



After conventional pumps could not dewater the Chapin Mine at Iron Mountain, Michigan, the Edward P. Allis Company of Milwaukee erected a massive Cornish-type pumping engine that began operating in 1893. The largest steam pump engine in the U.S., the 54-foot-tall Chapin engine weighs 725 tons, its forty-foot-diameter flywheel alone weighing 160 tons. It could lift five million gallons of water per day, which enabled mining to 1,500 feet, and operated until the mine closed in 1932. The Chapin Mine Pumping Engine was designated a National Historic Mechanical Engineering Landmark in 1987.

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