

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places
Registration Form

SENT TO D.C.
1-2-91

This form is for use in nominating or requesting determinations for individual properties and districts. See instructions in *How to Complete the National Register of Historic Places Registration Form* (National Register Bulletin 16A). Complete each item by marking "x" in the appropriate box or by entering the information requested. If an item does not apply to the property being documented, enter "N/A" for "not applicable." For functions, architectural classification, materials, and areas of significance, enter only categories and subcategories from the instructions. Place additional entries and narrative items on continuation sheets (NPS Form 10-900a). Use a typewriter, word processor, or computer, to complete all items.

1. Name of Property

historic name Lena Water Tower

other names/site number _____

2. Location

street & number 201 Vernon Street not for publication

city or town Lena vicinity

state Illinois code IL county Stephenson code 177 zip code 61046

3. State/Federal Agency Certification

As the designated authority under the National Historic Preservation Act, as amended, I hereby certify that this nomination request for determination of eligibility meets the documentation standards for registering properties in the National Register of Historic Places and meets the procedural and professional requirements set forth in 36 CFR Part 60. In my opinion, the property meets does not meet the National Register criteria. I recommend that this property be considered significant nationally statewide locally. (See continuation sheet for additional comments.)

William L Wheeler / SHPO 12-27-90

Signature of certifying official/Title Date

Illinois Historic Preservation Agency

State of Federal agency and bureau

In my opinion, the property meets does not meet the National Register criteria. (See continuation sheet for additional comments.)

Signature of certifying official/Title Date

State or Federal agency and bureau

4. National Park Service Certification

I hereby certify that the property is:

- entered in the National Register.
 See continuation sheet.
- determined eligible for the National Register
 See continuation sheet.
- determined not eligible for the National Register.
- removed from the National Register.
- other, (explain:)

Signature of the Keeper

Date of Action

Lena Water Tower
Name of Property

Stephenson, Illinois
County and State

5. Classification

Ownership of Property
(Check as many boxes as apply)

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

Category of Property
(Check only one box)

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

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

Contributing	Noncontributing	
0	1	buildings
0	0	sites
2	0	structures
0	0	objects
2	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: Watertower

Materials
(Enter categories from instructions)

foundation limestone

walls limestone

brick

roof metal

other

Narrative Description

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

8. Statement of Significance

Applicable National Register Criteria

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

- A** Property is associated with events that have made a significant contribution to the broad patterns of our history.
- B** Property is associated with the lives of persons significant in our past.
- C** Property embodies the distinctive characteristics of a type, period, or method of construction or represents the work of a master, or possesses high artistic values, or represents a significant and distinguishable entity whose components lack individual distinction.
- D** Property has yielded, or is likely to yield, information important in prehistory or history.

Criteria Considerations

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

Property is:

- A** owned by a religious institution or used for religious purposes.
- B** removed from its original location.
- C** a birthplace or grave.
- D** a cemetery.
- E** a reconstructed building, object, or structure.
- F** a commemorative property.
- G** less than 50 years of age or achieved significance within the past 50 years.

Narrative Statement of Significance

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

9. Major Bibliographical References

Bibliography

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

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 # _____

Areas of Significance

(Enter categories from instructions)

Politics/Government

Period of Significance

1896-1946

Significant Dates

1896

Significant Person

(Complete if Criterion B is marked above)

n/a

Cultural Affiliation

n/a

Architect/Builder

U. S. Winds, Engine and Pump Company
of Batavia Illinois

Primary location of additional data:

- State Historic Preservation Office
- Other State agency
- Federal agency
- Local government
- University
- Other

Name of repository:

Lena Area Historical Society Library
Lena Library

Lena Water Tower
Name of Property

Stephenson, Illinois
County and State

10. Geographical Data

Acreage of Property Less than one

UTM References

(Place additional UTM references on a continuation sheet.)

1	1,6	2,6,7,1,8,0	4,6,9,5,6,7,0
	Zone	Easting	Northing
2			

3			
	Zone	Easting	Northing
4			

See continuation sheet

Verbal Boundary Description

(Describe the boundaries of the property on a continuation sheet.)

Boundary Justification

(Explain why the boundaries were selected on a continuation sheet.)

11. Form Prepared By

name/title Sharon Welton

organization _____ date September 30, 1996

street & number 119 E. Main St. telephone 815-369-5598

city or town _____ state _____ zip code _____

Additional Documentation

Submit the following items with the completed form:

Continuation Sheets

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.

Photographs

Representative **black and white photographs** of the property.

Additional Items

(Check with the SHPO or FPO for any additional items)

Property Owner

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

name Village of Lena

street & number 122 E. Main St. telephone 815-369-4016

city or town Lena state IL zip code 61048

Paperwork Reduction Act Statement: This information is being collected for applications to the National Register of Historic Places to nominate properties for listing or determine eligibility for listing, to list properties, and to amend existing listings. Response to this request is required to obtain a benefit in accordance with the National Historic Preservation Act, as amended (16 U.S.C. 470 *et seq.*).

Estimated Burden Statement: Public reporting burden for this form is estimated to average 18.1 hours per response including time for reviewing instructions, gathering and maintaining data, and completing and reviewing the form. Direct comments regarding this burden estimate or any aspect of this form to the Chief, Administrative Services Division, National Park Service, P.O. Box 37127, Washington, DC 20013-7127; and the Office of Management and Budget, Paperwork Reductions Projects (1024-0018), Washington, DC 20503.

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Lena Water Tower

Description

Water Tower

The Lena Water Tower is located at 201 Vernon Street in the town of Lena, Illinois, in western Stephenson County. Lena is located approximately 38 miles east of Galena, Illinois. The Lena Water Tower was built in 1896.

The water tower is situated on a triangular parcel of property. Also located on that triangle is the former electrical plant, as well as a 100,000 gallon water reservoir built in 1907. The one story former electric plant is now used for storage by the village municipal departments and houses the town pump. The electric plant building is noncontributing to the nomination due to recent remodelings and additions made to it. The reservoir is a contributing structure. One of the property's bordering streets to the north is Lena's Main Street. This section of Main Street to the southeast is where many businesses and civic buildings are located. The blocks south of Main, as well as the cross streets that form the triangular parcel of property, are residential. This neighborhood is one of Lena's oldest and most picturesque areas. Large, single family dwellings line the sidewalks and tall, mature trees line the streets.

The water tower is 122.5 feet tall. Its base diameter is 22 feet. The first 56 feet from the ground are limestone blocks. Each rock-faced block is approximately 24" by 30". They are set in regular courses. There are six stone buttresses running approximately 50 feet up the sides which flare slightly at the base.

The next 44 feet are red brick set in a common bond. It consists of five courses of stretchers to one course of headers. Atop this are seven courses of yellow brick corbelling.

At the top of the brick sits a stainless steel tank. It is held in place merely by the weight of the water in it and is not otherwise attached. This tank was lifted into place in 1984, replacing an earlier redwood tank. The present tank has been painted black and bears the name "LENA" in large yellow capital letters. The

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Lena Water Tower

tank is 22.5 feet tall and 18.6 feet in diameter. It holds 50,000 gallons. There is a metal catwalk around the base of the tank.

The roof of the tank is stainless steel, and is part of the tank. It consists of five welded pie-shaped pieces which are set at a slight pitch. The roof has also been painted black.

There are six windows for ventilation. They are two feet wide by six feet high. They are double-hung, one-over-one pane, and can be opened. Located at the various landing levels, the windows on the third and sixth floors face the northwest. Those on the second and fifth floors face the north; and the two on the fourth and seventh floors face the southwest. The windows themselves are flat, but there is a segmental brick arch above each window. These arches are three courses of yellow brick set in headers. Each window has a cut limestone sill with a smooth finish.

Two doors are part of the structure. One is an entry at the base, and one is at the top to allow access to the catwalk. Both doors face the east. They are each three and one-half feet by seven feet. The door at the base has a decorative stone segmental arch with a keystone. Above the door is an inset stone plaque on which is engraved, "Lena Waterworks 1896 Trustees John H. Rife President Miles White, CP Fitzgerald, OJ Wilsey, Andrew Hinds, JM Schermerhorn Clerk U.S.W.E. and Pump Co. Builders." The plaque refers to the builders of the water tower, U.S. Wind, Engine, and Pump Company of Batavia, Illinois.

An inside wooden stairway provides landings approximately every thirteen feet. There are eight wooden platforms, each one foot by six feet, that serve as landings, as well as 112 steps. The stairway and landings allow for inspection, maintenance, and access to the catwalk door. Also inside the tower is a cast iron, twelve-inch diameter supply pipe to the tank.

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Lena Water Tower

Electric Light Plant Building

Adjacent to the water tower is a one story brick building which houses the town pump and had also served as the electric power plant. The red brick building is 110 feet long and 38 feet wide. In 1905 Benfer Brothers built a brick building which housed the Lena Electric Light Plant. The developer of the project was W. M. Arnold. In 1912, a brick addition housing a 100 horsepower steam engine and boiler was made to the south of the building. In 1920 another brick addition was added to the north of the building.

The building has a hipped roof with asphalt shingles. The wooden soffits have been covered with aluminum. The building had many doors and windows. Beginning at the south end of the east elevation was a seven and one-half by ten foot door, four windows, a doorway, another large doorway, and two windows. The north elevation had two small windows. On the west side of the building were two windows. The south elevation had a large doorway.

In 1978, all of the doors and windows were completely or partially bricked in with red brick by Pierce Construction of Lena. A new wooden door with a window in its upper half was installed into a new opening in the center of the east wall. Just south of that new door, in the frame of the former three-by-four foot window, is a two foot by two foot, four inch window. A two foot-by-two foot four inch window was also placed in the area where one of the larger windows on the west side had been. Also on that west wall are two, three-by-seven foot doors; one is steel and the other is wooden. Four, two-by-three foot glass block windows were added at the south end of the west wall. A red brick addition built in 1982 is along the north side of the building. It has an 18-by-15 foot wooden garage door. There are two wooden garage doors on the south wall. A shed roofed addition was built in 1982 on the southeast side. It has a nine foot by seven foot garage door. To the west of this addition on the south elevation is an eighteen-by-seven foot door with an electric opener allowing for the storage of police cars. Due to all of the modern changes and additions made to the building, it is a noncontributing building to the nomination.

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Lena Water Tower

Reservoir

Two, fifteen foot cast iron pipes connect the west wall of the former electric plant with an underground water reservoir. The reservoir is made of concrete with a wood and metal roof, and has a 100,000 gallon capacity. It was built in 1907. The reservoir is a contributing structure to the nomination.

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Lena Water Tower

Statement of Significance

The Lena Water Tower is locally significant for listing in the National Register of Historic Places. It meets Criterion A for politics/government for its role in providing water services to the citizens of Lena from 1896, the year the water tower was completed to 1946, the fifty-year cut-off for the National Register.

Following the defeat of Chief Blackhawk and the Sauk Indian tribe in 1832, northwestern Illinois was opened up to white settlement. A battle of the Blackhawk War had been fought in nearby Kellogg's Grove. In 1834 John Garner and his family settled in the area which would later become Lena. One of the earliest settlers to the area included Samuel Dodds, frequently acknowledged as the founder of Lena. Though Dodds was a businessman, most of the early arrivals were farmers.

In 1853 the Illinois Central Railroad Company began surveying and grading a route through Stephenson County. The line was completed through West Point Township, Stephenson County, in 1854. Samuel Dodds and the Illinois Central Railroad Company laid out 160 acres of land in the southwest corner of that township and named it Lena. There were twelve families living in the area now called Lena before the railroad went through. William Allen began operating a dry goods store about the same time as the arrival of the railroad. Other early businesses and professions in town during the 1850s included a lumber yard, blacksmith shop, grain dealer, post office, and two physicians. In 1855 the Lena Steam Mill was erected by Shemberhorn and Munns. The two-and-a-half story brick Greek Revival styled building housed a 35-horsepower steam engine that powered the mill.

Other businesses started in town during the late 1850s and early 1860s including the Shannon Carriage Works and Lena Foundry. The foundry made leather rollers, boot crimpers, and feed cookers. Two elevators, one on South Railroad Street and one on Schuyler Street were also erected. The Lena Hotel was built in 1854.

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Lena Water Tower

By 1860 Lena had a population of over 600 and had become a prominent shipping point for grain and stock to Chicago, St. Louis, and other marketing centers. On April 16, 1866, Lena was incorporated as a town. By 1867 the population was over 1,200. A one-story frame town hall was built in 1874 at a cost of \$500. Many Lena businesses, churches, social organizations, and the school system, trace their beginnings to the era between 1860 and 1870.

After the Civil War, the town continued to grow. The *Lena Star* newspaper was established in 1867 with Samuel Dodds as its editor. The first recorded fire was noted in the paper that same year. The newspaper called for a town pump as a way to avert a smoldering disaster. The next year, the frame train depot was the location of two fires. Though the fires were relatively minor, many people realized what the loss of the train depot might do to the infant village of Lena. Other fires occurred that year, including two within a week's time at the blacksmith's shop. The need for a town pump was repeated many times by the *Lena Star* editor, J. M. Shannon in 1867.

Lena had its first well on May 15, 1868, a 44 feet deep well with a small pump. It was a symbol of local progress and growth. By 1870, the population of Lena had grown to 1,295 residents. The business and social community had grown with the population. One of the organizations established was the Lena Fire Department. It had been organized in 1869 and had its first official meeting in 1870.

Even with a fire department and a well, blaze after consuming blaze destroyed property throughout the bustling town. A stable, a rural school, a warehouse, and a number of homes were burned down in the early 1870's. News of the "Great Chicago Fire" of 1871 brought a sense of panic to many Illinoisans, including the numerous Lena residents living and working in flammable wooden buildings. *Lena Star* editorials, though, were not enough to prompt a more efficient waterworks. A fire in the Illinois Central Railroad's old depot and freight building in 1874 that nearly destroyed these buildings was enough to warrant a change.

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Lena Water Tower

The year 1874 saw a complete overhaul of the fire safety system in Lena. Four cisterns were built and erected in differing village quadrants. Each cistern held 600 barrels of water. The fire department was divided into two companies. Finally in July 1874 a new fire department building was built to house the increasing amount of firefighting equipment. In May 1877 a new fire bell was purchased and placed in the tower of the fire engine house. Lena residents felt much more secure.

In May 1879, fire leveled the Commercial Hotel. Lena was again alarmed. A fifth reservoir was built that summer at the corner of Rantoul and Mason streets, this one held 800 barrels of water. That June, the fire department put on a public display which also led to restored confidence. One fire company was able to speed from the engine house to their appointed cistern by horse cart, lay out 300 feet of hose, and throw a stream of water, in one minute and twenty-eight seconds. Lena residents were again assured that they were well protected.

However, fires were still a menace. Despite a new steam fire engine purchased in 1880, one building after another would succumb to fire, mainly due to the lack of water. When the neighboring village of Warren voted to erect a water tower, a crusade began in earnest that Lena would not be outdone. The *Lena Star* was at the forefront of the battle for the water tower. Five more years of editorials and fires would come and go before the referendum would pass to build such a tremendous structure.

Drilling for the new reservoir and tower began the week of June 14, 1895. However the drill was stuck, buried 400 feet in the ground within a short time. A crew had to free their trapped equipment. By the time the frozen drill was freed and the new equipment arrived, it was October. Crews had to work double shifts just to beat the impending winter storms of northern Illinois.

By early November, the tower structure was being built. More disaster struck as a large rock, being hoisted up to the tower, fell. The rock crashed to the ground, tearing the bottom floor of the structure into shreds and splinters. With two strikes against them, the crew continued its labor. At least there were no fatalities in the accident.

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Lena Water Tower

Irving S. Crotzer, editor of the December 27, 1895 *Lena Star* wrote,

Babylon Has Fallen and the waterworks followed suit Christmas morning. The city of Lena received the old ruins minus the poison ivy for a Christmas present. A monument of ignorance and bad work. With a rush and a roar, our magnificent stone water tower fell to the ground Christmas morning, beginning at 1 a.m. and finishing at 5 a.m. The neighbors were badly frightened and when their house shook, some thought it was an earthquake, while others thought it was the end of the world. They were very reasonable in their thoughts. It has not been very long since the earth quaked and the Adventists have lately been prophesying the end of the earth Christmas morning. The year in which Christ was born, December had two full moons, and that phenomenon has not been witnessed since until this Christmas, hence, when the tower fell, shaking the ground and throwing showers of sparks, many people were looking for Gabriel and his horn . . .

The people blamed the *Lena Star* for creating such a fury to build a tower. The paper blamed the contractor for faulty work. The eight feet-deep foundation was not deep enough to support the twenty thousand ton structure. A December thaw had caused the mortar to crumble.

In June of 1896, the village trustees voted that they would not let the issue die. On June 19th of that year, a new company, the U. S. Wind, Engine and Pump Company of Batavia Illinois, had come to town to tear down the remains of the old water tower and complete a new foundation. They were to use the best Portland cement available. By July, the tower was 35 feet tall, and by September, the brick and stone portion of the tower had reached its intended height of 100 feet high. Within the month, a cypress tank would be installed onto the top of the tower. Lena would not be defeated by disaster.

Also taking place that fall was the trenching of nearby Oak and North Railroad Streets. Water mains would be placed beneath those and on other streets. Water rates were set including \$5 for banks, \$8 for bakeries, \$2 for private

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Lena Water Tower

bathtubs, \$5 for public bathtubs, \$5 for barbershops, and \$3 for blacksmith shops. Lena could finally boast of indoor plumbing with running water. Dusty streets would be sprinkled. More importantly, the village felt secure in its battle against fire.

The Lena Water Tower would stand as a witness to modernizations throughout the town over the next 100 years. The water tower and reservoir provided water for industries, businesses, social clubs, and homes for the citizens of Lena. With a modern water system, Lena was able to maintain its growth as a small town in western Stephenson County.

The Lena electric light plant also added another modern convenience to Lena's citizens. In May 1901 the town board and other citizens began discussing the possibility of establishing an electric light system. In September 1901, S. S. Garvin of Austin, Illinois met with the town board and was granted an electric light franchise for twenty-five years. The franchise gave Garvin the right to sell electric light, heat, and power. Free lights were to be maintained at the town hall, engine house, and waterworks. The town of Lena had the right to purchase the plant after fifteen years.

However, Garvin's enterprise was short-lived and in 1905 Benfer Brothers built a brick power plant and the company was called the Lena Electric Light and Power Company. The one story building was built on the grounds of the water tower. In 1911, the electric plant added a brick addition with a 100 horsepower steam engine and boiler, which enabled them to provide electricity for the first street lights installed in 1912. The new lights illuminated the entire business district giving Lena, according to the June 6, 1912 *Lena Star*, "... a lighting system greatly superior to that usually found in towns of this size." The lighting plant also provided electricity for a new elevator at the F. House and Son poultry plant that same year.

In 1891, the trustees of the Lena Campgrounds, a Methodist Church camp decided to add a tabernacle to the grounds on the north end of town. The 60 by 100 foot building was finished by 1897. The octagonal building seated 3,000. The week-long camp meeting was a popular institution in Lena and later became

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Lena Water Tower

the home of the Lena Chautauqua. Telephone service arrived in Lena in 1898 and the Lena School system was accredited by the state of Illinois that same year.

The first decade of the new century saw the creation of rural mail service with four routes, in 1901. Also in 1901, a two-story casket factory for the Lena Casket Company was built. Lead mining became a major industry in the area during the early 1900s. In October 1901 the first shipment of lead from the West Point Mine was made by Jones and Son. In 1903 Ed Handke discovered coal near town.

Following the destruction of the Lena Hotel by fire in 1903, plans were made to organize a stock company to erect a new hotel. In 1905 a new three story brick and stone Classical Revival hotel was built in town. The Phoenix Hotel was a popular social and lodging place in town during the 1900s.

In April 1907 fire destroyed the city hall, jail, and much of the fire department's equipment. The loss to the village was estimated at \$8,000. On August 1907 it was announced that the local firm of Lins and Becke had the contract to build a two-story brick town hall and fire department. A water reservoir of concrete, with a wood and iron roof, having a 100,000 gallon capacity, was also built in 1907.

Also in 1912, a group of women known as the Phidian Art Club established the library. The library had about 200 books and was housed in the Lena Town Hall until a new library building was built in 1963. A new casket factory was organized in 1910. Located near the water tower and the electric light plant the factory provided employment for many in town and also required tremendous amounts of electricity for heating and lighting furnished by the Lena Electric Light and Power Company and water furnished by the water tower and reservoir.

In 1916 repairs to the water tower included new cross sills under the tank on top of the tower, new pipe connections, and a new wooden tank costing \$1,300 and measuring 20 feet in diameter. The 24 feet deep tank brought the total height of the tower to about 125 feet. To keep up with improvements and growth in town,

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the village trustees agreed to purchase a Ford fire truck in 1917. Other town improvements including the paving of North Railroad Street along the railroad in 1919.

Lena continued to progress during the 1920's. In 1922, the *Lena Star*, now the *Lena Weekly Star*, announced a linotype machine that would replace its old method of setting type by hand. Plans for a new road from Chicago to Dubuque began circulating in the Lena area in the early 1920s. By 1921 all of the right of way had been purchased and construction began on the new highway. The new road called Route 5 would run one mile south of Lena and was completed to Lena from Freeport in 1923. The road later became U. S. Route 20.

In 1921 the Citizens State Bank built a new building on the northeast corner of Schuyler and South Railroad streets. The Lena State Bank moved into a new building on South Railroad Street in October 1923. The Kolb-Lena Cheese Company began operation in 1925, making a baby Swiss cheese now known world-wide. In 1927, Mrs. Thad Stouffer brought her chicken incubators from the farm to Lena and started a thriving hatchery.

Town improvements in the 1920s included the installation of new machinery at the Lena waterworks. A new air lift compressor was installed on the pump from the well. A new pump was installed to draw water from the reservoir to the water tower. A boiler was installed and fitted with a steam pump to be used in case of a breakdown in the electric pump or other machinery. these improvements would be especially helpful in case of fires. The Lena Fire Department added an electric siren in 1927 on top of the waterworks plant.

The Lena Electric Light and Power Company was also expanding during this time. In 1920 a one story brick addition was built on the north side of the electric plant. In 1921 the company purchased the Martintown, Wisconsin power plant. In 1922 the company purchased the Monroe, Wisconsin power plant and in 1923 the Orangeville, Illinois light system was added to the company. By 1923 the Lena Electric Light and Power Company was providing electricity to Apple River, Warren, Nora, Waddams Grove, Lena, Stockton, Pearl City, Shannon, Lanark,

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Lena Water Tower

Winslow, Oneco, and Orangeville, Illinois and Martintown and Monroe, Wisconsin.

A north-south highway was paved running directly through Lena in 1930, known as Route 73. In 1930 the town's and surrounding farmers raised funds to buy a new fire engine. The truck arrived in town on August 28, 1930 and included extension ladders, a pumper, and water tanks. It was demonstrated at the water tower and golf course pond. Also in 1930 a bond issue at \$6,520 was passed to drill a new well to replace the old well. The new well was over twelve inches in diameter, 1,000 feet deep, and had a capacity for pumping 330 gallons of water per minute. In 1935 the town installed a new wooden water tank on the water tower. The wooden, black tank had the word "LENA" painted on all the sides. In 1938 the village added twenty additional street lights. The village issued bonds in 1939 for improvements to the water system.

With help from the federal government under the Public Improvement Act, the Lena Community High School District began plans to erect a new school building in 1933. The building was dedicated on December 20, 1934.

Talking movies came to Lena in 1931, shown at the Lena Opera House. A new school was built in 1934, and a nine-hole golf course was established on the west edge of town. The Lions Club was organized in 1938.

The 1940's saw a building boom, especially after World War II. Curbs and gutters were added to the street, beginning in 1941. In July 1942 the Illinois Central Railroad built a new freight and passenger depot replacing the fifty-year old depot. On November 1, 1945 Lena citizens voted to issue bonds to erect a sewer system for the town. The sewer plant was completed by 1950. The Lena Electric Light and Power Company was eventually sold to the Illinois Northern Utilities Company and is now owned by Commonwealth Edison. Most of Lena's electric power comes from a hydroelectric plant at Dixon, Illinois.

The half-century after the water tower had been built saw many changes in Lena, as did the more recent 50 years. The water tower has been in continuous service for one hundred years. It is by far the tallest structure in the community.

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Lena Water Tower

Surrounded by a steadily expanding village that it has helped to grow, the rolling hills of the Mississippi Valley, and sprawling Illinois family farms, the tower stands out as a monument to local persistence. The residents of Lena would not allow minor travesty to set them back. The tower looms over the natural and man-made landscape and can be seen for miles in any direction. This proud symbol of man's attempts to control nature continues to cast its shadow down upon the village that it has served and protected for the past century.

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Lena Water Tower

Verbal Boundary Description

Block 19, Lot 1 of the Original Town of Lena

Boundary Justification

This is the original lot that the water tower occupies, and it is owned by the village along with the watertower structure.



United States Department of the Interior

NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

P.O. Box 37127

Washington, D.C. 20013-7127

IN REPLY REFER TO:

The Director of the National Park Service is pleased to announce actions on the following properties for the National Register of Historic Places.
For further information contact Edson Beall via voice
(202) 343-1572, fax (202) 343-1836 or E-mail: edson_beall@nps.gov

Visit our web site at <http://www.cr.nps.gov/nr/nrhome.html>

MAR 14 1997

WEEKLY LIST OF ACTIONS TAKEN ON PROPERTIES: 3/03/97 THROUGH 3/08/97

KEY: State, County, Property Name, Address/Boundary, City, Vicinity, Reference Number, NHL, Action, Date, Multiple Name

ARKANSAS, LOGAN COUNTY, Logan County Courthouse, Southern Judicial District, Jct. of 4th and N. Broadway Sts., SE corner, Booneville, 97000207, LISTED, 3/08/97

COLORADO, JEFFERSON COUNTY, Rio Grande Southern Railroad, Motor No. 7, 17155 W. 44th Ave., Golden vicinity, 97000161, LISTED, 2/28/97

COLORADO, MESA COUNTY, Land's End Observatory, Land's End Rd., 10 mi. W of CO 65, Whitewater vicinity, 97000124, LISTED, 2/28/97

FLORIDA, HERNANDO COUNTY, May--Stringer House, 601 Museum Crt., Brooksville, 97000210, LISTED, 3/08/97

FLORIDA, INDIAN RIVER COUNTY, Pueblo Arcade, 2044 14th St., Vero Beach, 97000211, LISTED, 3/08/97

FLORIDA, MANATEE COUNTY, Whitfield Estates Lantana Avenue Historic District, 332--336 Lantana Ave., Sarasota vicinity, 97000209, LISTED, 3/08/97 (Whitfield Estates Subdivision MPS)

ILLINOIS, STEPHENSON COUNTY, Lena Water Tower, 201 Vernon St., Lena, 97000034, LISTED, 2/20/97

IOWA, BUCHANAN COUNTY, Fisher--Plane Commercial Building, 119 and 121 1st St., E., Independence, 97000212, LISTED, 3/08/97

MARYLAND, CARROLL COUNTY, Orendorff, John, Farm, 412 Old Bachman's Valley Rd., Westminster vicinity, 97000102, LISTED, 3/07/97

MISSISSIPPI, MARSHALL COUNTY, Jonesboro, Lake City & Eastern Railroad Depot, Jct. of S. Dewey and Baltimore Sts., NW corner, Manila, 97000206, LISTED, 3/08/97 (Historic Railroad Depots of Arkansas MPS)

NEBRASKA, PAWNEE COUNTY, Farwell Archeological District, Address Restricted, DuBois vicinity, 97000132, LISTED, 3/04/97

NEW JERSEY, CAPE MAY COUNTY, South Tuckahoe Historic District, Roughly, along NJ 557 and NJ 50 from the Tuckahoe River to Kendall Ln., Upper Township, Tuckahoe vicinity, 97000103, LISTED, 3/07/97

NEW JERSEY, GLOUCESTER COUNTY, Upper Greenwich Friends Meetinghouse, 413 Kings Hwy., E. Greenwich Township, Mickleton, 97000062, LISTED, 2/28/97

NEW YORK, KINGS COUNTY, Green--Wood Cemetery, Jct. of 5th Ave. and 25th St., Brooklyn, 97000228, LISTED, 3/08/97

NEW YORK, MONROE COUNTY, Stewart Cobblestone Farmhouse, Douglas Rd., S of jct. with Canfield Rd., Mendon, 96001391, LISTED, 3/04/97 (Cobblestone Architecture of New York State MPS)

NORTH CAROLINA, WAKE COUNTY, Leslie--Alford--Mims House, 100 Avent Ferry Rd., Holly Springs, 97000218, LISTED, 3/08/97 (Wake County MPS)

OHIO, MIAMI COUNTY, Elizabeth Township Rural Historic District, Roughly bounded by Lost Cr., Miami and Clark Co. line, and Casstown Clark Co. and Elizabeth Bethel Rds., Casstown vicinity, 97000160, LISTED, 3/01/97

PENNSYLVANIA, BEDFORD COUNTY, Grand View Point Hotel, US 30, 17 mi. W of Bedford, Juniata Twnshp., Bedford vicinity, 97000219, LISTED, 3/08/97 (Lincoln Highway Heritage Corridor Historic Resources: Franklin to Westmoreland Counties MPS)

SOUTH DAKOTA, LINCOLN COUNTY, Grand Valley Schoolhouse, District No. 12, 285th St., approximately .5 mi. E of jct. with SD 11, Canton vicinity, 97000143, LISTED, 3/03/97

TENNESSEE, KNOX COUNTY, First Baptist Church, 510 Main Ave., Knoxville, 97000223, LISTED, 3/08/97 (Knoxville and Knox County MPS)

TENNESSEE, SHELBY COUNTY, South Main Street Historic District (Boundary Increase), 663 S. Main St., Memphis, 97000224, LISTED, 3/08/97

UTAH, CACHE COUNTY, Olson, Erick Lehi and Ingrid Larsen, House, 490 East 600 South, River Heights, 97000225, LISTED, 3/08/97

UTAH, SUMMIT COUNTY, Grix, John, Cabin, .25 mi W of UT 150, approximately 20 mi. NE of Kamas, Kamas vicinity, 97000226, LISTED, 3/08/97