

DEC 05 1989

AREA

FORM NO.

16-10

MASSACHUSETTS HISTORICAL COMMISSION
80 BOYLSTON STREET
BOSTON, MA 02116

Town BrooklineAddress Fisher Road between Hyslop and
Unanning RoadsName Fisher Hill Reservoir & GatehouseOwnership: MDC PublicPrivate

Type of Structure (check one):

bridge	_____	pound	_____
canal	_____	powder house	_____
dam	_____	street	_____
fort	_____	tower	_____
gate	_____	tunnel	_____
kiln	_____	wall	_____
lighthouse	_____	windmill	_____

other reservoir and gatehouse

Photo (3"x3" or 3"x5" black and white)
Indicate address on back of photo.
Staple to left side of form.

Sketch Map: Draw map showing structure's location
in relation to nearest cross streets, buildings
and/or geographical features. Indicate all
buildings between inventoried property and nearest
intersection.

Indicate north. see attached

DESCRIPTION

Date 1887Source Annual Report of Boston Water Board,
1887Architect Engineer/Designer (if known):
n/aConstruction material earth, stone, cementAlterations (with dates) n/aCondition fairMoved NO Date _____Acreage approximately 4 acresSetting suburban residentialUTM REFERENCE 19/323390/4688340USGS QUADRANGLE Newton, MaSCALE 1:25,000Recorded by Jane CarolanOrganization Louis Berger & AssociatesDate January 1984; revised 1989

NATIONAL REGISTER CRITERIA STATEMENT (if applicable)

Fisher Hill Reservoir & Gatehouse was incorporated into the Metropolitan Water Board's jurisdiction upon the consolidation of the water systems of Boston and surrounding towns in 1898. Acquisitions under this consolidation included the Roxbury Standpipe (NR: 4-23-73; 16-2); the Mystic Water Works (15-2,3,4), Brookline Reservoir (2-2,3,4), and Cochituate Aqueduct (1-4). The complex is still intact unlike other reservoirs built by the City of Boston and/or surrounding towns, which have been taken out of service or filled in such as the Forbes Hill Reservoir (Standpipe 16-4). Fisher Hill Gatehouse and Reservoir are (continued)

ARCHITECTURAL SIGNIFICANCE Describe important design features and evaluate in terms of other structures within the community.

Fisher Hill Reservoir and Gatehouse was built under the direction of Boston City Engineer William Jackson and constructed by Moulton and O'Mahoney, Lawrence, Ma. The gatehouse may well have been designed by Boston City Architect Arthur Vinal, who also designed the Chestnut Hill High Service Pumping Station (13-4) completed the same year as Fisher Hill. Both are in the Richardsonian Romanesque style and have similar proportions and decorative detailing. The small, rectangular Fisher Hill Gatehouse has a granite substructure, stone main floor, brick second story, and slate hip roof. Brownstone is used for quoins and window arches, including the oversized voussoirs above round-arched openings in the main floor. Raised relief terra cotta decorative panels on the building's facade are an instant of purely decorative detail unusual in the architecture of the Boston and Metropolitan Water Boards. The rectangular reservoir is a man-made structure lined with concrete and stone. The edges are faced with shaped brownstone blocks which match the brownstone in the gatehouse thus visually unifying the two structures. The embankment walls of the reservoir function as the "dam"

HISTORICAL SIGNIFICANCE Explain historical importance of structure and how the structure relates to the development of the community.

The Fisher Hill facility, consisting of a gatehouse and reservoir is located in an older residential, suburban neighborhood in the town of Brookline. It was the original high service distribution and receiving reservoir, built in 1886-1887, and was part of Boston's high service distribution program. In 1884, Henry Wrightman, Boston City Engineer, noted in an annual report that "...the constant pressure from the inhabitants of the districts supplied from low service..." necessitated aggressive development of a high service system. The same year an appropriation for the extension of high service was passed and Fisher Hill Reservoir was one of the first components built. Other parts of the service included high service pumping at Chestnut Hill (13-4) Spot Pond Pumping Station (NR: 4-13-84; 14-3) and later components at Hyde Park and Arlington Pumping Stations.

The gate chamber, which is inside the gate house, contains a 36" pipe to the reservoir and an additional 36" pipe to Chestnut Hill Reservoir. Two additional gates allowed water to be taken from different levels in the reservoir for distribution. The structure, owned by the MDC since 1919, was taken out of service in the 1950s. Today weeds grow in the basin and the gatehouse is sealed. The Fisher Hill facility nevertheless remains as a good example of a type of reservoir that has otherwise disappeared from the system. These were small reservoirs, often rectangular in plan, that were built on hills or other suitable elevations by construction of high earthen embankments. Please refer to Overview, Section 7: Reservoirs; Dams further information.

BIBLIOGRAPHY and/or REFERENCES

Reports of the Boston Water Board 1884:14; 35-36; 1885: 6-7; 1887: 29-33.

INVENTORY FORM CONTINUATION SHEET

MASSACHUSETTS HISTORICAL COMMISSION
Office of the Secretary, Boston

Community: Brookline	Form No: 16-10
Property Name: Fisher Hill Reservoir and Gatehouse	

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

NATIONAL REGISTER CRITERIA STATEMENT:

architecturally significant since they represent the concerns and successes of municipal design of the late 19th-century and additionally, are compatible with their suburban, residential surroundings. The Fisher Hill Reservoir and Gatehouse possesses integrity of location, design, setting, materials, workmanship and feeling and meets Criteria A and C of the National Register.

The boundary of the complex includes only the gatehouse and the reservoir and the boundary runs around the perimeter of the reservoir. The boundary is shown on the attached map, Fisher Hill Reservoir and Main Water Pipes of the City of Boston in Boston and Brookline, Metropolitan Water Works, 20 June 1915. Scale 100' = 1."

Staple to Inventory form at bottom

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places
Continuation Sheet

Section number _____ Page _____

Water Supply System of Metropolitan Boston MPS
Middlesex, Norfolk, Suffolk and Worcester Counties, MASSACHUSETTS

DATE LISTED

- COVER **Substantive Review**
1. Ashland Dam and Spillway
 2. Framingham Reservoir No. 3 Dam and Gatehouse **Substantive Review**
 3. Framingham Reservoir No. 2 Dam and Gatehouse
 4. Framingham Reservoir No. 1 Dam and Gatehouse
 5. Hopkinton Dam and Spillway
 6. Lake Cochituate Dam
 7. Medford Pipe Bridge
 8. Middlesex Fells Reservoirs Historic District **Substantive Review**
 9. Mystic Dam
 10. Mystic Gatehouse **Substantive Review**
 11. Mystic Pumping Station
 12. Sudbury Aqueduct Linear District
 13. Sudbury Dam Historic District
 14. Weston Aqueduct Linear District
 15. Fisher Hill Reservoir and Gatehouse
 16. Forbes Hill Standpipe
 17. Bellevue Standpipe
 18. Chestnut Hill Reservoir Historic District
 19. Marlborough Brook Filter Beds **Substantive Review**

Beth L. Swartz 01-18-90
Helene Byers 1-18-90
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Beth L. Swartz 01-18-90

L 5216

L 5216

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L 5216

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
EVALUATION/RETURN SHEET

REQUESTED ACTION: NOMINATION

PROPERTY NAME: Fisher Hill Reservoir and Gatehouse

MULTIPLE NAME: Water Supply System of Metropolitan Boston MPS

STATE & COUNTY: MASSACHUSETTS, Norfolk

DATE RECEIVED: 12/05/89 DATE OF PENDING LIST: 12/19/89
DATE OF 16TH DAY: 1/04/90 DATE OF 45TH DAY: 1/19/90
DATE OF WEEKLY LIST:

REFERENCE NUMBER: 89002254

NOMINATOR: STATE

REASONS FOR REVIEW:

APPEAL: N DATA PROBLEM: N LANDSCAPE: N LESS THAN 50 YEARS: N
OTHER: N PDIL: N PERIOD: N PROGRAM UNAPPROVED: N
REQUEST: N SAMPLE: N SLR DRAFT: N NATIONAL: N

COMMENT WAIVER: N

ACCEPT RETURN REJECT 1/18/90 DATE

Entered in the
National Register

ABSTRACT/SUMMARY COMMENTS:

RECOM./CRITERIA _____
REVIEWER _____
DISCIPLINE _____
DATE _____

DOCUMENTATION see attached comments Y/N see attached SLR Y/N

CLASSIFICATION

count resource type

STATE/FEDERAL AGENCY CERTIFICATION

FUNCTION

historic current

DESCRIPTION

architectural classification
 materials
 descriptive text

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

BIBLIOGRAPHY

GEOGRAPHICAL DATA

acreage verbal boundary description
 UTMs boundary justification

ACCOMPANYING DOCUMENTATION/PRESENTATION

sketch maps USGS maps photographs presentation

OTHER COMMENTS

Questions concerning this nomination may be directed to

_____ Phone _____

Signed _____ Date _____



MDC - TRA, MASS.

Fisher Hill Gatehouse & Reservoir, Brookline, MA
Jane Carolan / Martha Bowens 1984
Louis Berger & Ass.

Water Supply System of Metropolitan Boston, MA

Fisher Hill Reservoir and Gatehouse #16-10

Fisher Hill Reservoir and Main Water Pipes
of the City of Boston in Boston and Brook-
line, Metropolitan Water Works, 20 June 1913.
Scale: 200' = 1".

MDC - TRA, MASS.



N

Please refer to the map in the
Multiple Property Cover Sheet
for this property

Multiple Property Cover Sheet Reference Number: 64500254