

Massachusetts Cultural Resource Information System

Scanned Record Cover Page

Inventory No:	WSN.N
Historic Name:	Norumbega Reservoir
Common Name:	
Address:	
City/Town:	Weston
Village/Neighborhood:	
Local No:	17-1, 19-2
Year Constructed:	
Architect(s):	Densmore, LeClear and Robbins
Architectural Style(s):	
Use(s):	Other Water Related; Utilities Other
Significance:	Architecture; Community Planning; Engineering; Politics Government
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

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FORM A - AREA

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

WSN. N

Form numbers in this area	Area letter
19-3	19-1
19-4	19-2



Town Weston

Name of area (if any) _____

Norumbega Reservoir

General date or period 1938-40

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)

Recorded by M.H. Bowers

Organization Louis Berger & Assoc.

Date May 1985

(Staple additional sheets here)

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

Norumbega Reservoir is a high-level equalizing reservoir that is used to maintain a constant flow of water in the Hultman Aqueduct. The main basin (Norumbega Reservoir) was created by construction of five earthen dikes, and has an area of about 50 acres and a capacity of 150 million gallons. Schenk's Pond, which serves as a trim weir, is a smaller basin, some 21 feet lower than the reservoir proper, that was developed in a natural pond of that name. Between the two basins is an earthen dike, on which is located a granite, concrete and steel gatehouse, designed by the Boston firm of Densmore, LeClear & Robbins, that contains screens and a chlorination facility. A chlorine storage building is located on the south edge of Schenk's Pond. The reservoir area is naturalistically landscaped with conifers.

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

Norumbega Reservoir is an integral part of the Hultman Aqueduct, built 1938-40 to bypass the Sudbury Reservoir and Aqueduct. The aqueduct is now part of a pressure system extending from Wachusett Reservoir into Boston and adjacent communities. Norumbega Reservoir is the central point for chlorination in the water supply system. Screens in the gatehouse are used to filter out debris and fish that may be carried in the aqueduct from Wachusett Reservoir.

Hultman Aqueduct was built under the authority of the Metropolitan District Water Supply Commission, by contractor Carlo Bianchi & Co., Framingham.

BIBLIOGRAPHY and/or REFERENCES

- Metropolitan District Water Supply Commission Annual Report 14 (1939): 31.
Kennison, Karl R., "The Hydraulics of the New Pressure Aqueduct of the Metropolitan Water District," Journal of the Boston Society of Civil Engineers 29 (1942): 1-23.

WSN.N 931

Massachusetts Historical Commission
80 Boylston Street
Boston, Massachusetts 02116

Community Property Address
Weston Norumbega Reservoir

Area (s) Form No.

19-1	19-2
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NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES CRITERIA STATEMENT FORM

Check all that apply:

- Individually eligible
- Eligible only in a historic district
- Contributing to a ~~potential~~ historic district
- Potential historic district

Criteria: A B C D

Criteria Considerations: A B C D E F G

Statement of Significance by Boston Affiliates, Inc. 9/94

The criteria that are checked in the above sections must be justified here.

The Norumbega Reservoir (1938-40) on the Hultman Aqueduct contributes to the significance of the Water Supply System of Metropolitan Boston Thematic Resources Area, which comprises dams, aqueducts and distributive systems of the Metropolitan Boston water supply system. At the time the survey of the system was carried out in 1985, the Hultman Aqueduct was not yet fifty years old, and therefore was not eligible for listing on the National Register. Since the Hultman was conceived of and built as an integral part of the metropolitan water supply system, and since it is now more than fifty years old, the Hultman Aqueduct and its components should now be considered eligible as a Linear District contributing to the significance of the Water Supply System of Metropolitan Boston Thematic Resource Area.

The Norumbega Reservoir retains integrity of location, design, setting, materials, workmanship, feeling and association, and meets Criteria A and C of the National Register at the state and local levels.