

SELFIDGE FIELD, BUILDING NO. 7200  
(Water Tank and Tower)  
(East Water Tower)  
S. of George Ave. between Walnut and Beach Sts.  
Mt. Clemens vicinity  
Macomb County  
Michigan

HAER No. MI-116-0

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PHOTOGRAPHS

WRITTEN HISTORICAL AND DESCRIPTIVE DATA

HISTORIC AMERICAN ENGINEERING RECORD  
National Park Service  
Great Lakes Systems Office  
Department of the Interior  
1709 Jackson Street  
Omaha, NE 68102-2571

HISTORIC AMERICAN ENGINEERING RECORD

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SELFRIDGE FIELD, HAER No. MI-116-O  
BUILDING #7200 (WATER TANK AND TOWER )  
(East Water Tower)

Location: South of George Avenue between Walnut Street and Beagle Street  
Selfridge Air National Guard Base, Mt. Clemens vicinity,  
Macomb County, Michigan  
U.S.G.S. Mount Clemens East Quadrangle, Universal Transverse  
Mercator Coordinates: 17.350790.4719000

Significance: This functional structure, a tower is visible from virtually the entire base, was erected during the period of initial permanent construction at Selfridge to service the water distribution system as the base was expanded and upgraded.

Description: This 116 foot tall structure consists of 82 feet of steel structural beams supporting the base of a 54 foot tall, 32 foot diameter reservoir tank constructed of riveted steel plates. Its conical roof is capped by a beacon finial. The six steel braced legs produced by Bethlehem Steel Company are anchored in massive concrete footings and form a structural base diameter 55 feet. The main vertical structural beams are strengthened by horizontal steel struts and diagonal support rods. A maintenance catwalk is placed around the circumference of the tank base, supporting a ladder that leads to the tank roof. A central stand pipe descends from the base of the tank to the surface, connected to the Heater Building at its base.

History: Building #7200, East Water Tower, was erected in 1930. This tower was erected from plans provided by Pittsburgh Des Moines Steel Company to replace the original wooden reservoir, and serviced the rapidly expanding demand for water as the base grew rapidly prior to and during World War II. In 1967 the signal beacon at the tip of the tower was replaced. This tower continues to service the base today.

Sources: Mihalak, Joseph, Evolution of Family Housing Selfridge Air National Guard Base Mount Clemens, Michigan, Historical Office, U.S. Army Tank-Automotive Command, 20, January, 1988.

Nigro, Louis, Selfridge Air National Guard Base, An Unofficial History, unpublished ms., Public Information Office, Selfridge ANG Base, Michigan, 1977.

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Original plans on file, "Water Tank and Tower," Pittsburgh Des Moines Steel Company, Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania, on file, Selfridge Base Museum and base Civil Engineering.

Copy of construction drawing, dated November 10, 1930, Pittsburgh Des Moines Steel Company, Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania, in possession of Selfridge Base Museum, Mt. Clemens, Michigan. Selfridge Field Erection Drawing, Contract No. 1895, Sheet No. 15.

Copy of construction drawing, dated February 11, 1972, Selfridge Air National Guard Base, in possession of Selfridge Base Museum, Mt. Clemens, Michigan. Repair Beacon Light on Water Tower, Location Plan, Vicinity Map, Elevation, Beacon Light and Notes, Sheet 1 of 3. SLF 130-067.

Interview, Colonel Robert Stone (Ret.), Curator, Selfridge Base Museum, October 13, 1995.

Historian:

William E. Rutter  
Midwest Environmental Consultants, Inc.  
May, 1996