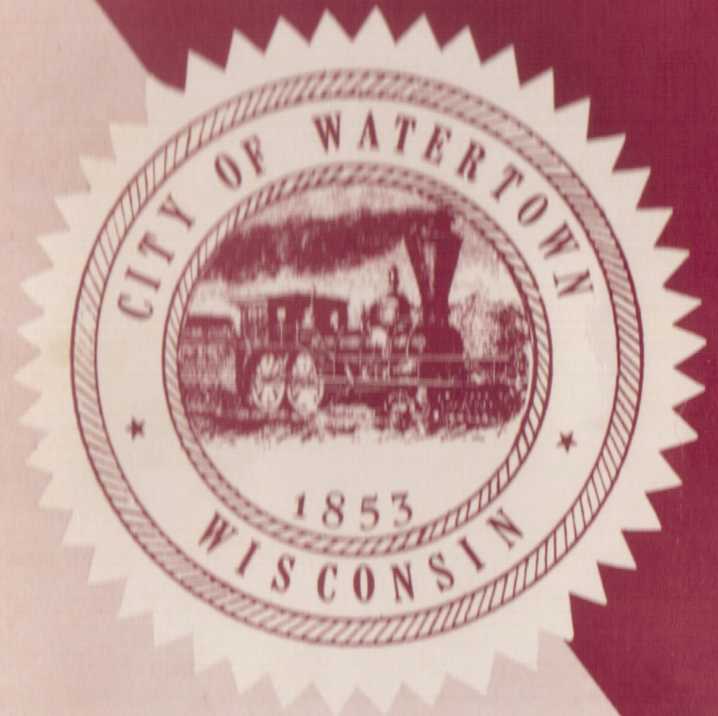


# *Watertown*



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# *Watertown*

The City and Its Government

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*League of Women Voters of Watertown, Wisconsin*

Revised 1971

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# "A Common Seal"

The cover design is the official seal of the city of Watertown which has been used by city officials to certify documents since 1953. It is believed that the locomotive on the seal symbolized the city's expectation of becoming one of the state's influential railroad centers.

All chapter titles are direct quotations from the Charter of the city of Watertown which was adopted in 1853. The Charter reads,

*"And shall be called a city by the name of Watertown . . .  
and shall have a common seal . . ."*

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## — ILLUSTRATIONS —

*Courtesy of Mrs. E. Gruner Reichert and Mr. David Nielsen, Watertown*

## — COVER AND CARTOGRAPHY —

*Courtesy of Mrs. R. Ebert, Watertown*

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— OCTAGON HOUSE —

The Octagon House, an imposing residence built by John Richards in the early 1850's, is one of the most outstanding historical landmarks in the middle west. It is operated by the Watertown Historical Society to whom it was deeded by Mrs. Charles Richards in 1939. It is maintained by membership dues, visitor's fees, and aid from the city of Watertown. Full-time custodians reside on the grounds of the house and a volunteer curator administers its museum.

Also on the Octagon House grounds stands the relocated and restored schoolhouse in which was founded the first kindergarten in America, the city's only national claim to fame. The newest addition to the grounds is a restored 100 year old barn which was moved from its original site on the old Watertown-Milwaukee Plank Road.

## I. "And the people inhabiting"

*A History of Watertown* — The Indians called this area *Ka-Ka-ree*, meaning "ox bow", which describes the double bend in the Rock River flowing through what is now Watertown.

The first white settler was Timothy Johnson, who was born in Connecticut and later moved to Ohio. When he heard of the fertile land and abundance of game, he sold his farm in Ohio and in 1836 began to explore the Rock River Valley in the Territory of Wisconsin. At one place in the river, Johnson recognized the potential value of the rapids and nearby spring of good water. Here, near the present Bethesda Lutheran Home, he claimed 1,000 acres of land and named his claim, Johnson's Rapids. His settlement was destined to become the city of Watertown.

Six years later, in 1842, the town's first government was established; and in 1849, Watertown was incorporated as a village. Incorporation as a city and the adoption of a charter took place in 1853, seventeen years after Timothy Johnson first settled here.

Theodore Prentiss, Watertown's first mayor, might have said, "By the time we received our city charter in 1853, there were 4,000 people living here, and Watertown was considered one of the most advanced and promising cities in Wisconsin. Within two years we were the second largest city in the state with a population of 8,512."

The first settlers, people of English, Irish, and Scotch descent, migrated chiefly from the eastern states. However, the city's rapid growth was due mainly to the influx of German immigrants who fled during Germany's 1848 and 1849 social and economic revolutions. Many of these immigrants were university graduates who had studied Latin and the Classics. They would gather at local taverns to discourse in Greek and Latin and thereby earned the nickname "Lateinische Farmers", the Latin Farmers. Many of these Germans did not succeed at farming and as a result went into trades such as tanning, brewing, tavern keeping, and milling.

Typical of these "Latin farmers" was Carl Schurz, a German scholar who had studied law. While he lived in Watertown he was co-editor, with David Blumenfeld, of the *Anzeiger*, the local German newspaper. Many of Schurz's advanced political views were not shared by his fellow citizens, but he later became one of the nation's greatest German-American statesmen and was largely responsible for Abraham Lincoln's winning the midwestern states in his election.

The old-world custom of *Viehmarkt*, meaning cattle fair, was introduced to Watertown in the 1850's. Fair Day, as we know it today, takes place on the second Tuesday of each month, and draws a large number of farmers from the surrounding area. In the city's business district they offer for sale their farm products, livestock, and handiwork of all kinds.

In 1854, Watertown's famous Octagon House was built by John Richards, an early settler from Massachusetts. This house with its fifty-



seven authentically restored rooms is now maintained as a museum by the Watertown Historical Society, and it attracts thousands of visitors annually. The Octagon House was an architectural wonder for its time and over the years has served to inspire and noted architects in the designing of many modern, present day buildings.



On the Octagon House grounds stands another unique attraction, the restored building which housed America's first kindergarten. This kindergarten was established here in 1856 by Margarethe Meyer Schurz, the wife of Carl Schurz. The restored building was moved from its original site downtown in Watertown just 100 years after its founding in 1856. It shows a kindergarten class in session with Mrs. Schurz the teacher and the six original pupils.

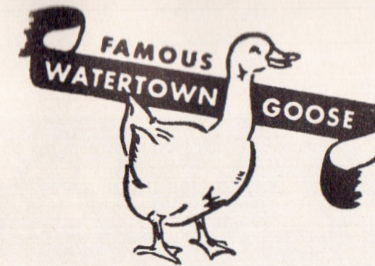


**The First Kindergarten**

A recent addition to the Octagon House grounds is a restored 100 year old barn which was moved from its original site on the old Watertown-Milwaukee Plank Road. It houses early farm implements and other exhibits, including an example of a Watertown Stuffed Goose.

In the 1840's and 1850's, a group of early settlers from Germany introduced goose-noodling to this community. This is the art of force-feeding geese with "noodles" made of meal so that they take on weight rapidly and develop large livers. The delicacy, *pate' de fois gras*, is made from the livers, and "Watertown Goose" was on the menus of many restaurants across the nation.

The Watertown-Milwaukee plank-road made Watertown an excellent stopping point for farmers and others transporting goods to the lake shore. They had to bring small loads over the rough roads into Watertown, but because of the plank-road from Watertown to Milwau-



The Watertown Goose has provided the city high school athletic teams with the name "Goslings".

kee, they could haul heavier loads out of Watertown. Watertown became a prosperous reshipping point.

Between 1853 and 1855 the Watertown government issued nearly a half million dollars in bonds to provide capital for two railroads — the Chicago & Fond du Lac Company and the Milwaukee, Watertown & Madison Road — to build lines through the city. The railroads promised the city to secure this capital with a mortgage on the railroad property when the lines were constructed, but this promise was never fulfilled.

The railroads defaulted on the interest payments to the city and declared themselves bankrupt. Later, the Chicago & Fond du Lac Company converted these bonds to its stock at less than face value. The Milwaukee, Watertown & Madison Road refused to do even this. The people who owned the remaining bonds sold them to speculators for a fraction of their original cost, and the speculators then brought suit against Watertown to force payment on these bonds.

The city was determined to protect its property holders from the additional taxes needed to meet these payments. The action of the speculators' buying the bond at a fraction of the original cost made the city even more reluctant to pay for the bonds since the original owners had already taken their losses. For many years Watertown did not have a formal government and thereby could not be served with a court order to levy and collect taxes to make this payment. After thirty-five years of court litigation, the court order was dismissed, and Watertown returned to a formal government.

In the early years of the court action, 2,000 residents moved away and Watertown's population did not increase for many years. Near the turn of the century people began once again to move to Watertown, but more slowly this time. Watertown's prestige, both as a city and as a thriving economic center, had been seriously affected.

**Watertown Today** — The city of Watertown today, as at the time of its original platting, covers an area of nine square miles. The city has a population of 15,683, and is divided into 14 wards. Its zoning areas are residential, commercial, light industrial, and heavy industrial with most of the heavy industry concentrated at the south end of the city. Watertown is located in a dairy farming area midway between Milwaukee and Madison and is in both Jefferson and Dodge Counties.

The city is 824 feet above sea level and is laid out on the slopes of a small valley. The Rock River enters the city at the southeast, winds



its way northwest past Riverside Park, forms an "ox-bow", and leaves the city at the southwest corner. Many scenic areas along the river provide excellent places for parks and homes. The river is used for fishing, boating, skating, snowmobiling, and waterskiing.



Riverside Park

The city is served by the *Watertown Daily Times*, a newspaper in existence since 1895, and by radio station WTTN which was established in 1950. A total of nine television stations from Madison and Milwaukee can be received in the Watertown area.

Watertown's industries produce widely diversified products. A partial list of the many products manufactured and processed include:

Coin handling equipment	Frozen sea food
Counting instruments	Custom fabricated metal products
Material handling equipment	Fuses
Specialty paper boxes	Electric control equipment
Transformers	Plastic food handling containers
Industrial heat processing equipment	Dairy equipment
Plastic products	Liquid sugar
Fiberglass components for industry	Castings
Garden tools	Valves and cyclinders
Table slides	Feed and fertilizer
Men's shoes	Canned and bottled beverages
Barley malt flour	Special formula calf food

## II. "For the government"

**Form of Government** — Wisconsin cities are divided into classes according to population. Watertown is designated as a third-class city, which includes cities from 10,000 to 39,000 population. The city of Watertown is the largest city in Jefferson County and has four of its fourteen wards in Dodge County. Watertown uses the mayor-alderman form of government, which has been its form of government most of its history. A city-manager government was present from 1949 to 1961.

The city of Watertown is organized under Chapter 62 of the Wisconsin statutes of 1947. The statutes provide for the mayor-alderman plan of government with a common council composed of a mayor and fourteen aldermen, one from each city ward. The mayor and the aldermen from odd numbered wards are elected for two-year terms in the odd numbered years. The aldermen from the even numbered wards are elected for two year terms in the even numbered years. At the time of election, all candidates must be citizens of the United States and of Wisconsin, be at least twenty-one years of age, and have resided in the state for one year and in the election district for ten days. Voting requirements are the same.

**Common Council** — The common council is the governing body of the city and has jurisdiction over the management and control of city property, finances, highways, navigable waters, and public services. It has the power to act for city order and commerce, and for the public health, safety and welfare. It may carry out its powers by license, regulation, suppression, borrowing of money, tax levy appropriation, fine, imprisonment, confiscation, and other means found necessary or convenient. Two-thirds of the members of the council constitute a quorum, but the mayor is not counted in determining the quorum. To override a veto by the mayor, a three-fourths vote of all members of the council is required.

The Watertown Common Council meets regularly on the first and third Tuesday of each month. The meetings are open to the public and are held in the municipal building at 7:00 p. m. Special meetings may be called by the mayor as needed. The city clerk records the common council proceedings which are published in the *Watertown Daily Times*. The council meetings are also broadcast by radio station WTTN on its FM networks.

**Mayor** — The mayor of Watertown is the chief executive officer. He sees that city ordinances and state laws are observed and enforced and that all city officers and employees discharge their duties. He may recommend measures to the council and may veto any act of the council, but does not have the power to partial veto. He is the presiding officer at all meetings of the common council, of which he is a member, al-



though he may not vote except in the case of a tie. Among his various duties is that of filling specified offices by appointment. Most of these appointments are subject to council confirmation and if the council rejects the mayor's appointee, that individual is ineligible for appointment to the same office for a period of one year.

**Aldermen** — Authority for administering the city government is delegated to boards, commissions, and department heads under the guidance of four standing committees made up of the aldermen. The mayor appoints each alderman to at least one of these committees and each committee consists of at least three members. The committees and their responsibilities are as follows:

**FINANCE COMMITTEE.** Jurisdiction over assessment, treasury, accounting and comptrolling, personnel, and purchasing.

**COMMITTEE OF PUBLIC WORKS.** Jurisdiction over engineering, streets and sewers, waterworks, lighting and airport.

**COMMITTEE OF PUBLIC SAFETY.** Jurisdiction over police, fire, building inspection, and traffic control.

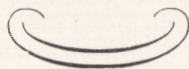
**COMMITTEE OF PUBLIC WELFARE.** Jurisdiction over public health, relief, parks, recreation, and nuisance control.

A president of the council is selected by a majority vote of all members of the council at its annual meeting in April. During the absence of the mayor, the council president serves as acting mayor and exercises all mayoral powers and duties except that of approving any legislation or council act which the mayor has vetoed, which veto must have been filed by him with the city clerk.

The organizational chart indicates all elected officials, appointed departments heads, boards, and commissions with the respective lines of responsibility within Watertown's Government. All government employees are civil service with the exception of the mayor, the aldermen, municipal police justice, and county supervisors.

### *Watertown Representation on County, State and National Levels*

Watertown is represented on the two county boards by ten supervisors elected by districts set up by the county. The ten Jefferson County wards are represented in the state assembly by the Jefferson County Assemblymen; the four Dodge County wards in Watertown are represented by an assemblyman from the county's first district. Representatives from the area in the state senate are one senator from senatorial district number 33, in which Jefferson County is located, and one from senatorial district number 13, which includes Dodge County. On the national level, two senators represent Wisconsin. One congressman from Congressional District number two represents both Jefferson and Dodge Counties.



## *III. "All elections by the people"*

**Elections** — Elections for office in Watertown are non-partisan. Spring primary elections are held on the first Tuesday in March; spring general elections are held on the first Tuesday in April. Candidates for all offices have their names placed on the ballot after circulating and filing nomination papers. The number of signatures required and the filing dates are set by state statute. Write-in votes are permitted in local elections and a majority vote elects a candidate.

Certain active citizens' organizations support candidates for local office. These organizations must register with the city clerk; however, this is not required of individuals who support candidates. If poll watchers are used by the parties, the names must also be filed and certified by their party with the city clerk.

The city wards were redistricted in 1960. In the 1970 fall primary there were 6,835 registered voters in Watertown, 29.32% of whom voted (2,004 ballots). In the 1970 fall election there were 6,960 registered voters, 73.53% of whom voted (5,118 ballots).

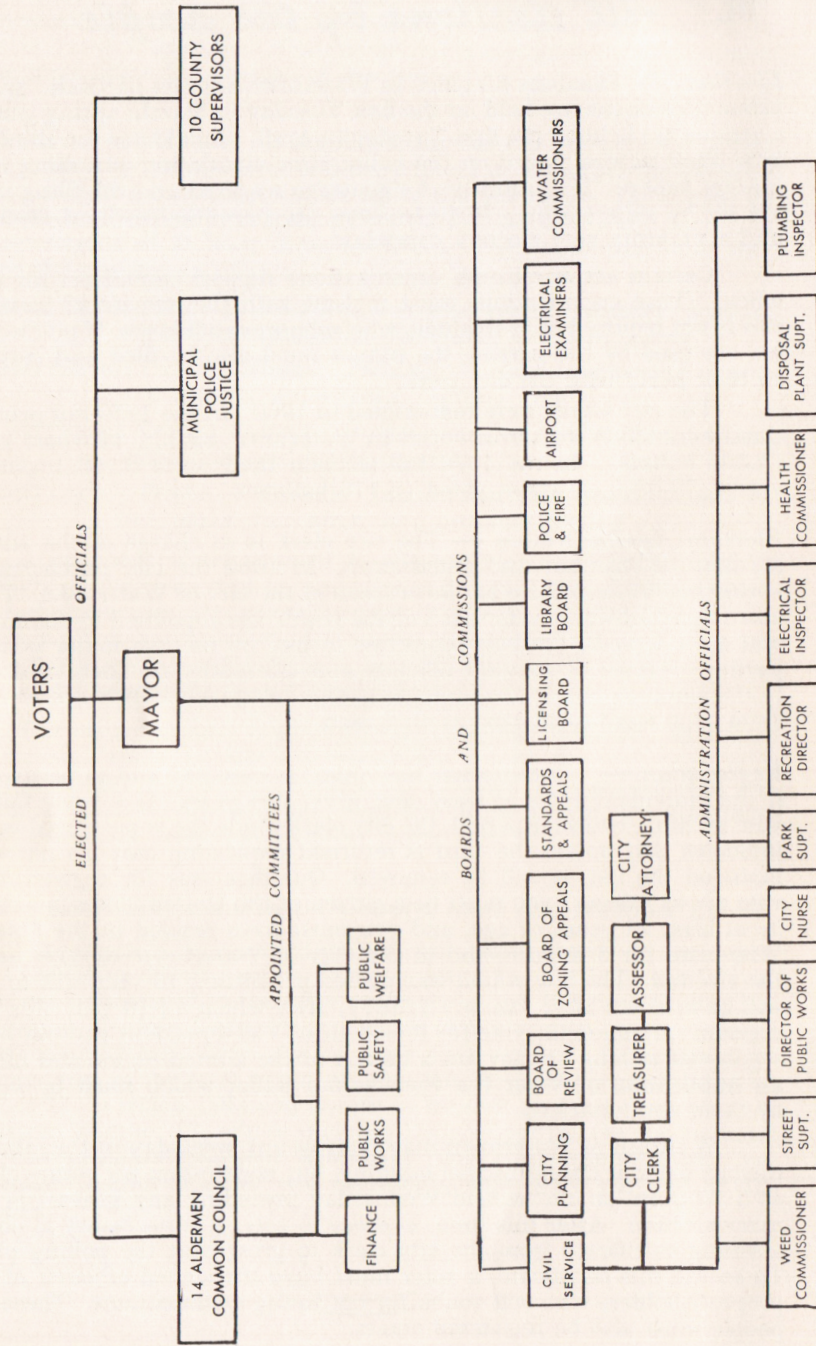
**Election Administration** — The city clerk is in charge of the administration of elections and registration. In 1966 the city purchased 28 voting machines for use by the citizens of the city of Watertown. Three election board workers for each of the wards are appointed by the mayor and are selected from lists submitted to him by the two major political parties. Names of election officials and alternates are then presented to the common council for approval. One of the election board workers from each ward is selected as chairman.

**Registration** — Registration for voting is required and is permanent if the individual votes at least once every two years. If a voter fails to vote within a two-year period, the city clerk sends the voter a card which indicates that unless the card is returned requesting that his name remain on the list, it will be removed. Qualifications for registering to vote are as follows: you must be a citizen of the United States, you must be at least 21 years of age, and you must have resided in the State of Wisconsin for 6 months and in the City of Watertown 10 days before the election. The law which was passed permitting 18 year olds to vote will be in effect after January 1, 1971, after which all 18 year olds may register. Anyone may vote for President or Vice-President without being registered as long as they are a citizen of the United States and fill out an Application of Voter For Presidential Ballot which must be signed by them and notarized.

A citizen of Watertown may register any week-day in the office of the city clerk at the municipal building, but registration for voting closes at 5:00 p. m. on the second Wednesday preceding any general or primary election. After this time, in order to vote, it is necessary to obtain a voting certificate from the city clerk to present at the polling place. To secure this certificate, a voter must have the signed affidavit of two property-holders who will vouch for his voting qualifications. These two people must also be registered voters.



# ORGANIZATIONAL CHART OF WATERTOWN CITY GOVERNMENT

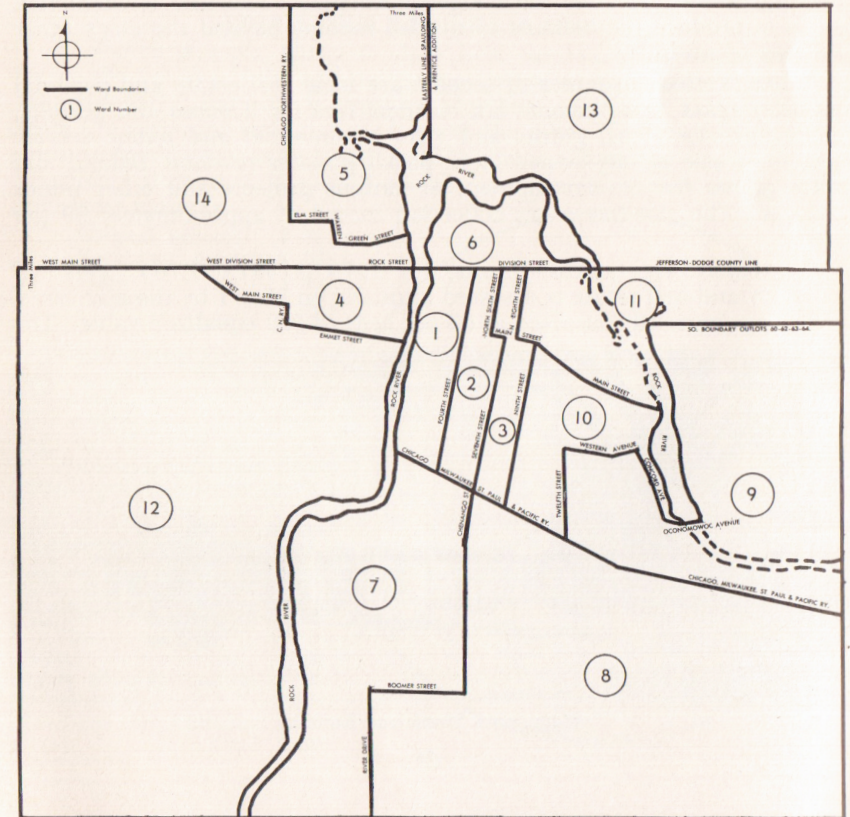


In case of change of name, it is necessary to re-register at the office of the city clerk; persons who have changed their addresses since they last voted, must notify the office of the city clerk of their new address. Changes of address can be reported to the city clerk's office by phone, by mail, or in person. Once one has registered in the City of Watertown, the registration is kept permanently on file. Absentee voting is permitted to servicemen and their families without registration. A voter in Wisconsin is not required to state his party preference when registering.

**Polls** — Polls in Watertown open at 7:00 a. m. and close at 8:00 p. m. The polling places are located as follows:

- First Ward — Municipal Building, 106 Jones Street
- Second Ward — Municipal Building, 106 Jones Street
- Third Ward — High School, 415 Eighth Street
- Fourth Ward — Municipal Building, 106 Jones Street
- Fifth Ward — Fifth Ward Hall, Church and Margaret Streets
- Sixth Ward — Vocational School Annex, 500 Lincoln Street
- Seventh Ward — Electric Building, 315 William Street
- Eighth Ward — Electric Building, 315 William Street
- Ninth Ward — Municipal Building, 106 Jones Street
- Tenth Ward — Municipal Building, 106 Jones Street
- Eleventh Ward — Municipal Building, 106 Jones Street
- Twelfth Ward — St. Bernard's School, 111 Montgomery Street
- Thirteenth Ward — Douglas School, 1120 Center Street
- Fourteenth Ward — Fifth Ward Hall, Church and Margaret Streets

Ward Map of Watertown





## V. "To establish and organize schools"

**Education in Watertown** — The Watertown public elementary and secondary school system is a unified school system and is classified as an Integrated Aid School System. It is organized on a kindergarten through twelfth grade basis. The junior and senior high school buildings and four elementary schools are located within the city limits while two elementary schools are located in rural areas.

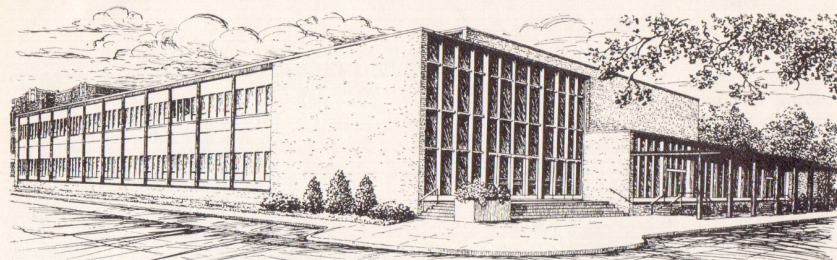
A nine member Board of Education is elected at large from the entire district with board members serving three year terms on a staggered basis. They are paid a nominal amount per meeting. The board determines all school policies and annually formulates and submits its budget to the voters at an annual meeting in August.

The Watertown public schools are supported by local taxes, state aids and federal aids. The federal aids are used for the lunch program, science, guidance, language program, and all programs under CESA, Title 1 and 3. The board is responsible to the State Department of Public Instruction in meeting all criteria for the highest state aids.

The meetings of the Board of Education are held on the third Wednesday of each month at 7:00 p. m. in the Board of Education Room at the high school. Meetings are open to the public and are covered by the press and radio. The superintendent of schools is selected by the members of the Board of Education and he is responsible to it and to the community for the supervision of the six public elementary schools and the junior and senior high schools.

The six public elementary schools are:

Name	Built	Enrollment	Address	Grades
Concord Center School	1957	60	Rt. 1, Sullivan	1 - 6
Douglas School	1931	452	1120 Center Street	Kindergarten - 6
Lincoln School	1947	268	210 N. Montgomery	Kindergarten - 6
Lebanon School	1957	68	Town of Lebanon	1 - 6
Schurz School	1958	399	1508 Neenah Street	Kindergarten - 6
Webster School	1950	582	634 Twelfth Street	Kindergarten - 6



The Watertown Senior High School

The senior high school, with an approximate enrollment of 1,050 pupils is located at 505 S. Eighth Street. The original high school was built in 1917 with two additions constructed in 1928 and 1958. The junior high school, located at 131 Hall Street, was built in 1968 and has an enrollment of 824 pupils.

The 1970 public school teaching staff totals 185 teachers. Teachers salaries in Watertown are slightly above the state average with a base of \$7,200 for a Bachelor's degree to \$13,000 for teachers with advanced degrees and experience.

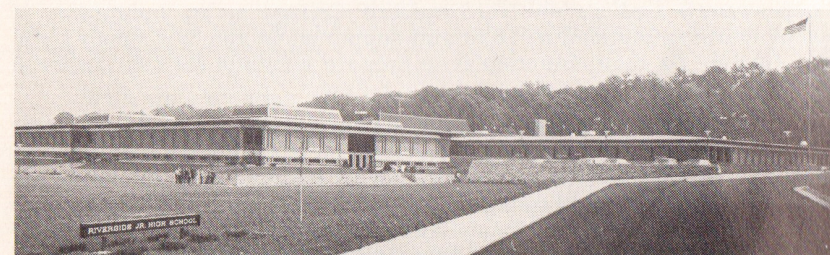
A hot lunch program is available at all the public schools within the city and at the Lebanon and Concord Center schools.

Public school students receive the use of all textbooks and school equipment free, a privilege they have enjoyed since 1876 when Watertown achieved the distinction of being the first city in the state to provide free textbooks. The 1970 cost of educating the city's youth in the public schools is \$579 per elementary pupil and \$788 per senior high school student. The average elementary classroom holds from twenty-two to twenty-eight pupils and from twenty-five to twenty-eight in the high school. Guidance counselors, a social worker, dental hygienist and psychologist are on the staff of the Watertown public school system.

Special classes for mentally retarded children of Watertown are held at Douglas, Webster, Schurz and Riverside Junior High School.

The Board of Education contracts for bus transportation for all students living in the district outside of the city limits. All public schools are covered by liability insurance.

A six-week summer program includes instruction in instrumental music, driver education, typing, and mathematics for junior and senior high school students; and reading, art, home economics, arithmetic, drama, and recreational activities for elementary school pupils.



Riverside Junior High School

**Vocational School** — The Watertown Vocational and Technical School is a branch of the Madison Area Technical College offering adults vocational training on an adult level. The school offers a variety of specialized non-credit courses in the fields of business, home economics, industrial, personal services and general education courses for employed persons interested in keeping abreast of technological changes, for unemployed persons seeking to develop new skills and also provides training programs for business and labor groups. In addition the school offers opportunities to adults in certain courses to widen their interests and to learn to use their leisure time creatively.

Three full time business diploma programs are conducted during the day including stenography, account-clerk and general clerical to train individuals on a post high school level.

The school is presently housed in two locations. The shop courses are shared with the high school in the senior high school building. Some



courses are held in the remodeled former Douglas School building at 500 Lincoln Street.

**Parochial Schools** — Watertown has five parochial schools which are:

Name	Built	Faculty	Enroll-ment	Grades	Address
St. Bernard's Catholic	1961	Sisters of St. Agnes	277	1 - 6	111 S. Montgomery
St. Henry's Catholic	1953	Sisters of Notre Dame	278	1 - 8	300 Cady St.
St. John's Lutheran	1954	Missouri Synod	357	1 - 8	317 N. Sixth St.
St. Mark's Lutheran	1957	Wisconsin Synod	410	1 - 8	705 Cady St.
Calvary Baptist Christian School	1970	Baptist	33	K-4*	Prospect & Spaulding

\*To increase to Kindergarten through 12th grades.

**Maranatha Baptist Bible College** — Maranatha Baptist Bible College, located on a 62½ acre site at 745 Main Street is a four year, co-educational school offering a Bachelor of Arts degree in Bible with majors in missions, Biblical languages, Christian education, pastoral studies and sacred music. Its function is to prepare students for Christian service. Founded in 1968, in 1970 it had an enrollment of 344 with a faculty of 26. Its facilities include dormitories classrooms, chapel, gymnasium, auditorium, dining rooms, kitchen, laundry, lounge and recreational areas, athletic field, track, tennis, and handball courts, and baseball and football fields on a beautifully landscaped campus. Drama, music, and sports are emphasized.

**Northwestern College** — Northwestern College is an institution of higher learning founded in 1856 and supported by the Wisconsin Lutheran Synod. Its main function is to prepare students for the Lutheran ministry.

Northwestern College is a four year pre-theological college and its prep school, Northwestern Preparatory School, is for grades nine through twelve. The college is not accredited, but its transfer student credits are readily accepted in other colleges and universities such as the state universities of Wisconsin, Michigan, and Minnesota. It offers a Bachelor of Arts degree in the classics. Latin, Greek, Hebrew, and German are offered.



Northwestern College Chapel

Northwestern College and prep school are located on a thirty-six acre campus with dormitories, gymnasium, dining hall, chapel, classrooms and sports facilities including football field, tennis courts, track court and baseball field. Twenty-nine full-time and six part-time instructors comprise the faculty. There is a modest tuition for the two-hundred college students. The prep school has an enrollment of 275 which includes about forty girls. Extra-curricular activities include instrumental and vocal music programs, forensics and dramatic activities and sports. The majority of the graduates of Northwestern College continue their education in the Lutheran Seminary at Mequon, Wisconsin.

**Public Library** — The Watertown Free Public Library was opened to the public in 1903 and is housed in a Carnegie building which was erected in 1906. An addition, which includes a children's room, Cole Memorial Hall, an office, and work rooms, was added in 1930 with funds provided by the John W. Cole estate.

A library board of eight members, appointed by the mayor and approved by the common council, sets the policies and regulations of the library and hires the librarian and assistants. The superintendent of schools is an ex officio member of the board.

The Division of Library Services, Department of Public Instruction issues certificates to librarians and fixes and publishes standards for public libraries and librarians. In Watertown the librarian is required by state to hold a first grade certificate which requires "a degree from a college or university of more than statewide standing, including in addition one year of training in a library school accredited by the American library association and not less than four years of successful experience".

The local staff consists of the head librarian, two full-time assistants, and four part-time workers. There is one custodian.

As May 1, 1971 the Watertown library had a book stock of 48,775 volumes, 8,269 pamphlets, 799 record albums and 118 periodicals which are indexed in the "Reader's Guide to Periodical Literature". A few of these periodicals are by gift as well as by subscription. There are 87 prints of famous paintings.

With the exception of a few endowment funds, the library is supported by an appropriation of the common council levied against the property tax.

As of May 1, 1971, about 8,253 people hold library borrower cards and the library's facilities are also used for reference and study by many who do not hold cards. The library supplements its services to the public by using the resources of the Reference and Loan Division of the Division of Library Services, Department of Public Instruction of Wisconsin. Through this division the Watertown library has limited access to the libraries of the University of Wisconsin, the Wisconsin Historical Society, and the Milwaukee Public Library. The librarian also calls upon people in the community for resource information in their specialties. Whenever items of interest to the community are secured, exhibits are held in an appropriate room in the library.

Two small club rooms in the library are available for use free of charge, as well as Cole Memorial Hall, for which there is a nominal charge.





## VI. "For the peace and good order"

**Police Department** — When Watertown received its city charter in 1853, provision was made for the maintenance of law and order. Each ward had its own constable and justice of the peace. Later the authority was vested in a city marshal. Today this authority, the police department, is headed by the chief of police under the control of a five-man police and fire commission. This commission is appointed by the mayor, and no more than three members of the commission may belong to the same political party.

The 1970 staff of twenty-five policemen is under the direction of the police chief. It consists of eight officers, namely one inspector, one lieutenant detective, three lieutenants and three sergeants. Fifteen patrolmen and one meter-maid complete the staff. Qualifications are at least a high school education, certain height and weight restrictions, and no arrest record. The police department is housed in the city hall.

New policemen receive on-the-job training through supervision and direction by the department's officers and are further trained at schools held periodically in various areas of the state. These schools are sponsored by the Wisconsin Police Chief's Association, the Sheriff's Association and the Federal Bureau of Investigation. The training covers such work as patrol investigations, traffic direction, self-defense, handling of fire arms, delinquency control, and all skills necessary to protect life and property.

Promotions within the department are made by the police commission upon recommendation of the police chief and do not need city council sanction.

The Watertown Police Department's major equipment consists of three squad cars, all radio equipped, one speed control radar, one electric eye, two cushion vehicles, and one speed boat for rescue missions.

The Watertown Police Department no longer has facilities to house prisoners. All persons arrested and detained may be held no more than eight hours and then must be transported to the Jefferson or Dodge County jails for detention at city expense. A new minimum security jail is included in the city's Comprehensive Master Plan.

**Justice** — The municipal police court is administered by the municipal police justice, an elected official who passes judgment on the violation of all city ordinances, most of which are traffic cases and classed as misdemeanors. He binds over all other cases, including felonies, to the Dodge and Jefferson County Courts.

The city attorney, who must be a member of the state bar association, serves as prosecutor for violations of city ordinances, handles all

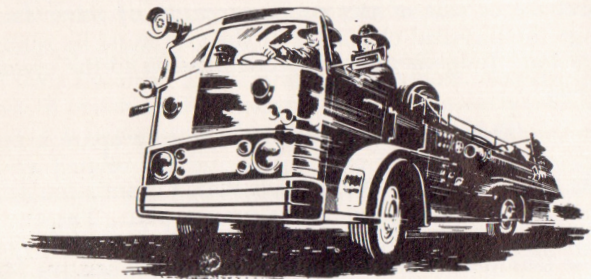
litigation for the city, and serves as legal advisor to the various boards and commissions and to the common council. The city attorney attends all common council meetings.

**Fire Department** — The Watertown Fire Department was organized in 1857, being then operated by a volunteer force of men headed by the intrepid Carl Schurz. The force today has 18 full-time and 15 part-time men headed by the fire chief. The department is primarily governed by a regulation code which was established by the chief, sanctioned by the police and fire commission and approved by the common council.

Qualifications for firemen are the same as for policemen and require a one year probationary period before final acceptance on the force. On-the-job training is given by the fire chief and the drill master. Admittance to the force and promotions within it are secured through written and oral examination before the police and fire commission. This commission also serves as the trial board for transgressions within the department.

The fire department has many functions besides actual fire fighting. Its rescue work includes the administration of oxygen and service in accidents on the highways, with farm and industrial machinery, and in the water. The fire department responds to countless requests from citizens to put to right troublesome situations to which access cannot be gained without special equipment and skills.

The fire department is located in the city hall. In 1970 its equipment included three active pumpers, one aerial truck, and one rescue squad car. Private ambulance service is available and is located on the city's south side. Two 2,000 gallon tankers and a tractor used for hauling water belong to the towns of Watertown, Milford, Emmet and Shields, which the Watertown Fire Department services.



**Streets and Transportation** — Responsibility for the maintenance of the city's streets, sidewalks, and ornamental and traffic lights lies with the director of public works, who is appointed by the mayor and who holds a full time salaried position. The qualifications are a B.S. or B.E. degree in civil engineering and registration as a professional engineer with the State of Wisconsin.

The street superintendent is responsible for cleaning and repairing the city's streets and sidewalks.



One U.S. highway, three state highways, and seven county roads are within the Watertown city limits. Maintenance of these roads is the responsibility of the city but is financed by both Watertown and the state. There are almost 70 miles of city streets.

There is a privately owned bus service operating daily except Sundays, and one taxicab company.

The city of Watertown owns eight metered parking lots and eighty-five per cent of the parking space in the business area has meters. The director of public works is responsible for these parking lots and meters. All revenue from meters and from parking fines goes into a separate account for development of future parking facilities.

The Milwaukee Road carries passengers and freight, and the Chicago Northwestern Railway provides freight services only. Greyhound Bus and Wisconsin Coach Lines passenger services operate daily between Madison and Milwaukee and stop in Watertown. Two motor freight and one local delivery service are located in the city.

The airport has two runways, including one 3,250 foot hard surfaced strip. Charter service and aircraft servicing and facilities, including hangars, are available. Its charter service connects Milwaukee and Madison. Flying instructions and sight-seeing flights are also offered.

**Planning** — Watertown's first plan commission was established in 1931. Its members consist of the mayor, who is presiding officer, the city engineer, one alderman, and four citizens who are of recognized experience and qualification.

Matters pertaining to the location and design of any public building, the purchase or sale of city property, and any other factor which would change the physical character of the city must be referred to the plan commission. Judgements of the commission to the common council are advisory.

One responsibility of the commission is to prepare a master plan for the physical development of the city and for related areas outside the city limits. In 1959 the Watertown Plan Commission hired a professional consulting firm to prepare the master plan. The city of Watertown and the federal government shared the cost of \$14,000 each paying half. The common council adopted the Comprehensive Master Plan in 1962.

Watertown's zoning ordinance, established in 1942, is based on land use and the size and use of buildings. A zoning board of appeals conducts public hearings for citizens who are seeking exception to or variance from the zoning ordinance in order to obtain a building permit. The board's judgement in allowing or rejecting the grant is final.

Watertown has a board of standards and appeals whose duties are to pass on new materials and products that differ from the requirements of the building code.

## VII.

### *"The preservation of the public health"*

**Public Health and Sanitation** — Watertown's health commissioner, a licensed physician, is appointed by Civil Service, with mayor and council approval. The health commissioner is responsible for the direction of health facilities within the city and enforces city health ordinances with the standards set by the Wisconsin State Board of Health.

The duties are mainly administrative and include the recording of vital statistics, controlling diseases, public health nursing, and inspecting sanitary conditions affecting the community.

The vital statistics compiled by the health commissioner consist of information on births, deaths, marriages, and illnesses. Copies of birth, death and marriage certificates occurring in the city are issued to those entitled to this information for a fee of \$2.00.

The health commissioner makes a weekly report of all communicable diseases in Watertown to the State Board of Health, approves license applications of bartenders, checks report of infectious diseases, and approves inoculation records of persons traveling abroad. Public places are inspected periodically and complaints from residents regarding poor sanitation are investigated.

Farms supplying milk to Watertown must be licensed and the cows must have been tested for tuberculosis and brucellosis. Pasteurization of milk is required by state law, and inspection and licensing of dairies is done by the State Department of Agriculture.

Watertown operates a municipal garbage collection and disposal service but does not offer a city rubbish collection. Garbage is collected once a week in residential areas and taken to the city-owned dumping grounds where it is disposed of, using sanitary land fill.

Rubbish is collected by several private hauling concerns which are licensed by the city. The haulers are contracted by individual home owners and the rubbish is used as sanitary land fill at the city dumping grounds. State law requires that the only burning done at the dumping grounds be of brush materials.

A householder may burn small quantities of rubbish on his property in a proper container (grate over container) provided no building is within twenty feet of the container. Permission to burn large quantities must be obtained from the fire chief.

**Public Health Nursing** — A full-time city nurse, appointed for a two year term by the mayor, is responsible for public health nursing; the health commissioner serves as her advisor.



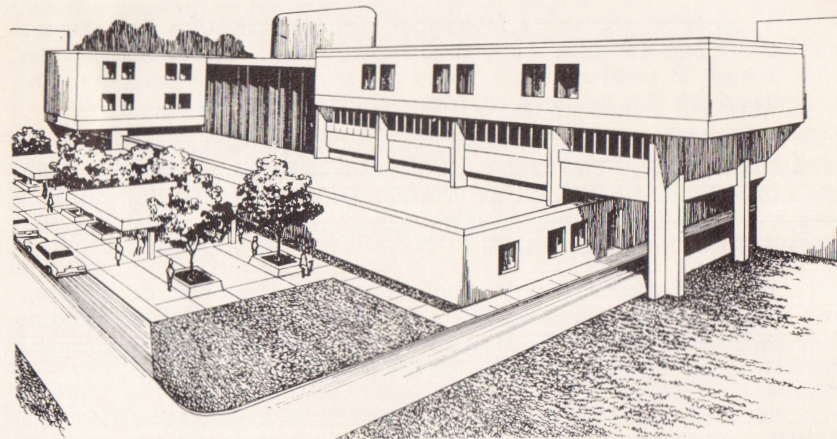
The city nurse's service to the community includes: tuberculosis nursing service, material and infant care, guidance to handicapped children, home calls, school health service and guidance to families of bedridden adults. Long term bedridden patients care is performed by Home Health Nursing Service of Dodge or Jefferson Counties. She conducts a city-wide immunization program against diphtheria, whooping cough, tetanus, smallpox, polio, German and red measles, and mumps.

The city nurse serves both the public and parochial schools and conducts testing programs for tuberculosis, vision, and hearing. She acts as consultant to school teachers in child health matters but the schools are responsible for the teaching of health.

A dental hygienist, employed by the Board of Education, teaches dental hygiene in the public schools. Advisory dental health cards are given to all students, are returned to the school after dental examination by individual family dentists. The hygienist inspects teeth of those children who have not returned dental cards and contacts the family if work needs to be done.

A medical examination and tuberculin test are required of each teacher new to the Watertown school system. Health examinations are required of all teachers every three years and tuberculin tests every three years. Anyone with a positive reading in the tuberculin test must have a yearly x-ray.

**Hospital and Homes** — Watertown Memorial Hospital, located at the Watertown Area Health Care Center is a 105-bed community general hospital and Watertown's only hospital. It is part of a new six million dollar complex. Approximately fifty to sixty physicians offer immediate and consultative medical services. The hospital is fully accredited by



The Watertown Memorial Hospital

The Joint Commission on the Accreditation of Hospitals National Accrediting Agency.

St. Joseph Home for the Aged, founded in 1942 is operated and maintained by the Sisters of Charity of St. Vincent De Paul and has one resident priest. It has nine salaried employees and is supported entirely by residence fees. The home accommodates forty-five persons and is available to men and women from any locality or religious denomination.

Bethesda Lutheran Home, founded in 1904, is one of the largest private institutions for the mentally retarded in the nation. It is a Lutheran Synodical Conference School and Home and is an independent corporation supported by residence fees and contributions made by individuals and congregations. Enrollment in 1970 in the home was 660 and there were 420 full and part-time employees. The school's aim is to provide the total need of the person — physical, spiritual, mental, and emotional. The home has a full-time resident chaplaincy service.

**Welfare** — The city of Watertown does not have a public welfare or relief agency. However, there are the Jefferson and Dodge County Welfare Departments, with a Dodge county branch office located in Watertown. The director of this office is appointed by the mayor (city clerk) and the department receives its funds through taxes paid by the residents of the city wards in Dodge County.

Locally, public welfare is carried out through the work of many community organizations and churches and by volunteer groups that are supported in part by the community chest. The Family Welfare Association works closely with the Jefferson County Welfare Department.

**Housing** — The building code of the Department of Industry, Labor and Human Relations requires that all public buildings, stores and industrial plants be subject to the regulations of the Wisconsin State Industrial Commission.

The Director of Public Works is the City Engineer and is an employee of Civil Service. His jurisdiction is over city streets and adjacent property.

The Building Inspector is under Civil Service and inspects private property and existing buildings under state jurisdiction which are being structurally altered.





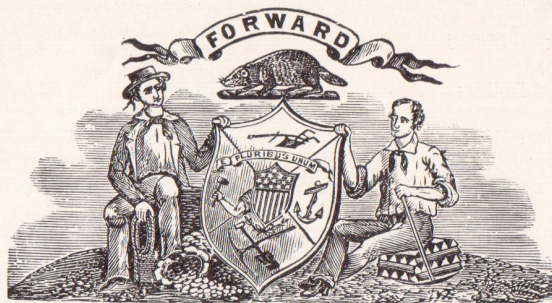
The department also provides parties during Halloween night and Christmas vacation for the city children.

The Municipal Pool at Riverside Park is also under the jurisdiction of the Park and Recreation Department. There is a nominal fee for children and adults on weekdays and weekends. Various swimming programs are offered during the summer months such as, Learn-To-Swim, Junior and Senior Lifesaving and Advanced Swimming. There are other times during the week for Tiny Tot Swim, Adult Swim and lessons, Swim Team practice, Water Ballet practice and Handicapped Swim.

There are presently nine developed parks in the city encompassing nearly 75 acres of land. Included in its facilities are tennis courts, skating rinks, swimming pool, baseball and softball diamonds. These facilities are maintained by a full-time park maintenance crew. Other duties of the Park and Recreation Department include the upkeep of street trees and parkways, mosquito control, main street planters and Dutch Elm Disease control.

Riverside Park, the city's largest and most scenic park, attracts thousands of visitors annually. A large two story pavilion with open and closed sections and kitchen facilities on each floor is available to the public and private groups. Advanced registration, sometime after the first of each year, with the Park and Recreation Department is necessary. The park is the focal point for many family reunions and organizations use the park for annual picnics throughout the summer.

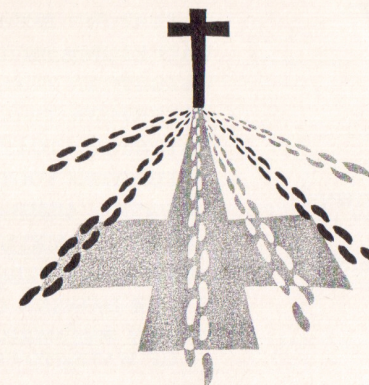
The bandshell, built on the grounds of Riverside Park in 1954, is the scene of many summer weekly band concerts including exchange concerts with other communities.



## — Watertown Churches —

Eighteen churches representing twelve religious denominations are located within the city:

ADVENT CHRISTIAN CHURCH	200 South 8th Street
ASSEMBLY OF GOD CHURCH	Highway 26 South
CALVARY BAPTIST CHURCH	243 Spaulding Street
EBENEZER MORAVIAN CHURCH	High Road
FIRST BAPTIST CHURCH	South Fifth and Dodge Streets
FIRST CONGREGATIONAL CHURCH United Church of Christ	504 South 4th Street
IMMANUEL EV. LUTHERAN CHURCH	211 North 9th Street
JEHOVAH'S WITNESSES	828 West Main Street
CHRIST UNITED METHODIST CHURCH	112 Hall Street
WATERTOWN MORAVIAN CHURCH	510 Cole Street
ST. BERNARD'S CATHOLIC CHURCH	108 South Church Street
ST. HENRY'S CATHOLIC CHURCH	300 Cady Street
ST. JOHN'S LUTHERAN CHURCH (Missouri Synod)	304 North 6th Street
ST. LUKE'S LUTHERAN CHURCH (Associated, Wisconsin Synod)	1509 South Third Street
ST. MARK'S LUTHERAN CHURCH (Wisconsin Synod)	North Sixth and Jones Streets
ST. PAUL'S EPISCOPAL CHURCH	South Second and Spring Streets
TRINITY LUTHERAN CHURCH (Wisconsin Synod)	Fourth and Wisconsin Streets
SEVENTH DAY ADVENTIST	500 South Fifth Street





## ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

The League of Women Voters of Watertown expresses its gratitude to all of those who, in one manner or another, helped us with this booklet, *Watertown*, a study of the city and its government.

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- The League members who gathered facts, and compiled and edited the material.



Watertown Centennial Seal, Adopted 1954

*THE PURPOSE OF THE LEAGUE OF WOMEN  
VOTERS IS TO PROMOTE POLITICAL RESPON-  
SIBILITY THROUGH INFORMED AND ACTIVE  
PARTICIPATION OF CITIZENS  
IN GOVERNMENT.*