

FORM B - BUILDING

MASSACHUSETTS HISTORICAL COMMISSION
80 BOYLSTON STREET
BOSTON, MA 02116

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

Sketch Map: Draw map showing property's location in relation to nearest cross streets and/or geographical features. Indicate all buildings between inventoried property and nearest intersection(s). *see attached*
Indicate north

UTM REFERENCE 19/324650/4607840

USGS QUADRANGLE Lexington, Ma.

SCALE 1:25,000

2255
DEC 05 1989

MDC - TRA, MASS.

AREA

FORM NO.

	15-4
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Town Somerville

Address Alewife Brook Parkway

Historic Name Mystic Pumping Station

Use: Present maintenance shop

Original pumping station

DESCRIPTION

Date 1862-

Source Boston Water Works, Mystic Supply,
1862-1865

Style Second Empire

Architect George W. Baldwin; Charles L. Stevenson

Exterior Wall Fabric brick

Outbuildings original demolished; replaced in
1940s with flat-roofed brick office structure

Major Alterations (with dates) 1870, addition;
1895, addition; both for housing additional
steam engines

Condition good

Moved NO Date _____

Acreage approximately two acres

Setting urban on edge of MDC greenbelt

Recorded by Jane Carolan

Organization Louis Berger & Associates

Date January 1984; revised 1989

NATIONAL REGISTER CRITERIA STATEMENT (if applicable)

The Mystic Pumping Station is significant because of its association with the Mystic Water Works system and is representative of a mid-nineteenth century small, integrated municipal water supply system. It retains integrity of location, setting, materials, workmanship and feeling and design meets criteria C of the National Register of Historic Places. The boundary of the Mystic Pumping Station is a rectangular shape that includes the building itself and two small areas of grass between the building and sidewalk in front of the building. The boundary is shown as the red line on the attached map, Mystic Water Works, Metropolitan Water Works, Land Plans, 1897. Scale: 100' = 1".

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

The Mystic Water Works complex includes Upper and Lower Mystic Lakes, a dam, a gatehouse, and a pumping station 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 Lake. The pumping station is located in the Mystic River Parkway, an MDC greenbelt parkway approximately one-quarter mile southwest of the dam and gatehouse. The Mystic Lakes are natural glacial kettle ponds and were originally three ponds, now combined into two.

The station is a one and one-half story, mansard-roofed structure of load bearing brick. The symmetrically arranged 9-bay main block is flanked on the west by a 4-bay wing added in 1895, and on the east by a two-bay wing added in 1870, both of which conform stylistically to the original main block. Much of the original detail remains and only a cupola and some decorative iron work from the roofs has been removed. In 1887 the Water Board noted that the roof trusses in the station were "old and distorting." The same year most of these trusses were replaced

HISTORICAL SIGNIFICANCE Explain the role owners played in local or state history and how the building relates to the development of the community. (cont.)

The Mystic Pumping Station was built between 1862 and 1865 by the City of Charlestown and incorporated into the Boston Water Board when Charlestown was annexed by the City of Boston in 1874. It was built smaller than originally designed due to construction costs. The building contained two Worthington steam engines, one with a capacity of 8,000,000 mdg; the other, 5,000,000 mdg. A one hundred foot chimney was connected to the station by an underground flue. With the addition of the City of Everett to the system a third engine was added which required construction of the east addition. A fourth engine, added in 1895, soon after the Metropolitan Water Board took over the works, required construction of the west wing. In 1912 the engines were sold for scrap. During World War I the building was renovated into offices and used for research. In 1921 the building was again renovated and the chimney demolished. Today the building is used for a maintenance office and shop for the MDC.

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 1862-5, Record Description of the Mystic Water Works kept at time of their construction during the year 1862-3-4-5 by Roberdeau Buchanan, S.B. Asst. Eng. Copied 1878.
- Manual of American Waterworks, 1890.
- Report of the Metropolitan Water Board, 1887.
- Annual Report of Metropolitan Water Board, 1912.
- Annual Reports of Metropolitan District Commission, 1918, 1920, 1923, 1933

INVENTORY FORM CONTINUATION SHEET

MASSACHUSETTS HISTORICAL COMMISSION
Office of the Secretary, Boston

Community: Somerville	Form No: 15-4
Property Name: Mystic Pumping Station	

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

ARCHITECTURAL SIGNIFICANCE:

by triangular wood trusses reinforced with iron tie rods. Several of the original trusses remain near the middle of the main block. They are about one foot in diameter, and are built up from thirteen narrow strips of laminated wood and connected to the building's walls with tie buckles.

In 1912 the engines were removed and the building converted into offices. The structure was renovated again in 1921 and the large brick chimney removed. The building is used today by the MDC for maintenance shops and offices.

Staple to Inventory form at bottom

United States Department of the Interior
National Park ServiceNational 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

Melrose Byers 1-18-90

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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 Pumping Station

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: 89002255

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 Pumping Station, Somerville, MA

Jane Carolan / Martha Bowers 1981

Louis Burger & Ass.

Water Supply System of Metropolitan Boston WAS

Mystic Pumping Station

Mystic Water Works, Metropolitan Water
Works, Land Plans, 1897.
Scale: 100' = 1".

MDC - TRA, MASS.

Location of Metropolitan Sewer
through Pumping Station grounds.
The parcel of 8670 Sq. ft. on which the Pumping Station stands
was taken in fee, and of the remainder an easement only was
obtained

Levi C. Teel.

Area 2 1/2 Acres.

(includes 8670.5 sq ft taken
by commonwealth)

ARLINGTON

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

Multiple Property Cover Sheet Reference Number: 64500254