

2019 Wisconsin FFLA Chapter Report

Accomplishments

- Submitted information on 7 historic fire towers to the Wisconsin Historical Society for an initial determination of eligibility for the National Register of Historic Places. These towers are all located on public (state-owned) property, rather than private, and 6 of 7 were found to be likely eligible for listing on the National Register.

Continuing the process of listing the towers would require preparation of formal nominations by a contract archaeologist, which at this time is out of reach for the Chapter; however the determination has hopefully increased awareness of their historical significance by the Department of Natural Resources. It is yet to be seen if any of the towers will be retained by the agency, all are presently planned for removal.

- Continued research into Wisconsin's historic lookouts and monitoring and tracking of the DNR's tower divestment. As of last fall, the ownership of 37 towers was transferred to the private landowners on which the towers stand, 10 towers have been sold and removed, 4 are sold with removal pending, and 56 are left to dismantle. At this time, only 1 tower sold and removed is known to have been re-built.

Plans for 2020

- Continued research into Wisconsin's historic lookouts.
- Development of a more comprehensive State lookout listing.
- Continued listing of lookouts on the NHLR.
- Continued support in any way possible to local groups focusing on preserving/maintaining individual towers.
- Continue efforts to increase member engagement and member recruitment.
- Creation of a Chapter webpage or Facebook page to aid in recruitment and information dissemination.
- Continued engagement with WDNR on their tower divestment and preservation efforts.
- Engagement with landowners who've taken ownership of DNR towers.

Respectfully Submitted,
Tyler Bormann, WI Chapter Director
January 12, 2020