

**MARYLAND HISTORICAL TRUST  
DETERMINATION OF ELIGIBILITY FORM**

NR Eligible: yes   
no

Property Name: Eastern Avenue Pumping Station Inventory Number: B-1047  
 Address: 751 Eastern Avenue Historic district:  yes  no  
 City: Baltimore Zip Code: 21202 County: Baltimore City  
 USGS Quadrangle(s): Baltimore East  
 Property Owner: Mayor and City Council Tax Account ID Number: 03061438001  
 Tax Map Parcel Number(s): \_\_\_\_\_ Tax Map Number: 3  
 Project: Red Line Corridor Transit Study Agency: Mass Transit Administration  
 Agency Prepared By: John Milner Associates, Inc.  
 Preparer's Name: Katherine Larson Farnham Date Prepared: 1/25/2006  
 Documentation is presented in: MHT State Historic Sites Inventory Form (1983)  
 Preparer's Eligibility Recommendation:  Eligibility recommended  Eligibility not recommended  
 Criteria:  A  B  C  D Considerations:  A  B  C  D  E  F  G  
*Complete if the property is a contributing or non-contributing resource to a NR district/property:*  
 Name of the District/Property: \_\_\_\_\_  
 Inventory Number: \_\_\_\_\_ Eligible:  yes  no Listed:  yes  no  
 Site visit by MHT Staff  yes  no Name: \_\_\_\_\_ Date: \_\_\_\_\_

Description of Property and Justification: *(Please attach map and photo)*

The Eastern Avenue Pumping Station, now housing the Public Works Museum, is a monumental Classical Revival municipal building. It faces north on a small extension of Eastern Avenue between President Street and the channel between it and Pier 6 of the Inner Harbor. It is a three-and-one-half-story structure faced with orange brick and trimmed with sandstone and granite stonework. There are four primary sections running north to south: the front main block, the hyphen, the rear wing, and a smokestack structure attached to the rear wing. The main block is eleven bays wide and three bays deep; the hyphen between the main block and rear wing is two-and-one-half-stories in height and two bays deep; and the rear wing is the same height as the main block and five bays wide and three bays deep. The smokestack is a round brick structure set atop a two-story square base which echoes the architecture of the main building. The granite foundation and striated brick first floor are identical to the main building, and classical blind arches adorn the three exposed sides of the base on the second-floor level. A brick passageway on this level connects the stack to the main building.

The main building's sections have a rusticated granite-block foundation surmounted by a smooth granite water table at the level of the first floor windowsills. The first floor level is ornamented by horizontal striations in the orange brick cladding, with dramatic flared hoods above the window openings. Paired windows with transoms light this floor, and the center entrance on the north

<b>MARYLAND HISTORICAL TRUST REVIEW</b>	
Eligibility recommended <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Eligibility not recommended <input type="checkbox"/>
Criteria: <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> A <input type="checkbox"/> B <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> C <input type="checkbox"/> D	Considerations: <input type="checkbox"/> A <input type="checkbox"/> B <input type="checkbox"/> C <input type="checkbox"/> D <input type="checkbox"/> E <input type="checkbox"/> F <input type="checkbox"/> G
MHT Comments:	
<u>John Jankowski</u> Reviewer, Office of Preservation Services	<u>7-26-2006</u> Date
<u>[Signature]</u> Reviewer, National Register Program	<u>8/7/06</u> Date

façade of the main block features an elaborate stone surround. Double-lead five-panel wooden doors with a round-arched fanlight are recessed within an arched surround with a carved keystone. The surround is set within a stone entrance hood with side panels supporting paired scroll brackets on either side. The top of the porch is actually a balcony with a solid stone parapet pierced by round holes. This entrance is at the center of a three-bay-wide, one-by-deep, two-and-one-half-story projecting section with a gabled pediment. The pediment has full returns, dentil trim, and an oculus gable window with four keystones. A sandstone cornice denotes the base of the second floor, which universally features paired windows with shared Roman-arched transoms and hood moldings, set in small recesses between brick pilasters. A wide brick entablature and heavy dentiled cornice mark the top of this floor.

The third level of the main block and rear wing could be construed as one or two stories. It consists of a short brick half-story with paired four-light windows and four-sided corner turrets with curved-pyramidal roofs clad in slate shingles, above which is the main hipped roof, also clad in slate. On the main block, this roof is punctuated by numerous front-gabled copper-clad dormers, each containing a four-light window, and the top of the roof is occupied by an oblong hip-roofed copper-clad monitor with horizontal bands of four-light windows. The rear wing's roofline lacks dormers but its top is surmounted by a tall square tower with a curved pyramidal roof similar to those on the turrets. The tower has copper cladding and has paired four-light windows at its base surmounted by enclosed vents above.

The Eastern Avenue Pumping Station was constructed in 1910-1911 to process the city's sewage and improve sanitary conditions. Its location was chosen for proximity to both the railroad and harbor, from which coal shipments arrived to power it. Prior to its construction, the city relied on cesspools and open drains to rid itself of sewage, but after 1900, increased use of indoor plumbing coupled with growing awareness of sewage-borne diseases and the rapid expansion of the city caused city officials to form the Baltimore Sewerage Commission. The commission planned a modern sewage disposal and treatment system to be expanded citywide. The Eastern Avenue facility was one of the most visible parts of this public works effort, and was designed to pump sewage to a treatment site in Baltimore County. The pumping station was designed by architect Harry Brauns, who was the architect for the Sewerage Commission, and the contract for its construction was awarded to the Noel Construction Company in 1908. The cornerstone was placed in June 1910, and the building was completed in August 1911. The station began operations in early 1912, with three large Corliss triple expansion pumping engines fueled by coal boilers. This massive equipment occupied much of the interior space until 1960, when smaller turbine pumps were installed as a replacement and occupied only the lower floor. The modernization of the system also resulted in the truncation of the smokestack and removal of exterior coal conveyors on the west side. The opening of the space permitted the Baltimore Museum of Public Works to move into upper levels of the building by 1983.

The Eastern Avenue Pumping Station is a key landmark in the development of Baltimore's public sewerage system, and its existence aided in the tremendous expansion of the city and municipal services after 1912. In terms of technological history, it also represents the early-twentieth-century technology that helped make widespread installation of indoor plumbing and modern municipal sewage disposal a reality in cities nationwide. As such, it meets NRHP Criterion A. It also meets NRHP Criterion C as an example of a Neoclassical municipal facility. It is a well-preserved and distinctive building which retains considerable integrity and is recommended eligible for the NRHP.

**MARYLAND HISTORICAL TRUST REVIEW**

Eligibility recommended \_\_\_\_\_ Eligibility not recommended \_\_\_\_\_

Criteria: \_\_\_A \_\_\_B \_\_\_C \_\_\_D Considerations: \_\_\_A \_\_\_B \_\_\_C \_\_\_D \_\_\_E \_\_\_F \_\_\_G

MHT Comments:

\_\_\_\_\_  
 Reviewer, Office of Preservation Services

\_\_\_\_\_  
 Date

\_\_\_\_\_  
 Reviewer, National Register Program

\_\_\_\_\_  
 Date

Statement of Significance  
Eastern Avenue Pumping Station (B-1047)  
Baltimore City, Maryland  
Public, 1911

The Eastern Avenue Pumping Station was built in 1910-1911 by the city of Baltimore as a part of the city's efforts at an improved sewage system. The building housed three large Corliss triple expansion pumping engines and boilers which pumped sewage to a treatment plant in Baltimore County. This new system was a major improvement over the cesspools and open drains used previously. The elaborate building, designed by Harry Brauns, paid tribute to the city's pride in its civic progress.

# Maryland Historical Trust State Historic Sites Inventory Form

## 1. Name (indicate preferred name)

historic Eastern Avenue Pumping Station

and/or common

## 2. Location

street & number Eastern Avenue and President Street  not for publication

city, town Baltimore  vicinity of congressional district

state Maryland county

## 3. Classification

Category	Ownership	Status	Present Use	
<input type="checkbox"/> district	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> public	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> occupied	<input type="checkbox"/> agriculture	<input type="checkbox"/> museum
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> building(s)	<input type="checkbox"/> private	<input type="checkbox"/> unoccupied	<input type="checkbox"/> commercial	<input type="checkbox"/> park
<input type="checkbox"/> structure	<input type="checkbox"/> both	<input type="checkbox"/> work in progress	<input type="checkbox"/> educational	<input type="checkbox"/> private residence
<input type="checkbox"/> site	<b>Public Acquisition</b>	<b>Accessible</b>	<input type="checkbox"/> entertainment	<input type="checkbox"/> religious
<input type="checkbox"/> object	<input type="checkbox"/> in process	<input type="checkbox"/> yes: restricted	<input type="checkbox"/> government	<input type="checkbox"/> scientific
	<input type="checkbox"/> being considered	<input type="checkbox"/> yes: unrestricted	<input type="checkbox"/> industrial	<input type="checkbox"/> transportation
	<input type="checkbox"/> not applicable	<input type="checkbox"/> no	<input type="checkbox"/> military	<input type="checkbox"/> other:

## 4. Owner of Property (give names and mailing addresses of all owners)

name City of Baltimore

street & number telephone no.:

city, town Baltimore state and zip code Maryland

## 5. Location of Legal Description

courthouse, registry of deeds, etc. Baltimore City Courthouse liber RO 2351

street & number Fayette and Calvert Streets folio 500

city, town Baltimore state Maryland

## 6. Representation in Existing Historical Surveys

title

date  federal  state  county  local

depository for survey records

city, town state

## 7. Description

Survey No. B-1047

### Condition

excellent  
 good  
 fair

deteriorated  
 ruins  
 unexposed

### Check one

unaltered  
 altered

### Check one

original site  
 moved      date of move \_\_\_\_\_

Prepare both a summary paragraph and a general description of the resource and its various elements as it exists today.

The exterior of the Eastern Avenue Sewage Pumping Station is a prime example of the use of architectural style to glorify large municipal public works projects in the late nineteenth and early twentieth centuries. The awkward mixture of neo-classical form and a powerhouse function has been reduced somewhat by the removal of the steel coal-handling structure which once adorned the west facade and by the truncation of the smokestack, but the north facade, recently restored, is an elegant neo-classical design. It is eleven bays wide and two and a half stories high with a dormered roof. The center three bays project in a pedimented porch which frames the main entrance and houses staff offices and storage. The entire structure is of a Tuscan colored brick masonry construction.

One of the most aesthetically appealing elements is the roof. Its copper dormers and midline monitor are framed by copper turrets at the corners, all contrasting with the slate roofing. The exterior of the boiler house to the south is only slightly less ornate. The large copper and slate cupola which formerly received the coal conveyor from street level is just decorative now. The roof treatment, fenestration and the horizontal cornices at three levels help unite the boiler house to the main structure and to the stack whose base is also decorated.

The Pumping Station is divided into three main sections: the pump room, the boiler room and a pipe gallery which connects these two. Sewage from a large interceptor under Pratt Street and East Falls Avenue enters the pipe gallery section through the west wall several feet below grade. After passing through a screen chamber to remove objects which might damage the pumps, the effluent enters a holding tank which is connected to the pumps.

The pump room occupies the northern part of the complex. It is a single open space from the pumps in the basement to the roof trusses. This area originally housed the three story high steam engines which drove the pumps. The smaller rotary pumps are now driven by electric motors which leaves the larger volume of the space empty. A modern steel platform in the middle of the room gives the operator an unobstructed view of the pumps.

The pipe gallery which occupies the area above the screen chamber originally housed the steam pipes and valves which controlled the flow of steam from the boilers to the engines. Large electrical panels and transformers serving the pump motors now occupy this space on the ground floor. The second floor is empty.

The boiler room still contains the large coal hoppers suspended above the floor but the boilers have been removed. Small

# 8. Significance

Survey No. B-1047

Period	Areas of Significance—Check and justify below			
<input type="checkbox"/> prehistoric	<input type="checkbox"/> archeology-prehistoric	<input type="checkbox"/> community planning	<input type="checkbox"/> landscape architecture	<input type="checkbox"/> religion
<input type="checkbox"/> 1400-1499	<input type="checkbox"/> archeology-historic	<input type="checkbox"/> conservation	<input type="checkbox"/> law	<input type="checkbox"/> science
<input type="checkbox"/> 1500-1599	<input type="checkbox"/> agriculture	<input type="checkbox"/> economics	<input type="checkbox"/> literature	<input type="checkbox"/> sculpture
<input type="checkbox"/> 1600-1699	<input type="checkbox"/> architecture	<input type="checkbox"/> education	<input type="checkbox"/> military	<input type="checkbox"/> social/
<input type="checkbox"/> 1700-1799	<input type="checkbox"/> art	<input type="checkbox"/> engineering	<input type="checkbox"/> music	<input type="checkbox"/> humanitarian
<input type="checkbox"/> 1800-1899	<input type="checkbox"/> commerce	<input type="checkbox"/> exploration/settlement	<input type="checkbox"/> philosophy	<input type="checkbox"/> theater
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 1900-	<input type="checkbox"/> communications	<input type="checkbox"/> industry	<input type="checkbox"/> politics/government	<input type="checkbox"/> transportation
		<input type="checkbox"/> invention		<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> other (specify) public works

**Specific dates** built 1910-11 **Builder/Architect** Harry Brauns

check: Applicable Criteria:  A  B  C  D  
and/or

Applicable Exception:  A  B  C  D  E  F  G

Level of Significance:  national  state  local

Prepare both a summary paragraph of significance and a general statement of history and support.

The Eastern Avenue Pumping Station was built in 1910-1911 by the city of Baltimore as a part of the city's efforts at an improved sewage system. The building housed three large Corliss triple expansion pumping engines and boilers which pumped sewage to a treatment plant in Baltimore County. This new system was a major improvement over the cesspools and open drains used previously. The elaborate building, designed by Harry Brauns, paid tribute to the city's pride in its civic progress.

Until the early twentieth century, Baltimore did not have a highly developed sewage system. The city used a system of cesspools and open drains which, in addition to being inadequate for the city's needs, bred a great deal of disease and pollution. The problem was compounded as the city grew, as greater demands were placed on the water supply. By the turn of the twentieth century, widespread use of indoor plumbing was also adding to the strain on the system..

In 1905, the Baltimore Sewerage Commission was formed to establish a sewage system for the entire city. The commission constructed sewers, storm drains and pumping stations until 1916, when Baltimore finally had a modern sewage system.

The Eastern Avenue Pumping Station, at President Street, was part of this major public works project. The station pumped sewage to Baltimore's first sewage treatment plant in Baltimore County. The Eastern Avenue site was chosen because of its proximity to both rail and water transportation for the coal necessary to power the pumps.

The contract for the building was awarded in May 1908 to Noel Construction Company. Harry Brauns, architect for the Sewerage Commission, designed the station. The cornerstone was laid in June 1910, and construction was completed in August 1911. Mayor James H. Preston officiated as the pumps were put into operation on January 31, 1912.

The Pumping Station was built in an elaborate Beaux Art style to emphasize the important place it held in the growth of a modern



Eastern Avenue Pumping Station (B-1047)  
Baltimore City, Maryland

7.1

boilers for heating purposes now occupy the space but are oil-fired. A modern concrete block structure occupies the western half of the room and houses the City of Baltimore Public Works Museum.

One of the most interesting structural features of the building is the construction of the foundations. When excavation began it was found that the soil was unstable since the area was essentially on the flood plane of the Jones Falls. At a depth of about thirty feet a layer of gravel was found which was adequate to support the building but not the great weight of the Corliss engines. Consequently the engineers designed a separate foundation built on a mat of closely-spaced piles driven into the soft substrata.

Eastern Avenue Pumping Station  
(B-1047)  
8.1

city. The station originally housed three Corliss triple expansion pumping engines and boilers, which took up most of the interior space. These engines were replaced by much smaller electric turbine pumps in 1960, which take up only the lower floor of the building. The City of Baltimore's Public Works Museum is also housed in the Eastern Avenue Pumping Station.



↑  
Eastern Avenue  
Pumping Station  
MIHP# B-1047

Baltimore  
East

1. SITE NO

B-1047

## HAER INVENTORY

Historic American Engineering Record  
Department of the Interior, Washington, D.C. 20240

2. INDUSTRIAL CLASSIFICATION

Utilities

3. PRIORITY

4. DANGER OF DEMOLITION?  
(SPECIFY THREAT) YES  NO  UNKNOWN

5. DATE

1911

6. GOVT SOURCE OF THREAT

OWNER

ADMIN

7. OWNER ADMIN

CITY OF BALTIMORE

8. NAME(S) OF STRUCTURE

Eastern Avenue Pumping Station

9. OWNER'S ADDRESS

10. STATE  
COUNTY

MD

COUNTY NAME

CITY/VICINITY

BALTIMORE

CONG  
DISTSTATE  
COUNTY

MD

COUNTY NAME

CITY/VICINITY

BALTIMORE

CONG  
DIST

11. SITE ADDRESS (STREET &amp; NO.)

12. EXISTING  
SURVEYS NP  NHL  HABS  HAER-I  HAER  NPS  CL6  
 CONF  STATE  COUNTY  LOCAL  OTHER

13. SPECIAL FEATURES (DESCRIBE BELOW)

 INTERIOR INTACT  EXTERIOR INTACT  ENVIRONS INTACT

14. UTM ZONE

EASTING

NORTHING

SIGN

SCALE

 1:24  1:62.5QUAD  
NAME

Baltimore East

UTM ZONE

EASTING

NORTHING

SIGN

SCALE

 1:24  1:62.5QUAD  
NAME

15. CONDITION

70  EXCELLENT71  GOOD72  FAIR73  DETERIORATED74  RUINS75  UNEXPOSED76  ALTERED82  DESTROYED85  DEMOLISHED

16. INVENTORIED BY

DENNIS ZEMBALA

AFFILIATION

BALTO. MUSEUM OF INDUSTRY

DATE

3/83

17. DESCRIPTION AND BACKGROUND HISTORY, INCLUDING CONSTRUCTION DATE(S), HISTORICAL DATE(S), PHYSICAL DIMENSIONS,  
MATERIALS, EXTANT EQUIPMENT AND IMPORTANT BUILDERS, ENGINEERS, ETC.

SEE ATTACHED

(CONT OVER)

18. ORIGINAL USE

pumping station

PRESENT USE

pumping station / museum

ADAPTIVE USE

19. REFERENCES—HISTORICAL REFERENCES, PERSONAL CONTACTS, AND/OR OTHER

Public Works Museum archives

Vertical Files, Baltimore Museum of Industry

(CONT OVER)

20. URBAN AREA 50,000  
POP. OR MORE? YES  NO

21. NPS REGION

22. PUBLIC ACCESSIBILITY

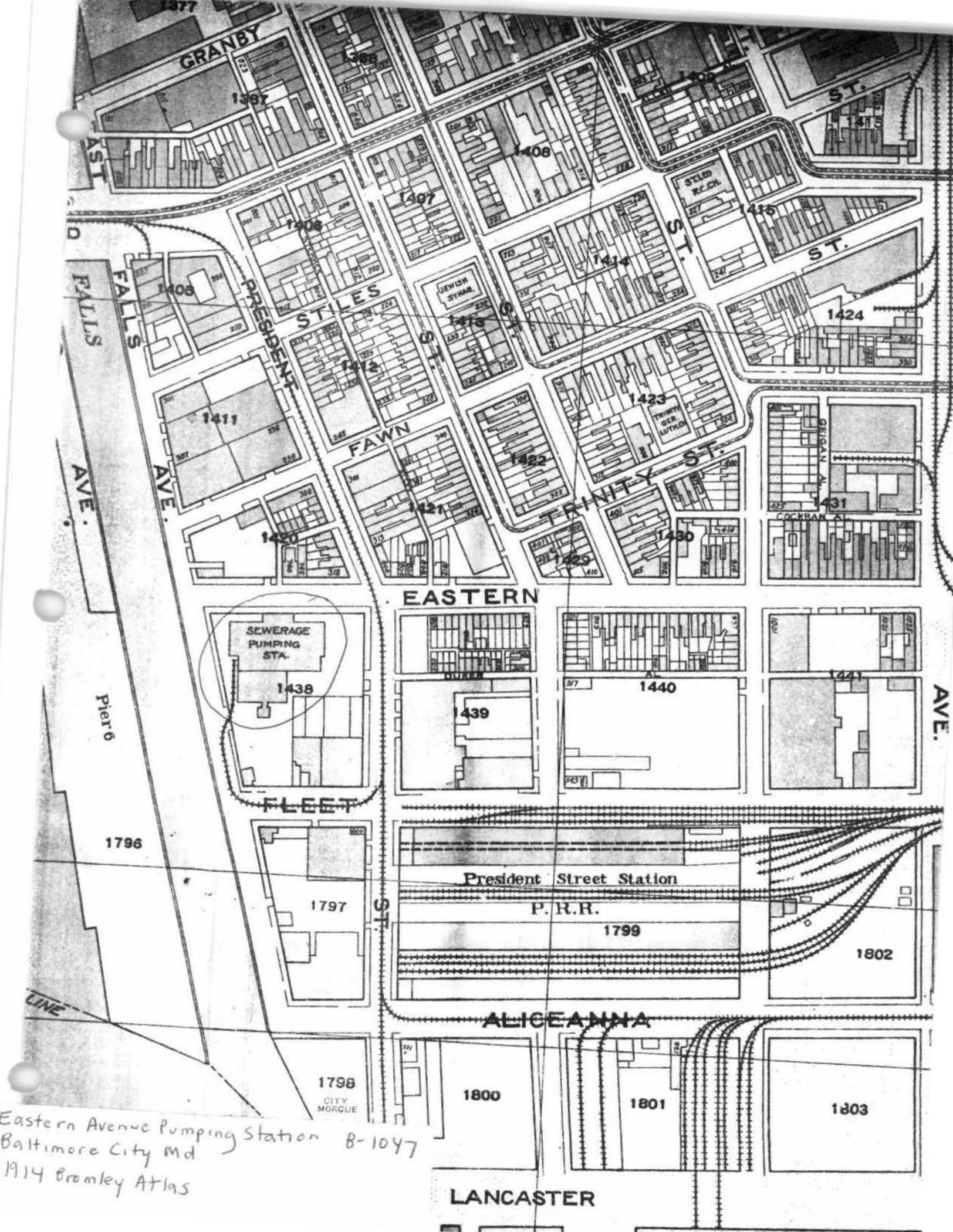
 YES, LIMITED  
 NO YES, UNLIMITED  
 UNKNOWN23. EDITOR  
INDEXER

24. LOCATED IN AN HISTORIC DISTRICT?

 YES  NO

NAME

DISTRICT I.D. NO



Eastern Avenue Pumping Station B-1047  
 Baltimore City Md  
 1914 Bromley Atlas

LANCASTER

17°30"

4350

4348

4347

520 000  
FEET

4346

39°15'

76°37'30"

910 000 FEET

362

363

35'

364

(CURT  
566  
SCALE

B-10417  
Eastern Ave.  
Pumping Station



Mapped by the Army Map Service  
Edited and published by the Geological Survey



B-1047

Eastern Avenue Pumping Station

Baltimore City, MD

Sarah Traum

12/14/2005

MD SHPO

View of main section, to SW

# 1 of 4



1000 1000 1000

B-1047

Eastern Avenue Pumping Station

Baltimore City, MD

Sarah Traum

12/14/2005

MD SHPO

Detail of front entrance, to S

# 2 of 4



0-1091

Eastern Avenue Pumping Station

Baltimore City, MD

Sarah Traum

12/14/2005

MD SHPO

Side view from Pier 6, looking E

# 3 of 4 <sup>025</sup>



BALTIMORE  
PUBLIC WORKS MUSEUM

B-1047

Eastern Avenue Pumping Station  
Baltimore City, MD

Sarah Traum

12/14/2005

MD SHPD

Detail of rear section, to E

#4 of 4

200

Archival



270047

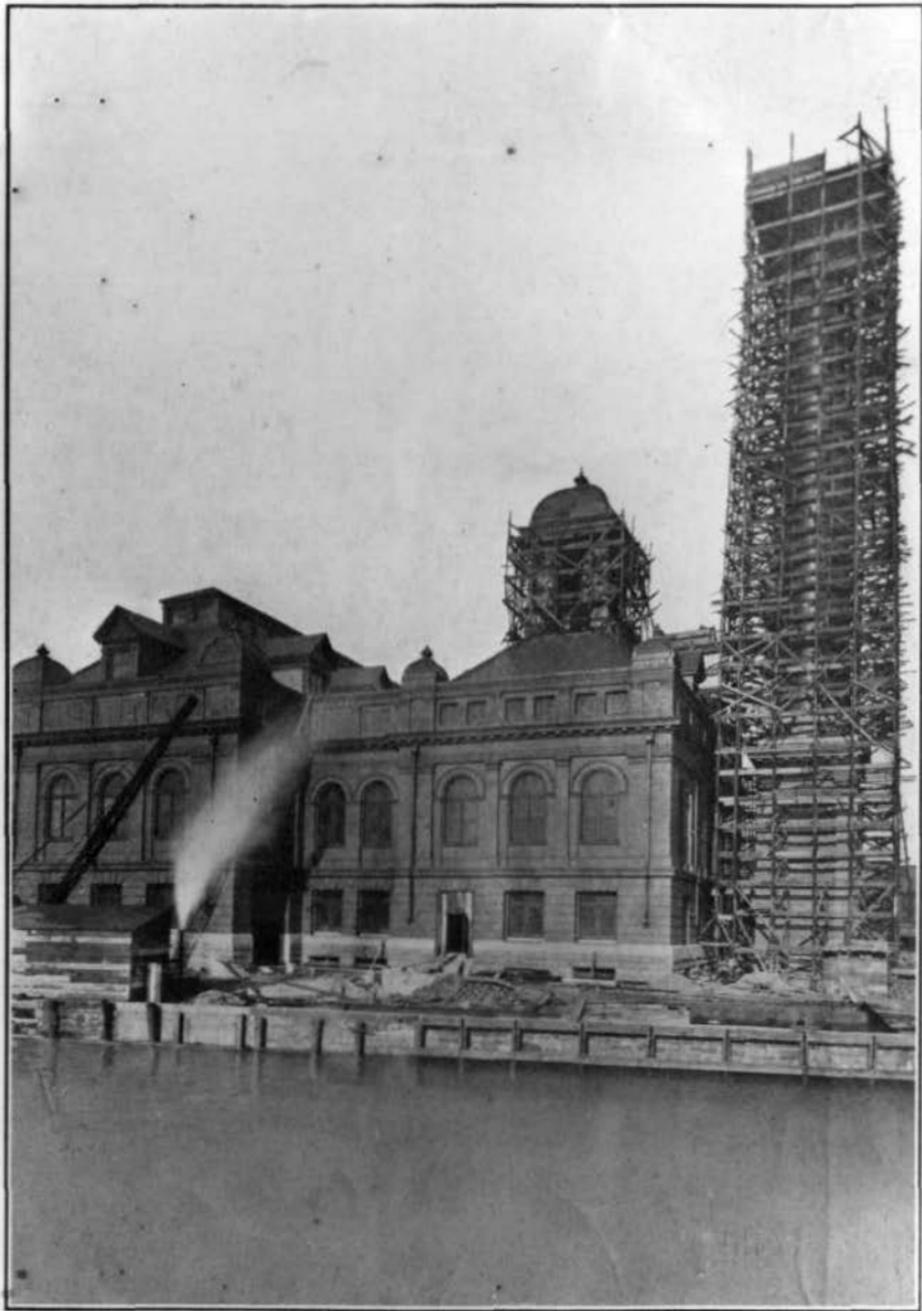
Avenue Pumping Station B-1047  
re City, md  
Liebhold 5/83, copy of D.P.W. original,  
a m engine, before removal in 1960

B-1047

Eastern Avenue Pumping Station  
Baltimore City, Md.

Peter Liebhold, 5/83

copy of Baltimore City Dept. of Public  
Works original, steam engine,  
before removal in 1960



**SEWAGE PUMPING STATION.**  
**Looking Northeast, Showing Chimney Under Construction.**

B-1047

Eastern Avenue Pumping Station  
Baltimore City, Md.

Peter Liebhold, 5/83

copy of 1910 original

(Dept. of Public Works,

City of Baltimore)

Avenue Pumping Station B-1047

City, Md.

Liebhold, 5/83, copy of 1910 original  
of Public Works, City of Balto.]



Eastern Avenue Pumping Station

B-1047

Baltimore City, Md

Peter Liebhold 5183

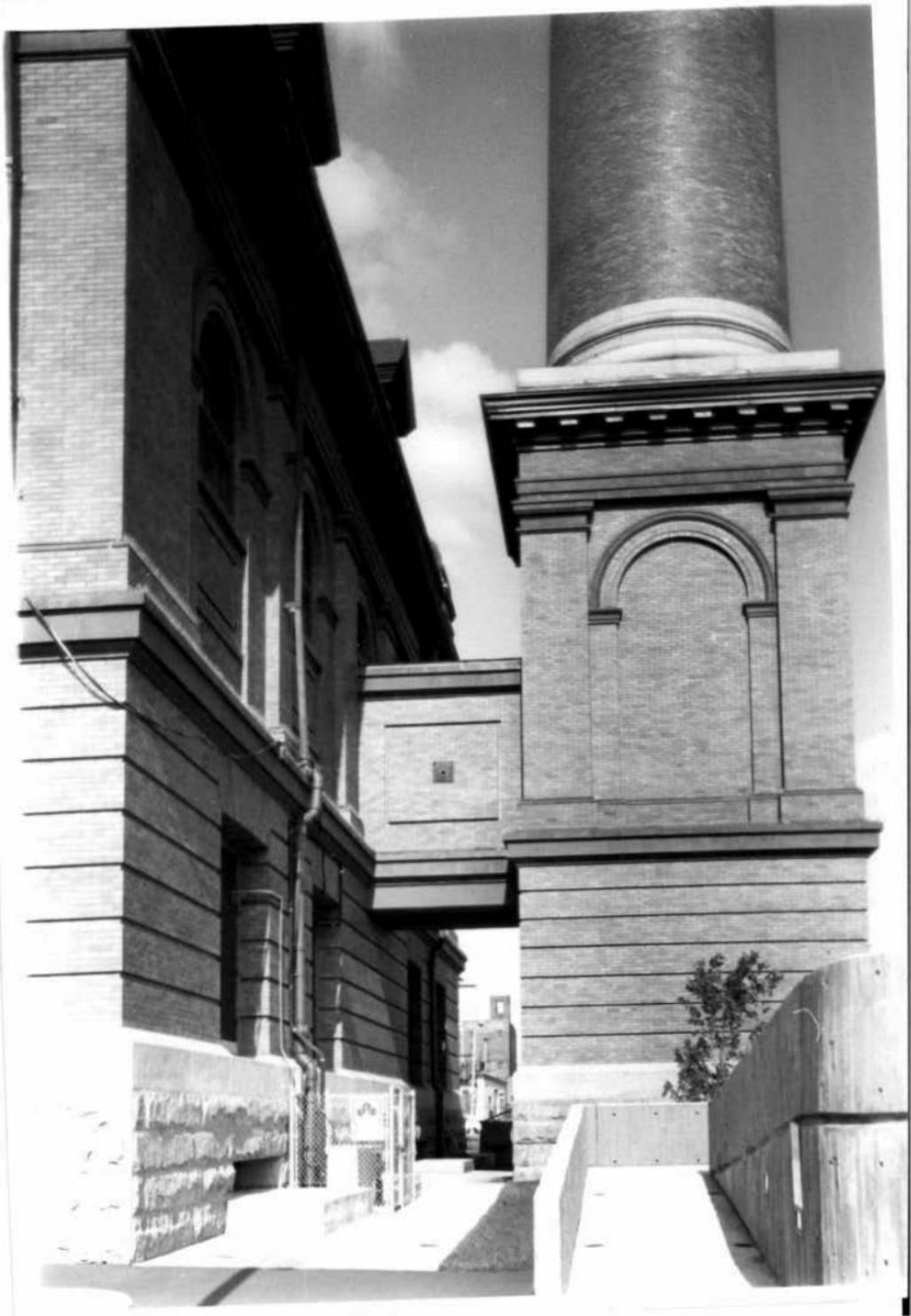
NORTH FACE



Eastern Avenue Pumping Station  
Baltimore City, Md.  
Peter Liebhold 5/83

B-1047

South facade



Eastern Avenue Pumping Station  
Baltimore, City, Md.  
Peter Liebhold 5183

B-1047

Base of stack



Eastern Avenue Pumping Station  
Baltimore City, Md  
Peter Liebhold 5/83

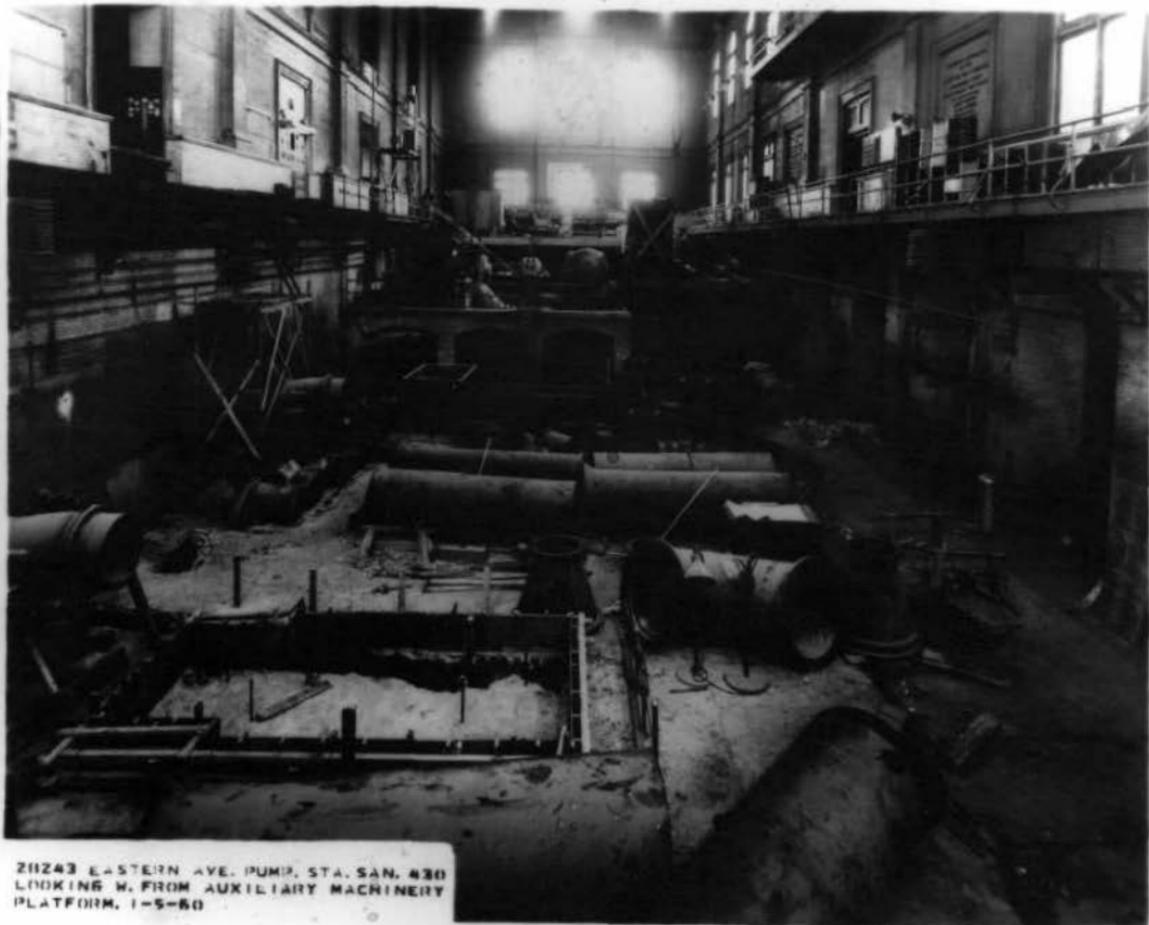
B-1047

LOOKING EAST



Eastern Avenue Pumping Station  
Baltimore City, Md.  
Peter Liebhold 5/83  
INTERIOR DETAIL

B-1047



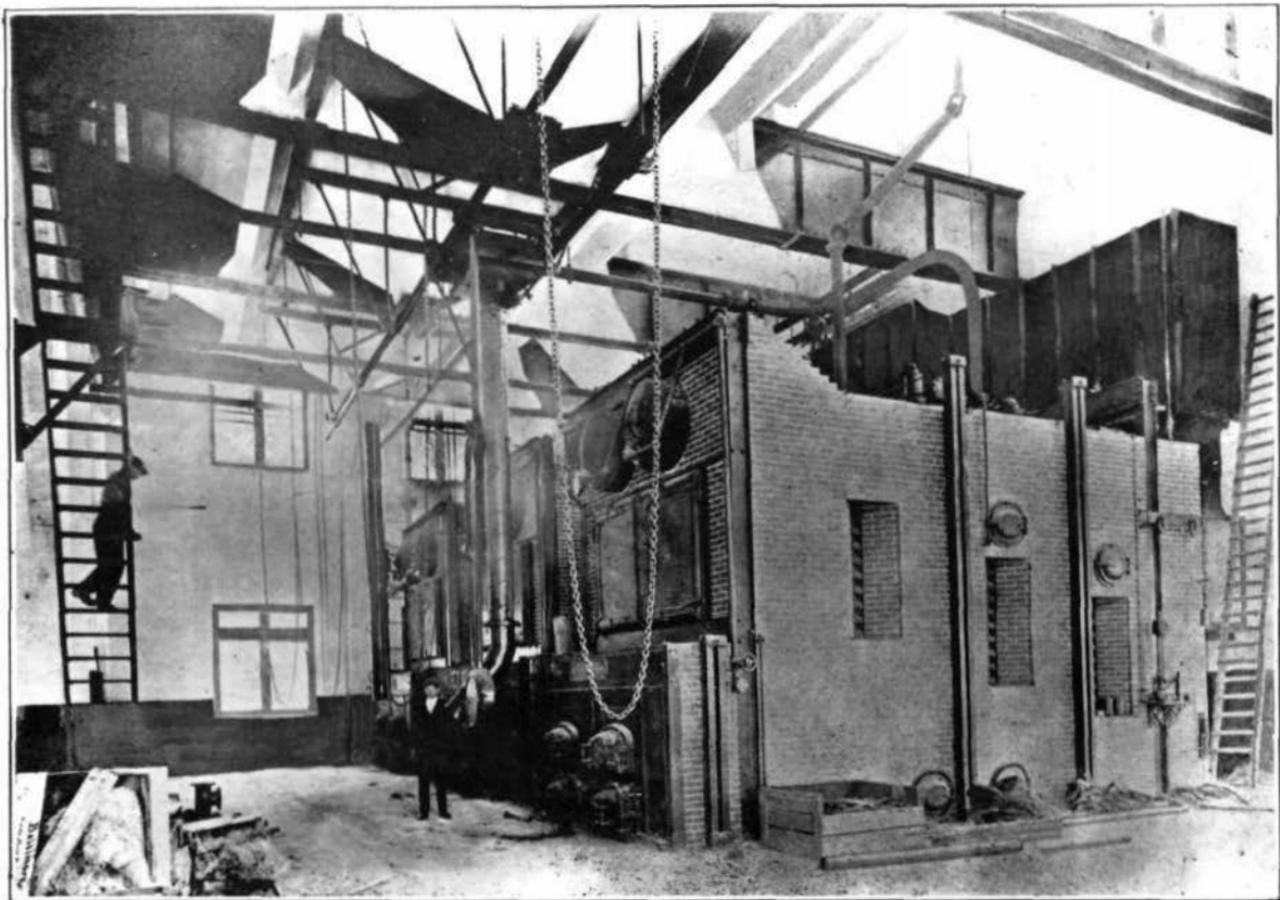
211243 EASTERN AVE. PUMP STA. SAN. 430  
LOOKING W. FROM AUXILIARY MACHINERY  
PLATFORM, 1-5-60

Eastern Avenue Pumping Station  
Baltimore City Md

8-1047

Peter Liebhold 5/83, copy of 1960 original  
(Dept. of Public Works, City of Balto.)

Pump room looking west



SEWAGE PUMPING STATION.

Eastern Avenue Pumping Station B-1047  
Baltimore City, Md  
Peter Liebhold 5/83, copy of 1910 original  
Station interior & boilers (Dept. of Public  
Works, City of Baltimore)

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B-1047

Eastern Avenue Pumping Station  
Baltimore City, Md.

Peter Liebhold, 5/83

Copy of 1910 original of station  
interior and boilers (Dept of  
Public Works, City of Baltimore)



**SEWAGE PUMPING STATION.**  
Completed Frame Work of Engine Room, May 4, 1910.

ern Avenue Pumping Station B-1047  
more City, Md.

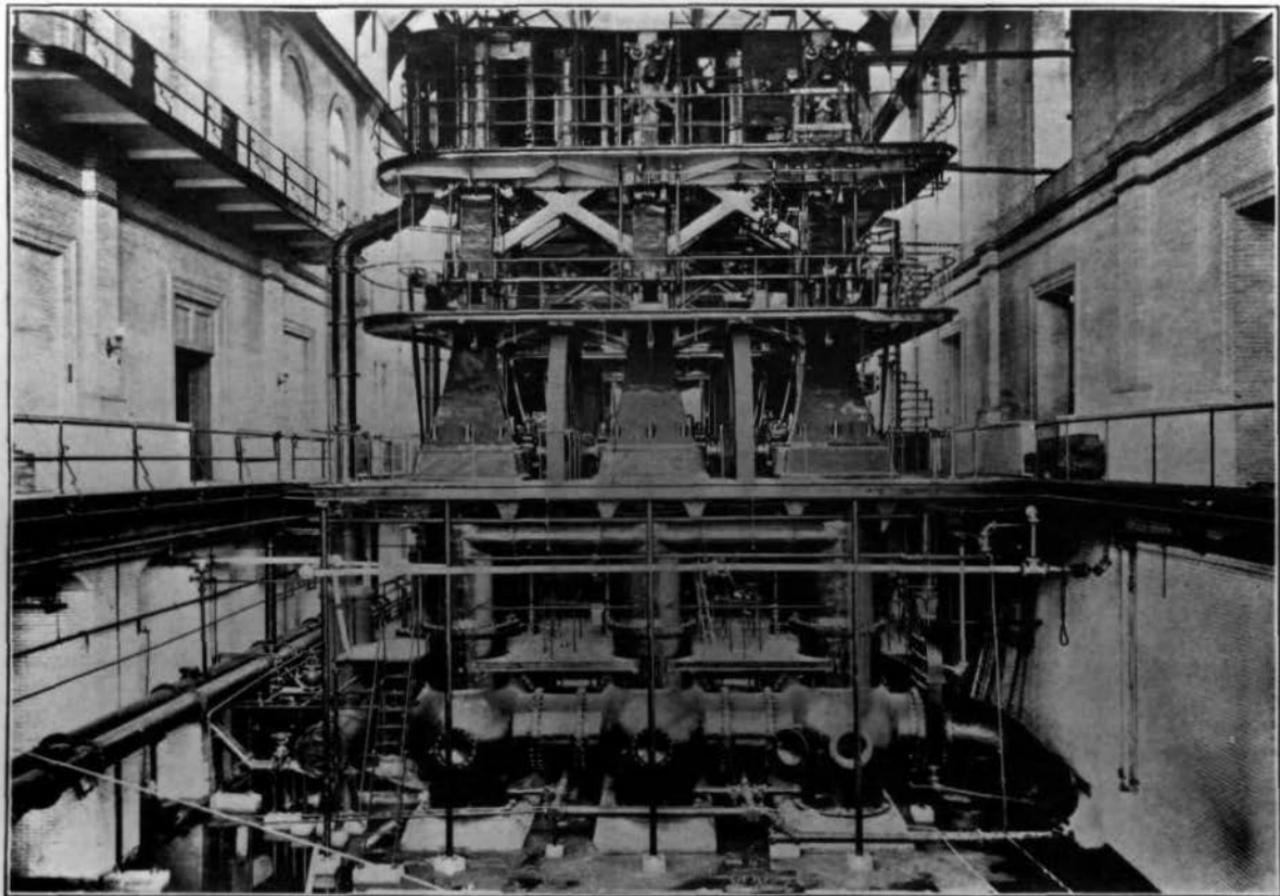
- Liebhold 5/83, copy of 1910 original  
station construction (Dept. of Public  
Works, City of Baltimore)

B-1047

Eastern Avenue Pumping station  
Baltimore City, Md.

Peter Liebhold, 5/83

copy of 1910 original of station  
construction (Dept. of Public  
Works, City of Baltimore)



**SEWAGE PUMPING STATION.**  
**Interior View of Engine Room.**

Eastern Avenue Pumping Station

B-1047

Baltimore City, Md

Peter Liebhold 5183, copy of original view  
of steam engines, 1910 (Dept. of Public  
Works, City of Baltimore)