

## Flament Street goes silent

After generations as a critical power generator, the Port of Spain 'B' Power Plant ceased operations at midnight on January 14, 2016.

The decommissioning of this plant ended an era that dates back to the 1960s under the Trinidad and Tobago Electricity Commission (T&TEC). Its historical significance corresponds with the development of the city of Port of Spain and, later, with the electrification of wider Trinidad and Tobago.

The Port of Spain 'B' Power Plant was built adjacent to the then existing

Port of Spain Power Station on Wrightson Road, the site of the first Port of Spain Power Station built by Edgar Tripp, circa 1895.

The Port of Spain 'B' Power Plant was initially equipped with two 50 MW generating units, the largest in the country at that time. Subsequent upgrades in the 1960s and 1970s resulted in an increase in power capacity to 260 MW. In 1984, two 24,000 kW Rolls Royce Gas Turbine-driven generators further increased the plant's generation capacity. In December 1994, the Government divested T&TEC's generation assets

and the Plant became part of the newly formed Power Generation Company (PowerGen). T&TEC retained 51% shareholding in this company, divesting the remaining 49% of the shareholding.

With the final stages of the decommissioning PowerGen 'B' Power Plant completed in January, the four distinctive stacks on Wrightson Road are, for now, a quiet reminder of its place of pride in our country's development, as the first power generation infrastructure.

