

**KENOSHA HISTORIC PRESERVATION COMMISSION
HISTORICAL ARTIFACT DETERMINATION**

ARTIFACT NAME/DESCRIPTION	<i>Eichelman Park Artillery M1898 7-inch Siege Howitzer</i>
ADDRESS	<i>6125 Third Avenue</i>
CONSTRUCTION DATE	<i>1900</i>
ARCHITECT/SCULPTOR/BUILDER	<i>Watervliet Arsenal</i>

STANDARDS FOR DESIGNATION - MUST CHOOSE 1 OR MORE		
X	1	Item is a local historical artifact that is at least 50 years old.
	2	Item is associated with a property that meets the criteria for listing on the National Register of Historic Places.

STANDARDS FOR DESIGNATION - MUST CHOOSE 1 OR MORE		
	3	Item exemplifies or reflects the cultural, archaeological, political, economic, social, or religious history.
X	4	Item is identified with personages, events, or periods of history which personages, events, or periods are significant to the community.
	5	Item embodies distinguishing characteristics of architecture, an architect, architectural materials, craftsmanship, or works of nature.
X	6	Item is in its inherent historical nature provides the citizenry with educational or aesthetic enrichment.
	7	Check here if the historical artifact is located in a designated local, State, or National Register property or district.

<i>Level of Action</i>	<i>For Listing</i>	<i>No Listing</i>	<i>Removal from Listing</i>
COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT & INSPECTIONS	X		
<i>PUBLIC HEARING DATE: 04/25/2013</i>	<i>RECOMMENDATION DATE: 04/25/2013</i>		
HISTORIC PRESERVATION COMMISSION	X		
COMMON COUNCIL	X		
<i>DATE OF COUNCIL ACTION: 05/20/2013</i>			

DESCRIPTION

The Model M1898 7-inch Siege Howitzer, located in Eichelman Park, was manufactured by Watervliet Arsenal in 1900. The 7-inch Siege Howitzer has a relatively short barrel which uses a comparatively small propellant charge to send projectiles at relatively high trajectories, with a steep angle of descent.

The 7-inch Siege Howitzer was typically used for "indirect fire", shelling an unseen target. It's a built-up construction of steel and consists of the tube jacket, trunnion hoop, sleeve, key ring, locking hoop, base ring (breech bushing), and breech mechanism. It weighs 3,650 lbs., which is heavier than actually necessary for strength. The surplus weight was used in firing to reduce the shock on the carriage. The total length is 8.27 feet. The wheels used on the carriage are of the Archibald pattern and have metal naves, sixteen (16) wooden spokes and steel tires. Ammunition used included primers, cartridges, projectiles and fuzes. It was drawn by eight horses and was pulled backwards into a traveling position to balance the load.

The Siege Howitzer in Eichelman Park was placed in the park, together with a German Howitzer and carriage, in 1920. Today, only the Siege Howitzer remains on display in the park.



SIGNIFICANCE

Only thirty (30) 7-inch Siege Howitzers were ever built. They were produced for the US Army, however, the closest they came to combat was four (4) of them that were sent to Cuba in 1898, which never got into action. Several were used in the Spanish America War as “panic” temporary coastal batteries, though there was little opportunity for their use. The 7-inch Howitzer was paired with the 5-inch siege guns for emergency coast defense in the Spanish-American war.

Historians tend to look back on the Spanish-American War as the United States' first entrance upon the international stage as a major military power. After spending most of the 19th century dealing with internal challenges such as civil war, westward expansion, urbanization, and industrialization, the war with Spain was a demonstration of emerging American industrial and military strength. It also created something new in the American experience, an overseas colonial empire, as the United States acquired Guam, the Philippines, and Puerto Rico.

Eichelman Park was first called Lake Park. Some residents thought the name “Lake Park” was unromantic so they dubbed it “Fiddlers Green”. In 1887, Bernard Frederick John Eichelman, a successful tailor, gave a chunk of land to enlarge Lake Park. The City honored Eichelman by renaming the park in his honor.

Watervliet Arsenal is located in Watervliet, New York, and is the recognized as the oldest continuously operating arsenal in the United States. The arsenal was founded in 1813 to support the War of 1812 and was formally designated the Watervliet Arsenal in 1817. Today, it produces most of the artillery for the army, as well as cannon gun tubes, mortars and tanks. The Arsenal was designated a National Historic Landmark in 1966.