

FORM F - STRUCTURE

MASSACHUSETTS HISTORICAL COMMISSION
80 BOYLSTON STREET
BOSTON, MA 02116

1524
AUG 21 1989NATIONAL
REGISTER

WALTHAM, MA MRA

AREA

FORM NO.

903

Town Waltham, MAAddress Winter StreetName Hobbs Brook Basin Gate HouseOwnership: City of Cambridge PublicPrivate

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

Type of Structure (check one):

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

other Gate house

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.

DESCRIPTION

Date ca. 1897-1898Source Cambridge Annual Documents - 1885-99

Architect Engineer/Designer (if known):

Marshall N. StearnsConstruction material GraniteAlterations (with dates) noneCondition GoodMoved no Date n/aAcreage less than one acre 11-1-1
Part of 1,030 acre reservoirSetting Adjacent to Hobbs Brook basinin wooded area in Waltham and WestonRecorded by Ed GordonOrganization Waltham Historical CommissionDate August, 1186UTM REFERENCE 19/312870/4698330USGS QUADRANGLE CONCORDSCALE 1:25,000

NATIONAL REGISTER CRITERIA STATEMENT (if applicable)

The Hobbs Brook Basin Gate House possesses integrity of location, design, setting, materials, workmanship, feeling and associations. It was built in 1897-98 as a component of the City of Cambridge water supply, and is the only piece of that system within the City of Waltham. It is an excellent and well-preserved example of a water supply gate house, and is a unique architectural type in Waltham. - It meets criteria A and C of the National Register of Historic Places.

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

The Hobbs Brook Basin Gate House is a diminutive square, rock-faced granite structure which is linked to the Winter St. dam via a short wooden bridge. This gate house is composed of a rock faced granite platform and 1-story gate house structure. Its walls are pierced by tall narrow arched openings edged with rock faced granite blocks which stand in contrast with the hammered granite blocks of the upper walls. This small structure is surmounted by a flat roof with bracketed cornice and copper balustrade.

see continuation sheet for Boundary Justification

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

The Hobbs Brook Basin Gate House contains the sluiceways for the Hobbs Brook Storage Basin--a large reservoir which is a major source of water for the city of Cambridge. Straddling several towns, including the N.W. section of Waltham this reservoir was built in 1894-1898. It is the only late 19th century reservoir gate house within Waltham's city limits. Its construction was a project of considerable magnitude involving careful planning, legal work and engineering expertise. The Hobbs Brook Basin Gate House is situated on the southern shore of the Hobbs Brook Basin, on Winter St. It represents the work of Waltham builder Marshall N. Stearns. He was also responsible for the construction of the Stony Brook Basin Gate House, off South Street, just over the Waltham line in Weston. The Hobbs Brook Basin was the last in a series of reservoirs constructed by the city of Cambridge during the last half of the 19th century, including Fresh Pond (1856) and the Stony Brook Basin in Waltham, Weston, and Lincoln (1884-1887). The Hobbs Brook Basin covers about 1000 acres of land taken from Waltham, Lincoln, and Lexington. The creation of this storage basin necessitated the city of Cambridge's purchase of forty-three farms and parts of farms, including buildings. Construction on the Hobbs Brook Basin was begun in October 24, 1894 and ceased for a time--resuming on April 11, 1895. Construction work on the reservoir was conducted by The Standard Construction and Supply Co. The Winter Street dam was constructed in 1896. In the construction of this reservoir's various components--including the Lincoln St. Dam, Winter St. Dam and Payson Park Reservoir, about 186,000 cubic yards of earth was required for making embankments and about 14,750 cubic yards of ledge rock was removed in preparing the foundations. Presumably this Winter St. Gate House functioned like its counterpart off South St. on Stony Brook--multiple chambers located below the Gate House structure. At Stony Brook two of its fire chambers were used for waste water

BIBLIOGRAPHY and/or REFERENCES

"Inspection of Water Works System" -- 1989
W.P.L. Collection
Cambridge Annual Documents 1894, 1895, 1986.

Page Two
Winter Street
Hobbs Brook Basin Gate House #903
Waltham, Ma MRA

HISTORICAL SIGNIFICANCE continued

and the other three to fill up the basin when necessary. Presumably, a sluice gate is housed within this structure to permit the water to escape when the water is unable to carry it. The Hobbs Brook Basin continues to serve Cambridge as a source of water.

BOUNDARY JUSTIFICATION

The Hobbs Brook Basin Gate House is part of the City of Cambridge water supply system. The present nomination is confined to the gatehouse structure, because it is the only component of the system that stands fully within the bounds of the City of Waltham, and thus has been researched for this nomination whose bounds follow that of the city. The City of Cambridge is considering plans to nominate the entire system, which falls within the communities of Cambridge, Belmont, Waltham and Weston.

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

AUG 21 1989

National Register of Historic Places
Continuation Sheet

Section number _____ Page _____

Multiple Resource Area
Thematic GroupName Waltham MRAState Middlesex County, MASSACHUSETTS

Nomination/Type of Review

Date/Signature

41. Hall, Henry C., House

Entered in the
National RegisterKeeper Melrose Byers 9/28/89

Attest _____

42. Hammond, Ephraim, House

Substantive Review

Keeper Beth A. Savage 9/16/89

Attest _____

43. Hammond, Jonathan, House

Entered in the
National RegisterKeeper Melrose Byers 9/28/89

Attest _____

44. Hardy, Nahum, House

Entered in the
National RegisterKeeper Melrose Byers 9/28/89

Attest _____

45. Harrington Block

Entered in the
National RegisterKeeper Melrose Byers 9/28/89

Attest _____

46. Harrington, Samuel, House

Entered in the
National RegisterKeeper Melrose Byers 9/28/89

Attest _____

47. Hill, Rev. Thomas, House

Entered in the
National RegisterKeeper Melrose Byers 9/28/89

Attest _____

48. Hobbs Brook Basin Gate House

Entered in the
National RegisterKeeper Melrose Byers 9/28/89

Attest _____

49. Holbrook, Richard, Houses

Entered in the
National RegisterKeeper Melrose Byers 9/28/89

Attest _____

50. Johnson, Edwin C., House

Entered in the
National RegisterKeeper Melrose Byers 9/28/89

Attest _____

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
EVALUATION/RETURN SHEET

REQUESTED ACTION: NOMINATION

PROPERTY Hobbs Brook Basin Gate House
NAME:

MULTIPLE Waltham MRA
NAME:

STATE & COUNTY: MASSACHUSETTS, Middlesex

DATE RECEIVED: 8/21/89 DATE OF PENDING LIST: 9/05/89
DATE OF 16TH DAY: 9/21/89 DATE OF 45TH DAY: 10/05/89
DATE OF WEEKLY LIST:

REFERENCE NUMBER: 89001524

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 9/28/89 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

Signed _____ Phone _____

Date _____



Hobbs Brook Basin Gate House

winter st

MHC # 903

Waltham, Ma MRA



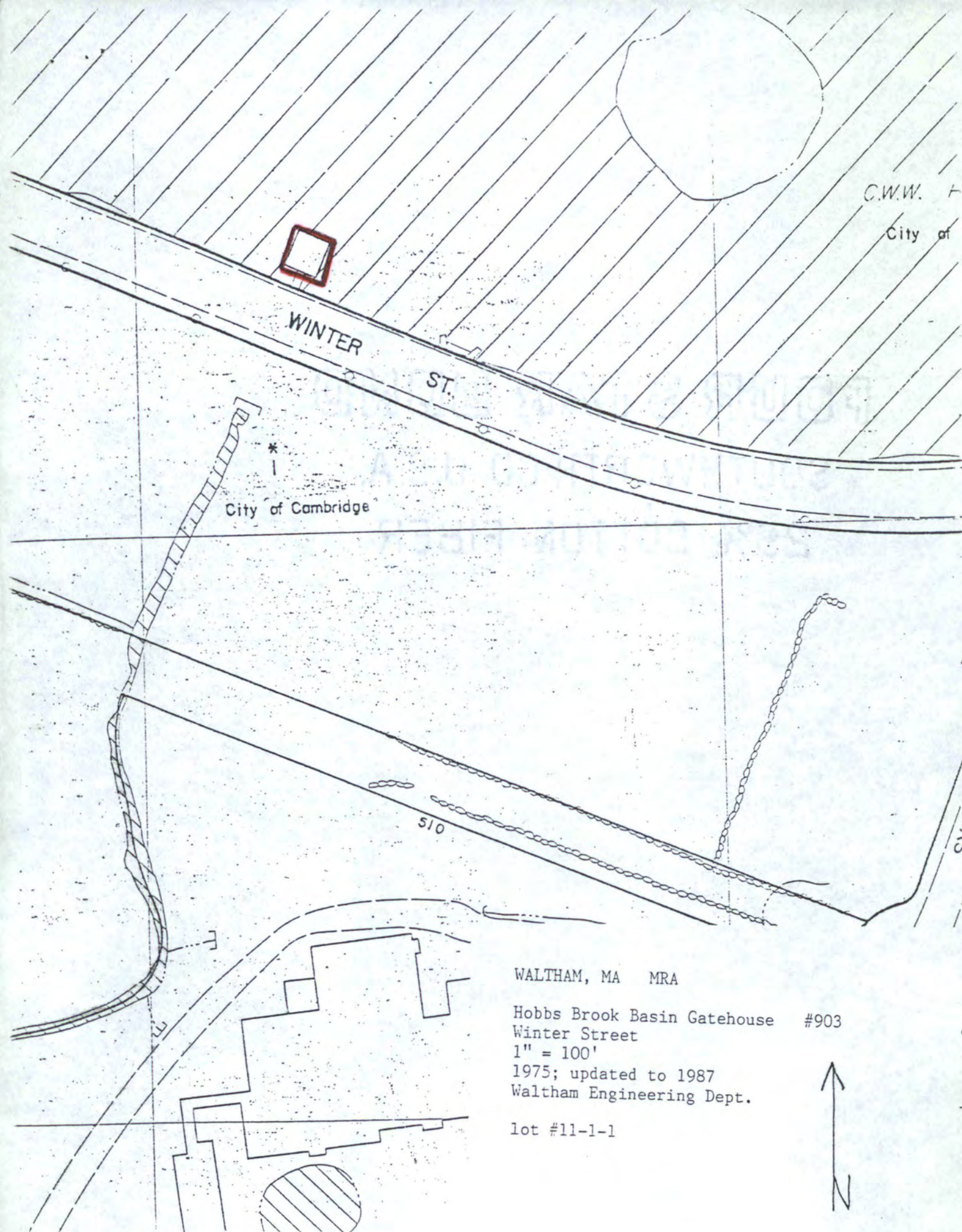
Hobbs Brook Basin Gate House
Winter St.
MHC # 903
Waltham, MA. MRA



Hobbs Brook Basin Gate House
Winter St

MHC # 903

Waltham MRA
Mass



WALTHAM, MA MRA

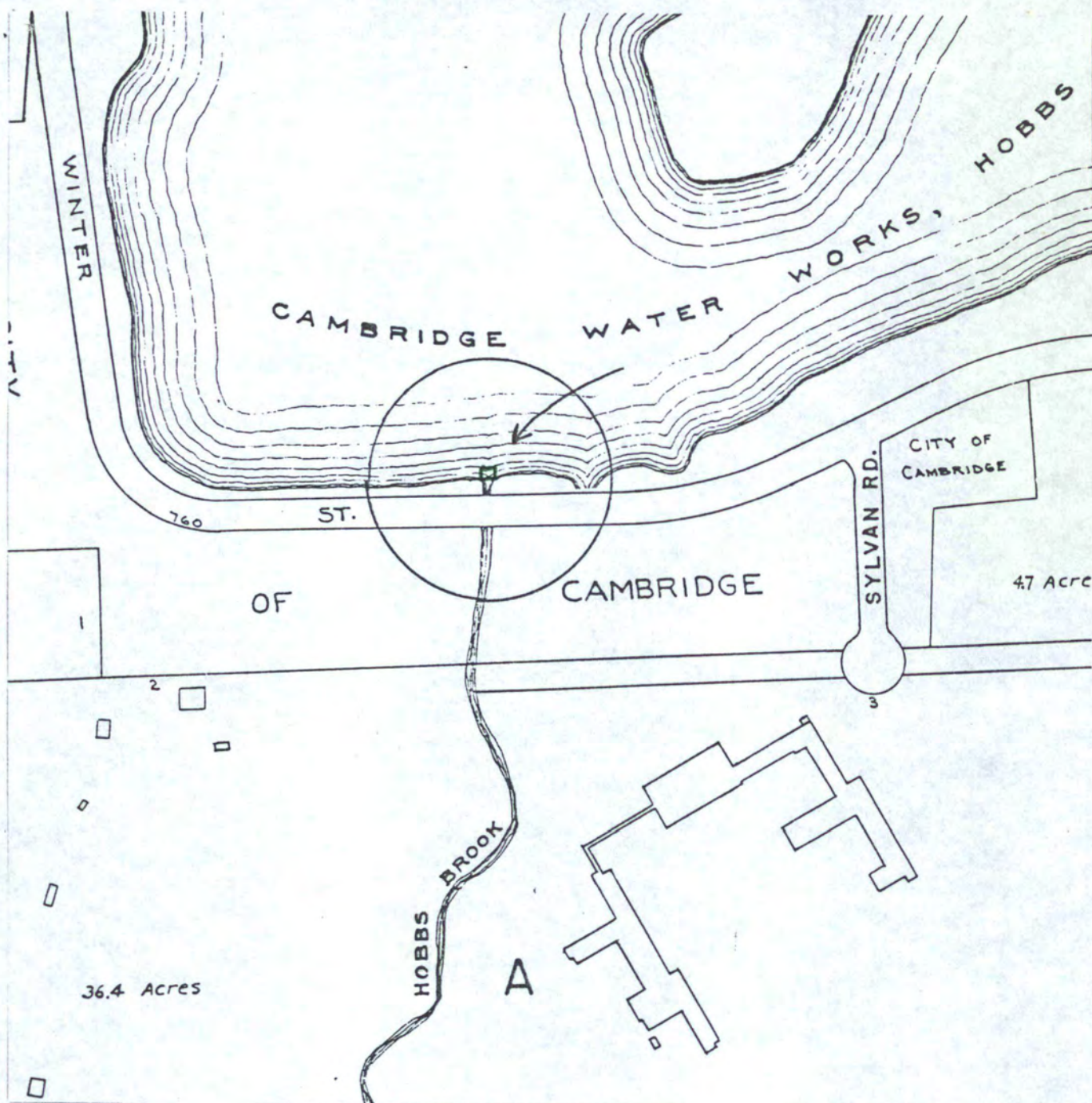
Hobbs Brook Basin Gatehouse #903
Winter Street

1" = 100'

1975; updated to 1987
Waltham Engineering Dept.

lot #11-1-1





1970 Atlas, City of Waltham
 Compiled by the Waltham
 Engineering Division
 Scale: 1 inch = 140 feet

Waltham, Massachusetts MRA
 Winter Street
 Hobbs Brook Basin Gate House
 88-A-760

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

Multiple Property Cover Sheet Reference Number: 64000301