



Name of Property: Brookline Reservoir of the Cochituate Aqueduct
City, State: Brookline, Massachusetts
Period of Significance: 1848
NHL Criteria: 4
NHL Theme: VI. Expanding Science and Technology
 2. Technological applications

Previous Recognition: 1980 National Register of Historic Places, Town Green Historic District (contributing resource)
 1985 National Register of Historic Places, Reservoir Park, Brookline MRA
 1989 National Register of Historic Places, Water Supply System for Metropolitan Boston MPS
 2013 Historic American Engineering Record, # HAER MASS, 11-BROK,4-

National Historic Context: XVIII. Technology (Engineering and Invention)
 K. Water and Sewerage

NHL Significance:

- The Brookline Reservoir, with its Principal Gatehouse and small Influent Gatehouse, represents one of the most publicly-accessible and architecturally-distinguished components of early nineteenth-century public water supply technology.
- Now a public park, the Brookline Reservoir is significant as an original element of the Cochituate Aqueduct, a publicly-financed, universally-available, pure water supply from distant, safeguarded watersheds.

- The Principal Gatehouse is important for the technical development of wrought iron as a structural and building envelope material in architecture, and the cultural acceptance of iron technology in public architecture.

Integrity:

- The property retains a high degree of historic integrity. The two gatehouses and the buried aqueduct are intact.
- Aside from the loss of its interior plaster and the mid-twentieth century toilets, the Principal Gatehouse is essentially intact, including its masonry; its original gate mechanisms; its iron roof deck and iron trusses (scheduled for some structural stabilization); its windows and lower level exterior and interior doors (side doors to be reconstructed); and its two iron staircases for public access.

Owner of Property: Town of Brookline, Massachusetts

Acreage of Property: 32.12 acres

Origins of Nomination: Town of Brookline, Massachusetts

Potential for Positive Public Response or Reflection on NHL Program:

- Designation as an NHL will enhance public recognition of the importance of and financial support for a property that has long been “hiding in plain sight.”

Potential for Negative Public Response or Reflection on NHL Program: None known.

Landmarks Committee Comments:

Landmarks Committee Recommendation: Designation. Dr. Seale moved, Dr. Carson seconded; unanimous approval.

Public Comments Favoring Designation (received as of 6/2/14):

Brona Simon, State Historic Preservation Officer, Executive Director, Massachusetts Historical Commission

James Batchelor, Chair, Brookline Preservation Commission, Town of Brookline, Massachusetts

Betsy DeWitt, Chair, Board of Selectman, Town of Brookline, Massachusetts

John Bain, Chairman, Park and Recreation Commission, Town of Brookline, Massachusetts

Ken Liss, President, Brookline Historical Society, Massachusetts

Elizabeth Warren, US Senator, United States Senate

Cynthia Stone Creem, State Senator, The Commonwealth of Massachusetts

Advisory Board Recommendation: