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NATIONAL REGISTER

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 of eligibility for individual properties or districts. See instructions in *Guidelines for Completing National Register Forms* (National Register Bulletin 16). Complete each item by marking "x" in the appropriate box or by entering the requested information. If an item does not apply to the property being documented, enter "N/A" for "not applicable." For functions, styles, materials, and areas of significance, enter only the categories and subcategories listed in the instructions. For additional space use continuation sheets (Form 10-900a). Type all entries.

1. Name of Property

historic name: Brenham Water Works
other names/site number: #167

2. Location

street & number: 1105 South Austin
city, town: Brenham
state: Texas code: 048 county: Washington code: 477
N/A not for publication
N/A vicinity
zip code: 77833

3. Classification

Ownership of Property	Category of Property	Number of Resources within Property	
<input type="checkbox"/> private	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> building(s)	Contributing	Noncontributing
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> public-local	<input type="checkbox"/> district	<u>1</u>	<u>0</u> buildings
<input type="checkbox"/> public-State	<input type="checkbox"/> site	<u> </u>	<u> </u> sites
<input type="checkbox"/> public-Federal	<input type="checkbox"/> structure	<u> </u>	<u> </u> structures
	<input type="checkbox"/> object	<u>1</u>	<u>0</u> objects
			<u>0</u> Total

Name of related multiple property listing: Historic and Architectural Resources of Brenham, Texas
Number of contributing resources previously listed in the National Register 0

4. State/Federal Agency Certification

As the designated authority under the National Historic Preservation Act of 1966, 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 36 CFR Part 60. In my opinion, the property meets does not meet the National Register criteria. See continuation sheet.

Scott J. Jurnell
Signature of certifying official
Texas Historical Commission
State or Federal agency and bureau
Date 2 Feb. 1990

In my opinion, the property meets does not meet the National Register criteria. See continuation sheet.

Signature of commenting or other official
Date
State or Federal agency and bureau

5. National Park Service Certification

I, hereby, certify that this property is:
 entered in the National Register.
 See continuation sheet.
 determined eligible for the National Register. See continuation sheet.
 determined not eligible for the National Register.
 removed from the National Register.
 other, (explain:)

Patrick Andrews
Signature of the Keeper
3/29/90
Date of Action

6. Function or Use

Historic Functions (enter categories from instructions):

Industry/Processing/Extraction
Waterworks

Current Functions (enter categories from instructions):

Government/Public Works

7. Description

Architectural Classification
(enter categories from instructions):

Victorian/Italianate

Material (enter categories from instructions):

foundation: Brick
walls: Brick
roof: Flat/Built-up
other: Wood

Describe present and historic physical appearance.

See continuation sheet

8. Statement of Significance

Certifying official has considered the significance of this property in relation to other properties:

nationally statewide locally

Applicable National Register Criteria A B C D

Criteria Considerations (Exceptions) A B C D E F G N/A

Areas of Significance (enter categories from instructions):

Architecture
Community Planning and Development

Period of Significance:

1884-85
1884-1941

Significant Dates:

1884-85
1894
1924

Cultural Affiliation:

N/A

Significant Person:

N/A

Architect/Builder:

N/A

State significance of property, and justify criteria, criteria considerations, and areas and periods of significance noted above.

See continuation sheet

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Continuation Sheet

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7. Description

The Brenham Water Works is a 2-story, brick building in the Victorian Italianate style. Significant stylistic features include arched windows and doorways with molded brick hoods, quoins, portico, and narrow 2/2 windows. The property is in good condition and largely unaltered thereby retaining its architectural integrity.

The Brenham Water Works is a 2-story, 5-bay by 3-bay brick (painted) building facing west on South Austin Street. It rests on a brick foundation and is covered with a flat, built-up roof. A corbeled brick cornice of five bands runs around the building, while articulated brick quoins adorn each corner. All windows are 2/2 wooden double-hung with segmental arches and hoods formed with molded corbelled bricks. Round arched doorways also have molded brick hoods. A utility pit is on the immediate south side. The property is set back from the street on a level lot with a number of large deciduous trees providing shade and limited shrubbery near the foundation of the building.

The Water Works exhibits Victorian, Italianate features including narrow, arched 2/2 windows with molded brick hoods, corner quoins of brick, a flat projecting portico, and arched doorways.

The principal (west) facade consists of five bays in an A-B-B-B-A pattern. Narrow 2/2 segmental arched windows occupy the first and fifth bays on both floors; large rounded arched doorways define the second, third, and fourth bays with the fourth distanced from the other two. The doorway in the second bay is partially covered and altered. A flat-roofed portico projects over the center bays and is supported by four wooden columns with composite capitals resting on brick piers. Two pilasters with similar capitals connect the portico to the building.

The south facade is formed by three bays with single 2/2 windows on each floor of the first and third bays. A single wooden door defines the center bay second floor which is accessed by a metal exterior stairway.

The property appears to be largely unaltered and in good condition.

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8. Significance

The Brenham Water Works (c. 1884-85) is eligible under Criterion C for its representation of the Victorian Italianate style in Brenham. It is an excellent example of this style used in a public building and one of two such public properties remaining. The Water Works also is eligible under Criterion A in the area of community planning and development for its role in providing a basic public improvement necessary to a community's growth. This property is associated with the local context "Community Development and Regional Expansion, 1870-1941."

Criterion A: Community Planning and Development

By the late 19th Century many Texas communities were poised for rapid development. Essential to their growth and improved quality of life was the provision for centralized utilities. The ability to offer water from one source (e.g. a spring, artesian well, or creek) to citizens in a concentrated area was the goal of each community. This centralized water source was to replace individual wells or the frequent transportation of large water barrels from nearby water sources. Both of these primitive water systems were inadequate for what was a burgeoning urban community with a growing number of indoor facilities, increasingly over-extended water sources, and fewer water sources in a confined area. Therefore, the water works played an important role in the development of Texas communities at the turn of the century. It was typical of each community to first contract with a private company for developing municipal water plants but later, often because of service problems, the city government assumed the responsibility of management. This assumption of municipal services by the public sector in the late 19th and early 20th Centuries initiated a more active role of local government directly tied to the physical and economic development of the community.

The story of the Brenham water works mirrors what occurred in many Texas communities during the late 19th Century. On August 19, 1884, the City Council of Brenham completed a contract with W.C. Conner on behalf of the Brenham Water Company for the erection of a water works. Three days later, on August 22nd, the ordinance giving the rights and privileges for the next 25 years to supply the city with water for general use and fighting fires was published in the Brenham Daily Press. The ordinance granted the company the authority to take up streets and lay a minimum of four miles of pipe. The Company also was instructed to begin construction of the water works within three months and to complete the structure within six months. The water plant and well reservoir were constructed at a cost of \$80,000. The building was to have ample protection against fire thereby reducing

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insurance rates. In 1894, the company sold the plant to the city for \$40,000. A purification plant and additional reservoir were added in 1924 for \$40,000 at the eastern end of the property. The Brenham Water Works continues to be operated by the City of Brenham and is one of several water wells.

Criterion C: Architecture

The architecture of the late 19th Century in Brenham reflected its prosperity and growth. Although traditional building forms from the mid 19th Century continued to be erected, the more fashionable statement was to design public and private buildings in the various Victorian architectural styles. The Italianate style with its vertical emphasis and elegant proportions was particularly popular for public buildings. Therefore, the style reflected the community's development especially in public programs such as education and service facilities. It was used on a number of major buildings in Brenham during this period but survives in only two examples: the Brenham Water Works and Brenham School.

Because of the rarity of the Brenham Water Works as an Italianate building and its representation of the city's rapid growth during the late 19th Century, the property is considered significant for both its architecture and community planning and development.

9. Major Bibliographical References

See continuation sheet

See bibliography of context statement

Previous documentation on file (NPS): N/A

- preliminary determination of individual listing
(36 CFR 67) has been requested
- previously listed in the National Register
- previously determined eligible by the National Register
- designated a National Historic Landmark
- recorded by Historic American Buildings
Survey #
- recorded by Historic American Engineering
Record #

Primary location of additional data:

- State historic preservation office
- Other State agency
- Federal agency
- Local government
- University
- Other

Specify repository:

Texas Historical Commission, Austin, TX

10. Geographical Data

Acreeage of property: less than one

UTM References:

A 1/4 / / 750/660 333/9060
Zone Easting Northing

C / / / / / /
Zone Easting Northing

B / / / / / /
Zone Easting Northing

D / / / / / /
Zone Easting Northing

See continuation sheet

Verbal Boundary Description: Cooks Addition (no block), 1/2 west end of Lot 4A

See continuation sheet

Boundary Justification: The boundary includes the nominated property and portion of city lot that historically has been associated with the property.

See continuation sheet

11. Form Prepared By

name/title: Dwayne Jones/Preservation Planner
organization:(with assistance from Sally Victor)
street & number: Texas Historical Commission
city or town: 1511 Colorado, Austin

date: 1984; 1989
telephone: 512/463-6094
state: TX zip code: 78701

2/16/90

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National Park Service

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Continuation Sheet

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Brenham ~~County~~ MPS TEXAS Washington County

DATE LISTED

	DATE LISTED
COVER	3/28/90
1. Becker--Hildebrandt House	3/29/90
2. Blinn College <i>Substantive Review</i>	3/29/90
3. Blue Bell Creameries Complex <i>Substantive Review</i>	3/29/90
4. Brenham High School	3/29/90
5. Brenham High School Gymnasium	3/29/90
6. Brenham School	3/29/90
7. Brenham Water Works <i>Substantive Review</i>	3/29/90
8. Brockschmidt--Miller House	3/29/90
9. East Brenham <i>Substantive Review</i>	3/29/90
10. Holle, Edmund, House	3/29/90
11. Lenert, Dr. Robert, House	3/29/90
12. Matchett, Edgar, House	3/29/90
13. Mt. Zion Methodist Church <i>Substantive Review</i>	3/29/90
14. Reichardt--Low House	3/29/90
15. Santa Fe Railway Company Freight Depot <i>Substantive Review</i>	3/29/90
16. Schlenker, Almot, House	3/29/90
17. Schlenker--Kolwes House	3/29/90
18. Schuerenberg, F.W., House	3/29/90
19. Schuerenberg, R.A., House	3/29/90
20. Seelhorst, W.E., House	3/29/90

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
EVALUATION/RETURN SHEET

REQUESTED ACTION: NOMINATION

PROPERTY Brenham Water Works
NAME:

MULTIPLE Brenham MPS
NAME:

STATE & COUNTY: TEXAS, Washington

DATE RECEIVED: 2/16/90 DATE OF PENDING LIST: 2/27/90
DATE OF 16TH DAY: 3/15/90 DATE OF 45TH DAY: 4/02/90
DATE OF WEEKLY LIST:

REFERENCE NUMBER: 90000465

NOMINATOR: STATE

REASONS FOR REVIEW:

APPEAL: N DATA PROBLEM: N LANDSCAPE: N LESS THAN 50 YEARS: Y
OTHER: N PDIL: N PERIOD: N PROGRAM UNAPPROVED: N
REQUEST: N SAMPLE: N SLR DRAFT: N NATIONAL: N

COMMENT WAIVER: N

ACCEPT RETURN REJECT 3/29/90 DATE

ABSTRACT/SUMMARY COMMENTS:

The Brenham Water Works is significant building for its representation of the Italianate style as adapted to a public works facility (Criterion C). It also represents the advancement in public services essential to the community's development. Although the period of significance extends to 1941, it overlaps the 50 year period by one year only.

RECOM./CRITERIA Accept / A + C
REVIEWER Antoinette Lee
DISCIPLINE History
DATE 3/27/90

DOCUMENTATION see attached comments Y/N see attached SLR Y/N

CLASSIFICATION

___ count ___ resource type

STATE/FEDERAL AGENCY CERTIFICATION

FUNCTION

___ historic ___ current

DESCRIPTION

___ architectural classification
___ materials
___ descriptive text

SIGNIFICANCE

Period Areas of Significance--Check and justify below

Specific dates Builder/Architect
Statement of Significance (in one paragraph)

- ___ summary paragraph
- ___ completeness
- ___ clarity
- ___ applicable criteria
- ___ justification of areas checked
- ___ relating significance to the resource context
- ___ relationship of integrity to significance
- ___ justification of exception
- ___ other

BIBLIOGRAPHY

GEOGRAPHICAL DATA

___ acreage ___ verbal boundary description
___ UTMs ___ boundary justification

ACCOMPANYING DOCUMENTATION/PRESENTATION

___ sketch maps ___ USGS maps ___ photographs ___ presentation

OTHER COMMENTS

Questions concerning this nomination may be directed to

Phone _____

Signed _____

Date _____



BRENHAM WATER WORKS (#169)

BRENHAM, TEXAS

DWAYNE JONES

OCTOBER 9, 1989

NEGATIVE ON FILE - TEXAS HISTORICAL COMMISSION

CAMERA FACING EAST

Please refer to the map in the
Multiple Property Cover Sheet
for this property

Multiple Property Cover Sheet Reference Number: 64500628