

PRATT & WHITNEY PLANT

West Basin

(Pratt & Whitney Plant, Other Structures
and Facilities Building No. 71)

1500-2000 East Bannister Road

Kansas City

Jackson County

Missouri

HAER No. MO-118-X

PHOTOGRAPHS

WRITTEN HISTORICAL AND DESCRIPTIVE DATA

HISTORIC AMERICAN ENGINEERING RECORD

Midwest Regional Office

National Park Service

601 Riverfront Drive

Omaha, Nebraska 68102

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HAER No. MO-118-X

Location: 1500–2000 East Bannister Road Kansas City, Jackson County, Missouri

Present Owner: U. S. Department of Energy, National Nuclear Security Administration

Present Use: Fire protection

Significance: This basin was built as a reservoir for water and is used for the boiler system as well as fire protection. From the initial years of Pratt & Whitney with its Double Wasp engines, through the years of Westinghouse, responsible for manufacturing the J34 Gas Turbine engine, to the development of thermonuclear weapon components during the Cold War, the Kansas City Plant housed a multi-disciplinary engineering and manufacturing facility tied to the nation's homeland security. Due to the diversified requirements of subsequent corporations, the original Pratt & Whitney Plant was modified and added to, meeting the needs of ongoing technological advances while retaining the structural elements that made this complex a landmark of American industrial design.

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PART I. HISTORICAL INFORMATION

A. Physical History

1. Date of Construction: 1943
2. Architect/Engineer: Albert Kahn Associated Architects and Engineers, Detroit, Michigan (attributed)
3. Builder/Contractor/Supplier: Long-Turner Construction Company, Kansas City
4. Original Plans: Yes
5. Alterations and Additions: No

B. Historical Context

The West Basin has been used for fire protection since 1943, where water continuously flows between boilers (Building No. 5) and the cooling towers to the north. When the cooling towers were replaced, pumps in the basin were upgraded.

PART II. ARCHITECTURAL INFORMATION

A. General Statement

The West Basin is constructed of reinforced concrete and measures approximately 130' x 47'.

1. Architectural Character: N/A
2. Condition of Fabric: Excellent

B. Description of Exterior

The basin is a reinforced concrete wall that holds water.

- C. Description of Interior: N/A

D. Site

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The West Basin is sited directly south of the Cooling Towers (Building No. 72) and north of the West Boiler House (Building No. 5).

PART III. BIBLIOGRAPHY

Primary Sources

NNSA Archives. Bannister Federal Complex, 1500-2000 East Bannister Road, Kansas City, Missouri.