

# **AGENDA**

**Whitewater Landmarks Commission  
Thursday, October 1, 2015 – 6:00 PM  
Municipal Building, City Managers Conference Room  
312 Whitewater Street, Whitewater, WI 53190**

## **Call to Order**

- Call to Order and roll call
- Approval of Agenda
- Approval of Minutes – September 3, 2015
- Set date and time of next meeting – Thursday, November 5, 2015 - 6:00 PM
- Hear Citizen Comments: No formal Landmarks Commission Action will be taken during this meeting although issues raised may become a part of a future agenda. Participants are allotted a three minute speaking period. Specific items listed on the agenda may not be discussed at this time; however citizens are invited to speak to those specific issues at the time the Commission discusses that particular item.

## **Reports**

- Friends of the Mounds (Oberle)
- Whitewater Effigy Mounds Preserve – Preservation and Maintenance Plan (Helmick/Oberle)
- Birge Fountain (Kienbaum)
- Landmark Signage (Popke/McDarison)

## **Unfinished Business**

- Work on wording on signage for the Mounds in conjunction with the Friends of the Mounds Committee (Oberle)
- Interactive Map on the city's web site (Lockett)
- Revisit the idea of a “retreat meeting”
- City Water Tower nomination as a local Landmark (Lockett)
- Consideration of the spillway on Trippe Lake (Kienbaum)

## **New Business**

- Research on Grants (Blackmer)
- Report on UW-Whitewater Stone Pillar Entranceway Project (Blackmer)
- 1014 West Main Street
- Continue to work on an annual calendar of events and tasks to be done and/or attended
- Continue discussion and creation of a list of strategic priorities on which the Landmarks Commission should focus on over the next 5 years
- Report on status of city owned property monitored by Landmarks Commission (Blackmer)

## **Future Agenda Items**

## **Good of the Order**

## **Adjournment**



## Minutes

**Whitewater Landmarks Commission  
Thursday, September 3, 2015 – 6:00 PM  
Municipal Building, City Managers Conference Room  
312 Whitewater Street, Whitewater, WI 53190**

### Call to Order

- Call to Order and roll call  
Chairperson Blackmer called the meeting to order at 6:10 PM.  
Present: Patricia Blackmer, Kori Oberle, Suzanne Haselow, James Langnes III, Richard Helmick  
Absent: Ken Kienbaum, Suzanne Popke  
Staff present: Alan Lockett  
Guests: Taylor McDarison
- Approval of Agenda  
MSC Oberle/Langness to approve the agenda was approved as presented.  
Ayes: Blackmer, Oberle, Haselow, Langnes, Helmick  
Nays: None  
Abstain: None
- Approval of Minutes – August 6, 2015  
Corrections to the draft minutes of August 6, 2015: under New Business, Annual report filed with the State Historical Society, delete “Oberle distributed copies of the report to members to take with them and read at home. Comments and suggestions should go to Blackmer or can be brought to the next meeting.  
Under New Business, Annual report filed with the National Parks Service, delete “Again, as above, copies were distributed  
MSC Oberle/Helmick to approve the minutes as corrected.  
Ayes: Blackmer, Oberle, Haselow, Langnes, Helmick  
Nays: None  
Abstain: None
- Set date and time of next meeting – Thursday, October 1, 2015 - 6:00 PM  
The next meeting of the Whitewater Landmarks Commission will be held on Thursday, October 1, 2015 at 6:00 PM in the city manager’s conference room.

- Hear Citizen Comments: No formal Landmarks Commission Action will be taken during this meeting although issues raised may become a part of a future agenda. Participants are allotted a three minute speaking period. Specific items listed on the agenda may not be discussed at this time; however citizens are invited to speak to those specific issues at the time the Commission discusses that particular item. There were no citizen comments.

## Reports

- Friends of the Mounds (Oberle)
  - The 3<sup>rd</sup> meeting of the Friends of the Mounds (FOTM) is scheduled for September 14, 2015 at 6:30 PM in the Community Room at the Irvin Young Library. A draft of by-laws will be presented and reviewed.
  - On Sunday, September 27, 2015 at 1:00 PM at the Whitewater Historical Society (train depot) a program on religious practices from archaic through the woodland archeological periods will be jointly presented by FOTM and the Historical Society. The presentation will be followed by a tour of the Whitewater Effigy Mounds Preserve, weather permitting.
- Whitewater Effigy Mounds Preserve – Preservation and Maintenance Plan (Helmick/Oberle)  
No report. Please see below for a discussion on new signage to be used at the Preserve.
- Birge Fountain (Kienbaum)  
No report. It was recommended that the Chair contact Chuck Nass, the staff representative on the Birge Fountain Committee, and request that a meeting be called to elect a new chairperson. (Due to a resignation, the committee does not have a chairperson. It is the chairperson's duty to schedule meetings.)
- Landmark Signage (Popke/McDarison)  
McDarison requested that her report be delayed until Popke is present.

## Unfinished Business

- Work on wording on signage for the Mounds in conjunction with the Friends of the Mounds Committee (Oberle)  
New signage has been reviewed by the Landmarks Commission, and the FOTM. Due to cancellations, it has not been presented to the Parks and Recreation Board as yet. It will be presented to the Park's Board at its next meeting with direction for comments and future directions. (The Park's Board has already included a budget item to cover the costs of the new signage.)
- Interactive Map on the city's web site (Luckett)  
Luckett reported that he still needs to contact Scott Weberpaul in order to clear up some remaining glitches.
- City Water Tower nomination as a local Landmark (Luckett)  
Luckett distributed an early photograph of the water tower along with its nomination form for members to consider. Discussion ensued. The subcommittee will continue to work on the nomination form and report back to the commission at its next meeting.
- Consideration of the spillway on Trippe Lake (Kienbaum)  
No report.

## New Business

- Research on Grants (Blackmer)  
No report.
- Ninth Annual Local History and Historic Preservation Conference, October 9-10 at Middleton, WI  
Registration and mileage expenses have been paid by the city for past conferences. It is expected that this practice will be continued. Haselow indicated she would be interested in attending. If she decides to attend, she will contact the city clerk for more information.
- Continue to work on an annual calendar of events and tasks to be done and/or attended  
Discussion ensued.
- Continue discussion and creation of a list of strategic priorities on which the Landmarks Commission should focus on over the next 5 years  
Blackmer asked for additions/comments to the plan that was distributed at last month's meeting. Discussion ensued. Suggestions to the plan included:
  - Review the city ordinance (Title 17) for direction from the city on specific responsibilities of the Commission;
  - Review the R2 zoning district to identify significant, historical properties that may be at risk;
  - Promote more cooperative projects with external (other organizations and groups within the county) as well as internal (organizations and groups within the city);
  - Hold an educational retreat for commission members.

(Popke arrived at 6:57 PM.)

(Agenda discontinued hearing McDarison's report on Landmark signage.)

- Landmark Signage (Popke/McDarison)  
McDarison presented a power point presentation of her progress on signage. All five prototypes signs were presented. The storage of these signs was discussed with Luckett volunteering to store them at his office. The prototypes may be used to replicate any of the signage in case any of them are damaged. McDarison explained she had encountered unplanned difficulties with the coloring and glazing of the signs and requested a more lengthy delay for the completion of the project. She explained she had about 60% of the project completed but due to curricular demands at the university, would not have time to complete things after this upcoming semester.  
MSC Oberle/Haselow McDarison will develop a spread sheet on the status of the 13 tiles needed for the landmark properties. The spread sheet will be digitally shared with all of the commission members as soon as possible.  
Ayes: Blackmer, Oberle, Haselow, Langnes, Helmick, Popke  
Nays: None  
Abstain: None  
She was invited to attend the December, 2015 Landmarks Commission meeting to report on work that needed to be completed. A reception of the completed project will be planned for May, 2016.

(Agenda continued from break)

- Report on status of city owned property monitored by Landmarks Commission (Blackmer/Oberle)

Discussion focused on the listing of city owned property and how to verify the status of each item with particular attention paid to the paintings by Leon Pescheret paintings. Blackmer has contacted the Whitewater Historical Society (WHS) to inquire about any Pescheret paintings in its collection. The paintings held by the WHS are owned by them and not by the city. WHS is interested at a future date to co-exhibiting with the Landmarks Commission a program on Pescheret. Blackmer and Oberle met with the director of the Irvin Young Library and learned that the library has 39 paintings, all owned by the city. These paintings are in need of appropriate, archival preservation and digital scanning. Discussion ensued. It was noticed that city ordinance the Commission is responsible for the documentation and cataloging of all city, historical property.

- Publicity release regarding Landmarks plaques/McDarison project  
Publicity will be determined at a future meeting. A possible reception has been planned for some time in May, 2016.

#### **Future Agenda Items**

- An educational retreat for Commission members in November
- Complete the nomination of the city water tower
- Report on city owned property

#### **Good of the Order**

Blackmer enjoined the members to thank McDarison for all of the work she has completed on the signage project.

#### **Adjournment**

The meeting was adjourned by Blackmer at 7:57 PM.

Respectfully submitted,

R. Helmick, Secretary

## Local Landmark Designation Nomination Form

### 1. Name

Historic Water Tower

and/or common Starin Park Water Tower

### 2. Location

street & number Starin Park, 504 W. Starin Road

city, town Whitewater congressional district 5

state WI zip code 53190 county Walworth

### 3. Classification

#### Category

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

#### Ownership

- public
- private
- both

#### Public Acquisition

- in process
- being considered

#### Status

- occupied
- unoccupied
- work in progress

#### Accessible

- yes: restricted
- yes: unrestricted
- no

#### Present Use

- agriculture
- commercial
- educational
- entertainment
- government
- industrial
- military

- museum
- park
- private residence
- religious
- scientific
- transportation
- other:

### 4. Owner of Property

Name City of Whitewater

street & number 312 W. Whitewater St.

city, town Whitewater vicinity of \_\_\_\_\_ state WI zip 53190

### 5. Location of Legal Description

(In County Courthouse)

courthouse, registry of deeds, etc. Walworth County Government Center

street & number 100 W. Walworth St.

city, town Elkhorn state WI

### 6. Representation in Existing Surveys

Title \_\_\_\_\_

Date \_\_\_\_\_  federal  state  county  local

depository for survey records \_\_\_\_\_

city, town \_\_\_\_\_ state \_\_\_\_\_

# 7. Description

**Condition**

- excellent
- good

- deteriorated
- ruins

**Check One**

- unaltered
- altered

**Check one**

- original site
- moved (if so, date moved \_\_\_\_\_)

**Describe the present and original (if known) physical appearance**

Wood walkway near tank has been removed. Metal tank had been replaced by similar quality of material.

Significance Other: Innovative, Historical, & Functioning.

# 8. Significance

(Continue on separate sheets if necessary)

**Period**

- prehistoric
- 1400-1499
- 1500-1599
- 1600-1699
- 1700-1799
- 1800-1899
- 1900-

**Areas of Significance-Check and justify below**

- archeology-prehistoric
- archeology-historic
- agriculture
- architecture
- art
- commerce
- communications

- community planning
- conservation
- economics
- education
- engineering
- exploration/settlement
- industry
- invention

- landscape architecture
- law
- literature
- military
- music
- philosophy
- politics/government

- religion
- science
- sculpture
- social/humanitarian
- theater
- transportation
- other (specify)

**Specific dates** \_\_\_\_\_

**Builder/Architect** \_\_\_\_\_

**Statement of Significance** (Give specific sources for all statements of fact.)

# 9. Major Bibliographical References

Functioning water tower. Building completed in 1889. Located in Starin Park, a public park. See attached material.

# 10. Geographical Data

**Acreeage of nominated property** \_\_\_\_\_

**Quadrangle name** \_\_\_\_\_

**UMT References** (Optional)

**Quadrangle scale** \_\_\_\_\_

	Zone	Easting	Northing
<b>A</b>	Longitude -88.739515 x	42.841889	NorthWest Point
<b>C</b>	Longitude -88.739515 x	42.841714	SouthWest Point
<b>E</b>			
<b>G</b>			

	Zone	Easting	Northing
<b>B</b>	Longitude -88.739266 x	42.841889	NorthEast Point
<b>D</b>	Longitude -88.739266 x	42.841714	SouthEast Point
<b>F</b>			
<b>H</b>			

**Verbal boundary description and justification**

Oval Fence encompasses the structure. Structure is located in public park.

## 11. Form Prepared By

**name/title** R. Alan Lockett  
**organization** City Rep. to the Landmarks Commission **date** \_\_\_\_\_  
**street & number** 325 S. Cottage St. **telephone** 262-473-2514  
**city or town** Whitewater **state** WI

## 12. Municipal Data

Zoning District: R-2 Aldermanic District: 3  
Parcel Number: 00009

### Commission Actions

Hearing Approved: \_\_\_\_\_ Hearing Date Set: \_\_\_\_\_

Landmark Designated (Date): \_\_\_\_\_ Number: \_\_\_\_\_

Certified By: \_\_\_\_\_  
Commission Chairman

Date: \_\_\_\_\_



R. O'CONNOR & SONS

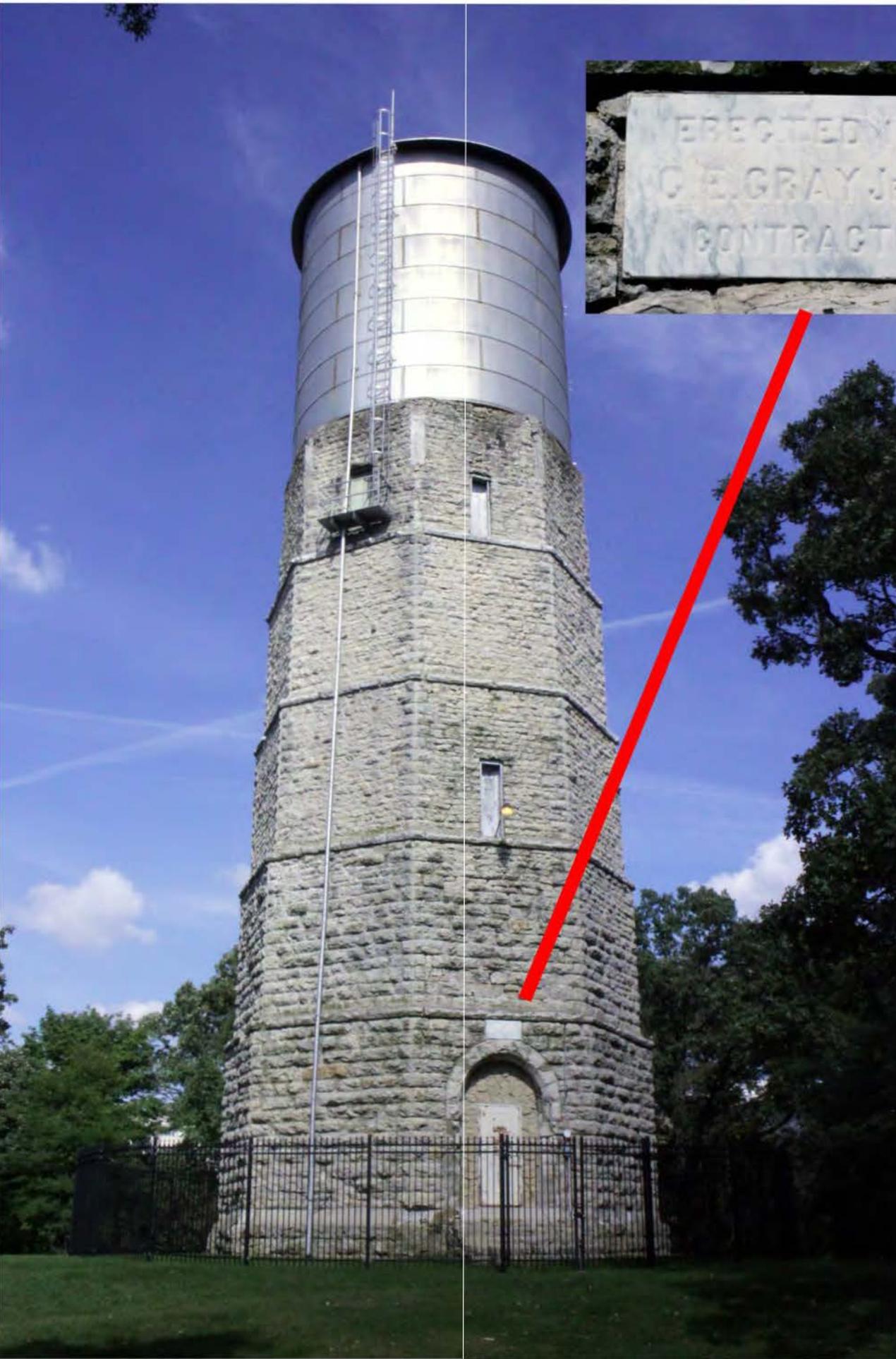
WATER TOWER.

WHITEWATER, WIS.

**From the Irvin L. Young Memorial Library  
Post Card Collection**



WHITEWATER WATER UTILITY  
STARIN PARK TOWER CONSTRUCTION



City bought. 1912  
Oct 24<sup>th</sup> - 1912

WHITENWATER - Walworth Co. - (Pop. 3224) - Whitewater Water Works Co. (Private)

Built in '89 by Whitewater Water Works Co. Stock transferred in 1909 and company operated for benefit of bondholders.

Management: Chester Corey, Chicago, Pres.; Robert O. Lord, Sec. & Treas. Chicago.

Supply: Four artesian wells, pumping to reservoir, stand-pipe and direct.

Pumping Sta. Data: Boilers - Cap. ;80 h.p. 1 - 60" x 16' - 80 h.p. and 1 - 60" x 18' - 100 h.p. Frost Mfg. Co. hor. tubular. Pumps: Cap., 3,000,000 gals. Two 12 x 18 x 12 x 18-1/2 - 1,500,000 Deane double act. non-cond. comp.dup.; Fuel - Illinois, Indiana and Anthracite dust.

Reservoir: Cap., 855,270 gals., open, masonry, at sta. & level with it.

Stand-Pipe: Cap., 185,000 gals. 50 x 35 ft. steel tank on masonry tower. Elev. above pump.sta. 185 ft. Dist. 2000 ft.

Distribution: Mains 8.6 miles; services: private 333; public 4; meters 102; hydrants 101.

Consumption: (Gals.) Ave. daily 155,600. Max., 392,000. Min., 73,500.

Pressure: Ordinary range 62 to 74 lbs. Fire range 100 to 130 lbs.

# East Pump 15987

*From: The Whitewater Register April 11, 1889*

**Waterworks Notes** – Mr. C. E. Gray, President of the Waterworks Company, is here this week and is rushing business all along the line. The line of main has been located and gives ample fire protection to nearly every dwelling place in the city, excepting only a few of the isolated buildings in the outskirts, the pipe, with necessary gates hydrants and branches, has been ordered from the manufacturers and the work of laying the main awaits only the completion of their manufacture. Meantime preparations have already been made for the active prosecution of the works of erecting pumping station, tower, reservoir, office etc. Two separate gangs of masons have been engaged for the more rapid progress of the buildings. At the pumping station the reservoir is to be located fifteen feet in depth and 100 feet in diameter. The excavation will be some eight feet in depth, the soil being chiefly of an almost impervious clay, this clay continuing some feet lower till lime rock is reached. A better foundation could hardly be imagined. The sides will be built of limestone from our home quarries, banked with the clay from the pit. The reservoir will be circular, with a capacity of nearly 1,000,000 gallons of water. This contains the supply of water for fire purposes.

Adjoining on the same lot at the corner of Fremont and Pratt streets is to be erected the pumping station. This is to be an ornamental building of brick, with stone trimmings, fire proof in all parts, with double front, one upon Pratt street, the other on Fremont street. Its dimensions are 36 feet front by 65 feet deep, with addition for fuel room, where is located the pumping machinery, 32x36. In the rear is the furnace room 33x36, and in the wing in the fuel room.

Located west of the pumping building and on the same lot is the office, a very ornamental two-story frame building, with office in front and work-room in rear, and sleeping quarters above. The plans for these buildings are here, and work upon them commences at once. Mr. Alff supervises the mason work on the pumping building.

Upon the Prospect Park hill a plat of ground 100 feet square has been leased by the city to the Waterworks Company for the purpose of erecting a standpipe tower. This will be enclosed by a neat iron fence, and the grounds beautified. In the center will rise a tower of masonry about eighty feet in height and thirty feet in diameter. Upon it will rest a steel tank twenty-five feet in diameter and from twenty-five to thirty feet in height. Around the top of the masonry, eighty feet above the hill, extends a balcony, approached by stairs from within the tower, which makes an observatory higher even than the Normal School.

Prospect Park hill, upon which the tower is located, is over fifty feet higher than the business streets of the city, and upon this is a stand pipe one hundred feet in height, giving a gravity pressure of one hundred and fifty feet. The standpipe tank, holding over 100,000 gallons will furnish water for domestic use, and as a fire protection during the incipency of a fire, and until direct pressure can be brought to bear upon the mains from the pumping engines, which will then draw from the main reservoir.

The ground is already being prepared for the erecting of the tower. The trees have been cleared from the site, and excavation is being made below frost line to receive the foundations. The footing stones are to be eight inches thick, not less than three feet long and as large as can be handled. Above, the walls are six thick, the outer surface

composed of coursing stone of even width, five inches, and the tower to be octagon in shape. John Bonnett has supervision of this work.

The Messrs. Gray have contracted from our home quarries for seven hundred cords for the building of these works, and a large gang of men will be at once employed in getting out the stone. Mr. Gray realizes to the fullest extent the justice of purchasing everything possible in the way of material and labor in the community where the works are located, and it is a comforting fact, that the ordinary rate of interest upon the sums which the company will pay in the city for the material and labor amounts to one-half of the whole expense to the people securing fire protection for their property. The company thus already show an appreciative interest in the future welfare of our city, where in fact their interests are identical with those of the rest of her people and indeed greater financially than most. The contract of the entire work has been let by the Whitewater Waterworks Co. to C. E. Gray, jr. & Co., of Chicago, consisting of C. E. Gray, jr. and Theo. W. Gray, who laid the water mains at Janesville, and who are also building waterworks at Marshall, Mich.; and Basanau, Montana, and Mr. C. E. Gray sr., is consequently taking present charge of the works here, pending their coming.



Several public buildings in Whitewater are distinctive examples of the Classical Revival style. One is individually listed in the National Register, and one is in the Main Street Historic District. The third is in downtown Whitewater and is potentially eligible for the National Register.

In the Main Street Historic District, the White Memorial Library (402 W. Main St.), built in 1903-04, is a good example of simple classicism with its hip roof, wide frieze, entrance decorated with colossal Ionic columns and a full pediment, and windows with glazing in an x pattern. The building also has architectural interest as one of the standard library designs by the noted architectural firm of Claude and Starck of Madison. Known for their Prairie style houses, the firm designed many libraries, a number using this stock design.

Probably the best example of the Classical Revival style in Whitewater is the Masonic Temple (226 W. Main Street), built in 1904. The tall red brick building is dominated by a large portico supported by colossal columns under a full pediment. Windows of the first story are decorated with heavy jack arches, and most windows feature single panes topped with multi-light transoms. Brick corbelling at the corners suggests quoins. The building is a fine example of the style and is potentially eligible for the National Register of Historic Places.

The Classical Revival style remained popular in institutional buildings into the 1930s, although due to modern influences and funding shortages, these buildings were often more streamlined examples of the style. A good example of this trend is the Whitewater Post Office (213 W. Center St.), built in 1936, and listed in the National Register of Historic Places. Although it is a stripped-down version of the style, it is elegant, with delicate classical details.

## **Construction Materials**

### *Stone Construction*

According to Wisconsin's *Cultural Resource Management Plan*, stone construction is found throughout Wisconsin and stone was used for the construction of buildings with high architectural styles and simple vernacular forms. In constructing stone buildings, local masons used quarried stone and laid it in walls with a sand and lime mortar. When the stone weathered, the buildings took on distinct visual qualities and colors that reflected the type of stone used and the place it was quarried from. There are concentrations of stone buildings from the early years of the Wisconsin territory in the lead mining region of southwestern Wisconsin, as well as important pockets of stone construction in areas just north of Milwaukee, in Dane and Sauk counties, near Waukesha, and in far northern Wisconsin. In other areas of the state, there are many examples, some clustered, of local quarried stone construction and individual stone buildings can be found in almost all areas of the state.<sup>65</sup>

There is a limestone quarry just south of Whitewater, but cut stone was never used extensively in the city as a building material, except for foundations, and in the downtown, for rear and party walls. The best example of stone construction in the city is the water tower in Starin Park, built in 1889. The regularly coursed rusticated limestone walls are laid up in stepped sections that expand from larger to smaller as the structure rises. The walls are accented with belt courses and

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<sup>65</sup> Wyatt, pp. 4-6—4-7.

round arches. Also historically significant, the water tower is distinctive for its stone construction and potentially eligible for the National Register.

A second example of stone construction in Whitewater is also distinctive. It is the recently reconstructed stone stable (Whitewater St.), dating to c.1845 and reconstructed in 2007. Originally located in an ally behind the First English Lutheran Church, the building was de-constructed and moved in order to preserve it as a unique resource in the community. The small building originally featured randomly coursed stone rubble construction, and this technique was used by master masons to reconstruct the building. Although the stone rubble could not be reconstructed in exactly the same positions as in the original building, all major stones, including a large arch over the main entrance, were replaced in their exact positions. The wooden wall and roof structure, and the wood floor, were marked when deconstructed, and were put back into the building exactly as they were found. The original wood shingle roof was replicated. The stone stable is a fine example of a reconstructed pioneer-era stone building. It was moved and uniquely reconstructed to retain its original character and is, today, a Whitewater landmark.

### *Brick Construction*

According to Wisconsin's *Cultural Resource Management Plan*, the earliest brick making in Wisconsin was done in small kilns throughout the state. Because early brick makers used local surface clays, the bricks from this era took on a variety of colors. Later bricks took on a consistent hue. In south central and southeastern Wisconsin, there were significant concentrations of light clays that produced cream colored bricks. The Milwaukee area is famous for its bricks of this color, but the entire region produced cream bricks. In central and western Wisconsin, there were significant concentrations of clays that produced red bricks and communities in these areas of the state have large numbers of red brick buildings. Eventually, large brick making firms took over the business from local kilns. The centralization of brick making and changing architectural tastes in the twentieth century resulted in the use of generic tan and red bricks for buildings throughout the state.<sup>66</sup>

Whitewater had brick makers almost from the beginning of its founding. The area had fine light colored clay that produced not only good bricks, but fostered a thriving pottery industry during the mid-nineteenth century. The first brickyard in Whitewater was founded in 1841 by William Wood on the south side of town. Like many early brickyards that used only surface clays, the bricks produced in this early yard were of a reddish hue.<sup>67</sup>

A more important brickyard was started by George Dann on the northeast side of Whitewater in 1847. This brickyard was still operating into the late nineteenth century. Albert Kendall started a brickyard on the west side of Fremont Street in 1852. A. Y. Chamberlin started a brick and drain tile yard nearby in 1866 and operated the yard until 1875. In 1879, Joseph Dann and Edward Roethe started a brickyard near George Dann's old yard. Roethe dropped out of the firm, but Dann operated it until 1891, then sold it to Charles Martin, who only operated it for two

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<sup>66</sup> Wyatt, pp. 4-10—4-11.

<sup>67</sup> Prosper Cravath and Spencer Steele, *Early Annals of Whitewater, 1837-1867*, Whitewater: Whitewater Federation of Women's Clubs, 1906, p. 230.



The Whitewater Bridge Co. was organized in 1912 by Marcus and Earl Knilians. Its activities have been largely confined to the construction of concrete roads and bridges, and the total contracts up to the present time have amounted to well over \$3,000,000.

Many were the heated arguments before the hitching posts were removed from the main streets, but civic advances and improvements had to come. Construction of the City Hall at a cost of \$22,000 was started in 1899 and the ceremony of the laying of the cornerstone that fall was the occasion of a large impressive parade and appropriate services conducted by the Masonic Order.

A source of electric power was originated in the old "Red Mill" in December, 1886, but because of high losses over the transmission lines, it was soon moved to the Whitewater Street location. Organized as a stock company, E. F. Thayer, Clarence Partridge and Oliver Williams were its early officers. By a referendum vote the city agreed to buy the plant but the controlling interests fell into the hands of the Wisconsin Gas & Electric Company. The local substation is now the distributing point for power for many surrounding communities.

Organized as a city sanitary sewerage project in 1915, the work on the present system was begun and extended from time to time until it now includes a network of twelve and two-tenths miles. After this came the street paving which was started in 1916 with an original bond issue of \$12,000. Free from all indebtedness, our streets of today cover twenty-three and two-tenths miles, slightly over five of which are paved.

Uncle Sam has finally settled upon a permanent location for the Post Office by the recent erection of our present beautiful government building on Center Street. Established in 1840, when D. J. Powers walked to East Troy one April morning to return with the mail in his pocket, the Post Office was raised to second class in 1899 and six years later was allowed a free delivery system.

The water plant was constructed and the first well drilled in 1888 by C. E. Gray, who serviced the city under a twenty-five year contract. The municipality purchased the plant in 1912 at a price of \$75,000 and hired Fred Bosch as superintendent. Today our water, of the purest quality, is supplied from four artesian wells, four hundred and fifty to nine hundred and fifty feet in depth and is distributed through thirteen miles of mains.

Whitewater was raised to a fourth class city in 1909 and today we stand as a community of an assessed valuation of \$4,086,725, and financially sound, the outstanding \$79,000 on the school bonds being our only indebtedness. Few are our neighboring cities who can boast of a tax rate as low, \$19.36 per \$1000 in 1936.

"If I cannot get the railroad here, Whitewater will be dead in an industrial sense," remarked George Esterly many years ago in speaking of a direct communication to Chicago. His prophecy proved correct, but we must admit that with the passing of our earlier generations were lost many of our brilliant and courageously aggressive personalities, necessary for the development and perpetuation of a growing industrial center. Something better, a community of higher education, nestling in the country's richest dairying section, stable and unfluctuating through the turmoils of modern civilization, has been our destiny. Let us cherish with reverence those influences which have prevented our becoming just another small town through the elevation of our spiritual and intellectual standards. And so we conclude with the words spoken by Rev. H. F. Fairbanks at the time of our reunion in 1907, "A town of great industrial enterprise, a community ten times the size of Whitewater, will never have the influence of a little town of less than four thousand inhabitants that has a real intellectual foundation for its greatness."

—By Dr. Russell H. Miller



The third most important date was May 5, 1885, when the Village of Whitewater became the City of Whitewater with a charter, amendments and ordinances, by a vote of 501 for and 240 against. The first city officials were: Samuel Bishop, lawyer, who became the first mayor; James Kestol, lawyer, clerk; Edward Engebretsen, dry-goods merchant, treasurer. There were, at this time, three wards, and the population—according to the preceding census—was four thousand one hundred and fifty-eight, a gain of 541 since 1880.

For a city as small as we were at this time, our past history shows that we have always been unusually progressive. In 1886, the same year that electricity was installed here, was also the first year that Appleton and Oshkosh had it. Electricity was first generated at the Red Roller Mill, south of the city limits, near to what is the entrance to the Country Club today. The high cost of the transmission lines became too exorbitant at the end of the first two years, and it was moved to Whitewater Street. In the first years of electricity, the lights came on at dusk and went off at midnight. In looking over the ledger of 1889, where all accounts are printed or written in beautiful penmanship, there appear many amusing accounts. At this time there were no meters, and all electricity was paid for at a flat rate. For instance, under Greighton Brothers account (located where Heilmeyer's Bakery is today), it listed two additional lights in the basement, to be used *only* when showing cloaks. The Dunstone Hotel, across from the depot, had three lights in the dining room, to be used only at supper time, charged as one light for only 87c a month. The Methodist Church paid one hundred dollars a year, but the lights were to be used only on Sunday nights. First residential users were Philip Trautman, Sr., Frank Tratt, N. M. Littlejohn, C. M. Blackman, Edward Engebretsen, George Esterly, Gilbert Andersen and the Normal School.

In 1889, after much opposition, a system of waterworks was installed by C. E. Gray of Chicago. It was completed, tested and approved on October 1, 1889. Waukesha had just installed a system, and Fort Atkinson did not have one until after the turn of the century. The Whitewater plant was not completed any too soon, as the morning of April 27, 1891, is a date that was and still is indelibly stamped upon the memories of many folks. The "NORMAL FIRE." It proved to be a loss of \$15,000, entire loss of the north wing, but was rebuilt immediately and, by August 29, 1891, it was again ready for occupancy. The state sent the Volunteer Fire Department a gift of two hundred dollars in appreciation for their efficiency in saving the rest of the building from entire destruction.

In 1889 there was another important date to be recalled, and that was the building of the SPIRITUALIST TEMPLE by Morris Pratt. The only one at the time in the world. It became known as "Pratt's Folly." In 1932, after many years as a successful school, it bowed to current stress and closed its doors forever as a school. In 1961 it was torn down and the lot was purchased by the Wisconsin Telephone Company. Their new office was opened the first of the year and the dial system, currently being installed, is expected to go into operation sometime in June 1962.

From the formation of the literary society back in 1858 it seemed that society demanded, along with progress, still more culture. The ARION CLUB was a concert organization consisting of from fifty to seventy-five singers. Dr. Greeman was conductor and, rendering high-class music, it was a great cultural loss when they disbanded in the early nineties. The LOTUS CLUB was a club that was very popular about 1885 and consisted of both sexes. They met at different homes every two weeks and put on plays and dances. The TURNVEREIN CLUB consisted of members many of whose names are still familiar to us today. To mention a few that were important at that time were Henry Thiele, Ollie Worm, Ed Bush and Ferdinand Kraeplin. The HARMONIA CLUB was composed of about 200 members and was disbanded when the Esterlys left Whitewater. In 1897 there was a group of about twenty men that wished to improve themselves and called themselves the Monday Club, though they always met on Wednesdays. The club is still active today. Some of the serious questions, according to a 1900 program, was THE SINGLE TAX, Progress in Medicine, The Liquor Traffic, America as a World Power, and United States Revenues. The members, at this early date, were I. Z. Merrian, Zadoc Beach, Robert Rienow, Edward Engebretsen, E. T. Cass, Enoch

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signed was to guard railway property against lawless violence. The company's prompt response to call and its soldierly conduct on duty were creditable to itself and to the whole body of "baby militia" and "tin soldiers," as the rioters jeeringly named the state's armed forces.

In 1898 Captain Persons recruited his company to its full number for service in the war with Spain. The regiment, at the close of the war, was waiting at Jacksonville, Florida, for orders or for transportation to Cuba. (It may be mentioned here, since omitted at another page, that Peter Kauer, Jr., of Elkhorn, who had enlisted at Fort Sheridan for a term of service in Company A, Second United States Light Artillery, went with his guns to Cuba and was present for duty at the battle of El Caney. As far as known he was the only man of Walworth who stood in line of battle in that war.)

### PUBLIC UTILITIES.

Messrs. Jarvis K. Pike, Asaph Pratt and Asad Williams, in 1842, chose an acre from Dr. Tripp's land on the east side and there laid out Grove cemetery. It was managed by the town supervisors until 1848, when an association was formed, two acres of land were added and all the ground was fenced. This now well-peopled territory is wholly surrounded by the city's growth. It was, therefore, necessary to choose a site which would admit expansion in at least one direction. The choice was well made, and in 1858 Hillside cemetery was laid out on the high ground east of Tripp lake and from two sides overlooking the water. The old ground is kept in order, and the new one is constantly improved.

The Whitewater Electric Light Company was formed in 1886, its works near the railway station. Its present officers are Edwin F. Thayer, president; Charles W. Partridge, vice-president and secretary; Oliver B. Williams, treasurer and manager.

Duane Starin gave the city, in 1888, about eight acres of land in his addition, for Prospect park. It is within a few rods of the county line, on high ground with fairly easy slopes to the streets. It is of irregular outline, but bounded by straight lines. Thus far it is a fine natural park, its wide open spaces shaded fairly by trees of second growth, but unimproved except with mowing machines and bush scythes. In this state it is both beautiful and useful,—an admirable place for out-of-door meetings and amusements—truly a city's breathing place, without trespass sign, policeman or other needless annoyance.

In the same year the city drilled a well at a lower corner of the park. At nearly a thousand feet depth was found water which rose a little way above

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the surface, and is pumped into the stand-pipe at the highest point of the park. This work was done by C. E. Gray, of Milwaukee, who made a contract with the city to run twenty-five years, for constructing water works and a system of street mains, and whatever else was required for the city's water supply, and to operate the whole system. Mr. Gray received a half acre of ground and twenty-five thousand dollars. This contract expires in 1914, and a proposition to take the works into city ownership and control is about to be submitted to a vote of the citizens at a special election. The system now includes a well six hundred feet deep and two wells of more than two hundred feet depth and the entire present valuation is placed at eighty-eight thousand dollars.

A city hall was built in 1899 at the acute-angular meeting of Centre and Whitewater streets. It is of red pressed brick and is interiorly arranged for all the departments and uses of the city administration, their records, and the apparatus of the fire department. Its approach from the front is guarded by a siege gun,—a forty-pounder Parrot—its calibre a fraction more than four inches, and under its muzzle a little pyramid of eight-inch shot.

In 1904 the several Masonic bodies built a "temple" at Main and Fremont streets, about forty feet wide by seventy-five feet long and of proportionate height of red brick with stone trimmings. Its overhanging gabled pediment rests on an Ionic colonnade of stone, giving a convenient and slightly front porch. All without is classically plain and therefore tasteful.

A postoffice was established in April, 1840, and the village thus had weekly mails from Troy. David J. Powers was the first postmaster, and after him were Thomas K. LeBarron, Warner Earle, Eleazar Wakeley, Isaac U. Wheeler, 1849; George G. Williams, 1853; Lallemand H. Rann, about 1861; Edmund B. Gray, about 1867; Henry O. Montague, about 1869; Prosper Cravath, 1872; Henry McGraw, 1880; Edward F. Donnelly, 1887; Edwin D. Coe, 1891; John H. Fryer, 1895; Frank B. Goodhue, 1899, probably until 1915. Mr. Fryer remains in the office as first assistant. About 1892 this office was raised to the second-class, and it is at the head of five rural free delivery routes. It also has a city carrier system.

#### VILLAGE INCORPORATION.

Forty-two villagers signed a call, published in the *Register* of March 6, 1858, for a meeting at which to consider a plan for incorporating the village. At this meeting Warren Cole, William DeWolf, Edson Kellogg, Newton M. Littlejohn, Richard O'Connor, John S. Partridge and Augustus H. Scoville were directed to prepare a charter. The Legislature, then in session, passed



