

# MANHATTAN'S HISTORIC LANDMARKS & DISTRICTS

## Landmark Water Tower

The 316,000 gallon Landmark Water Tower was constructed in 1922. The water tower helped expand the waterworks and equalize water pressure throughout Manhattan. It is no longer used as a water tower or viewing tower but serves as a historic landmark for the area.



Landmark Water Tower, 00 Sunset Avenue

The water tower is a standpipe with a cylindrical tower over 50 feet tall, topped with a conical roof. It features exposed brackets on its roof and a circular walkway that was once used as a viewing deck. The viewing deck was accessed by a metal staircase that curves around the standpipe.

Waterworks facilities were constructed in 1888 after a fire risk survey identified Manhattan as at risk. Prior to 1888, there was no public water system in place and only one firefighting engine available. By the early 1900s, residents called for expansion of the water system and increased water pressure and the Landmark Water Tower was built in 1922. The water tower was later decommissioned in 1960.

point it was referred to as the “Standpipe” but after a lengthy public debate to save the historical structure did it become known as the Landmark Water Tower.

The only known alteration to the structure includes the removal of the bottom two sections of the staircase to prevent access for safety purposes and to prevent vandalism.

*Source: Kansas State Historical Society  
National Register of Historic Places-Nomination form*

