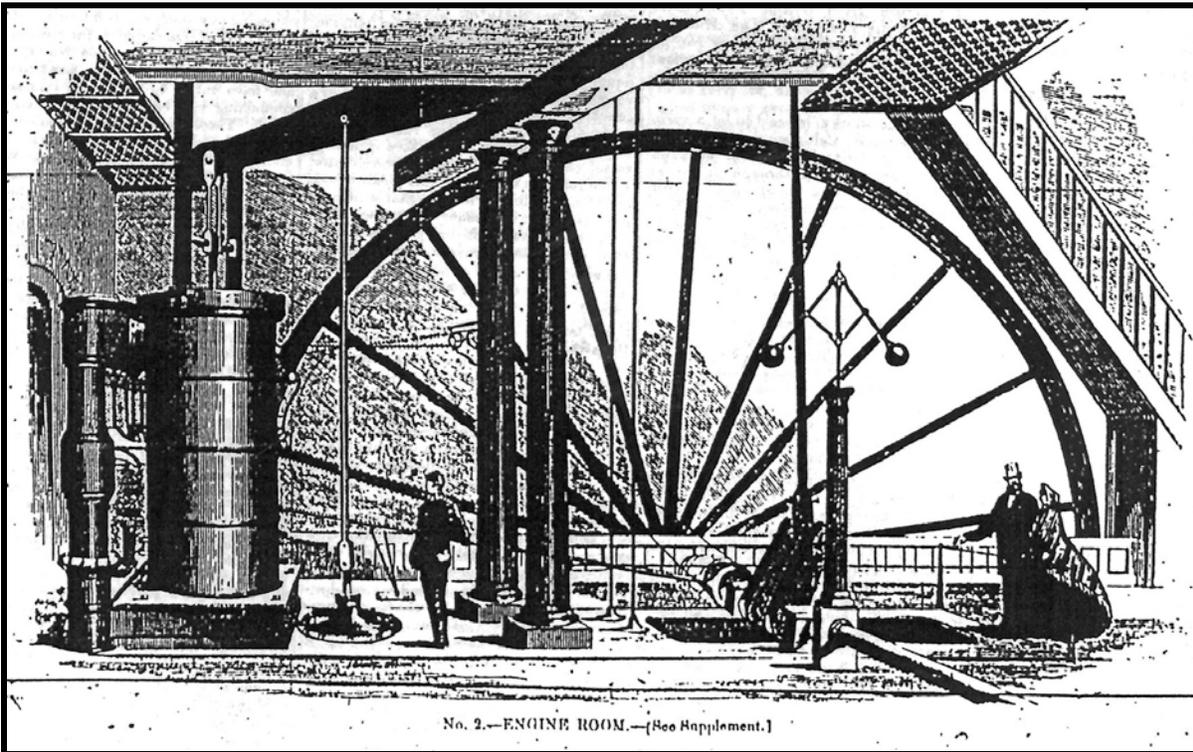


Power



Engine Room & Flywheel, 1863

The great Stone Distillery opened in 1860 with the finest equipment available. Gooderham & Worts' new 100 hp steam engine, by Bartley & Gilbert of Montreal, was the "largest land engine in the Province" and a "model of beauty and strength" according to the *Globe* of February 7, 1862. If the 1863 image from the *Canadian Illustrated News* is to be trusted, the new engine attracted female, as well as male admirers. Certainly, the first engineer, Mr. Charles Hood, spoke of it "in warmest terms" and strongly recommended its Canadian manufacturer to the public.

Featuring a huge flywheel – 26-feet across and 70-feet around – the great engine was set in a tall, narrow, thick-walled power house, serving milling operations on one side and distilling operations on the other. The engineer enjoyed not only prestige and responsibility, but the most comfortable work environment on site: a carpeted control area, looking more like a "ladies parlour" than an industrial power house.

By August 1882, when George Gooderham took the helm at G&W and signed an agreement listing the assets of the distillery, the original engine had been replaced by a "400 H.P. Brown Automatic-cutoff [steam] engine" built by Thomas Worswick of Guelph in 1881. This engine was still in use during the Great War when the plant was turned over to the British Government for war work. As the 1918 photograph reveals, the engineer still enjoyed pleasant surroundings – including plastered walls, wooden-housed flywheel, and even framed prints on the wall.

Today, the exterior of the power house, which projects slightly from the south façade of the Stone Distillery, looks much as it did in 1860. But the interior has changed dramatically. Now functioning as a dramatic, 3-storey stairwell, with floors and equipment removed, traces of original uses are still evident on the walls. Check out the swaths of plastering, concrete floors,

cast-iron bearing brackets and anchors, blocked-up windows and arches, and especially the great, sweeping arc that outlines where the old flywheel used to whirl.



Engine Room, 1918 CTA Stairwell 2007 Outline of Flywheel Housing

Please send your comments or questions to Manager of Heritage Services, Sally Gibson, sg@thedistillerydistrict.com.