

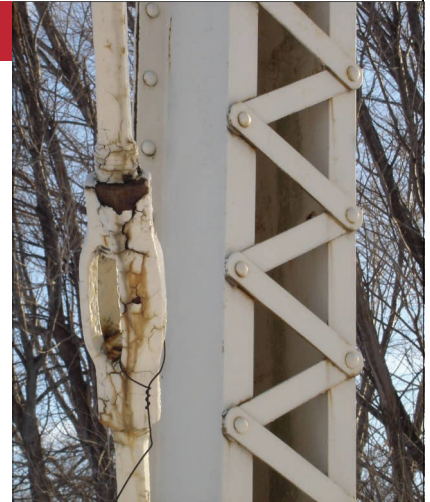
Sites Worth Saving

MINNESOTA'S 10 MOST ENDANGERED HISTORIC PLACES 2011



Preservation Alliance of Minnesota ❖ www.mnpreservation.org

Long a landmark for citizens of Elk River, the Jackson Street Water Tower was once a symbol of engineering technology in the early twentieth century. In 1919 and 1920, the city of Elk River developed a significant water works project that entailed digging a 300 foot artesian well, constructing a pump house, developing a system of water lines and fire hydrants, and erecting a 100' water tower with a capacity of 100,000 gallons. The results of this effort were state-of-the-art fire protection for the growing city and the spurring of residential development due to its improved water and sanitation services.



In 2008, the Elk River Heritage Preservation Commission was informed that the Jackson Street water tower was in danger of demolition, since it was no longer in use as the city's main water tank. The water tower is coated with lead-based paint, which would need to be sandblasted off if the tank is to be reconditioned or painted, and the local utility commission is concerned about asking tax payers to fund this expense. The Elk River HPC is researching opportunities for preserving the water tower and has begun the process of nominating the tower to the National Register of Historic Places. The HPC hopes that, with historic designation in place, it can seek out grants to help off-set the costs of renovating and repainting this community landmark.

ELK RIVER



Action Steps

1. Donate funds to the HPC, both to provide matching funds for the eventual repainting of the tower and to produce promotional materials to build local support for preservation.
2. Contact the City of Elk River Utility Commissioners and Elk River City Council members and advocate for preservation of the water tower
3. Write letters to the local Elk River Star News and other community publications to help build local support for preservation.

JACKSON STREET WATER TOWER



PRESERVE



PROTECT



PROMOTE