

The ASME History and Heritage Program

THE ASME History and Heritage recognition program began in September, 1971. To implement and achieve its goals, ASME formed a History and Heritage Committee, initially composed of mechanical engineers, historians of technology and (ex-officio) the curator of Mechanical Engineering at the Smithsonian Institution. The Committee provides a public service by examining, recording and acknowledging mechanical engineering achievements of particular significance.

National Mechanical Engineering Heritage Site

High-rise Air-conditioned
Office Building
1928

The Milam Building was the first high-rise air-conditioned office building in the United States. Many others followed suit. The air-conditioning design team was led by Willis H. Carrier, founder of the Carrier Engineering Corporation. The system provided 300 tons of refrigeration capacity with chilled water piped to air-handling fans serving all floors. The original unit was updated in 1945 and further modernized in 1989.



The American Society of
Mechanical Engineers

1991

The Milam Building is the 4th National Mechanical Engineering Heritage Site to be designated. In addition, two Mechanical Engineering Heritage Collections, 99 National, 34 International and 12 Regional Historic Mechanical Engineering Landmarks have been designated. Each reflects its influence on society, either in its immediate locale, nationwide or throughout the world.

The History and Heritage program recognizes our technological heritage and serves to encourage the preservation of the physical remains of historically important works. It provides a roster for engineers, students, educators, historians and travelers and helps establish reminders of our past, pride in the present and hope for the future.