



Levine Reservoir

The Stanley M. Levine Reservoir, originally known as the Stony Road Reservoir after the nearby road that led down to the Barbour flax works mills on Spruce Street, was completed in 1886 by the Passaic Water Company. It was the fourth and last of the company's reservoirs built to store potable water pumped from the Great Falls.

Standing at a the south end of the reservoir with Garrett Mountain to your back, the reservoir stretched over 1,000 feet and overlooked the Passaic River.



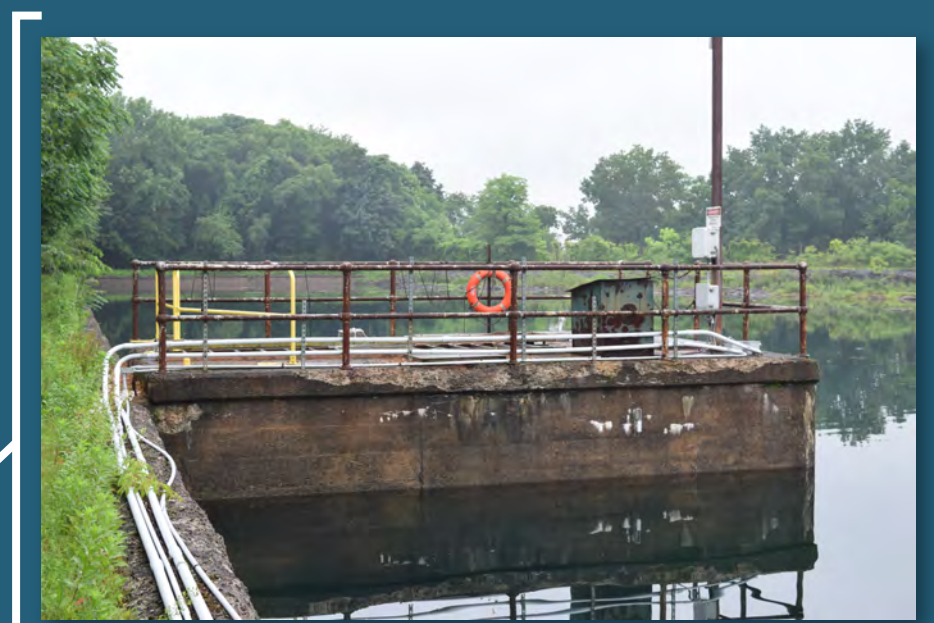
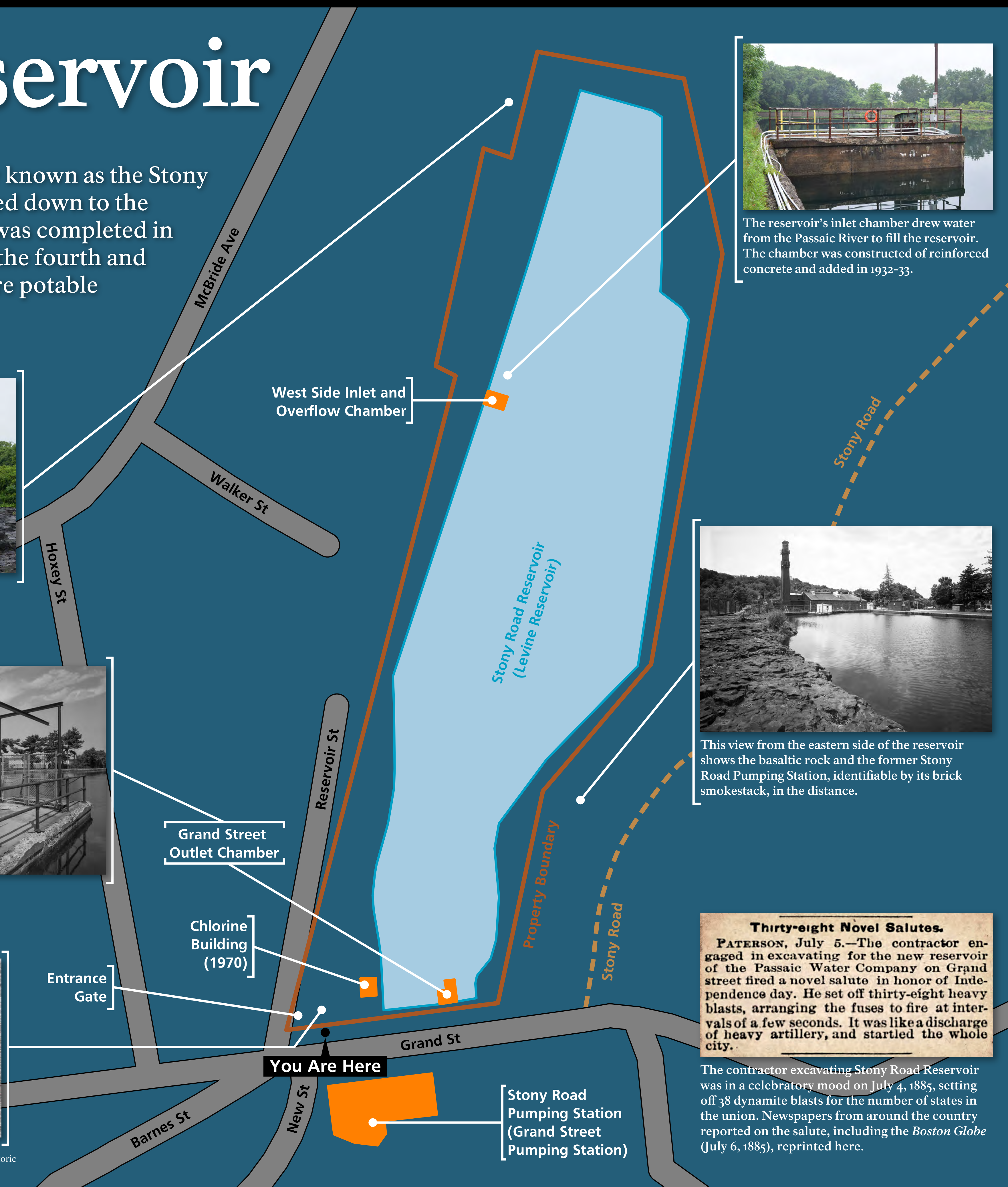
The reservoir's outlet chamber pulled water from the reservoir for disinfection and distribution to customers. This outlet chamber and old chlorine station was constructed of concrete in 1932-33, replacing an earlier stone chamber.



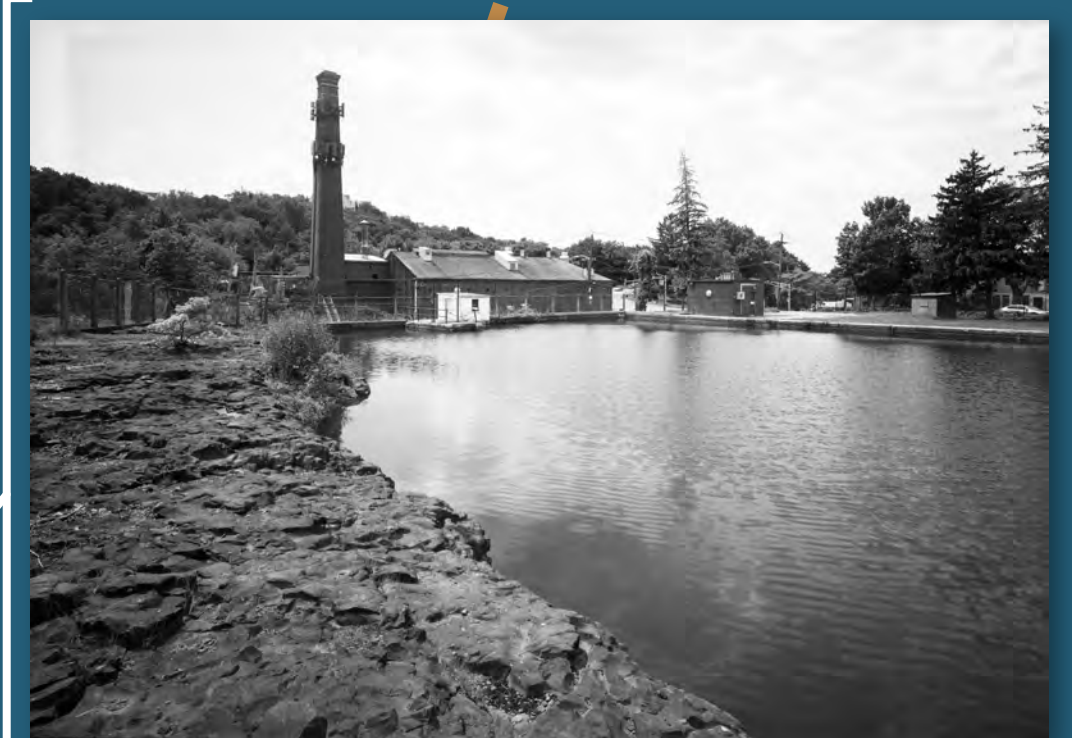
A memorial plaque, located inside the gates, dedicated the reservoir to Stanley M. Levine (1920-1989).



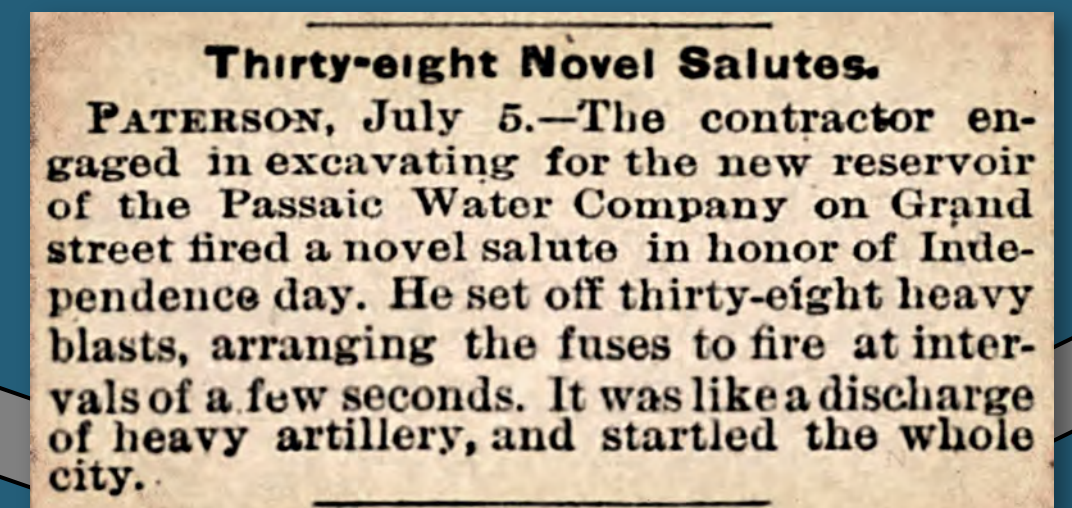
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The reservoir's inlet chamber drew water from the Passaic River to fill the reservoir. The chamber was constructed of reinforced concrete and added in 1932-33.



This view from the eastern side of the reservoir shows the basaltic rock and the former Stony Road Pumping Station, identifiable by its brick smokestack, in the distance.



The contractor excavating Stony Road Reservoir was in a celebratory mood on July 4, 1885, setting off 38 dynamite blasts for the number of states in the union. Newspapers from around the country reported on the salute, including the *Boston Globe* (July 6, 1885), reprinted here.

Three Names One Purpose

The reservoir before you, originally open like a pond and now contained within tanks, has gone under three names. It was known originally as the Stony Road Reservoir but rather quickly began being called the Grand Street Reservoir. In 1990, the Grand Street Reservoir was renamed for Passaic Valley Water Commissioner Stanley M. Levine. Through each of the name changes, the reservoir's main purpose has been to supply the residents of Paterson with clean water.

Starting in 1885, construction crews working for the Passaic Water Company blasted into the basalt ridge to create a 20-foot-deep basin. Rocks were shaped into blocks to form a heavy wall still visible along Grand Street damming the reservoir's southern end. When complete, water flowed through a pipe network from the Great Falls, across the arch bridge spanning the falls' chasm, and to a pumping station on Grand Street, which filled the reservoir and pumped water to surrounding neighborhoods.

The 20-million-gallon reservoir provided Paterson with clean water for nearly 40 years but the Passaic Water Company decommissioned the reservoir in 1921, leaving the basin dry for over a decade. In 1927, the municipalities of Clifton, Passaic and Paterson organized the PVWC, which took over the empty Grand Street Reservoir and reactivated it in 1933. The reservoir's inlet and outlet chambers were reconfigured and the reservoir refilled with treated water from the Little Falls filtration plant.

In the early 2000s, the PVWC began advancing plans to improve the safety of the Levine Reservoir by enclosing its water in tanks to prevent contamination. As part of historic preservation reviews, the reservoir was documented for inclusion in the Historic American Buildings Survey/Historic American Engineering Record (HABS/HAER) collection at the Library of Congress (www.loc.gov).