tower could be lessened. The structure was otherwise the same as a hemispherical tower, utilizing laced channel columns and a cone roof. At that time, unofficial company trademarks were introduced in the design of the towers' balcony stiffeners. PDM utilized a running "V" while others adopted an "X" or vertical supports. This practice provided a ready means for identifying the builder of the water tower.[56]

The ***Double Ellipsoidal*** (Fig. 9) was introduced in the 1930s in response to the demand for larger capacity tanks. Like the hemispherical type, double ellipsoidal water tanks were first constructed using rivets. Beginning during the World War II era, double ellipsoidal tanks more commonly utilized welded construction. The examples illustrate the variation in appearance of the double ellipsoidal tank, reflecting the tanks wide capacity range (50,000 to 500,000 gallons). The type is the most widely seen of those constructed in the post-war era.

The ***Spheroid*** (Fig. 10) elevated water tank (a sub-type of which is the ***Torospherical***) was introduced post-war and, given its large capacity (2,000,000 gallons), is common in large communities and urban areas. Both the Chicago Bridge and Iron Company and Pittsburgh-Des Moines developed large capacity spheroid tanks. A Spheroid tank is comprised of plates of variable curvature with no vertical shell, with plates in tension requiring two sets of supports. As a result, the form can be identified by the use of a large center standpipe with slender outer columns and wind bracing.

The ***Pedestal Sphere*** (Fig. 11) came into use with the development of welded technology. Both the Chicago Bridge and Iron Company and the Pittsburgh-Des Moines Company developed this type of spherical tank with capacities of up to 200,000 gallons set on a supporting cylinder enclosing the standpipe. As the examples show, the welded design allowed for considerable variation in the shape of the tank. The Pedestal Sphere, along with the more economical Water Ball, replaced the previously dominant hemispherical and elliptical bottom forms.

Like the Pedestal Sphere, the ***Water Ball*** (Fig. 12), was a post-war era development. The small tank set on slender posts, was more economical that the Pedestal Sphere, but its small capacity limited its use to small communities.

The ***Hydropillar*** (Fig. 13) was developed and patented by PDM in 1962. The Hydropillar has a large diameter fluted standpipe supporting a tank with a vertical shell and ellipsoidal bottom and top. The form allowed for a wide range of capacity tanks and created a base that doubled as an enclosed space commonly utilized for storage. As the example shows, a large door at the base provides access to the interior.

It is worth noting that, of the Minnesota water towers currently listed on the National Register of Historic Places, all pre-date 1945. In addition to the all-steel, Hemispherical Bottom types noted previously, the listed water towers are examples

[53] Ibid., 199.

[54] Ibid., 200.

[55] Ibid., 256.

[56] *Towering Over America*, 39.

constructed of masonry and/or stone, significant as representations of architecturally and sculpturally driven municipal facilities.

Developmental history/additional historic context information (if appropriate)

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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 #_____
___recorded by Historic American Landscape Survey #_____

Primary location of additional data:

_X_ State Historic Preservation Office
___Other State agency
___Federal agency
_X_ Local government
___University
___Other
Name of repository: _____

Historic Resources Survey Number (if assigned): SH-ERC-016

10. Geographical Data

Acreage of Property Less than one acre
(Do not include previously listed resource acreage.)

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

	Zone	Easting	Northing		Zone	Easting	Northing
1	15	455601	5017101	3			
2				4			

Verbal Boundary Description (Describe the boundaries of the property.)

The Elk River Water Tower is located northeast of the intersection of 4th & Jackson Streets Northwest in Elk River, Sherburne County, Minnesota. The structure is sited on a .23-acre parcel (#75-404-0052) described unofficially as "BEG AT A POINT 66 FT S OF NW COR OF LOT 5 VILLAGE OF ELK RIVER & RUNNING; THENCE DUE E AT RT ANGES 100 FT; THENCE DUE S & PARA WITH W LINE OF SAID LOT 100 FT; THENCE DUE W & PARA WITH N LINE A DIST OF 100 FT TO W LINE THERE-OF; THENCE 100FT ALONG W LINE TO POB." (http://beacon.schneidercorp.com. Accessed 06/17/11.)

(Map Source: Sherburne County Assessor. http://beacon.schneidercorp.com. Accessed 06/17/11.)

Parcel 75-404-0052 is outlined. Please note that the building located inside the parcel boundary is non-extant.

Boundary Justification (Explain why the boundaries were selected.)

The boundary encompasses the water tower itself and the .23-acre parcel upon which it is constructed and to which it is historically associated. The building located adjacent to the water tower and inside the noted parcel boundary is non-extant (demolished in the spring of 2011).

11. Form Prepared By

name/title Alexa McDowell, Architectural Historian/Historian

organization AKAY Consulting date 09/21/2011

street & number 1226 6th Street telephone 515-491-5432

city or town Boone state Iowa zip code 50036

e-mail akaymcd@hotmail.com

Additional Documentation

Submit the following items with the completed form:

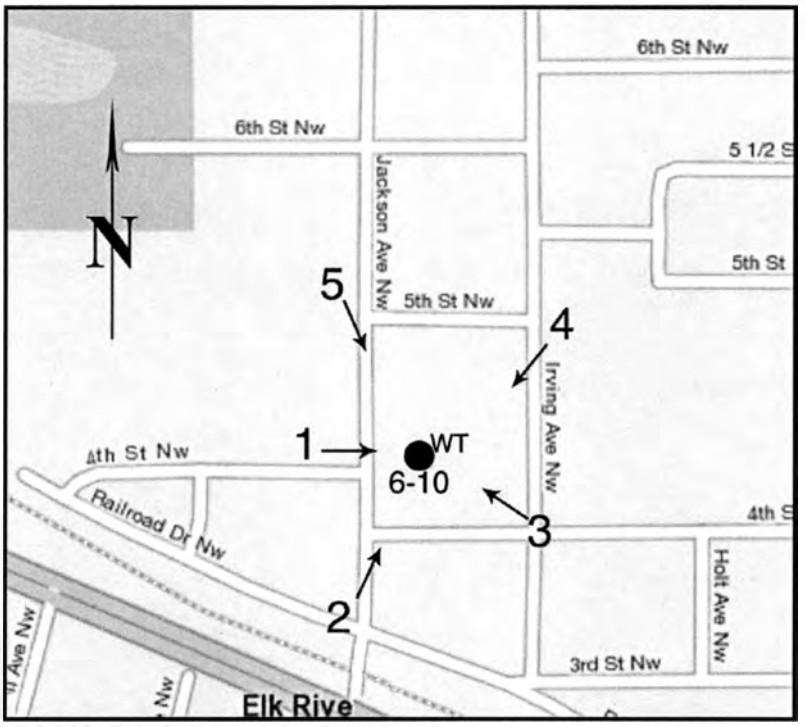
- **Maps:** A **USGS map** (7.5 or 15 minute series) indicating the property's location.

  A **Sketch map** for historic districts and properties having large acreage or numerous resources. Key all photographs to this map.
- **Continuation Sheets**
- **Additional items:** (Check with the SHPO or FPO for any additional items.)

Photographs:

Submit clear and descriptive photographs. The size of each image must be 1600 x 1200 pixels at 300 ppi (pixels per inch) or larger. Key all photographs to the sketch map.

SKETCH MAP



(MAP SOURCE: http://www.mapquest.com)

PHOTO LOG

0001. Elk River Water Tower
Sherburne County, Minnesota
Photographer: Alexa McDowell, AKAY Consulting, Boone, IA
April 7, 2011
CD-ROM on file with property owner and the Minnesota State Historic Preservation Office

Context View: Looking to the east across Jackson Avenue NW
MN_SherburneCounty_ElkRiverWaterTower_0001.tif
Canon Premium Photo Paper/Canon Pixma ChromaLife100+ Ink/Canon MG6120 Printer

0002. Elk River Water Tower
Sherburne County, Minnesota
Photographer: Alexa McDowell, AKAY Consulting, Boone, IA
April 7, 2011
CD-ROM on file with property owner and the Minnesota State Historic Preservation Office

View: Looking northwest from Irving Avenue NW and 4th Street NW
MN_SherburneCounty_ElkRiverWaterTower_0003.tif
Canon Premium Photo Paper/Canon Pixma ChromaLife100+ Ink/Canon MG6120 Printer

0003. Elk River Water Tower
Sherburne County, Minnesota
Photographer: Alexa McDowell, AKAY Consulting, Boone, IA

April 7, 2011
CD-ROM on file with property owner and the Minnesota State Historic Preservation Office

View: Looking southwest from Irving Avenue NW near 5th Street NW
MN_SherburneCounty_ElkRiverWaterTower_0004.tif
Canon Premium Photo Paper/Canon Pixma ChromaLife100+ Ink/Canon MG6120 Printer

0004. Elk River Water Tower
Sherburne County, Minnesota
Photographer: Alexa McDowell, AKAY Consulting, Boone, IA
April 7, 2011
CD-ROM on file with property owner and the Minnesota State Historic Preservation Office

View: Detail view of the Hemispherical Bottom tank and current logo
MN_SherburneCounty_ElkRiverWaterTower_0006.tif
Canon Premium Photo Paper/Canon Pixma ChromaLife100+ Ink/Canon MG6120 Printer

0005. Elk River Water Tower
Sherburne County, Minnesota
Photographer: Alexa McDowell, AKAY Consulting, Boone, IA
April 7, 2011
CD-ROM on file with property owner and the Minnesota State Historic Preservation Office

View: Detail view of the tower structure at the base
MN_SherburneCounty_ElkRiverWaterTower_0008.tif
Canon Premium Photo Paper/Canon Pixma ChromaLife100+ Ink/Canon MG6120 Printer

0006. Elk River Water Tower
Sherburne County, Minnesota
Photographer: Alexa McDowell, AKAY Consulting, Boone, IA
April 7, 2011
CD-ROM on file with property owner and the Minnesota State Historic Preservation Office

View: Detail view showing riveted connection of latticed leg to concrete pad
MN_SherburneCounty_ElkRiverWaterTower_0008.tif
Canon Premium Photo Paper/Canon Pixma ChromaLife100+ Ink/Canon MG6120 Printer

Elk River Water Tower
Name of Property

Sherburne, Minnesota
County and State

Property Owner:

(Complete this item at the request of the SHPO or FPO.)

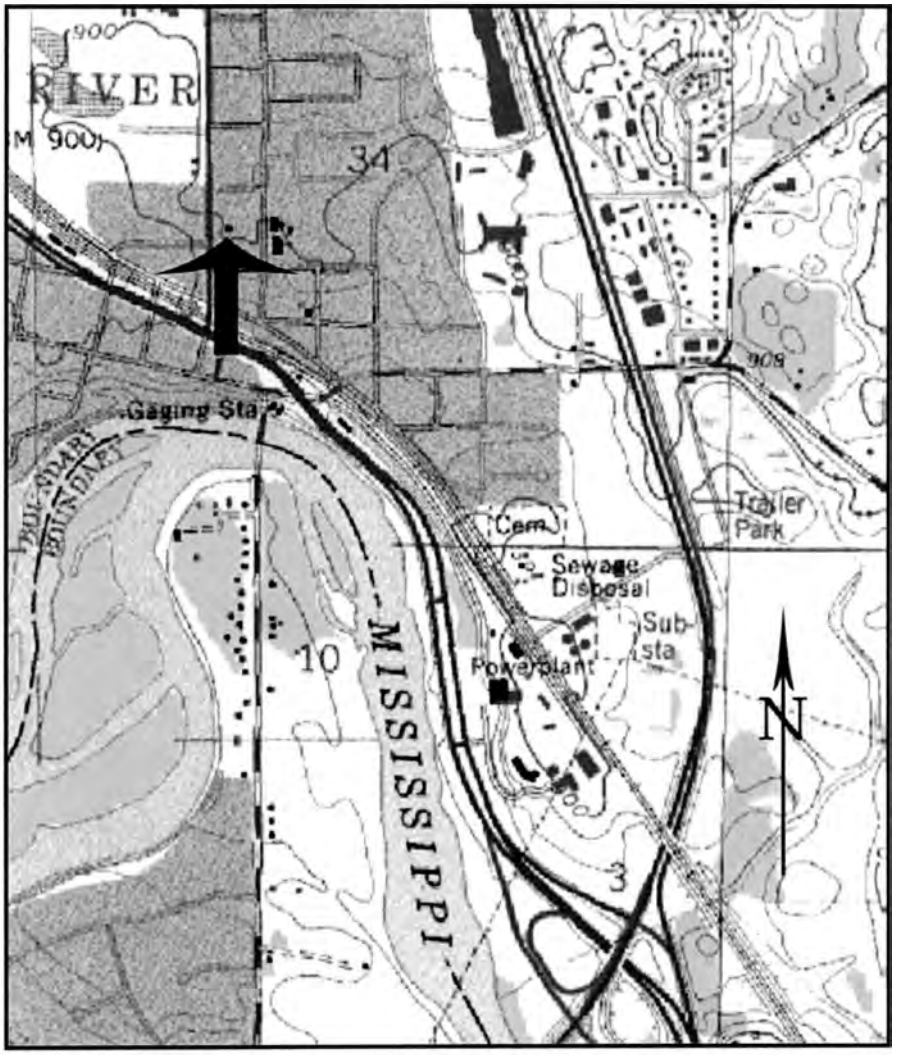
name

street & number telephone

city or town state zip code

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.460 et seq.).
Estimated Burden Statement: Public reporting burden for this form is estimated to average 18 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 Office of Planning and Performance Management. U.S. Dept. of the Interior, 1849 C. Street, NW, Washington, DC.

Figure 1. USGS 7.5 MINUTE TOPOGRAPHIC MAP– ELK RIVER QUAD (1961)



(SOURCE: http://www.trails.com. Accessed 11/18/2010.)

The arrow indicates the location of the Elk River Water Tower.

Figure 2. AERIAL MAP - 2010

(Source: http://www.mapquest.com. Accessed 11/18/2010.)

The arrow indicates the location of the Elk River Water Tower.

Figure 3. ASSESSOR'S PARCEL MAP - 2011

(SOURCE: http://beacon.schneidercorp.com/?site=SherburneCountyMN. Accessed 01/08/11.)

The Elk River Water Tower is sited on parcel 75-404-0052 (outlined). Note that the small building included within the property boundaries is non-extant, having been removed in 2010.

Figure 4. HISTORIC IMAGE - Undated

(SOURCE: Sherburne County Historical Society)

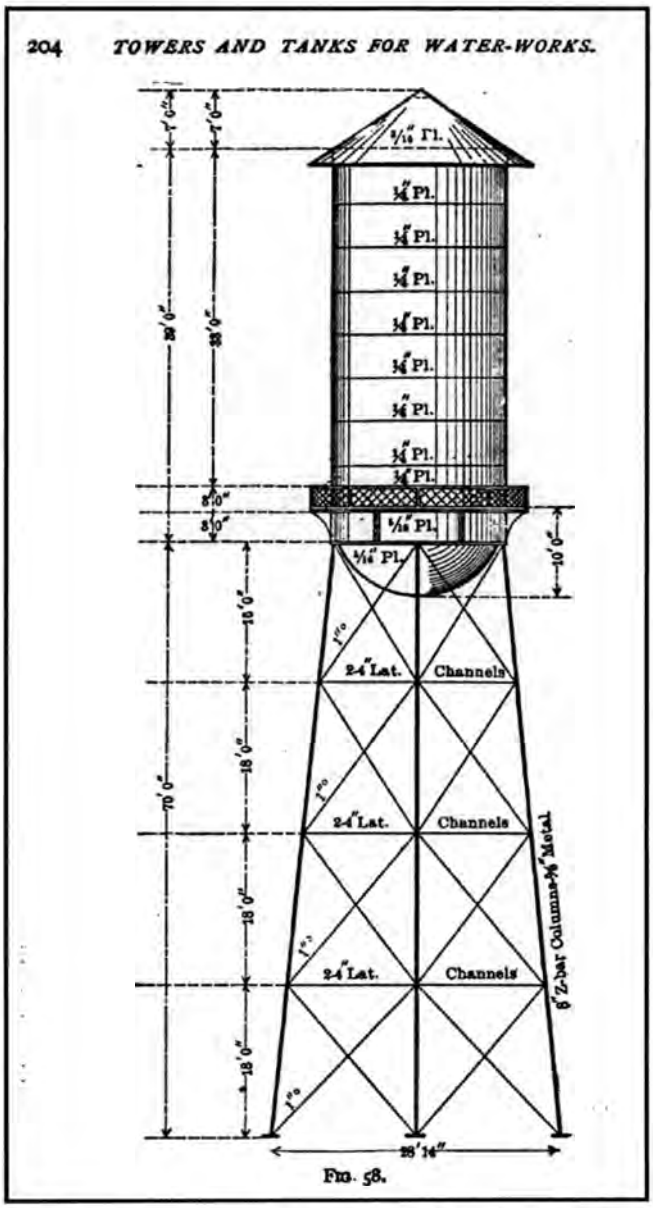
This image from the collection at the Sherburne County Historical Society documenting a train wreck, catches a view of the Elk River Water Tower. It appears that the view is looking to the east from near the intersection of Railroad Drive NW and 4th Street NW. The image was taken in the years prior to 1984 when the tank was painted in the current scheme. In this image, the tank retains its historic palette, which locals substantiate was silver with black lettering and a red roof.

Figure 5. HISTORIC IMAGE – Undated

(SOURCE: Sherburne County Historical Society)

This undated image documents the Elk River water tower in a view looking southeast from Jackson Avenue NW. Note that the historic paint scheme (silver with black tank lettering) remained.

Figure 6. SKETCH OF TYPICAL HEMISPHERCIAL BOTTOM WATER TOWER – 1908



(SOURCE: Hazlehurst, *Towers and Tanks for Water-Works,* 1908)

This sketch illustrates the form and components of a typical water tower of the period between ca.1890 and 1940 of which that at Elk River is an example.

Figure 7. WATER TOWER TYPOLOGIES – FLAT BOTTOM

(SOURCE: http://www. Icweb2.loc. gov/cgi-bin/displayPhoto.pl?path=/pnp/habshaer/. Accessed 09/20/2011)

As the above image of the Elysian Water Tower at Le Sueur, MN (razed 1989), early water towers (in this case, wooden) utilized a flat bottom. In the 1890s, that form gave way the hemispherical tank.

Figure 8. WATER TOWER TYPOLOGIES – HEMISPHERICAL BOTTOM (Riveted or Welded)

(IMAGES: AKAY Consulting, 2008)

The hemispherical bottom water tank was the dominant form utilized from the 1890s through ca.1940. The major companies active in water tower construction developed some variations on the hemispherical form. In the mid-1920s, the Pittsburgh-Des Moines Steel Company (now PDM) began using what they termed an elliptical bottom; by diminishing the elongation of the tank form, the overall height of the tower could be lessened. The structure was otherwise the same as a hemispherical tower, utilizing laced channel columns and a cone roof.

The water tower on the left (1916) is a riveted, hemispherical tank and retains its historical paint scheme. That on the right has a welded tank with what is likely representative of an elliptical bottom. The "w" in the balcony stiffener indicates the Pittsburgh-Des Moines Steel Company built the tower.

Figure 9. WATER TOWER TYPOLOGIES – DOUBLE ELLIPSOIDAL (Riveted or Welded)

(IMAGES: AKAY Consulting, 2008)

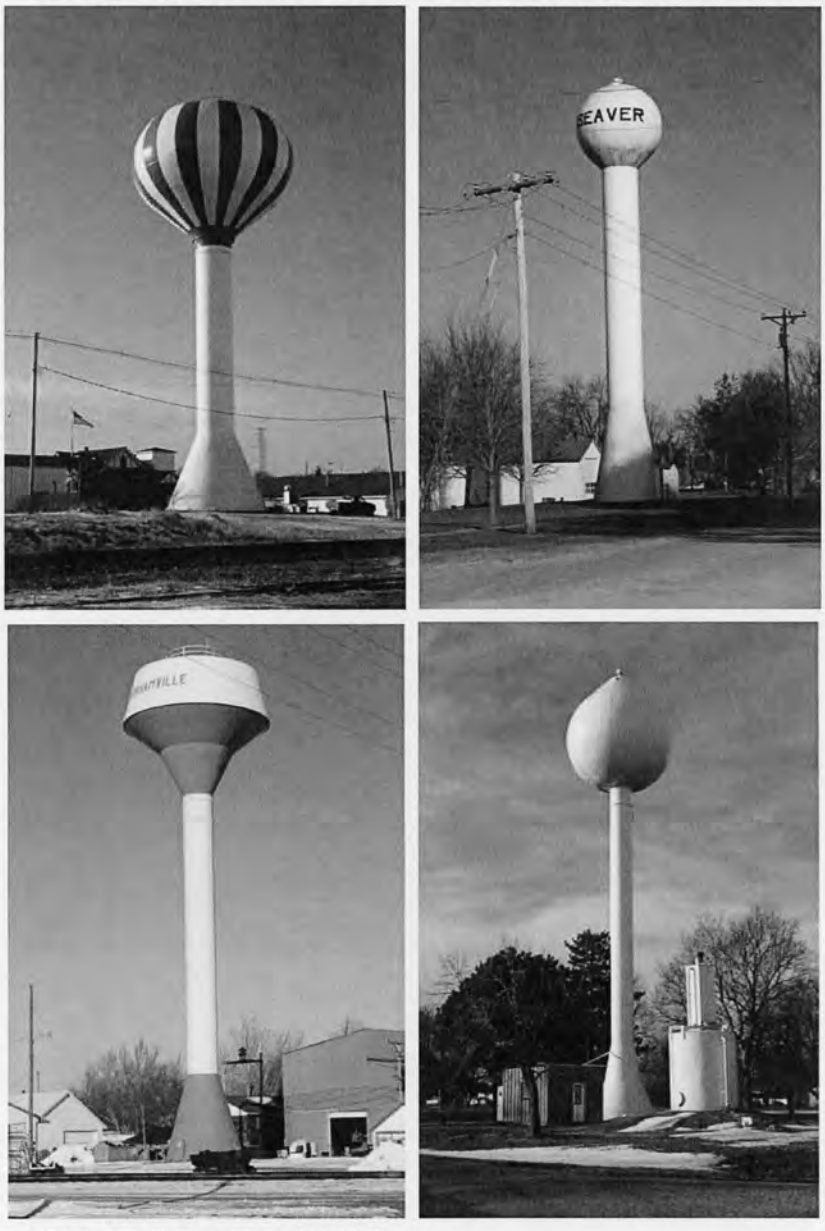
The double ellipsoidal tank was introduced in the 1930s in response to the demand for larger capacity tanks and is the most widely seen of those constructed in the post-war era. The examples above illustrate the variation in appearance of the double ellipsoidal tank, reflecting the tanks wide capacity range (50,000 to 500,000 gallons).

Figure 10. WATER TOWER TYPOLOGIES – SPHEROID (TOROSPHERICAL)

(IMAGES: AKAY Consulting, 2009)

The spheroid elevated water tank (a sub-type of which is the Torospherical) was introduced post-war and, given its large capacity (2,000,000 gallons), is common in large communities and urban areas. In addition to the large size, the Torospherical sub-type can be identified by the large center standpipe and slender outer columns.

Figure 11. WATER TOWER TYPOLOGIES – PEDESTAL SPHERE or WATERSPHERE



(IMAGES: AKAY Consulting, 2009-2010)

The Pedestal Sphere came into use with the development of welded technology and, as the examples show, the welded design allowed for considerable variation in shape.

Figure 12. WATER TOWER TYPOLOGIES – WATER BALL

(IMAGES: AKAY Consulting, 2009-2010)

Like the Pedestal Sphere, the Water Ball, a welded, round tank on legs, was a post-war era development. The type was more economical than the Pedestal Sphere, but its small capacity limited its use.

Figure 13. WATER TOWER TYPOLOGIES – HYDROPILLAR

(IMAGES: AKAY Consulting, 2009-2010)

The Hydropillar accommodates a range of capacity needs and has the added benefit of interior storage in the pillar base; note the door visible in the top example.

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
EVALUATION/RETURN SHEET

REQUESTED ACTION: NOMINATION

PROPERTY NAME: Elk River Water Tower

MULTIPLE NAME:

STATE & COUNTY: MINNESOTA, Sherburne

DATE RECEIVED: 4/06/12 DATE OF PENDING LIST: 4/27/12
DATE OF 16TH DAY: 5/14/12 DATE OF 45TH DAY: 5/23/12
DATE OF WEEKLY LIST:

REFERENCE NUMBER: 12000284

REASONS FOR REVIEW:

APPEAL:	N	DATA PROBLEM:	N	LANDSCAPE:	N	LESS THAN 50 YEARS:	N
OTHER:	N	PDIL:	N	PERIOD:	N	PROGRAM UNAPPROVED:	N
REQUEST:	Y	SAMPLE:	N	SLR DRAFT:	N	NATIONAL:	N

COMMENT WAIVER: N

✓ ACCEPT ___ RETURN ___ REJECT _____ DATE

ABSTRACT/SUMMARY COMMENTS:

Very interesting model for nominating this resource type which is very common.

RECOM./CRITERIA _____

REVIEWER [signature] DISCIPLINE Historian

TELEPHONE _____ DATE 5/23/12

DOCUMENTATION see attached comments Y/N see attached SLR Y/N

If a nomination is returned to the nominating authority, the nomination is no longer under consideration by the NPS.

MN_Sherburne County_Elk River Water Tower_0001


STOP

MN_Sherburne County_Elk River Water Tower_0002

MN_ Sherburne County – Elk River Water Tower

0003. Looking Southwest from Irving Avenue NW near 5th Street NW


Elk River

MN_Sherburne County_Elk River Water Tower_0004

MN_ Sherburne County _ Elk River Water Tower _ 0005

MN_Sherburne County_Elk River Water Tower_0006

UNITED STATES
DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
GEOLOGICAL SURVEY

ELK RIVER QUADRANGLE
MINNESOTA
7.5 MINUTE SERIES (TOPOGRAPHIC)
SE/4 ELK RIVER 15' QUADRANGLE

7274 I NW (ORROCK)
7274 IV NW (CROWN)
7274 I NE (LAKE FREMONT)
7274 I SW (BIG LAKE)
7274 IV SW (NOWTHEN)
(ST. MICHAEL) 7274 II NW
(ROGERS) 7274 II NE
(ANOKA) 7274 III NW

PRINCETON 14 MI.
LAKE FREMONT 5.3 MI.
ST. CLOUD 32 MI.
BIG LAKE 6.9 MI.
MONTICELLO 8.8 MI.
NOWTHEN 1.5 MI.
ALBERTVILLE 3 MI.
3.7 MI. TO I-94
DAYTON 1 MI.
6.2 MI. TO MINN. 152
ANOKA (CH.) 7.4 MI.
MINNEAPOLIS (CH.) (VIA U.S. 169) 25 MI.

93°37'30"
45°22'30"
93°30'
45°15'
2 120 000 FEET
2 100 000 FEET
860 000 FEET
830 000 FEET
R. 26 W.
R. 25 W.
R. 23 W.
T. 33 N.
T. 32 N.
T. 121 N.

SHERBURNE CO
ANOKA CO
WRIGHT CO
ELK RIVER
OTSEGO
RAMSEY
MISSISSIPPI RIVER
Little Twin Lake
Eagle Lake
Twin Lakes
Trott Brook
Orono Lake
ELK R
Elk River Country Club
Golf Course
Trailer Park
Sewage Disposal
Substa
Powerplant
Water Tank
Jr High Sch
High Sch
St Johns Sch
St Andrews Cem
Orono Cem
Radio Towers
Gaging Sta
Gravel Pit
Pit
Park
Cem
LANDING STRIP
BM 973
BM 955
BM 946
BM 942
BM 924
BM 906
BM 903
BM 901
BM 889
BM 865
BM 960

Elk River Water Tower
Elk River, Sherburne Co.,
Minnesota
UTM Reference
15/455582/5017101

Produced by the United States Geological Survey
Control by USGS, NOS/NOAA and USCE
Topography by photogrammetric methods from aerial photographs taken 1958. Field checked 1961
Hydrography compiled from information furnished by Minnesota Department of Conservation
Projection and 10,000-foot grid ticks: Minnesota coordinate system, south zone (Lambert conformal conic)
1000-meter Universal Transverse Mercator grid ticks, zone 15, shown in blue
1927 North American Datum (NAD 27)
North American Datum of 1983 (NAD 83) is shown by dashed corner ticks
The values of the shift between NAD 27 and NAD 83 for 7.5-minute intersections are given in USGS Bulletin 1875
Fine red dashed lines indicate selected fence and field lines where generally visible on aerial photographs. This information is unchecked
Purple tint indicates extension of urban area

UTM GRID AND 1993 MAGNETIC NORTH DECLINATION AT CENTER OF SHEET
GN 0°24' 7 MILS
MN 3° 53 MILS

SCALE 1:24 000
1 MILE
7000 FEET
1 KILOMETER
CONTOUR INTERVAL 10 FEET
NATIONAL GEODETIC VERTICAL DATUM OF 1929

THIS MAP COMPLIES WITH NATIONAL MAP ACCURACY STANDARDS
FOR SALE BY U.S. GEOLOGICAL SURVEY, DENVER, COLORADO 80225, OR RESTON, VIRGINIA 22092
A FOLDER DESCRIBING TOPOGRAPHIC MAPS AND SYMBOLS IS AVAILABLE ON REQUEST

MINN.
QUADRANGLE LOCATION

Revisions shown in purple and woodland compiled in cooperation with State of Minnesota agencies from aerial photographs taken 1991 and other sources
Contours not revised. This information not field checked
Map edited 1993

ROAD CLASSIFICATION
Primary highway, hard surface
Secondary highway, hard surface
Light-duty road, hard or improved surface
Unimproved road
Interstate Route
U. S. Route
State Route

INTERIOR—GEOLOGICAL SURVEY, RESTON, VIRGINIA—1993

ELK RIVER, MINN.
SE/4 ELK RIVER 15' QUADRANGLE
45093-C5-TF-024
1961
REVISED 1993
DMA 7274 I SE - SERIES V872

PRESERVATION ALLIANCE OF MINNESOTA

March 27, 2012

State Review Board
Minnesota Historical Society
Minnesota State Historic Preservation Office
345 Kellogg Blvd. W.
Saint Paul, MN 55102

Dear State Review Board Members:

I am writing to express the Preservation Alliance of Minnesota's enthusiastic support for three nominations to the National Register of Historic Places that will be before you this evening—the Lincoln Bank Building, Minneapolis; the Faribault Woolen Mill Company; and the Elk River Water Tower. PAM has been involved with these properties over the past several years, and we believe all three should be forwarded to the National Park Service for listing in the National Register.

Prior to joining the PAM staff, I worked as a historian for Hess, Roise, and Company and prepared the National Register nomination for the Pence Automobile Company Building at 800 Hennepin. (Hess Roise is also a member and annual organizational sponsor of the Preservation Alliance of Minnesota.) I was pleased to read the nomination for the Lincoln Bank Building and to learn even more about how our now-predominant automobile culture grew locally because of the bank established by Harry Pence "for the purpose of providing Hennepin Avenue with banking facilities that might property care for the automobile trade...." (Lincoln Bank Building NRHP nomination, page 10). I recall studying the exterior of the bank building while I was preparing the Pence Building nomination, and finding that it retained a greater degree of historic integrity than did the Pence building at the time of its nomination. The nomination for the Lincoln Bank Building makes a solid case for its historic significance; we believe that it should be listed in the National Register.

PAM staff was recently presented with the opportunity to tour the Faribault Woolen Mill, and we were pleased and impressed to see the state rehabilitation tax credits at work in this community. The Woolen Mill has a unique history, making it a true asset to Faribault and the state of Minnesota. We believe that this significant historic resource should also be listed in the National Register of Historic Places.

The Elk River Water Tower was included in PAM's 2011 list of the 10 Most Endangered Historic Places in Minnesota. We are extremely pleased to see that the community has pursued National Register designation, and we hope that this honor (the water tower would be only the second structure in Elk River to be listed in the National Register) will encourage the Elk River Municipal Utilities Commission to support preservation of this landmark structure.

Thank you for your efforts to support preservation activity in our state, and for considering these comments in your review of the nominations.

Sincerely,

Erin Hanafin Berg,
Field Representative
ehberg@mnpreservation.org

City of Elk River
13065 Orono Parkway
Elk River, MN 55330

February 8, 2012

Barbara Mitchell Howard
Deputy State Historic Preservation Officer
345 Kellogg Blvd W
St Paul MN 55102

Dear Ms. Howard:

The City of Elk River Heritage Preservation Commission is recommending the Elk River Water Tower to the National Register of Historic Places. Currently, the HPC does not have any members who meet the Federal Standards for History and Historic Architecture or Architectural History. City staff has contacted Michael Brubaker, Director of the Sherburne History Center and Oliver Kelley Farm staff to write recommendations on behalf of the City.

The City has spent a considerable amount of time working to preserve the Elk River Water Tower. In 2011, it was nominated to the "10 Most Endangered Historic Sites in 2011" and was selected as one of the sites. During the voting period, the water tower tied for fourth place. The Elk River Water Tower was also nominated to the "2011 This Place Matters" Community Challenge. The nomination process began in 2010 with an application to the Minnesota Historical Society for a Fast Track grant for the City to hire a consultant to write the nomination.

The water tower is significant to the City of Elk River as it provided adequate fire protection to the City in 1920. Prior to this time, the downtown burned several times which slowed the growth of the community. With the fire protection in place, Elk River began to grow as a community.

The water tower poses a significant presence in its original position in the skyline of Elk River making it a distinguishable entity for travelers and the citizens of our community ever since it was constructed. Its shape is unique as compared to modern water towers, which helps capture the feeling that Elk River is not only an established community, but one of the older ones in the state.

The City is in the process of implementing a Downtown Redevelopment Plan. This planning document shows the Water Tower is a focal landmark. The Elk River Water Tower is significant to the history of community planning and development in Elk River.

The Elk River Heritage Preservation Commission believes this structure meets the criteria for nomination to the National Register of Historic Places.

Phone: 763.635.1000
Fax: 763.635.1090

www.ci.elk-river.mn.us

Members of the HPC plan to attend the State Review Board meeting on March 27, 2012 and will be available for questions. Please contact Rebecca Haug if you have any questions at 763-635-1068.

Thank you for the opportunity to comment.

Sincerely,

Lance Lindberg, Chair of the Elk River HPC

Phone: 763.635.1000
Fax: 763.635.1090

www.ci.elk-river.mn.us

City of Elk River

13065 Orono Parkway
Elk River, MN 55330

February 23, 2012

Barbara Mitchell Howard
Deputy State Historic Preservation Officer
345 Kellogg Blvd W
St Paul MN 55102

Dear Ms. Howard:

As Mayor of the City of Elk River, I am recommending the Elk River Water Tower to the National Register of Historic Places. I understand that the City's Heritage Preservation Commission (HPC) has approved a letter of recommendation and has asked Michael Brubaker, Director of the Sherburne History Center as well as staff from the Oliver Kelley Farm to provide recommendations.

The water tower is significant to the City of Elk River as it provided adequate fire protection to the City in 1920. Prior to this time, the downtown burned several times which slowed the growth of the community. With the fire protection in place, Elk River began to grow as a community.

The water tower poses a significant presence in its original position in the skyline of Elk River making it a distinguishable entity for travelers and the citizens of our community ever since it was constructed. Its shape is unique as compared to modern water towers, which helps capture the feeling that Elk River is not only an established community, but one of the older ones in the state.

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Please contact Rebecca Haug if you have any questions at 763-635-1068.

Thank you for the opportunity to comment.

Sincerely,

John J. Dietz, Mayor

Phone: 763.635.1000
Fax: 763.635.1090

www.ci.elk-river.mn.us

Minnesota Historical Society
State Historic Preservation Office
345 Kellogg Blvd West, St. Paul, Minnesota 55102
651/259-3451

TO: Carol Shull, Keeper
National Register of Historic Places

FROM: Denis P. Gardner

DATE: March 29, 2012

NAME OF PROPERTY: Elk River Water Tower

COUNTY AND STATE: Sherburne County, Minnesota

SUBJECT: National Register:

- ☒ Nomination
- ☐ Multiple Property Documentation Form
- ☐ Request for determination of eligibility
- ☐ Request for removal (Reference No.)
- ☐ Nomination resubmission
- ☐ Boundary increase/decrease (Reference No.)
- ☐ Additional documentation (Reference No.)

DOCUMENTATION:

- ☒ Original National Register of Historic Places Registration Form
- ☐ Multiple Property Documentation Form
- ☒ Continuation Sheets
- ☐ Removal Documentation
- ☒ Photographs
- ☒ CD w/ image files
- ☒ Original USGS Map
- ☒ Sketch map(s)
- ☒ Correspondence
  - ☐ Owner Objection

    The enclosed owner objections
    Do☐ Do not ☐ constitute a majority of property owners

STAFF COMMENTS: