

National Register of Historic Places Registration Form

The Equitable Gas Works (ca. 1882-1883), located in the Spring Gardens industrial section of Baltimore, Maryland, is Baltimore's most intact gas manufactory complex. The Equitable Gas Works meets National Register Criterion A for its association with the transformation of competitive markets in gas, electricity, and transit into regulated or municipally owned utilities.

The manufactured gas industry is a significant component of Baltimore's manufacturing history; in 1816, Baltimore was the first city in the United States to be gas lit, ranking the gas manufacturing industry among Baltimore's famous "firsts." The Equitable Gas Works survives to represent the notable and short-lived period of competition and consolidation in the Baltimore manufactured gas industry, which lasted from 1871 to 1888. The period of significance for the works extends from 1882, when the earliest building was constructed, to 1901, when gas related uses abandoned the site. Equitable Gas Works derives additional significance under Criterion C as a rare Baltimore example of a 19th century gas manufactory.