

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Contact: Kara O'Keeffe
Wisconsin Historical Society
E-Mail: kara.okeeffe@wisconsinhistory.org

Tuesday, May 30, 2017

Beloit Power Plant placed on the State Register of Historic Places

Beloit, Wis. – The Wisconsin Historical Society placed the Beloit Power Plant (Beloit, Rock County) on the State Register of Historic Places on May 19, 2017. State Historic Preservation Officer Jim Draeger presents a certificate to Jonathan Beck, Dan Schoof, and Beth Miller (left to right).

The Beloit Power Plant is significant for its design. The Powerhouse shows the transformation of coal-fired power plants from the early- to the mid-twentieth century. Early coal-fired, steam turbine powerhouses had the appearance of a brick factory, with machinery fitted into the building. The red brick sections of the Powerhouse reflect this era. The coal-fired, steam-powered Powerhouse began operation ca. 1907 with a 500-kilowatt turbine. It was gradually expanded as larger and more complex turbines and boilers were installed in response to technological advancements and increasing demand for electricity through the mid-1920s.

The Blackhawk Generating Station addition was constructed 1945-1949 to address pent-up demand and fuel the post-World War II boom in construction and industrial development, and it represents mid-century coal-fired, steam-powered plant design. Beginning in the 1940s, function dictated the form of the coal-fired powerhouse. Two rectangular blocks, the turbine block and the taller, boiler block, distinguish mid-century powerhouses. The Powerhouse generated electricity until 2005, and closed in 2010.

The State Register is Wisconsin's official list of state properties determined to be significant to Wisconsin's heritage. The State Historic Preservation Office at the Wisconsin Historical Society administers both the State Register and National Register in Wisconsin.

To learn more about the State and National Register programs in Wisconsin, visit www.wisconsinhistory.org.

#