

POST WATER WORKS
Post
Garza County
Texas

HAER TX-126
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WRITTEN HISTORICAL AND DESCRIPTIVE DATA

FIELD RECORDS

HISTORIC AMERICAN ENGINEERING RECORD
National Park Service
U.S. Department of the Interior
1849 C Street NW
Washington, DC 20240-0001

HISTORIC AMERICAN ENGINEERING RECORD

POST WATER WORKS

HAER No. TX-126

Location: Post, Garza County, Texas

Dates of Construction: 1907-1912

Original Owner, Use: City of Post, Texas; municipal water supply

Current Owner, Use: City of Post, Texas; abandoned

Significance: The Post Water Works played an important role in the early development of Post, Texas, an experimental town established by C.W. Post of Post Cereals Company.

Description: The Post Water Works consisted of wells pumped by windmills, pipes, and a masonry reservoir. Located 200' above town, it was built of stone masonry, the stone for which is said to have been taken from the rim of the Caprock during excavation for a wagon road to the top. The rectangular reservoir is divided into two sections placed end-to-end. Each section is 125' long, 20' wide, and 15' deep. The walls of the reservoir slope gradually outward and are finished with cement. The effective capacity of the reservoir was about 450,000 gallons. The sheet metal roof is missing, but the iron frame supporting it is still in place. An approximately 50'-long section of wall on the south end of the reservoir has collapsed.

None of the original system is in operation at the present time, except for some of the original pipes in the city itself. None of the windmills can be identified as original. The reservoir is abandoned and deteriorating.

History: In 1907, C.W. Post, industrialist of Battle Creek fame and owner of the Post Cereals Company, founded the town of Post off the Caprock of the High Plains as an experimental town.

One of the first activities was securing a water supply. The first water was brought by wagons from various places at the edge of the plains where water was available. At the same time, water was secured in very limited amounts from a spring above the town at the rim of the escarpment. In

1907, there was an attempt to sink a drilled well at the town site, but it ended in failure when salt water was struck.

Post ordered construction of a complete water works in 1908. A series of wells were sunk on the plains above the town. These wells were pumped entirely by windmills and then carried by gravity to a concrete collection reservoir located some 300' above town. However, on September 18, 1908, work ceased on this reservoir because it was located too far above the town and the water pressure was too strong for the standard fixtures available. A new stone masonry reservoir was begun 100' lower and completed by May 1909. Mains and pipes distributed water from the reservoir to the town by gravity.

By September 1909, there had been a total of 129 wells bored, 112 of which were for irrigation while seventeen were for the town's supply. The Post Water Works was in use until 1945 when a newer, more modern system was put into service.

Sources:

Eaves, Charles Dudley. "Colonization Activities at Charles William Post." *Southwestern Historical Quarterly* XLIII, no. 1 (July 1939).

Eaves, Charles Dudley and C.A. Hutchinson. *Post City, Texas*. Austin: The Texas State Historical Association, 1952.

Kennedy, Wyvonne, Secretary for the Chamber of Commerce, Post, Texas. Interview by field team, May 20, 1971.

Maddox, Pete, Water Superintendent, Post, Texas. Interview by field team, May 20, 1971.

Historians: Steve Rae and T. Lindsay Baker, May 20 and October 22, 1971

Project

Information: The Post Water Works was inventoried for the Historic American Engineering Record as part of the Southwest Water Resources Project, a joint project with the Texas Tech Water Resources Center. The survey was subsequently published as *Water for the Southwest: Historical Survey and Guide to Historic Sites* by the American Society of Civil Engineers in September 1973.