

Massachusetts Cultural Resource Information System

Scanned Record Cover Page

Inventory No:	SBR.921
Historic Name:	Sudbury Reservoir
Common Name:	
Address:	Sudbury Reservoir
City/Town:	Southborough
Village/Neighborhood:	
Local No:	6-1
Year Constructed:	c 1893
Architect(s):	
Architectural Style(s):	
Use(s):	Other Engineering; Other Recreational; Other Water Related
Significance:	Community Planning; Engineering; Politics Government; Recreation
Area(s):	
Designation(s):	
Building Materials(s):	



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Commonwealth of Massachusetts
Massachusetts Historical Commission
220 Morrissey Boulevard, Boston, Massachusetts 02125
www.sec.state.ma.us/mhc

This file was accessed on:

Saturday, July 09, 2016 at 5:20: PM

FORM A = AREA

MASSACHUSETTS HISTORICAL COMMISSION
 294 Washington Street, Boston, MA. 02108

Form numbers in this area	Area letter
6-2 6-6	6-1
6-3 6-7	
6-4 6-8	
6-5 6-9	

Town Marlborough, Southborough

Name of area (if any) Sudbury Reservoir

General date or period 1893-1898

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) and indicate north. (Attach a separate sheet if space here is not sufficient)

SEE U.S.G.S. MAPS

Recorded by M.H.Bowers

Organization Louis Berger & Associates

Date February 1984

ARCHITECTURAL SIGNIFICANCE of area. (Describe physical setting, general character, and architecturally significant structures).

Sudbury Reservoir is the largest of eight in the Sudbury system. Its 7.2 billion capacity is contained in a surface area of 2 square miles, with an average depth of 19 feet. Most of the reservoir lies within Southborough, with the land around it ranging from heavily developed to rural. The shores, lined with gravel, are edged in most areas by conifers to present a parklike landscape. Local roads are carried across the reservoir on earthen embankments, with small concrete and granite culverts or bridges to permit flow of water from one side of each embankment to the other. At the southeast edge is Sudbury Dam, with an associated complex of structures. The Wachusett Aqueduct open channel flows into the reservoir from the west, punctuated at intervals by regulating dams and small concrete and granite arch bridges. Due to its size, Sudbury Reservoir is not easily comprehended as a single entity. Certain features can be so comprehended, in particular, the Marlboro Filter Beds, Wachusett Aqueduct Open Channel, and the complex of structures at Sudbury Dam.

HISTORICAL SIGNIFICANCE of area. (Explain development of area, what caused it, and how it affected community; be specific).

Sudbury Reservoir was begun in 1894 under the Boston Water Board as the largest of eight reservoirs in the Sudbury Watershed. It was originally intended as a collection and storage reservoir, but, with construction of Wachusett Aqueduct (1898), it also became a receiving reservoir for water from the Nashua River in Clinton. Construction of Sudbury Reservoir was taken over by the Metropolitan Water Board in 1896 and carried to completion two years later. Associated construction included the Marlboro Filter Beds, to purify water from Marlboro and Walker Brooks before it entered the reservoir; and the relocation of several roads and a Central Mass. Railroad Line. The greatest local impact appears to have been on the properties of Joseph Burnett's Deerfoot Farm, one of the largest in the area, which specialized in cattle breeding.

BIBLIOGRAPHY and/or REFERENCES

Metropolitan Water Board, 3rd Annual Report (1898): 63-72.
 Boston Water Supply Dept., 18th Annual Report (1893): 7-8.
 Boston Water Commissioner, 1st Annual Report (1896): 38.

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