Sanborn Fire Maps Water Facilities Statistics for Harlingen

February 1919 Water Facilities:
Municipal plant leased to private management. Source of supply from Lake Harlingen. Said lake supplied by irrigating canals with the Rio Grande River as primary supply water from Lake Harlingen to pumping station. Compound Duplex Pumps size 9” x 10” and 8 1/2” x 10” capacity 500 gals. each per minute. Also pumping to 50,000 gal. gravity tank elevated 120' to bottom of tank, base of tank being on a level with business section. Domestic and gravity pressure 50 lbs to the sq. inch, fire pressure 40-55 lbs. to the sq. inch.
Pumping station built in 1912 – 16 miles of 4”, 6”, 8”, and 10” pipe laid about 1913. 10 double hydrants – average daily consumption 40,000 gallons.

February 1925 Water facilities:
Municipal Plant Service Lake Harlingen. Water runs by force of gravity to one reservoir capacity 500,000 gals. Located at pump no. 1812 252 – Fairbanks 4” x 6” pump capcy. 500 gallons per minute, 1 – American-Marsh 4” x 6” pump capcy. 500 gals. Per min. Each driven by a 30 hp electric motor. Located at lake pumps water direct to mains. 2 -- Cameron pumps 4” x 6” and 2 1/2” x 4” capcy. 500 and 750 gals. per min. Located at pump house (Block.23). Each driven by a 20 hp electric motor pumps water from concrete reservoir into 8” water main. In use when needed 3 ½ miles 4”, 6”, and 8” water mains. 16 –D Hydrants. Average daily consumption 300,000 gals. Domestic pressure 65 lbs. on corner of Jackson & Hill (now A ) Streets. Fire pressure 90 lbs.

July 1929 Water facilities:
Owned by Central Power and Light Company. Source Lake Harlingen, capacity about 45 million gallons. System gravity and direct pressure.
Pumps:
1 Fairbanks Morse 6” pump capacity 1000 g.p.m. 1 Fairbanks Morse 5” pump capcy. 750 g.p.m. 1 Fairbanks Morse 4” pump capcy. 500 g.p.m. 1 American-Marsh 4” capcy. 500 g.p.m. Each driven by electric motor. Located at pump station.
Water tower elevated 100' above business district capcy. 150,000 gallons (being installed) in block 103. About 15 miles of 4” to 12” water mains. 96 double and triple hydrants. Domestic pressure 55 lbs. Fire pressure 75 lbs. Average daily consumption 600,000 gallons.

July 1948 (when city population was 22,000) Water facilities:
Municipally owned. Source from two artificial lakes supplied from Rio Grande River via irrigation canals. Gravity and direct pressure. One concrete reservoir capacity 500,000 level with business district. One concrete reservoir below pump station capacity 140,000 gallons. One concrete reservoir capacity 125,000 gallons above level with business district at airport station 3 miles northeast of city Hall.
Pumps:
Raw Water: 1 Allis-Chalmers capacity 1600 g.p.m. 1 Fairbanks Morse capacity 1200 g.p.m. 1 American-Marsh capacity 1200 g.p.m. 1 Allis-Chalmers capacity 1000 g.p.m. Standby pumps 1 Fairbanks Morse capacity 600 g.p.m. 1 Barnes capacity 1400 g.p.m. (gasoline engine driven)
Airport Station (Harlinen Army Air Field) – 1 Allis-Chalmers capacity 1000 g.p.m. 2 Allis-Chalmers capacity 500 g.p.m. each
High Pressure: 1 Worthington capacity 1600 g.p.m. 1 Worthington capacity 1500 g.p.m. 1 Allis-
Chalmers capacity 2000 g.p.m. 1 Allis-Chalmers capacity 500 g.p.m. Standby 1 American-Marsh
capacity 1200 g.p.m. (driven by gasoline engine)
Airport Station – 1 Allis-Chalmers capacity 1000 g.p.m. 2 Allis-Chalmers capacity 500 g.p.m. each

One water tank elevated 100’ on steel tower capacity 200,000 gallons. One water tank elevated 100’ on
steel tower capacity 500,000 (at airport)
40 miles of 6” to 12” water pipes 222 fire hydrants (57 at airport). Average daily consumption
2,500,000 gallons. Domestic and fire pressure in business section 60 lbs.