

STARÁ ČISTÍRNA V BUBENČI JAKO KULTURNÍ DĚDICTVÍ

Šárka Jiroušková
Český národní komitét ICOMOS

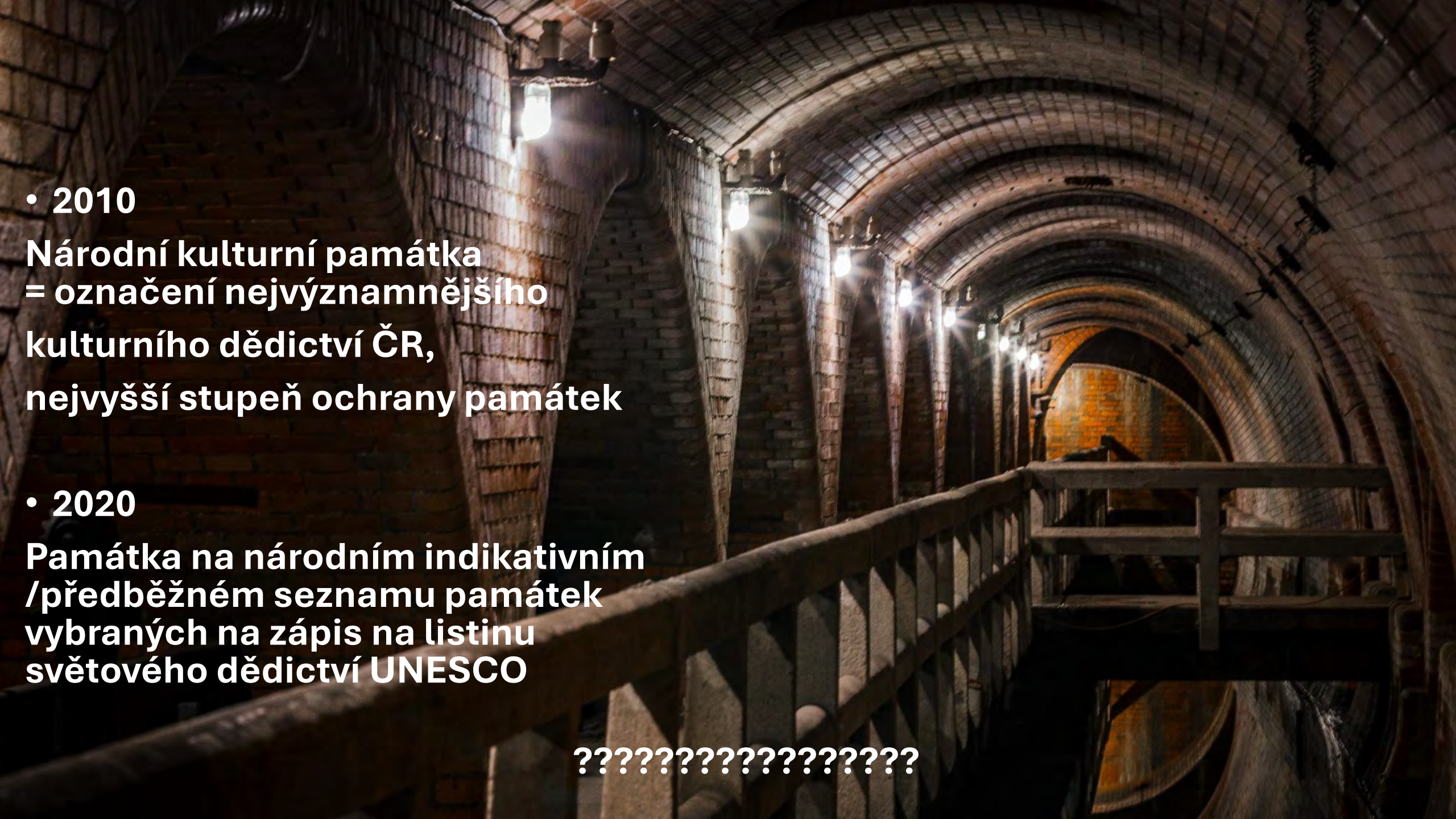


Konference
„120 let čištění odpadních vod v Praze“
16. 9. 2026





KULTURNÍ DĚDICTVÍ
STAVEBNÍ DĚDICTVÍ
TECHNICKÉ A PRŮMYSLOVÉ STAVBY, MĚSTSKÉ INŽENÝRSTVÍ
VODOHOSPODÁŘSKÉ STAVEBNÍ DĚDICTVÍ
ZDRAVOTNÍ INŽENÝRSTVÍ
STOKOVÁNÍ, ČIŠTĚNÍ ODPADNÍCH VOD



- 2010

Národní kulturní památka
= označení nejvýznamnějšího
kulturního dědictví ČR,
nejvyšší stupeň ochrany památek

- 2020

Památka na národním indikativním
/předběžném seznamu památek
vybraných na zápis na listinu
světového dědictví UNESCO

????????????????

Proč?

...je jediným uceleným souborem svého druhu a prezentuje historii vodního hospodářství (městské inženýrství – stokování), architektury a techniky na přelomu 19. a 20. století.

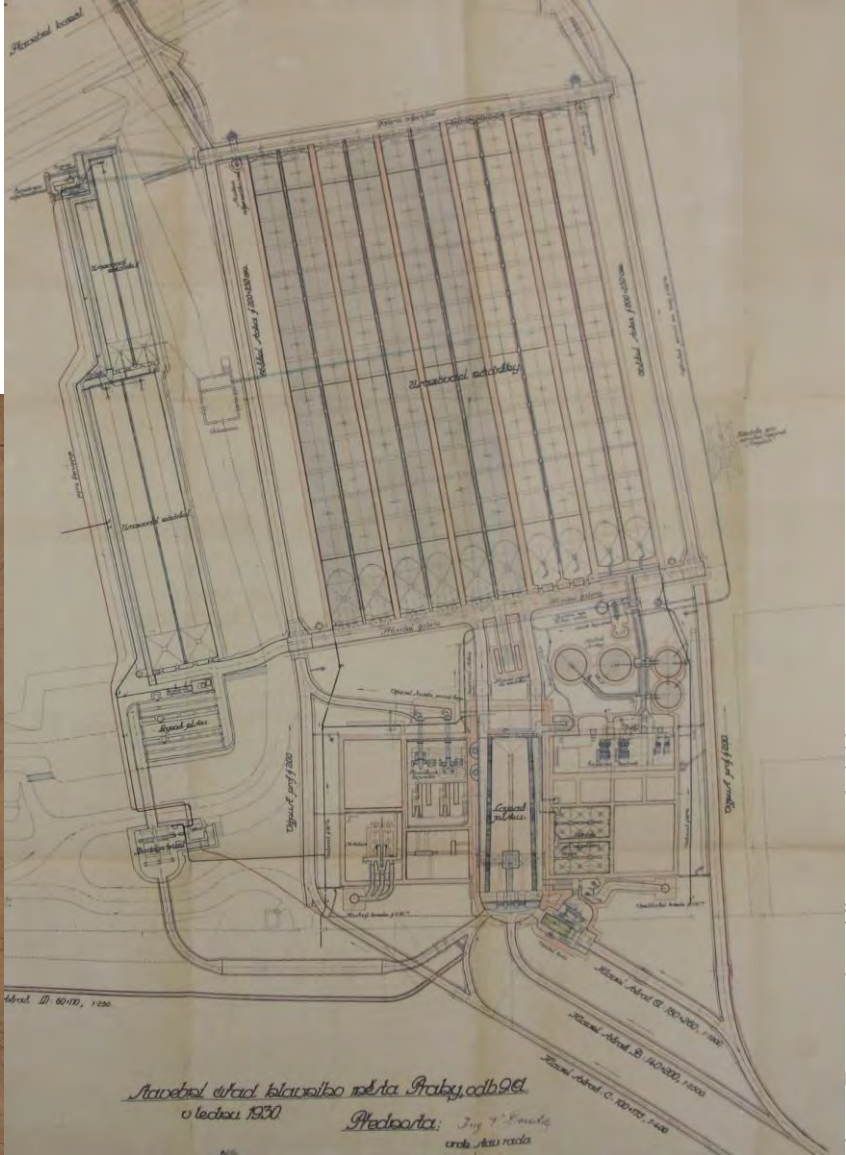


Účel stavby
Autenticita – věrohodnost zachování
Integrita – celistvost zachování

Všechny stavební objekty a součásti včetně technologického vybavení jsou věrohodně dochované a plně vypovídají jak o původním provozu, tak o vynikající stavební a technické úrovni čištění odpadních vod z přelomu 19. a 20. století. Areál představuje důležitý mezník počátků čistícího procesu před nástupem biologických a chemických forem čištění odpadních vod.

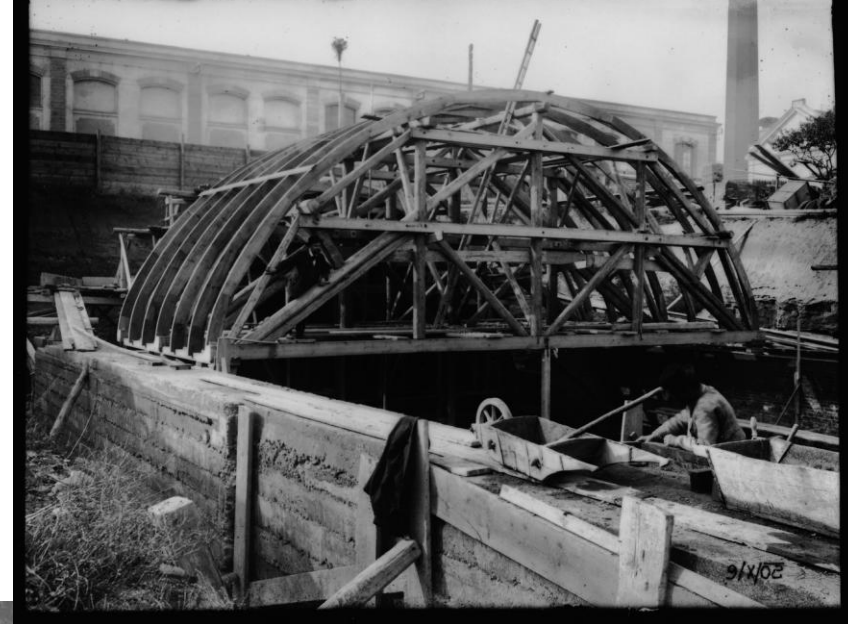


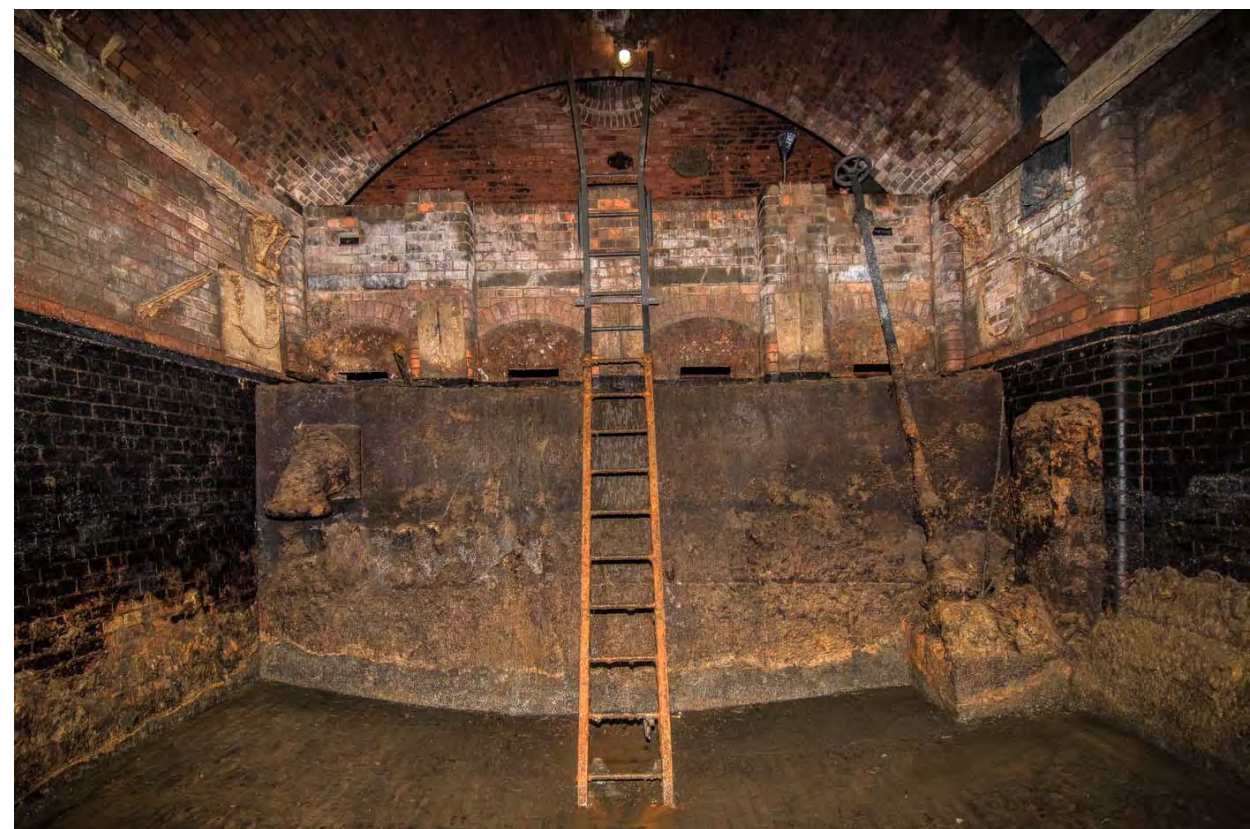
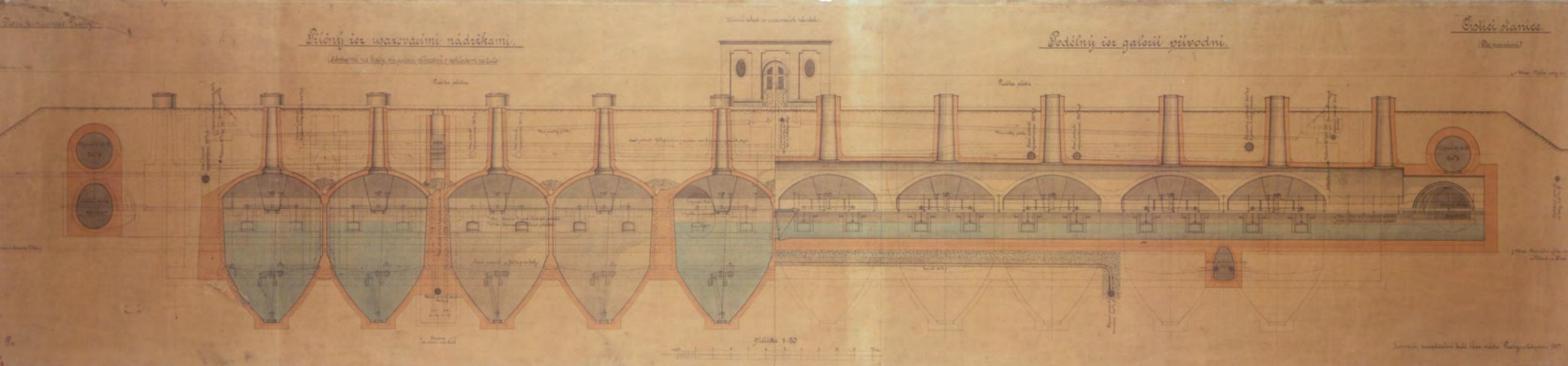
1901 – 1930 - 2026

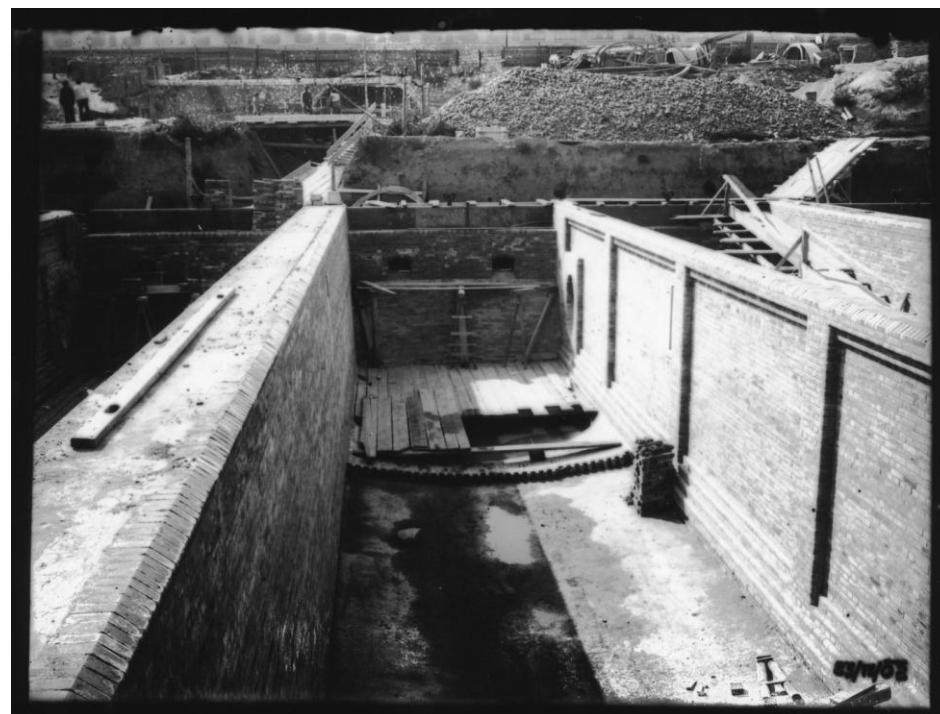


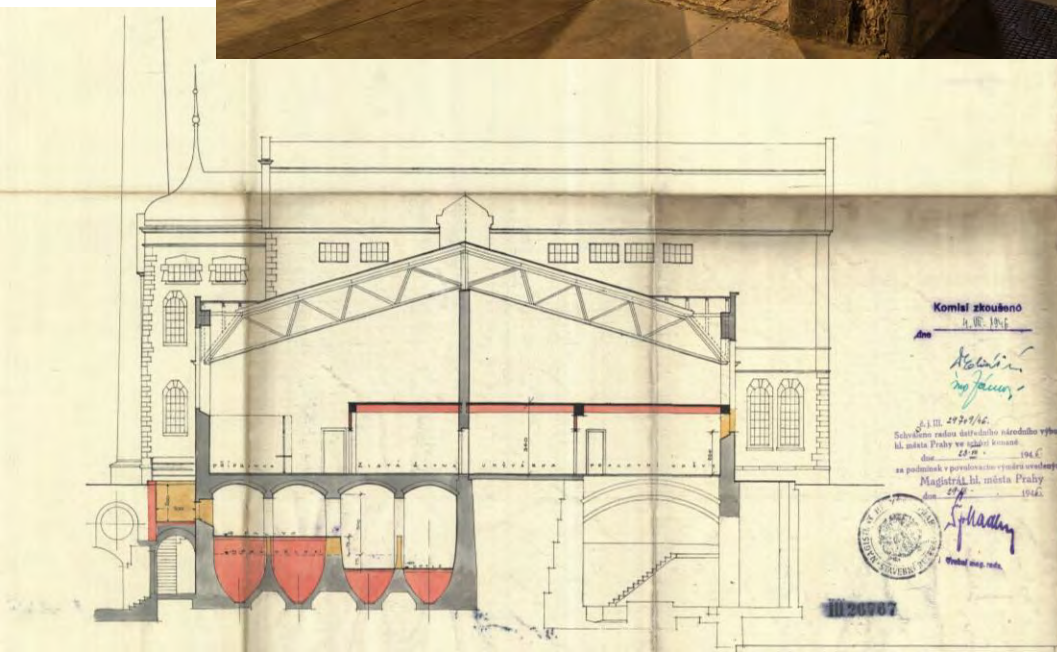
- Účel: čistící linka
mechanického čištění odpadních
vod
- Obslužné prostory
- Architektura hlavní provozní budovy
- Dobové fotografie
- Původní projektová dokumentace
... archiv PVK, a.s.





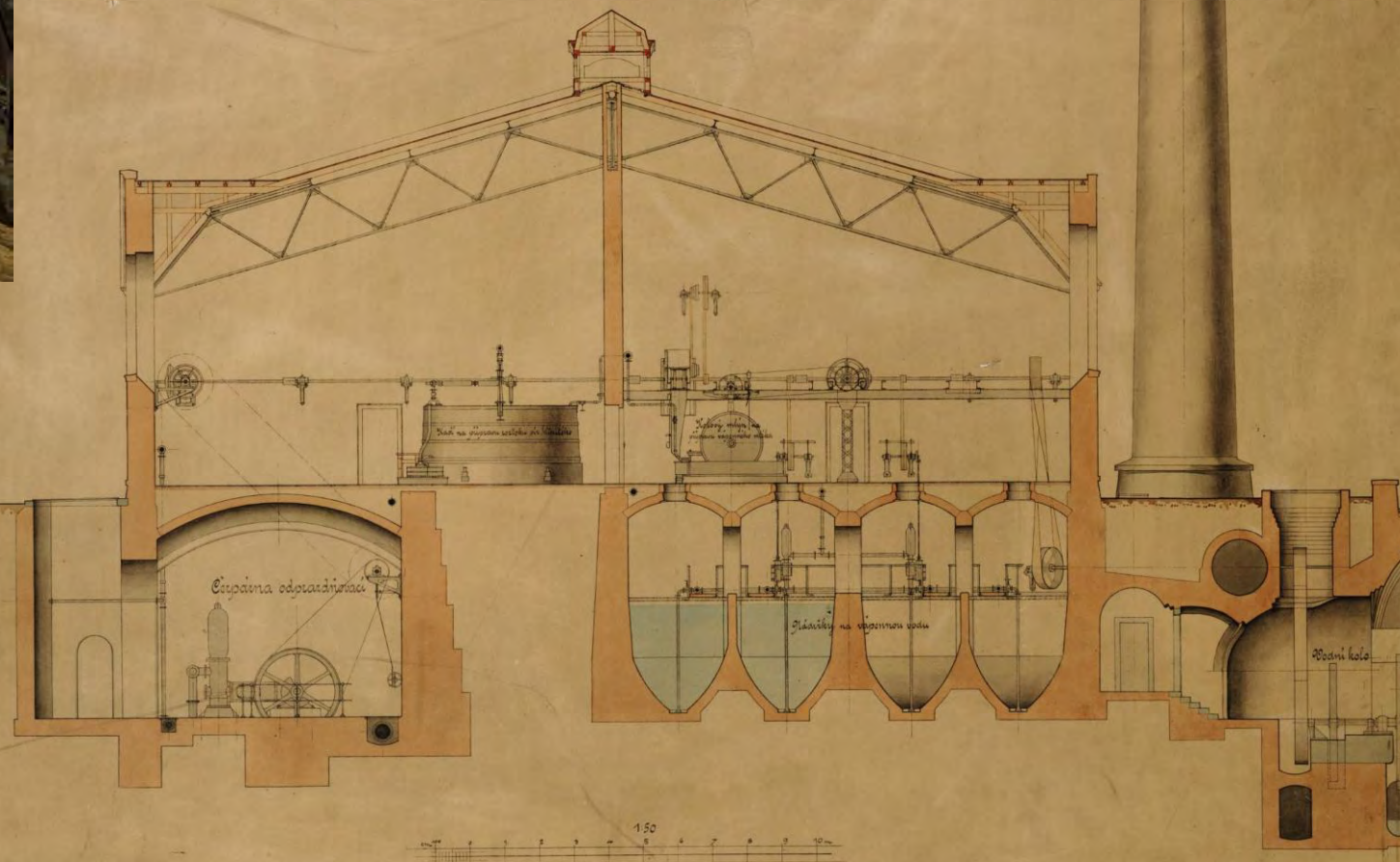








*Příčný řez budovou provozovací E.-F.
Přípravná lučebnin.*



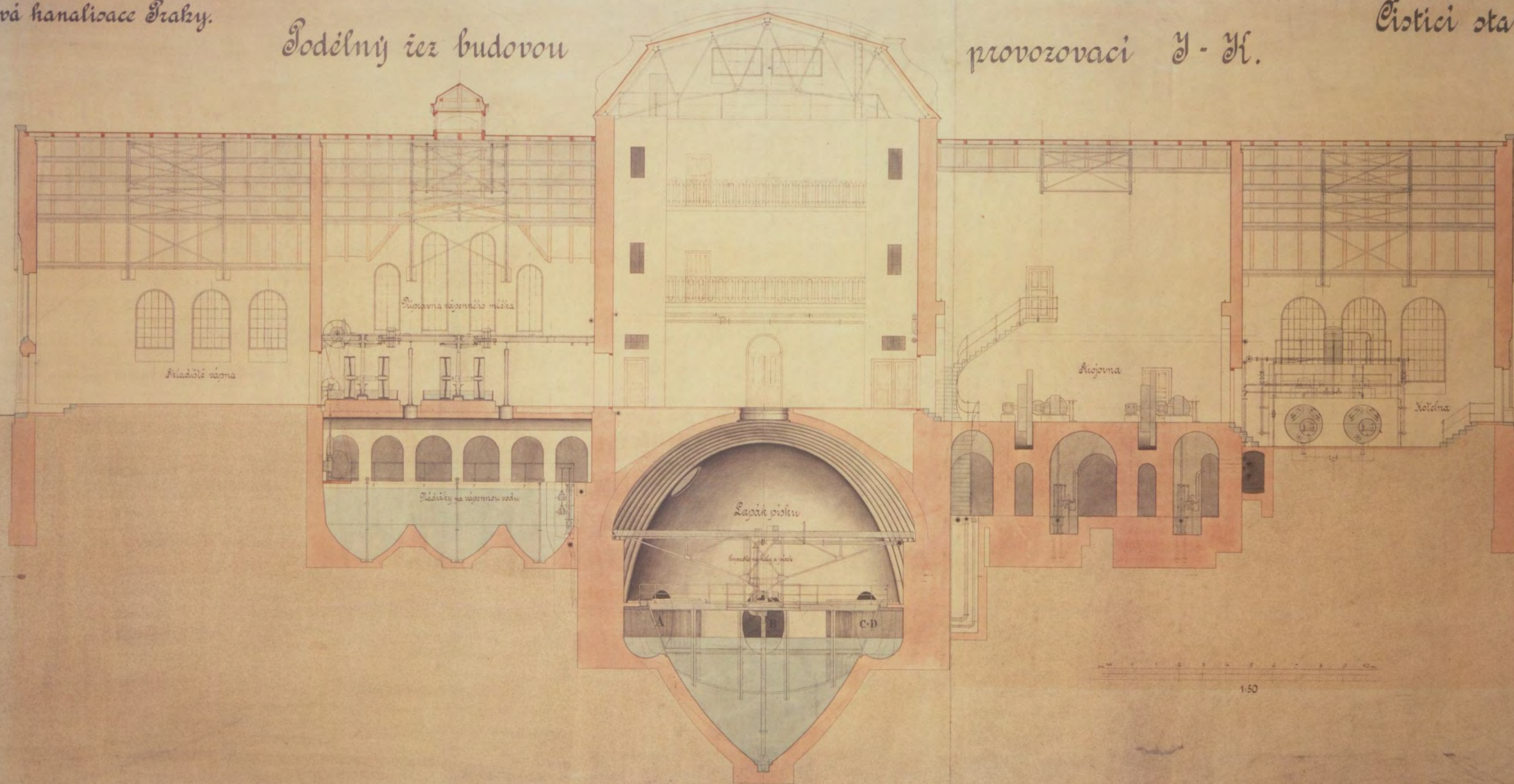


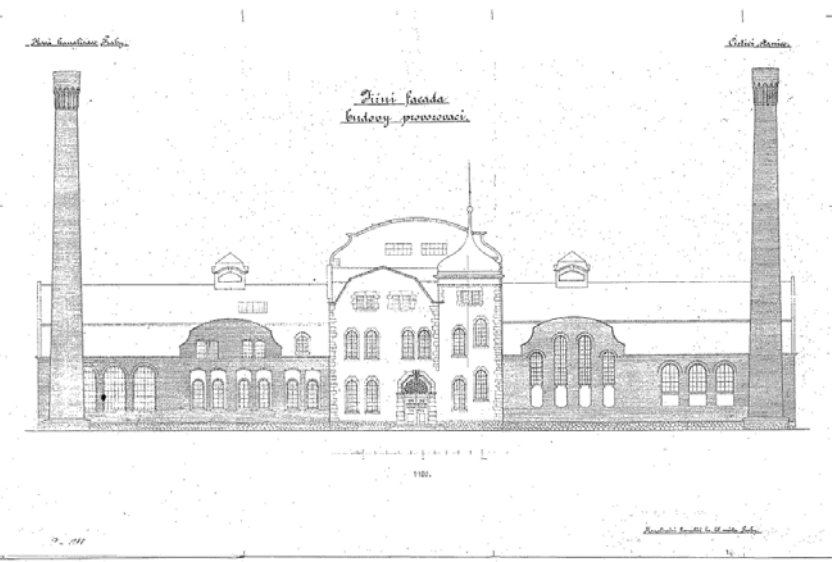
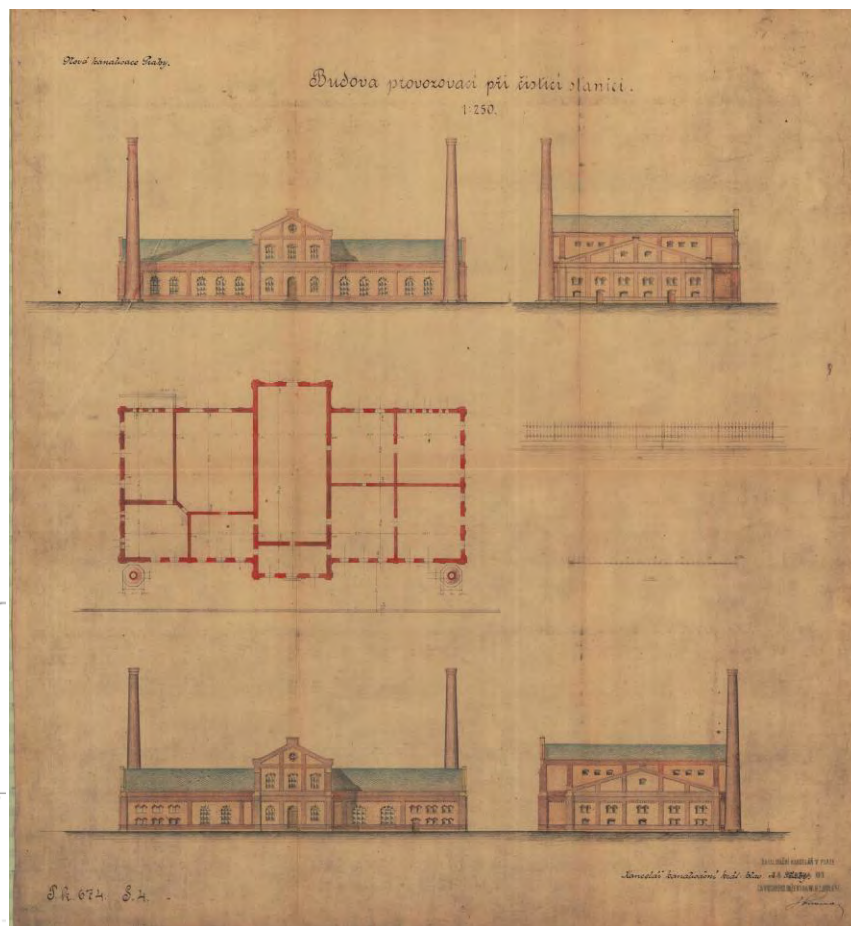
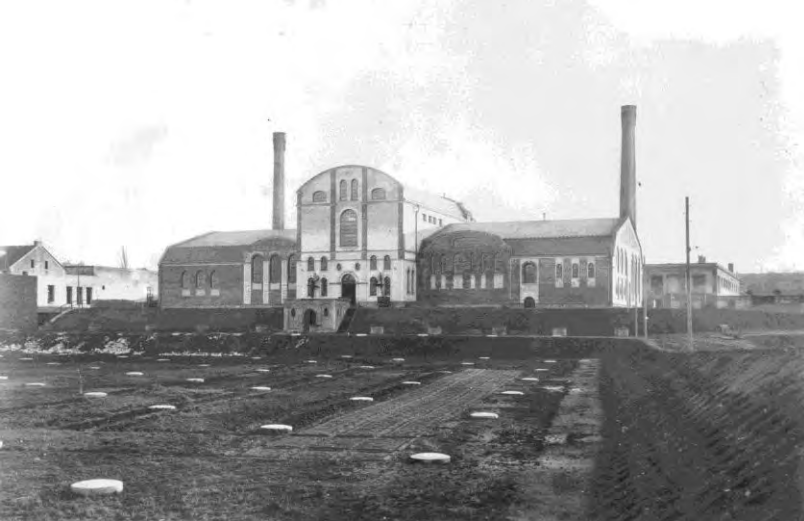
Nová kanalizace Prahy.

Podélný řez budovou

provozovací Y - K.

Čistící stanice.





3 čistírny

1906 – 1967 - 2021





European Route
of Industrial Heritage

ERIH, the EUROPEAN ROUTE OF INDUSTRIAL HERITAGE,

your guide to Europe's industrial heritage

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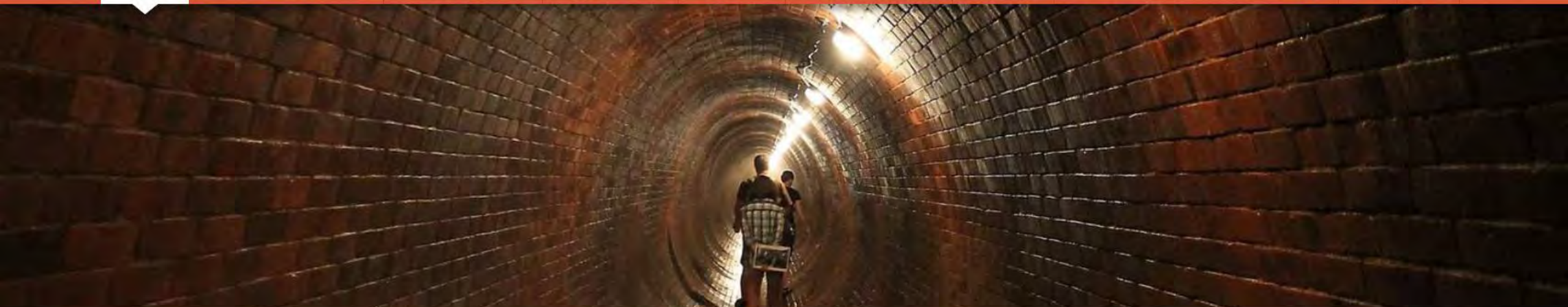
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ANCHOR POINT OF THE DAY

STARÁ ČISTÍRNA OLD WASTE WATER TREATMENT PLANT | PRAGUE, CZECH REPUBLIC

This historical sewage treatment plant is not an ordinary museum.

Rather, it is... [more](#)

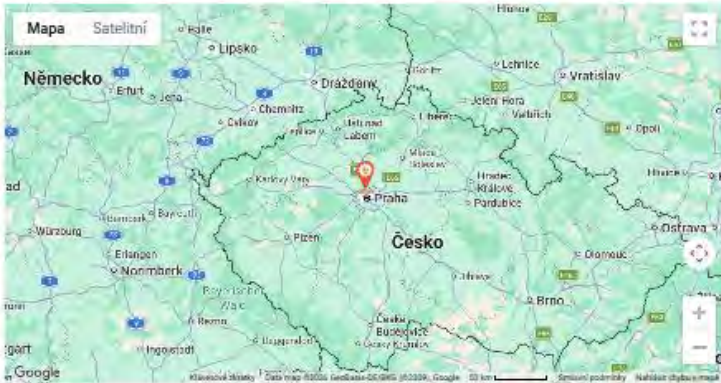




STARÁ ČISTÍRNA OLD WASTE WATER TREATMENT PLANT



This historical sewage treatment plant is not an ordinary museum. Rather, it is an adventurous trip to the turn of the 19th century. Right next to the immense hall of the main building is the machine shop, four times a year witnessing the huffing and puffing of two 1803 steam engines. They are still powered by steam produced in the neighbouring boiler room. But it's the underground where things get really exciting. Down there lures a complex of clinker-brick galleries together with an abundant and well preserved machinery representing early 20th century's state-of-the-art sewage technology. For visitors this is a first hand experience. For instance they can try the crank of the sluice gate that once launched a large water wheel, thus operating the ventilation system of the underground facilities. Mobile racks combed the sewage to remove the coarsest debris, and a raft ride on one of the 87-metre-long sedimentation basins constructed to extract fine sludge highlights the proportions of plant. The hard work to run it is illustrated by the documentary "Men below Prague" shot in 1947. And if that's not enough the more intrepid visitors can climb one of the two chimneys towering 30 metres above the surroundings to abseil right within it back down to the sewerage.



Stará Čistírna Old Waste Water Treatment Plant
Stará Čistírna odpadních vod v Bubenči
Papírenská 6
160 00 Prague
Czech Republic
+420 (0) 777 - 790219
[Homepage](#)

MY ROUTE
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History



Around 1880 the city of Prague had a population of more than 180,000 inhabitants, but it lacked an appropriate sewerage. No wonder that the hygienic conditions weren't the best. In 1884 the municipality tackled the issue by hiring the English engineer Sir William Heerlein Lindley. As a specialist in waste water handling he already had modernized the sewage system of Frankfurt am Main. Now he provides Prague with the most advanced sewerage in Europe.



European
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CERTIFICATE

Stara cistirna odpadních vod Praha 1906 / Waste Water Treatment Plant Prague 1906

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1st January 2016

Prof. Dr Meinrad Maria Grewenig
President
ERIH e.V.

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USA



MINA, Memorial Internacional da Água, Brasília

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Historical Wastewater Treatment Plant

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Historical Wastewater Treatment Plant Prague, CZECH REPUBLIC

This historical sewage treatment plant is not an ordinary museum. A historic building with unique underground spaces offers unusual leisure activities. Step into the industrial age and discover the original purpose of this national monument. The old sewage treatment plant in Prague is an important site for documenting the history of architecture, engineering and water management. It was built between 1901 and 1906 as the final part of the Prague modern sewer system. The British civil engineer William Heerlein Lindley was responsible for creating the sewer system and the technical parameters of the treatment plant. The mechanical treatment plant worked until 1967 and was formally designated a historic landmark in 1991, from 2020 is listed on the Tentative list of the Czech Republic

Large parts of the underground facilities can be visited on a guided tour. This site is Europe's only living example of a mechanical wastewater treatment plant at the turn of the 19th and 20th centuries which is that well preserved and open to visitors. The old (historical) treatment plant, together with adjoining plants, located close to each other (the existing WWTP from 1967 and the new water line of the 21st century) is a unique testament of the development of a significant water sector.

Projects

EDUCATIONAL ACTIVITIES

RESEARCH ACTIVITIES

Our long-term project is the research-comparative study for the inscription of the Old Wastewater Treatment Plant on the World Heritage List.



Informations

Papirenská, Praha 6 - 160 00 Prague -
CZECH REPUBLIC - Prague

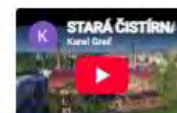
+420 724111793

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Videos & interviews



The Historical Wastewater Treatment Plant in Prague. Presentation of the site and events all the year.



The International Committee for the Conservation of the Industrial Heritage

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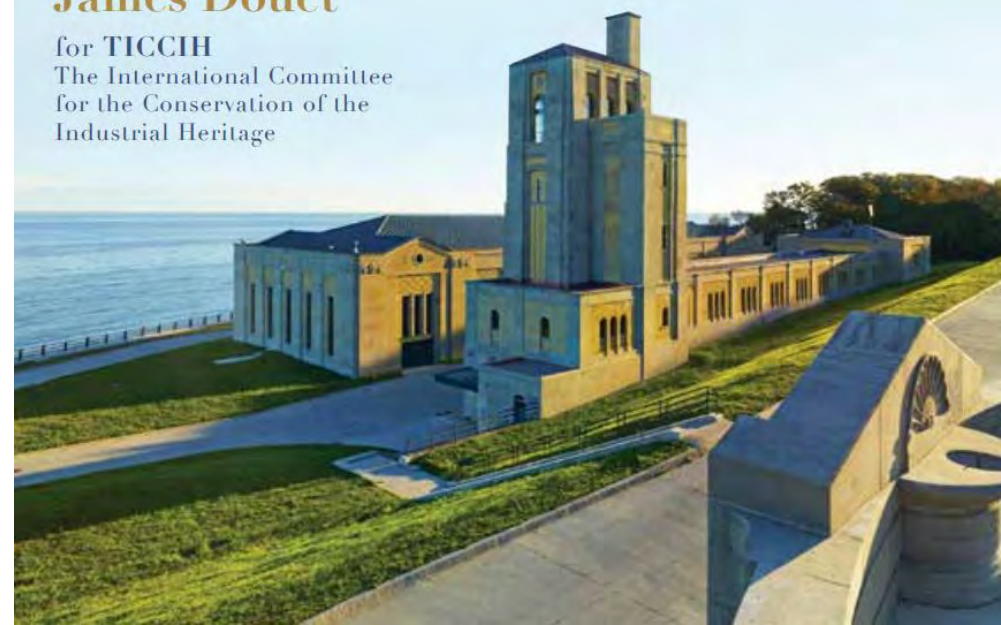


The Water Industry as World Heritage

THEMATIC STUDY

James Douet

for TICCIH
The International Committee
for the Conservation of the
Industrial Heritage



8.12. Old Wastewater Treatment Plant Prague-Bubeneč, Czech Republic

Dr Šárka Jiroušková, Staré čistírny odpadních vod, Czech Republic



The complex of sewage pumping station and treatment plant at Prague-Bubeneč. (Wikipedia Commons)

Presentation and analysis

Location: Papirenska 6, Prague 6-Bubeneč, 16000, Czech Republic

General description: The former mechanical gravity wastewater treatment plant illustrates the history of architecture, technology and water management, specifically the treatment of wastewater

8.13. Prague-Podolí water treatment plant, Czech Republic

Dr Šárka Jiroušková, with Pražské vodovody a kanalizace a.s.
(Prague Water Supply and Sewerage, plc)



The magnificent neoclassical design of the Prague-Podolí treatment plant emphasizes the importance to the city of its water-supply system. (Wikipedia Commons)

Presentation and analysis

Location: Podolská 17, Praha 4-Podolí, 140 00, Czech Republic



SROVNÁVACÍ STUDIE



Frankfurt-Niederrad
1887 - 1960



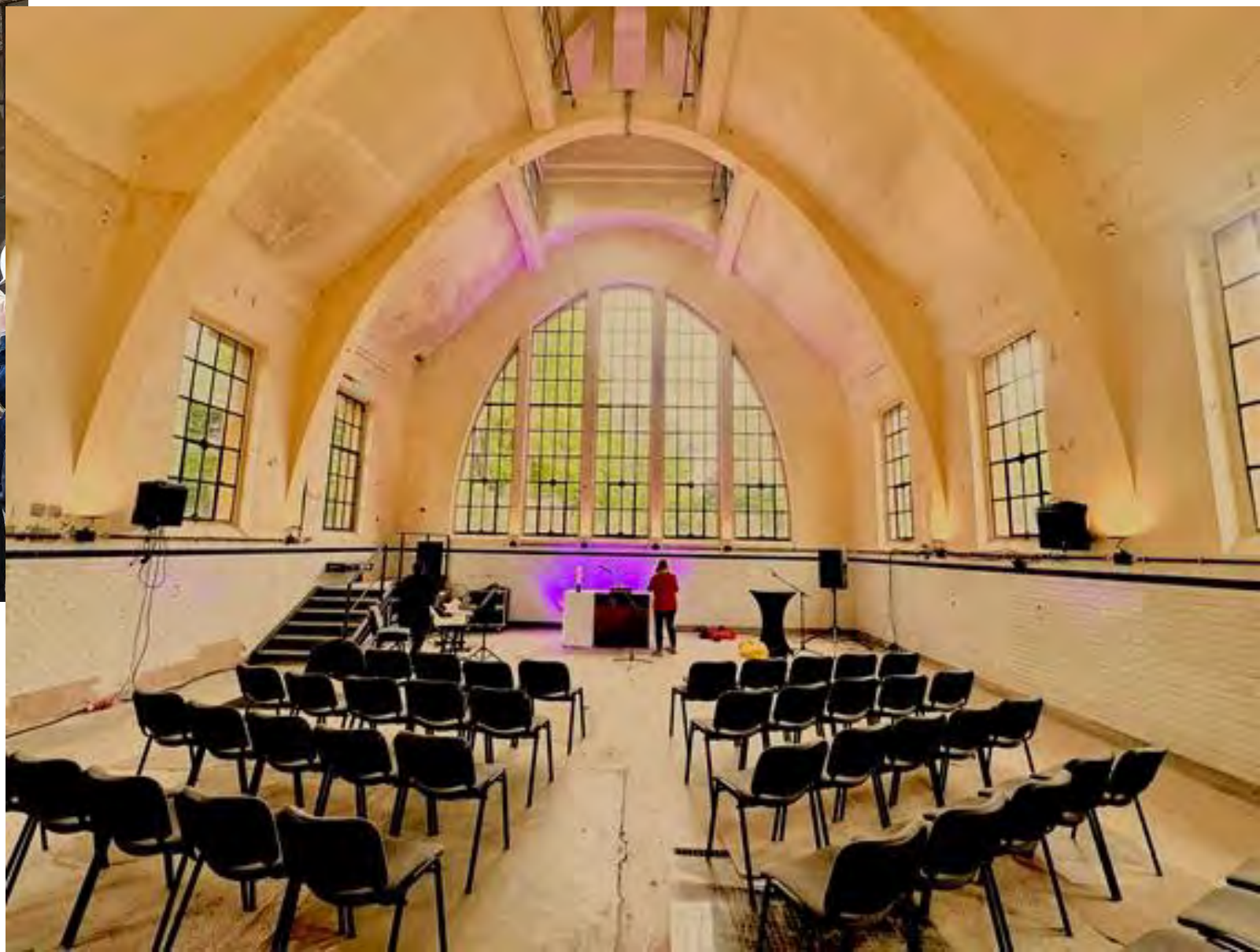


Mannheim 1904 - 1973



Krefeld 1909 - 1962





výsledek srovnávací studie:

- představuje významný mezník v hodnotách člověka (v určité době nebo kulturním období) ve vývoji v architektuře, technice, umění či urbanismu
- je skvělou ukázkou stavby, architektonického nebo technologického souboru, dokumentující jednu nebo více významných etap v historii lidstva



Old Wastewater Treatment Plant in Prague-Bubeneč

Description

The Old Wastewater Treatment Plant complex, today offering an exceptional testimony of water management, architecture and technology at the turn of the 20th century, houses a set of surface and underground structures. The way the complex has been composed reflects the technological processes involved in wastewater treatment, which took place underground (the grit chamber and clarifiers).

The Old Wastewater Treatment Plant was built between 1901 and 1906 by the Quido Bělský construction company. In 1907, the treatment plant was put into full operation after a year of trials. It treated wastewater until 1967. Prague's modern sewerage system was designed by Sir William Heerlein Lindley (born 30 January 1853 in Hamburg, Germany, died 30 December 1917 in Putney, Great Britain), the renowned water supply and sewerage engineer, who also designed other modern sewerage systems for major cities elsewhere in Europe. Lindley, who mainly worked in Germany, but also engaged in consultancy in other countries, was a great pioneer of environmental protection in wastewater treatment and contributed to the construction of modern water supply systems. Today, he is considered a figure of European stature. As he approached the design of each of his waterworks and sewerage systems as an independent project that factored in local conditions, all of his surviving technical facilities are unique.

The construction of Prague's sewer network, which remains in operation to this day, began in 1899. The system of original trunk sewers forming the basis of the sewerage system was so sophisticated and well-executed that sewerage networks subsequently built in Prague could be connected to it seamlessly. The mechanical wastewater treatment design was at the heart of this project. Mechanical treatment was a principle that ensured the responsible removal of impurities from wastewater before it was discharged into the recipient – the Vltava river. For this to take place, the individual processes involved – mechanical treatment and the disposal of trapped undissolved pollutants – had to be unified with technical accessories into a single functioning unit. The technology was designed to work on the principle of gravity. In this process, the wastewater that was to be treated was drained via a gravity sewer system into a site beyond the city that was chosen because it had the lowest elevation and was as close as possible to the Vltava.

The Old Wastewater Treatment Plant remained fit for purpose for a full sixty years, before closing in 1967. It continued to be used for sludge management until the 1980s.

In the spirit of architecture from the time, the building is dominated by an asymmetrical middle section incorporating the main front entrance. The staircase at the façade end of this section leads to administrative facilities, beyond which there is a monumental hall. Lower longitudinal wings flank the central structure. The individual parts have different types of roofing: the wings and administrative facilities are covered by a low gambrel roof, while the staircase tower is accentuated by a low keel-shaped dome.

The monumental hall situated above the underground vaulted grit chamber area is one of the complex's hubs. The hall's roof has been built with angled steel trusses. Free-standing chimneys with decorated heads jut out symmetrically in front of the ends of both wings of the building. One of them was designed as a flue for boilers, and the other was a vent for the underground section. On the walls of the hall above the grit chamber vaults, there are several plates indicating that the floor has a maximum load-bearing capacity of 400 kg/m². The façades were simply decorated, alternating smooth lightly-coloured plastered surfaces with brick facework. Solid stone cladding accentuates the entrances and plinths. The windows and doors are vaulted with the coordinated alternation of arches, segments and straight heads. A symmetrically positioned pair of elliptical windows is used to illuminate each of the entrances on the north façade.

The vaulted underground area is unique and is undoubtedly the most interesting architectural feature. The vaults in the underground part and, indeed, throughout the structure, are made of hard-baked brick facework. The curves of their geometric penetrations end in precisely rendered round fittings. A flattened vault transitioning into conches was used to arch the largest space, i.e. the impressively dimensioned grit chamber (12 × 28 m). Sewers A, B and C open into this area. The mouth of the sewers, which are ovoid in their cross-section, also ends in round fittings. A water wheel to turn the fan was originally installed by the left drain (marked A) and in the adjacent area. This piece of equipment did not remain in operation for long but was used for a short time after the plant's closure. It was dismantled in 1980 and its remains are now in the collection of the Prague Museum.

 Czechia

Date of Submission: 16/07/2020

Criteria: (iii)(iv)

Category: Cultural

Submitted by:

Permanent Delegation of the Czech Republic to UNESCO

State, Province or Region:

Praha Region

Coordinates: N50 6 36.19 E14 24 8.05

Ref.: 6485

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I KANÁLY JSOU KULTURA!



Díky za pozornost!

