

SOCIETY FOR INDUSTRIAL ARCHEOLOGY

NEWSLETTER

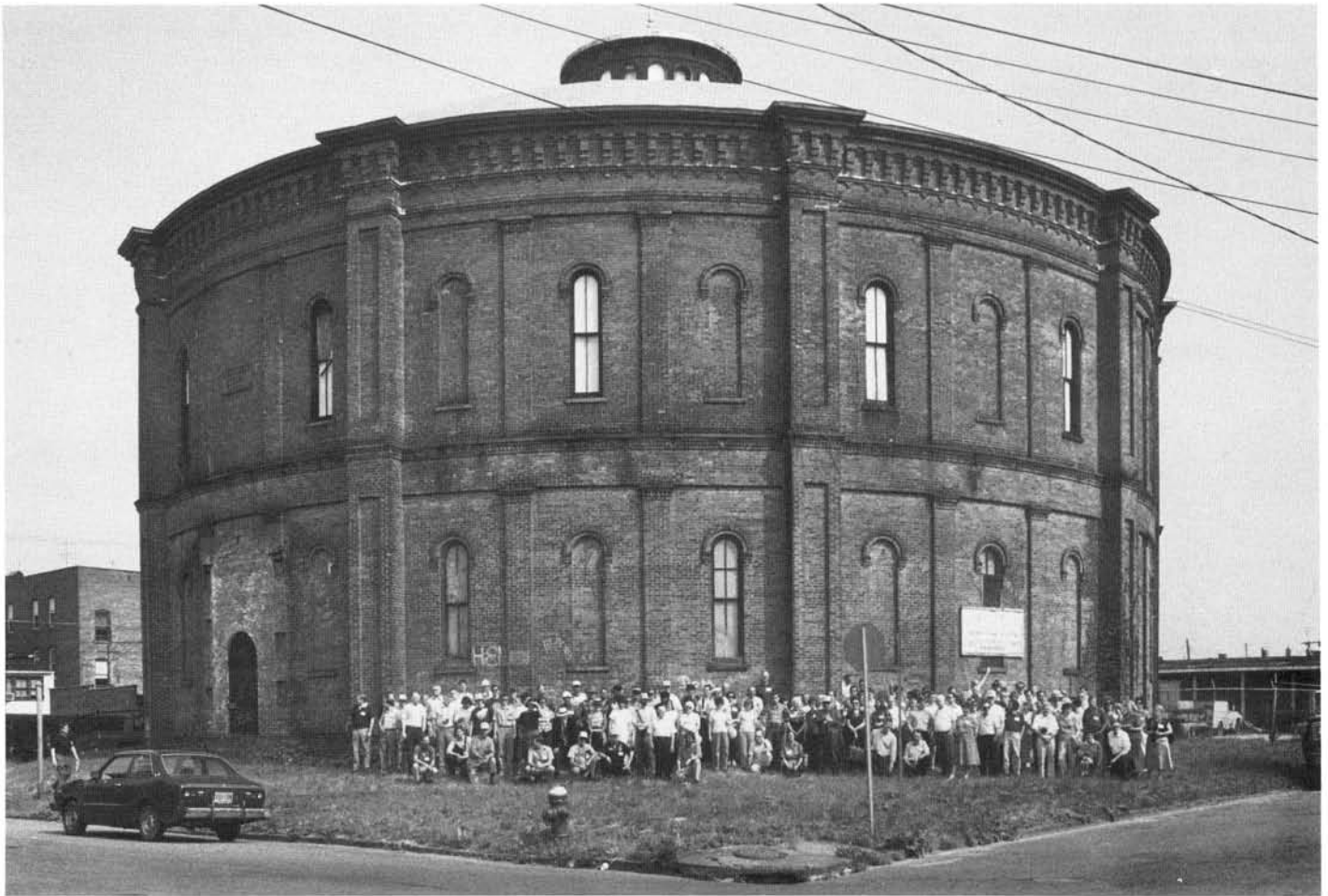
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TROY II—THE SECOND TIME AROUND



SIA family portrait at the 1873 Troy Gas Light Company Gasholder House. *R. Frame photograph.*

How much can you say about Troy? It's one of those sacred places, like Lowell, to which the SIA must return from time to time.

Troy is special. Its Gasholder House, captured in its structural essence by Eric DeLony for the *Historic American Engineering Record*, has been the SIA's logo since vol. 1, no. 1 of this newsletter announced the Society's founding. That pioneering 1969 project, the Mohawk-Hudson Area Survey, resulted in Robert M. Vogel's landmark *Report*, which remains the standard against which all other industrial archeological surveys must be judged.

Those of us who came on stream with the SIA since the 1973 Second Annual Conference in Troy have been waiting for our own opportunity to stand in the place of origins, to see the Gasholder, the Watervliet Cast-

Iron Storehouse, the Mastodon Mill, and the site of the great Burden wheel. We were not disappointed.

A short walk on Thursday evening from the HQ Holiday Inn brought us to the conference reception in downtown Troy's historic warehouse district, a wonderful assemblage of two- and three-story commercial street-scapes. There, we experienced the first of many links with SIA-Troy past, an enthusiastic welcoming lecture by Thomas Phelan, dean of humanities and social sciences at Rensselaer Polytechnic Inst. In 1973, as then-president of the Hudson-Mohawk Industrial Gateway, Phelan had performed much the same function. Now, he introduced the newcomers to the history of this area at the confluence of two great rivers, the Hudson and the Mohawk, once one of America's most heavily industrialized