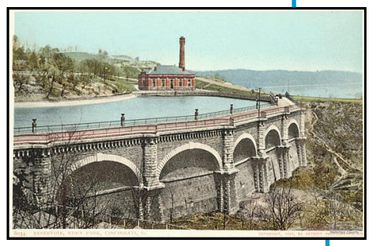
A Historical Timeline

Greater Cincinnati Water Works

December 1831: Fire destroys a large portion of the water plant and the city is without water for three weeks.

March 3, 1824: First steam driven pump installed with a capacity of 1,200,000 gallons per day.

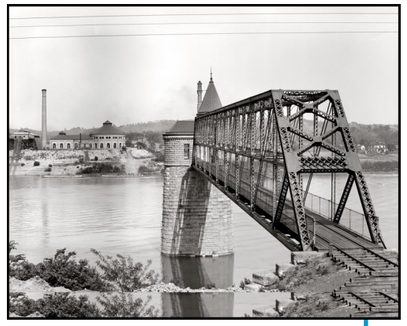
March 31, 1817: Cincinnati Mfg. Co. granted exclusive right to build a public water supply for the town of Cincinnati.



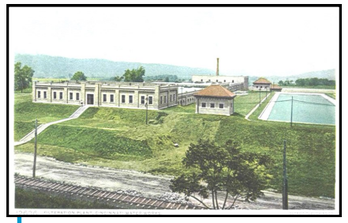
December 1850: First half of the Third Street Reservoir placed into service.

1866: Work begins on the construction of the Eden Park Reservoirs.

1875: Eden Park Reservoir placed into service.



1901: Intake Pier construction completed.



1907: Continuous Filtration commenced using new rapid sand filters put in service at the "New Works" Water Treatment Plant.

1930: First use of powdered activated carbon for taste and odor control.

January 24, 1937: The Ohio River floods. "The Great Flood of 1937" shuts down the Water Works for nine days.

1940: Mt. Washington Tank placed into service.

June 24, 1960: Dedication of new Water Works Headquarters Headquarters at 4747 Spring Grove Avenue.

1984: Pre-treatment Sedimentation Disposal Facility (Lamella process) placed into service.

1999: Chester Park Complex Administration Building Renovation

2013: UV Disinfection Facility placed in service.

Monroe | Adams | Jackson | Harrison | VanBuren | Tyler | Polk | Taylor | Fillmore | Pierce | Buchanan | Lincoln | Johnson | Grant | Hayes | Garfield | Arthur | Harrison | Cleveland | Cleveland | McKinley | Roosevelt | Taft | Wilson | Harding | Coolidge | Hoover | Roosevelt | Truman | Eisenhower | Kennedy | Johnson | Nixon | Ford | Carter | Reagan | Bush | Clinton | Bush | Obama

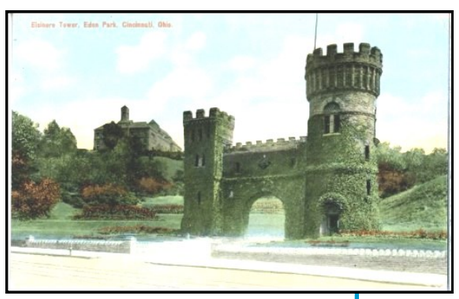
1817 | 1842 | 1867 | 1892 | 1917 | 1942 | 1967 | 1992 | 2017

Mexican/American War | Civil War | Spanish/American War | WWI | WW II | Korean War | Vietnam War | Gulf War | Iraq War

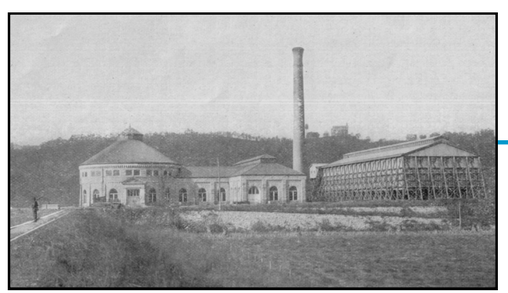
July 3, 1821: First water delivered to the city of Cincinnati.

1828: First cast iron pipe installed in the water system.

1839: For the fifth and final time, the question of municipal ownership is put to a vote and passes. Cincinnati takes possession of the Water Works on June 25, 1839



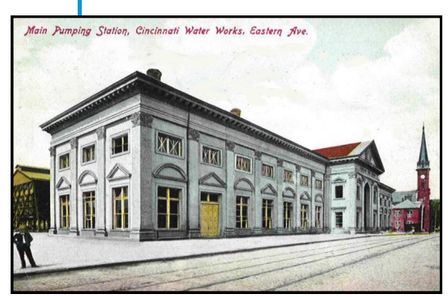
1883: Elsinore Tower placed into service.



1906: River Station begins service.

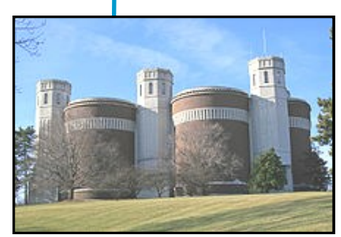
1906: Intake Pier begins service.

1906: Main Station begins service.

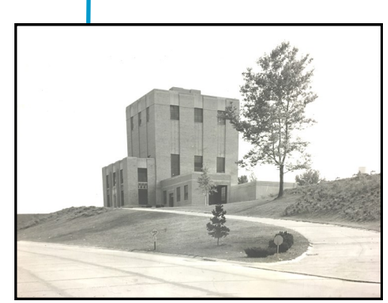


1910: Chlorine, in the form of a bleaching powder solution, is first fed for disinfection purposes.

1927: Mt. Airy Tanks go into service.



1937: Chemical House East placed into service.



1963: Ohio River Plant placed into service.

1976: Fluoride is added to the water supply.

1976: Charles M. Bolton Plant is completed and dedicated.

October, 1992: GAC* Plant placed

1999: Contract to sell water to Boone County, Kentucky and City of Florence, Kentucky is signed.

*Granular Activated Carbon