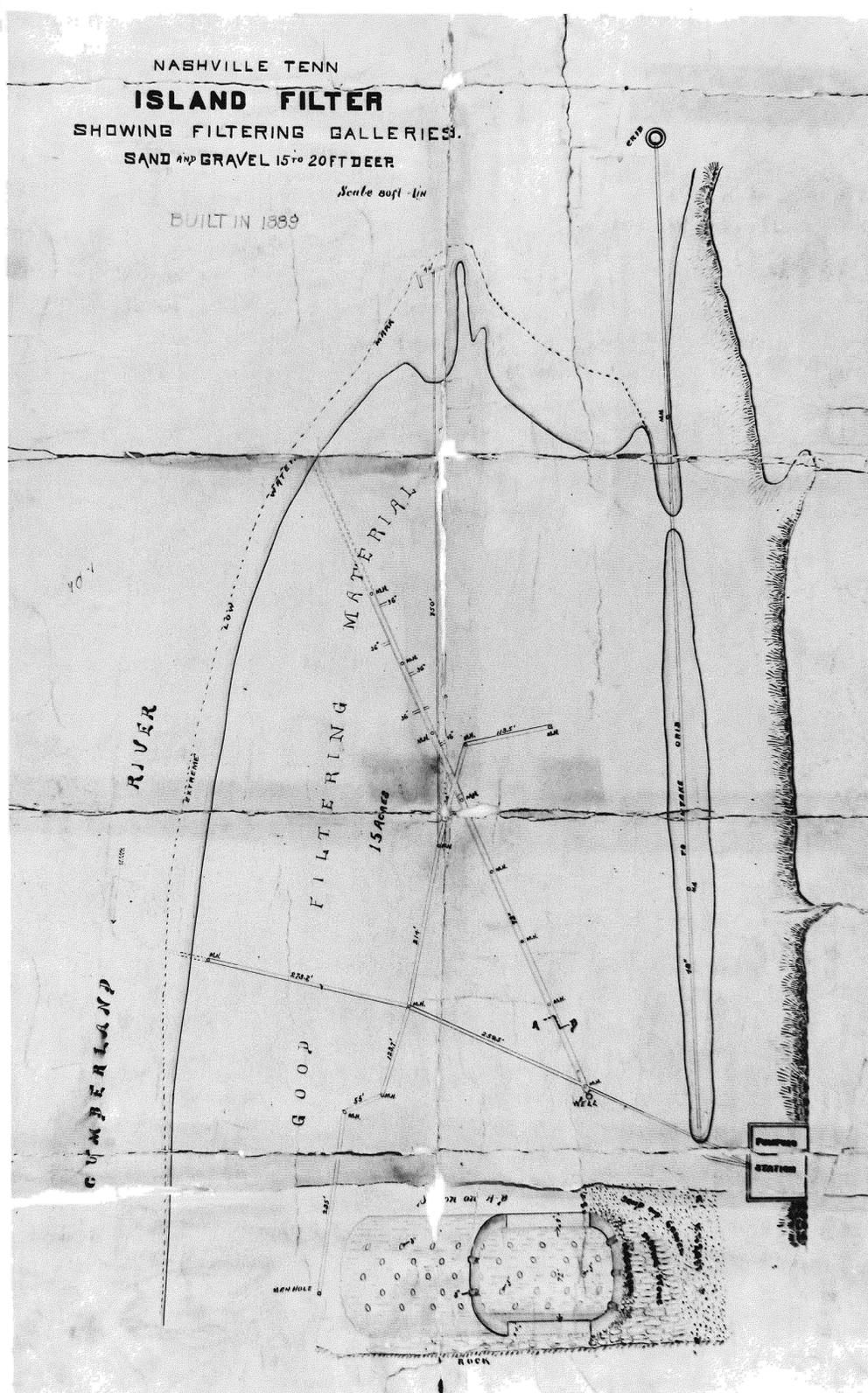
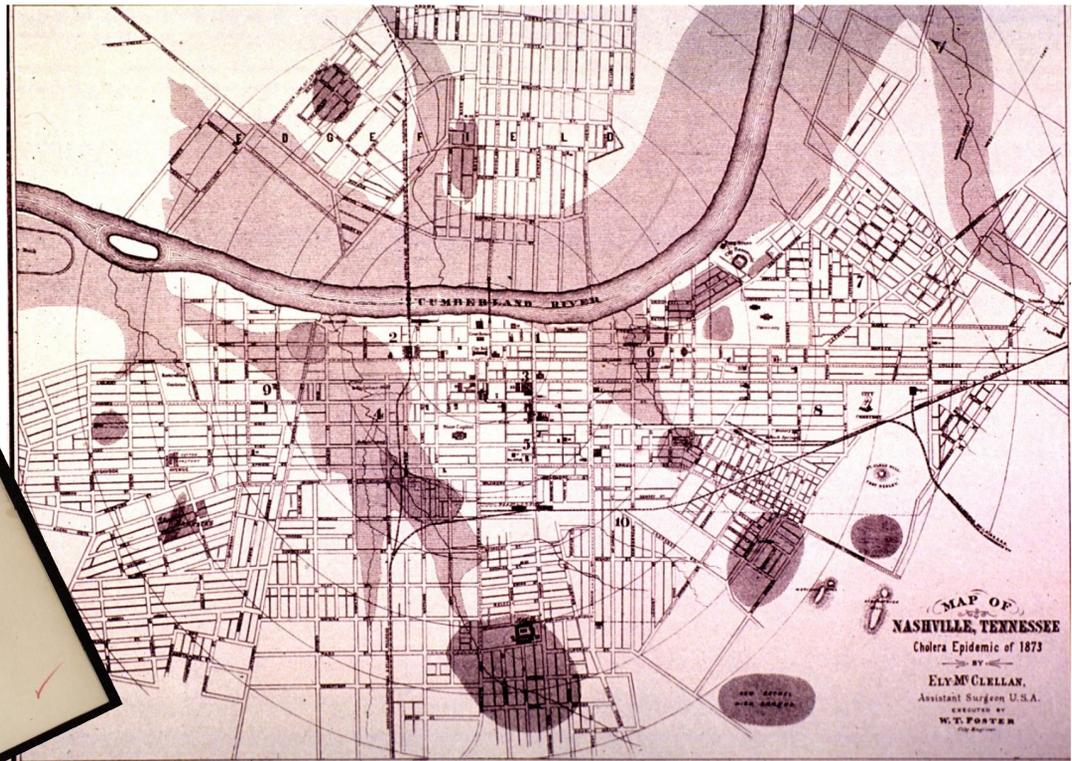


Island Filtering Gallery



Muddy water from the Cumberland River was an ever-present problem. Additionally, by 1865, overcrowding had created unsanitary conditions in Nashville.

Nashville suffered severe cholera outbreaks in 1866 and 1873 after which The Health Department, the Medical Profession and Waterworks officials urged the City Council to construct an island filtering gallery to improve the water supply.

A filtering gallery at the river island near the mouth of Brown's Creek was constructed during the year 1877 or 1878 and placed in its position. The construction of this gallery was unique. It was 152' long, 6' high and 10' wide – filled with stones and, technically speaking, was an infiltration gallery. The island on which it was built is a low lying strip of sand a few rods in width and 100 acres in extent. The river water percolated through the gravel and sand mounded up over this gallery, the sand and gravel acting as filtering medium. A suction pipe, 36" in diameter, was extended from the gallery to the pumping station.