

Asylum Water Intake Building



Farm Pond Asylum Water Intake Building, 1998

Form No.	207
Town	Sherborn
Place	In Farm Pond
Address	Farm Pond
Assessor's #	n/a
USGS Quad	Medfield
Historic Name	
Uses: Present	Houses water supply valve
Original	Houses water supply valve
Constructed	1899
Source	Plans of land recorded in deeds
Style/Form	Victorian Eclectic
Architect/Builder	
Exterior Material:	
Foundation	Concrete
Wall/Trim	Brick
Roof	Asphalt shingles
Outbuildings	
Alterations	Adapted for use as fire suppression apparatus
Condition	Poor
Moved	No
Acreage	n/a acres
Setting	In water
Film Roll/Negative	Roll 3
Recorded by	Sanford Johnson, May 1999

ARCHITECTURAL DESCRIPTION

The former Medfield Asylum water intake structure and its enclosing brick building are in the water just off the eastern shore of Farm Pond. The diminutive, one-story gabled form is approximately 8'x12' with openings on all four sides. The east side is pierced by a doorway with windows on all other elevations. Concrete sills and cast iron lintels support the openings, one of which has a cast iron blind. The roof is clad in asphalt shingles, the walls are brick laid in common bond and the foundation is concrete. Eaves display exposed rafter ends. The building leans to the north.

HISTORICAL NARRATIVE

The small brick intake building in Farm Pond was built to house a valve that drew water from the pond into a pipeline to the Medfield Insane Asylum. The right to build in Farm Pond and across adjoining land was taken in 1897 by the trustees of the Medfield Insane Asylum from Susan W. Southwick, who owned the land near the current location of 212 Farm Road. Engineer Charles Allen delineated the 1899 plan to build the pipeline which traversed land between the southeast edge of the pond to the so-called Sherborn-Medfield Road (Farm Road) in a straight easterly course. The building was probably built at that time. The water supply pipeline remained in use until at least 1939 as it is reflected on the W.P.A. map of that year. The building is still owned by the Medfield State Hospital and used for boiler make-up water. The pipe is tapped by the Sherborn Fire Department at Forest Street with a dry hydrant installation.

BIBLIOGRAPHY and REFERENCES

- 1939 W.P.A. map of Sherborn.
- Conversation with Betsy Johnson 12/98.
- Interview with Thurza Campbell.
- Plans recorded in Registry of Deeds, reproduced in Sherborn, Volume I, pp. 32, 39.