

1873 — 1973



OLD NORTH POINT WATER TOWER

MILWAUKEE WATER WORKS

P R O G R A M

Dedication of Historical Marker

Saturday, December 22nd, 1973

at

Milwaukee Water Works North Point Water Tower

East End of North Avenue

MILWAUKEE COUNTY HISTORICAL SOCIETY

WISCONSIN STATE HISTORICAL SOCIETY

in cooperation with

The City of Milwaukee

P R O G R A M

Welcome

Herbert A. Goetsch
Commissioner of Public Works
City of Milwaukee

Speakers

Harry H. Anderson
Executive Director
Milwaukee County Historical Society

E. Ralph Guentzel, Chairman
Milwaukee County Markers Committee

Nathan E. Miller, Superintendent
Milwaukee Water Works

Dr. Frederick I. Olson, President
Milwaukee County Historical Society

Honored Guests

Richard Holscher, Vice President
Milwaukee County Historical Society

Mary Ellen Wietczykowski, Chairman
Milwaukee County Landmarks Commission

Russ Good, President
Water Tower Landmark Trust, Inc.

Mrs. A. Peter N. McArthur, Trustee
Water Tower Landmark Trust, Inc.

OLD NORTH POINT WATER TOWER

The 1871 Wisconsin legislature authorized the City of Milwaukee to finance and build a public water system. By 1873 the Board of Water Commissioners had constructed the old North Point Pumping Station below the bluff with intake from Lake Michigan, this tower, a reservoir a mile west, and 55 miles of water mains delivering cheap, plentiful, pure water to Milwaukee's people and industry.

This 175 foot Victorian Gothic tower designed by Charles A. Gombert and made of cut Niagara limestone from Wauwatosa, houses a circular wrought iron standpipe 120 feet high and four feet in diameter. Until construction of a new pumping station in 1963 the standpipe water absorbed pulsations of reciprocating steam-driven engines, and the tower prevented ice forming in the standpipe during cold weather.

Milwaukee Water Works
Milwaukee County Historical Society
1973