



AIA

Eastern
Illinois
Chapter



A Chapter of The American Institute of Architects

CITY OF OTTAWA CENTRAL FILTRATION PLANT

Project Location: Ottawa, Illinois
Architect: Basalay, Cary, & Alstadt Architects, Ltd.
Owner: City Of Ottawa
Contractor: Vissering Construction Co.

Project Description:

To design and construct a new 8,700 S.F. addition and to carry out renovation of the existing 3,300 S.F. circa 1910 water plant building in Ottawa, IL.

Through a low-interest loan from the Federal Environmental Protection Agency, the City of Ottawa commissioned a project to install a reverse-osmosis filtration system to improve the city's water supply. To accommodate four 10' x 25' x 10' filter racks, pumping equipment, and the required chemical storage, it was necessary to construct an addition to the existing water plant building.

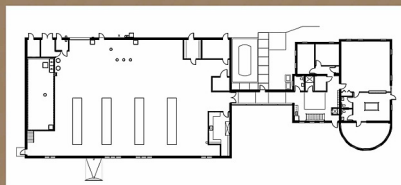
The new addition was to house the filters, pumps, various segregated chemicals, and the quality control laboratory. It would be sited above a 530,000-gallon reservoir to be excavated from an abandoned underground reservoir on the site.

The city administration required that the new addition blend and provide consistent quality of construction with the existing structure. With its rounded maintenance office capped with conical roof, this building had served as an important architectural icon for the heavily traveled eastern entrance to one of northern Illinois' oldest towns for nearly a century.

The existing structure was suffering from many years of deferred maintenance. The brick mortar had deteriorated completely through the outer wythe had bulged as much as six inches horizontally. The original windows had been removed and replaced with glass block.

The glass block was removed and historically proportioned replacement windows installed. Asbestos-containing shingles were abated and replaced. The entire building was tuckpointed, bulged areas were removed and reconstructed, and the brick was cleaned and sealed.

The existing building was then renovated to accommodate locker, shower, lunchroom, and office facilities for the staff and billing department. A new community conference room now provides meeting space for area volunteer organizations.



The facility is new water treatment plant addition and a gateway into the City of Ottawa. The jury commented "The building addition was seamlessly integrated with the existing building. The remodel of the existing facade will continue to inspire people entering the town. The material selection for floor and ceiling and use of daylight in the connecting building enhanced the transition from one building to another."



“Excellence In Design”



2004 - 2005
DISTINGUISHED
BUILDING AWARDS