WTMB - TV

RRRR

REMOVABLE LABEL

GUIDES AND FOLDERS

MADE IN U. S. A.

CATALOG NO. 4550L 1/8

CARD NO. 1

BROADCASTING STATION HISTORY RECORD 43

COMMERCIAL TELEVISION

First licensed .....

Call Letters WTMB-TV (3-17-81)

Station Location TOMAHAH, WISCONSIN

Name TOMAH TELEVISION COMPANY, INC.

Transmitter Location HWY. 131; 4.65 MILES SOUTH OF TOMAH, WISCONSIN

Main studio location 1008 1/2 SUPERIOR AVE., TOMAH, WISCONSIN

Form BC-126
December 1978

Authorization Record

File No.	Granted	Facilities	Expires
BPCT-790522KF AH: 710' MSL: 1848.8' CP FOR A NEW COMMERCIAL TELEVISION STATION.	11-4-80	CH-43; 644-650;Unl. V. 174KW; A. 34.7KW	5-4-82
BPCT-790522KF	3-17-81	CALL LETTERS & EBSA	

COMMERCIAL TELEVISION
APPLICATION RECORD BROADCASTING

Call Letters: WTMB-TV
NEW TV

Name: TOMAH TELEVISION COMPANY, INC.
CH-43

Station Location: TOMAH, WI (1008½ Superior Ave., Tomah, WI 54660)

File No.	Date	Description	Action and Date
BPCT-790522KF R & F PN REC'D:	5-18-79 5-22-79 7-27-79	CP for New TV Station Freq.: Ch-43, 644-650MHz ERP: Vis. 180kW, Aur. 36.0kW HAAT: ~~719.50 ft.~~ TL: On State Hwy. #131, 4.65 mi. S. of Tomah, WI (43-54-22 90-28-26) SL: 1008½ Superior Ave., Tomah, WI Trans.: RCA TTU-12A Ant.: Bogner B16UOM Atty.: None Engr.: L. Robert Evans (Green Bay, WI) AMENDED 6-29-79 re legal, financial & programming Amended 8-14-80 re legal, engineering, financial ACCEPTED CUT OFF AMENDED 10-30-80 re engineering HAAT: 714.50 ft. OCT 2 '79 NOV 30 '79	GRANTED 11-4-80

10640 Bill Sill 10-21-80

Form BC-121
March 1979

About the History Cards …

History Cards were first used by the Department of Commerce to keep track of applications filed by, and changes to, the earliest AM broadcast radio stations in the early 1920s. The records were subsequently transferred to the Federal Radio Commission in 1927, and after that to the Federal Communications Commission when that agency was created in 1934. These cards gradually grew into a large card file.

TV History Cards were initiated in the early 1940s, with the authorization of the earliest TV stations. History Cards remained in use until the creation of the first computerized database in 1980 to track broadcast applications, the Broadcast Application Processing System (BAPS). However, the Commission did not transfer the data from the History Cards to the new system. Instead, it retained the History Cards in their original form for reference.

In 1999, the Commission moved to a new location (445 12th Street SW), and also at that time created the successor database to BAPS, the Consolidated DataBase System (CDBS). Prior to that move, the History Cards were transferred to microfiche by a contractor (only a few sets of microfiche exist), and the original paper cards were destroyed. The History Cards were stored on the microfiche as negative images, like those you see above.

History Cards contain very brief entries and notes about station facilities, applications, and ownership. They are not, and never were intended to be, a comprehensive record of a station's operations. Nevertheless, they can be useful to help determine, for example, when a station first went on the air and its call letters at that time. History Card comments were generally typed onto the cards, and thus some records will show more faintly or with more smudging than others, depending on the quality of typewriter and ribbon then used. Occasional handwritten comments, corrections, and strikeouts may also be found. Cards may be incomplete, missing, or occasionally out of sequence.

The History Cards are presented here as they were copied to microfiche, to preserve this record for public use, and with the hope that they will be of value to future researchers of television station history.