1873 — 1973

OLD NORTH POINT WATER TOWER

MILWAUKEE WATER WORKS
PROGRAM
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
PROGRAM

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