

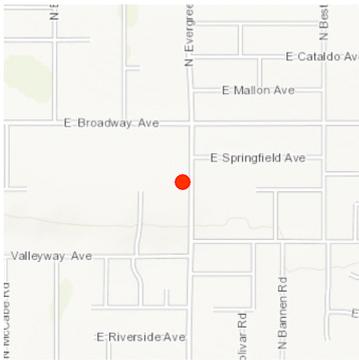


Historic Property Report

Historic Name: Vera Water and Power Well House

Property ID: 706357

Location



Address: 601 N Evergreen Rd, Spokane Valley, Washington, USA

GeographicAreas: Spokane, Spokane County, T25R44E15, GREENACRES Quadrangle

Information

Construction Dates:

Construction Type	Year	Circa
Built Date	1906	<input type="checkbox"/>

Number of stories: N/A

Historic Use:

Category	Subcategory
Agriculture/Subsistence	Agriculture/Subsistence - Irrigation Facility

Historic Context: Architecture

Architect/Engineer:

Category	Name or Company
Builder	Vera Water and Power

Photos



SRS-9a.JPG



SRS-9d.JPG



SRS-9c.JPG



SRS-9b.JPG



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Inventory Details - 7/13/2016

Common name: Vera Water and Power Well House
Date recorded: 7/13/2016
Field Recorder: Stephen Emerson
Field Site number: SRS-9
SHPO Determination

Detail Information

Characteristics:

Category	Item
Foundation	Concrete - Poured
Form Type	Utilitarian
Roof Type	Gable
Roof Material	Wood - Shingle
Cladding	Stone - Cobble Stone
Structural System	Masonry - Stone
Plan	Irregular

Surveyor Opinion

Property appears to meet criteria for the National Register of Historic Places: Yes
Property is located in a potential historic district (National and/or local): Yes
Property potentially contributes to a historic district (National and/or local): Yes



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Significance narrative: The cobblestone structure was built in 1906 for use by Vera Electric Water Company prior to the company's 1908 incorporation. Donald K. McDonald was one of the organizers. Veradale was named after his daughter. Upon incorporation, the company expected to supply irrigation water to 10-acre tracts and domestic water to 40-acre tracts by means of a system which included this pump house. Some have presumed that the pump house builder was a prominent masonry craftsman by the name of Hans Vinge (though this may be confused with Vinge's construction of the later cobblestone office building). While the tower always housed the well and pumping apparatus, it is likely that the gabled wing was originally a residence and office for superintendents, who augmented their supervisory duties by farming nearby land. Although the system remains in use today, it was converted in 1957 from low pressure to high pressure. This pump house was a significant part of the irrigation and domestic water delivery system which supported the growth and development of the Spokane Valley in the Vera area, a role maintained to the present. The Vera Pump Station was accepted to the National Landmarks of the American Waterworks Association in 1977. Due to its excellent integrity and significance, this building appears to be eligible for the National Register of Historic Places under both Criterion A, for its association with the development of irrigation in the Spokane Valley, and Criterion C, architecture.

Physical description: This cobblestone pump house consists of a round tower and attached side-gabled wing on the east side of the tower. While the rock walls are load bearing, the tower interior is gunnite-lined for strength. The tower is approximately twice the wing's height with a medieval appearance. The tower top is crenellated and obscures the flat roof. A cobblestone string course encircles the tower midway between the crenellation and the evenly spaced, small porthole openings with cobblestone casings. The front (south) façade of the tower has an oversized, round-arched doorway with large cobblestone voussoirs. The arch of the wooden door is vertical planks segmented by raised horizontal planks and a raised chevron above the header. The wooden cross-buck double doors only provide pedestrian traffic through the right leaf which opens from the right; the left leaf is fitted at mid-height with a large metal pipe which extends forward into the ground in a segmented curve. To each side of the doorway is a segmentally arched window opening with large cobblestone voussoirs. Recessed, vertical, wooden plank insets, mounted in wooden frames, cover the openings. On the west elevation is an identical third window opening, as well as a fitted pipe which enters the ground diagonally below the window.

The side-gabled wing has a wood shingle roof with overhanging eaves and exposed rafter ends. On the wing's front (south) elevation is a single leaf cross-buck pedestrian door, and to the east of the door is a square window opening fitted in the same manner as those on the tower. The east elevation and much of the south elevation are currently overgrown with vegetation. External, free-standing, steel equipment cabinets extend upward to the eave on the north elevation, impairing visual examination.

Bibliography: Emerson, Stephen. A Historic Property Inventory of Rock Structures in Spokane County, Washington. Archisto Enterprises, 2016.