

**United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service**

**National Register of Historic Places
Registration Form**

1. Name of Property

historic name Laclede Gas Light Company Pumping Station G
other names/site number Laclede Gas Company Pumping Station G

2. Location

street & number 4401 Chouteau Avenue [n/a] not for publication
city or town St. Louis [n/a] vicinity
state Missouri code MO county St. Louis [Independent City] code 510 zip code 63108

3. State/Federal Agency Certification

As the designated authority under the National Historic Preservation Act, as amended, I hereby certify that this nomination request for determination of eligibility meets the documentation standards for registering properties in the National Register of Historic Places and meets the procedural and professional requirements set forth in 36 CFR Part 60. In my opinion, the property meets does not meet the National Register criteria. I recommend that this property be considered significant nationally statewide locally. (See continuation sheet for additional comments [].)

 19 DECEMBER 2006
Signature of certifying official/Title Mark A. Miles / Deputy SHPO Date

Missouri Department of Natural Resources
State or Federal agency and bureau

In my opinion, the property meets does not meet the National Register criteria.
(See continuation sheet for additional comments [].)

Signature of certifying official/Title

State or Federal agency and bureau

4. National Park Service Certification

	Signature of the Keeper	Date of Action
I hereby certify that the property is:		
<input type="checkbox"/> entered in the National Register See continuation sheet [].	_____	_____
<input type="checkbox"/> determined eligible for the National Register See continuation sheet [].	_____	_____
<input type="checkbox"/> determined not eligible for the National Register.	_____	_____
<input type="checkbox"/> removed from the National Register	_____	_____
<input type="checkbox"/> other, explain see continuation sheet [].	_____	_____

5. Classification

Ownership of Property	Category of Property	Number of Resources within Property	
		contributing	noncontributing
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> private	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> building(s)	2	1 building
<input type="checkbox"/> public-local	<input type="checkbox"/> district		
<input type="checkbox"/> public-state	<input type="checkbox"/> site	0	0 sites
<input type="checkbox"/> public-Federal	<input type="checkbox"/> structure	1	1 structures
	<input type="checkbox"/> object	0	0 objects
		3	2 total

Name of related multiple property listing.

(n/a)

Number of contributing resources previously listed in the National Register. 0

6. Function or Use

Historic Function

INDUSTRY/energy facility

Current Functions

WORK IN PROGRESS/residential

7. Description

Architectural Classification

LATE 19TH & 20TH CENTURY REVIVALS

see continuation sheet [].

Materials

foundation CONCRETE

 walls BRICK
 STEEL

 roof STEEL
 other LIMESTONE

see continuation sheet [].

NARRATIVE DESCRIPTION

See continuation sheet [x]

8. Statement of Significance

Applicable National Register Criteria

A Property is associated with events that have made a significant contribution to the broad patterns of our history

B Property is associated with the lives of persons significant in our past.

C Property embodies the distinctive characteristics of a type, period, or method of construction or represents the work of a master, or possesses high artistic values, or represents a significant and distinguishable entity whose components lack individual distinction.

D Property has yielded, or is likely to yield, information important in prehistory or history.

Criteria Considerations

Property is:

A owned by a religious institution or used for religious purposes.

B removed from its original location.

C a birthplace or grave.

D a cemetery.

E a reconstructed building, object, or structure.

F a commemorative property.

G less than 50 years of age or achieved significance within the past 50 years.

Areas of Significance

ARCHITECTURE

INDUSTRY

Periods of Significance

1901-1956

Significant Dates

N/A

Significant Person(s)

N/A

Cultural Affiliation

N/A

Architect/Builder

Laclede Gas Light Company

Narrative Statement of Significance

(Explain the significance of the property on one or more continuation sheets.)

9. Major Bibliographic References

Bibliography

(Cite the books, articles and other sources used in preparing this form on one or more continuation sheets.)

Previous documentation on file (NPS):

preliminary determination of individual listing (36 CFR 67) has been requested

previously listed in the National Register

previously determined eligible by the National Register

designated a National Historic Landmark

recorded by Historic American Buildings Survey

recorded by Historic American Engineering Record

Primary location of additional data:

State Historic Preservation Office

Other State Agency

Federal Agency

Local Government

University

Other:

Name of repository: _____

USDI/NPS NRHP Registration Form
Laclede Gas Light Co. Pumping Station G
St. Louis (Independent City), MO

10. Geographical Data

Acreage of Property less than one acre

UTM References

A. Zone	Easting	Northing	B. Zone	Easting	Northing
<u>15</u>	<u>738640</u>	<u>4279100</u>			
C. Zone	Easting	Northing	D. Zone	Easting	Northing

[] See continuation sheet

Verbal Boundary Description

(Describe the boundaries of the property on a continuation sheet.)

Boundary Justification

(Explain why the boundaries were selected on a continuation sheet.)

11. Form Prepared By

name/title Susan Sheppard/Doug Johnson, Researchers

organization Landmarks Association of St. Louis date November 17, 2006

street & number 917 Locust Street, 7th floor telephone (314) 421-6474

city or town St. Louis state MO zip code 63101

Additional Documentation

Submit the following items with the completed form:

Continuation Sheets

Maps

A USGS map (7.5 or 15 minute series) indicating the property's location.

A Sketch map for historic districts and properties having large acreage or numerous resources.

Photographs

Representative black and white photographs of the property.

Additional Items

(Check with the SHPO or FPO for any additional items)

Property Owner

(Complete this item at the request of SHPO or FPO.)

name Jerry King/Station G Partners LLC

street & number 357 Marshall Avenue telephone 314-963-9377

city or town St. Louis state Missouri zip code 63119

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**NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
CONTINUATION SHEET**

Section 7 Page 1

Laclede Gas Light Co. Pumping Station G
St. Louis [Independent City], Missouri

Summary

The Laclede Gas Light Co. Pumping Station G, located at 4401 Chouteau Avenue in St. Louis, Missouri, is an industrial site with three contributing elements composed of a pump house, a free-standing valve house, and an associated natural gas storage tank. The pump house is an elegant one-story, raised basement red brick building with an L-shaped plan, built in 1911 in the style of the Late 19th and 20th Century Revivals. The gas storage tank or Gasometer to the northeast of the building was constructed in 1901, although it was greatly rebuilt in 1942. The freestanding one-story brick valve house was constructed to the east of the 1911 building in 1950. The pump house is formal in appearance, with a symmetrical front façade, corner quoins, and low-pitched roof with broad overhanging eaves. Many historic features of the building remain intact, including metal frame windows, interior glazed brick, and the original walls and floor plan. Although the original setting has been altered, the Laclede Gas Light Co. Pumping Station G site retains sufficient integrity of location, design, materials, workmanship, feeling and association.

Site

The Laclede Gas Light Co. Pumping Station G is located at 4401 Chouteau Avenue. The main building (**photo 1**), or the pump house, measures approximately 88 feet on Chouteau Avenue and 89 feet on its west side. The rear section measuring approximately 38 feet extends about 41 feet from the main body of the building. This front section of the building, measuring about 48 feet on its east side, runs approximately 50 feet on the north elevation before intersecting with the rear of the building to form the L-shaped plan. Although the building is one-story, the two rows of windows across three elevations lend the appearance of a two-story building.

Also contributing to the site is a square (10 x 10'), one-story brick valve house constructed in 1950. The parcel also includes the large steel Gasometer to the northeast of the building. Measuring approximately 110 feet tall and 210 feet in diameter, it was built in 1901 and altered in 1942. A building permit indicates that a second Gasometer (now razed) to the northwest of the building was built in 1911.

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Laclede Gas Light Co. Pumping Station G
St. Louis [Independent City], Missouri

Exterior

The Laclede Gas Light Co. Pumping Station G pump house is constructed of red brick and has a concrete foundation. It has a low-pitched roof of corrugated metal. The front section features a hipped roof with broad projecting eaves, and three round chimney pipes at the ridge of the roof. The rear wing of the building is a gable with returned eaves.

Although it lacks an entrance, the south elevation is considered the primary façade because it faces Chouteau Avenue. Because the building was industrial, access was designed to accommodate machinery and equipment as well as workers. These utilitarian entrances are reserved for the rear and sides of the building; a more formal and symmetrical composition is presented to the street.

The south elevation has five bays divided by pilasters, and a partially raised basement (**image 1**). These front bays are slightly larger than the bays on the sides of the building, although they are identical in form. Each bay contains two windows with splayed lintels and a transom consisting of three latticed casement windows. Windows and transoms of galvanized steel are original to the building. The window pairs share a continuous limestone sill. At the basement level of each bay is a small rectangular window, with a scrolled wrought iron cover. Above the concrete foundation is a limestone water table, which divides the foundation from the brick structure. There are limestone quoins at the corners of the building. Centered in the façade above the middle three bays is a metal panel with the words THE LACLEDE GAS LIGHT CO. The nameplate is flanked on either side by a simple brick diamond-shaped medallion, and a stepped brick rectangle above the first and fifth bay.

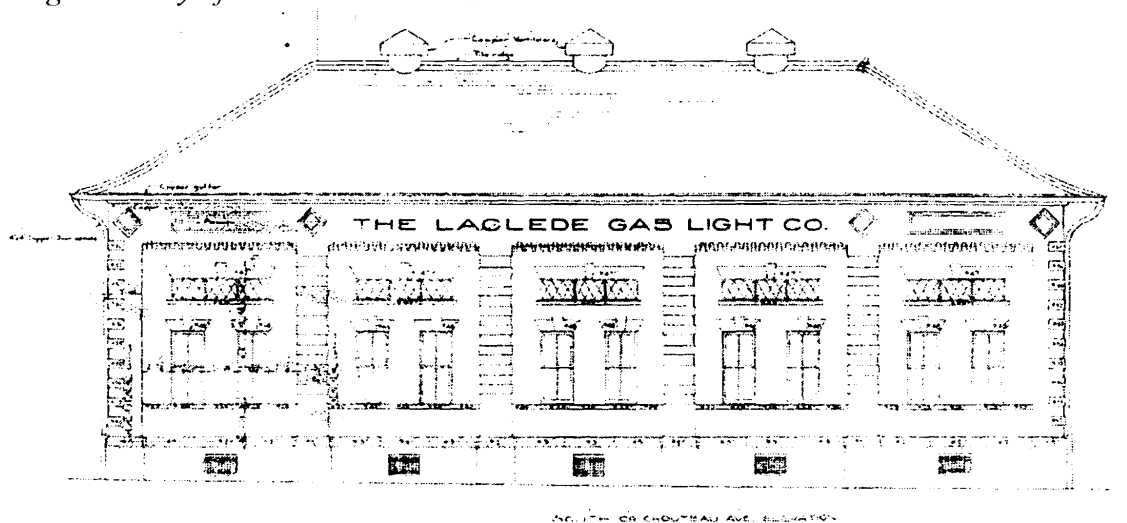
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Laclede Gas Light Co. Pumping Station G
St. Louis [Independent City], Missouri

**Image 1: Laclede Gas Light Co. Pumping Station G
Pump House Front/South Elevation**
Image courtesy of the Laclede Gas Co.



The pattern of the bays—windows interrupted occasionally by doors of various sizes—continues on the sides and rear of the building. The six-bay west façade provides for access to the interior of the building (**image 2**). Like the front façade, bays are divided by simple brick pilasters with brick quoins, and have brick corbelling near the cornice. The concrete foundation and water table are more visible towards the front of the building due to the grade of the lot near the street. The left bay, closest to the rear of the building, includes two window openings. The first opening is infilled with brick, which is a part of the original design. The second opening at this bay houses a modern door, instead of a window. Although it remains consistent in size, the fifth bay on this west façade differs slightly, with a garage door at this location instead of windows. The original double-leaf vehicle entrance has been removed and filled in with siding, but the limestone flat arch and keystone, as well as the opening size, remain intact. Above the garage door lintel is a metal nameplate with the words STATION – G (**photo 2**). Above this nameplate is a rectangular transom with three casement windows. At the sixth bay the first window is bricked in. Equipment enters the building at this bay, indicating this area probably never had a window. The right two-over-two metal window is in place, as is its continuous stone sill and stone splayed lintel. Above is the rectangular metal transom, also with

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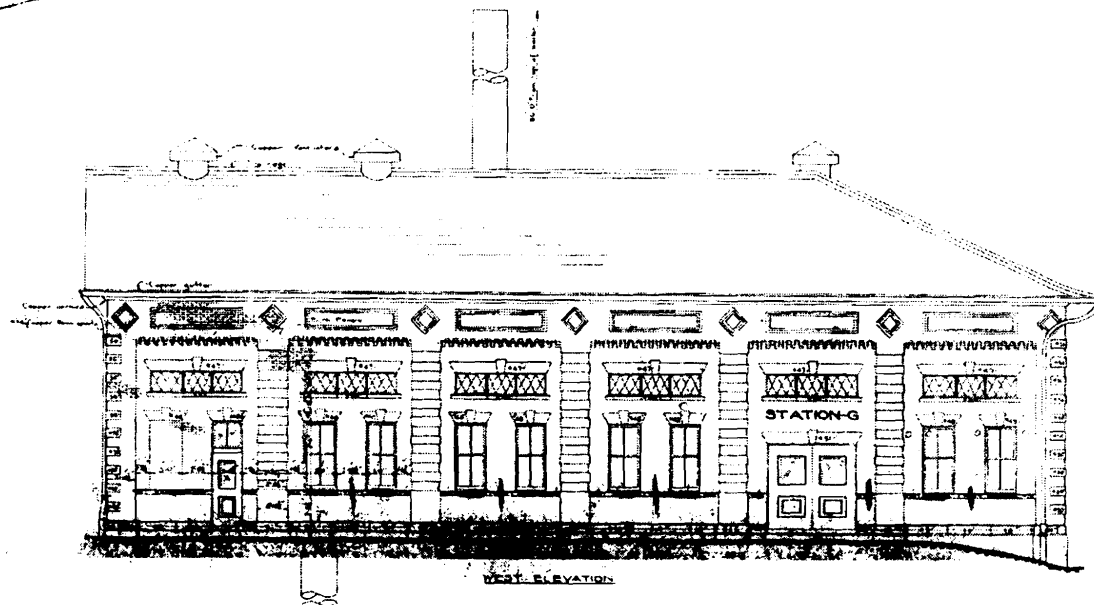
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Laclede Gas Light Co. Pumping Station G
St. Louis [Independent City], Missouri

limestone sill and lintel. Like all other bays, this bay has brick corbelling near the cornice.

Image 2: Laclede Gas Light Co. Pumping Station G Pump House West Elevation
Image courtesy of the Laclede Gas Co.



The main body of the rear elevation has three of the wider bays, each containing two windows between brick pilasters. The wing extending from the main section is three bays long and two bays wide. The rear of this wing reveals an unexpected medium-pitched gable roof, with returned eaves (**photo 3**). This utilitarian façade allows for large boilers and pipes to connect to the interior of the building. Although the rear is constructed of a softer brick, stone corner quoins are still used, and bays have not changed in size, reinforcing the uniformity of the design. This elevation does not have two-over-two windows like the other elevations, but it does have rectangular transoms.

The east side of the main body of the building is three bays wide. Each bay is intact, with two, two-over-two metal windows, rectangular transoms, and brick corbelling. The corners of the building have stone quoins; brick pilasters with simple brick quoins separate each bay. The partially raised basement allowed for small rectangular basement

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Laclede Gas Light Co. Pumping Station G
St. Louis [Independent City], Missouri

windows with iron scroll covers at each bay. The east side of the rear wing is three bays wide. The first two bays are identical to the other bays. The rear or third bay has a modern door instead of a window at the first opening. The second opening is filled in with brick, although this appears to be original to the building. The continuous stone sill and stone lintels are intact, as is the rectangular metal transom. To the east of the pump house, is a one-story brick valve house built in 1950 (**photo 4**). This small (10 x 10') freestanding building has a flat roof with terra cotta coping, and no windows.

To the northeast of the pump house is the large Gasometer holder (**photos 7 & 8**). According to the Laclede Gas Company, this holder predates the pump house. It was built in 1901 but substantially altered in 1942. The large steel cylinder is approximately 110 feet tall and 210 feet in diameter. Ascending from its base are 26 vertical steel trusses. These are supported by six horizontal steel rows that travel the circumference of the structure. A series of diagonal supports in cross patterns connect the vertical trusses and steel tows. This steel skeleton provided the support and track necessary to raise tank capacity level via a telescopic mechanism.

The structure is almost completely coated in lead paint. There is also considerable rust on the steel surfaces of the scaffolding and cylindrical tank base. Though the tank does not store gas at present, it retains its water ballast and this is very likely polluted. The telescopic mechanism that allowed an adjustable storage capacity also required lubrication grease that has further contaminated the holder. The L-shape design of the pump house lessens the impact of the eastern Gasometer upon the streetscape; the pump house is wedged against the massive container and partially obscures its enormous base from Chouteau Avenue.

Interior

The building retains many of its original interior elements including white glazed brick walls (**photo 6**). The floor plan features a large room at the front and a small office. A separate room at the rear of the building housed rest rooms and four large boilers supported on brick bases. Ancillary equipment is still in place throughout the entire building, including three natural gas-powered compressors, two water boilers and a water pump.¹ Much of the equipment in the front room is two-stories in height, with the base of

¹ Laclede Gas Company Files: *Pumping Station G*.

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Laclede Gas Light Co. Pumping Station G
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the equipment in the basement (**photo 5**). In the large front room steel Y-shaped frames support rails extending the length of the room, allowing for the movement of a large steel hand-powered crane.

Integrity

The Laclede Gas Light Co. Pumping Station G site has had very few alterations other than the demolition of one of the Gasometers and retains substantial integrity throughout. The company, which owned the buildings and structure until recently, made few changes over the years and always maintained the building carefully. A preponderance of historic material is present including original double-hung windows, metal lattice transoms, and the original interior glazed brick. The original floor plan is intact, as well as boilers and operating systems. The main alterations have been the removal of a copper cornice at some point and the installation of a corrugated steel roof over the original slate roof. Minor alterations include replacement doors on the west elevation. A non-contributing steel shed and brick meter house remain on the site.

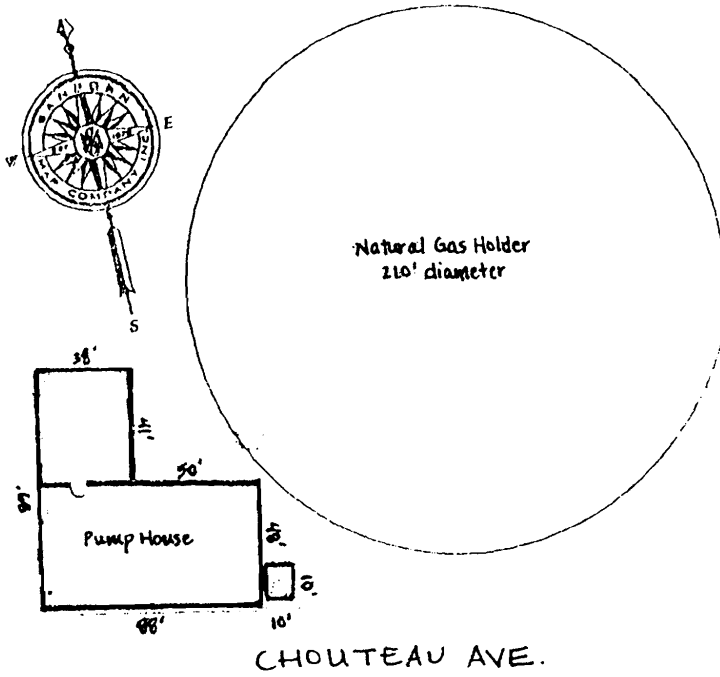
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Laclede Gas Light Co. Pumping Station G
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Sketch Map Showing Dimensions of Pumping Station G and Gasometer



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Laclede Gas Light Co. Pumping Station G
St. Louis [Independent City], Missouri

Summary

The Laclede Gas Light Co. Pumping Station G site at 4401 Chouteau Avenue in west St. Louis [Independent City], Missouri is eligible for listing on the National Register of Historic Places with local significance under Criterion A for Industry and Criterion C for Architecture. The facility was an important component of the Laclede Gas Light Company, a monopoly headquartered in downtown St. Louis. From Pumping Station G gas stored in the steel holders was distributed to customers via the company's extensive network of main lines. The accomplished Late 19th and 20th Century Revival style of the 1911 pump house accommodated its specific industrial program, but it also clearly articulated the corporate image of the Laclede Gas Light Co. in the city of St. Louis. The design also interacts with sensitivity to its surrounding community, an area that is primarily residential. The extant natural gas holder or Gasometer was originally constructed in 1901 and was an imposing reminder of the importance of utility service in the development of the Forest Park Southeast neighborhood and the city of St. Louis. The 1901-1956 period of significance begins with construction of the extant Gasometer and ends with the arbitrary 50-year cutoff date for National Register listing.

Background

The origins of the Laclede Gas Light Co.² can be traced to the creation of the St. Louis Gas Light Co. in 1837.³ In the early decades of the nineteenth century, gas illumination grew in popularity, slowly replacing oil and kerosene lamp use in American cities and homes. The illumination of streets was of particular concern to civic leaders of the era who sought to increase public safety in burgeoning cities. Initial use of gas lighting addressed this issue. In 1847, St. Louis became the fourth city in the United States to light its streets with gas as well as the seventh city in the nation to have a gas plant.⁴ Consumption of gas in the city of 55,000 was only 6.6 million cubic feet in 1848; twenty years later that number rose to 247.5 million cubic feet.⁵

The Laclede Gas Co. was founded in 1857, one of several smaller area gas utilities that were established mid-century in response to the demands of increased population. In

² The Laclede Gas Light Co. officially changed its name to the Laclede Gas Co. in 1950.

³ "Laclede Gas Expansion Parallels City's Growth." St. Louis Globe-Democrat, October 15, 1957.

⁴ Ibid.

⁵ Harry M. Hagen. *This is Our... St. Louis*. Knight Publishing Co, St. Louis. 1970. p312.

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Laclede Gas Light Co. Pumping Station G
St. Louis [Independent City], Missouri

1889, the company merged with the earlier St. Louis Gas Light Co., as well as the smaller Carondelet Gas and St. Louis Fuel and Power companies. The result of this merger was a virtual monopoly; the company became *the* consumer gas provider for the metropolitan area. Rechristened the Laclede Gas Light Co., the growth of the reorganized company remained linked to the development of the city. The company also emerged on the national stage as one of the twelve original companies listed on the Dow Jones Industrial Average in 1896.⁶ By 1911 the Board of Directors included such notables as Adolphus Busch and Edward Mallinckrodt, further demonstrating the significance of the Laclede Gas Light Co. in the business community.

The gas company purchased property in the 4400 block of Chouteau in west St. Louis from prominent attorney Isaac H. Lionberger (residence listed on NR as contributing resource to Midtown Historic District, 07/07/1978) in December 1897. According to Laclede Gas Co. archives, a natural gas holder (Gasometer) was erected near the corner of Chouteau and Newstead Avenues in 1901. No building permits exist to verify this claim, but a photograph from 1909 reveals that a gas storage tank was extant on the block prior to the construction of the pump house and second holder. An existing building served as a branch office with minor additions and alterations made in 1905.⁷

As St. Louis stretched outward to its limits, the distribution system of the utility expanded to meet consumer needs. In 1900, the company counted 64,106 gas meters. The growth of the Laclede Gas Light Co. was virtually exponential for decades as population swelled. While initial consumer use centered upon gas for illumination, another convenience emerged that increased demand: the popularity of gas for heating. The company advertised gas (**image 3**) as a preferable alternative to coal furnaces, cleverly exploiting growing concerns over smoke pollution in St. Louis.⁸ Even while popularity of gas heating increased, the number of customers could not exceed supply on the coldest days of winter. Thus Laclede had to maintain up-to-date facilities and ensure reserves of product in anticipation of the increased demand.

⁶ Phyllis S. Pierce, ed. *The Dow Jones Industrial Averages 1885-1995*. Irwin Professional Pub., 1996.

⁷ This building was demolished in 1961.

⁸ Laclede Gas Light Co. advertisement. *St. Louis Globe-Democrat*, January 11, 1911.

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Laclede Gas Light Co. Pumping Station G
St. Louis [Independent City], Missouri

Image 3: Laclede Gas Light Co. ad, January 11, 1911.
Image from the St. Louis Globe-Democrat

—“The Smoke Nuisance”

- We read much on this subject nowadays.
- It is being agitated by the Newspapers.
- Different civic organizations have taken the matter in hand.
- People are commencing to call St. Louis “the city of smoke.”
- We realize what this means—we St. Louisans.
- We know that it must not be.
- What causes all this “smoke nuisance”—this greasy mark that enfolds the city like a shroud?
- Simply **COAL SMOKE**—coal smoke from countless manufacturing plants, hotels, residences—every sort of establishment where heat of any kind is necessary.
- No—here is where we come in.
- Our business is the furnishing of heat—heat units—**GAS**.
- The conversion of gas into heat is accomplished without the horror of smoke and soot.
- Hence—the solution of “the smoke nuisance” problem!

—Use Gas

in all the places where heretofore coal, wood, etc., have been used for fuel.

- We have the necessary burners—burners combining efficiency and economy.
- Moreover—we have increased **OUR MANUFACTURING CAPACITY**.
- We have anticipated the popular demand.
- Think it over.
- Then phone our Commercial Department.
- This is the real solution of “the smoke nuisance” problem.

The Laclede Gas Light Company,
Main 3940. Central 3800.
716 Locust Street

Laclede Gas Light Co. experienced a year of tremendous growth in 1911. Approximately \$1.2 million was invested in improvements to existing facilities and new construction, a

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Laclede Gas Light Co. Pumping Station G
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physical articulation of increased consumer demand and company commitment to provide service to all areas of the city.⁹ Less conspicuous modifications and additions were also made to existing stations and Gasometers. More pronounced were the new construction projects, of which the General Office Building was an important component.

Construction on the Laclede Gas Light Co. Building (NR 11/26/1980) at the northeast corner of Eleventh and Olive Streets commenced in the fall of 1911. Designed by the prestigious St. Louis architectural firm Mauran, Russell & Crowell in a Classical Revival style, the building replaced a smaller office at 716 Locust.

Elaboration

The quality of the architecture at Laclede Gas Light Co. Pumping Station G likewise articulates the importance of the company and its services, albeit on a more intimate, neighborhood scale. The area surrounding the facility (Forest Park Southeast Historic District, NR 12/20/2001; expanded 06/16/2005) was originally part of the *Cul de Sac* common field and the St. Louis Commons laid out by French settlers in 1769. Retired Colonel Samuel McRee purchased a series of tracts south of present day Manchester Avenue from 1825-1832, some of which were purchased in the 1840s by Henry Shaw.¹⁰ *Compton and Dry's* 1876 illustrated atlas of the city indicates that the future site of the Laclede Gas Light Co. facility on Chouteau Avenue and surrounding lands were farmland.¹¹ Within the decade, however, a horsecar line extended along Chouteau westward to Kingshighway. By the end of the 1880s, electrified transportation on Chouteau reached Forest Park.

The Gibson Heights subdivision where the pumping station is located was platted in the 1880s by T.A. Scott, bounded by Kingshighway Boulevard and Newstead Avenue to the west and east. Chouteau and Swan Avenues provided boundaries to the north and south. Public transit service and proximity to Forest Park made Gibson Heights a desirable, affordable neighborhood with some larger houses clustered in the blocks between South Taylor Avenue and Kingshighway.¹² The majority of housing stock east of Taylor, however, reflected the working class identity of the area. Storefront commercial

⁹ Laclede Gas Light Co. *Annual Report for 1911*.

¹⁰ Sally F. Schwenk, et. al. *Forest Park Southeast District National Register of Historic Places nomination*. 2001. p182.

¹¹ *Compton & Dry Pictorial St. Louis*. 1875. plate 99.

¹² *Forest Park Southeast District National Register of Historic Places nomination*. 2001. p182.

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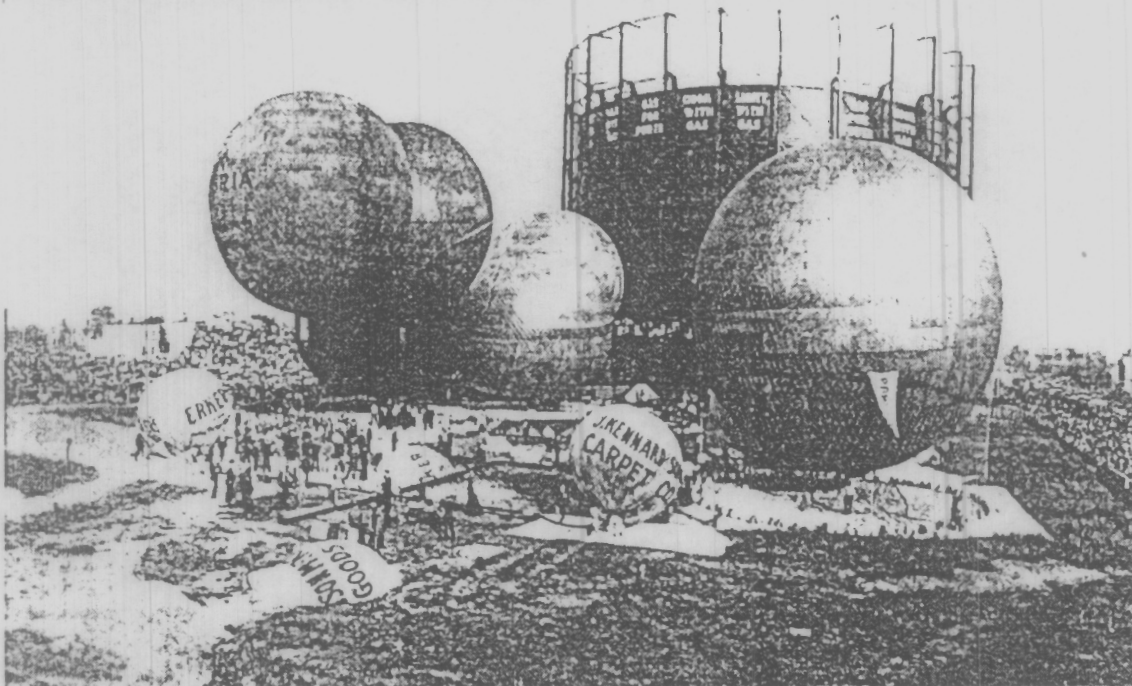
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Laclede Gas Light Co. Pumping Station G
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properties and residential buildings were scattered along the Chouteau Avenue streetcar route which today provides the northern boundary of the Forest Park Southeast Historic District.

Image 4: Laclede Gas Light Co. natural gas holder and Aero Club grounds, 1909.
Image from St. Louis: One Hundred Years in a Week.



When the Laclede Gas Light Co. arrived in the neighborhood in the final years of the 1890s, the developing neighborhood had already assumed its residential identity. The north side of the 4400 block of Chouteau Avenue (city block 4807), however, remained vacant in the first few years of the twentieth century, aside from the company's existing Gasometer and office at the southeast corner. Beginning in 1909, the Aero Club of St. Louis erected a series of observation grandstands in the block. In that year the club sponsored a highly popular Spherical Balloon race; Laclede Gas Light Co. supplied natural gas for the balloons (**image 4**).¹³ There is no record of neighborhood opposition

¹³ Walter B. Stevens, ed. *St. Louis: One Hundred Years in a Week*. 1909. pp58-59.

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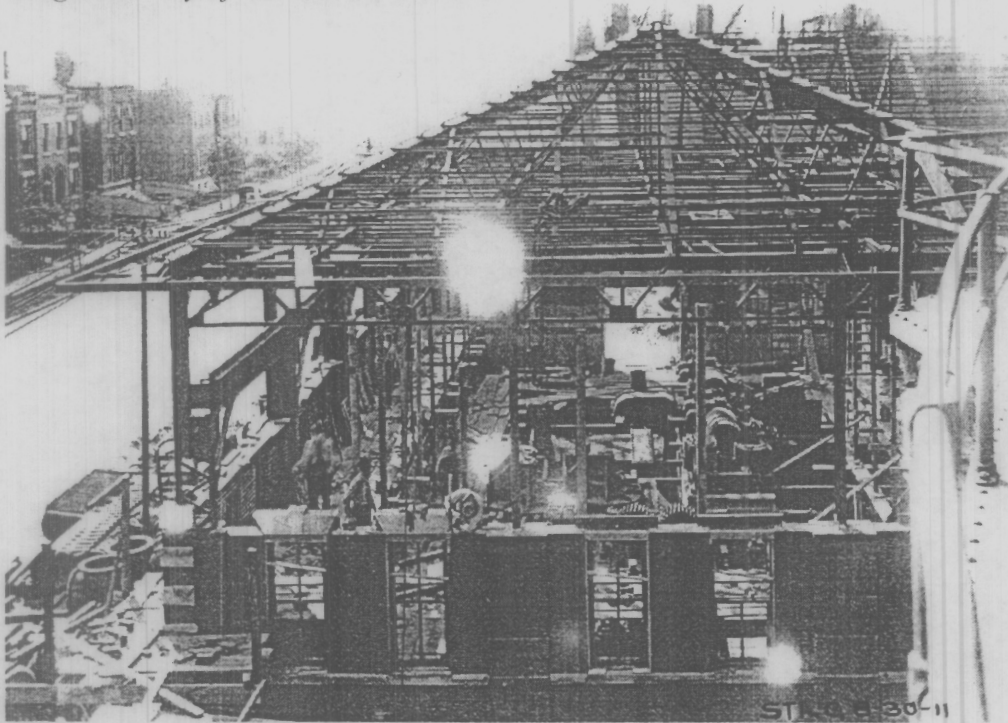
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Laclede Gas Light Co. Pumping Station G
St. Louis [Independent City], Missouri

to the pumping station or Gasometer at time of construction, perhaps because block 4807 was never residential or because the site was already associated with the company.

Image 5: Laclede Gas Light Co. Pumping Station G construction, August 1911.
Image courtesy of the Laclede Gas Co.



Construction on the pump house began in April 1911 as Laclede Gas Light Co. simultaneously erected a steel natural gas holder immediately to the west (**image 5**). The Pumping Station G pump house worked in conjunction with both the new Gasometer as well as its 1901 predecessor. Natural gas was drawn from the tanks via three 300-horsepower compressors and distributed through gas mains to customers throughout the city.¹⁴ The gas storage tanks, or Gasometers, were approximately 210 feet in diameter and 110 feet in height. Construction cost for the 1911 holder was \$275,000. Each tank held natural gas upon completion, as well as 8,500,000 gallons of water which served as

¹⁴ A natural gas hybrid was used prior to the 1950s but was commonly referred to as only natural gas.

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ballast for the storage.¹⁵ The telescopic Gasometers could ascend and descend along the steel framework as necessitated by storage capacity. This was a practical but advanced solution for fluctuating natural gas containment. An image of the earlier tank from 1909 reveals an increased storage capacity from that currently observed (**image 4**). The 1911 storage tank was taken out of service in the early 1950s and was demolished in 1966. The 1901 Gasometer was rebuilt in 1942 and this reconstruction is extant.

The pump house cost \$15,000 to construct but no record of an architect has been found. However, the design is tentatively attributed to Mauran, Russell & Crowell, the prominent architectural firm commissioned to design Laclede Gas Light's 10-story company headquarters (NR 11/26/1980) in downtown St. Louis at about the same time that the pump house was under construction. Although utterly dissimilar, both of these buildings have classical affinities and share a mastery of composition and skillfully executed brickwork. Mauran, Russell & Crowell was skilled in combining high art with specific industrial demands, as evidenced by the plant the firm designed in 1900 for the Laclede Power Company at 1240 Lewis in the North Riverfront Industrial District (NR 05/01/2003).¹⁶

The origins of Mauran, Russell & Crowell can be traced to the Boston firm of Shepley, Rutan & Coolidge—successors to Henry Hobson Richardson. Principal architect John Lawrence Mauran (1866-1933) joined the Shepley, Rutan & Coolidge office in St. Louis after stint in Chicago. After the parent firm left St. Louis, Mauran formed a partnership with Ernest J. Russell and Edward G. Garden. In 1911, Garden left and William DeForest Crowell joined the firm. While the previous incarnation was nationally noted for its residential design, the arrival of Crowell brought more commercial architecture prominence—most notably in office building design.

Brickwork at the highly articulated pump house is refined, taking form not only along courses but also as pilasters and unobtrusive decorative corbelling at intervals on three elevations. Formal limestone quoins bracket all corners. Paired rectangular metal windows are distributed along three elevations with transoms, criss-crossed with diamond-shaped patterns, above each window pair.

¹⁵ Correspondence with Jerry King, site developer.

¹⁶ The Laclede Power Co. was the electric power component of the Laclede Gas Light Co. during the early years of the twentieth century. The Securities and Exchange Commission ordered Laclede Gas Light Co. to transfer its electric power holdings to the Union Electric Co. in the mid-1940s. In exchange, Laclede Gas Light Co. received the St. Louis County Gas Co. controlled by UE.

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Laclede Gas Light Co. Pumping Station G
St. Louis [Independent City], Missouri

Photographs indicate that construction of the pump house probably came to an end in the autumn of 1911 (**image 5**); these images also offer a glimpse of Chouteau Avenue looking westward from Newstead Avenue. The buildings visible on the south side of Chouteau—opposite the Laclede Gas Light Co. facilities—reveal an urban context similar to that found in the present day. It is not known if Laclede Gas Light Co. intended to shield the neighborhood from the industrial impact of its facility. Nonetheless, the arrangement of the structures and the pump house helped to diminish the impact of the Gasometers upon the residential side of Chouteau. Sanborn fire insurance maps reveal that the pump house at Pumping Station G retains a setback similar to buildings found along the north side of Chouteau Avenue in surrounding blocks.

Though the Gasometer constructed in 1911 had deteriorated by the 1960s and was demolished, the other one—rebuilt in 1942—continued in use until the 1990s.¹⁷ Meanwhile, a massive series of caverns in north St. Louis County began to replace the early twentieth century gas holders as early as 1951. New technologies enabled Laclede Gas Light Co. to safely store natural gas underground in sandstone and distribute it over a larger geographic area. The early years of that same decade marked another change for the company: *Light* was removed from its incorporated name.¹⁸ This small change reflected widespread use of natural gas not only for lighting, but also house heating, cooking, refrigeration, water heating and air conditioning. Though the shift corresponds to the period of importance of Pumping Station G, the name Laclede Gas Light Co. is still retained on the pump house.

An additional pumping station near Natural Bridge and Chevrolet Avenues in North St. Louis dates from the 1920s and was also decommissioned in the 1990s; Pumping Station N includes the only other extant pump house and Gasometer in the city. This facility was constructed with a single storage tank, however. Though its Gasometer had a larger capacity than either of the two tanks for at the Chouteau plant, the very industrial setting of Pumping Station N is the most significant difference between it and the Chouteau Avenue plant.

¹⁷ *Historic Houses of Missouri Clippings*. Vol. IX. p91.

¹⁸ Laclede Gas Co. *Annual Report for 1950*.

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St. Louis [Independent City], Missouri

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Laclede Gas Light Co. Pumping Station G
St. Louis [Independent City], Missouri

Boundary Description

The Laclede Gas Light Co. Pumping Station G is located on City Block 4807 in St. Louis, Missouri. The nominated property is legally known by the Assessor's Office as parcel number 48070000310. The boundary of the nominated property is indicated by a dashed line on the accompanying map entitled "Laclede Gas Light Co. Pumping Station G Boundary Map."

Boundary Justification

The nominated parcel includes all extant property historically associated with the Laclede Gas Light Co. Pumping Station G.

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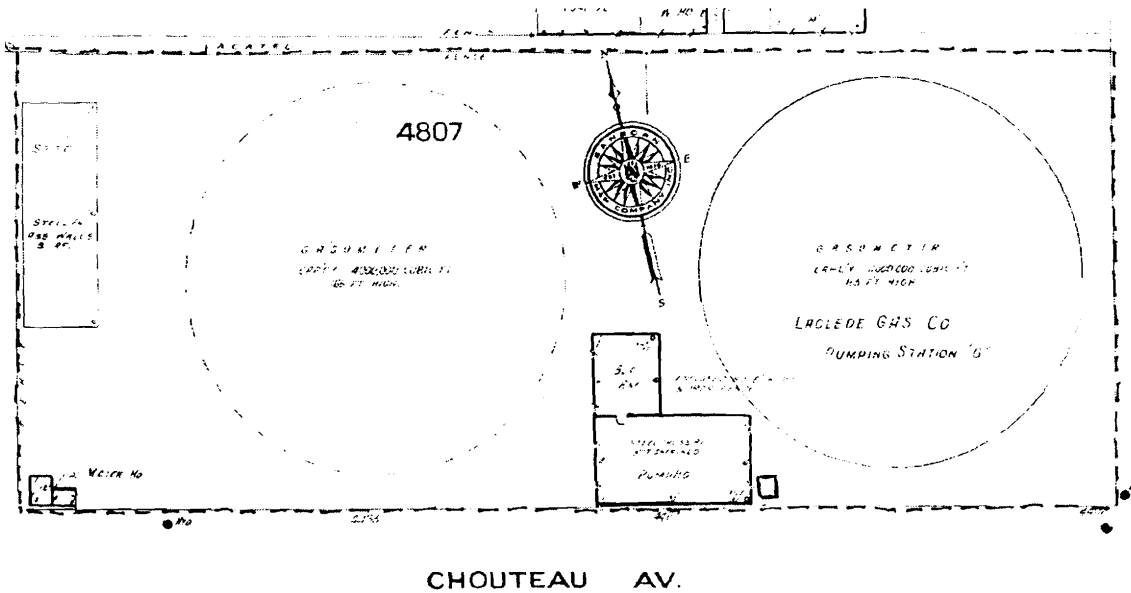
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Laclede Gas Light Co. Pumping Station G
St. Louis [Independent City], Missouri

Laclede Gas Light Co. Pumping Station G Boundary Map

Source: Sanborn Map Company. Vol. 5, plate 103, 1968.





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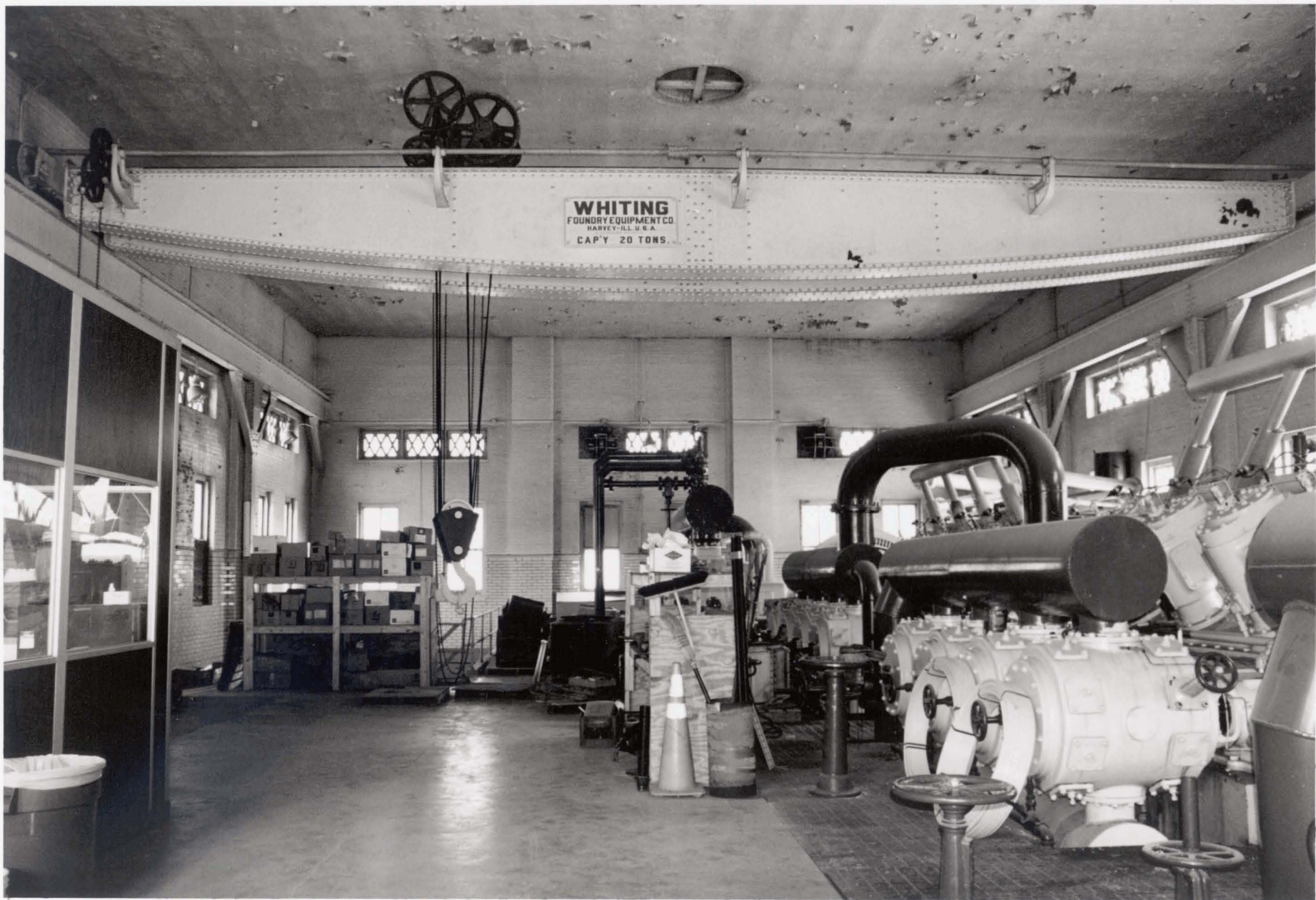
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