Filter Station in Warsaw

A short guide to historic monuments

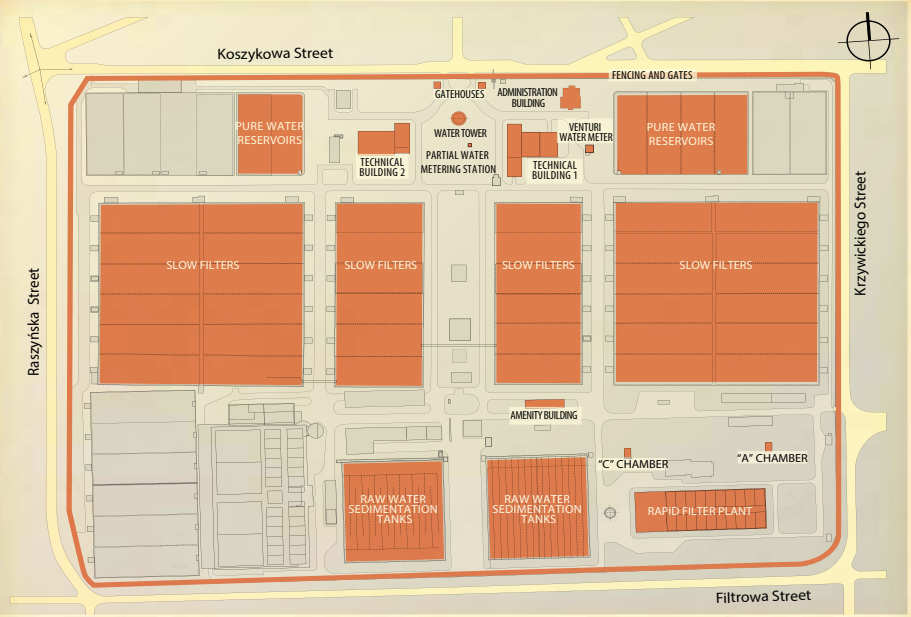
POMNIK HISTORII

A Treasure in the Heart of Warsaw

The term "historic monument" refers to objects of cultural heritage with a significant meaning for Poland. It is the highest form of historic relic preservation. Since January 2012 such a status has been given to William Lindley's Filter Station, i.e. the oldest part of MPWiK's Central Plant. Located at Koszykowa street, the Filter Station was designed by William Lindley and constructed under the supervision of his eldest son, William Heerlein Lindley (pictured above). Currently, the facility occupies over 30 hectares of land and forms a truly unique historic complex of industrial architecture from the end of the 19th and the first half of the 20th century.

Warsaw's MPWiK continues to rely on state-of-the-art technologies, but at the same time attaches great importance to the preservation of its heritage - some of the facilities have been used, in line with their intended purpose, for over 130 years now - a phenomenon that is truly unique on the European scale.

Our short guide presents the buildings that can be seen in person while touring the Station. In addition, it offers information on the facilities that are not accessible to visitors. All buildings presented herein have been listed in the register of monuments.



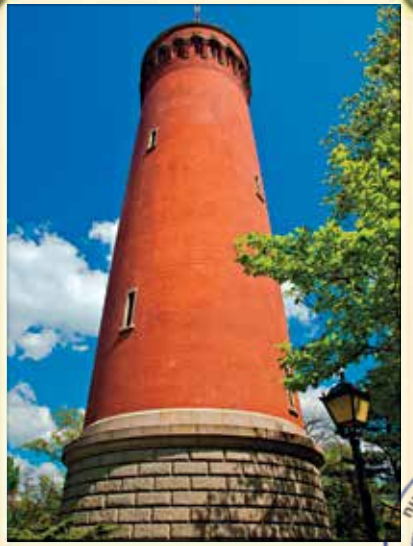
Historic facilities of William Lindley's Filter Station in Warsaw

fencing and gates

Construction of the fence, in its current shape, commenced in 1926. The fence is of the plastered variety and comprises spans that are approximately 4.5 m in length. There are 5 gates leading to the plant. In the 1980s the portion of the fence along Raszyńska street was moved eastwards to create room for street widening.

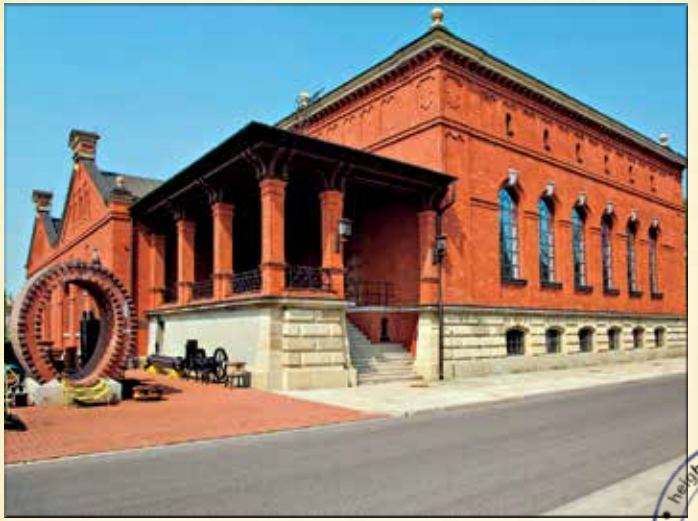
gatehouses

Two buildings located next to the main gate on Koszykowa street. Erected in the 1890s. The West Gatehouse initially served as the porter's house, and was converted into a telephone exchange in the 1930s. The East Gatehouse was used by personnel operating the entrance scales.



water tower

Erected in 1885-1886, the water tower provided the pressure required in the water mains system. The tower is approximately 40 meters tall. A centrally located chimney can be seen inside. Two pairs of pipes are positioned between the chimney and the tower walls, just as are spiral stairs. The tower remained in operation until 1924.

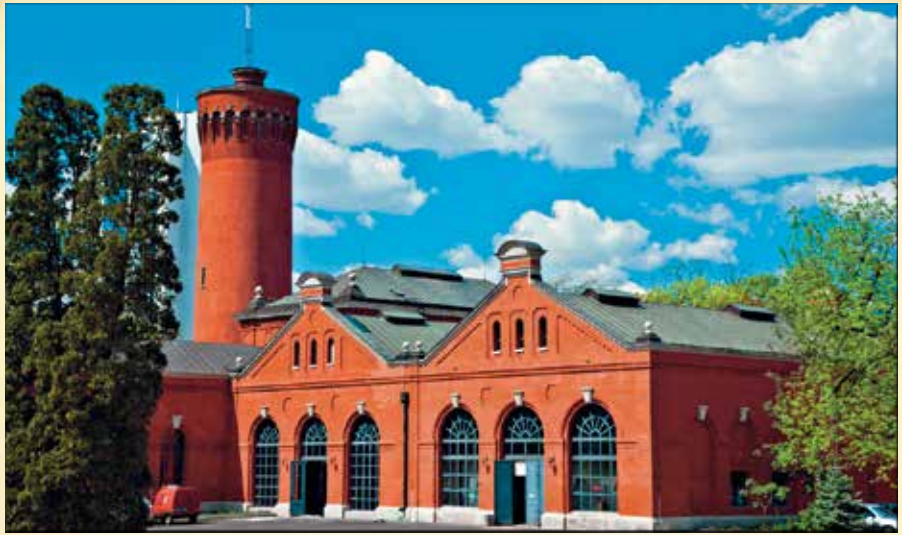


technical building 2

Located west of the water tower, Technical Building 2 was constructed in 1899-1900.
It housed the steam pump station, a coal warehouse and a boiler house.
After 1923 the steam pumps were gradually phased out, and were finally decommissioned in 1958. Currently, the building accommodates an exhibition hall and some auxiliary facilities.

Museum of Water Supply and Sewerage System

The exhibition is located in the former pump station in Technical Building 2.
The items on display include a fragment of a wood water main, prints of William H. Lindley's 19th century designs, archive Filter Station photographs, videos and miscellaneous hardware.



technical building 1

The building is located east of the water tower. Its construction began in 1885. The pump station and the boiler house were completed during the first two years. A coal warehouse was added in 1891, followed by an electric pump station (southern addition to the building) in 1923-24.

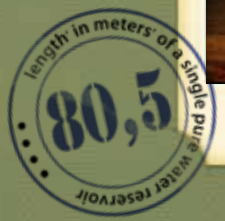
administration building

The building was erected, most likely, in the 1890s. It served as a residential building occupied by the Filter Station's management. The building comprised six separate apartments offering a great living standard for the era. Converted into offices in the 1950s.

pure water reservoirs

pure water reservoirs

Those immense underground tanks were built along Koszykowa street between 1885 and 1908. Their walls and ceilings are made of brick. Sail-type vaults are supported by granite pillars. While in operation, the reservoir is entirely filled with water.



Venturi water meter

A small building situated east of Technical Building 1. Commissioned prior to 1911 and remained in operation until 1951. Used for metering the quantity of water pumped to the "lower city". The chamber housing the Venturi tube is located underground.

partial water meter

This inconspicuous building stands in the direct vicinity of the water tower. It was erected in the years 1885-1887, and its underground part houses the so-called Venturi tube - a device used for measuring the quantity of water pumped to the so-called "upper city".
The facility remained operational until the 1930s.

slow filters

Six groups of underground reservoirs built between 1883 and 1926. Their sail-type vaults made of brick rest on granite columns. Water is filtered by a layer of sand (currently covered by a thin layer of activated coal).

amenity building

Located between slow filter 1 and sedimentation tanks. Erected at the turn of the 20th century as an amenity building for the station's personnel. Reconstructed on numerous occasions. Three new sections were added in 1934. Currently used as an office building.

"C" chamber

Built in the period between 1928 and 1933. Guaranteed the passage of fast-filtered water to the slow filter section of the plant. The flow was of the gravitational variety and did not require the use of any pumps. Since 2010, after preliminary filtration, water is directed to the ozonator and activated coal filtration station.

"A" chamber

A single-storey building located on a 1.5 meter high embankment, erected between 1928 and 1933. The A chamber was used for equalizing the pressure and velocity of raw water supplied to the station. Then, the water was directed to sedimentation tanks.

raw water sedimentation tanks

maximum depth in centimeters of water in the tanks

322

raw water sedimentation tanks

Enclosed tanks used for preliminary purification of water collected from the Vistula river. Passing slowly through the tank, impurities were falling towards the bottom of the tank. Erected between 1892 and 1903. After commissioning of the Fast Filter Station, used as balancing tank.

Rapid Filter Station

After its completion in 1933, the station was the most modern facility of its kind in Europe. Its role was to offer preliminary filtration of the water prior to it being directed to the slow filters. The building's design and its interior make it a unique example of the industrial architecture of the 1st half of the 20th century.

number of operator tables located in the Rapid Filter Station

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FILTER STATION IN WARSAW

Stacja Uzdatniania Wody „Filtry", Zakład Centralny MPWiK w m.st. Warszawie S.A., Warszawa, ul. Koszykowa 81

Plant tours
Guided tours for groups of 25.

When to visit?
During open days in the summer (July and August), between 9 am and 2 pm (ticketed admittance every hour, on the hour); or in May, during the Museum Night, between 7 pm and 1 am.

Between September and June - on business days, in organized groups, prior appointment required (ticketed admission).

For more information please visit ***www.mpwik.com.pl***
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Photographs taken by: Sebastian Klorek (pages 1, 5 on the right, 13, 18), Wojciech Sternak/Artfolio.pl (page 19 on the left), Krzysztof Kobus/Travelphoto (pages 5, 6, 8, 16,17,19), Maciej Śmiarowski (20), remaining images - MPWiK archives

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