

FORM F - STRUCTURE

MASSACHUSETTS HISTORICAL COMMISSION  
80 BOYLSTON STREET  
BOSTON, MA 02116

2253

MDC - TRA, MASS.

DEC 05 1989

AREA	FORM NO.
	16-8

Town Medford

Address North of South Street, between

Lystic Avenue and South Court Street

Name Medford Pine Bridge

Ownership: MDC-Boston Public

Private

Type of Structure (check one):

- |                                     |                                       |
|-------------------------------------|---------------------------------------|
| bridge <input type="checkbox"/>     | pound <input type="checkbox"/>        |
| canal <input type="checkbox"/>      | powder house <input type="checkbox"/> |
| dam <input type="checkbox"/>        | street <input type="checkbox"/>       |
| fort <input type="checkbox"/>       | tower <input type="checkbox"/>        |
| gate <input type="checkbox"/>       | tunnel <input type="checkbox"/>       |
| kiln <input type="checkbox"/>       | wall <input type="checkbox"/>         |
| lighthouse <input type="checkbox"/> | windmill <input type="checkbox"/>     |

other \_\_\_\_\_

DESCRIPTION

Date 1897-1900

Source Metro. Water Board, Annual Report  
1907-1908

Architect Engineer/Designer (if known):  
n/a

Construction material concrete, steel

Alterations (with dates) n/a

Condition good

Moved NO Date \_\_\_\_\_

Acreage less than one acre

Setting in residential/commercial area  
in a small park

Recorded by Jane Carolan

Organization Louis Berger & Associates

Date January 1984 - revised 1986

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 19/526220/4608160

USGS QUADRANGLE Boston North, MA

SCALE 1:25,000

**NATIONAL REGISTER CRITERIA STATEMENT (if applicable)**

The Medford Pipe Bridge is considered significant under Criteria 1, 2, and 3. The bridge and the mains it carries is an integral component of the northern low and high service distribution system as planned by the Metropolitan Water Board in 1898 and continues to be today, a part of an important link in the distribution system between two major reservoirs, Chestnut Hill (E13-9) and Spot Pond (H14-2). The bridge is also an excellent example of the successful integration of decorative and industrial components in the late 19th century and represents the Metropolitan Water Board's dedication to sensitive design. Finally the bridge retains a high degree of integrity since the bridge and its setting has undergone few changes since completion. The bridge possesses integrity of location, design, setting, materials, workmanship, feeling and association.

(continued)

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

The gracefully arched Medford Pipe Bridge is a pedestrian footbridge which crosses the Mystic River. It is located in downtown Medford in a small park that is part of the Mystic River Greenbelt. The bridge supports water mains within a plate girder frame which is topped with a steel decorative patterned railing and footbridge. The bridge was built by the New Jersey Steel and Iron Company, Trenton, NJ. The concrete abutment was built by Cheney and Trumbull and the project was completed under the direction of Frederic P. Stearns, Metropolitan Water Board Engineer.

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

The Medford Pipe Bridge is 48' long and 10' wide. The water mains carried by the bridge are part of the Metropolitan Water Board's distribution system handling the northern portion of high and low service. The bridge carries a 20" high service and 48" low service pipe from the Chestnut Hill Reservoir (E13-9) to Spot Pond Reservoir (H14-2). The mains were cross connected with the Mystic Works (15-2,3,4) but this connection is currently out of service. While most water mains are underground this one had to cross a small body of water and it was more economical and easier to build the main over the water instead of tunneling under the water.

**BIBLIOGRAPHY and/or REFERENCES**

Reports of the Metropolitan Water Board, 1898 - 1899.  
1897 Drawings, MDC Vault, Drawers 37 and 132, Somerset Street, Boston, Ma.

INVENTORY FORM CONTINUATION SHEET

MASSACHUSETTS HISTORICAL COMMISSION  
Office of the Secretary, Boston

Community: Medford	Form No: 16-8
Property Name: Medford Pipe Bridge	

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

NATIONAL REGISTER CRITERIA STATEMENT:

The Medford Pipe Bridge nomination is outlined on the attached map, Low Service Pipe Lines, Metropolitan Water Works, March 1907. Scale 40' = 1". The nominated property includes only the bridge itself and its abutments and not any surround property.

The boundary reflects its visual isolation and the fact that is not actively connected to the water system at this time. Like many other inactive components of the system, the Medford Pipe Bridge nevertheless continues to demonstrate the architectural and engineering achievements of the Metropolitan Water System.

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

- Substantive Review**
- COVER
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

2 5/12

1 5/12

2 5/12

2 5/12

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR  
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES  
EVALUATION/RETURN SHEET

REQUESTED ACTION: NOMINATION

PROPERTY NAME: Medford Pipe Bridge

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: 89002253

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

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CLASSIFICATION

count       resource type

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STATE/FEDERAL AGENCY CERTIFICATION

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FUNCTION

historic       current

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DESCRIPTION

architectural classification  
 materials  
 descriptive text

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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

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BIBLIOGRAPHY

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GEOGRAPHICAL DATA

acreage       verbal boundary description  
 UTMs       boundary justification

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ACCOMPANYING DOCUMENTATION/PRESENTATION

sketch maps       USGS maps       photographs       presentation

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OTHER COMMENTS

Questions concerning this nomination may be directed to

\_\_\_\_\_ Phone \_\_\_\_\_

Signed \_\_\_\_\_

Date \_\_\_\_\_



MDC - TRA, MASS.

Medford Pipe Bridge, Medford, MA.

Jane Carolan / Martha Bowers 1984

Louis Berger & Ass.

Water Supply System of Metropolitan Boston MBS



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

Multiple Property Cover Sheet Reference Number: 64500254