



Kansas City Water Works – Quindaro Pumping Station

Glass Plate Negative Collection (KSCOLL 2)

The Kansas City Waterworks supplied water to both KCK and KCMO beginning in 1872. Constructed in 1887, the Quindaro pumping station supplied 40,000,000 gallons of water each day to the growing metropolis.

This collection consists of 242, 5" x 7" glass plate negatives of the Kansas City Water Works – Quindaro Pumping Station.

Descriptive Summary

Creator: Unknown

Title: Kansas City Water Works – Quindaro Pumping Station Photographs

Dates: Unknown

Size: Six boxes, 245 glass plate negatives

Location: Basement workroom storage shelves

Administrative Information

Restrictions on access: Access restricted due to fragility of glass plates. Some digital surrogates are available.

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Additional physical form available: Selected images have been digitized and are available on the [Kansas Room Digital Collections](#) page.

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Location of originals: Kansas City, Kansas Public Library, Kansas Room closed stacks

Acquisition information: Donated by Chris Wilborn, Wilborn & Associates Photography, April 2017

Custodial history: The glass negatives in this collection are from the collection of Wilborn & Associates, a commercial photography company. The negatives were part of a larger collection of historic Kansas City photographs, more than 500,000 of which were donated to the Jackson County Historical Society in

Independence, Missouri. The negatives were stored in the caves on 31st Street and donated when the business was sold in 2017.

Citation note: (identification of the image, Kansas City Water Works Image Collection, Kansas Room – Special Collections, Kansas City, Kansas Public Libraries)

Collection Description

Historical Note

Constructed in 1887-1888, the Kansas City Waterworks Quindaro pumping station situated on the Missouri River supplied water to both Kansas City, Kansas and Kansas City Missouri in the late 19th and early 20th centuries. The water was pumped directly from the river into settling basins where it was treated and pumped into the Turkey Creek Station basins and then on to the service mains. When the Quindaro Station was completed, Kansas City, Kansas had a population of between 30-40,000 residents and had the second largest water works in the country, capable of pumping 40,000,000 gallons of water per day into reservoirs with a capacity of 60,000,000 gallons. 175 miles of water mains ran through the cities on both sides of the state line. The type of machinery depicted (steam engines, horses and carts) suggest that the photos were taken in the early 1900s.

Arrangement Note

The plates are arranged roughly in the original order in which they were received. The negatives were stored stacked in a large cardboard box with paper interleaving between each plate. The glass plates were dusted and placed in archival folders along with a few handwritten notes and sheets of paper with the Kansas City, Kansas Water Works – Quindaro Station printed on them. Each plate has a brief description and an identification number.

Scope and content note

This series of photographs of the Kansas City Waterworks, Quindaro Pumping Station was created sometime between the late 19th and early 20th centuries. The images depict work and construction at the station including the pump house and smokestack, construction or repair of the basins, willow mattresses and rubble being used to prevent riverbank erosion.

Collection Inventory

BOX1

(Bolded items have been digitized)

QS001 – Five men spraying water from a hose

QS002 – Unidentified building

QS003 – Field with smokestack in background

QS004 – Scene with wooden tower and small boat

QS005 – Men working next to river barge

QS006 – Unidentified field

QS007 – Unidentified man standing in field

QS008 – Five unidentified men on a hill

QS009 – Two unidentified men standing on a hill

QS010 – River scene with fence (plate broken)

QS011 – Three men near the river with wooden structure and steam engine

QS012 – Men with barge working near river

QS013 – Men on river barge

QS014 – Barge near river

QS015 – Unidentified man looking down at river

QS016 – Building with smokestack and scaffold (pump house)
QS017 – Man working outside
QS018 – Interior scene (pump and boiler room)
QS019 – Two unidentified men working outside (in front of engine)
QS020 – Three unidentified men working underground (laying pipe)
QS021 – Interior scene, metering equipment
QS022 – View of underground water main
QS023 – Exterior view of Quindaro plant
QS024 – Exterior view of Quindaro plant
QS025 – Exterior view of Quindaro plant, two buildings and wooden tower
QS026 – Three men working in field with horses
QS027 – Men laying brick
QS028 – Men laying brick
QS029 – Men looking at basin wall with water release, and smokestack in background
QS030 – Men looking at basin wall with water release, and smokestack in background
QS031 – Water basin with Quindaro plant in background
QS032 – Workers pouring concrete
QS033 – Horse with trailer
QS034 – Workers digging next to water main
QS035 – Horse and carts in field
QS036 – Field scene with cart in foreground and horses in background
QS037 - Men looking at basin wall with water release, and smokestack in background
QS038 – Aerial view of water basins
QS039 – Workers next to river or basin
QS040 – Man on steamroller with umbrella
QS041 – Blurry aerial view of Quindaro station
QS042 – Aerial view of Quindaro station (heavy damage)
QS043 – Man standing in empty basin
QS044 – Workers in empty basin

BOX 2

QS045 – Outdoor scene with pipe in foreground
QS046 – Outdoor scene with unidentified building
QS047 – Field with horses and building in background (“25” in upper corner)
QS048 – Large pipe laying on ground
QS049 – Workers laying water main
QS050 – Barge scene
QS051 – Boat on river (E. R. Packet Co.)
QS052 – River scene
QS053 – Workers hoisting water main pipe into place
QS054 – Workers with trench and wooden support structure
QS055 – Five unidentified workers constructing building
QS056 – Unidentified building
QS057 – Outdoor scene
QS058 – Workers on steam engines in field
QS059 – Workers laying rebar
QS060 – Outdoor scene with hill
QS061 – Empty basin with pipe
QS062 – View of empty basin
QS063 – View of empty basin
QS064 – View of river with trees in foreground
QS065 – Work scene
QS066 – Four men surveying construction site
QS067 – View of empty basin
QS068 – Unidentified house on hill (#10 written in upper corner)
QS069 – View of brick basin wall
QS070 – View of basin with pump and pipes
QS071 – Workers in field with horses and steam tractor

QS072 – Construction site with pipes and wooden support structures
QS073 – Workers in front yard of house with horses and equipment
QS074 – Man standing on hill in front of release pipes
QS075 – Worker laying pipe in basin
QS076 – Basin construction site
QS077 – **Construction site with man standing near pile of bricks**
QS078 – **Construction site with trenches**
QS079 – Men on barge
QS080 – Scene with workers and unidentified building
QS081 – Riprap pile with man in distance
QS082 – Hill and trees with Quindaro plant in background
QS083 – River scene
QS084 – Workers carrying materials out of river barge
QS085 – Men working near river
QS086 – River scene
QS087 – River scene with wooden structure
QS088 – Unidentified man walking next to riverbank with willow mattress
QS089 – River scene
QS090 – River scene

BOX 3

QS091 – Workers standing on riverbank
QS092 – Pumping rig on river bank
QS093 – workers on riverbank
QS094 – River bank scene
QS095 – River bank scene
QS096 – River bank scene
QS097 – Outdoor scene with wooden structure
QS098 – River bank scene with small boat
QS099 – Workers with tall wooden structure
QS100 – River bank scene with workers, barge, and barrels
QS101 – Workers at river's edge
QS102 – Outdoor scene
QS103 – Workers at river's edge with tall wooden structure and steam barge
QS104 – Workers and river's edge
QS105 – Wooden structure at river's edge
QS106 – River scene with wooden structure
QS107 – View of trench (11 written in upper corner)
QS108 – Interior scene with water main and wooden support structure
QS109 – View of water main in trench (14 written in upper corner)
QS110 – Workers standing above trench with water main pipe
QS111 – View of trenches with water main (17 written in upper corner)
QS112 – Unidentified brick building
QS113 – Outdoor scene with man and horse cart in background
QS114 – River scene with bridge
QS115 – View from the bottom of empty basin
QS116 – Outdoor scene
QS117 – Outdoor construction scene
QS118 – Open field with pipes laying on ground
QS119 – Workers in empty basin (negative heavily damaged)
QS120 – Men working in empty basin (negative heavily damaged)
QS121 – Workers in field on steam tractors
QS122 – Outdoor scene
QS123 – Workers at construction site with trenches and water main
QS124 – Outdoor scene
QS125 – Outdoor scene
QS126 – Workers and horse carts
QS127 – View of construction site from above with horse in foreground

QS128 – Workers on steam tractors at edge of basin
QS129 – Field scene with horses (plate broken)
QS130 – Sloped earth with fencing
QS131 – Looking down on basin construction site
QS132 – View of basin
QS133 – Outdoor scene
QS134 – Horses in field pulling roller
QS135 – View of field from above

BOX4

QS136 – Outdoor scene
QS137 – Outdoor scene
QS138 – Looking down on workers in open basement
QS139 – Basement interior
QS140 – Workers standing next to river
QS141 – View of basin with poles in ground
QS142 – Workers standing on hill
QS143 – Men working in trench
QS144 – Man standing next to basin with poles in ground
QS145 – Blurry outdoor scene
QS146 – Man standing next to basin and large water pipe
QS147 – Barge at river's edge
QS148 – Workers building support structure
QS149 – River scene
SQ150 – Field scene
QS151 – Two men looking down at basin
QS152 – Workers in field
QS153 – Workers and horses in basin
QS154 – Field scene with man driving horse cart
QS155 – View of basin with workers standing in background
QS156 – Water-filled basin (emulsion flaking)
QS157 – Man in field on steamroller (negative heavily damaged)
QS158 – Workers and horses with rocks in foreground
QS159 – Construction scene with workers, buildings, and smokestack in background
QS160 – Field scene with workers and horse carts
QS161 – Field or basin with chain link fence in foreground
QS162 – Stone structure (handwritten note "Union Bridge" found next to plate)
QS163 – Construction scene
QS164 – Construction scene with brick building
QS165 – Interior scene with large water pipes (negative heavily damaged)
QS166 – Construction site with rebar
QS167 – Building construction scene (negative heavily damaged)
QS168 – Overexposed interior scene
QS169 – Outdoor construction scene with workers
QS170 – Overexposed plate
QS171 – Overexposed outdoor scene
QS172 – Workers constructing brick building (plate broken)
QS173 – Outdoor hilly scene with tent and horse cart in foreground
QS174 – Rocky field with workers and horse carts
QS175 – Construction scene with ladder or wooden tower
QS176 – Construction site with water main
QS177 – Construction scene with pipes (negative heavily damaged)
QS178 – Outdoor construction scene with platform and workers
QS179 – Building interior with rubble
QS180 – Outdoor construction scene with giant wheel and barrel

BOX 5

QS181 – Worker standing in underground construction site

QS182 – Building under construction

QS183 – Water main

QS184 – Water main

QS185 – Workers spraying dirt mound

QS186 – Workers in basin spraying dirt mound

QS187 – Train car, and pipe on wagon

QS188 – Wagons and steam engine

QS189 – Long poles laying in field

QS190 – Building with smoke stack at water's edge

QS191 – Edge of basin (underexposed)

QS192 – Laying water main

QS193 – View of water main construction

QS194 – View of hole in ground

QS195 – Rocky riverbank

QS196 – River's edge

QS197 – Wooden support structure and riprap

QS198 – Workers resting on riverbank

QS199 – Workers at river's edge

QS200 – River view with trees and brush in foreground

QS201 – view of river's edge

QS202 – Men in small boats on river

QS203 – Close up view of water main pipe

QS204 – View of basin wall with smokestack in background

QS205 – Men working on riverbank

QS206 – Riverbank with riprap and willow mattress

QS207 – Riverbank with drainage pipe (emulsion damage)

QS208 – Riverbank scene

QS209 – Men working with reeds (crack repaired with tape)

QS210 – Riverbank scene (emulsion damage)

QS211 – River scene with dock structure (plate cracked, paper stuck to emulsion side)

QS212 – River scene with dock structure

QS213 – Riverbank scene

QS214 – Riverbank scene

QS215 – River dock scene

QS216 – River bank with cliff

QS217 – River bank with bridge

QS218 – Riverbank scene with riprap and dock structure

QS219 – Riverbank scene

QS220 – Outdoor scene with grass and rocks

BOX 6

QS221 – Men working on riverbank

QS222 – Men working at riverbank with reeds and riprap

QS223 – Man in rowboat at river's edge (paper adhered to emulsion side)

QS224 – Riverbank scene (paper adhered to emulsion side)

QS225 – Man in rowboat in front of dock structure

QS226 – Men working with reeds at river's edge

QS227 – Man and boat at river's edge

QS228 – Riverbank scene

QS229 – Men weaving reeds at river's edge

QS230 – Boat at river's edge

QS231 – Boat at river's edge with men in background

QS232 – Riverside construction scene with worker in foreground
QS233 – Man in rowboat at riverside construction scene
QS234 – Workers weaving reeds
QS235 – Workers weaving reeds
QS236 – Hillside scene with reeds and log structure
QS237 – Cliffside with twigs and brush
QS238 – Workers on the hillside
QS239 – Workers standing on riprap
QS240 – Wooden structure in water
QS241 – Worker standing at water's edge
QS242 – Workers with drainage pipe
QS243 – Woven reeds
QS244 – Workers on structure at river's edge
QS245 – Workers and wooden structure at river's edge

Handwritten notes found in packing materials

Processed by Anne Lacey, Kansas Collection Librarian, October 2017