

## SUMMARY OF PROPOSED NATIONAL REGISTER/GEORGIA REGISTER NOMINATION

1. Name: Savannah Water Works Pump House

2. Location: 1204 West Gwinnett Street, Savannah, Chatham County, Georgia

3a. Description: The Savannah Water Works Pump House is located at the corner of West Gwinnett Street and Stiles Avenue, approximately two miles southwest of Savannah City Hall and just east of the National Register-listed Carver Village Historic District. The Romanesque Revival-style pump house, built in 1892, is one of several city-owned buildings on a nearly nine-acre parcel adjacent to the Springfield Canal. The building is comprised of four distinct original sections: the rectangular side-gabled engine room, facing West Gwinnett Street; the rectangular gabled boiler room, extending to the north; the three-story square tower, located on the east elevation where the two rooms meet; and the cylindrical chimney stack, which sits atop a high square base on the west elevation. Red brick walls with red tinted mortar create a smooth monolithic wall surface, and rough-faced and smooth granite banding, inset brick panels, brick corbelling, and terra cotta detailing provide the industrial building's modest ornamentation. The engine room and boiler room both have roof monitors with multi-light steel windows, low parapet walls on their gabled ends, and large round-arch window and door openings. Windows within the engine room and the first two floors of the square tower are topped with arched terra cotta tiles featuring molded images of water-related vegetation, while the third floor of the tower has two open round arches on each elevation. As the main façade, the south elevation of the engine room has the building's most decorative elements with a terra cotta plaque noting its 1892 construction date above a smooth granite band and a large arched entrance with a terra cotta keystone depicting a lion's head and terra cotta corner panels with molded vegetation. Corbelling on this façade is further accentuated by terra cotta panels within the cornice. The west elevation of the engine room contains a large oculus above another arched entrance. Non-historic metal and concrete-block additions are on the south and east elevations, respectively. The interior of this industrial facility consists of largely open spaces and has concrete floors, partially white-washed brick walls, and exposed steel trusses. Recessed brick panels and arched terra cotta tiles, like those found on the exterior, are in the engine room, indicating its prominence within the building.

3b. Period of Significance: 1892-1940

3c. Acreage: Less than one acre

3d. Boundary Explanation: The boundary of the nominated property is the footprint of the building.

4a. National Register Criterion: A and C

4b. National Register Areas of Significance: Community Planning and Development, Architecture

4c. Statement of Significance: The Savannah Water Works Pump House is significant under Criterion A in the area of community planning and development as the only extant resource from the late 19<sup>th</sup> century industrial municipal facility developed to distribute clean water to properties throughout Savannah. Its innovative use of emerging technologies in municipal water distribution and efforts implored by the City of Savannah to promote the welfare of its citizens through the construction and use of the most advanced technology available, resulted in a city-wide plan to provide clean water to all. The Savannah Water Works Pump House is also significant under Criterion C in the area of architecture as a representative example of a Romanesque Revival-style industrial building. The facility embodies architectural features synonymous with the style, which was often applied to public and large-scale buildings and was popular from the 1840s to the end of the 19<sup>th</sup> century. According to Marcus Whiffen's *American Architecture Since 1780*, the Romanesque Revival style used semicircular arches for all openings, and "nearly always the round-arch form is repeated in miniature in the arcaded corbel table." The pump house exhibits both examples of the arch form, as window and door openings throughout the building have semicircular arches, and the smaller round-arch form is found in the cornice on all elevations but is especially apparent on the main facade where the molded terra cotta forms a distinct and repetitive line, or arcade, of small arches along the cornice. Other elements of the style as defined by Whiffen, and found at the pump house, include a tower finished with a parapet, asymmetrical massing, wheel (or oculus) windows, and broad and smooth wall surfaces.

4d. Suggested Level of Significance: The property is being nominated at the local level of significance as a good example of a municipal facility integral in distributing clean water to Savannah's citizens and exhibiting the Romanesque Revival-style as applied to an industrial building.

5. Sponsor: The nomination is sponsored by the property owner, the City of Savannah, and nomination materials were prepared by Sarah Ward of Ward Architecture + Preservation.