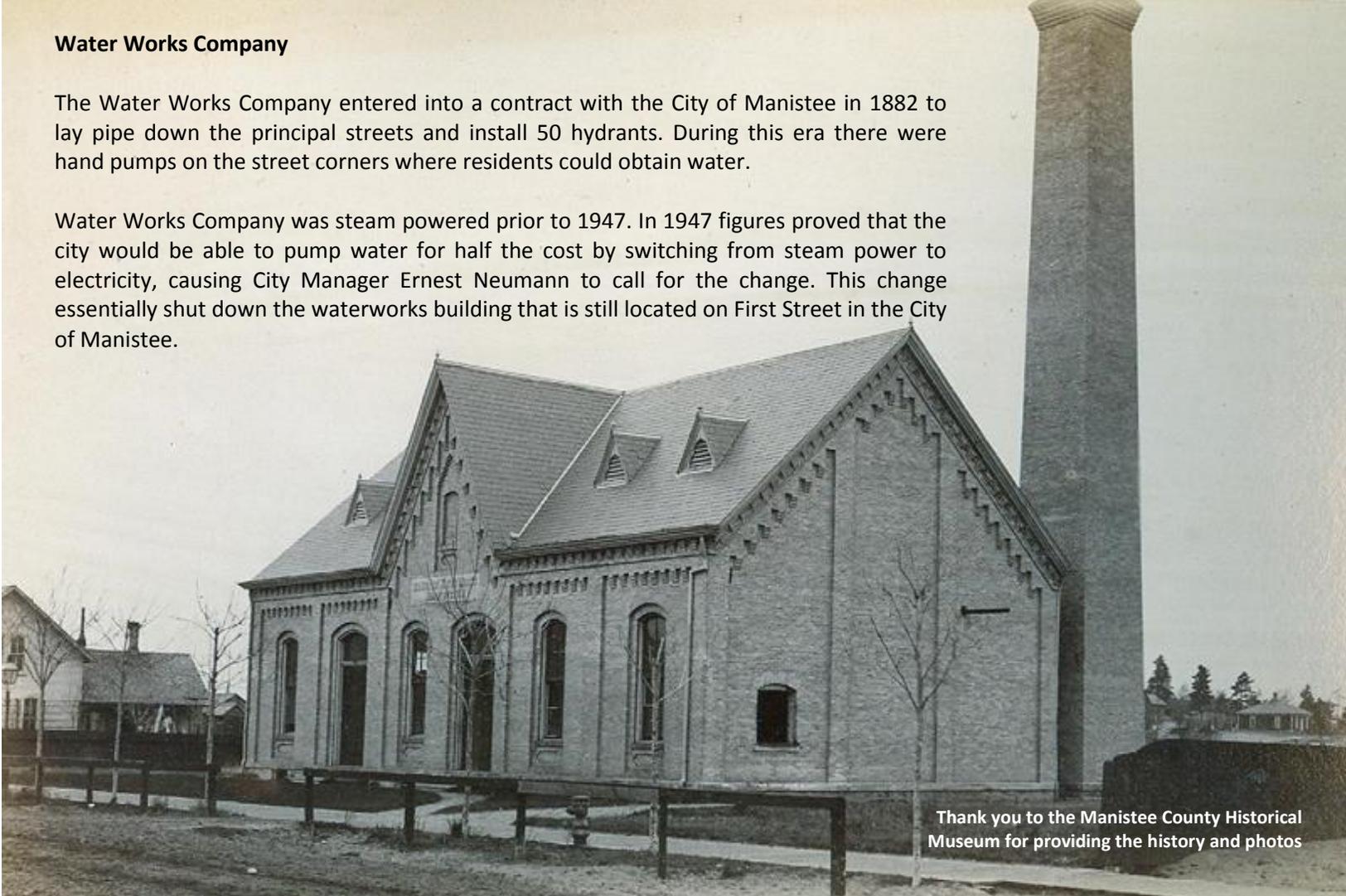


Water Works Company

The Water Works Company entered into a contract with the City of Manistee in 1882 to lay pipe down the principal streets and install 50 hydrants. During this era there were hand pumps on the street corners where residents could obtain water.

Water Works Company was steam powered prior to 1947. In 1947 figures proved that the city would be able to pump water for half the cost by switching from steam power to electricity, causing City Manager Ernest Neumann to call for the change. This change essentially shut down the waterworks building that is still located on First Street in the City of Manistee.



Thank you to the Manistee County Historical Museum for providing the history and photos

Original Water Meter



Construction of the Water Works began in August of 1882 and was completed in July of 1883. The company began to supply water to the city of Manistee later that month. The water was supplied by a system of drive wells that averaged 135 feet deep. Two boilers 5 x 16 feet with 54 three inch tubes, and four compound engines, 14 x 24 were made by the holly Works at Lockport N.Y. The Water works was uses to pump the city's water supply until 1947 when it was decided to change from a steam to an electric water pumping system.

In 1953, it was announced that the Manistee County Historical Society would use the building as a museum. In the late spring of 1955, the former Water Works building was officially opened as the Manistee County Historical Museum. However, in 1961 the Museum found a permanent year round home at 425 River Street.

The Water Works Building is open to the public July and August. Wednesday – Saturday 12 noon to 4 pm. Admission \$1

Located at 540 First Street, the building houses a variety of logging, railroad and marine exhibits and memorabilia of Manistee in the Nineteenth Century.

For more information about the history of the Manistee water system visit:
Manistee County Historical Museum
425 River St, Manistee, MI 49660
231.723.5531



Hand pump that was originally located on the street corner



Manistee's entire water supply passed through this valve for over 60 years



Section of original wooden water main