

Nameplate

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Youville pumping station nameplate. 4 holes in each corner for hanging.

Accession Number 1998.01

Period 20th century

Materials metal

Measurements 7,5 x 15,09 cm

Historical context

This artifact is a metal nameplate bearing the inscription “Station Youville”, probably made when the Youville pumping station at 173 Place D’Youville opened in 1915.

At the beginning of the 20th century, Montreal was faced with numerous problems related to stagnant water and foul odors, following the construction of a dike to protect Old Montreal from potential flooding. Faced with these hygiene problems, the City of Montreal commissioned English engineer Stuart Howard to design a new pumping station to raise the level of Old Montreal’s sewage from the Petite rivière collector sewer to over 6 meters, and then discharge it by gravity to the Craig station collector (rue Saint-Antoine) located one kilometer away. Construction began in 1913 and the pumping station was inaugurated in 1915.

The Youville pumping station was officially commissioned in 1916. It became the third wastewater pumping station in Montreal, but the first to be powered by electricity. The project represented a major step forward in the technological, civic and sanitary evolution of Montreal in the early 20th century. It remained in operation until 1990, when all wastewater from Old Montreal and Cité du Havre was diverted to the south interceptor of the Montreal Urban Community’s wastewater

treatment plant.

Pointe-à-Callière then decided to give a second life to this industrial heritage building, and integrated it into its museum complex. Since 1999, an exhibition has been on display, showcasing the engine room and its ingenious and impressive machinery, while exploring solutions for urban wastewater management.

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Photo by Victor Diaz Lamich