

Float switch

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Collections / float switch





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Device screwed to the floor of the Youville Pumping Station. Conduction of electricity?

Accession Number 1998.6

Materials metal, paint

Measurements 103 x 31 x 29 cm

Historical context

This float switch comes from the old D'Youville pumping station, located at 173 Place D'Youville in Old Montreal. It was used to turn the pumps on and off, depending on the water level.

Inaugurated in 1915 in response to flooding and sanitation problems caused by sewage, this pumping station was the third to be built in Montreal, but the first to be powered by electricity. Designed by engineer Stuart Howard, the station's role was to pump wastewater from the Petite rivière collector sewer, elevate it and then discharge it by gravity a kilometer away, into the Craig Street collector (now Saint-Antoine Street).

The station ceased operations for good in July 1990, but the building housing it was acquired by Pointe-à-Callière as part of its museum complex. Since 1999, the museum has turned it into an interpretation site open to the public.

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Photo by Victor Diaz Lamich