

Area	Form No.
	76-
	324/10

MASSACHUSETTS HISTORICAL COMMISSION
80 Boylston Street, Boston, MA 02116

Photo (3x3" or 3x5", black & white)
Staple to left side of form

Photo number _____

SKETCH MAP

Draw map showing property's location
in relationship to nearest cross streets
and other buildings or geographical features.
Indicate north. *See attached map.*

1. Town Brookline MRA
Address Boylston Street
Name Reservoir Park

2. Ownership:

☒ Public
☐ Private

Present owner Town of Brookline

3. Type:

☒ Park
☐ Green
☐ Training Field
☐ Boulevard or Parkway
☐ Other

4. Description:

Date ca. 1848 (see hist. sig.)

Size (approx. acreage) 32½

Architect (if known) Orig.: City of Bos
Rev.: A. French

Location of Plans (if known) Engineering
Dept., Town Hall, City of Brookline

Setting Abuts Rte. 9 to north and
quiet residential areas on other
sides

Current Condition Good

Recorded by Carla Benka

Organization Brookline Hist. Comm.

Date June 1983

Newton Quadrangle

UTM References:

A: 19/324220/4688260
B: 19/324170/4687960
C: 19/323790/4687820
D: 19/323580/4688030

Map #: 5

VISUAL ASSESSMENT Describe topography and layout. Note components such as structures (bandstands, gazebos, sheds) monuments & fountains; landscaping features (formal plantings, bodies of water).
Compare current appearance with original, if possible.

The Brookline Reservoir is a manmade body of water measuring approximately one mile in circumference. It is included in a 32½ acre (more or less) park that was laid out in 1902 to designs of Alexis French, the Brookline Town Engineer. Although there have been a number of plans to alter its original appearance, the park today is relatively unchanged. The granite and limestone gatehouse that stands at the eastern end of the park, near the intersection of Boylston and Warren Streets, was built in 1848. It is approached from part of Boylston Street by a slight incline, but generally, the reservoir rests in a basin and is reached by a gentle downward slope either from Dudley Street or Route 9 or Lee Street. Willow trees and flowering cherry trees have been planted around the perimeter of the water; there are also evergreens as well as maples and other deciduous trees. Benches have been placed for the convenience of strollers and others who come to enjoy the park. It is also a favorite jogging spot. Passive recreational use is preferred.

HISTORICAL SIGNIFICANCE Discuss types of use, major period of use, evaluate importance within town.

The 1842 map of the Town of Brookline shows that the area where the reservoir and gatehouse were built was once low-lying pastureland with a marsh in the center and a stream running through it. In the colonial period, the land belonged to the Gardner family, but by 1800, Richard Sullivan, a Boston merchant, had purchased it and built a large house on the land off what was then called the Sherburne Road. John Thayer, a Boston banker, was a later owner and he was preparing to build his home when the City of Boston took five acres of his land for the purposes of constructing a reservoir. The eventual size of the City's purchase was over 30 acres (for \$58,418.93). The reservoir was built to feed the Beacon Hill Reservoir in Boston, which stood at the intersection of Hancock, Derne, and Temple Streets. On October 14, 1848, the first water from Lake Cochituate was let through a small conduit here to the 30-in main pipe at 11:15 a.m., arriving at a fountain on the Boston Common at 2:05. It was greeted with a great celebration. On November 16, 1848, the Brookline Reservoir was filled to capacity. The Reservoir's gatehouse is a handsome, classical building with a closed pediment and quoins. It is built of two shades of granite, which emphasize the quoins, string course, window surrounds, niches, and doorway and is part of the Town Green National Register district, June 1980). In 1902, the City of Boston decided to sell the Reservoir and surrounding land, and, prompted by rumors of undesired development of the parcel, a group of Brookline citizens contributed more than \$50,000 toward the \$150,000 purchase price. The contribution, made "by neighboring property owners toward the cost of acquiring the property for park purposes," was accepted by the December 30, 1902, town meeting. Among the contributors were John C. Olmsted, Amy Lowell, Walter Cabot, Walter Channing, Edward Atkinson, George Lee, and Ernest Bowditch. Although there were plans in the 1920s to build a beach and bathhouse near Lee and Dudley Streets as well as a wharf near the gatehouse, they were never enacted, and the reservoir and surrounding park stand today as a tribute to a group of far-sighted citizens and a popular recreational area.

INVENTORY FORM CONTINUATION SHEET

MASSACHUSETTS HISTORICAL COMMISSION
Office of the Secretary, Boston

Community:

BROOKLINE

Form No:

76-

324/10

Property Name: Reservoir Park

Indicate each item on inventory form which is being continued below.

CRITERIA FOR EVALUATION

Reservoir Park meets National Register Criteria A and C, containing what was originally part of Boston's first water supply system: a reservoir that retained water piped from Lake Cochituate. The nominated area includes the Gatehouse, listed on the National Register in 1980 as part of the Town Green Historic District.

BIBLIOGRAPHY

Engineering Plans--E 1 40 5064-1921; E 1 36 5011-1922; B 5 26 5585 1926;
A 20 9 2165-1905
Town Report-1903
Maps--1844, 1855; Clippings File-Brookline Public Library

Staple to Inventory form at bottom

United States Department of the Interior
National Park ServiceNational Register of Historic Places
Inventory—Nomination Form

For NPS use only

received

date entered

Continuation sheet

Item number

Page

Multiple Resource Area
Thematic Group

Name	State	Nomination/Type of Review	Date/Signature
61. Milestone (Boylston St.)	MASSACHUSETTS	Entered in the National Register	for Keeper <u>Delores Byers</u> 10/17/85 Attest _____
62. Murphy, William, House		Entered in the National Register	for Keeper <u>Delores Byers</u> 10/17/85 Attest _____
63. Orrock, Rev. John, House		Entered in the National Register	for Keeper <u>Delores Byers</u> 10/17/85 Attest _____
64. Paine Estate		Entered in the National Register	for Keeper <u>Delores Byers</u> 10/17/85 Attest _____
65. Perkins Estate		Entered in the National Register	for Keeper <u>Delores Byers</u> 10/17/85 Attest _____
66. Reservoir Park		Entered in the National Register	for Keeper <u>Delores Byers</u> 10/17/85 Attest _____
67. Ritchie Building		Entered in the National Register	for Keeper <u>Delores Byers</u> 10/17/85 Attest _____
68. Roughwood		Entered in the National Register	for Keeper <u>Delores Byers</u> 10/12/85 Attest _____
69. Saint Aidan's Church and Rectory		Entered in the National Register	for Keeper <u>Delores Byers</u> 10/17/85 Attest _____
70. Saint Mary of the Assumption Church, Rectory, School and Convent		Entered in the National Register	for Keeper <u>Delores Byers</u> 10/17/85 Attest _____

85003307

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
EVALUATION/RETURN SHEET

Reservoir Park (Brookline MRA)
Norfolk County
MASSACHUSETTS

- ☐ resubmission
☐ nomination by person or local government
☐ owner objection
☐ appeal

Substantive Review: ☐ sample ☐ request ☐ appeal ☐ NR decision

Reviewer's comments:

Entered in the
National Register

Working No. SEP 4 1985
Fed. Reg. Date: 2/3/87
Date Due: 10/3/85 - 10/19/85
Action: ☒ ACCEPT 10-19-85
☐ RETURN
☐ REJECT
Federal Agency: _____

Recom./Criteria _____
Reviewer _____
Discipline _____
Date _____
_____ see continuation sheet

Nomination returned for: _____ technical corrections cited below
_____ substantive reasons discussed below

1. Name

2. Location

3. Classification

Category	Ownership	Status	Present Use
	Public Acquisition	Accessible	

4. Owner of Property

5. Location of Legal Description

6. Representation in Existing Surveys

Has this property been determined eligible? ☐ yes ☐ no

7. Description

Condition

- ☐ excellent ☐ deteriorated
☐ good ☐ ruins
☐ fair ☐ unexposed

Check one

- ☐ unaltered
☐ altered

Check one

- ☐ original site
☐ moved date _____

Describe the present and original (if known) physical appearance

- ☐ summary paragraph
☐ completeness
☐ clarity
☐ alterations/integrity
☐ dates
☐ boundary selection

8. Significance

Period Areas of Significance—Check and justify below

Specific dates

Builder/Architect

Statement of Significance (*in one paragraph*)

- ☐ summary paragraph
- ☐ completeness
- ☐ clarity
- ☐ applicable criteria
- ☐ justification of areas checked
- ☐ relating significance to the resource
- ☐ context
- ☐ relationship of integrity to significance
- ☐ justification of exception
- ☐ other

9. Major Bibliographical References

10. Geographical Data

Acreage of nominated property _____

Quadrangle name _____

UTM References _____

Verbal boundary description and justification _____

11. Form Prepared By

12. State Historic Preservation Officer Certification

The evaluated significance of this property within the state is:

____ national ____ state ____ local

State Historic Preservation Officer signature

title

date

13. Other

- ☐ Maps
- ☐ Photographs
- ☐ Other

Questions concerning this nomination may be directed to _____

Signed _____ Date _____ Phone: _____



Reservoir Park

Rt. 9

April, 1923

Brookline MRA, Ma



Reservoir Park

Rt. 9

April, 1983

Brookline MRA, Ma



RESEVOIR PARK (76-324/10)
BOYLSTON ST. - RTE 9

BROOKLINE (MA) MRA
TOWN OF BROOKLINE MAP JAN '81
scale = 1/2" = 200 FT