

PART II - PROJECT OUTLINE - contd.B. Historical

Since the Plant has now been reduced to rubble upon which a new and modern steam plant has been erected, it may be of interest to record the history of that older Denver Steam Heat Plant which brought steam service to a developing Denver in the colorful era after the Civil War.

John W. Smith, a chin-whiskered pioneer, built Denver's first modern hotel, the American House, which was completed in 1869 on the corner of 16th and Blake Streets. He built a plant some six blocks away at 19th and New Haven (now renamed Delgany) Streets to supply steam to heat the hotel. Requests for steam heating services were made by owners of property adjacent to the steam main, so on December 15, 1879, John W. Smith organized the Denver City Steam Heating Company. The plant and distribution system were expanded and steam heating service was provided to the district bordered by 18th, Larimer, 15th, and Wynkoop Streets.

On April 16, 1900, a certificate for the extension of the life of the Corporation was filed giving the Denver City Steam Heating Company a franchise to operate for an additional period of 20 years, or until December 15, 1919. The franchise given to the Company listed the streets in which they were authorized to operate, which was roughly from 13th to 19th Streets, and from the Steam Heat Plant to Broadway. The steam capacity of the Plant was increased by the addition of boilers, and the distribution system was extended in an 18-inch main which ran in 19th Street to Wazee, down Wazee to 18th Street, and then in 18th Street to Stout Street. At Stout Street it was reduced to 10-inch main and continued on to Broadway. Eight-inch laterals fed off this main, a few part way to 19th Street, but principally toward 15th Street on Blake, Market, Larimer, Lawrence, Champa, California, and Glenarm Place.

This was the system at about the turn of the century, and on November 29, 1909 the Denver City Steam Heating Company was taken over by the Denver Gas and Electric Light Company, a newcomer to the utility struggle. As a result of a merger on July 11, 1911, the entire gas, electric, and steam heating services of the City were combined under the single management of the Denver Gas and Electric Light Company. This required the merging and property transfer of the Denver Gas and Electric Company; the Lacombe Electric Company (with a capacity of 16,500 kW at Lacombe, now Zuni Steam Electric Station); the Montclair Light, Heat and Power Company; and the South Denver Electric Light and Power Company. On October 3, 1923, through other mergers, the Denver City Steam Heating Company became part of the Public Service Company of Colorado.

A number of small boilers from other plants were moved into the Denver Steam Heat Plant in 1911 and 1912 to meet increasing loads,

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and in 1919 the final addition was three 25,000 lb/hr boilers from West Station. Minor additions were made in the distribution system, and through 1948 the Denver Steam Heat Plant carried the entire steam load with 11 boilers available for operation. Several pictures of the Denver Steam Heat Plant, taken in 1960 prior to the removal of the stacks, are included in this Part II.

In 1949 steam was made available from Zuni through a 14- and 16-inch tie line, and the days of the Denver Steam Heat Plant were numbered; it was no longer used during the summer season, but was available to assist over the winter peaks and in times of trouble at Zuni or in the tie line. This type of service continued until about 1957 when additional steam could be purchased from the Denver U. S. National Bank and in 1960 from the Hilton Hotel. In 1960 the three 125-foot steel stacks and eight small boilers were removed. The three remaining boilers were equipped with exhaust ducts and an induced draft fan. About the last time the plant was used was as standby during the flood of 1965 when Zuni was disabled by flood water. The Denver Steam Heat Plant was on cold standby for a number of years before its removal in 1972 to make space available for the new Denver Steam Plant.

C. Plant Arrangement

The steam generator and all auxiliary equipment except the forced draft fan are installed in a closed pre-engineered metal building. The forced draft fan is in a fan enclosure of concrete block construction attached to the plant west side of the building. Gas telemetering equipment is in a separate building on the same site.

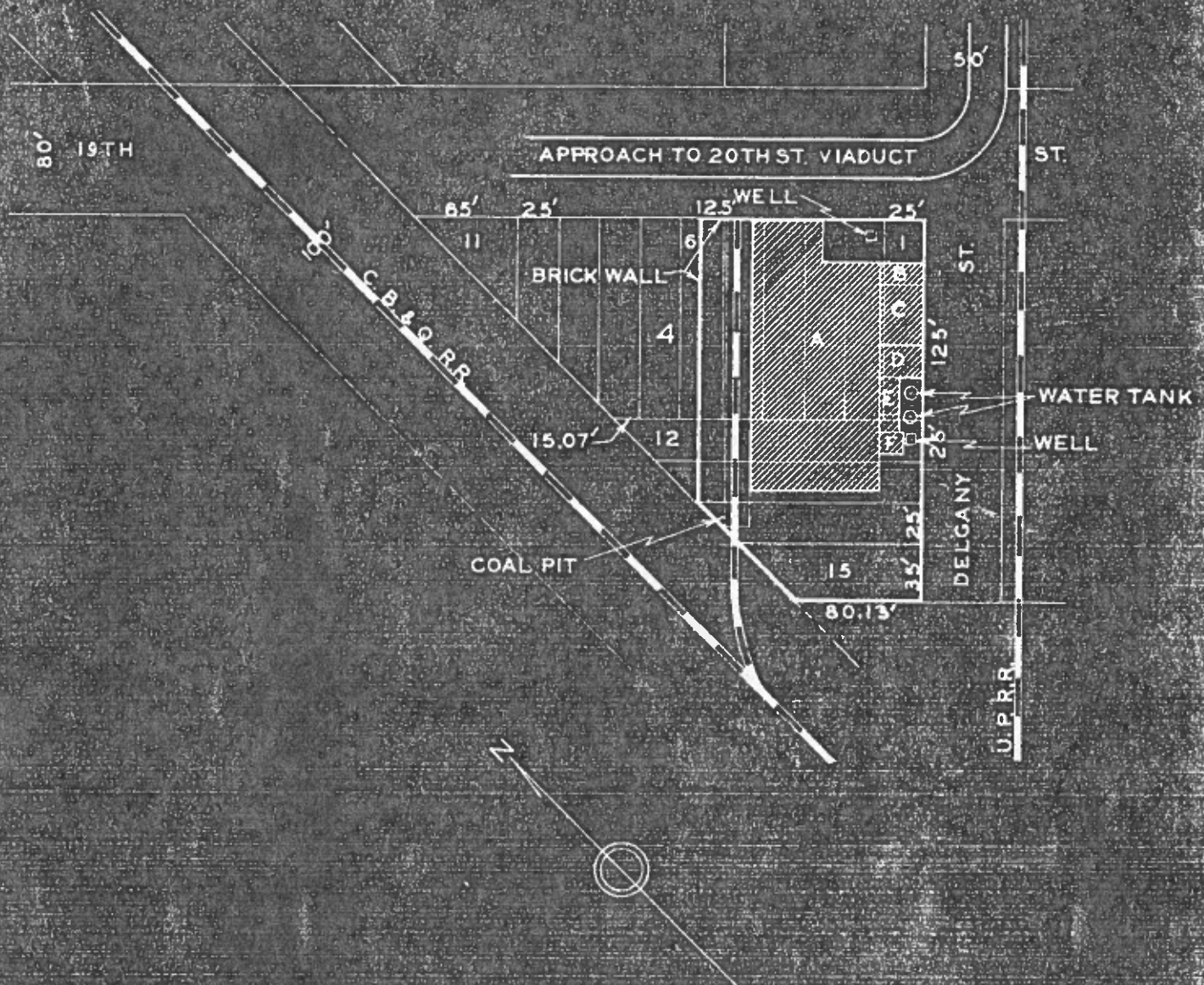
The plant is generally oriented on the plot as shown on Public Service Company Drawing No. 187-2.2, Sheet 1, included.

For use on this project all references to directions will be referred to Plant North, Plant South, etc. In actuality Plant North is northeast geographically.

All references to elevations will be referred to a Plant datum. Floor elevation of 99.5 feet is at a USGS elevation of 5179.6 feet.

The building is designed to accommodate two 150,000-pounds-per-hour steam generators and auxiliary equipment. The probability of future additions to the Denver Steam Plant is considered remote because of space limitations and because the capacity of the tie line is based upon 300,000 pounds of steam per hour.

There is a second floor over part of the building divided up into offices, a lunch room, and locker room which are now occupied by personnel of the Steam Heat Department.



LOTS 1-2-3-4-5-6 & 15, PART OF LOTS 12-13 & 14, BLOCK 4
HOYT AND ROBINSON'S ADDITION - EAST DENVER
CITY AND COUNTY OF DENVER, COLORADO.

LEGEND

- A- BOILER ROOM
- B- OFFICE
- C- SHOP
- D- PUMP ROOM
- E- HEATER
- F- LOCKER ROOM

SCALE: 1-IN = 100 FT.