

NEIC 05 1989
2249

Area Letter	Form numbers in this Area
H	14-2, 14-3, 14-4, 14-5, 14-6, 14-7, 14-8, 14-9

MASSACHUSETTS HISTORICAL COMMISSION
80 BOYLSTON STREET, BOSTON, MA 02116

Town Stoneham, Medford

Name of Area (if any) Middlesex Fells

Reservoirs

Present Use water supply

General Date or Period 1870, 1898-1903

period of significance 1870-1926

General Condition good

Acreege approximately 320 acres

Recorded by Jane Carolan

Organization Louis Berger & Associates

Date February 1984; revised 1989

Photos (3"x3" or 3"x5" black & white) Indicate on back of each photo street addresses for buildings shown. Staple to left side of form.

Sketch Map. Draw a general map of the area indicating properties within it. Number each property for which individual inventory forms have been completed. Label streets including route numbers, if any. Indicate north. (Attach a separate sheet if space here is not sufficient).

TM REFERENCE Bear Hill center point: 19/326780/470340
Middlesex Fells Reservoir center point: 19/328550/4701240
 Spot Pond: A:19/327240/4703380 B:19/328250/4702485 C:19/19328060/4701760
 D:19/327505/4701250 E:19/327040/4701250

USGS QUADRANGLE Boston North
 SCALE 1:25,000

NATIONAL REGISTER CRITERIA STATEMENT (if applicable)

The Middlesex Fells Reservoirs Historic District consists of three discontinuous reservoir areas. The largest is Spot Pond reservoir (14-2) which includes a pumping station (14-3; NR 1984), superintendent's house (14-8; NR 1984), a stable (14-9), and two gatehouses (14-4, 5). The Middlesex Fells Reservoir and Gatehouse (14-6) stands southeast of Spot Pond, separated by New England Memorial Hospital. Bear Hill Reservoir and Gatehouse (14-7) stand northwest of Spot Pond separated by I-93. All three complexes represent the regard for careful and natural design within a metropolitan park which was the hallmark of the Metropolitan Water Board. The structures are all associated with the architectural firm of Shepley, Ruten and Coolidge, while the surrounding land was landscaped by Olmsted Brothers. Additionally, the district represents the commitment of the water board to providing clean water to the people of Boston using state of the art technology. The district possesses integrity of location, design, and setting.

CONT

ARCHITECTURAL SIGNIFICANCE Describe important architectural features and evaluate in terms of other areas within the community.

The Middlesex Fells Reservoir complexes, Spot Pond (14-2, 14-3, 14-4, 14-5, 14-8, 14-9), Middlesex Fells (14-6) and Bear Hill (14-7) are all located in the Olmsted Brothers designed Middlesex Fells Reservation. The reservation is a large wooded tract north of Boston. Landscaped by the Olmsted firm in 1894, this was one of the first park's in Boston's metropolitan park system. Recognizing the beauty of the park and the need to maintain a cohesive design, the Metropolitan Water Board hired the Olmsted firm and Shepley, Ruten and Coolidge (Olmsted's preferred architects) to design structures and reservoirs that would be sympathetic with the environment.

The Spot Pond complex consisting of the Spot Pond Reservoir (14-2), a pumping station (14-3; NR: 4-13-84), two gatehouses (14-4, 14-5) a superintendent's house (14-8; NR: 4-13-84) and a barn (14-9; NR: 4-13-84). Originally developed by the City of Boston in 1869 - 1870 the complex was taken over by the Metropolitan Water Board and the Olmsted firm landscaped the property. The reservoir (14-2) is a 1,800,000 gallon reservoir which was a natural pond dredge in 1899-1900 and connected via concrete or iron mains or open channels, to three smaller ponds: Doleful Pond, Dark Hollow Pond, and Quarter Mile Pond. When the Metropolitan Water Board took over the reservoir Spot Pond was raised nine feet by dredging, the banks were then enlarged and regraded and twelve earthen embankments (cont.)

HISTORICAL SIGNIFICANCE Explain historical importance of area and how the area relates to the development of other areas of the community.

Upon acquisition of the City of Boston's water properties the Metropolitan Water Board, in 1898, began an extensive renovation and expansion program to upgrade the water supply system. Spot Pond which became the central point for northern low and high service distribution was already used as a water source by the towns of Malden, Melrose, and Medford, each of which had built their own pumping stations, ca. 1870, on the east shore of the pond. These were torn down when construction, in 1898, of a large three engine pumping station was begun by the board. Spot Pond provides water for the northern high service distribution. Water from Spot Pond and Chestnut Hill Reservoir is pumped to Middlesex Fells Reservoir (14-6) and to local communities. In 1898 construction began on Middlesex Fells Reservoir (14-6) which was to be a distribution reservoir and a supplement to Spot Pond. In 1902 Bear Hill Reservoir (14-7) was completed. Also connected to Spot Pond this reservoir was constructed to supplement Middlesex Fells Reservoir's supply, when the town of Stone joined the Metropolitan District Water Supply in 1901.

Except for a fire in 1975 in the Spot Pond Pumping Station which resulted in a lowered roofline and the addition of a third basin at Middlesex Fells Reservoir, the reservoirs in Middlesex Fells Reservation remain much as they were initially constructed.

The Olmsted designed landscape of the district contributes to its historic setting and feeling. However, its integrity and significance have not been sufficiently investigated to justify significance under landscape architecture at this time. Refer to the section on Designers in Sec. 8 of the overview for additional information.

Refer to the section on reservoirs in Sec. 7 of the overview for additional information on that topic, and to Sec. 8, page 8.

BIBLIOGRAPHY and/or REFERENCES

- Personal communication with Spot Pond Pumping Station staff, January 1984
- Manual of American Waterworks, 1890.
- Annual Report of the Metropolitan Water Board, 1897-1901.
- Annual Report of the Metropolitan Water and Sewerage Board, 1902-1904, 1919.

(continued)

MASSACHUSETTS HISTORICAL COMMISSION
Office of the Secretary, Boston

Community: Stoneham, Medford	Form No: 14-2 through 14-9
Property Name: Middlesex Fells Reservoir	

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

NR Statement: setting, materials, workmanship and feeling; it meets criteria A and C of the NRHP. The boundaries of the district are outlined in red on the attached map; they follow the shoreline except where contributing buildings are sited, in which case they follow a line of convenience.

ARCHITECTURAL SIGNIFANCE:

were built. The edges of the Pond were then landscaped by the Olmsted firm. The expansion of the reservoir was done in six sections by several contracts among them Moulton & O'Mahoney, Newell and Snowling Construction and P.H. Fitzgerald.

The Spot Pond Pumping Station (14-3) completed in 1898 to 1900 and designed by Shepley, Ruten and Coolidge, is a 1½ story, three bay, symmetrically arranged Classical Revival building of gray Roman brick. It is located on the east side of Spot Pond. The rectangular main block has a rear and side wing. A centered monumental doorway is surrounded by paired columns with a full entablature and a centered scroll. A fire in 1975 destroyed the original red tiled, hipped roof and clerestory. A new hipped roof was added but the clerestory was not rebuilt. The main block is the engine room, to the south of this is the boiler room with an adjacent coal pocket. The station originally contained three steam engines including a Leavitt engine which was reused after having been in the Mystic Pumping Station (15-4). All the engines were replaced in the 1950s. The station was built by the McNeil Brothers.

The Spot Pond Gatehouse (14-5) was completed in 1900 and designed by Shepley, Ruten and Coolidge. Located in a wooded area just south of the pumping station, the structure is a one-story, rectangular, Roman gray brick building with battered walls, a granite door and granite window surrounds. The hipped roof, now covered with synthetic shingles, originally was covered in red tile. The gatehouse was built by the John S. Jacobs Company.

The East Gatehouse (14-4), built on the edge of Spot Pond just east of the pumping station was completed in two phases. The gates, which contain two connections between the pond and pumping station were completed in 1897. The superstructure, completed in 1900 is a one story, hipped roof, rectangular structure with slightly battered walls of concrete faced with ashlar granite. The windows and doors are segmentally arched with a fanlight over the entrance door. The structure has a red tiled roof, bracketed cornice and a centered brick chimney. The gates were built and installed by the Coffin Valve Company and the gatehouse by the McNeil Brothers.

The John Bottume House (NR:4-13-84; 14-9) is a stone Italianate house, ca. 1855 which was taken over by the Metropolitan Water Board after they acquired the Middlesex Fells complex in 1898. This handsome house, set on a hill above Spot Pond. Originally built as a summer home, the property, along with its small stone barn (NR:4-13-84; 14-9) was acquired by the New England Sanitarium where it was used as an annex. It was acquired by the Water Board as a residence for the Spot Pond Superintendent, which it is still being used as today.

The Middlesex Fells Reservoir and Gatehouse (14-6) was completed in 1898-1900. The small three basin reservoir, which looks like a ruggedly beautiful natural pond, has a depth of six feet with a concrete bed in a natural basin surrounded by rocks and designed by the Olmsted firm. Originally only two basins, a third was added in the 1940s. It was built by T.W. Kinser & Sons, Waltham, and Nawm and Brock. The gatehouse was designed by Shepley, Ruten and Coolidge at a site between the two basins. The one story building is rectangular, constructed of granite and concrete with quoins, cornice and base of Deer Isle granite. The hipped roof, originally covered with red tiles, is now covered with synthetic shingles. The building was constructed by the W.L. Clark Company.

Bear Hill Reservoir and Gatehouse (14-7) was completed in 1902-1903. The reservoir is located in a depression in a rocky ridge and was constructed by excavating all the earth and some rock and building two dams. The gatehouse is a one story, rectangular hipped roof structure of

Staple to Inventory form at bottom

(continued)

MASSACHUSETTS HISTORICAL COMMISSION
Office of the Secretary, Boston

Community: Stoneham, Medfore	Form No: 14-2 through 14-9
Property Name: Middlesex Fells Reservoirs	

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

ARCHITECTURAL SIGNIFICANCE:

rough cut granite with an ashlar granite gate chamber. The quoins and cornice are also ashlar granite. The building was designed by Shepley, Rutan and Coolidge and built by Woodbury & Leighton of Boston.

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

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United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places
Continuation Sheet

Section number _____ Page _____

SUPPLEMENTARY LISTING RECORD

NRIS Reference Number: 89002249

Date Listed: 01/18/90

Middlesex Fells Reservoirs
Historic District
Property Name

Middlesex
County

MA
State

Water Supply System of Metropolitan Boston MPS
Multiple Name

This property is listed in the National Register of Historic Places in accordance with the attached nomination documentation subject to the following exceptions, exclusions, or amendments, notwithstanding the National Park Service certification included in the nomination documentation.

Beth L. Sarge
for Signature of the Keeper

01-18-90
Date of Action

Amended Items in Nomination:

10. Geographical Data

The district includes 3 discontinuous parcels, all historically and functionally inextricably linked. Appropriately, each parcel is assigned individual UTM's. The UTM provided for the Bear Hill parcel is incorrect; it should read 19/326820/4703340.

This information was confirmed by Betsy Friedberg, National Register Director, MASHPO, by telephone.

DISTRIBUTION:

- National Register property file
- Nominating Authority (without nomination attachment)

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
EVALUATION/RETURN SHEET

REQUESTED ACTION: NOMINATION

PROPERTY NAME: Middlesex Fells Reservoirs Historic District

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: 89002249

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: Y NATIONAL: N

COMMENT WAIVER: N

ACCEPT RETURN REJECT 1/18/90 DATE

ABSTRACT/SUMMARY COMMENTS:

The district includes 3 discontinuous components which were all historically and functionally, as well as aesthetically, inextricably linked as part of metropolitan Boston's water distribution network. Additionally important as the work of noted architectural firm Shepley, Rutan and Coolidge and landscape firm Olmsted Brothers.

RECOM./CRITERIA Accept A+C
REVIEWER Surge
DISCIPLINE Architectural History
DATE 01-18-90

DOCUMENTATION see attached comments Y/N see attached SLR 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
 UTM's 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,

Spot Pond East Gatehouse, Stoneham, MA. 14-4.

Jane Carolan / Martha Berwick 1984

Louis Berger + Ass.

Area # : Middlesex Falls Reservoir H, D

Water Supply System of Metropolitan Boston MPS



MDC - TRA, MASS.

Middlesex Falls Reservoir + Gate house, Stoneham, ¹⁴⁻⁶ MA.
Jane Carolan / Martha Bowers 1984
Louis Berger & Ass.

Area #: Middlesex Falls Reservoir H.D.

Water Supply System of Metropolitan Boston MPS



MDC - TRA, MASS,

Spartan Pond Pumping Station, Stoneham, Mass. 14-3
Jane Carolan / Martha Bowers 1984
Louis Berger & Ass.

Area H: Middlesex Falls Reservoir H.P.

Water Supply System of Metropolitan Boston MAS



MDC - TRA, MASS.

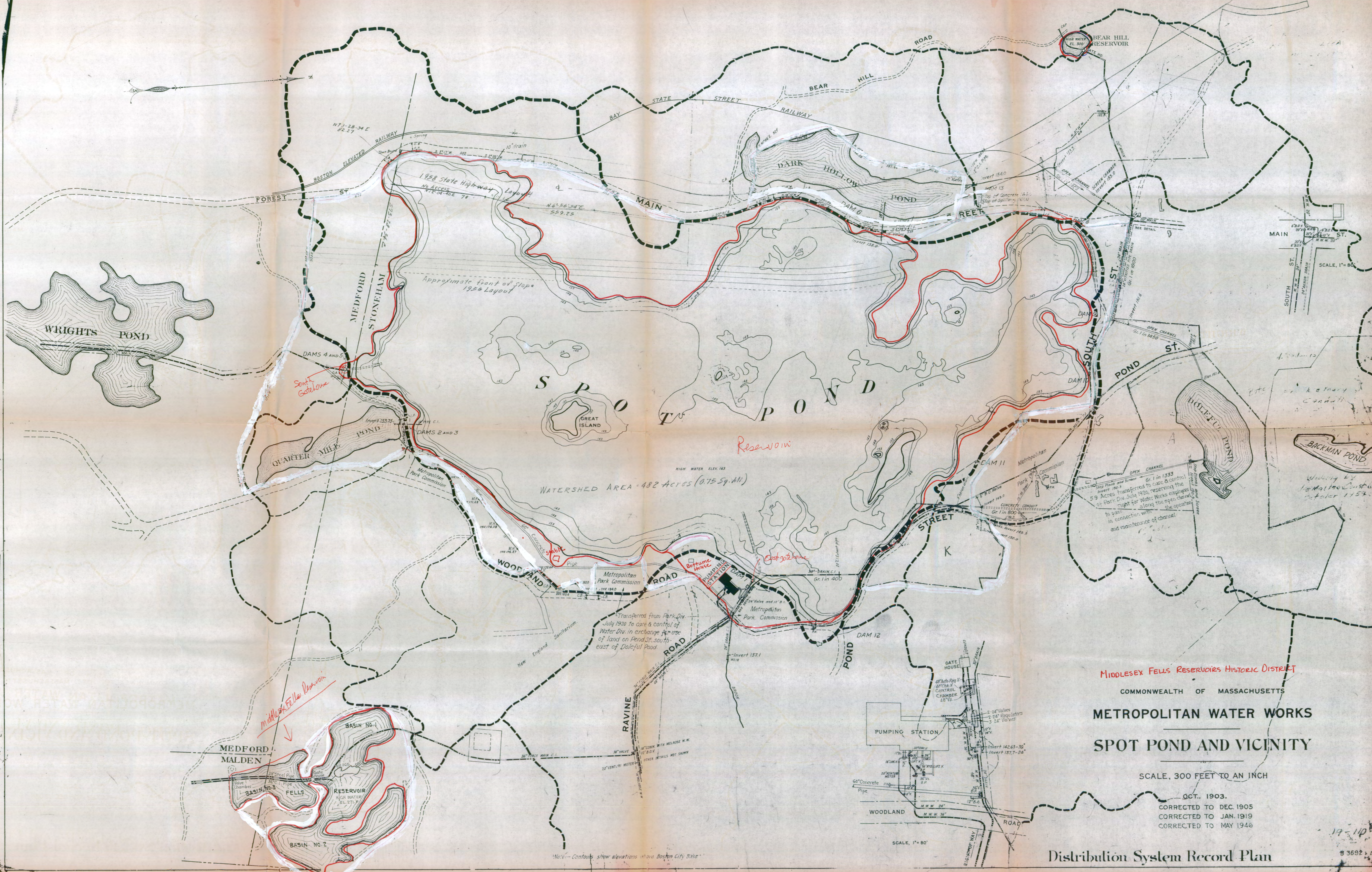
Ben Gill Reservoir, Stoneham, MA. 14-7

Jane Carolan / Martha Brown 1984

Louis Berger & Ass.

Area H: Middlesex Falls Reservoir 4/8

Water Supply System of Metropolitan Boston MPS



MIDDLESEX FALLS RESERVOIRS HISTORIC DISTRICT

COMMONWEALTH OF MASSACHUSETTS

METROPOLITAN WATER WORKS

SPOT POND AND VICINITY

SCALE, 300 FEET TO AN INCH

OCT. 1903.
 CORRECTED TO DEC. 1905
 CORRECTED TO JAN. 1919
 CORRECTED TO MAY 1946

Distribution System Record Plan

17-110
 83692

Note: Contours show elevations above Boston City Base

COLLECTED TO JAN 1908
CONNECTED TO JAN 1910
CONNECTED TO DEC 1908
OCT 1907

SCALE 200 FEET TO AN INCH

SPOT BOND AND VICINITY

METROLOGICAL WATER WORKS

COMMONWEALTH OF MASSACHUSETTS

Highways, Streets, Railroads, and Public Buildings



MDC-TRA, MASS.

Spot Bond

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

Multiple Property Cover Sheet Reference Number: 64500254