

United States Department of the Interior
National Park ServiceNational Register of Historic Places
Registration Form

MAR 20 1990

NATIONAL
REGISTER

6/18/90

This form is for use in nominating or requesting determinations of eligibility for individual properties or districts. See instructions in *Guidelines for Completing National Register Forms* (National Register Bulletin 16). Complete each item by marking "x" in the appropriate box or by entering the requested information. If an item does not apply to the property being documented, enter "N/A" for "not applicable." For functions, styles, materials, and areas of significance, enter only the categories and subcategories listed in the instructions. For additional space use continuation sheets (Form 10-900a). Type all entries.

1. Name of Property

historic name Calf Pasture Pumping Station Complex
other names/site number _____

2. Location

street & number 435 Mount Vernon Street N/A not for publication
city, town Boston, (Dorchester) N/A vicinity
state Massachusetts code 025 county Suffolk code 025 zip code 02125

3. Classification

Ownership of Property	Category of Property	Number of Resources within Property	
		Contributing	Noncontributing
☐ private	☒ building(s)	<u>3</u>	<u>1</u> buildings
☒ public-local	☐ district	_____	_____ sites
☐ public-State	☐ site	_____	_____ structures
☐ public-Federal	☐ structure	_____	_____ objects
	☐ object	<u>3</u>	<u>1</u> Total

Name of related multiple property listing: N/A
Number of contributing resources previously listed in the National Register 0

4. State/Federal Agency Certification

As the designated authority under the National Historic Preservation Act of 1966, as amended, I hereby certify that this ☐ nomination ☒ request for determination of eligibility meets the documentation standards for registering properties in the National Register of Historic Places and meets the procedural and professional requirements set forth in 36 CFR Part 60. In my opinion, the property ☒ meets ☐ does not meet the National Register criteria. ☐ See continuation sheet.

Valerie A. Talmage
Signature of certifying official Executive Director, Massachusetts Historical State Historic Preservation Officer
Date June 11, 1990 Commission;
State or Federal agency and bureau _____

In my opinion, the property ☐ meets ☐ does not meet the National Register criteria. ☐ See continuation sheet.

Signature of commenting or other official _____ Date _____
State or Federal agency and bureau _____

5. National Park Service Certification

I, hereby, certify that this property is:

- ☒ entered in the National Register.
☐ See continuation sheet.
- ☐ determined eligible for the National Register. ☐ See continuation sheet.
- ☐ determined not eligible for the National Register.
- ☐ removed from the National Register.
- ☐ other, (explain:) _____

Beth J. Savage 8/2/90
Signature of the Keeper Date of Action

6. Function or Use Calf Pasture Pumping Station, Boston (Dorchester), Massachusetts

Historic Functions (enter categories from instructions)

Government: Public Works

Current Functions (enter categories from instructions)

Government: Public Works

7. Description

Architectural Classification

(enter categories from instructions)

Romanesque Revival

Queen Anne

Materials (enter categories from instructions)

foundation Stone: Granite

walls Stone: Granite

roof Asphalt

other

Describe present and historic physical appearance.

The Calf Pasture Pumping Station is located on Columbia Point, a 350 acre peninsula, two miles south of Boston in the neighborhood of Dorchester. The pumping station and two related outbuildings, a gate house and shaft entrance, share a 9.5 acre lot and face northeast onto Dorchester Bay. The landscape of the peninsula is generally flat, with the exception of a hilly area to the east of the pumping station. A modern building, the switch house, is located north of the pumping station complex, and is not included in the nomination.

Columbia Point was the landing place in Dorchester for Puritan Settlers. Native Americans called the site "Mattaponnock". Between 1630 and 1869, the marshlands of the peninsula were used as a cow or "calf pasture." Its land mass originally totalled only 14 acres; however, numerous landfills from the mid-19th through the mid-20th centuries have increased the acreage to its present size, 350 acres.

Calf Pasture's pumping station shares Columbia Point with several notable buildings. To the northwest is the recently renovated Harbor Point Complex, originally built in 1953 as one of the nation's first public housing projects, it is now a mixed income development. Calf Pasture's rear facade faces the University of Massachusetts Boston Harbor Campus, constructed in 1970. It is a large red brick complex which has a total of 1.6 million square feet of classrooms, offices and recreation space. In 1979, the John F. Kennedy Library was constructed from designs by I.M. Pei and Associates. The dramatic white concrete and glass structure stands at the eastern tip of Columbia Point, facing Dorchester Bay. Finally, the Massachusetts Archives building, designed by Jim Batchelor and completed in 1986, is located to the east of the Pumping Station. This structure houses the Commonwealth Museum, the State Records Center and the Central Micrographics unit.

The plan of the structure is L-shaped. The engine room, the main section, measures 201 feet by 72 feet. The boiler room, an ell off of the engine room, measures 80 feet by 60 feet. The main elevation is divided into 5 sections, arranged in a step fashion. The lowest sections are 23 feet high and are on the outside. The intermediate sections measure 45 feet while the center section is 84 feet.

**United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service****National Register of Historic Places
Continuation Sheet**Section number 7 Page 1Calf Pasture Pumping Station,
Boston, (Dorchester), Massachusetts

The central section has a very steeply pitched gable-on-hip roof; the roof on the four remaining sections is flat. Copper flashing is evident on the main facade. This central section on both the front and rear elevations is framed by narrow castellated turrets which functioned as ventilators for the steam driven pumps. The gable-on-gable roof on the one story ell, which served as a boiler room, features a row of clerestory windows.

The exterior walls are constructed of rough cut, rock faced granite. Dark colored granite is used for most of the exterior; light granite is used to highlight certain architectural elements. Decorative detailing in lighter granite includes the belt courses, window and door frames and the castellated cornice. The central section of the main elevation has two plaques; the one to the left reading "B.I.S." (Boston Improved Sewer), and the one to the right with the construction date, 1883. All original granite appears to be intact and in excellent condition. However, years of accumulated dirt hide the polychromatic scheme. The structure's foundation is made of granite.

The structure is articulated by round arch and rectangular windows, spaced evenly throughout the elevations. The central section of the main elevation is dominated by a huge round arch window, measuring 26 feet in diameter. This window is set directly above the large double doors which serve as the main entrance. The outer, one story sections each contain four rectangular windows. The fenestration of the rear elevation is similar to the front. This pattern continues on the sides of the lower section.

A prominent belt course at the second story of the central section becomes the cornice line of the intermediate section. It is highlighted by rough cut, exaggerated dentils, giving the structure a castle-like appearance. Enhancing that sense are the castellated turrets which rise above the cornice line.

The ell housing the boiler room is one story with long rectangular windows along its length. A round arch loading bay is placed at the center of the ell. Remnants of the coal room, partially demolished in the 1940s, are clearly evident at the rear of the ell.

The gatehouse and filth hoist is a compact one story rectangular structure with a hipped roof. Copper flashing is visible on all elevations. It is constructed of rough hewn granite in a style similar to the pumping station. Each elevation, with the exception of the main elevation, is dominated by two large, round arch windows. The main elevation has a door in place of one window. A granite chimney rises above the cornice line.

The west shaft entrance is a rectangular building with a hipped roof. The rectangular structure has two windows on each side bay, one window on one end

(continued)

United States Department of the Interior
National Park ServiceNational Register of Historic Places
Continuation SheetSection number 7 Page 2Calf Pasture Pumping Station,
Boston, (Dorchester), Massachusetts

bay and a door on the other. Unlike the other structures, it is built of brick with granite accents. Granite voissoirs over the round arch windows, a heavy granite beltcourse and clasping buttresses highlight the exterior.

The interior of the main engine room is large and spacious. Above the floor level are several wrought iron catwalks supported by decorative iron brackets. Reached by circular stairs in the turrets, these were originally constructed so that the steam pumps could be serviced. The engine room has partial flooring at the grade level; stairs lead down to where the pumps are now located, below grade. The interior features decorative red and buff brickwork in the upper central section of the engine room.

The only category of archaeological resources that may be present at the Calf Pasture Pumping Station property is prehistoric. Prehistoric archaeological resources may be covered by landfill at the site, but no archaeological survey has yet been conducted. There is no specific documentation for potentially significant historic period archaeological remains. A survey of 17th century archaeological resources of Dorchester (Boston University, 1979) and the Pelham Map of 1775 indicate no structures in the location of the Calf Pasture Pumping Station site.

In 1968, the majority of the windows were bricked in to prevent vandalism. Since that time, the rear coal storage room collapsed and was removed. A brick wall was erected at the end of the adjacent boiler room. In general, the structure has not been well maintained, evidenced in a leaking roof and rusting ironwork. Exterior and interior walls require cleaning as they have lost the distinction between light and darker colored granite.

Access to the pumping station is from Mount Vernon Street through the Harbor Point development, and via the University of Massachusetts access road which provides a route to all buildings on the eastern side of Columbia Road from Morrissey Boulevard.

(end)

8. Statement of Significance Calf Pasture Pumping Station, Boston (Dorchester), Massachusetts

Certifying official has considered the significance of this property in relation to other properties:

☐ nationally ☐ statewide ☒ locallyApplicable National Register Criteria ☒ A ☐ B ☒ C ☐ DCriteria Considerations (Exceptions) ☐ A ☐ B ☐ C ☐ D ☐ E ☐ F ☐ G

Areas of Significance (enter categories from instructions)

ArchitectureCommunity Planning and DevelopmentEngineeringInvention

Period of Significance

1883-1905

Significant Dates

18831905

Cultural Affiliation

N/A

Significant Person

N/A

Architect/Builder

Clough, George Albert

State significance of property, and justify criteria, criteria considerations, and areas and periods of significance noted above.

The significance of the Calf Pasture Pumping Station is manifold. Historically, it is the first sewage pumping station in Boston, and represents the city's first major effort to establish a comprehensive public sewage system. It is an excellent example of Richardsonian Romanesque architecture, designed by City architect, George Clough and represents an evolving industrial building type to house innovative equipment. The pumping station is the only remaining 19th century building on Columbia Point. Calf Pasture Pumping Station retains integrity of location, design, setting, materials, workmanship, feeling and association, and therefore meets Criterion A and C of the National Register of Historic Places on the local level.

In 1872, the Board of Health for the City of Boston reported that "large territories have been at once and frequently enveloped in an atmosphere of stench so strong as to arouse the sleeping, terrify the weak and nauseate and exasperate everybody." Such conditions were prevalent in post-Civil War American cities with the increase of immigrant populations, living in close cramped quarters. Cholera and typhoid were two diseases which threatened the residents of poorer sections of the city as the public drinking water was contaminated by private sewer disposal pipes. With specific reference to the North End, a report entitled "The Sewage of Boston" found that this neighborhood had many "open mouthed" cesspools. Consequently, the report wrote, "no dispensary physician who has (the haymarket) district can have failed to notice the deleterious influence of such conditions upon the health of people who are absolutely powerless to help themselves."

Joseph P. Davis, the City Engineer, was sent to Europe in September, 1876, to examine the sewage systems of other major cities. After his return in 1878, he presented detailed suggestions for Boston's new system. Davis' plan recommended that all established sewer pipes be connected to a central, but distant point via a series of intermediate connecting pipes. At that central location, sewage would be pumped through pipes to holding tanks on Moon Island and then discharged into the ocean with the retreating tide.

☒ See continuation sheet

9. Major Bibliographical References

Archives, Boston Water and Sewer Commission, Boston, Mass.
-Collection of drawings of Calf Pasture Pumping Station
-Collection of Photographs
-Collection of maps explaining history of sewers in Boston

Book

Clark, Eliot C., Main Drainage Works of the City of Boston, Boston, Rockwell and Churchill, 1885.

Previous documentation on file (NPS):

- ☐ preliminary determination of individual listing (36 CFR 67)
has been requested
☐ previously listed in the National Register
☐ previously determined eligible by the National Register
☐ designated a National Historic Landmark
☐ recorded by Historic American Buildings
Survey # _____
☐ recorded by Historic American Engineering
Record # _____

☒ See continuation sheet

Primary location of additional data:

- ☒ State historic preservation office
☐ Other State agency
☐ Federal agency
☒ Local government
☐ University
☐ Other

Specify repository:

Massachusetts Historical Commission
Boston Landmarks Commission

10. Geographical Data

Acreage of property 9.5 Acres

UTM References

A 19 332400 4686350
Zone Easting Northing
C

B
Zone Easting Northing
D

☐ See continuation sheet

Verbal Boundary Description

The nominated property conforms to the city of Boston Tax Assessor's parcel number 3413, Ward 13, Precinct 3.

☐ See continuation sheet

Boundary Justification

The boundaries for this complex encompass the pumping station and its gate/filth hoist house, both of which have historically fallen within the boundaries of this complex. A third structure which covered the west Shaft is no longer within the complex's parcel but is connected to the parcel via underground property rights. The parcel of land belonging to the pumping station complex was once much larger but has since been subdivided.

☐ See continuation sheet

11. Form Prepared By

name/title Katherine L. Kottaridis, Boston Landmarks Commission, with Betsy Friedberg,
organization NR Director, Mass. Historical Commission date February 3, 1988
street & number 80 Boylston Street telephone 617-727-8470
city or town Boston state Massachusetts zip code 02116

**United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service****National Register of Historic Places
Continuation Sheet**Section number 8 Page 1Calf Pasture Pumping Station,
Boston, (Dorchester), Massachusetts

The Boston Improved Sewage Commission decided that the Old Harbor Point in Dorchester, with its salt marshes, low land values and remote location would be an ideal site for this main drainage center. The Old Harbor Point provided an intermediate route to Moon Island in Dorchester Bay, where sewage was to be stored until it could be released with the outgoing tide. In addition, it was close to the ocean, allowing coal-filled barges to have easy access to the building. Therefore, as planned, the Calf Pasture Pumping Station was built at the Old Harbor Point as the keystone of the sewage disposal network known as the Boston Improved Sewage System.

Between 1875 and 1883, a series of citywide intercepting sewers were built to receive sewage from existing pipes. The new sewage system, including two pumping engines cost \$6,551,064. The two great steam pumping engines were designed by Erasmus D. Leavitt of Cambridgeport, Massachusetts. Both engines raised sewage to 35 feet, a height which caused the sewage to flow to Moon Island by gravity. The Leavitt Pumps were the world's largest at the time, their fly wheels each weighing 72.5 tons and measuring 50 feet in diameter.

In April, 1882, the City Council was petitioned to allot extra funding to construct a pumphouse of fireproof quality to house this large equipment. The City Architect's department was given this commission and \$300,000 was allocated to the construction and design.

As designed, the layout consisted of an engine room, a coal room and two boiler rooms. The boiler rooms connected the larger engine and coal rooms, and thus created a square plan with a central courtyard. However, only the large engine room, one boiler room and a coal shed were built, hence the structure was shaped like an L rather than being square.

The structure had been designed to accommodate eight pumps with boilers. On January 1, 1884, when the station began pumping, only two pumps were in place. At that time, only three quarters of the engine room had been constructed. The northeast wing was added in 1905.

The plans for the Calf Pasture Pumping Station are dated August 1, 1881; when the structure was completed in 1883, several designed elements were not included. Originally the four turrets were designed with conical towers; however, they were built with castellated tops, most likely to accommodate a steam release ventilation system. The roof was more steeply pitched in the original design, and there was more detailing and articulation of the stone work.

At its completion in 1905, the Calf Pasture Pumping Station was a dramatic sight at Old Harbor Point. Its heavy proportions and castle-like silhouette dominated the slim peninsula. A gatehouse of compatible design and materials

(continued)

**United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service****National Register of Historic Places
Continuation Sheet**Section number 8 Page 2Calf Pasture Pumping Station,
Boston, (Dorchester), Massachusetts

was built at the northwest side of the pumping station to house gates that controlled the flow of sewage into the station. The gatehouse also contained the filth hoists which measured the height of the sewage coming from the pipes to the pumping station and also screened the sewage for solids.

Another smaller structure, an entrance to the West Shaft, lies east of the pumping stations, along water's edge. A very narrow peninsula once stretched from the pumping station to this small building, but the area has since been landfilled. The structure covers the west shaft, which was used as an access way to the underground tunnel that carried sewage from Calf Pasture to Moon Island. This entrance allowed workers on small barges to scrape sludge from the bottom of the tunnel.

The plan and elevation of the structure indicates the functions which occur inside. The roof height is lower where two Worthington pumps, used in case of heavy rainfall, were originally placed, and taller to accommodate the Leavitt pumps. The decorative castellated turrets served as ventilation units, and the many windows provided adequate lighting for all areas on the interior.

Stylistically, the Calf Pasture Pumping Station responds to the eclectic nature of architectural design in the late 19th century. The steeply pitched roof and crenellated turrets appear to be inspired by medieval architecture whose elements were often used in the Queen Anne style. Also evident is the influence of Henry Hobson Richardson's Romanesque Revival style. Although lacking the polychromatic stonework, the structure's predominant features including supporting arches, rough cut granite and the heavy proportions indicate Richardson's influence.

In his book American City Planning, Mel Scott wrote that by 1915, Boston "had park, water supply and sanitation systems unmatched in the entire nation." Within 35 years of its construction, the Calf Pasture Pumping Station was the keystone of a sewage disposal system that was a model for the rest of the country.

The architectural significance of the Pumping Station has often been overshadowed by the industrial importance of the complex, as Boston's first sewage pumping station. The designer of the pumping station, City Architect, George Albert Clough, had previously designed parts of the fresh water system for Chestnut Hill and Framingham.

Clough was born on March 27, 1843, in Blue Hill Maine. He attended Blue Hill Academy and worked as a draftsman for his father, Asa Clough, a shipbuilder. In 1863, after his father's death, Clough went to Boston to study architecture in the office of Snell and Gregerson. He stayed with the firm until 1869 when he opened his own office in the City of Boston. An 1897 directory of Maine

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United States Department of the Interior
National Park ServiceNational Register of Historic Places
Continuation SheetSection number 8 Page 3Calf Pasture Pumping Station,
Boston, (Dorchester), Massachusetts

business professionals, Men of Progress, wrote of Clough: "his lifelong and thorough training, combined with his natural aptitude for the profession, made him successful from the start."

Clough was appointed Boston's first City Architect in 1874, five years after leaving the firm of Snell and Gregerson. Under his ten-year direction of that office, Clough was responsible for an extensive number of public structures in Boston including the Latin and English High School, the Suffolk County Courthouse, the Prince School on Newbury Street, and the Congress Street Fire Station in the Fort Point Channel. He also provided the first plans accepted by the trustees of the Boston Public Library in 1880 and carried out the first restoration of the State House in 1881. Clough designed 85 school buildings in Maine, Massachusetts, New York and Pennsylvania.

The Calf Pasture Pumping Station appears to have brought an end to Clough's term as City Architect. City Council records consistently indicated that the construction of the pumping station should be carried out by laborers from the City of Boston. Clough created controversy when he dismissed all masons working on the project, claiming they were actually from Maine. He replaced them with men of his own choice; the City Council felt these men were poor craftsmen. The City Aldermen believed that the fired men were from Boston, and not Maine as Clough contended.

After being removed from his position as City Architect, Clough resumed his private practice with an office at 53 Tremont Street. He designed numerous public buildings and homes in Blue Hill, Maine. In 1905, Clough established a firm called Clough and Wardner, which designed several homes in Boston and Brookline. Clough died in Brookline, Massachusetts in January, 1911.

In 1940, one of the two Leavitt pumps cracked. As a result both the Leavitt and the Worthington pumps were dismantled and removed. The entire system was changed from steam power to electric power. Today, the interior of the Pumping Station does not retain any of its historically significant engineering equipment, although the gatehouse retains its original filth hoist apparatus. After the 1940s, the station no longer required the enormous space designed to house the pumps and the coal room was no longer necessary. When the roof of the coal room collapsed in 1946, this section was demolished. In 1954, after numerous break-ins, the building's windows were bricked up. Until 1968, Calf Pasture Pumping Station was the system's headworks, handling all of the city's sewage.

A new sewage treatment plant was constructed on Deer Island in Boston Harbor in 1968. A new headworks near Columbia Circle was constructed as the primary gatherer of sewage to be transported to the new treatment plant. The new system proved to be inadequate, requiring that Calf Pasture and Moon Island

(continued)

**United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service****National Register of Historic Places
Continuation Sheet**Section number 8 Page 4Calf Pasture Pumping Station,
Boston, (Dorchester), Massachusetts

remain open, on a stand-by basis, in case of heavy rains.

Although little maintenance has been done in recent years, the Calf Pasture Pumping Station is reported to be structurally sound.

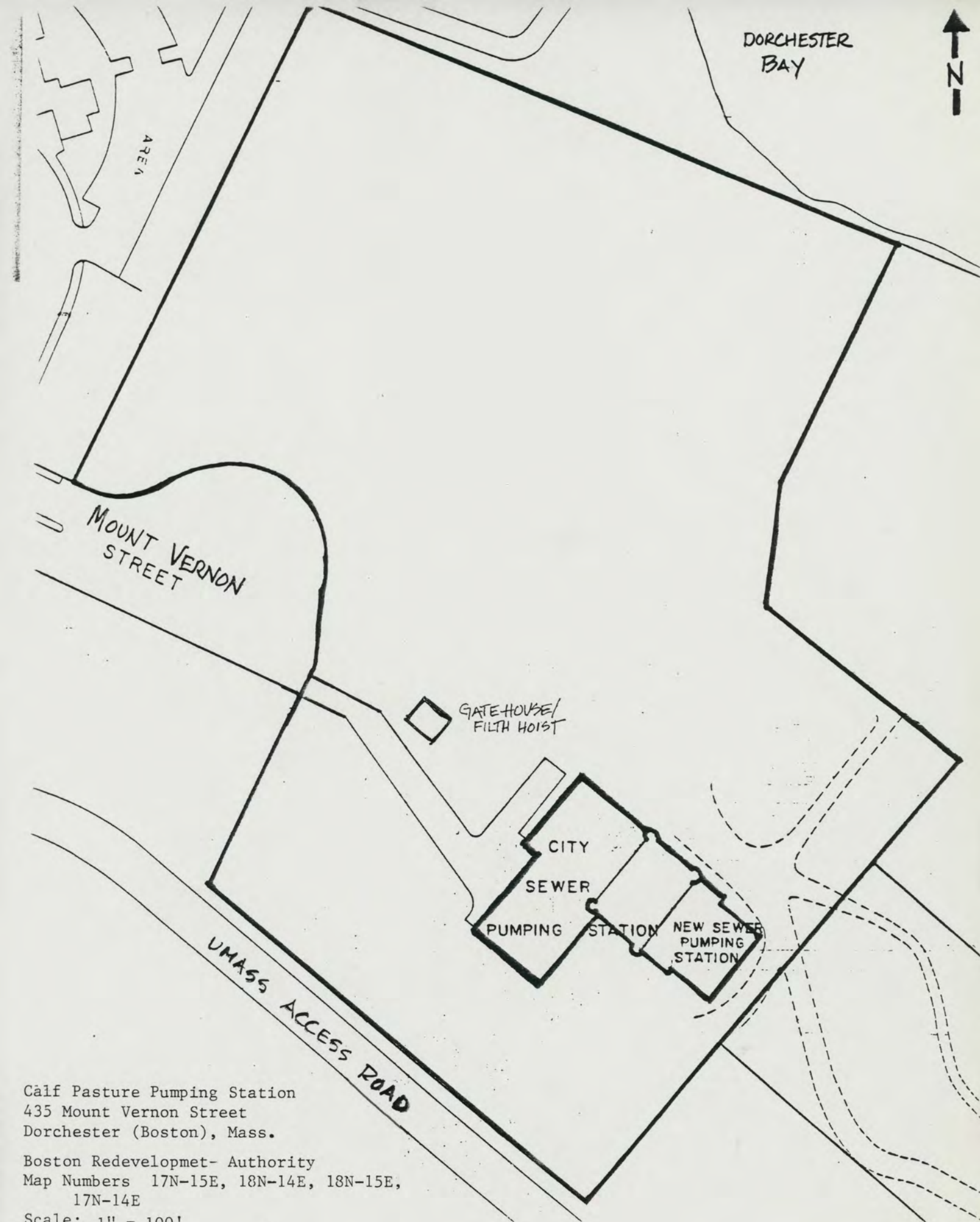
Administration of the pumping station passed from the Boston Improved Sewage Commission to the City's Street Department, later the Public Works Department. Sewage treatment and disposal were operated by Sewage Division of Public Works until 1977, when the Boston Water and Sewer Commission was established. At present, the Boston Water and Sewer Commission owns and operates Calf Pasture Pumping Station. With the new efforts of the Massachusetts Water Resources Authority to clean up Boston Harbor and update the Deer Island facilities, it is expected that the Calf Pasture Pumping Station will no longer be needed.

(end)

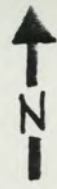
National Register of Historic Places Continuation Sheet

Calf Pasture Pumping Station,
Boston. (Dorchester). Massachusetts

Weidlinger Associates, Structural Evaluation of the Calf Pasture Pumping Station, Cambridge, 1983.



DORCHESTER
BAY



AREA

MOUNT VERNON
STREET

GATE HOUSE/
FILTH HOIST

CITY
SEWER
PUMPING STATION

NEW SEWER
PUMPING
STATION

UMASS ACCESS ROAD

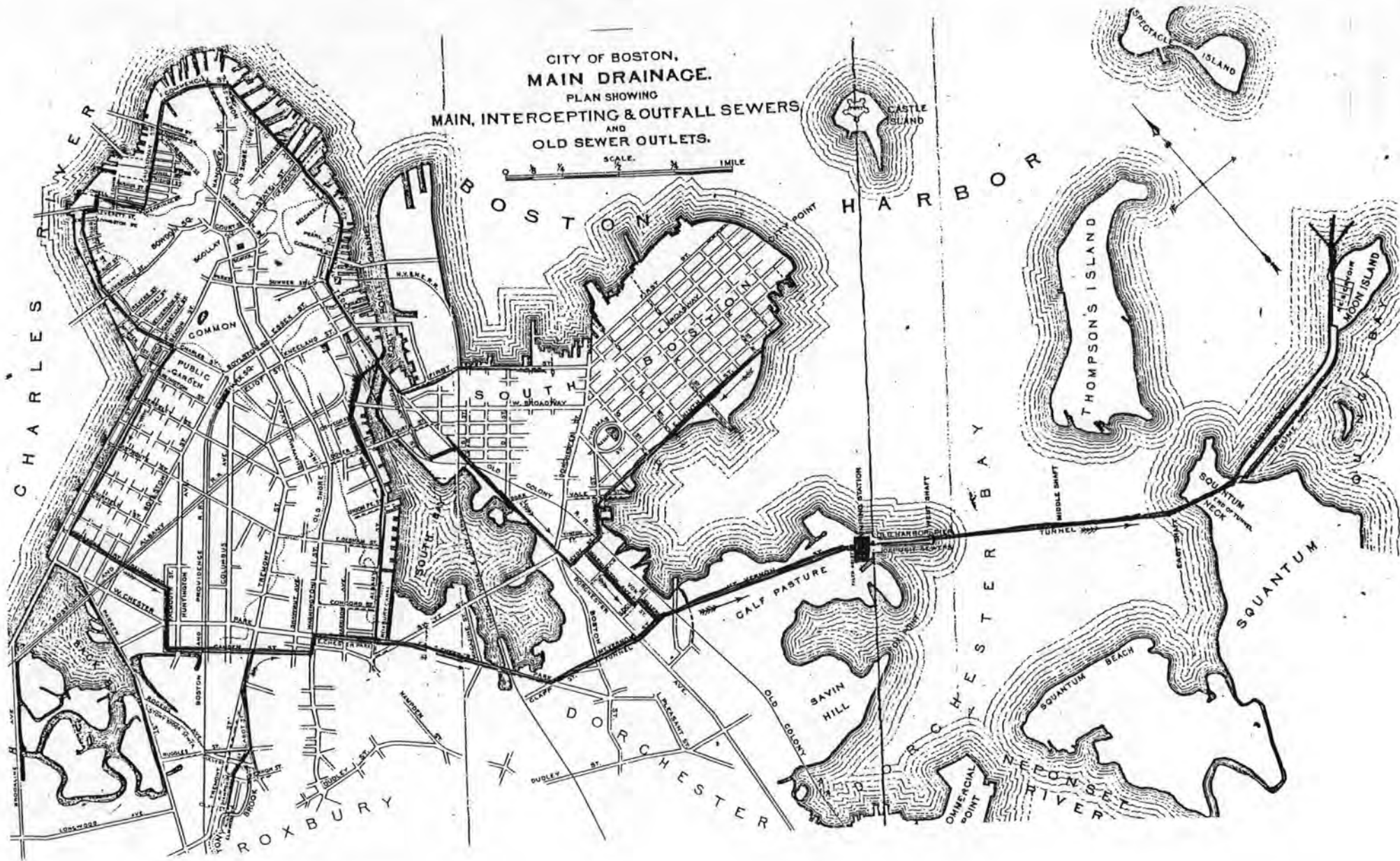
Calf Pasture Pumping Station
435 Mount Vernon Street
Dorchester (Boston), Mass.

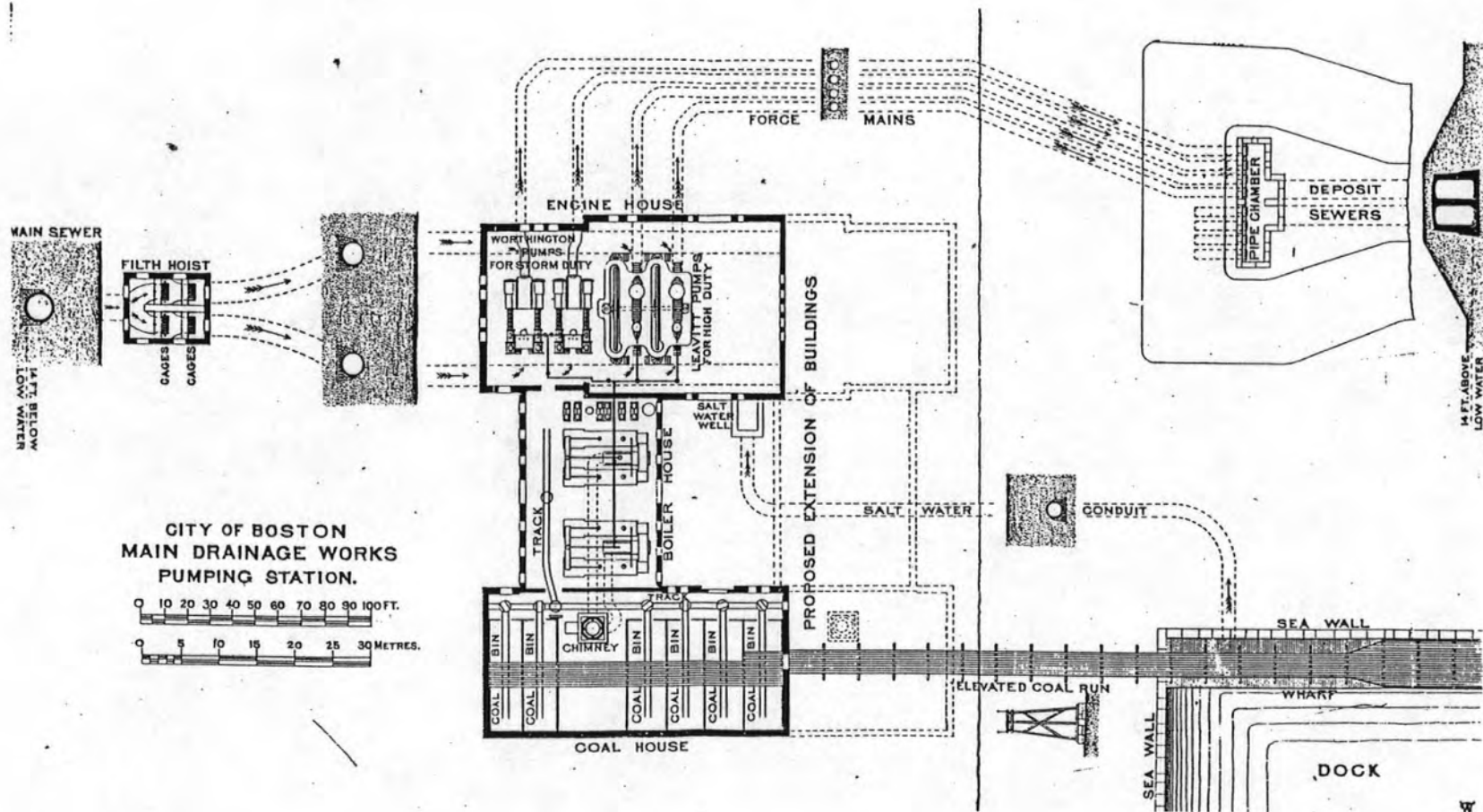
Boston Redevelopment Authority
Map Numbers 17N-15E, 18N-14E, 18N-15E,
17N-14E

Scale: 1" = 100'

CITY OF BOSTON.
MAIN DRAINAGE.
PLAN SHOWING
MAIN, INTERCEPTING & OUTFALL SEWERS
AND
OLD SEWER OUTLETS.

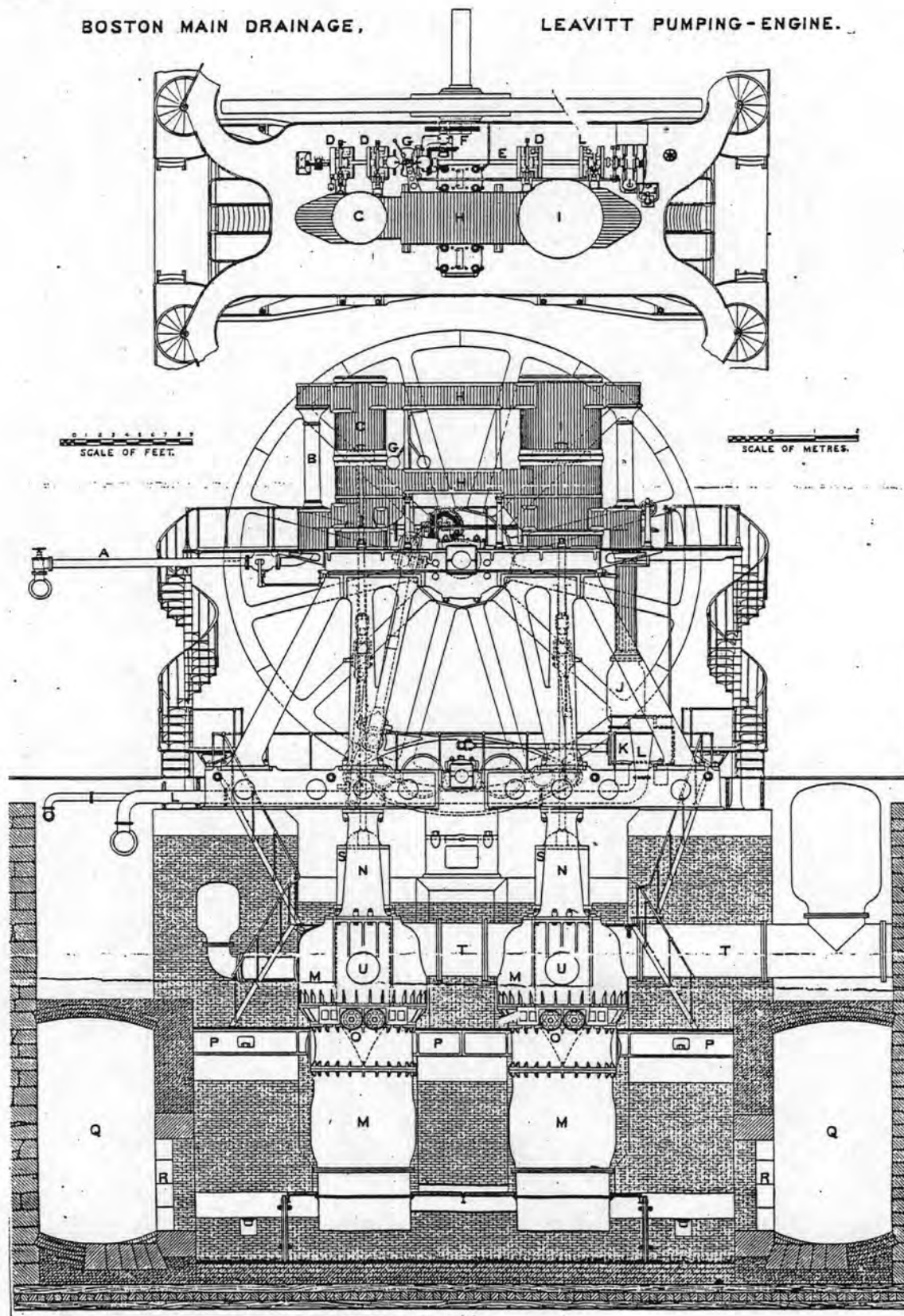
SCALE. 1 MILE





BOSTON MAIN DRAINAGE,

LEAVITT PUMPING-ENGINE.



United States Department of the Interior
National Park ServiceNational Register of Historic Places
Continuation Sheet

Section number _____ Page _____

SUPPLEMENTARY LISTING RECORD

NRIS Reference Number: 90001095Date Listed: 08/02/90Calf Pasture Pumping Station Complex
Property NameSuffolk
CountyMA
StateN/A

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.

Ja Burt R. Savage
Signature of the Keeper8/2/90
Date of Action

Amended Items in Nomination:

4. State/Federal Agency Certification:

As clarified when resubmitted, the property is owned by the Boston Water and Sewer Commission, a public entity; thus, under public ownership the requested action is on a nomination, not a determination of eligibility.

This information was confirmed with Ann Tait, MASHPO, by telephone.

DISTRIBUTION:

National Register property file
Nominating Authority (without nomination attachment)

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
EVALUATION/RETURN SHEET

Calf Pasture Pumping Station Complex
Suffolk County
MASSACHUSETTS

Working No. 3-20-90

Fed. Reg. Date: _____

Date Due: _____

Action: ☐ ACCEPT

☒ RETURN 3/22/90

☐ REJECT _____

Federal Agency: _____

- ☐ resubmission
☐ nomination by person or local government
☐ owner objection
☐ appeal

Substantive Review: ☐ sample ☐ request ☐ appeal ☐ NR decision

Reviewer's comments:

Didn't say no - not on pending list

Recom./Criteria _____

Reviewer _____

Discipline _____

Date _____

_____ see continuation sheet

Nomination returned for: ☒ technical corrections cited below
_____ substantive reasons discussed below

1. Name

2. Location

3. Classification

Category	Ownership Public Acquisition	Status Accessible	Present Use
----------	---------------------------------	----------------------	-------------

4. Owner of Property

Is BW & SC a private owner? Please clarify and indicate on form. If public, then this is not a DOE as now indicated, please review.

5. Location of Legal Description

6. Representation in Existing Surveys

Has this property been determined eligible?

☐ yes

☐ no

7. Description

Condition

☐ excellent

☐ good

☐ fair

☐ deteriorated

☐ ruins

☐ unexposed

Check one

☐ unaltered

☐ altered

Check one

☐ original site

☐ moved

date _____

Describe the present and original (if known) physical appearance

- ☐ summary paragraph
☐ completeness
☐ clarity
☐ alterations/integrity
☐ dates
☐ boundary selection

8. 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

9. Major Bibliographical References

10. Geographical Data

Acreage of nominated property _____

Quadrangle name _____

UTM References _____

Verbal boundary description and justification _____

11. Form Prepared By

12. State Historic Preservation Officer Certification

The evaluated significance of this property within the state is:

____ national ____ state ____ local

State Historic Preservation Officer signature

title

date

please sign + date

13. Other

- ☐ Maps
- ☐ Photographs
- ☐ Other

Questions concerning this nomination may be directed to _____

Signed

[Signature]

Date

3/22/90

Phone:

202-343-9550

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
EVALUATION/RETURN SHEET

REQUESTED ACTION: NOMINATION

PROPERTY Calf Pasture Pumping Station Complex
NAME:

MULTIPLE
NAME:

STATE & COUNTY: MASSACHUSETTS, Suffolk

DATE RECEIVED: 6/18/90 DATE OF PENDING LIST: 7/03/90
DATE OF 16TH DAY: 7/19/90 DATE OF 45TH DAY: 8/02/90
DATE OF WEEKLY LIST:

REFERENCE NUMBER: 90001095

NOMINATOR: STATE

REASONS FOR REVIEW:

APPEAL: N DATA PROBLEM: N LANDSCAPE: N LESS THAN 50 YEARS: N
OTHER: Y PDIL: N PERIOD: N PROGRAM UNAPPROVED: N
REQUEST: N SAMPLE: N SLR DRAFT: N NATIONAL: N

COMMENT WAIVER: N

☒ ACCEPT ☐ RETURN ☐ REJECT 8/2/90 DATE

ABSTRACT/SUMMARY COMMENTS:

Locally significant Richardsonian
Romanesque pumping station designed
by City architect George Clough and constructed
in 1883, with a 1905 addition. Historically
the complex is important as the City's first
sewage pumping station and the initial effort in
initial return issues have been establishing
addressed. a comprehensive
public sewage
treatment system.

RECOM./CRITERIA Accept A4C
REVIEWER Savage
DISCIPLINE Architectural History
DATE 8/2/90

DOCUMENTATION see attached comments Y ☒ N ☐ see attached SLR ☒ ☐

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 _____



Calf Pasture Pumping Station, West Shaft Cover
Dorchester (Boston), Massachusetts
Katherine L. Kottaridis
February 1988
Negative located at Boston
Landmarks Commission
camera facing east



Calf Pasture Pumping Station, 435 Mt. Vernon St.
Dorchester (Boston), Massachusetts

Katherine L. Kottaridis

February 1988

Negative Located at Boston

Landmarks Commission

camera facing ~~east~~ north



Calf Pasture Pumping Station, 435 Mt. Vernon St.
Dorchester (Boston), Massachusetts

Katherine L. Kottaridis

February 1988

Negative Located at Boston

Landmarks Commission

Interior Ceiling



Calf Pasture Pumping Station, 435 Mt. Vernon St.
Dorchester (Boston), Massachusetts

Katherine L. Kottaridis

February 1988

Negative located at Boston

Landmarks Commission

Interior, Camera facing southwest-



Calf Pasture Pumping Station Gatehouse/Filthruist
Dorchester (Boston), Massachusetts

Katherine L. Kottaridis

February 1988

Negative located at Boston

Landmarks Commission

camera facing northwest



CALF PASTURE PUMPING STATION, 435 MOUNT VERNON ST.
DORCHESTER (BOSTON), MASSACHUSETTS
KATHERINE L. KOTARIDIS
FEBRUARY 1988

NEGATIVE LOCATED AT BOSTON

LANDMARKS COMMISSION

INTERIOR, CAMERA FACING SOUTHWEST



CALF PASTURE PUMPING STATION, 435 Mt Vernon St.
Dorchester (Boston), Massachusetts

Katherine L. Kottaridis

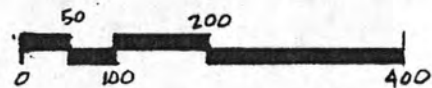
February 1988

Negative located at Boston

Landmarks Commission

camera facing east

-VICINITY PLAN-
CALF PASTURE
PUMPING STATION



2 ←

OLD HARBOR

JFK LIBRARY

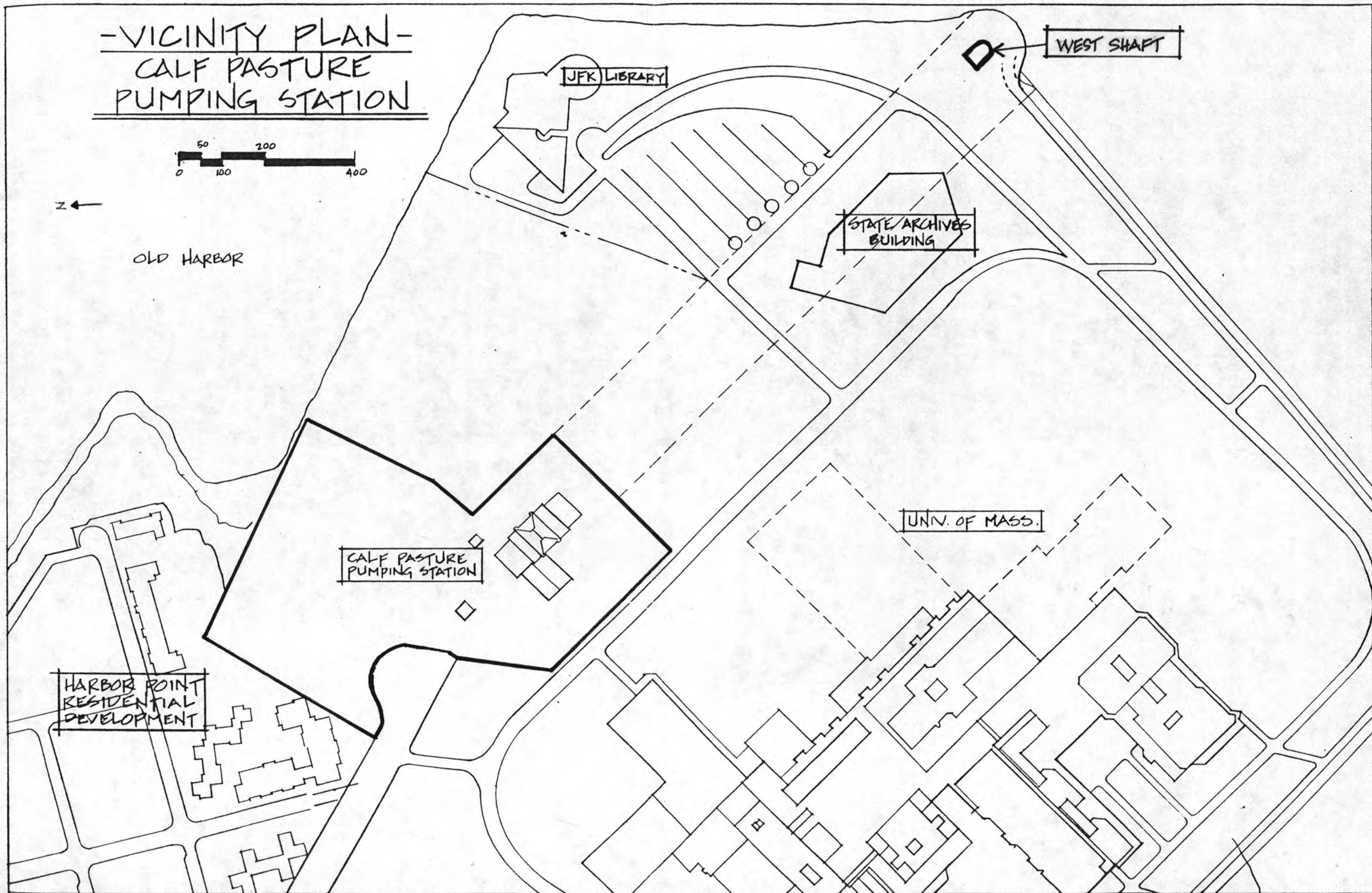
WEST SHAFT

STATE ARCHIVES
BUILDING

UNN. OF MASS.

CALF PASTURE
PUMPING STATION

HARBOR POINT
RESIDENTIAL
DEVELOPMENT



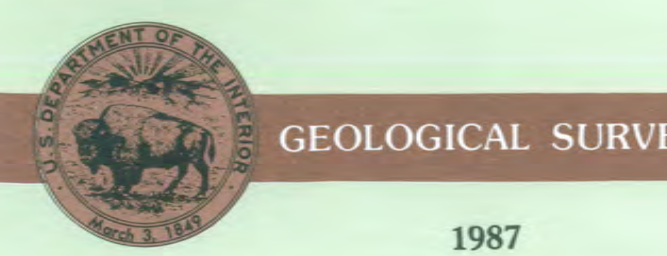
Boston South MASSACHUSETTS

1:25 000-scale metric
topographic map



7.5 X 15 MINUTE QUADRANGLE
SHOWING

- Contours and elevations
in meters
- Highways, roads and other
manmade structures
- Water features
- Woodland areas
- Geographic names



Produced by the United States Geological Survey
in cooperation with Massachusetts Department
of Public Works
Control by USGS, NOS/NOAA, and Commonwealth of
Massachusetts agencies
Compiled by photogrammetric methods from aerial photographs
taken 1978. Field checked 1979. Map edited 1987
Supersedes Newton and Boston South 1:25,000-scale
maps dated 1970
Selected hydrographic data compiled from NOS charts 13270 (1982)
and 13272 (1982). This information is not intended for navigational purposes
Projection and 1000-meter grid: Universal
Transverse Mercator, zone 19
10,000-foot grid ticks based on Massachusetts coordinate
system, maintained since
1927 North American Datum
To place on the predicted North American Datum 1983,
move the projection lines 5 meters south and
42 meters west as shown by dashed corner ticks
There may be private inclusions within the boundaries of
the National or State reservations shown on this map
CONTOUR INTERVAL 3 METERS
NATIONAL GEODETIC VERTICAL DATUM of 1929
CONTROL ELEVATIONS SHOWN TO THE NEAREST 0.1 METER
OTHER ELEVATIONS SHOWN TO THE NEAREST 0.5 METER
DEPTH CURVES AND SOUNDINGS IN METERS
DATUM IS MEAN LOW WATER
THE RELATIONSHIP BETWEEN THE TWO DATUMS IS VARIABLE
SHORELINE SHOWN REPRESENTS THE APPROXIMATE LINE
OF MEAN HIGH WATER
THE MEAN RANGE OF TIDE IS APPROXIMATELY 2.5 METERS
THIS MAP COMPLES WITH NATIONAL MAP ACCURACY STANDARDS

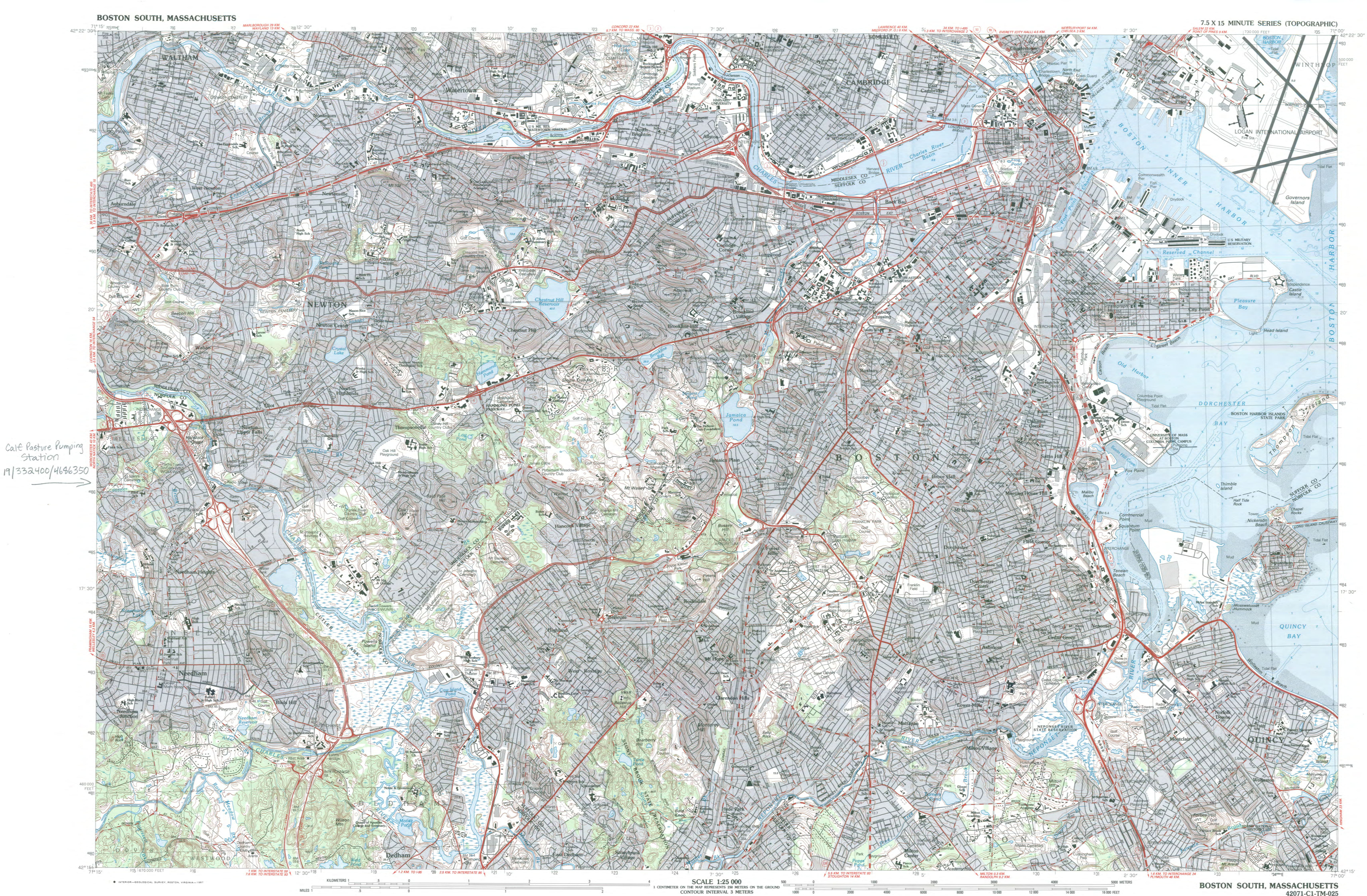
CONVERSION TABLE		DECLINATION DIAGRAM	ADJOINING MAPS											
Meters	Feet		1	2	3									
1	3.2808		1	2	3									
2	6.5617		4	5	6									
3	9.8425		7	8	9									
4	13.1234													
5	16.4042													
6	19.6850													
7	22.9659													
8	26.2467													
9	29.5276													
10	32.8084													
To convert meters to feet multiply by 3.2808		UTM grid convergence (EN) and 1983 magnetic declination (MN) at center of map Diagram is approximate	<table><tr><td>1</td><td>2</td><td>3</td></tr><tr><td>4</td><td>5</td><td>6</td></tr><tr><td>7</td><td>8</td><td>9</td></tr></table> 1 Maynard 2 Boston North 3 Lynn 4 Framingham 5 Fall 6 Medfield 7 Norwood 8 Weymouth			1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9
1	2	3												
4	5	6												
7	8	9												
To convert feet to meters multiply by 0.3048														

FOR SALE BY U.S. GEOLOGICAL SURVEY
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Topographic Map Symbols

- Primary highway, hard surface
- Secondary highway, hard surface
- Light-duty road, hard or improved surface
- Unimproved road, trail
- Route marker: Interstate, U. S., State
- Railroad: standard gage; narrow gage
- Bridges: drawbridge
- Footbridge; overpass; underpass
- Built-up area: only selected landmark buildings shown
- House; barn; church; school; large structure
- Boundary
- National, with monument
- State
- County, parish
- Civil township, precinct, section
- Incorporated city, village, town
- National or State reservation; small park
- Land grant with monument; found section corner
- U. S. public lands survey; range, township, section
- Range, township; section line: location approximate
- Fence or field line
- Power transmission line, located tower
- Dam; dam with lock
- Cemetery; grave
- Campground; picnic area; U. S. location monument
- Windmill; water well; spring
- Mine shaft; prospect; adit or mine opening
- Control: horizontal station; vertical station; spot elevation
- Contour: index; intermediate; supplementary; depression
- Distorted surface: strip mine, levee, sand
- Soundings; depth curve
- Perennial lake and stream; intermittent lake and stream
- Rapids, large and small; falls, large and small
- Submerged marsh; marsh, swamp
- Land subject to controlled inundation; woodland
- Scrub; mangrove
- Orchard; vineyard

A pamphlet describing topographic maps is available on request



Catt Pasture Pumping
Station
191332400/4646350

SCALE 1:25 000
1 CENTIMETER ON THE MAP REPRESENTS 250 METERS ON THE GROUND
CONTOUR INTERVAL 3 METERS

BOSTON SOUTH, MASSACHUSETTS
42071-C1-TM-025
1987

Office of the Secretary of State, Michael J. Connolly, *Secretary*



RECEIVED

JUN 18 1990

NATIONAL
REGISTER

June 8, 1990

Carol Shull
National Register of Historic Places
Department of the Interior
National Park Service
P.O. Box 37127
Washington, DC 20013-7127

Dear Ms. Shull:

Please find the Calf Pasture Pumping Station Complex National Register Nomination which was returned on 3/22/90. All corrections have been made for resubmission.

Sincerely,

Betsy Friedberg

Betsy Friedberg
National Register Director
Massachusetts Historical Commission

Enclosure:

**Boston Water
Sewer Commis**

425 Summer Street
Boston, MA 02210-
617-330-9400
Fax 617-330-5167

*Please discard the previously
sent letter - we inadvertently
sent an un-notarized
copy. Thank you.*



JUL 19 1990

*If there are any questions, please
call Elisa Speranza at
617-330-9400 X414*

July 13, 1990

Ms. Carol D. Shull
Chief of Registration
National Register
National Park Service
P.O. Box 37127
Washington, DC 20013-7127

RE: Nomination of the Calf Pasture Pumping Station Complex
435 Mount Vernon St., Boston, Suffolk County, MA

Dear Ms. Shull:

This letter is in response to the notice published in the Federal Register, Vol. 55, No. 128 dated July 3, 1990 regarding the nomination of the Calf Pasture Pumping Station for listing in the National Register.

The Boston Water and Sewer Commission (the BWSC) is the owner of the subject pumping station, commonly referred to as "Calf Pasture." After reviewing the situation at great length, the BWSC has reluctantly concluded that it must oppose the proposed nomination.

Pursuant to statute, the BWSC is the owner and operator of the City of Boston's water and sewer systems. Much of our property may be endowed with historical significance, and we are dedicated to its preservation and enhancement, as appropriate. However, we believe that listing Calf Pasture in the National Register, and thereby the State Register, is not advisable at this time.

Although the BWSC owns Calf Pasture, the facility is part of the regional sewerage collection, treatment, and disposal system which is owned and operated by the Massachusetts Water Resources Authority (the MWRA). When the MWRA's Deer Island wastewater treatment plant either breaks down or becomes overloaded, a portion of the flow bound for the plant is diverted to Calf Pasture and pumped out to nearby Moon Island, where it is released through a combined sewer overflow into Boston Harbor.

**Boston Water and
Sewer Commission**

425 Summer Street
Boston, MA 02210-1700
617-330-9400
Fax 617-330-5167



JUL 19 1990

July 13, 1990

Ms. Carol D. Shull
Chief of Registration
National Register
National Park Service
P.O. Box 37127
Washington, DC 20013-7127

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Because of the deleterious effects these discharges have on water quality in Boston Harbor and Quincy Bay, the BWSC has done a great deal of work on its sewerage system in the past several years. As a result of various system improvements, the Commission now believes that operation of Calf Pasture is no longer necessary.

The MWRA, however, still needs the pumping station for use as an emergency bypass and in peak volume situations. Accordingly, the BWSC has proposed to the MWRA the possibility of transferring operating control, maintenance and repair, or even ultimately ownership of Calf Pasture. This proposal is still under discussion between the two agencies.

Complicating the issues surrounding the future of Calf Pasture is the pendency of federal court litigation concerning the pollution of Boston Harbor. Both the MWRA and BWSC are defendants in a federal court case (United States v. Metropolitan District Commission, et al., D.Mass. Civil Action No. 85-489-MA) aimed at cleaning up Boston Harbor. A principal focus of the pending action is the elimination or treatment of combined sewer overflows (CSOs) such as those emanating from the use of Calf Pasture.

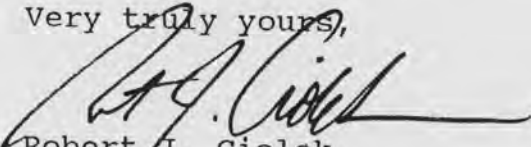
The MWRA is currently finalizing an extensive Facilities Plan and Environmental Impact Report to determine the best method of addressing combined sewer overflows. Calf Pasture may have a role to play in the combined sewer overflow remediation plan, or the MWRA may conclude that the pumping station has outlived its useful life and cannot be utilized.

Listing Calf Pasture on the National Register at this juncture would unduly interfere with the delicate negotiations presently underway between the BWSC and the MWRA. Although it may be appropriate to consider listing the pumping station in the future, such an action would be premature now, and could unnecessarily complicate the critically-important facilities planning process.

The BWSC respectfully requests that the nomination of the Calf Pasture Pumping Station Complex be denied at this time. We would be happy to answer any questions you may have and we thank you for this opportunity to comment.

Very truly yours,

Signed and sworn to before me
this 13th day of July, 1990


Robert J. Ciolek
Executive Director


Notary Public

My commission expires: April 24, 1992



MASSACHUSETTS WATER RESOURCES AUTHORITY

Charlestown Navy Yard
100 First Avenue
Boston, Massachusetts 02129

Telephone:
(617) 242-6000

RECEIVED
JUL 18 1990

NATIONAL
REGISTER

July 17, 1990

Ms. Carol D. Shull
Chief of Registration
National Register
National Park Service
1100 L Street, N.W.
Washington, D.C. 20005

RE: Nomination of the Calf Pasture Pumping Station Complex
435 Mount Vernon Street, Boston, Suffolk County, MA

Dear Ms. Shull:

This letter is in response to the notice published in the Federal Register, Vol. 55, No. 128, dated July 3, 1990, regarding the nomination of the Calf Pasture Pumping Station for listing in the National Register.

The Massachusetts Water Resources Authority (MWRA) is a regional provider of water and sewer services to approximately 50 communities in the greater Boston metropolitan area, including the City of Boston. The Boston Water and Sewer Commission (BWSC), the City's water and sewer agency, is the present owner of the Calf Pasture Pumping Station, which is used to disinfect and pump combined sewage overflows (CSOs). The MWRA recognizes the significance of the Calf Pasture Pumping Station as an example of the major metropolitan sewerage works constructed in the latter part of the nineteenth century. However, for the near term, the MWRA has serious concerns about the implications of listing the Calf Pasture site on the National Register. Some of these concerns are addressed in the BWSC's comment letter on this issue.

A brief discussion of the background for CSO planning may be helpful in understanding the MWRA's short term concerns regarding the pump station. The MWRA has agreed in the federal court suit known as "the Boston Harbor Case" to take responsibility for controlling CSO discharges into Boston Harbor. The MWRA is about

to complete a facilities plan for long term control of CSO discharges, which will involve the construction of CSO control system including deep tunnels for storage and two pump stations.

The MWRA had considered using land near the Calf Pasture Pump Station for one of these pump stations. However, the MWRA has identified an alternative site, which has advantages over the Calf Pasture site, and it now appears unlikely that it will propose siting a new pump station near the existing facility.

Moreover, it is also highly unlikely, under any circumstances, that the MWRA would propose using the existing pump station itself to house the proposed new pump station even if locating the facility at the alternative site were not feasible. This is because the cost of rehabilitating the facility consistent with its previous character is likely to be prohibitive and to cause undue hardship to the MWRA's ratepayers, who must fund construction of new CSO facilities. Put simply, it would be much cheaper to build a new facility, with architecture to compliment and enhance the historic station, than to use and restore the existing building. Since there are other potential uses for the structure, the MWRA could not justify an investment in historic restoration in times of limited to nonexistent federal grants.

This leads to the MWRA's short term concerns. As noted above, the Calf Pasture Pumping Station is one component of existing, but inadequate, CSO treatment facilities in Boston and other communities. The MWRA provides the BWSC with partial support for the operation of the pump station as a local CSO facility as part of its short term CSO control program. The MWRA's proposed CSO control system will not be operational for some time, possibly not before the year 2000. It is possible that the existing Calf Pasture Pump Station may be operated for minimal CSO control during this interim period. However, continued operation of the station for even a limited period would require substantial upgrading of the existing equipment in the station.

Consideration of this temporary upgrade has not taken into account extraordinary costs that would be associated with a historic preservation or rehabilitation of the building. Even before considering such costs, the MWRA is concerned that even a functional upgrade of the facility would be too costly to be justified. In addition, historic rehabilitation is not necessary for the pump station to continue to operate. Further deterioration of the building certainly must be prevented by the owner, but the cost of rehabilitating the property is out of all proportion with its present, temporary value as a CSO treatment

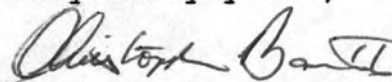
Ms. Carol D. Shull
July 17, 1990
Page 3

facility. It would be unreasonable to place the financial burden of such a rehabilitation on the ratepayers of the present owner of the pump station, the BWSC, or upon those of the MWRA, were the MWRA to agree to underwrite the temporary upgrade.

In summary, the MWRA supports preservation of the Calf Pasture Pump Station. However, MWRA does not support its listing on the National Register at this time. In any event, historic rehabilitation should not be required until a long term use for the facility is identified.

Thank you for the opportunity to submit comments on this nomination. Please contact me, at (617) 241-6002, if you have any questions.

Very truly yours,

A handwritten signature in dark ink, appearing to read "Christopher Barnett". The signature is fluid and cursive, with the first name "Christopher" written in a larger, more prominent script than the last name "Barnett".

Christopher J. Barnett
Technical Manager

**Boston Water and
Sewer Commission**

425 Summer Street
Boston, MA 02210-1700
617-330-9400
Fax 617-330-5167

11/8/89 read MHC
@mb
(P)



BFL
NR file

November 6, 1989

BY HAND

Ms. Valerie A. Talmage
Executive Director
Massachusetts Historical Commission
80 Boylston Street
Boston, MA 02116

Re: Calf Pasture Pump Station
435 Mount Vernon Street
Dorchester, MA

Dear Ms. Talmage:

The Boston Water and Sewer Commission ("BWSC") is the owner of a pumping station located at 435 Mount Vernon Street, in Dorchester, that is known as the "Calf Pasture Pumping Station" and more commonly referred to as "Calf Pasture". By a letter dated September 6, 1989, you informed BWSC that Calf Pasture would be considered by the Massachusetts Historical Commission ("MHC") for nomination to the National Register of Historic Places. BWSC understands that the MHC meeting to consider the proposed nomination will be held at 1:00 p.m. on Wednesday, November 8, 1989. I ask that this statement be made a part of the record of that meeting.

After having reviewed Calf Pasture's present situation in great depth, BWSC has reluctantly concluded that we must oppose the proposed nomination. Pursuant to statute, BWSC is the owner and operator of the City of Boston's water and sewer systems. We recognize that much of our property may be endowed with historical significance, and we are dedicated to the preservation and enhancement, as appropriate, of such property. We suspect, however, that neither MHC nor the Boston Landmarks Commission (which we have been told proposed Calf Pasture's nomination) is aware of the special factual circumstances of the facility. We believe that those circumstances are inconsistent with nominating Calf Pasture to the National Register and thereby listing it on the State Register at present.

Although BWSC owns Calf Pasture, the facility is really used in the regional sewerage collection, treatment, and disposal system that is operated by the Massachusetts Water Resources Authority (the "MWRA"). When the MWRA's Deer Island sewage treatment plant either breaks down or becomes overloaded, a portion of the flow bound for Deer Island is diverted to Calf



Ms. Valerie A. Talmage
November 6, 1989
Page 2

Pasture and pumped out to Moon Island, where it is released through a combined sewer overflow outfall into Boston Harbor. Over the past decade, concern has been expressed that Calf Pasture pumping, which necessitates Moon Island discharges, has a deleterious effect on shellfish flats and on water quality in Boston Harbor and in Quincy Bay. BWSC has therefore done a great deal of work on its sewerage system, to arrive at the point where BWSC now believes that further operation of Calf Pasture is no longer necessary, from BWSC's standpoint.

The MWRA, however, is still in need of Calf Pasture, for use as an emergency bypass and in peak volume situations, when Deer Island is simply unable to accept all the sewage that should be routed to it. Accordingly, BWSC has recently proposed to the MWRA the possibility of transferring operating control, maintenance and repair, or even ultimately ownership of Calf Pasture. Although discussions of this topic are underway between BWSC and the MWRA, we do not expect a resolution until some time in 1990, at the earliest.

The principal reason why it will take so long to determine Calf Pasture's future is the pendency of federal court litigation concerning the pollution of Boston Harbor. Both the MWRA and BWSC are defendants in a federal court case (United States v. Metropolitan District Commission, et al., D.Mass. Civil Action No. 85-489-MA) aimed at cleaning up Boston Harbor. It has been alleged that combined sewer overflows are a major factor contributing to the pollution of Boston Harbor, and a principal focus of the pending action is the elimination or treatment of combined sewer overflows such as those emanating from the use of Calf Pasture. There has never been a consensus as to the best method for collecting and treating combined sewer overflow. The federal court has therefore required the MWRA to fund sweeping and highly technical "facilities planning" aimed at determining precisely how to treat combined sewer overflows throughout the MWRA sewer district.

The facilities planning process now underway will have a major impact on the future of Calf Pasture. The final facilities plan will determine whether Calf Pasture has a role to play in the combined sewer overflow collection and treatment to be undertaken in the greater Boston metropolitan area. The final facilities plan may conclude that Calf Pasture has outlived its useful life and cannot be utilized in the pollution abatement activities



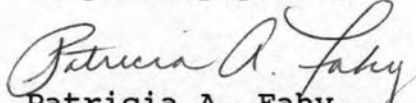
Ms. Valerie A. Talmage
November 6, 1989
Page 3

mapped out in the plan. If so, the plan may also conclude that the Calf Pasture site is needed for other, state-of-the-art collection or treatment facilities.

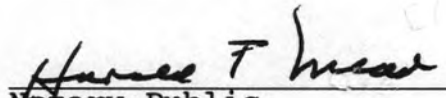
To list Calf Pasture on the State Register at this juncture would unduly interfere with the delicate negotiations presently underway between BWSC and the MWRA and with the facilities planning process. If Calf Pasture is to remain a vital part of the greater metropolitan sewerage system, then it may later become appropriate to consider its listing. But such a listing would be premature now and could unnecessarily complicate facilities planning that must already address issues of abnormal complexity and great public importance.

In sum, BWSC asks that MHC either reject or decline to act on the proposed Calf Pasture nomination. We believe that the matter can be far more profitably considered once the final Boston Harbor combined sewer overflow facilities plan has been published next year.

Very truly yours,


Patricia A. Fahy
Acting Executive Director

Signed and sworn to before me
this 6TH day of November, 1989



Notary Public
MY COMMISSION EXPIRES
6-15-95