



MEMORANDUM

"...meeting community needs...enhancing quality of life."

TO: Historic Preservation Commission

FROM: Don Harp, Principal Planner

DATE: May 20, 2014

RE: Update Wisconsin Historic Marker Application - Vulcan Hydroelectric Power Plant replica building

On November 14, 2013, staff indicated the Wisconsin Historical Society confirmed the surplus funds in the amount of \$1460 from Certified Local Government Grant #55-13-51956-03 (Rogers House/Hearthstone) can be used to purchase a State Historical Marker Sign for the Vulcan Hydro-Electric Replica Building. The anticipated cost of the State Historical Sign to accommodate the wording for the sign is approximately \$1610. The cost difference between the surplus grant funds and cost of the sign will be paid utilizing funds from the Community and Economic Development Department budget.

On March 17, 2014, the Wisconsin Historical Society indicated they are working with the American Society of Mechanical Engineers Committee on History and Heritage and The Institute of Electrical and Electronics Engineers regarding fact checking the narrative language provided by the Commission. (See below)

Hydroelectric Central Station – Replica

Near this site in November 1882, a hydroelectric central station began operation. Known as the Vulcan Street Plant, it had a direct current generator capable of lighting 250 sixteen candle power lamps, each equivalent to 50 watts. The generator operated at 110 volts and was driven through gears and belts by a water wheel operating under a ten foot fall of water. Initially, the Vulcan Plant served two homes and four commercial customers.

This replica was built in 1932 by the Wisconsin/Michigan Power Co. to commemorate the 50th anniversary of the original plant opening. Like the original, it houses an Edison "K" dynamo.

In 1977, it was designated as a National Historic Civil, Mechanical and Electric Engineering landmark. The replica first stood on Olde Oneida Street and was moved to this location in 1987.

If you have any questions, please feel free to contact me.