Fairmount Waterworks

- First municipal water works in the United States
- Became a model for similar facilities around the US
- Today is an interpretive center educating visitors on the importance of an urban watershed and how to protect and care for it.

Primary Sources

Schuylkill Water Works

By Mumford

Illustration of Waterworks building, articles and notations on history of site and area

Proposals for establishing a company for the purpose of employing the surplus power of the steam-engine erected near the river Schuylkill: under the title and firm of the Philadelphia Rolling Company

Published 1801

Call number: LCP folio

Report of the Committee appointed by the Common Council to enquire into the state of the waterworks.

By Philadelphia Committee on the Water Works (1802)

Call number: LCP

Fairmount Waterworks

Contains reproductions of 19th century illustrations of the Fairmount Waterworks. Includes a view of the waterworks and the art museum.

by Philadelphia Record, 4 photoprints

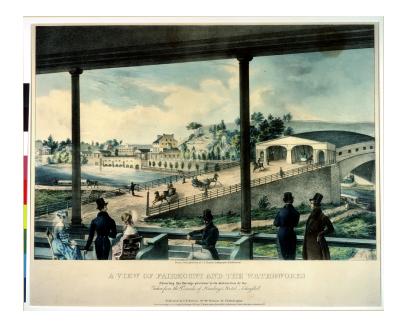
Call number: V7:2265

Several images of Waterworks in HSP Digital Library.

Image at right: A view of the Fairmount Water-Works Showing the Bridge Previous to Its Destruction by Fire Lithograph, by John T. Bowen, 1838

Digital Image #262

Call number: Bc 88 B786I



Secondary Sources

Philadelphia's first water works by Mease, James, published 1925

Call number: UPA/PAM TD 225.5 .F35 1925

The Fairmount Waterworks, Philadelphia by Harold Donaldson Eberlein Call number: To .3275 v.62

Fairmount Reservoir

Article: excavation of foundations of reservoir site for construction of Philadelphia Museum of Art at Spring Garden St. uncovered wood pipes from ca.1810-1817; history of water supply to city via waterworks discussed.

Call number: Campbell Collection v.17 p.70-72