

The Alden Research Laboratory Rotating Boom  
(Worcester Polytechnic Institute Rotating Boom)  
Pond Adjacent to the Alden Research Laboratory  
~~Worcester~~ *Holden*  
Worcester County  
Massachusetts

HAER No. MA-60-A

HAER  
MASS,  
14 HOLD,  
4A-

PHOTOGRAPHS

WRITTEN HISTORICAL AND DESCRIPTIVE DATA

HISTORIC AMERICAN ENGINEERING RECORD  
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE  
U.S. DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR  
P.O. BOX 37127  
WASHINGTON, D.C. 20013-7127

STATE COUNTY TOWN OR VICINITY  
MASSACHUSETTS WORCESTER ~~WORCESTER~~ Holden

HISTORIC NAME HAER NO.  
The Alden Research Laboratory Rotating Boom MA-60-A

SECONDARY OR COMMON NAMES  
Worcester Polytechnic Institute Rotating Boom

COMPLETE ADDRESS (DESCRIBE LOCATION FOR RURAL AREAS)  
POND ADJACENT TO THE ALDEN RESEARCH LABORATORY

DATE OF CONSTRUCTION ENGINEER, BUILDER, OR FABRICATOR  
original wood beam constructed in 1936

designed by Professor Charles M. Allen (1871-1950), first director of Alden Research  
SIGNIFICANCE (TECHNOLOGICAL AND HISTORICAL, INCLUDE ORIGINAL USE) Laboratory

"This rotating boom played an important part in the testing and improvement of current  
meters, aircraft propellers, ships' logs, pitot tubes and minesweeping paravanes."

STYLE (IF APPROPRIATE)  
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MATERIAL OF CONSTRUCTION (INCLUDE STRUCTURAL SYSTEMS)  
replacement boom is metal

SHAPE AND DIMENSIONS (SKETCHED FLOOR PLANS ON SEPARATE PAGES ARE ACCEPTABLE)  
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EXTERIOR FEATURES OF NOTE  
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INTERIOR FEATURES OF NOTE (DESCRIBE MECHANICAL SYSTEMS, MACHINERY OR EQUIPMENT)  
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MAJOR ALTERATIONS AND ADDITIONS WITH DATES  
replacement of original wooden boom with metal boom

PRESENT CONDITION AND USE  
excellent

OTHER INFORMATION AS APPROPRIATE

SOURCES OF INFORMATION (INCLUDING LISTING ON NATIONAL REGISTER, PROFESSIONAL ENGINEER-  
ING SOCIETY LANDMARK DESIGNATIONS, ETC.)

The American Society of Mechanical Engineers annotated list of National, Regional,  
and International Historic Mechanical Engineering Landmarks (no date)

COMPILER AFFILIATION DATE  
B111 Lebovich, HAER September 26, 1988