

FORM F - STRUCTURE

MASSACHUSETTS HISTORICAL COMMISSION
Office of the Secretary, State House, Boston

In Area no.	Form no.
	902

1. Town Arlington, MA.

Address Park Circle

Arlington Reservoir

ent use reservoir

ent owner Metropolitan District

Commission

of structure (check one)

ge	_____	pound	_____
al	_____	powder house	_____
	_____	street	_____
	_____	tower	_____
e	_____	tunnel	_____
	_____	wall	_____
nthouse	_____	windmill	_____
er	_____	reservoir	_____

5. Description

Date 1921-1924

Source plaque on structure

Construction material masonry/Indiana

Dimensions 80ft. high/ 93 ft. diameter

Setting The Arlington Reservoir stands at the center of a circular park at the town's highest point.

Condition good

6. Recorded by Betsy Friedberg

Organization Mass. Historical Commission

Date January 1985

UTM: 19/319570/4697900

DO NOT WRITE IN THIS SPACE
USGS Quadrant _____
MHC Photo no. _____

(over)

7. Original owner (if known) Metropolitan District Commission

Original use reservoir

Subsequent uses (if any) and dates reservoir

8. Historical significance.

Situated 460 feet above sea level, at Arlington's highest point, the reservoir has been called "one of the most beautiful watertowers in the State" (Arlington Advocate). The reservoir stands on land that was once part of the Captain Solomon Pierce Farm. Captain Pierce fought in the Revolutionary War, and later generations of his family gathered for reunions at the site of the reservoir in the late 1800s. Later, the circle on which the reservoir now stands was planted with Lombardy trees, and in the mid to late 19th century was a favorite vacation spot.

During the first years of WWII, when a massive technological effort was under way, the Arlington Reservoir was used as a means of calibrating advanced sighting devices being developed at MIT. The distance from the main dome at MIT to the watertower, the predominant landscape feature to the west, was precisely calculated.

Designed by Frederick F. Low, the Arlington Reservoir displays a neoclassical severity reminiscent of the work of late 18th century French architects Ledoux and Boulee. The reservoir is circular in form, comprised of a drum, 93 feet in diameter, topped by the suggestion of a Greco-Roman temple. The structure is masonry, faced with Indiana Limestone. The exterior surrounds a steel watertank that holds over two million gallons of water.

CRITERIA FOR EVALUATION

The Arlington Reservoir retains integrity of location, design, setting, materials, workmanship, feeling, and association. It fulfills Criterion C of the National Register of Historic Places as a fine rendition of a common utilitarian form.

9. Bibliography and/or references such as local histories, deeds, assessor's records, early maps, etc.

1875 Beers & Co. Atlas

1884 Bird's Eye View of Arlington Advocate

1893 Stadley & Co. Atlas

1923 Sanborn Map Co. Atlas

Arlington Directories of 1869/70, 1883, 1890, 1898, 1923.

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
EVALUATION/RETURN SHEET

Arlington Reservoir (Arlington MRA)
Middlesex County
MASSACHUSETTS

Substantive Review

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

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

Reviewer's comments:

PROPERTY APPEARS ELIGIBLE BUT NOMINATION BOUNDARY
MAP LACKS SCALE. ALSO, PRESUMABLY THE

Working No. MAR 6 1985

Substantive Review Date: 4/4/85 4/20/85

Date Due: 4/4/85 4/20/85
Action: ☐ ACCEPT ☒ RETURN 4-18-85
☐ REJECT

Federal Agency: _____

Recom./Criteria RETURN
Reviewer MAC DOUGAN
Discipline ARCHITECTURAL HISTORY
Date 4-18-85
_____ see continuation sheet

Nomination returned for: ☒ technical corrections cited below PORTION NOT ON THE MAP COMPLETES THE CIRCLE.
_____ 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	Check one	Check one
☐ excellent	☐ deteriorated	☐ original site
☐ good	☐ ruins	☐ moved
☐ fair	☐ unexposed	date _____

Describe the present and original (if known) physical appearance

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

* SEE REVERSE.

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 *THE SCALE OF THE BOUNDARY MAP IS NOT LEGIBLE.*
- ☐ Photographs
- ☐ Other

Questions concerning this nomination may be directed to BRUCE MAC DUGAN

Signed *Bruce Mac Dugan* Date 4/17/85 Phone: _____

FORM F - STRUCTURE

MASSACHUSETTS HISTORICAL COMMISSION
Office of the Secretary, State House, Boston

In Area no.	Form no.
	902

2. Photo (3x3" or 3x5")
Staple to left side of form
Photo number _____

4. Map. Draw sketch of structure location in relation to nearest cross streets, buildings, other structures, natural features. Indicate north.

See attached map.

1. Town Arlington, MA.

Address Park Circle

Name Arlington Reservoir

Present use reservoir

Present owner Metropolitan District

Commission

3. Type of structure (check one)

bridge	_____	pound	_____
canal	_____	powder house	_____
dam	_____	street	_____
fort	_____	tower	_____
gate	_____	tunnel	_____
kiln	_____	wall	_____
lighthouse	_____	windmill	_____
other	<u>reservoir</u>		

5. Description

Date 1921-1924

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Organization Mass. Historical Commission

Date January 1985

UTM: 19/319570/4697900

DO NOT WRITE IN THIS SPACE
USGS Quadrant _____

MHC Photo no. _____

(over)

MAR 6 1985

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

Continuation sheet

Item number

Page

Multiple Resource Area
Thematic Group

dnr-11

Name Arlington Multiple Resource Area
State Middlesex County, MASSACHUSETTS

Nomination/Type of Review

ARLINGTON✓ 1. ~~Town~~ Center Historic District (BOUNDARY INCREASE) ✓ Keeper

Attest

Accept Carol Kuntz 4/18/85
Date/Signature
Mark Lee Dyer 9/27/85✓ 2. Pierce Farm Historic District Entered in the ✓ Keeper
National Register

Attest

Delores Byers 9/27/85✓ 3. Kensington Park Historic District Entered in the ✓ Keeper
National Register

Attest

Delores Byers 9/27/85✓ 4. Orvis Road Historic District Entered in the ✓ Keeper
National Register

Attest

Delores Byers 9/27/85✓ 5. Allyn House Entered in the ✓ Keeper
National Register

Attest

Delores Byers 9/27/856. Arlington Coal & Lumber Entered in the ✓ Keeper
National Register

Attest

Delores Byers 4/18/857. Arlington Gaslight Company Entered in the ✓ Keeper
National Register

Attest

Delores Byers 4/18/858. Arlington Pumping Station Entered in the ✓ Keeper
National Register

Attest

Delores Byers 4/18/859. Arlington Reservoir Entered in the ✓ Keeper
National Register

Attest

Mark Lee Dyer 9/27/8510. Baptist Society Meeting House Entered in the ✓ Keeper
National Register

Attest

Delores Byers 4/18/85

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
EVALUATION/RETURN SHEET

REF #
85002676

Arlington Reservoir (Arlington MRA)
Middlesex County
MASSACHUSETTS

Substantive Review

Working No. 3/6/85
Fed. Reg. Date: 2/4/86
Date Due: 9/28/85
Action: ☒ ACCEPT 9-27-85
☐ RETURN
☐ REJECT
Federal Agency: _____

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

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

Reviewer's comments:

Recom./Criteria Accept/C
Reviewer Brundage Dwyer
Discipline Architectural History
Date 9/27/85
____ see continuation sheet

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

1. Name

2. Location

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Category	Ownership	Status	Present Use
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5. Location of Legal Description

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Has this property been determined eligible? ☐ yes ☐ no

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Condition	Check one	Check one
☐ excellent	☐ deteriorated	☐ unaltered
☐ good	☐ ruins	☐ altered
☐ fair	☐ unexposed	☐ original site
		☐ moved date _____

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Period Areas of Significance—Check and justify below

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Statement of Significance (*in one paragraph*)

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- ☐ clarity
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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 _____

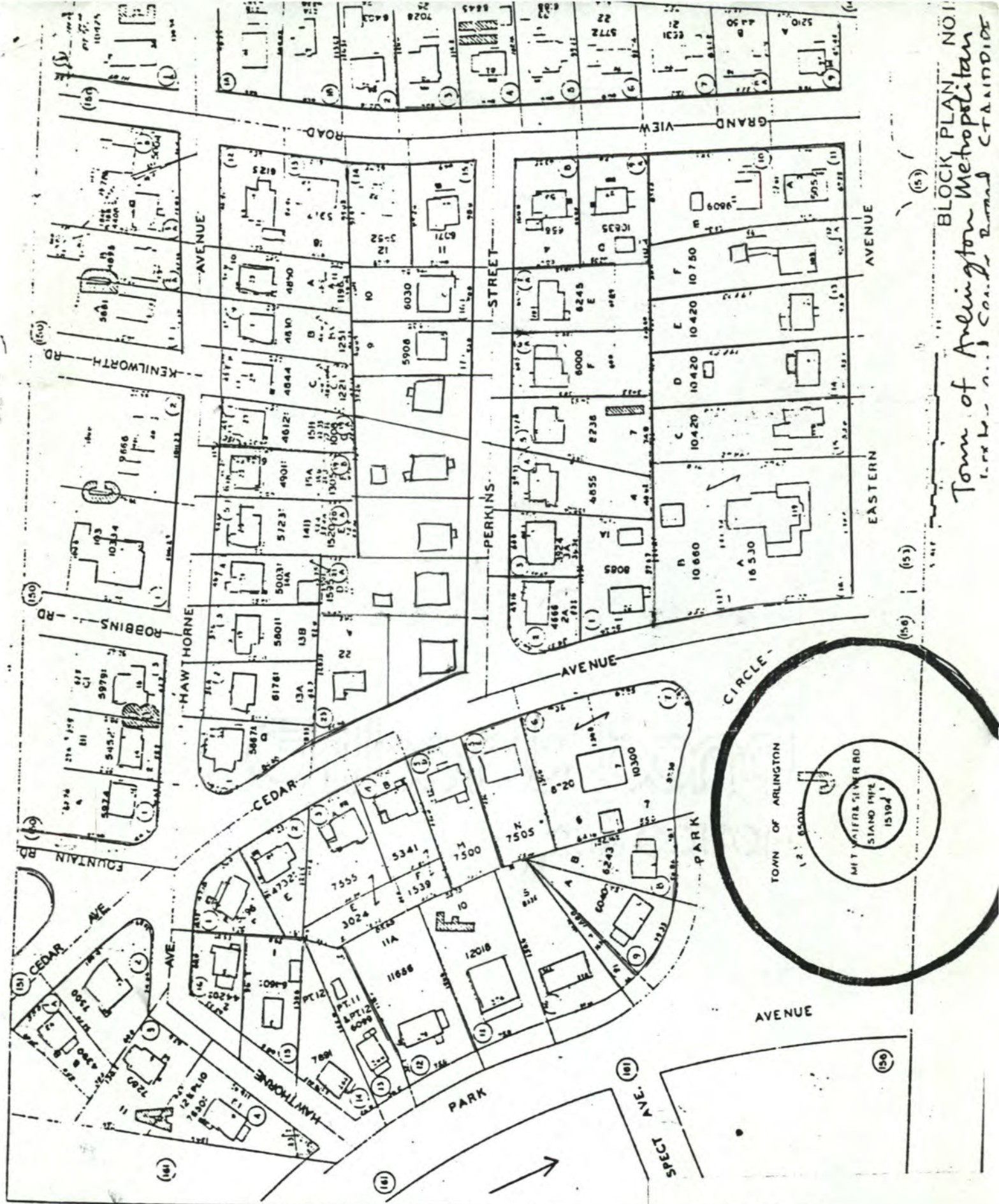
Signed _____ Date _____ Phone: _____



Arlington Reserve Unit

Arlington MRA

Address: Park Circle



BLOCK PLAN NO. 152
 Town of Arlington Metropolitan
 1.5 x 2.5 in. Cont. Road Standard

Block Plan #152
 Arlington Assessors Map

Arlington MRA

Park Circle
 Arlington Reservoir

Scale: 1" = 120'

MAR 6 1935