

Collection #
P 0865

**WOLF LAKE TANK FARM PHOTOGRAPHS,
CA. 1951-1953**

Collection Information	1
Historical Sketch	2
Scope and Content Note	3
Contents	3

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COLLECTION INFORMATION

VOLUME OF COLLECTION: 2 folders of photographs

COLLECTION DATES: Ca. 1951–1953

PROVENANCE: Gift from Bonnie Moisan of Annapolis, MD, April 2016

RESTRICTIONS: None

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ALTERNATE FORMATS:

RELATED HOLDINGS:

ACCESSION NUMBER: 2016.0106

NOTES:

HISTORICAL SKETCH

Known as the Wolf Lake Facility, the tank farm in Hammond, Lake County, Indiana, was built in the early 1950s and was used to store supplies needed by the U.S. government. The tank farm complex consisted of approximately 130.5 acres of land that had been leased from the Indiana Harbor Belt Railroad Company on 24 June 1948. The property had six warehouses, support buildings, and eighty above-ground storage tanks. The contractor for building the facility was the Hughes Foulkrod Company. Lewis A. Mason was the construction engineer.

A tank farm is a facility used to store petroleum. Liquid petrochemicals are stored in large tanks before being sent to end consumers. A tank farm is also known as an oil depot, installation, or oil terminal.

Lewis Albert Mason (1880-1957) was a naval architect and engineer. He was an assistant designing engineer in the construction of lock gates and floating caissons for the Panama Canal. He moved to Washington, DC, in 1932 to work for the General Services Administration (GSA). During World War II he worked for the U.S. Navy's Bureau of Ships. He returned to the GSA in 1949, where he retired in 1954.

Sources:

Materials in the collection

Bauer, T.J. and T.J. Vitkus. "Historical Site Assessment of the Hammond Depot." Prepared for the Defense National Stockpile Center, August 2005 [Defense Logistics Agency, Historical Site Assessment of The Hammond Depot, Hammond, Indiana. \(nrc.gov\)](https://www.dhs.gov/defense-logistics-agency/historical-site-assessment-of-the-hammond-depot-hammond-indiana-nrc.gov) Accessed 18 July 2023.

"Lewis A. Mason, Engineer On Panama Canal Project" (obituary). *The Evening Star* (Washington, DC), 31 August 1957, posted on Find a Grave <https://www.findagrave.com/memorial/217515712/lewis-albert-mason> Accessed 19 July 2023.

"Tank Farm." Corrosionpedia [What is a Tank Farm? - Definition from Corrosionpedia](https://www.corrosionpedia.com/what-is-a-tank-farm) Accessed 18 July 2023.

"Wolf Lake Terminals proves viability of smaller liquid storage operations." *Bulk Transporter*, 1 April 2002 [Wolf Lake Terminals proves viability of smaller liquid storage operations | Bulk Transporter](https://www.bulktransporter.com/wolf-lake-terminals-proves-viability-of-smaller-liquid-storage-operations) Accessed 18 July 2023.

SCOPE AND CONTENT NOTE

This collection is composed of nineteen black-and-white photographs of the construction of the tank farm known as the Wolf Lake Facility in Hammond, Lake County, Indiana. Seven of the photos are small snapshots taken ca. 1951–1953 showing the facility and some of the workers. The other twelve photos are adhered to both sides of six album pages and show the progress of the construction of the facility from March through August of 1952. The photographs belonged to construction engineer Lewis A. Mason, who was the grandfather of the husband of the donor of this collection.

CONTENTS

CONTENTS

Seven snapshots of the tank farm at the Wolf Lake Facility in Hammond, Indiana, ca. 1951–1953. The photos show tanks, boiler and pump houses, silo and loading platform, and construction workers. A man in a suit appears in two of the snapshots and is possibly Lewis A. Mason, construction engineer.

Two photographs adhered to both sides of a page, show the progress of constructing the tank farm in Hammond on 11 March 1952. The construction engineer on this date is listed as H.G. Rupener [who appears to have been Harley Gaylord Rupener (1895–1955), a construction superintendent and civil engineer from Iowa].

Ten photographs adhered to both sides of five pages, show the progress of constructing the tank farm in Hammond. H.G. Rupener's name has been crossed out and replaced with Lewis A. Mason as construction engineer. Two photos are dated 1 May 1952; two are dated 2 June 1952; two are dated 1 July 1952; and four are dated 1 August 1952.

CONTAINER

Photographs, Folder 1 of 2

Photographs, Folder 2 of 2

Photographs, Folder 2 of 2