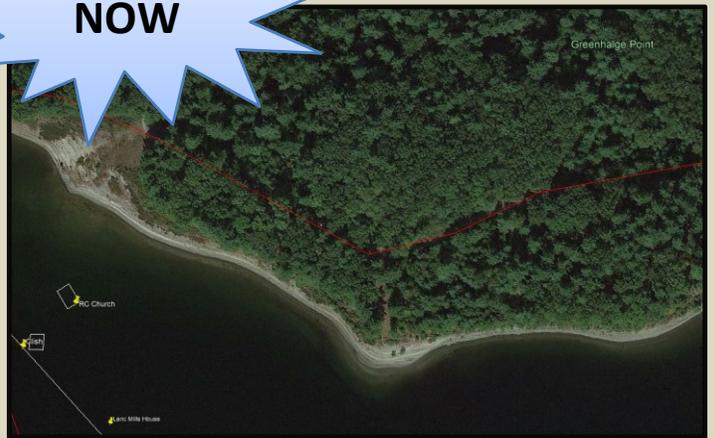


Then



Sacred Heart Roman Catholic Chapel
1890-1900

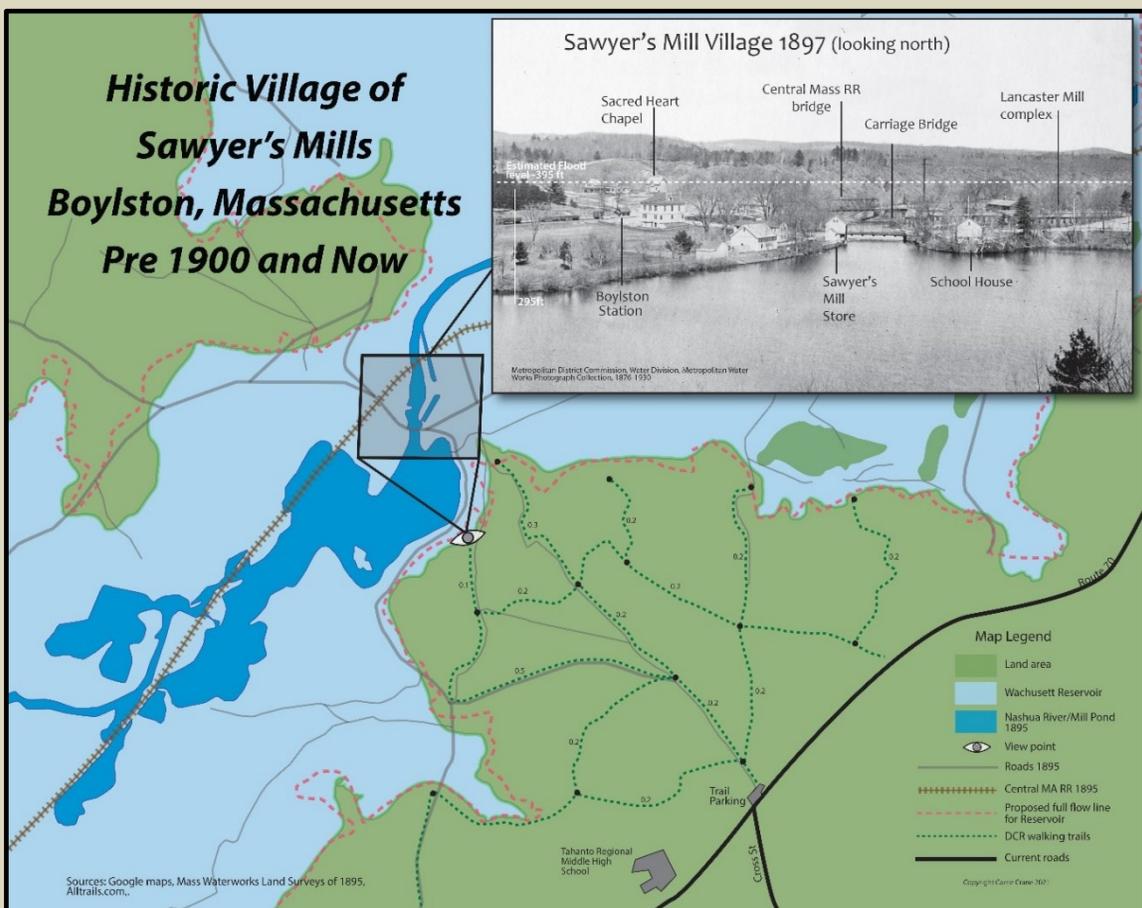
NOW



The Location Today
In the Wachusett Reservoir, just off Greenhaige Point in
Boylston, Massachusetts

Many of the early Catholics of Boylston became farmers, while still others found employment in the cotton mill at Sawyer's Mills. Between 1874-1876, The Holy Sacrifice of the Mass would first be celebrated for this community by Reverend Richard F. Walshe at Union Hall which was located in the basement of Sawyer's Mills School house. By the late 1880's the numbers of Catholics had increased to a point where the ecclesiastical authorities allowed the building of a mission chapel in the Sawyer's Mills section of Boylston, Massachusetts. Under the patronage of the Sacred Heart of Jesus, the edifice became known as The Sacred Heart Chapel. This Mission Chapel with a seating capacity of 125 people was dedicated on Palm Sunday in 1890 to serve the Roman Catholic people of Boylston. The Mission Chapel was located at the junction of the West Boylston and Clinton Roads in the center of the village. The West Boylston Road joined up with Scar Hill Road which led to the Town's Meeting House. The Chapel was situated just up the hill from the Boylston Train Station and the Carriage Bridge. On 31 July 1896 when eminent domain negotiations started for the Reservoir, the Reverend Patrick T. O'Reilly, curate of St. Anthony's Roman Catholic Church in West Boylston was curate for the Sacred Heart Chapel of Boylston. Due to the construction of the Wachusett Reservoir System, The Sacred Heart Chapel would only serve this community for ten short years.

Today its location would be just off the shoreline of Greenhaige Point, yes, indeed, in the reservoir itself! The edifice was torn down for the construction of the Wachusett Reservoir; if it were still standing its steeple would be above water.



Acknowledgements:
History of Boylston, Filgate, 2012
<https://www.beforetherewasadam.com/>
Map of Sawyer Mills, Carrie Crane, 2021
Massachusetts Metropolitan Water Works Photograph Collection, 1875-1930
Reservoir Map, Paul Marrone, 2021

By Nancy A. Filgate
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