

SOCIETY FOR INDUSTRIAL ARCHEOLOGY

NEWSLETTER

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GRAND OPENING! BOSTON'S WATERWORKS MUSEUM

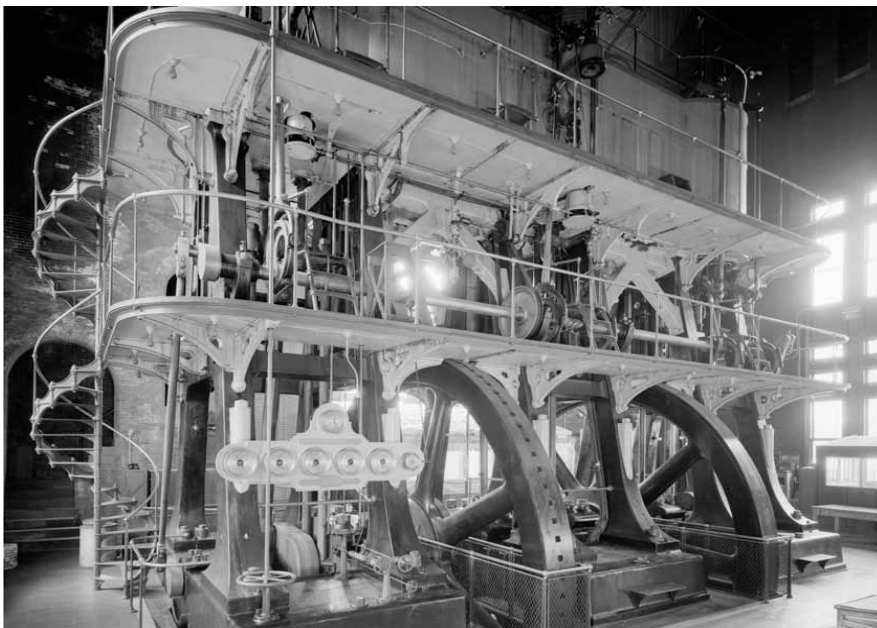
On Sunday, March 27, Boston's Metropolitan Waterworks Museum celebrated its grand opening. More than 2,000 visitors braved the windy, cold weather to take a look at the city's newest historical attraction. The opening of the museum culminates an effort begun 20 years ago when a group of local residents joined together in an attempt to persuade the state government to turn the waterworks into a museum rather than tear it down.

Officially known as the **Chestnut Hill High-Service Pumping Station** (tour site—SIA Annual Conference, 1984), the station is a magnificent cathedral-like Romanesque building built in 1886-87 and expanded in 1897-98 to house the massive engines and pumps that provided the rapidly growing metropolitan Boston region with clean, potable water. The oldest of the three surviving engines is the 1895 triple-expansion, steam-pumping engine designed by

Erasmus D. Leavitt (1836-1916) and built by the Quintard Iron Works of New York. The engine, which is well known to historians of steam technology, was designated a National Historic Mechanical Engineering Landmark in 1973. When the station was expanded in 1897-98, another triple-expansion pumping engine was installed, this one built by the E.P. Allis Co. of Milwaukee. A compound Worthington-Snow engine was installed in 1916. The engines remained in use until replaced by steam-turbine driven centrifugal pumps in 1954 and remained serviceable until the station was taken off line in the 1970s.

The Friends of the Waterworks, Inc., was formed in 1991 to advocate the preservation of this former eight-acre Metropolitan Waterworks site and its three historic buildings. The Commonwealth of Massachusetts passed legislation in 2005 authorizing the sale of the site and its buildings for re-development, subject to preservation restrictions. After

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Jet Lowe, HAER MA-24

The triple-expansion pumping engine (E. P. Allis Co., 1916) at the Chestnut Hill High-Service Pumping Station.

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CALENDAR

2011

Aug. 26-Sept. 1: Association for Industrial Archaeology Annual Meeting, Cork, Ireland. Info: www.industrial-archaeology.org.

Sept. 5-8: Rustbuckets or Floating Heritage?—Corrosion of Historic Ships Conference, Stockholm, Sweden. Info: rustbuckets2011@maritima.se.

Sept. 22-25: Society for the Preservation of Old Mills Annual Conference, Fairfax County, Va. Info: www.spoom.org.

Oct. 6-7: First Annual Natural Gas History Symposium, Titusville, Pa. Sponsored by the Oil Region Alliance on the campus of the University of Pittsburgh at Titusville. Info: www.oil150.com/calendar/details?id=291.

Oct. 11-16: Assn. for Preservation Technology Annual Conference, Victoria, B.C. Info: www.apti.org.

Oct. 12-15: Pioneer America Society: Association for the Preservation of Artifacts and Landscapes, Annual Conference, Stuart, Fla. Paper proposals requested. See article in this issue. Info: www.pioneeramerica.org.

Oct. 13-16: SIA FALL TOUR, QUINNEBAUG VALLEY, CONN. See article in this issue. www.sia-web.org.

Oct. 19-22: National Preservation Conference, National Trust for Historic Preservation, Buffalo, N.Y. Paper sessions and tours on the topic of industrial heritage are planned, some with input from SIA members. Info: www.preservationnation.org.

Oct. 20-22: Grain Elevators: A Heritage to Be Created, 3rd International Meeting of the TICCIH Agriculture and Food Section, Nogent-sur-Seine, France. Technology, construction, aesthetics, and conservation. Info: picot.francoise@yahoo.com.

Nov. 3-6: Society for the History of Technology (SHOT) Annual Conference, Cleveland, Ohio. Info: www.historyoftechnology.org.

Nov. 17-18: The Life of New Materials Conference, Hagley Museum & Library, Wilmington, Del. Co-sponsored by the Chemical Heritage Foundation and Philadelphia Area Center for History of Science. Info: www.pachs.net/newmaterials.

Nov. 17-20: The 14th National Conference on Planning History, Baltimore, Md. Society for American City and Regional Planning History. Paper sessions and tours on architecture, planning, geography, and landscape design. Info: www.dcp.ufl.edu/sacrph.

Nov. 27-Dec. 2: 17th ICOMOS General Assembly and Scientific Symposium, Paris, France. Theme of conference is Heritage: Driver of Development. Info: www.icomos-paris2011.com.

2012

Jan. 4-8: Society for Historical Archaeology Annual Conference, Baltimore, Md. Info: www.sha.org.

Mar. 28-31: American Society for Environmental History, Madison, Wis. Info: <http://aseh.net>.

Apr. 18-22: Society of Architectural Historians Annual Meeting, Detroit, Mich. Info: www.sah.org.

May 31-June 3: SIA 41st ANNUAL CONFERENCE, CINCINNATI, OHIO. Info: www.sia-web.org.

Oct. 11-14: SIA FALL TOUR, UTICA, N.Y. Tours of industrial sites in the Mohawk Valley and the Adirondacks. Info: www.sia-web.org. ■