

HISTORIC RESOURCES INVENTORY

Y-24-000888
Ser. No. 5340-54
HABS _____ HAER _____ NR 3252 SHL _____ Loc _____
UTM: A 10/722900/4130540B
C _____ D _____
PMP# 057415
DOE-24-01-0013-0000 252
HRI MERLEO 7-SQ

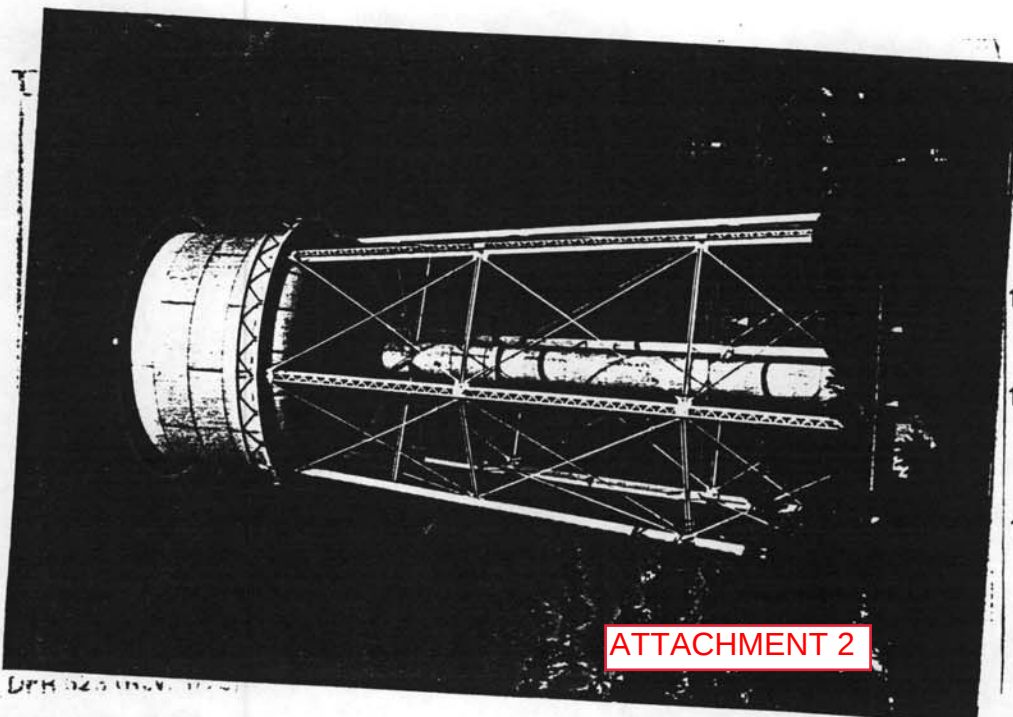
IDENTIFICATION

1. Common name: Station No. 3 Water Tower
2. Historic name: Station No. 3 Water Tower
3. Street or rural address: 12th and Canal Streets
City Merced Zip 95340 County Merced
4. Parcel number: _____
5. Present Owner: City of Merced Address: 1730 M Street
City Merced Zip 95340 Ownership is: Public ☒ Private _____
6. Present Use: Water Storage/Pressure Original use: Water Storage/Pressure

DESCRIPTION

- 7a. Architectural style: Utilitarian
- 7b. Briefly describe the present *physical description* of the site or structure and describe any major alterations from its original condition:

The riveted steel water tank, measuring 40 feet in diameter, has a 300,000 gallon capacity and is mounted on six steel supports set in concrete, giving it an overall height of 148 feet. A 30 inch wide balcony with handrail circles the tank.



ATTACHMENT 2

8. Construction date:
Estimated _____ Factual 1934
9. Architect Unknown
10. Builder Pittsburg-Des Moines Steel Co.
11. Approx. property size (in feet)
Frontage 150 Depth 150
or approx. acreage _____
12. Date(s) of enclosed photograph(s)
3/29/85

13. Condition: Excellent ___ Good X Fair ___ Deteriorated ___ No longer in existence ___
14. Alterations: Routine maintenance and updating of pumps and equipment
15. Surroundings: (Check more than one if necessary) Open land ___ Scattered buildings ___ Densely built-up X
Residential X Industrial ___ Commercial ___ Other: ___
16. Threats to site: None known X Private development ___ Zoning ___ Vandalism ___
Public Works project ___ Other: ___
17. Is the structure: On its original site? X Moved? ___ Unknown? ___
18. Related features: None

SIGNIFICANCE

19. Briefly state historical and/or architectural importance (include dates, events, and persons associated with the site.)

The construction of Merced's second water tower in 1934 reflected an increasing demand for water necessitated by the growth of the City during the 1920's. The Crocker-Huffman Land and Water Company erected this structure on the site of an 18" auxilliary well, serviced by a 75 H.P. turbine pump, which had been put into operation in 1923. The estimated value of this structure was \$18,600. During the 11 years this well augmented the flow from the tower at Station No. 1 (Bear Creek) there was a problem of sand build-up in the system which was alleviated with the construction of this tower at Station No. 3. This structure is part of a system that appears to be the only one in the San Joaquin Valley that is capable of maintaining almost constant water pressure by pumping water directly into the tank and controlling the overflow by an adjustable regulating valve on a separate discharge pipe feeding into the distribution mains. This operating practice began with the tank at Station No. 1 in 1917 and continues to this day. The City of Merced acquired the system on May 1, 1973.

20. Main theme of the historic resource: (If more than one is checked, number in order of importance.)
Architecture ___ Arts & Leisure ___
Economic/Industrial ___ Exploration/Settlement ___
Government X Military ___
Religion ___ Social/Education ___
21. Sources (List books, documents, surveys, personal interviews and their dates). Blueprints on file at Merced County Historical Society.
Guy B. Cornell. Development and Operation of the Merced Water System from 1889 Through 1969. Building permit 12/1/34.
Interview: Robert Garretson, Util. Supt., City of Merced, Feb. 1985 3/20/85
22. Date form prepared ___
By (name) Susan Arquelles
Organization City of Merced
Address: 1730 M Street
City Merced Zip 95340
Phone: 209/385-6826

Locational sketch map (draw and label site and surrounding streets, roads, and prominent landmarks):

