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List of Repositories Consulted and Outcome

1. City of Boston

a. Bostonian Society

Boston, MA

Housed in the Old State House, the Society has a museum collection of approximately 6,500 artifacts and works of art, including paintings, prints and drawings. There is also a library collection of some 7,000 books, 35,000 photographs, 2,000 architectural drawings, 400 maps, approximately 250 manuscript collections, ephemera, and scrapbooks. Librarian Holly Smith identified from the collection two photographs of the pumping stations, available online; and a small selection of other images, including three aerial photographs of the reservoir taken in 1923 by the Fairchild Aerial Camera Corporation: a view showing Commonwealth Ave from the reservoir and two views across the reservoir, one looking northward and one northeast.

b. Boston Public Library

Boston, MA

The municipal library contains over 6 million books and one million manuscripts and rare books. It may well contain images and other information about the reservoir.

c. Historic Burial Grounds Initiative

Boston, MA

Immediately adjacent to Chestnut Hill Reservoir, the Evergreen cemetery was established in 1850 and has been managed by the City of Boston since 1873. A preservation master plan was completed in 1999, elements of which appear in this report. Kelly Thomas of the City's Historic Burial Grounds Initiative reported that she had no further historic material on the cemetery.

2. Commonwealth of Massachusetts

a. Massachusetts State Archives

Boston, MA

This extensive collection preserves and makes available the records of the state government. It includes legislative, administrative, executive and judicial records, photographs, maps, and much genealogical information. Crucially it contains the archives of the Metropolitan District Commission and its predecessors: administration, real estate takings, waterworks, sewer construction and management, and parks engineering. As part of this, there is a significant collection of material on the Boston and Metropolitan Water Works, including correspondence, calculation books, Board minutes and diaries, Annual Reports, photographs, and a splendid set of some 7000 lantern slides and volumes of bound prints that date from 1895 to 1921. These include some 23 early images of Chestnut Hill. Unfortunately no substantial material prior to 1895 survives in the archives. Of the more recent material, some was transferred to the MWRA on its creation, and some of the rest is still being catalogued. Additional materials are also held by the Boston DCR office, including some 60,000 plans. Sean Fisher, DCR Archivist, provided invaluable help in identifying relevant information and images from the Archives for the production of this report.

b. Massachusetts Historical Commission

Boston, MA

The Historical Commission is the state agency responsible for the oversight and preservation of historic sites and homes in Massachusetts. Its collection includes copies of the MHC inventory and National Register nomination forms for the reservoir.

c. Massachusetts Water Resources Authority Library

Boston, MA

The MWRA Library holds a large collection of books, historical documents, reference materials and periodicals. It includes extensive further material on the Boston and Metropolitan Water Works, transferred from the MDC archives in the 1980s. The collection includes over 190 boxes of photographs, more than 97 boxes of Metropolitan Water Works papers (correspondence, contracts, files) and 100 boxes of reports. For Chestnut Hill, it has a set of the bound volumes of photographs taken between 1895 and 1921, and a number of MWRA reports written on the reservoir since 1985.

3. Boston College

a. Office of the University Historian

Boston, MA

This Jesuit university moved from its original location in the City's South End to a site adjacent to the reservoir in 1913 and, in 1949, acquired the surplus Lawrence Basin to create its new Lower Campus. It has some information and historical images of the reservoir on its website, including 15 aerial photographs. Dr Thomas H. O'Connor, University Historian, and Ed Copenhagen at the Burns Library offered help and advice for this report, including providing copies of the only known photographs of the iron fence from the 1930s.

b. Brighton-Allston Historical Society

Boston, MA

The BAHS has a collection of books, maps, articles, oral histories, census data, newspapers and 2,500 photographs, housed in the resource room at the Brighton Library. It proved a rich source of information and images for the RMP. The Society's curator William P. Marchione made available much secondary material, and provided scanned copies of some 50 relevant photographs/postcards held by the Society.

c. Brookline Historical Society

Brookline, MA

This is a non-profit community organization working to preserve and explain the town's history. It has a collection of over 100 historic postcards, of which seven are views of Chestnut Hill reservoir. Leah Walczak, curator of the Society, indicated that the staff is currently conducting a major inventory of its materials and so most are not yet catalogued (especially the photographs). She believes that anything else she does have on Chestnut Hill will relate to the buildings.

d. Chestnut Hill Reservoir Coalition

Boston, MA

Eva Webster, founder of this lobby group, provided information on the areas of research most likely to be of interest to the local communities.

e. Frederick Law Olmsted National Historic Site

Brookline MA

The Olmsted Archives contain nearly 1,000,000 original design records of the founder of American landscape architecture and the firm he established. The collection includes the 1887 diagram of the Chestnut Hill loop and five Olmsted Brothers plans from 1899 and 1900 of the design for the courtyard in front of the Low Service Pumping Station, the pipe yard layout and a proposed but never executed rerouting of Beacon Street.

f. Harvard University

Cambridge, MA

A search of the University's online catalogues revealed six potential sources of information specifically about Chestnut Hill, including a detailed gatehouse description and a 1930s photograph housed in the University's Archives. Unfortunately there was a 10-14 week wait to access material in the archives. There was also a small amount of correspondence about the Beacon Street elms in the Shurcliff papers at the Loeb Library Special Collections, and two maps (1869 and 1876) of park proposals in the Harvard Map Collection. There was also a good deal of published and

unpublished material about the metropolitan water works more widely, located at various of the university's libraries, including a large selection of state- and city-level government publications in the Littauer Library.

g. Historic New England (formerly the Society for the Preservation of New England Antiquities)

Boston, MA

This not-for-profit organization was founded in 1910 to collect and preserve buildings, places and objects of historical interest. Its Library and Archives contains more than one million items that document New England's architectural and cultural history. The collections comprise photographs, prints and engravings, architectural drawings, books, manuscripts, and ephemera. They contain a small sample of late nineteenth- and early twentieth-century photographs and postcards of the reservoir, some of which were used in the Boston Landmark Commission report, as well as some relevant maps and other published materials.

4. Library of Congress

a. Historic American Engineering Records (HAER) and Historic American Buildings Survey (HABS)

Washington D.C.

The only information about Chestnut Hill Reservoir in these two extensive collections of historical material focuses on the two pumping stations and the Leavitt engine contained in the High Service Pumping Station. An online search of the entire Library of Congress holdings revealed that the only other materials held are in the Olmsted Associate Records in the Manuscript Division. These are a handful letters relating to the Olmsted design for the courtyard in front of the Low Service Pumping Station and the adjacent pipe yard; and some discussion of the 1899 proposed rerouting of Beacon Street.

b. Massachusetts Historical Society

Boston, MA

Founded in 1791, the MHS is a research library and manuscript repository housing millions of documents and artifacts relating to the history of the state and, especially from the eighteenth century, the history of the country. Its collection includes 38 state and city pamphlets on the Boston water supply from 1859 – 1872.

4. Newton Historical Society

a. Newton History Museum at the Jackson Homestead

Newton, MA

Part of the Chestnut Hill reservoir lay within the Newton City limits until 1875. The Newton Historical Society, a department of the City of Newton, has an extensive library and research collection on local history, unfortunately much of it un-catalogued. Archivist Susan Abele reported that the collection includes an 1855 Map of Newton, showing part of the future site of the reservoir; an 1866 detail of a Boston map, showing the reservoirs; an 1874 City of Newton Atlas that shows the reservoirs and abutters property; one post card view of the reservoir with a small pump house; and the undated photograph of the Amos Lawrence farm next to the reservoir.

b. Preservation Mass (formerly Historic Massachusetts Inc.)

Boston, MA

Contact with Elsa Fitzgerald, Special Projects Manager, in February 2005 indicated that this statewide non-profit organization (which is dedicated to preserving the Commonwealth's historic and cultural heritage) holds no significant historic material on the reservoir.