

FINAL

United States Department of the Interior  
National Park Service

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 Remington Water Tower & Town Hall  
other names/site number Remington Water Works

2. Location

street & number 3 East Michigan Street N/A  not for publication  
city or town Remington N/A  vicinity  
state Indiana code IN county Jasper code 073 zip code 47977

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 36CFR 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.)

J.C. Smith 11.8.03  
Signature of certifying official/Title Date  
Indiana Department of Natural Resources  
State or 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:

<input type="checkbox"/> entered in the National Register. <input type="checkbox"/> See continuation sheet.	Signature of the Keeper	Date of Action
<input type="checkbox"/> determined eligible for the National Register <input type="checkbox"/> See continuation sheet.	_____	_____
<input type="checkbox"/> determined not eligible for the National Register	_____	_____
<input type="checkbox"/> removed from the National Register	_____	_____
<input type="checkbox"/> other, (explain:)	_____	_____

**5. Classification**

**Ownership of Property**  
(Check as many boxes as apply)

**Category of Property**  
(Check only one box)

**Number of Resources within Property**  
(Do not include previously listed resources in the count)

- private
- public-local
- public-State
- public-Federal

- building
- district
- site
- structure
- object
- landscape

Contributing	Noncontributing	
0	0	buildings
0	0	sites
1	0	structures
0	0	objects
1	0	Total

**Name of related multiple property listing**

(Enter "N/A" if property is not part of a multiple property listing.)

**Number of contributing resources previously listed in the National Register**

N/A

0

**6. Function or Use**

**Historic Functions**

(Enter categories from instructions)

**Current Functions**

(Enter categories from instructions)

INDUST/PROC/EXTR: Waterworks  
 GOVERNMENT: City Hall  
 GOVERNMENT: Fire Station  
 GOVERNMENT: Correctional Facility

GOVERNMENT: City Hall  
 GOVERNMENT: Government Office

**7. Description**

**Architectural Classification**

(Enter categories from instructions)

NO STYLE

**Materials**

(Enter categories from instructions)

foundation: STONE: Limestone  
 walls: BRICK  
 WOOD: Weatherboard  
 roof: SYNTHETICS: Rubber  
 other: CONCRETE  
 ASPHALT

**Narrative Description**

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

Name of Property

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.)

- Criteria A, B, C, D with checkboxes and descriptions.

Criteria Considerations

(Mark "x" in all the boxes that apply.)

Property is:

- Criteria A through G with checkboxes and descriptions.

Narrative Statement of Significance

(Explain the significance of the property on one or more continuation sheets.)

9. Major Bibliographic 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):

- Documentation checkboxes: preliminary determination, previously listed, designated landmark, recorded by Historic American Buildings Survey, recorded by Historic American Engineering Record.

Primary location of additional data:

- Location checkboxes: State Historic Preservation Office, Other State agency, Federal agency, Local government, University, Other.

Name of repository:

Remington Carpenter Township Public Library

Areas of Significance

(Enter categories from instructions)

ENGINEERING
POLITICS/GOVERNMENT

Period of Significance

1897-1953

Significant Dates

1897
1927

Significant Person

(Complete if Criterion B is marked above)

N/A

Cultural Affiliation

N/A

Architect/Builder

Challenge Wind Mill & Feed Mill Co

10. Geographical Data

Acreage of Property Less than 1 acre

UTM References (Place additional UTM references on a continuation sheet.)

1	16	487280	4512120	3			
	Zone	Easting	Northing		Zone	Easting	Northing
2				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 Stephanie Wealing & Mark Jones, Town of Remington; Amy Walker

organization Remington Area Historical Society; DHPA date 06-01-2003

street & number P.O. Box 596 telephone 219/261-3598

city or town Remington state IN zip code 47977

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 Town of Remington

street & number 3 East Michigan Street telephone 219/261-2896

city or town Remington state IN zip code 47977

**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.

**United States Department of the Interior  
National Park Service**

**National Register of Historic Places  
Continuation Sheet**

Section number 7 Page 1

Remington Water Tower & Town Hall  
Remington, Jasper County, Indiana

**Description**

The Remington Water Tower and Town Hall, constructed in 1897, are located in northwestern Indiana. Remington, the largest community in Carpenter Township, is a town of approximately 1250 people that was founded in 1860 in the southern end of Jasper County.<sup>1</sup> The surrounding area continues to be used predominantly for agriculture but the early stimulus for the growth of Remington was the Toledo, Logansport & Burlington Railroad line, established in 1859<sup>2</sup>. The water tower and town hall are located in a predominantly residential area of town, south of State Road 24 at the intersection of Ohio and Michigan Streets. The water tower was in use until 1984 when a new water tower was built.

The Challenge Wind Mill & Feed Mill Company of Batavia, Illinois constructed the water tower and town hall.<sup>3</sup> Built on a limestone foundation, the common bond brick tower and cypress wood tank measure 104 feet high and roughly 20 feet in diameter with two-foot thick brick walls. The water tank, originally covered by a wood conical shaped roof and finial, holds 66,000 gallons and is currently about 1/3 full of gravel to maintain balance and stability in high winds. The original door into the water tower faces west. The double semicircular header bond arched opening holds two ledged batten doors that open out. This entry is topped by a transom covered with plywood. A dedication plaque from the Challenge Wind Mill and Feed Mill Company is affixed above the door. Spiraling up the water tower are a series of eight arched wood frame one-over-one windows with limestone sills. There are two windows on each "side" facing the cardinal points. All have double semicircular header bond arches and are covered on either the exterior or interior with plywood. A smaller rectangular pane has been inserted in the lower sash. Above the lower window on the east side of the water tower there are two metal brackets that could be remnants of a ladder. On the south side of the water tower, approximately 70 feet up, there is a small exterior platform, accessed from a wood door, constructed of wood and supported by metal braces. This platform supports a ladder that runs parallel to the tower that meets an octagonal shaped wood plank catwalk that surrounds the perimeter of the tank. It is supported by metal braces. A thin railing surrounds the catwalk and the old fire bell, added in the 1920s for fire calls and other emergencies, is suspended from it. The water tank itself is constructed of a series of horizontally curved cypress battens that are held in place by several metal binder rings that date to 1927. The roof of the water tank was originally cedar shingles but it was replaced in 2003 with plywood and rolled shingles.

The 18x12 foot single story brick structure adjoining the east side of the tower may have housed the town hall. It sits on a limestone foundation and is constructed of painted common bond brick. Only the north and south facades are visible since the west façade is attached to the water tower and the east façade was incorporated into the interior of the fire station addition (sometime between 1924-1927). Both the north and south facades have one six-over-one wood frame window with a limestone sill topped by a double segmental header bond arch. The low pitched gable roof is covered with asphalt shingles and conforms on the west end to the curve of the water tower. There are exposed rafter tails along the north and south facades.

The next addition occurred between 1924-1927 and included space for the fire station and jail. (See historic photos) These services remained in this building until 1976 when they moved to a new building. This section was placed on a concrete foundation and constructed of stretcher bond brick that was not painted. Only a portion of this addition is

<sup>1</sup> Amy Walker. Series of interviews with Mark Jones & Kay Brown, 2000.

<sup>2</sup> Walker, 2000.

<sup>3</sup> Local sources in Remington indicate that the Challenge Company constructed the water tower. However, old catalogs from the company state that they set the tanks up in the factory, numbered the staves, and then took it apart to ship, thus indicating that the Challenge Company did not actually assemble the tanks on site.

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Remington Water Tower & Town Hall  
Remington, Jasper County, Indiana

**Description-continued**

still visible due to a 1964 renovation. On the south façade, to the right of the window in the original town hall, there is a door with a six light window and two horizontal recessed panels. The 1924-1927 addition makes a 90-degree turn at this point. There is another door with a single light window and two vertical recessed panels. The wall then turns eastward and there are a series of four six-over-one double hung windows, two set individually and two paired together. The pyramid shaped asphalt roof of the fire station and jail has the same exposed rafter tails as the old town hall. The east wall was covered by the 1964 addition and the north wall was altered in either 1964 or 1978.

In 1964 the large garage was added to the east of the old fire station and jail. The town was growing and there was a need for additional storage for the civic functions of Remington. The garage rests on a concrete slab and has concrete block walls topped by an asphalt shingle roof. There were originally three large garage bays but one was removed in 1978 with the interior renovations. Currently there are two standard overhead doors, each with two elliptical windows, and a smaller service door, with a centralized rectangular window, on the north side of the building. The lintel above the overhead doors is wood and the one over the service door consists of two painted concrete blocks. The vented gable on the east end is covered with tongue and groove clapboard. The south wall contains four double-hung, one-over-one vinyl windows. The lintels over the windows are two concrete blocks that are painted white.

A final renovation occurred in 1978 when the old fire station, jail, and a portion of the garage were converted into office space for the present town hall. At this time vertical wood siding was added to the northwest end of the north elevation. A modern replacement door with a small centralized window was installed in the entry. A set of three aluminum casement windows marks the location of the Town Clerk's office on the north elevation and a pair of double hung windows are on the west elevation of said office. A wood shingle skirt was added below the asphalt shingle roof.

The interiors of the water tower and original town hall are covered with parging. The semicircular arch connecting the two spaces has been altered to accommodate a rectangular five paneled replacement door. Several pipes encumber the first floor of the water tower. There is a wood staircase leading up to the second floor. The floor itself was constructed of wood and repaired after a 1905 fire. From the second floor a narrow staircase spirals through the tower along the interior wall for about 70 feet. The staircase and floors were constructed from the scaffolding the workers used to build the tower. Then the exterior metal ladder and walkway must be used to access the tank. The original town hall retains the pressed metal ceiling and cornice. The remainder of the open room is filled with boxes.

A five paneled wood door connects the original town hall to the original fire station and jail addition. In c.1924-1927 this area was one large space with the jail cell in the southeast corner and the current storage room serving as the town hall. As of the 1978 interior renovations, an L-shaped hallway runs from the original town hall and turns to the north. On the right side of the hall are the women's restroom, the office for the street and water department, the men's restroom and a storage area that is accessed from the office. The office itself has concrete floors and wallboard walls and ceiling. The original pressed metal ceiling remains under the dropped ceiling. The original jail cell, minus the doors, is now part of the office. The jail remained in the building until 1976. To the west of the jail, a four paneled wood door leads to the men's restroom. A large replacement door leads into the current storage room. This room may have been the second home for the town hall c.1924-1927. It has the original pressed metal ceiling and cornice. There is an enclosed staircase in the southwest corner of this room that leads to the basement.

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Remington Water Tower & Town Hall  
Remington, Jasper County, Indiana

**Description-continued**

It is covered in beadboard and has a four paneled wood door on the south side and decorative wood molding along the top. The walls do not extend to the ceiling thus allowing for storage above the staircase.

The L-shaped hallway turns to the north and terminates at the main entrance to the building. The clerk-treasurer's office is on the left (northwest corner of the original fire station and jail). This space has been completely renovated and is encased in vinyl flooring, wood paneling, and acoustical ceiling tile. The pressed metal ceiling is intact above and future plans include the removal of the acoustical tile. The wall that extends along the east side of the street and water department office and the hallway marks the original exterior wall of the fire station and jail. The brick is visible along the west wall of the maintenance garage workroom.

Across from the clerk-treasurer's office, to the east of the hallway, is the board room. This room is part of the 1964 addition but it is believed that this space originally served as a third garage bay. Thanks to the 1978 interior renovation, the room now has carpeted floors, wood paneled walls, and an acoustical tile ceiling. To the south of the board room is the maintenance garage workroom. Both the board room and the workroom are one step lower than the c1924-1927 section of the building. The workroom is accessible from both the board room and the street and water department office. The wall shared with the street and water department office is the exterior brick wall from the c.1924-1927 addition. The remainder of the room is concrete block and floor with an unknown type of wallboard ceiling. These finishes extend into the large garage at the east end of the building.

With the exception of the street and water department, the Town will soon be vacating the building. Then the remainder of the space will go to the local historical society. They hope to remove some of the more recent renovations and expose the historic fabric of the building.

**Statement of Significance**

The Remington Water Tower and Town Hall is an historically significant structure and is eligible for the National Register under Criteria A and C. The tower's role as an integral part of Remington's waterworks and its association with town government and services have made it a core piece of the community's public history. The water tower also is eligible for its illustration of construction methods that exemplify aspects of 19<sup>th</sup> century construction technology.

The small farming community of Remington dates its founding to 1860. In 1869, the community elected a town Board of Trustees. The following year the population reached 390. The needs of the town were growing and soon after there were three churches, a school, and several commercial buildings. A jail and cattle pound (a pen where roaming cattle were temporarily confined until owners claimed them) were constructed soon after. Around 1887, a forty-foot tower was built near the town jail to house the fire bell the Trustees had purchased the previous year. By 1890 when the town government had outgrown its jail building, the jail was sold to purchase a lot and school

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Remington Water Tower & Town Hall  
Remington, Jasper County, Indiana

**Statement of Significance-continued**

building located on North Ohio Street. After renovations to the school were completed in 1891, it housed the town hall, the jail which included two iron cages for cells, fire equipment and the fire bell.<sup>4</sup>

The first water main system in the country was installed in Boston in 1652. New York and Philadelphia had water systems by 1799. It was nearly a century later, in the 1870s-80s that water systems spread rapidly in other places.<sup>5</sup> Closer to Remington, the city of Rensselaer, the county seat of Jasper County, had a population of 4000 before it had the infrastructure to provide regular city water (complete with water tower) in 1900.<sup>6</sup> In its earliest days, the town's water supply was provided by wells and, possibly, a windmill. Fire insurance maps indicate that by 1893 a waterworks had been constructed at the southeast corner of New York and Michigan Streets. Water was at that time still supplied by wells and cisterns. In 1897 the Remington water tower was constructed making the wells and cisterns obsolete. Upon completion of the tower, the town's twelve-member volunteer fire department, which had been housed in the renovated school, moved its headquarters to the waterworks building.<sup>7</sup>

The Remington Water Tower was constructed by the Challenge Wind Mill and Feed Mill Company of Batavia, Illinois. The company, which was founded by Nelson Burr and Hugh M. Armstrong in 1867 to manufacture Burr Feed Mills and Nichols Windmills, was reorganized as the Challenge Mill Company in 1882. It was the second of three windmill manufacturers in Batavia and contributed to Batavia taking the name "Windmill City". It is known that at one point in its operation, the Challenge Wind Mill and Feed Mill Company produced 2000 windmills a year in addition to other goods. In 1942 the company was purchased as part of the war effort by Batavia Metal Products. Production was converted to manufacturing eight-inch shells, bomb parts, tanks, wood pipe, and other products for the Army and Navy. Following the war, the company and its assets were liquidated.<sup>8</sup>

The petition to build the tower was filed on July 7, 1896. Four bids were received by the Town Board and the Challenge Company was selected to construct the tower. Construction began in the spring of 1897 and it was completed the same year at a cost of \$11,300. The tower measured 80 feet in height and the tank was 24 feet tall and 20 feet in diameter. The Town of Remington accepted the tower including piping and water tank on January 3, 1898.<sup>9</sup> According to a publication from the Challenge Company, cypress water tanks could last between 25-32 years. In August 1924 the town of Remington paid \$2550 for a new cypress tank from the Challenge Company. From the time of its construction, the Remington Water Tower served the community's public and private water needs for 87 years until 1984 when, because it no longer met state requirements, it was replaced by a steel water tower. It is the only brick water tower with wood tank remaining in Indiana to illustrate a 19<sup>th</sup> century public water utility facility. In 1986 the American Water Works Association presented the Remington Water Tower with the American Water Landmark Award.

The Remington water tower is the only brick water tower with wood tank remaining in Indiana. The city of Gary, Indiana, has a 133-foot octagonal water tower constructed of concrete and stone block and covered with stucco. Chief engineer John W. Alvord designed the structure in c.1909 to enclose a 30-foot diameter steel tank carried on

<sup>4</sup> Remington Archives, Remington, Indiana, 2003

<sup>5</sup> Earle L. Watermann. Elements of Water Supply Engineering, New York, Wiley, p.5

<sup>6</sup> Remington Archives, 2003

<sup>7</sup> Remington Archives, 2003

<sup>8</sup> Challenge Wind Mill & Feed Mill Company Archives, Batavia Historical Society, Batavia, Illinois, 2003

<sup>9</sup> Remington archives, 2003



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Remington Water Tower & Town Hall  
Remington, Jasper County, Indiana

Statement of Significance-continued

eight steel columns that are 90-feet tall. This tower is much more elaborate than the Remington water tower. It has a decorative cornice, scrolls that support a frieze and a parapet wall above.

Several surrounding states have masonry towers but most of them have steel tanks. The most intact tower is the Ransom water tower in Ransom, Illinois. It was constructed in 1896 and was listed in the National Register of Historic Places in 1990. It has a 40-foot brick tower that supports a 28-foot wooden tank (approximately 24 feet in diameter) that held between 45,000-50,000 gallons of water. The Remington tower is 36 feet taller and held an additional 16,000-21,000 gallons even though the tank in Ransom is about four feet wider in diameter. Both towers have arched doorways and a series of arched windows on the towers. Although the Ransom tower originally had a redwood catwalk around the base of the tank, it was removed in 1960. The Ransom water tower was a freestanding structure and does not have the accompanying town hall functions that Remington possesses. It is unknown whether the Ransom water tower was also manufactured by the Challenge Company but there are similarities in design between the two.<sup>10</sup>

The Sun Prairie water tower in Dane County, Wisconsin, dates from 1899 and originally was a stone block tower with a wood tank constructed by the Challenge Company. A steel tank replaced the wooden one in 1912 and it currently stands 92 feet tall (62-foot tower and 30-foot tank). Sun Prairie had a population of approximately 1100 by 1899 when the town spent \$12500 for the waterworks. Like the Remington tower, the Sun Prairie water tower has an arched wooden door, windows that radiate around the tower, and an exterior ladder and catwalk. There were plans for demolishing the tower in 1992 but residents led an effort that resulted in the 1994-95 restoration of the tower. It was listed in the National Register of Historic Places in 2000.<sup>11</sup>

The design that most closely resembles the Remington water tower was for a tower manufactured by the Challenge Company at the alms house in Kane County, Illinois. A rendering of this water tower was located at the Batavia (Illinois) Historical Society, home to the Challenge Company but the date of construction is unknown. This tower was of stone construction rather than brick but the spacing of the windows, the exterior ladder, the catwalk, wooden tank, and conical roof with finial were nearly identical to the Remington water tower.<sup>12</sup> Unfortunately, according to the local parks department, the wooden tank is no longer present and they ultimately hope to demolish the remaining portion of the tower.

The Remington water tower is not only the tallest of the masonry water towers in the region, it is the most intact. The tower was constructed at a time when other small communities were recognizing the need for public utilities and the vital role that water played in the growth of such places. The Remington tower fulfilled this role from 1897-1984 and continues to serve as a landmark within the county.

<sup>10</sup> National Register of Historic Places nomination for the Ransom Water Tower, Ransom, Illinois, 1990.

<sup>11</sup> National Register of Historic Places nomination for the Sun Prairie Water Tower, Dane County, Wisconsin, 2000.

<sup>12</sup> Challenge Company Archives, Batavia Historical Society, Batavia, Illinois, 2003

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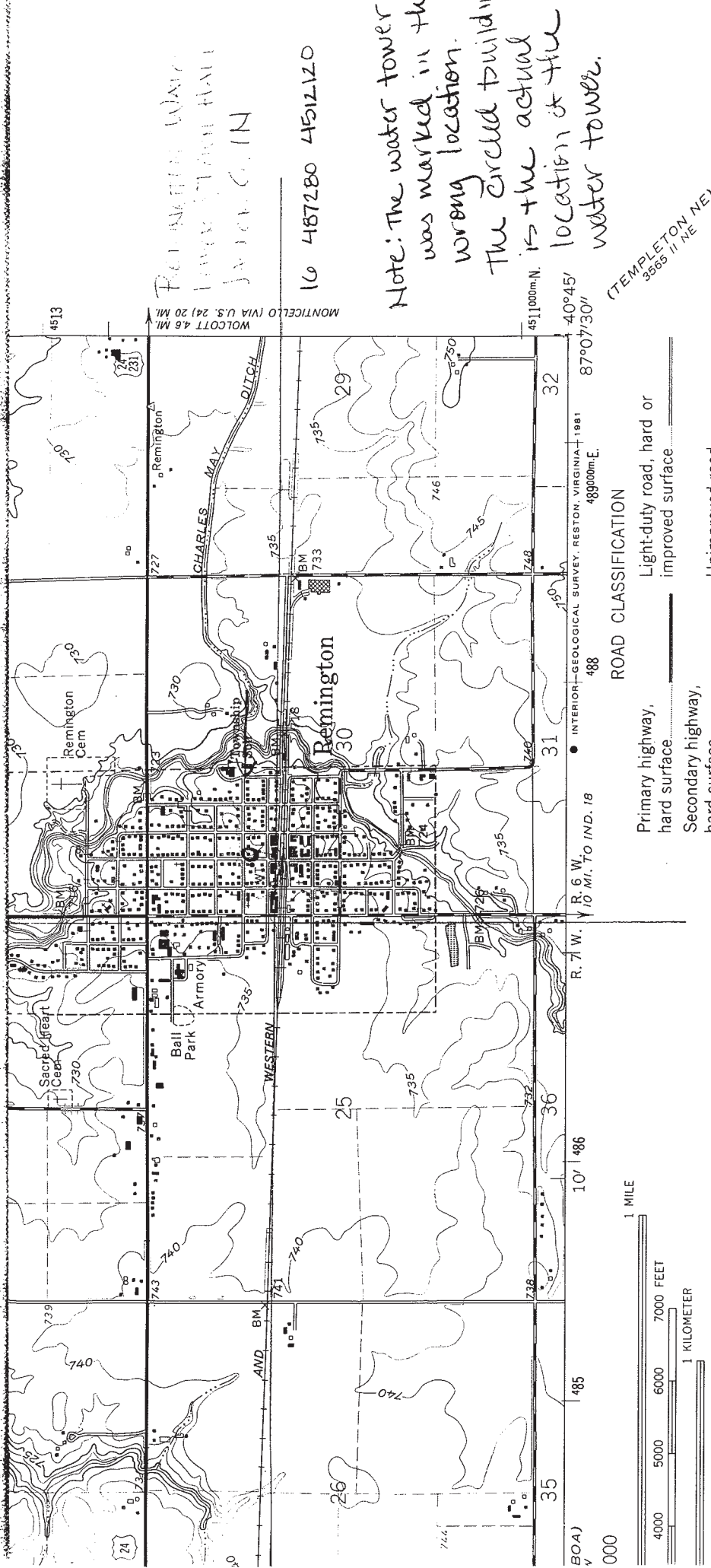
Section number Bibliography Page 6

Remington Water Tower & Town Hall  
Remington, Jasper County, Indiana

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REMININGTON WATER TOWER LOCATION  
 MARKED IN

16 487280 4512120

Note: The water tower was marked in the wrong location. The circled building is the actual location of the water tower.

(TEMPLETON NE)  
 3565 11 NE

ROAD CLASSIFICATION

- Primary highway, hard surface
- Secondary highway, hard surface
- Unimproved road
- U. S. Route
- State Route



QUADRANGLE LOCATION

REMINGTON, IND.

N4045—W8707.5/7.5

1963

PHOTO REVISIED 1980  
 DMA 3565 1 SW—SERIES V851

Revisions shown in purple compiled in cooperation with State of Indiana agencies from aerial photographs taken 1976 and other source data. This information not field checked. Map edited 1980

MAP ACCURACY STANDARDS  
 VEY, RESTON, VIRGINIA 22092  
 SOURCES, INDIANAPOLIS, INDIANA 46204  
 SYMBOLS IS AVAILABLE ON REQUEST