

EAST BOSTON PUMPING STATION
CHELSEA STREET AT CHELSEA CREEK
BOSTON
SUFFOLK COUNTY
MASSACHUSETTS

HAER No. MA-65

HAER,
MASS,
13-BOST,
78 -

PHOTOGRAPHS

WRITTEN HISTORICAL AND DESCRIPTIVE DATA

HISTORIC AMERICAN ENGINEERING RECORD
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE
U.S. DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
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Location: Chelsea Street at Chelsea Creek, Boston, Suffolk County, Mass.

Significance: The station's three horizontal triple expansion Corliss engines, built by Allis Company, Milwaukee, are the only surviving examples of this once popular engine.

Description: Center pavillion flanked by one hundred feet long wings and the depth is 65 feet. A small attached structure is at the southwest end of the building. The massing and detailing (e.g. quoins, round arched windows with projecting lintels and attic) are in the Beaux-Arts classical style. The exterior architecture is unrelated to the room arrangement (see rough plan). In all probability, the station was planned around the functional requirements and the placement of the machinery. The massing and detailing were than added, with only minimal relation to essentially rectangular shape of the interior.

History: Completed in 1895, the station was damaged in the great Chelsea Fire of April 12, 1908 and repaired by 1911. Boston mill architect and engineer Arthur F. Gray (1855-1944) designed this station and the other two in the system. The system lifted raw sewage 15 feet and pumped it out into Boston Harbor beyond Deer Island. The construction of a relief tunnel in 1968 made this station redundant except at times of heavy rainfall.

Sources: Most information taken from Peter Stott's pamphlet prepared for the Society for Industrial Archeology's 13th annual conference, June 14-17, 1984. Additional information provided by Stott in telephone conversation of August 30, 1988. Information on shape of building based on photographs.

Historian: Bill Lebovich, HAER, August 30, 1988

East Boston Pumping Station
Chelsea St. at Chelsea Creek
Boston
Suffolk County
Massachusetts

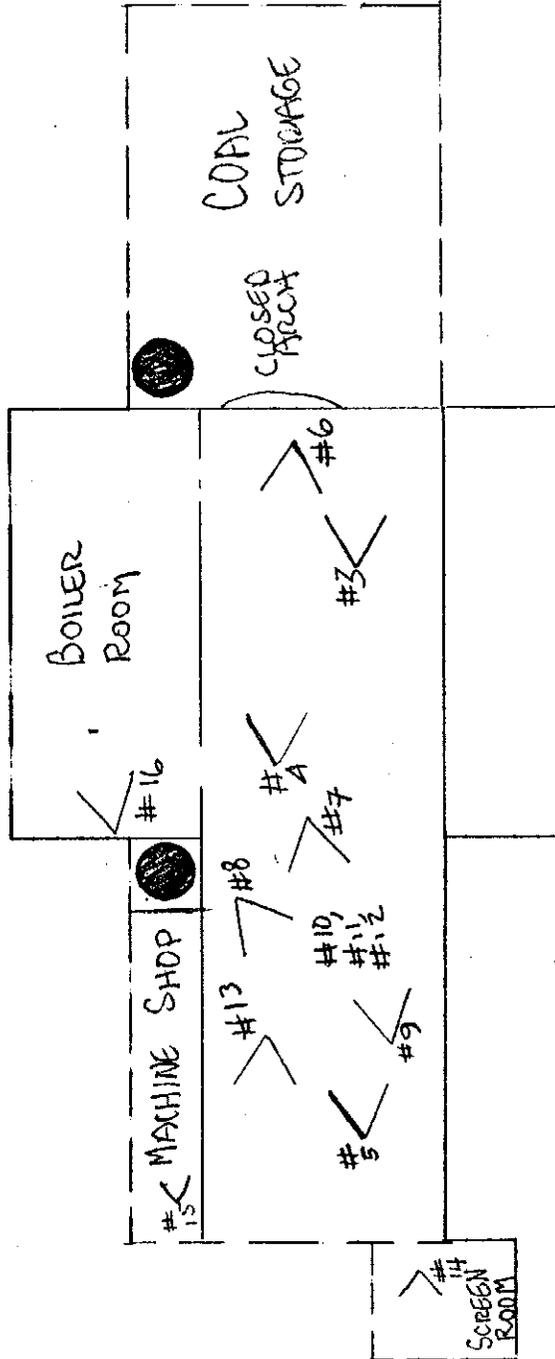
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↗ PHOTO
#1

NO SCALE
APPROXIMATE WINDOW AND
DOOR OPENINGS

WATER



LAND

ROUGH SKETCH SHOWING
LAYOUT OF BUILDING AND
CAMERA POSITIONS

PHOTO
#2
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