

FORM B – BUILDING

Assessor's Number USGS Quad Area(s) Form Number

31/15 Reading TEW. 293

MASSACHUSETTS HISTORICAL COMMISSION
MASSACHUSETTS ARCHIVES BUILDING
220 MORRISSEY BOULEVARD
BOSTON, MASSACHUSETTS 02125

Town/City: Tewksbury

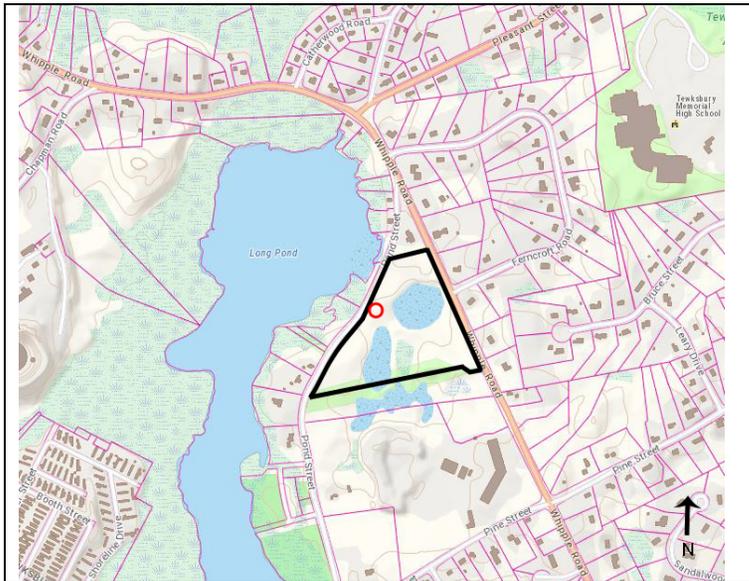
Place: (*neighborhood or village*):

Photograph



Photo 1. Pond Street Pump Station, looking southwest.

Locus Map



Address: Pond Street, south of 919 Whipple Road

Historic Name: Pond Street Pump Station

Uses: Present: Vacant

Original: Pump Station

Date of Construction: 1934

Source: Chas. T. Main Inc. Engineers 1934

Style/Form: Colonial Revival

Architect/Builder: Charles T. Main Engineers Inc.

Exterior Material:

Foundation: Concrete

Wall/Trim: Brick

Roof: Asbestos

Outbuildings/Secondary Structures: None

Major Alterations (*with dates*):

Windows infilled with brick, mid- to late 20th century

Condition: Fair

Moved: no yes **Date:**

Acreage: 9.5 acres

Setting: The building is located on a roughly triangular parcel between Pond Street on the west and Whipple Road on the east, south of 919 Whipple Road. The building is slightly back from the street edge and has been encroached upon by successional growth forest. The parcel mainly consists of successional growth forest, thick brush, and small pools of water.

Recorded by: V. Adams, G. Pineo, J. Chin; PAL

Organization: Tewksbury Historical Commission

Date (*month / year*): February 2021

INVENTORY FORM B CONTINUATION SHEET

TEWKSBURY

POND STREET

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Recommended for listing in the National Register of Historic Places.

If checked, you must attach a completed National Register Criteria Statement form.

ARCHITECTURAL DESCRIPTION:

The Pond Street Pump Station (1934) is a north-facing, Colonial Revival-style, one-story, cross-shaped, three--bay-by-three-bay, brick building. It has an asbestos shingle-clad, cross-gable roof with a molded cornice, and rests on a concrete foundation. The north (facade) elevation has a central entrance in the center of the west wing and an arched, louvered opening in the gable peak. The entrance is filled by a double-leaf, six-light metal door with metal mesh protective screens over the windows, and has a soldier brick lintel. The entrance is accessed by two low concrete steps that extend early the entire width of the center bay. Former window openings in the north elevations of east and west bays have been infilled with brick; building plans indicate identical windows on the south elevation, which have likely also been infilled. A small, arched, louvered opening is near the center of the east elevation, in a large, infilled brick opening. The south elevation is not visible, but building plans (Figure 1) indicate that the south wing had no openings.

HISTORICAL NARRATIVE

The Tewksbury Almshouse off of East Street on Hospital Road was established by the Acts of 1852 and was supported by the state government to serve the metropolitan area and northeast portion of the state (Jenkins 1984). During the late nineteenth and early twentieth centuries, an increase in admissions spurred a building campaign that transformed the almshouse into a modern state hospital. Much of the red-brick, Colonial Revival-style campus was built during this time (Jenkins et al. 1993). In 1900, the name changed to the Tewksbury State Hospital (TEW.G) and consisted of male and female hospitals and asylums, an almshouse, dormitory, maternity ward, laundry building, boiler house, electric light plant, and summer houses (Jenkins 1984).

The Pond Street Pump Station (1934) was built to supply water from Long Pond to the State Hospital, and surrounding homes and cost \$80,000 (Charles. T. Main Inc. 1934; Commonwealth of Massachusetts 1934). The Pond Street Pump Station is approximately 1.3 miles southeast of the State Hospital campus and was built as an additional water supply for the State Hospital which had a water tower on campus that held 1 million gallons of water (Chas. T. Main Inc. 1934; Jenkins et al. 1993).

As the demand for water grew with the town, four high-production overburden wells were established in the south part of town; two were near the Great Swamp just outside the town center. Overburden wells were 50–100 feet deep and drew water from the gravel and sand strata, and, later, from the Merrimack and Shawsheen rivers. The wells formed the beginning of the town-wide water system, which was expanded in 1962–1963 by the construction of additional well fields, including wells, pipes, and six small pumping stations with equipment (Town of Tewksbury 1963). Reduced water output and increased iron and manganese levels in water from aging wells resulted in the shut down of all 15 wells in the town by 1992 (Town of Tewksbury 2021). Water is produced by the town water treatment plant, constructed in the late 1980s, and distributed from large water reservoirs throughout the town via a series of pipes ranging in size from 2–36 inches (Town of Tewksbury 2021).

The Pump House was designed by Charles T. Main Inc., Engineers of Boston, Massachusetts. The firm was founded in 1893 by Charles T. Main, an engineer of textile mills specializing in hydroelectricity in New England and designed more than 10 mill buildings and hydroelectric dams in Massachusetts (Northeastern University 2021; MACRIS 2021). The Tewksbury water system began about 1914 mainly to service the state hospital and surrounding homes near Long Pond. Pump houses drew groundwater traveling towards the Merrimack and Shawsheen Rivers (Town of Tewksbury 2021).

The parcel has been owned by the Commonwealth of Massachusetts since about 1900 and is co-owned by the DCAMM Office of Real Estate (Tewksbury Assessor 2021).

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POND STREET

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PHOTOGRAPH



Pump house looking south (google.com).

HISTORIC IMAGES

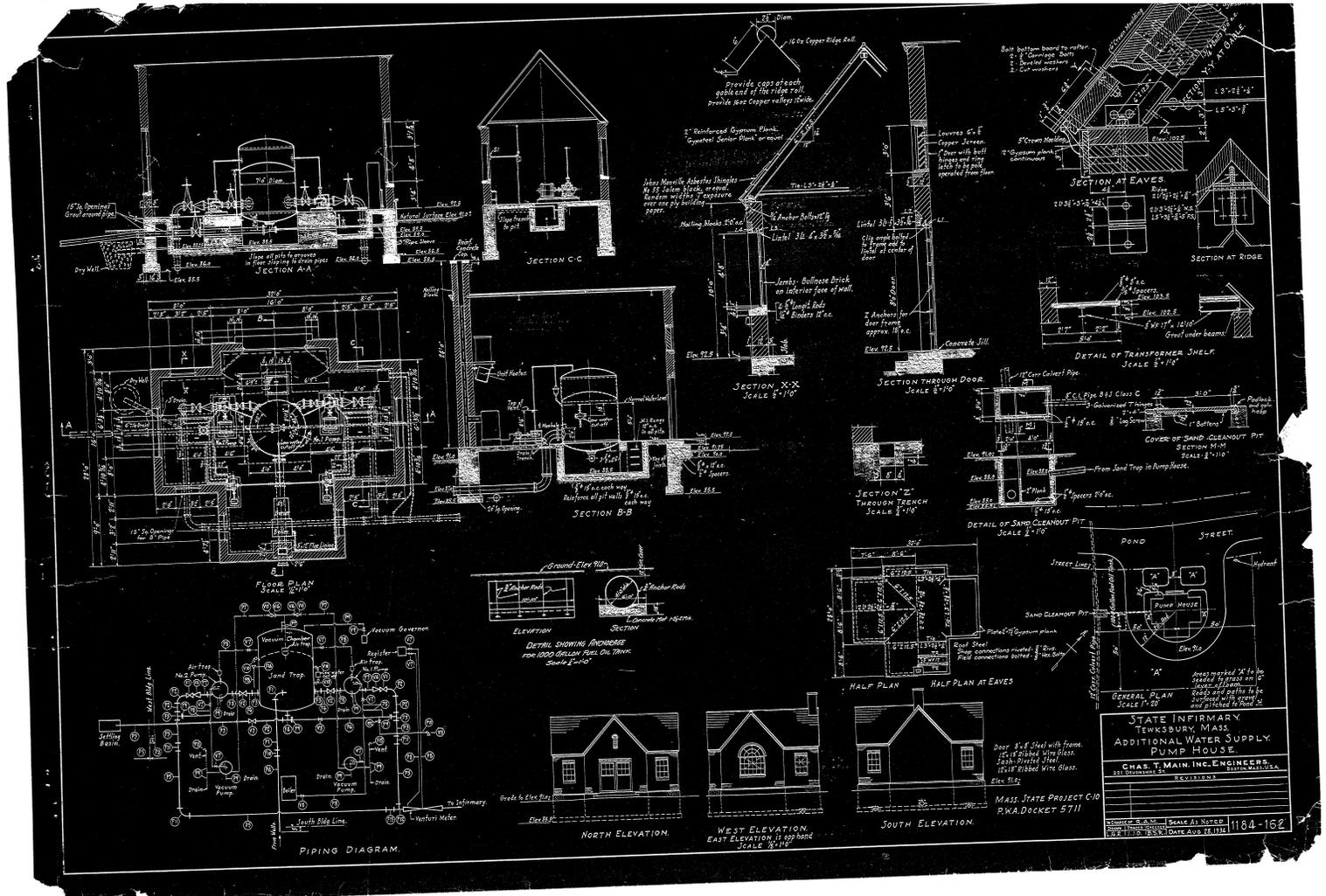


Figure 1. Pump house plans, 1934 (courtesy Tewksbury Historical Commission).

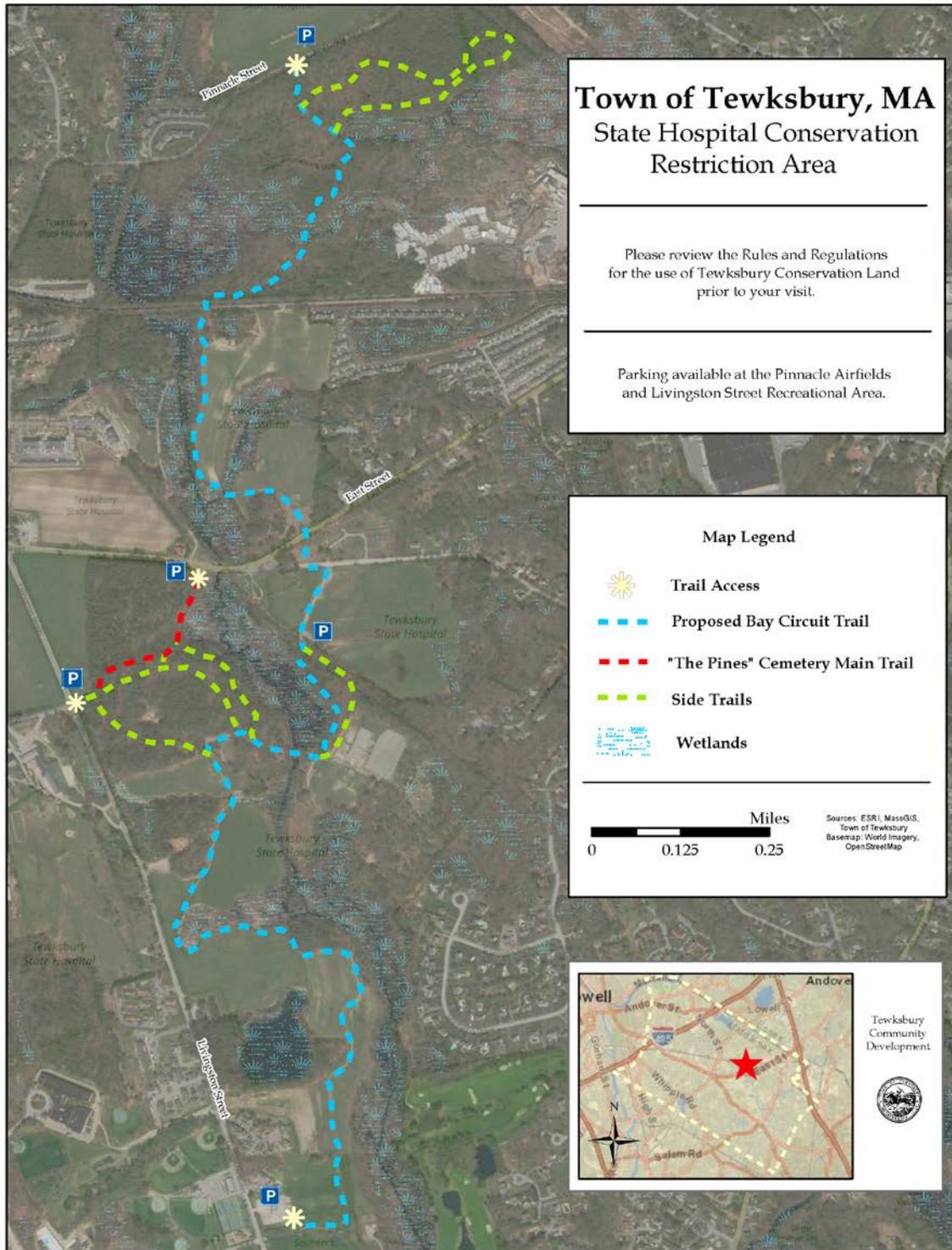


Figure 2. Map of Tewksbury Conservation Land and trail system through Tewksbury State Hospital land.