

FORM F - STRUCTURE

DEC 05 1989

2282

MDC - TRA, MASS.

MASSACHUSETTS HISTORICAL COMMISSION
80 BOYLSTON STREET
BOSTON, MA 02116

AREA	FORM NO.
	15-2

Town Winchester

Address edge of Edgewater Place

Name Mystic Dam

Ownership: MDC Public
Private

Type of Structure (check one):

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

other _____

DESCRIPTION

Date 1864

Source Boston Water Works, Mystic Supply,
1862-1865

Architect Engineer/Designer (if known):

n/a

Construction material granite, wood, earth

Alterations (with dates) n/a

Condition fair to good

Moved no Date _____

Acreage less than one acre

Setting between two lakes in suburban
neighborhood

Recorded by Jane Carolan

Organization Louis Berger & Associates

Date January 1984; revised 1989

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

UTM REFERENCE 19/323230/4699600

USGS QUADRANGLE Lexington

SCALE 1:25,000

NATIONAL REGISTER CRITERIA STATEMENT (if applicable)

The Mystic Dam is significant for its association with the Mystic Water Works which are a good example of a small, well integrated mid-nineteenth century municipal water system. It is also the oldest MDC dam in Metropolitan Boston. It retains integrity of location, design, setting, materials, workmanship and feeling and meets Criteria C of the National Register of Historic Places. The boundary includes the dam itself and its wing walls and can be seen on the attached map, Mystic Water Works, Metropolitan Water Works, Land Plans, 1897. Scale: 100'=1".

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

The Mystic Water Works complex includes Upper and Lower Mystic Lakes, a dam (15-2), a gatehouse (15-3) and a pumping station (15-4) all built between 1862 and 1865. The facilities are in a dense suburban area. The dam and gatehouse are adjacent to each other and located between Upper and Lower Mystic Lakes. The pumping station is located on the Mystic River Parkway, an MDC greenbelt parkway approximately one-quarter mile southeast of the dam and gatehouse. The Mystic Lakes are natural glacial kettle ponds and were originally three ponds, now combined into two. Additional structures in the Mystic complex included wooden shops, stables, a superintendent's house and a reservoir, all of which have been demolished.

The dam is the oldest dam in the Metropolitan District Commission system. It is 1,560 feet long between two earthen embankments with a granite overfall. The embankments are lined with puddle and riprap and utilize a natural spit of land. The overfall contains five granite columns, each grooved on the inner faces for stop logs. There is a wooden walkway on top of

(continued)

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

The Mystic Water Works, constructed in 1862 to 1865, were built by the City of Charlestown for its own supply. Water was pumped from the lakes up a hill to a reservoir on what is now the Tufts University campus. The system was taken over by the Boston Water Board when Charlestown was annexed by the city of Boston in 1874. The Metropolitan Water Board took over operations in 1898, but because of the poor quality of water the supply was never used, although the facilities were maintained. Today the entire system is out of service and the pumping station is used for a shop.

The Mystic Water System has been out of service for many years, and has thus lost integrity as a system. Three of its components nevertheless do retain integrity and remain as good examples of their type of property. These are the Mystic Dam (15-2), the Mystic Gatehouse (15-3), and the Mystic pumping Station (15-4)

BIBLIOGRAPHY and/or REFERENCES

Boston Water Works Mystic Supply 1862-1865, Record Description of the Mystic Water Works, kept at the time of their construction during the year 1862-3-4-5 by Roberdeau Buchanan, S.B. Asst. Eng. copied 1878.

INVENTORY FORM CONTINUATION SHEET 10F1

MASSACHUSETTS HISTORICAL COMMISSION
Office of the Secretary, Boston

Community: Winchester	Form No: 15-2
Property Name: Mystic Dam	

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

ARCHITECTURAL SIGNIFICANCE:

the overfall with a simple plank railing. At one time a wooden fish ladder was located at the base of the dam, all that remains are some posts. The dam, now out of service, was built by Barnes, Kingsley and Company, Brooklyn, New York.

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. Savage 01-18-90
Arlene Byers 1-18-90
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Beth L. Savage 01-18-90

5010

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UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
EVALUATION/RETURN SHEET

REQUESTED ACTION: NOMINATION

PROPERTY NAME: Mystic Dam

MULTIPLE NAME: Water Supply System of Metropolitan Boston MPS

STATE & COUNTY: MASSACHUSETTS, Middlesex

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: 89002282

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.

Mystic Dam - Winchester, MA
Jane Carolan / Martha Bowers 1984
Louis Berger & ASS.

Water Supply System of Metropolitan Boston Area



MDC TRA MASS.
 MYSTIC DAM
 EDGEWATER PLACE
 WINCHESTER, MA
 #15-2

COMMONWEALTH OF MASSACHUSETTS.
 METROPOLITAN WATER WORKS.

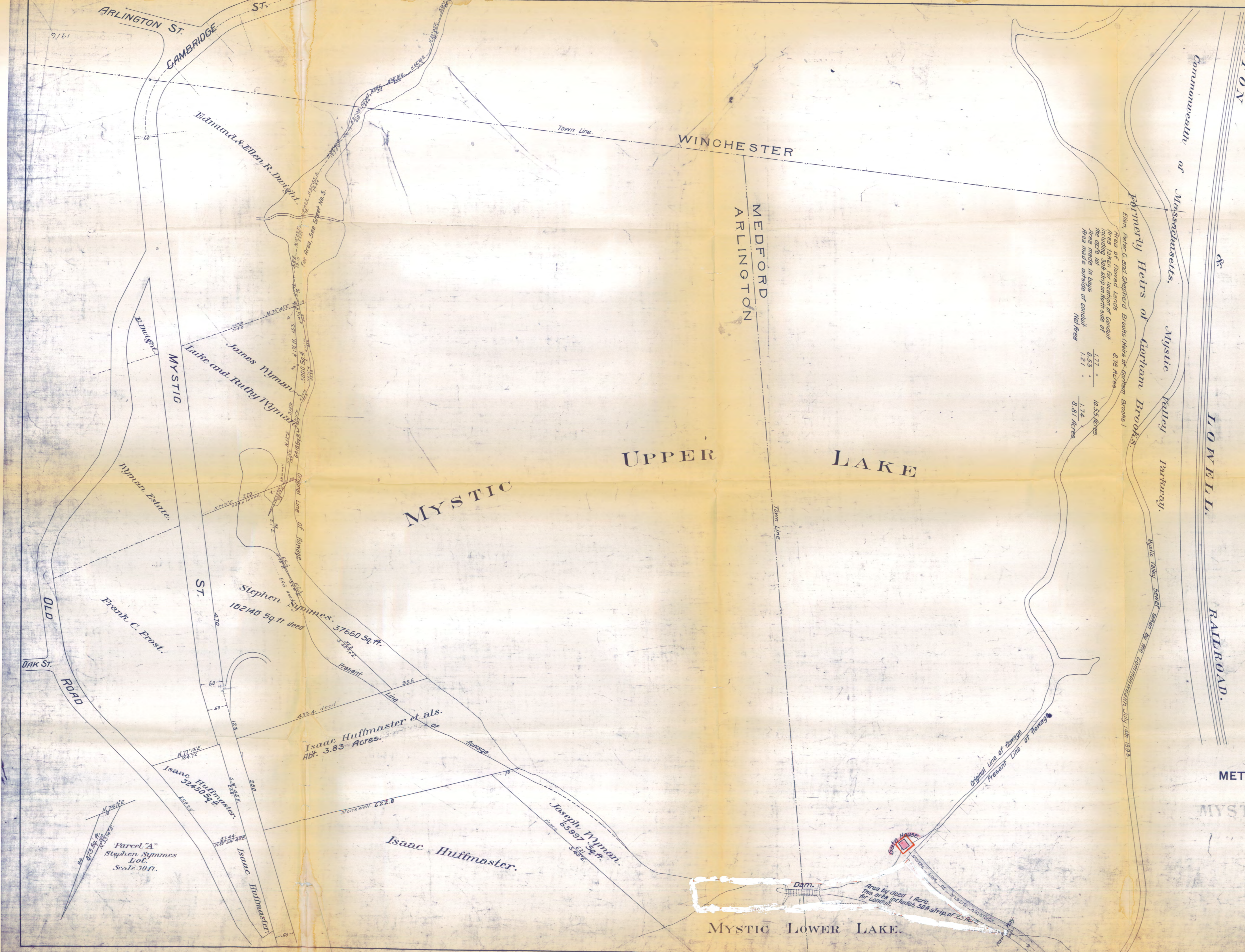
MYSTIC WATER WORKS.
 LAND PLANS.

Scale, 100 feet to an inch.
 1897.

Dec. 31. 1897.

Samuel Titcomb
 Engineer

1916
 DIVISION H, SHEET 4.



Area of 1700 Acres
 including 30 ft. strip on both sides of
 the creek for
 area made outside of conduit
 1.77
 0.53
 1.21
 8.81 Acres

MDC TRA MASS.
 MYSTIC GATEHOUSE
 EDGEWATER PLACE, WINCHESTER
 #15-3
 COMMONWEALTH OF MASSACHUSETTS.

METROPOLITAN WATER WORKS.

**MYSTIC WATER WORKS.
 LAND PLANS.**

Scale, 100 feet to an inch.
 1897.

Dec. 31. 1897.

Seaman Fitzgerald
 Engineer
 1916
 DIVISION H, SHEET 4.

Mystic Dam

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

Multiple Property Cover Sheet Reference Number: 64500254