

How Old is Your Storage Tank?

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The question has come up as to where the oldest water storage tank still in service in the state is located. I have looked through the sanitary survey forms used by state field representatives on all public water systems in the state, and there does not seem to be any place for the actual date the storage tank was built. Currently, the oldest water storage facility in the state known to me is



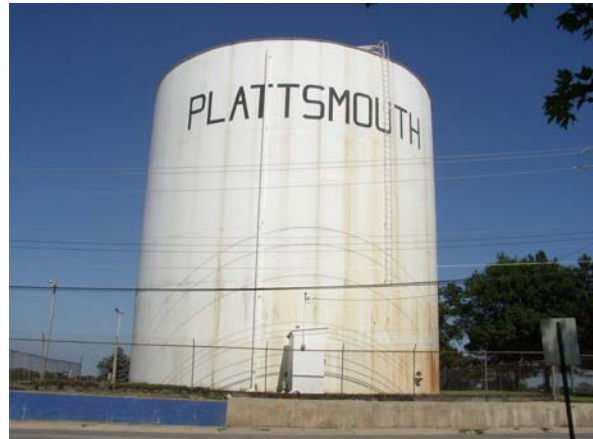
Plattsmouth Standpipe Constructed in 1887

the standpipe in Plattsmouth, which was constructed along with the original water system in the late 1800s.

According to Water and Wastewater Superintendent Gary Hellwig, Paul Baburek of Baburek Metal Preserving Company has told him that this is the oldest water storage facility he knows of in the state of Nebraska. The contract for the construction of the water project was signed on March 11, 1886 and the city had a celebration of the completion of the project on May 5, 1887. Part of that project was the construction of the 25 foot diameter, 80 foot tall standpipe with a capacity of just over 290,000 gallons.

In 1956, the City of Plattsmouth added more storage capacity with the construction of a second standpipe, having a capacity of 1 million gallons. When the 800,000 gallon capacity of the clear well at the water treatment plant is added to these, the city has a storage capacity in excess of 2 million gallons.

Plattsmouth is in the engineering phase of a project to remove the original standpipe and replace it with an elevated storage tank with a capacity of 500,000 gallons. This project is expected to be started this fall, and when it is completed, the original standpipe will no longer be the oldest storage tank known to be in existence in the state.



1956 Standpipe

If you have a water storage tank that is older than the one in Plattsmouth, or if you think yours might be the oldest when Plattsmouth completed their water project, we would like to know about it. Send us a picture of your storage facility, along with the information on the date of construction, and we will feature your system and storage facility in an upcoming edition of our magazine.