

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 National Register Bulletin *How to Complete the National Register of Historic Places Registration Form*. If any 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.



1. Name of Property

Historic name: Carrollton Water Tower

Other names/site number: _____

Name of related multiple property listing: _____

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

2. Location

Street & number: 100 Lexington Street Extended

City or town: Carrollton State: MS County: Carroll

Not For Publication: Vicinity:

3. State/Federal Agency Certification

As the designated authority under the National Historic Preservation Act, as amended,

I hereby certify that this X 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 X meets ___ does not meet the National Register Criteria. I recommend that this property be considered significant at the following level(s) of significance:

___ national ___ statewide X local

Applicable National Register Criteria:

X A ___ B X C ___ D

<u>John Blakely</u>	<u>1-3-22</u>
Signature of certifying official/Title:	Date
State or Federal agency/bureau or Tribal Government	

In my opinion, the property ___ meets ___ does not meet the National Register criteria.	
Signature of commenting official:	Date
Title :	State or Federal agency/bureau or Tribal Government

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4. National Park Service Certification

I hereby certify that this property is:

- entered in the National Register
- determined eligible for the National Register
- determined not eligible for the National Register
- removed from the National Register
- other (explain:) _____

Signature of the Keeper

Date of Action

5. Classification

Ownership of Property

(Check as many boxes as apply.)

- Private:
- Public – Local
- Public – State
- Public – Federal

Category of Property

(Check only **one** box.)

- Building(s)
- District
- Site
- Structure
- Object

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Number of Resources within Property

(Do not include previously listed resources in the count)

Contributing	Noncontributing	
_____	_____	buildings
_____	_____	sites
<u>1</u>	_____	structures
_____	_____	objects
<u>1</u>	_____	Total

Number of contributing resources previously listed in the National Register 0

6. Function or Use

Historic Functions

(Enter categories from instructions.)

Government: public works

Current Functions

(Enter categories from instructions.)

Not in use

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7. Description

Architectural Classification

(Enter categories from instructions.)

Other – standpipe water tower

Materials: (enter categories from instructions.)

Principal exterior materials of the property: Riveted Steel with masonry base

Narrative Description

(Describe the historic and current physical appearance and condition of the property.

Describe contributing and noncontributing resources if applicable. Begin with a **summary paragraph** that briefly describes the general characteristics of the property, such as its location, type, style, method of construction, setting, size, and significant features. Indicate whether the property has historic integrity.)

Summary Paragraph

Situated on a rise south of downtown Carrollton, the Carrollton Water Tower overlooks the intersection of Mississippi Highways 17 and 35 with Lexington Street. The land on which it sits was deeded to the Town in 1908 by Mr. J. T. McKay, although the tower was built in 1904. The tower was accessed from a driveway leading to an old home place on the rise and by a footpath leading from Lexington Street to the tower. Its location on the rise improves the water pressure for distribution. The tower is a tall, skinny, cylindrical structure built of steel plates riveted together on a brick base. It is 60 feet tall with a diameter of 15 feet and has a capacity of 38,000 gallons. The tower has not been altered since it was built, but was maintained until 1979 when new, larger wells were dug to provide water for the Town and the growing community. Its shape and location make it an ideal community landmark.

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Narrative Description

The Carrollton Water Tower overlooks the intersection of Mississippi Highway 17/35 with Lexington Street, and is across the street from the town's Community House. The steel standpipe tower is approximately 60 feet in height. It is 32 feet in circumference, 15 feet in diameter, and is supported by a brick base which is at least 12 bricks in height above the ground. The tower itself is built of 6 by 16 foot steel panels which are riveted into place. The tower is ten sections high, with 6 feet of paneling per section, and the top of the tower is crowned with steel pickets and rails; a steel ladder allows access to the top. The standpipe is coated in an aluminum paint. The contract to construct the town's water system, including the standpipe tower, was let out by the Mayor of Carrollton to the Smith Brothers from Tennessee.

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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.)

- A. Property is associated with events that have made a significant contribution to the broad patterns of our history.
- B. Property is associated with the lives of persons significant in our past.
- C. Property embodies the distinctive characteristics of a type, period, or method of construction or represents the work of a master, or possesses high artistic values, or represents a significant and distinguishable entity whose components lack individual distinction.
- D. Property has yielded, or is likely to yield, information important in prehistory or history.

Criteria Considerations

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

- A. Owned by a religious institution or used for religious purposes
- B. Removed from its original location
- C. A birthplace or grave
- D. A cemetery
- E. A reconstructed building, object, or structure
- F. A commemorative property
- G. Less than 50 years old or achieving significance within the past 50 years

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Areas of Significance

(Enter categories from instructions.)

Community Planning & Development

Engineering

Period of Significance

1904

Significant Dates

N/A

Significant Person

(Complete only if Criterion B is marked above.)

N/A

Cultural Affiliation

N/A

Architect/Builder

Smith Brothers of Tennessee, Marion Alderman

Statement of Significance Summary Paragraph (Provide a summary paragraph that includes level of significance, applicable criteria, justification for the period of significance, and any applicable criteria considerations.)

The Carrollton Water Tower is locally significant under Criterion A in the area of Community Planning and Development and Criterion C in the area of Engineering for the historic water tower standpipe design. The Carrollton Water Tower is an example of a standpipe design popular in the early 20th century when public water systems were rapidly evolving around the United States. The riveted steel structure sits on a brick base and on the south side of Carrollton. It has retained its historic form and the various components that are critical to the integrity of both design and materials, including the roof and the “widows’ walk” around the top. The period of significance is 1904, the date of construction.

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Narrative Statement of Significance (Provide at least **one** paragraph for each area of significance.)

The Carrollton Water Tower is eligible for listing under Criterion A in the area of Community Planning and Development and Criterion C in the area of Engineering as an intact example of an engineered water-system structure built in 1904. The Carrollton Water Tower is a visual focal point within the downtown area of Carrollton and, since the removal of the trees on the north side, is visible as far away as the Big Sand Creek Bridge as one enters Carrollton from North Carrollton. The 1904 standpipe tower is a visible symbol of the foresight that civic leaders showed in providing a clean water supply, just as the remains of the old fire wagon used by the citizens of Carrollton and the electric dynamo for the first electrical power plant, both on exhibit in the Merrill Museum, show their planning for electricity and fire protection.¹ The water system, with the standpipe tower, and electrical power plant were both built in 1904. The standpipe tower was used until 1979, when a new elevated tank was built at a higher elevation adjacent to, but outside of, the town limits.

History of Carrollton

Carrollton and Carroll County were named for Charles Carroll of Carrollton, Maryland, one of the signers of the Declaration of Independence, who died in 1832.² Carrollton was formed in 1834 on land obtained from the Choctaw tribe through the Treaty of Dancing Rabbit Creek. The house of the Choctaw Chief who signed the treaty, Greenwood Leflore, used to stand west of Carrollton, but burned to the ground in 1942.³ According to the US Census Bureau, Carrollton has a total area of 0.8 square miles. Carrollton is located on the south side of Big Sand Creek, a tributary of the Yalobusha River, across the creek from the Town of North Carrollton. Mississippi Highways 17 and 35 combine on a common route on Lexington Street, which runs north-south through the center of Carrollton and leads into North Carrollton.⁴ Carrollton was first named as the county seat in 1836.

Antebellum Carrollton and Carroll County were relatively thriving places. In the first half of the 19th century, Carroll County quickly rose to being among the top agricultural counties in Mississippi. According to Mississippi Encyclopedia, "Carroll County's farms and plantations ranked eighth in the state in cotton grown, fifth in corn and sweet potatoes, third in livestock, and

¹ "Carrollton Water Tower." MDAH Historical Resources Inventory Fact Sheet, Mississippi Department of Archives and History. apps.mdah.ms.gov/Public/prop.aspx?id=2145890036&view=facts&y=1040.

² "Carroll County ~ Our Carroll County." YouTube video by Walt Grayson. CarrolltonMs.net. <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=rJEHNq5ZTr8>.

³ "Historic Malmaison Completely Destroyed By Fire Last Night," *Greenwood Commonwealth*, April 1, 1942, Afternoon Edition, sec. a.

⁴ "Historic Carrollton, Mississippi." CarrolltonMs.net.

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first in peas and beans by a wide margin.”⁵ This thriving agricultural economy was supported by slavery, and in 1860, the slave population in Carroll County was 13,808.⁶

In its heyday, Carrollton was an educational and legal center for north-central MS with many fine schools and attorneys practicing law in Carrollton, including attorneys James Z. George and Hernando D. Money. James Z. George, born in Georgia, was raised in Carrollton. He read law under a local judge, and was admitted to the bar at age 20. In 1847, George started practicing law in Carrollton, which would open the door for him to become a U.S. Senator in 1880. He would remain in that position until his death in 1897.⁷ George’s house, Cotesworth, still stands in Carroll County northeast of Carrollton, and is the best representation of a mid-19th century plantation house in the county. Hernando D. Money was born in Holmes County, and he attended the University of Mississippi; graduating in 1860 with his law degree.⁸ He started his law practice in Carrollton that same year, but would go on to be elected into the U.S. House of Representatives in 1875. He further served in the U.S. Senate, finishing George’s term in 1897 where he would remain until 1911.⁹

Carrollton was impacted by the Civil War due to the number of troops the town and Carroll County in general mustered. As with other Confederate Mississippi units during the war, they suffered heavy casualties. No battles were fought in Carroll County, though Federal troops were stationed within the county at various times throughout the war.¹⁰

Carrollton and Carroll County saw a shift in life during the late 1860s and on through the early 20th century. The County was divided into two districts in 1874, with Carrollton being the county seat for the first district and Vaiden for the second.¹¹ Racial tensions were high, and several

⁵ Mississippi Encyclopedia Staff, “Carroll County,” Mississippi Encyclopedia, June, 10, 2017, <https://mississippiencyclopedia.org/entries/carroll-county/>.

⁶ Ibid.

⁷ WPA State-wide Historical Research Project. *Source Material for Mississippi History*, “Chapter XVIII – The Bar WPA County Files; Carroll County,” (1936-38), pg. 109. Published online Mississippi Library Commission, 2021. <https://mlc.lib.ms.us/wp-content/uploads/Digitized%20Microfilms%20/Carroll%20County.pdf>. Accessed September 21, 2021.

⁸ WPA State-wide Historical Research Project. *Source Material for Mississippi History*, “Chapter XVIII - The Bar WPA County Files; Carroll County,” (1936-38), pgs. 114 and 117. Published online Mississippi Library Commission, 2021. <https://mlc.lib.ms.us/wp-content/uploads/Digitized%20Microfilms%20/Carroll%20County.pdf>. Accessed, September 23, 2021.

⁹ “Hernando DeSoto Money.” Biographical Directory of the United States Congress, 1774 – present. <https://bioguideretro.congress.gov/Home/MemberDetails?memIndex=m000854>. Accessed November 2 2021.—

¹⁰ WPA State-wide Historical Research Project. *Source Material for Mississippi History*, “Chapter VII – Wars WPA County Files; Carroll County,” (1936-38), pg. 128. Published online Mississippi Library Commission, 2021. <https://mlc.lib.ms.us/wp-content/uploads/Digitized%20Microfilms%20/Carroll%20County.pdf>. Accessed September 23.

¹¹ “Carroll County ~ Our Carrol County.” Youtube video by Walt Grayson. CarrolltonMs.net. <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=rJEHNq5ZTr8>.

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accounts of racial violence disturbed the Mississippi county. The worst event, called the Carroll County Courthouse Massacre, took place in 1886, where 23 African-Americans were shot to death by a group of white rogues; in response to two African-American brothers bringing charges against a white man.¹²

Carrollton's quintessential 19th century appearance is largely due to the fact that Carrollton was by-passed in the 1880s for the route of the Greenville Columbus & Birmingham Railway line, for US Route 51 in 1926, and Mississippi Highway 82 in 1931.¹³ Carrollton's intact collection of architectural styles is the foundation for the town's tourism. The annual Pilgrimage and Pioneer Day Festival bring around 2,000 people to Carrollton each fall, greatly exceeding the population of 181. Economic studies of the events reveal that the direct and indirect impact is over \$100,000.¹⁴ During Mississippi's Bicentennial in 2017, Carrollton applied for, and was granted, funds to create a walking tour app that is free to download; taking visitors, virtually, to 26 sites in Carrollton.¹⁵

Besides being the State's most well preserved 19th century small town, Carrollton is also known for its musicians and writers. For example, William T. Narmour and Shellie W. Smith were prominent country musicians from the 1920s until around 1934, and were famous for their two instrumentals: "Carroll County Blues" and "Avalon Quick Step."¹⁶ Another musician who influenced Mississippi country and blues was Mack Allen Smith, who was a prolific country/rockabilly singer in the Mississippi Delta for over thirty years.¹⁷ Elizabeth Spencer, an award-winning author of *Light in the Piazza*, among other novels, was born and raised in Carrollton.¹⁸

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¹² Rick Ward, "The Carroll County Courthouse Massacre, 1886: A Cold Case File," Mississippi History Now, accessed November 19, 2021, <https://www.mshistorynow.mdah.ms.gov/issue/the-carroll-county-courthouse-massacre-1886-a-cold-case-file>.

¹³ Downs, Kenny. *Early Highways: Ole Memphis to Jackson Stage Coach. The Conservative: Carroll County Re-Broadcast*, May 16, 2019; *Ibid. Jefferson Davis Memorial Highway Created in State. The Conservative: Carroll County Re-Broadcast*. May 23, 2019; *Ibid. The Last Great Chief Highway. The Conservative: Carroll County Re-Broadcast*. May 30, 2019.

¹⁴ Carroll County Development Association – Tourism Records.

¹⁵ Walking Tour of Carrollton Mississippi. tourappbuilder.com/portfolio-item/__walkingtourcarrolltonmississippi/.

¹⁶ Mississippi Country Music Trail, "Narmour and Smith – Carrollton," accessed September 28, 2021, <https://mscountrymusictrail.org/markers/narmour-and-smith/?page=marker>.

¹⁷ Scott Barretta, "Mack Allen Smith," Mississippi Folklore and Folk Artist Directory, accessed September 28, 2021, https://arts.ms.gov/folklife/artist.php?dirname=smith_mackallen.

¹⁸ Marion Barnwell, "Elizabeth Spencer," Mississippi Encyclopedia, accessed September 28, 2021, <https://mississippiencyclopedia.org/entries/elizabeth-spencer/>.

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Community Planning and Development: In July 1834, three citizens were appointed to oversee the town well project: William G. Kendall, Samuel Nelson, and James Collins. They were to select a place on the public square in Carrollton for a well, oversee the digging of it, and keep it in good repair.¹⁹ By 1900, Carrollton had grown to 540 residents and needed a system that could serve the growing population, and accommodate the need for water pressure in houses with modern plumbing.²⁰

During the late 19th, and into the early 20th century, the United States was experiencing a boom in the construction of water works systems, stemming primarily from a growing population in towns and cities. With more people in a concentrated area, along with water becoming more readily accessible in private residences, “The need for dependable reserve supplies increased and the tremendous costs of constructing and operating water works resulted in a search for the most efficient means of operation.”²¹ For comparison, “eighty-three municipal water works were in use by 1850, ranging from crude wood pipe systems carrying a gravity flow one or two miles to complex systems with long aqueducts or expensive pumping machinery servicing thousands of customers.”²² By the turn of the century, when Carrollton needed a better water system to handle its growing demand for water, there were more than 3,300 water works systems in the country.²³

Carrollton’s own newspaper, *The Conservative*, which was published weekly, chronicled the developments concerning the water works system during 1904. The first article appeared in the May 7 edition of the paper, briefly mentioning the town’s desire to obtain a water works system: “We are glad to note the interest that is being taken by the citizens in the proposition to erect waterworks for Carrollton. It requires very little, if any, argument to convince the average man that the outlay required for installing such an enterprise would be repaid in a very short time in the better health, greater convenience and immunity from fire the community would enjoy.”²⁴ Two of the three reasons (better health and immunity from fire) would be brought up again as reasons *The Conservative* supported the building of water works in the town in later articles in the July 2, July 16, and Oct. 15 issues.²⁵

¹⁹ Carrollton. msgw.org/carroll/history/townhist.htm.

²⁰ Carrollton. Population.us/ms/carrollton.

²¹ Carol Ann Dubie, “The Architecture and Engineering of Elevated Water Storage Structures: 1870-1940” (Master’s thesis, George Washington University, 1980), 1. Accessed October 18, 2021, <http://www.waterworkshistory.us/tech/1980DubieWaterStorage.pdf>

²² Dubie, “The Architecture and Engineering of Elevated Water Storage Structures: 1870-1940”, 1

²³ Dubie, “The Architecture and Engineering of Elevated Water Storage Structures: 1870-1940”, 5.

²⁴ “Waterworks,” *The Conservative*, May 7, 1904.

²⁵ “Work for Our Community,” *The Conservative*, July 2, 1904; “Our Health Demands It,” *The Conservative*, July 16, 1904; “Electric Light Trouble,” *The Conservative*, October 15, 1904.

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Another reason *The Conservative* gave in for building a water works system was financial. The longer of two articles that focused on cost came on July 2, 1904, wherein the author responded to some Carrollton citizens who opposed the water works system because they feared it would bankrupt the town. The author concluded that, “We can hardly understand how any man with the best interests of the community at heart can oppose the movement. Surely such an one has not given the matter proper thought and study.” To ease further apprehensions concerning cost, the *Conservative* presented a table of finances to display that the construction costs for the water works would not cause Carrollton to go into the financial red.²⁶ In the July 9 issue, another financial chart was provided to further show that Carrollton would be financially stable after building the water works system.²⁷ Both of these articles laid out how much the citizens would have to pay in order to maintain the water works.

The July 2 article went on give a more detailed explanation of the two reasons *The Conservative* initially listed, fire and health. Citing the two most recent fires in Mississippi, which damaged the towns of Yazoo City and McComb, the article noted that in order to spare Carrollton from such fires, a water works system was pivotal, and financially important, to the town. Later, the article described how a water works system would keep the citizenry from contracting typhoid, and “other of the microbe family,” and observed that, in having a good, clean, and pure water supply, these various germs that thrive in bad water would not afflict the Carrollton community. The article concluded by urging the readers to unify concerning the water works systems, basing a call-to-action for unanimity upon “progress.”²⁸

The growing popularity and availability of indoor plumbing in Mississippi also created a pressing need for public systems around the turn of the 20th century. The Jackson *Clarion-Ledger* dedicated a section of its March 22, 1882 paper to an Act to complete an asylum for the blind, Section 2 of which mentioned plumbing, cisterns, drainage, and sewerage specifically.²⁹ The City of Vicksburg had advertisements for plumbing in an 1884 copy of the *Vicksburg Herald*.³⁰ By February of 1904, Vicksburg, the largest city in the state with a population of 15,418, had its own stand-pipe water tower and water pumps.³¹

The argument that the adoption of the water works system was forward progress can be seen throughout *The Conservative*'s coverage of the water works timeline. It surfaced in the May 7

²⁶ “Work for Our Community,” *The Conservative*, July 2, 1904.

²⁷ “A Last Word,” *The Conservative*, July 9, 1904.

²⁸ “Work for Our Community,” *The Conservative*, July 2, 1904.

²⁹ “Laws of the State of Mississippi,” *The Clarion-Ledger*, March 22, 1882.

³⁰ *Vicksburg Herald*, January 10, 1884.

³¹ “Water Supply: Company can Furnish Four Million Gallons Daily,” *The Vicksburg Evening Post*, February 2, 1904; Department of Commerce and Labor, Bureau of the Census, *Bulletin 71: Estimates of Populations: 1904, 1905, 1906* (Washington: Government Printing Office, 1907), pg. 21.

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issue, “Carrollton, too, is now in the progressive list of Mississippi towns. We can’t stand still; we must either progress or retrograde.”³² This was echoed in the May 21 issue: “Carrollton is certainly going to up-grade. We cannot stand still, and the future will show that our motto is to be progress and prosperity.”³³ Again, in the June 4 issue, “Our town council deserve the thanks of the community for the progressive action in giving the town the opportunity to secure a complete system of water works.”³⁴ Lastly, from the October 15 issue: “With the best school, best water, best system of waterworks in this part of the State, Carrollton will forge ahead rapidly.”³⁵

In the early 20th century, every town and city in the state and in the rest of the country vied to catch up with, or remain ahead of other communities in planning, infrastructure, and development, especially in water works systems. The penultimate symbol of a town’s progressiveness was the water tower. Carol Ann Dubie, in her Master’s Thesis, explained the prominence and sense of progress of a water tower:

These structures also were symbols of industrial or municipal improvement and reflected the prosperity and progressive outlook of their sponsors. Although a single element in an often complex storage and distribution system, the elevated water storage structure was the most visible component of a water works costing thousands of dollars and often employed the most advanced principles of civil engineering.³⁶

Reflecting, perhaps, the spirit of progress and competitiveness among the state’s municipalities, larger papers statewide covered Carrollton’s water works progress. In May 1904, the *Clarion-Ledger* in Jackson noted, “The citizens are determined to have a system of waterworks, and to that end have put in circulation a petition directed to the board of mayor and aldermen, asking that they call an election on the matter.”³⁷ The *Clarion-Ledger* further documented Carrollton’s progress in June 1904: “The town of Carrollton has awarded the contract for the construction of a waterworks system costing \$25,000.”³⁸ In November, the *Jackson Daily News* announced that “the little town of Carrollton is soon to have waterworks and sewerage.”³⁹

³² “Waterworks,” *The Conservative*, May 7, 1904.

³³ “Progress and Prosperity,” *The Conservative*, May 21, 1904.

³⁴ “Waterworks for Town of Carrollton,” *The Conservative*, June 4, 1904.

³⁵ “Electric Light Troubles,” *The Conservative*, October 15, 1904.

³⁶ Dubie, “The Architecture and Engineering of Elevated Water Storage Structures: 1870-1940,” 2.

³⁷ “Want Waterworks: Citizens of Carrollton are Talking about a Plant,” *Clarion-Ledger*, May 3, 1904.

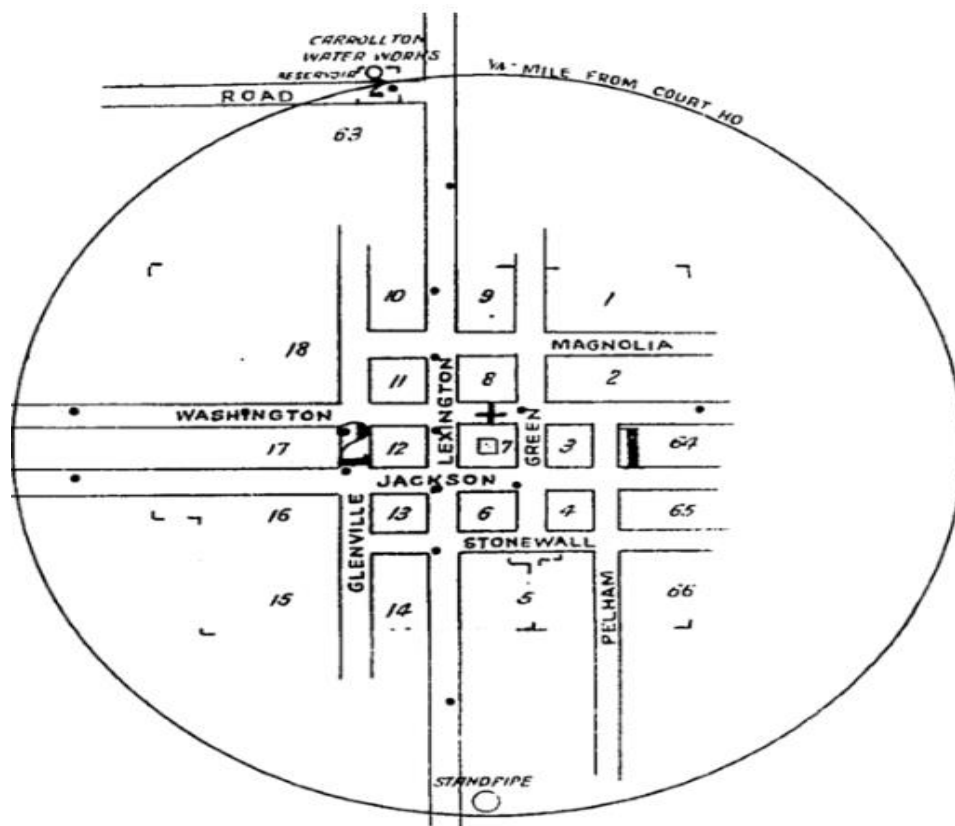
³⁸ *Weekly Clarion-Ledger*, June 30, 1904.

³⁹ “To have Waterworks,” *Jackson Daily News*, November 25, 1904.

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Under the leadership of Mayor W. H. Hafner, Carrollton built its first public water system, and the 1904 standpipe tower was part of that project. Other town officials associated with the project were Aldermen Henry Bryant, Charlie Gee, Reid Bingham, C. R. Peavy, Ed Merrill, W. C. McDougal, Dr. Sam Hart, and W. D. Kimbrough as the clerk. The water tower was constructed by Smith Brothers of Tennessee. Installation of the water pipes was done by county prisoners under the supervision of Simon Turner, Sr. The pumps were operated by a steam engine. The cost of the project was \$10,000.00, which is \$307,378 in 2021 monetary value. Customers were charged a flat monthly fee of \$1.50. A law was passed to prevent residents from leaving water connections to the water plant open with a penalty of a fine of \$50.00, thirty days in jail, or both.⁴⁰



(Sanborn map of Carrollton, MS in 1925)

⁴⁰ WPA State-wide Historic Research Project. *Source Material for Mississippi History*, "Chapter XV – Industries WPA County Files; Carroll County," (1936-38), pgs. 7-8. Published online Mississippi Library Commission, 2021. <https://mlc.lib.ms.us/wp-content/uploads/Digitized%20Microfilms%20Carroll%20County.pdf>. Accessed October 15, 2021.

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In 1937, a new well was dug to supply the standpipe tower with water through a Works Progress Administration project. The Corlass Well Company of Memphis, Tennessee dug the new well and installed a Cook Deep Well Turbine for a total cost of \$1,700.00. Jas. H. Turney was mayor with C. L. Gee, T. W. Tardy, W. D. Neal, W. B. Vance, and Ralph Hansbrough serving as aldermen.⁴¹

In 1959, the Carrollton Water Tower was selected as a benchmark for the Coastal and Geodetic Survey.⁴² The tower is an official benchmark, and is used in combination with other benchmarks to accurately scale maps. According to Dr. Alan Barefield, this is the only benchmark in Carroll County.

Today, the 1979 double ellipsoidal tank that replaced the 1904 standpipe tower serves the Town of Carrollton as well as a new water service along Hwy 82, west of Carrollton. This new tower was built under the administration of Mayor Harold Scruggs, supported by Aldermen M. G. Dunn, J. P. Rials, J. K. McGregor, B. M. Taylor, and Clint Gee, III. According to the board minutes following the November 2, 1976 Public Hearing, Willis Engineering of Grenada developed the plans, and the project was paid for through a HUD grant for \$500,000.00.⁴³

In 2014, the Carrollton Water Tower was added to the list of Mississippi Landmarks maintained by the Mississippi Department of Archives and History.⁴⁴ Future plans for the Water Tower are to give it a new coat of the original aluminum paint, add “Carrollton 1834” to the north side facing the town, and create a park at the foot of the rise so visitors can stop, rest, and learn about the water tower from the historic marker Carrollton plans to install.⁴⁵

Engineering: The Carrollton Standpipe Water Tower is the only historic water tank in the town. The Carrollton Water Tower is an example of a standpipe design popular in the early 20th century when public water systems were rapidly evolving around the United States. “Standpipe” historically referred to cylindrical towers used to maintain water pressure for distribution systems. Calling it a “standing column,” William J. McAlpine’s 1850 report on the Albany, NY water works contains the first reference of a standpipe water tower in the United States. The first known installation of a standpipe water tower in America was in Germantown, Pennsylvania in

⁴¹ Downs, Kenny. “Carrollton’s First Public Utilities.” *The Conservative: Carroll County Rebroadcast*, to be printed; WPA State-wide Historical Research Project. *Source Material for Mississippi History*, “Chapter XV – Industries WPA County Files; Carroll County,” (1936-38), pgs. 7-8. Published online Mississippi Library Commission, 2021. <https://mlc.lib.ms.us/wp-content/uploads/Digitized%20Microfilms%20/Carroll%20County.pdf>. Accessed October 26, 2021; Town of Carrollton Minute Book. Vol. 1, page 21. August 4, 1936.

⁴² Coast and Geodetic Survey datasheet. Accessed November 8, 2021. ngs.noaa.gov/cgi-bin/ds_mark.pl?PidBox=DJ2054.

⁴³ Town of Carrollton Minutes. Volume III, Page 389. August 7, 1979.

⁴⁴ Carroll County Records. Book 154, Page 187, September 29, 2014.

⁴⁵ Carrollton Historic Water Tower CHP Grant Application. Submitted September 2021.

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1851.⁴⁶ The design continued to be popular through the 19th and early 20th century. The Carrollton Water Tower design is typical of the later part of the standpipe era before true elevated tanks came into fashion.⁴⁷

The tower has a brick base which was probably local brick as Carrollton had three brick yards at the time the tower was built. The base serves to elevate the tank somewhat and to provide a level foundation for it. The tank, made of riveted steel plates, is attached to the base with four large screws. The structure is 60 feet tall, 15 feet in diameter, and holds 38,000 gallons. An attached ladder leads to the top where the wrought iron “widow’s walk” still crowns the top of the tank. The tower has not been modified since it was first put into use, retaining its integrity of materials, workmanship, location, and association. The lower end of the attached ladder used to access the top of the tower was removed to discourage climbers when the tower was abandoned.

The Conservative displayed that the people of Carrollton recognized that they needed to have a clean water source, and the health benefits which accompanied such. The need for clean water had been an on-going concern for many communities, and once water works systems were created to be able to deliver clean water, there was a massive demand for these systems. Morris Pierce’s quote further stressed this point:

Public water supplies remain a critical factor in improving the health and well-being of urban populations and are instrumental to reducing illness and mortality rates. Every civilization has had public water supplies, which encompass a wide range of activities including individual consumers gathering water from a nearby lake, river, spring or well, deliveries of water to consumers by a public or private entity, and distribution of water through artificial channels such as aqueducts, canals, or pipelines. ... Builders of early American waterworks drew on a wide range of European experience, including the writings of the Roman architect Vitruvius and accounts of archeological discoveries of Roman waterworks in England and elsewhere. Historical accounts of early London waterworks were also known as well as the Parisian waterworks projects in the 1780s. ... In Mississippi, Natchez installed a water system in 1819, followed by Vicksburg, Fayette, and Columbus. ... Technological developments were a major factor in the widespread adoption of waterworks. These include major elements such as pipes and pumps, as well as others such as valves, meters, fire hydrants, filtration, and disinfection.⁴⁸

Aqueduct systems gave way to systems with pipes and pumps, which were supported by tanks, whether standpipe or elevated. As the technology became more readily available, water works

⁴⁶ Pierce, Morris A. “Documentary History of American Water Works.” WaterWorksHistory.us, 2016.

⁴⁷ Schmitt, Erin. “The Shape of Water Towers: An Engineering History.”
tpomag.com/online_exclusives/2018/07/the-shape-of-water-towers-an-engineering-history. July 23, 2018.

⁴⁸ Pierce, Morris A. Documentary History of American Water Works. WaterWorksHistory.us. 2017.

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systems became more reliable, and were much better at performing the tasks they were created to do. As noted by the National Register nomination for the Hernando Water Tower in Hernando, Mississippi:

The primary purpose of water tanks is to store water, pressurize water systems, and for fire protection. Water towers provide extra water storage for a town's water supply. They hold about a day's worth of water, so if the town's pumps fail, the water tower acts as a backup water supply. Water towers are built high up because they need the pressure produced by the elevation of the water to push water into the town's water pipes, so no pump is needed. But mainly a water tower is used to handle excess demand, generally in the morning when people use more water at the same time. At night, when usage is down, the water tower refills itself from the town's water supply. A pump is used to get the water up into the water tower.⁴⁹

The standpipe water tower design fulfilled the basic purpose for which it was built: to house water, and provide adequate pressure to pump water into a town's water system. Typically, standpipe towers were built on higher elevations to create pressure. The additional height of the tower itself aided in the pressurizing process; granting a community ample water pressure. Smaller communities, needing a functioning water system, could not afford the grandiose masonry-encased standpipes that the larger cities had.⁵⁰ They settled to sacrifice aesthetics for practical use, and erected the standard cylindrical tower of iron or steel; satisfied that the standpipe would perform its tasks reliably. Engineers Ravi Jayaraman and Josh Scanlon note that:

A standpipe blends the characteristics and performance of both ground storage and elevated storage tank, with [the] taller design allowing water above the operating range to typically provide gravity-fed pressure. The water below the operating range provides reserve or emergency storage. Standpipes are often used on small systems where less volume is needed, or in situations where a tank site has a high ground elevation relative to the system pressure.⁵¹

As noted earlier, the first mention of a standpipe, in America, was in 1850, and the first raised and functioning standpipe was erected in 1851 in Germantown, PA. Standpipes became more widely used, especially in smaller communities, during the late 19th and early 20th centuries due to the standpipe being "inexpensive, profitable to iron works contractors in the expanding iron and steel industry, and assumed to be simple to design and erect."⁵² Standpipes were not without

⁴⁹ Hernando Water Tower. National Register of Historic Places Registration Form. 2013.

⁵⁰ Evansville Standpipe. National Register of Historic Places Registration Form.

⁵¹ "Choosing the Right Water Storage for Your Community is an Important Decision," <https://www.hrgreen.com/articles/choosing-right-water-storage-community-important-decision/>

⁵² Dubie, "The Architecture and Engineering of Elevated Water Storage Structures: 1870-1940," 37.

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their faults, which were still being researched and countered during this time frame. The 1880s saw multiple failures in engineering standpipes, but the 1890s brought scholarly research to the forefront in the hopes of curbing the problems to produce a more reliable structure.⁵³ This new scholarly research on standpipes was put to the test in Mississippi between 1896 and 1898. The town of Summit, MS constructed their own standpipe water tower, and due to its structural integrity, remained the town's primary source of water until it was retired in 1950.⁵⁴ By the time Carrollton built their standpipe water tower in 1904, many of the issues which had plagued the earlier standpipes had been resolved.

⁵³ Dubie, "The Architecture and Engineering of Elevated Water Storage Structures: 1870-1940," 41-42.

⁵⁴ Summit Standpipe. Mississippi Landmark Significance Report. 2012.

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tpomag.com/online_exclusives/2018/07/the-shape-of-water-towers-an-engineering-history. July 23, 2018.

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Previous documentation on file (NPS):

- 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 # _____
- recorded by Historic American Landscape Survey # _____

Primary location of additional data:

- State Historic Preservation Office
- Other State agency
- Federal agency
- Local government
- University
- Other
- Name of repository: _____

Historic Resources Survey Number (if assigned): 015-CAR-0076-ML

10. Geographical Data

Acreege of Property 0.9 acres

Use either the UTM system or latitude/longitude coordinates

Latitude/Longitude Coordinates

Datum if other than WGS84: _____

(enter coordinates to 6 decimal places)

- 1. Latitude: 33.504361 Longitude: -89.919417
- 2. Latitude: Longitude:
- 3. Latitude: Longitude:
- 4. Latitude: Longitude:

S-18 T 19N R- 4E SW ¼ corner of the SW ¼

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Or
UTM References

Datum (indicated on USGS map):

NAD 1927 or NAD 1983

- | | | |
|----------|-----------|-----------|
| 1. Zone: | Easting: | Northing: |
| 2. Zone: | Easting: | Northing: |
| 3. Zone: | Easting: | Northing: |
| 4. Zone: | Easting : | Northing: |

Verbal Boundary Description (Describe the boundaries of the property.)

A certain piece of ground in the Town of Carrollton in said County upon which is now situated the Stand Pipe of the Water Works system of said Town to-wit: To measure a distance of 15 feet in every direction from the center of said Stand Pipe, but not to go further west than the eastern edge of the Drive Way, leading from the Lexington Street of said Town to the residence of said J. T. McKay, and it is understood that said Drive Way is to remain open and the said Town shall have free egress and regress over said Drive Way for the purpose of repairing said Stand Pipe or for any other purpose _____ therewith. It is further agreed that the Town shall have the right to use the ground adjacent to said Stand Pipe out the limits of land hereby conveyed, for the purpose of storing material as any time, said Stand Pipe may have to be repaired.

Witness my signature this Nov. 12th, 1908 J. T. McKay

Additional Information:

Debrah H. Young and husband R. Kevin Young, as tenants by entirety with the right of survivorship, and not as tenants in common, we hereby grant to the Town of Carrollton, Mississippi, the right to use that certain plot of land on which stands the Town of Carrollton Public Water Tank with the right to access thereto as shown by deed recorded in land deed book 23 at page 590. This parcel of land can be used at your secretion (example: cutting trees, landscaping and etc.) as long as the property is maintained for a period of twenty-five years (25).

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Signed R. Kevin Young, Debrah H. Young, owners and Russell H. Wilson, Mayor Town of Carrollton September 24, 2015

Boundary Justification (Explain why the boundaries were selected.)

The land on which the stand pipe sits is bordered by Ms Highways 17/35 on the east and Lexington Street on the west, where the roads merge.

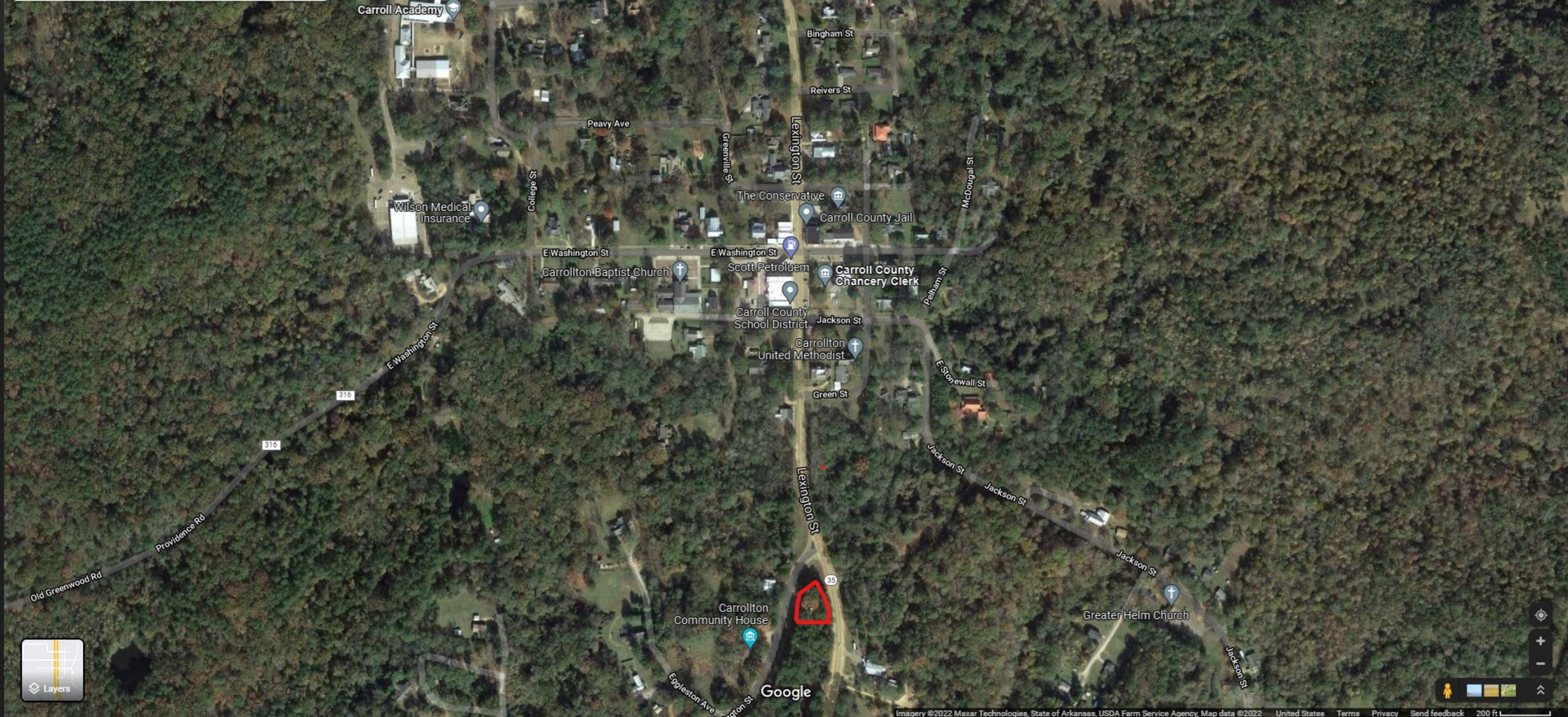
11. Form Prepared By

name/title: Pamela R. Lee
organization: Town of Carrollton
street & number: 701 Lexington Street
city or town: Carrollton state: Mississippi zip code: 38917
e-mail pamela.lee79@gmail.com
telephone: 662-392-4810
date: _____

Additional Documentation

Submit the following items with the completed form:

- **Maps:** A **USGS map** or equivalent (7.5 or 15 minute series) indicating the property's location.
- **Sketch map** for historic districts and properties having large acreage or numerous resources. Key all photographs to this map.
- **Additional items:** (Check with the SHPO, TPO, or FPO for any additional items.)



Carroll Academy

Bingham St

Reivers St

Peavy Ave

College St

Greenville St

Lexington St

McDougal St

Wilson Medical Insurance

The Conservative

Carroll County Jail

E Washington St

E Washington St

Carrollton Baptist Church

Scott Petroleum

Carroll County Chancery Clerk

Carroll County School District

Jackson St

Carrollton United Methodist

Green St

E Stonewall St

316

316

Old Greenwood Rd

Providence Rd

Lexington St

Jackson St

Jackson St

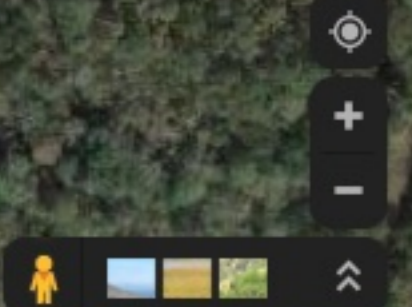
Jackson St

Greater Helm Church

Carrollton Community House

Eggleston Ave

Google





Lexington St

Lexington St

Lexington St

17

35

17

Google



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Photographs

Submit clear and descriptive photographs. The size of each image must be 1600x1200 pixels (minimum), 3000x2000 preferred, at 300 ppi (pixels per inch) or larger. Key all photographs to the sketch map. Each photograph must be numbered and that number must correspond to the photograph number on the photo log. For simplicity, the name of the photographer, photo date, etc. may be listed once on the photograph log and doesn't need to be labeled on every photograph.

Photo Log

Name of Property: Carrollton Water Tower

City or Vicinity: Carrollton

County: Carroll County

State: MS

Photographer: early photos are unknown, 2021 photos made by Pamela Lee

Date Photographed: March 12, 2021

Description of Photograph(s) and number, include description of view indicating direction of camera:

- 1 of 11 – Water Tower soon after completion – undated, appears to be taken from the northwest
- 2 of 11 – Water Tower a few years after completion – circa 1960s
- 3 of 11 – Water Tower – 2021, taken from Lexington, west of tower
- 4 of 11 – Water Tower with pine tree – 2021, taken from south side
- 5 of 11 – Water Tower with oak tree – 2021, taken from north side
- 6 of 11 - Water Tower's brick base and pipe– 2021, taken from west side, washed are is being filled in.
- 7 of 11 – Water Tower bolts at base – 2021 taken from east side
- 8 of 11 - Water Tower and base – 2021, taken from east
- 9 of 11 – Water Tower – 2021, taken from south
- 10 of 11 – Water Tower's riveted seam – 2021
- 11 or 11 – Water Tower revealed, ready for prep and paint – 7/19/2021

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Paperwork Reduction Act Statement: This information is being collected for nominations 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.460 et seq.). We may not conduct or sponsor and you are not required to respond to a collection of information unless it displays a currently valid OMB control number.

Estimated Burden Statement: Public reporting burden for each response using this form is estimated to be between the Tier 1 and Tier 4 levels with the estimate of the time for each tier as follows:

- Tier 1 – 60-100 hours
- Tier 2 – 120 hours
- Tier 3 – 230 hours
- Tier 4 – 280 hours

The above estimates include time for reviewing instructions, gathering and maintaining data, and preparing and transmitting nominations. Send comments regarding these estimates or any other aspect of the requirement(s) to the Service Information Collection Clearance Officer, National Park Service, 1201 Oakridge Drive Fort Collins, CO 80525.

MS_Carroll County_Carrollton Water
Tower_0001



MS_Carroll County_Carrollton Water
Tower_0002



MS_Carroll County_Carrollton Water
Tower_0003



MS_Carroll County_Carrollton Water Tower_0004



MS_Carroll County_Carrollton Water Tower_0005



MS_Carroll County_Carrollton Water Tower_0006



MS_Carroll County_Carrollton Water
Tower_0007



MS_Carroll County_Carrollton Water
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MS_Carroll County_Carrollton Water Tower_0009



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Tower_0010



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