

COLGATE & COMPANY JERSEY CITY PLANT: C-11  
(Colgate-Palmolive Company Jersey City Plant: C-11)  
Rear of 41 Grand Street  
Jersey City  
Hudson County  
New Jersey

HAER No. NJ-71-W

HAER  
NJ  
9-JERC1,  
18W-

WRITTEN HISTORICAL AND DESCRIPTIVE DATA

HISTORIC AMERICAN ENGINEERING RECORD  
Northeast Field Area  
Chesapeake/Allegheny System Support Office  
National Park Service  
U.S. Custom House  
200 Chestnut Street  
Philadelphia, PA 19106

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(Colgate-Palmolive Company Jersey City Plant: C-11)

HAER No. NJ-71-W

**Location:** Rear of 41 Grand Street, Jersey City, Hudson County, New Jersey

**Significance:** C-11 housed steam-powered electric generators c1914-35, and afterwards served as the principal compressed air facility at the Jersey City plant until 1988. Although not an individually significant structure, it has some significance as a component of the Colgate Jersey City plant.

**Description:** C-11 is a one-story, single-bay, steel-framed, structure with a concrete slab floor, concrete-and-steel roof, and brick walls. There are open entryways to adjacent buildings C-8 and C-9, (HAER Nos. NJ-71-T and NJ-71-U) and a pedestrian door on the north wall. The 25-by-83-foot structure has partial interior brick partitions which divide it into three sections (see HAER No. NJ-71-T, Figure 2). The building most recently housed five YC "V"-type reciprocating air compressors and a pipefitters' shop.

**History:** C-11 was built in several stages. The northernmost 32 feet were erected in 1914 along with the adjacent Boiler House, and served as the plant's main Engine House, providing some of the Jersey City plant's electric power with two 24-by-32-inch Cooper Corliss steam engines driving two 400-kW, 240-V generators, one 9-by-8-inch American Blower Co. duplex engine driving a 50-kW, 240-V generator, one 110-kW, 240-V DC synchronous motor generator set, and three 200-kV ampere transformers for purchased electric current (Jacobs 1931). When the Turbine House was built in 1935 (HAER No. NJ-71-S), Colgate-Palmolive-Peet replaced the C-11 equipment with horizontal steam air compressors, and possibly lengthened the building about nineteen feet to the south. The steam air compressors were gradually replaced with electric-motor-powered units by 1953, and with the reciprocating units by c1969. When the original C-9 building was demolished in 1959, C-11 was extended another thirty-four feet south to its final length and sprinklers were added to the entire structure. C-11 was demolished in 1990.

**Sources:**

**Interviews**

Theodore Mrowzinski and Walter Merlin, Colgate-Palmolive Company engineers, October-November 1989.

### Plans

All drawings listed below are currently (1991) held by the Colgate-Palmolive Company in the L-1 building at the Jersey City plant (HAER NO. NJ-71-SS). For future access, researchers should contact the company's Office of Corporate Communications, 300 Park Avenue, New York, NY 10022.

Armistead Corp., Jersey City, N.J.  
1959 Colgate-Palmolive Company/ Layout of Sprinkler Line in Building C-11 Extension. Drawing No. 4-4892.

Colgate-Palmolive Company, Plant Engineering Division  
1954 Architectural and Structural Plans and Sections. Drawing No. 2-3544.

### Bibliography

Associated Mutual Insurance Company  
1922 Colgate & Co. (Soap and Toilet Supplies). Surveyed November 8, 1922.

Factory Mutual Engineering Association - Factory Mutual System.  
1962-79 Colgate-Palmolive Company. "Jersey City Plant." Serial No. 70516-B, Index 29368.

Jacobs, Jay  
1931 Steam Boiler and Power Plant at Jersey City. The Pulse III,8: 14-15.

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South Glastonbury, CT 06073

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COLGATE & COMPANY JERSEY CITY PLANT: C-11  
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 HAER No. NJ-71-W (page 3)

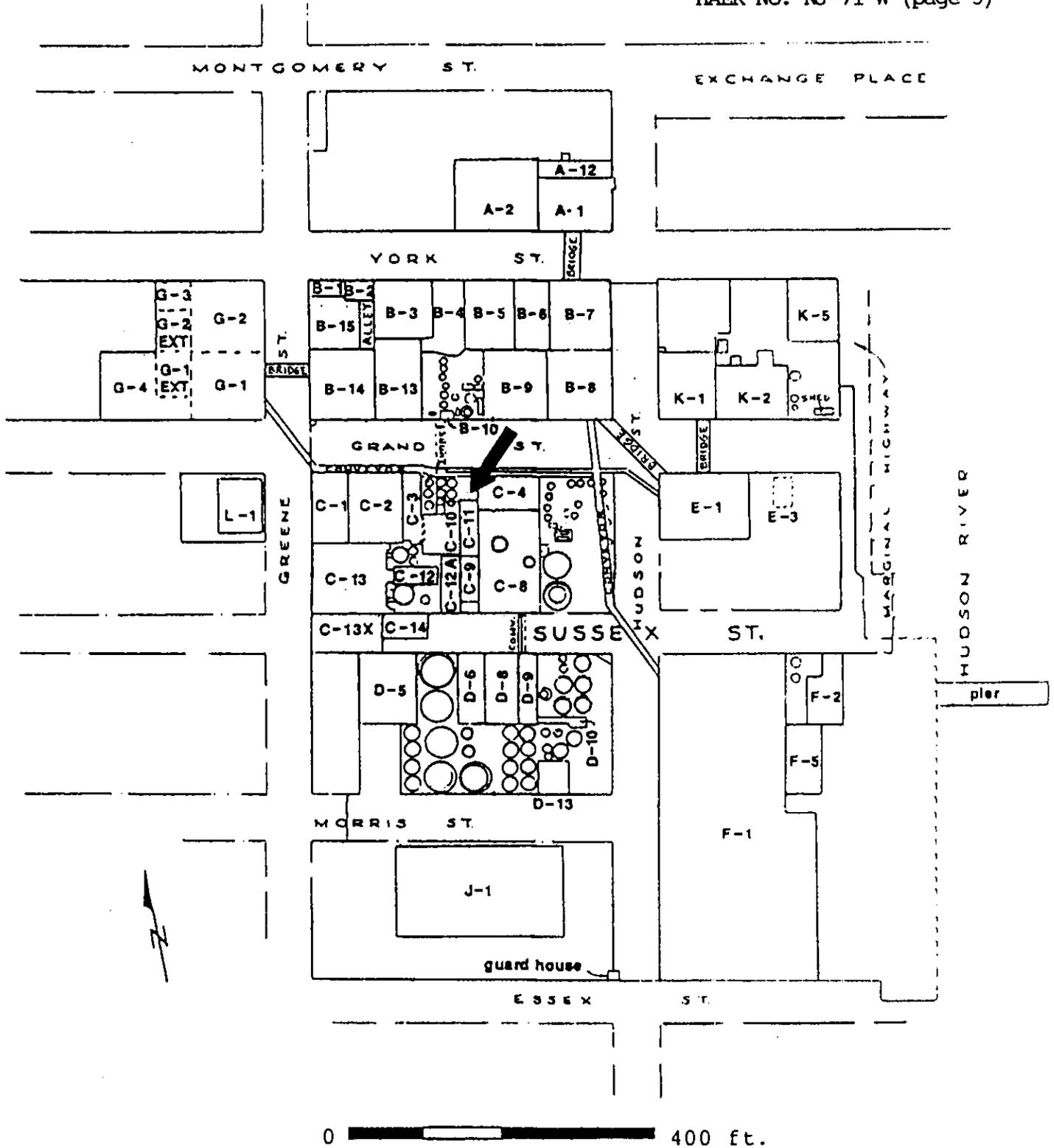


Figure 1. LOCATION OF C-11 AT COLGATE JERSEY CITY PLANT