

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

MAR 20 1993

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 *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 Havana Water Tower

other names/site number Old Havana Water Tower

2. Location

street & number NE Corner of Jct. of Pearl and Main Streets not for publication

city or town Havana vicinity

state Illinois code IL county Mason code 125 zip code 62644

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. Lohr, SHPO 3-11-93
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 Entered in the National Register Date of Action

Richard J. ... 4/22/93

Havana Water Tower
Name of Property

Mason County, 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
1	0	structures
0	0	objects
1	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

0

6. Function or Use

Historic Functions
(Enter categories from instructions)

GOVERNMENT/public works

Current Functions
(Enter categories from instructions)

GOVERNMENT/public works
VACANT

7. Description

Architectural Classification
(Enter categories from instructions)

OTHER: Water Tower

Materials
(Enter categories from instructions)

foundation Limestone
walls Brick
Steel
roof Metal
other

Narrative Description

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

Havana Water Tower
Name of Property

Mason County, Illinois
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.)

- 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)

Community Planning and Development

Period of Significance

1889-1943

Significant Dates

1889

Significant Person

(Complete if Criterion B is marked above)

N/A

Cultural Affiliation

N/A

Architect/Builder

Raider, F. W., Engineer

Jaeger, Guido, Contractor

Primary location of additional data:

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

Name of repository:

Havana Water Tower
Name of Property

Mason County, Illinois
County and State

10. Geographical Data

Acreege of Property less than one

UTM References

(Place additional UTM references on a continuation sheet.)

1	1 5	7 4 9 9 9 0	4 4 6 5 0 6 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 Cathy McCormack

organization Western Illinois Regional Council date January 15, 1993

street & number 223 South Randolph telephone 309-837-3941

city or town Macomb state Illinois zip code 61455

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 Allan D. McNeil, Mayor, City of Havana

street & number 227 West Main Street telephone _____

city or town Havana state Illinois zip code 62644

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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Havana Water Tower

Site Description

The Havana Water Tower stands on the Main Street hill, overlooking the city's original business district and the Illinois River. It is located on lot number seven, block twenty-seven, at the NE corner of Pearl and Main streets in the original town of Havana, Mason County, Illinois (see attached plat). With its five story, octagon-shaped base and 50,000 gallon steel storage tank, the tower stands approximately eighty-six feet tall (see photo number 1). Also located on lot number seven is a single-story, brick pump house. Other buildings on block number 27 include several single-family dwellings, a Lutheran Church which predates the water tower, a parsonage, and a parking lot for the church.

Built between August and November of 1889, because the city had "no adequate supply of water for the purposes of fire protection and for the use of inhabitants," (from ordinance number 55, June 1889) the tower, in conjunction with a pumping plant, became part of a public water system in the city.

The octagonal base of the water tower is about fifty feet high, seventeen feet and eight inches across the bottom, fourteen feet and six inches on top, and is constructed of soft brick believed to have been made locally (while no information can be found to prove the origin of the bricks used, it is known that a brick kiln was in operation in Havana). During the tower's construction the mortar used was high in lime and sand. Walls of the base are twenty-seven inches thick on the bottom end, narrowing to eighteen inches thick on top. At the top of the base (immediately beneath the tank) is a section of ornamental brick work in which several courses of brick are interlain in different positions. While it is unknown if this configuration of brickwork adds strength to the base, it provides a capping effect for the many courses of brick lain beneath it (see photo numbers 13 and 14). Bricks are interlaced as they join at the corners of the octagon (see photo number 3). In the past, the exterior has been painted gray.

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Havana Water Tower

Entrance to the tower is on the south side through a wooden door. The entryway has a round arch (see photo number 2), and a wooden transom which was originally glass. It is unknown when the change from glass to wood occurred. The remaining seven sides have no ground-level, exterior openings. Also on this side are two small windows, measuring about thirty-one inches high by 13 1/2 inches wide. One window is approximately twenty-four feet above ground level, while the other is about thirty-seven feet above ground level (see photo number 1).

The north side of the tower has three windows, all of which have the same dimensions as those on the south, but located at different levels. The first window is eighteen feet above ground, the second is thirty feet up, and the third is at the forty foot level (see photo number 4).

At the top of the base on the west side, there is another door used as an access to a steel ladder that at one time led up to a catwalk and then on to the top of the storage tank (see photo numbers 5 and 6). In the early 1970s, this wooden catwalk that encircled the storage tank was removed. It had been secured to the tank by eight iron brackets (see blueprint), all of which were apparently removed and discarded.

The steel storage tank is thirty-six feet tall, has a diameter of fifteen feet, and a capacity of 50,000 gallons. The tank is presently covered with a flat metal roof (see photo number 1), which is believed to have been installed in the 1950s. The original blueprints specified a conical-shaped wooden roof, topped with a galvanized iron ball. According to Rick Noble, a waterworks employee in Havana, the original wooden roof was never built onto the tank and for its period of significance the tower remained uncovered. Noble reached this conclusion after researching the minutes of town meetings from the period. While every aspect of the tower's construction was discussed at the meetings, nothing could be found which indicated that the wooden roof had been placed on the tower. Another feature visible from outside is a six-inch pipe extending

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Havana Water Tower

from the top of the tank to ground level; it is used to prevent tank overflow (see photo numbers 1 and 8).

Inside the base of the tower, there is a ten-inch pipe line that supplies water to the storage tank (see photo number 7). Other features inside include three wooden floors connected by wooden staircases located at about the twelve, twenty-two, and forty foot levels, respectively (see photo numbers 7 and 9). These floors serve as landings, making it easier for maintenance workers to reach the tank by providing several short ladders to climb as opposed to one tall ladder reaching from the floor to the top of the base. On the uppermost of these floors, there are two arches, built into the tower base, twenty-one inches wide, twenty-seven inches high, and about 11 1/2 inches thick, constructed of six rows of brick, 2 1/2 bricks wide (see photo numbers 10, 11, and 12). These arches reinforce the structure, thereby providing greater support for the storage tank.

The brick pump house is approximately nineteen feet from Pearl Street, and thirty-nine feet from the NW corner of the water tower. The pump house is approximately sixteen by ten feet and nine feet in height. It has a flat concrete roof and a concrete floor. Entrance is gained through a metal door located on the west side of the building facing Pearl Street. There are two metal framed windows, one on the north side and one on the south side of the building. The pump house has been built into the side of the hill and is completely above ground only on the west side. Inside the pump house are valves and piping to drain water from the tower, transmitters for police and fire radios, and a stand-by generator for unscheduled power losses. Built in 1953 to house city well number three (city well number three was abandoned in 1965), this pump house was not used in conjunction with the water tower during its period of significance. Today the pump house is used only for draining the water tower. It is a noncontributing building.

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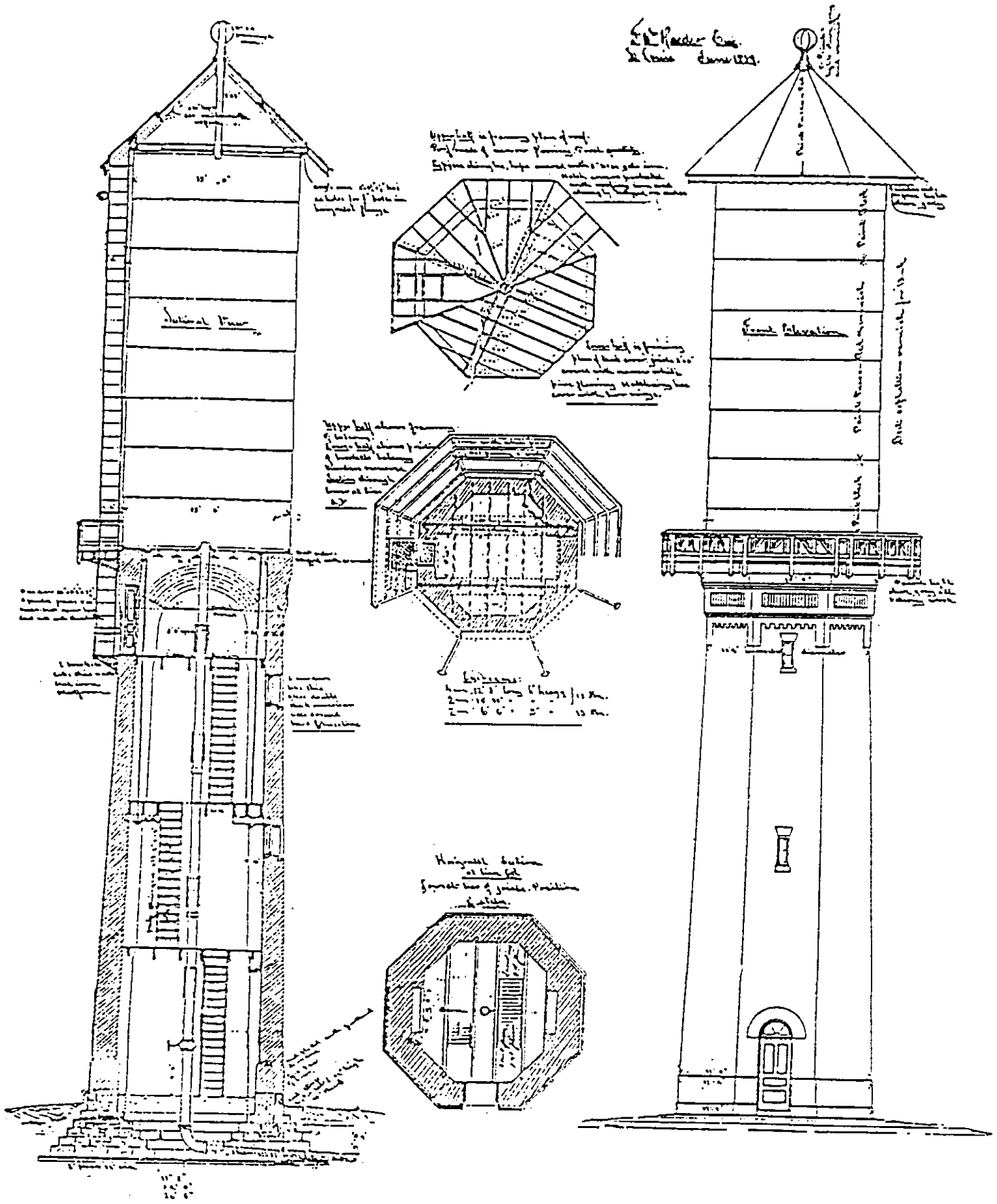
Havana Water Tower

Lot seven, on which the tower stands, is 66 feet wide by 132 feet deep. The lot is elevated approximately five feet above the immediate surroundings. It is unknown whether this has occurred naturally, or through the addition of fill material to the site. The west side of the property is marked by a five foot brick retaining wall, topped with slabs of stone. The bricks have been covered with mortar. There is a similar wall on the south. Here the original brick, such as can be found in the west wall, was replaced with concrete in 1982. At the southwest corner of the property, at the juncture of the two walls there is a set of stairs with nine steps leading up to the tower. The brick steps are twelve inches wide and, like the west side retaining wall, topped with stone. The steps, along with both retaining walls are painted white (see photo numbers 15 and 16). The retaining wall was built at the same time as the water tower (1889) and provides support for the landscaping materials upon which the tower stands.

HAVANA WATER TOWER

Tower
At Water Works.

Ed. Rader Esq.
21 Ave. de la Vega.



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Havana Water Tower

Statement of Significance

The Havana Water Tower is significant for Criterion A for community planning and development for its role as a part of the water system for Havana, Illinois. It is a locally significant structure associated with the need to provide water storage facilities for the public welfare. While the period of significance is from 1889 (when the tower was built), to 1943 (the fifty-year cutoff for the National Register) the Havana Water Tower is still in use today.

The city of Havana installed a public water system in 1889. Ordinance 55, which authorizes the construction of the water system, was adopted by the city of Havana after the citizens voted to install a public water system. Cited as the reasons for this decision were the lack of adequate fire protection and the desire to provide water for the citizenry. No information could be found to indicate how water was supplied before the water system was built, but it is assumed that water was provided from private wells and the Illinois River. The system consisted of ten supply wells, the pumping station, and a 50,000 gallon elevated storage tank. The pumping station was located one block east of the water tower, and the ten wells were located at the pumping station. All ten wells were abandoned and sealed prior to 1938. The pumping station was demolished in 1985.

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Havana Water Tower

While by no means the most important of the system's original components, the steel storage tank sitting atop its five story brick base was certainly the most visible. Rising nearly ninety feet above the ground, the tower was built primarily to furnish water reserves for fire fighting, and to provide a water supply for the community. For over a hundred years the tower has provided the city with water, not only in case of fire, but for general use also. Today, the tower mainly functions as a water storage facility during periods of system maintenance.

Over the years the water system has undergone numerous improvements, including the addition of a second storage tower in 1962. Despite the many changes to the water system since its inception in 1889, the original tower has remained a part of that system, and is now referred to as the Old Havana Water Tower.

The Havana Water Tower is located atop what is now the Main Street hill, overlooking the city's original business district and the Illinois River. It was at Havana in 1823 that Ossian Ross initiated a ferry service across the Illinois River. The crossing and ensuing settlement soon became known as "Ross Ferry." Important for its development, Ross Ferry was the only point at which the river could be crossed between Beardstown and Pekin. About 1829, Ross built the first commercial building in Havana, a hotel named appropriately the "Ross Hotel." It was in this building the first session of the Circuit Court was held. Among that early court's more prominent visitors was Abraham Lincoln.

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Havana Water Tower

As more settlers came to the city, there became a need for certain public services. A post office subsequently opened in 1829, and the city's first public school was established in 1842. Later, in 1853, Havana incorporated.

The original business district consisted of two banks, three hotels, three mills, a hardware store, a grocery store, a clothing and dry goods store, one drug store, a livery stable, a grain elevator, and several other small businesses. In addition to these commercial enterprises the city also had both the Mason County Jail and the Courthouse. In 1882 the Courthouse was destroyed by fire. It was rebuilt that same year. By the 1880's, fire insurance had become a standard cost for businesses, but most fire insurance companies would not insure businesses in communities without sufficient fire protection. Consequently, businesses had a need for adequate fire protection in the form of a municipal water system in order to acquire fire insurance. In 1889 the citizens of Havana voted to install a municipal water system. The water tower provided the required supply of water for fighting a fire as well as creating the necessary water pressure through gravity flow to deliver water through a system of water mains to a fire anywhere in the community. In June of that year Ordinance 55 was adopted, under which the city proposed to install a water system. The project was designed by the engineering firm of F. W. Raider of St. Louis, Missouri, and the estimated cost for the system was \$20,000. The general contractor was Guido Jaeger. Jaeger's original bid was apparently too high, and was negotiated downward by the city council. Records also reveal that an engineer named Sturtevant was

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Havana Water Tower

hired by the city to supervise construction of the project and to test water. Sturtevant's fee reportedly was \$600. By July of 1890, the city was ready to extend water lines to its residents.

Once installed the water system allowed the city to grow. Its business district, along with the population, expanded. New subdivisions were added and homes were constructed on what had previously been farm land. The Havana Electric Company was begun in 1893 and operated as a municipal plant until it was sold to the Central Illinois Public Service Company in 1912. In 1895 a sewer system was installed in the city (a modern sewage disposal plant was built in 1939), a new city hall was built, and the high school was placed on the accredited list of several colleges and universities, among them the University of Illinois and Northwestern University. A new high school was erected in 1901. A gas line was installed in 1931 by the Central Illinois Public Service Company, and the source of gas changed from artificial to natural gas in 1934. From 1898 through 1901 the library was housed in the City Hall but in 1901 enough money was raised to build a new public library. The city's water system helped in promoting this expansion.

In 1982, the American Water Works Association recognized the Havana Water Tower as an American Water Works Landmark. In the process, the Havana Water Tower became the fourth structure in Illinois to receive this award.

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Havana Water Tower

There are no known brick water towers in Mason County as well as in any of the counties surrounding Mason: Tazewell, Fulton, Schuyler, Cass, Menard, and Logan. Similar water towers in Central Illinois are the Benson Water Tower in Woodford County, approximately 65 miles from Havana. It was built in 1891 and has a brick base with a wood tank. The Ransom Water Tower, LaSalle County, is approximately 100 miles from Havana. Built in 1896, it also has a brick base with a wood tank. The Paxton Water Tower, Ford County, is approximately 105 miles from Havana, was built in 1887, and has a brick base with a wood tank. The Benson, Ransom, and Paxton Water Towers are all listed in the National Register of Historic Places.

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Havana Water Tower

BIBLIOGRAPHY

City of Havana Water Works Department. Compilation of past and present day water system information. 1992.

Lynn, Ruth Wallace. Prelude to Progress: The History of Mason County, Illinois 1818-1968. Mason County Board of Supervisors. 1968.

Knoy, Crone. Tank Industry Consultants. Provided information concerning water tank styles and origins. Speedway, Indiana. 1992

Kreiling, Dortha, J. History of Havana. compilation of old histories, records, and recollections, City Directory. Havana, Illinois. 1940.

New Ordinance Number 55. Ordinance relating to the construction and maintenance of a system of water works. Havana, Illinois. June. 1889.

Noble, Rick. unpublished research material on the Havana Water Tower. Havana, Illinois.

Pekin Daily Times, article on Havana Water Tower; July 28, 1989.

Restoration of Havana Water Tower. Melottle-Morse, Lts. Architects. Springfield, Illinois. July, 1992.

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Section number 10 Page 11

Havana Water Tower

BOUNDARY DESCRIPTION

The nominated property occupies lot #7 in Block #27 of the original Town of Havana, Illinois. The lot is 66 feet wide in the west to east dimension and 132 feet in the north to south dimension. The Havana Water Tower occupies a portion of the lot.

BOUNDARY JUSTIFICATION

The boundary includes the city lot which has historically been associated with the property.

201126

ILLINOIS HISTORIC SITES SURVEY INVENTORY

1. Name of Site:
Common Havana Water Tower
Historic

2. Location:
Street and number Township Section
NE cor. Pearl + Main Range 1/4 Section
City or Town Zip Code
Havana
County MASON

3. Classification:
Category (check one) Integrity (check one)
 District Building Altered Unaltered
 Site Structure Moved Original Site

4. Ownership: Status (check one)
 Private Occupied
 Public Unoccupied
 Preservation work in Progress

Access to Public
 Yes Restricted Unrestricted No

Present Use (check one or more)
 Agricultural Industrial Religious
 Commercial Military Scientific
 Educational Museum Transportation
 Entertainment Park Other (specify)
 Government Private Residence

5. Ownership of Property:
Owner's name Phone Number
Street and number
City or Town
State County Zip Code

6. Description:
Condition:
 Excellent Good Fair Deteriorated Ruins
 Unexposed
Is there a program of preservation underway? Yes No

ENGINEERING

7. Historical Themes: (check one or more of the following)

- Archaeological Site (Pre-Columbian)
- Archaeological Site (Post-Columbian to 1673)
- French Influence (1673-1780)
- Illinois Frontier (1780-1818)
- Illinois Early (1818-1850)
- Illinois Middle (1850-1900)
- Illinois Late (1900-present)
- Famous People (give names & dates)

8. Specific Date: *Date of construction is presently undetermined*

Areas of significance (check one or more of the following)

- Aboriginal (historic)
- Aboriginal (pre-historic)
- Agriculture
- Architecture
- Art
- Commerce
- Communication
- Conservation
- Education
- Engineering
- Industry
- Invention
- Landscape Architecture
- Literature
- Military
- Music
- Political
- Religion/Philosophy
- Science
- Sculpture
- Social/Humanitarian
- Theater
- Transportation
- Urban Planning
- Other (specify)

Brief statement of significance: (include all names and dates)

Use additional sheets if necessary. *Original face was to the SW; now sign "Havana" orients the viewer to the SE. (Compare photo 127, 14 and 15).*

9. Form prepared by: *No specific history has yet been determined.*

Name and Title: _____ Date: *May 1975*

Organization: KEITH A. SCULLE Phone: _____
ILLINOIS HISTORIC LANDMARKS SURVEY

Street and number: 1005 DEVONSHIRE
Champaign, Illinois 61820

City or town: _____ County: _____ Zip Code: _____

During the course of the Survey we often find it necessary to search for references for a particular site. When filling out the Survey form, please list according to the following example, published references to the site for which forms are being completed. If a bibliography can be compiled, it will greatly deduct from the Survey's task.

Bibliography

Robertson, Robert, Of Whales and Men. New York, Alfred K. Knopf, Inc., 1954.



