

THE RESERVOIR ON POWDER HOUSE HILL

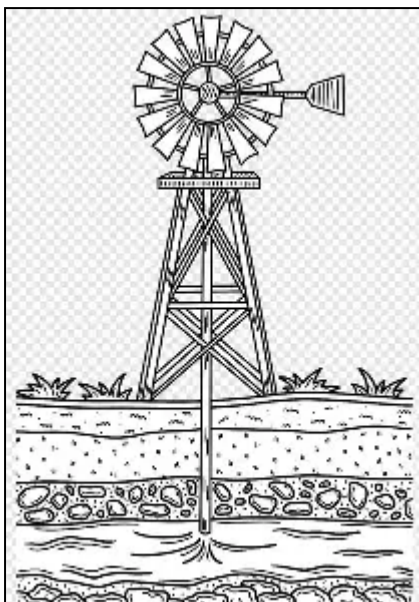
This circular stone structure was a reservoir on the hill near the Town Hall. It held water for the Union Straw Works factory located where today's Post Office stands.

Powder House

There used to be a small brick powder house here where early residents stored their gun powder – as it was not safe to store it at home. It was named Powder House Hill.

The Reservoir

After the Powder House was removed, the reservoir was built on this site for the factory. When built, the reservoir did not have the fancy top with windows. It was very plain as seen in the photo below. To get the water up into the reservoir, a windmill was built that provided the power to get the water up the hill. The water could then run (gravity fed) down to the factory through a large pipe.



The Windmill

The windmill had a long pipe running deep into the ground where there was plenty of water. The windmill would draw all the air out of the pipe and then the water would follow – just like sucking on a straw.

It would suck the water up and then dump it in the reservoir. When more water was needed, the windmill would run. Once it had drawn enough water from under the ground, it would be shut off. It was a very efficient means of pumping water.



By Jack Authalet
**Foxborough
Historical Commission**

508.543.1248
memorialhall@foxboroughma.gov
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