



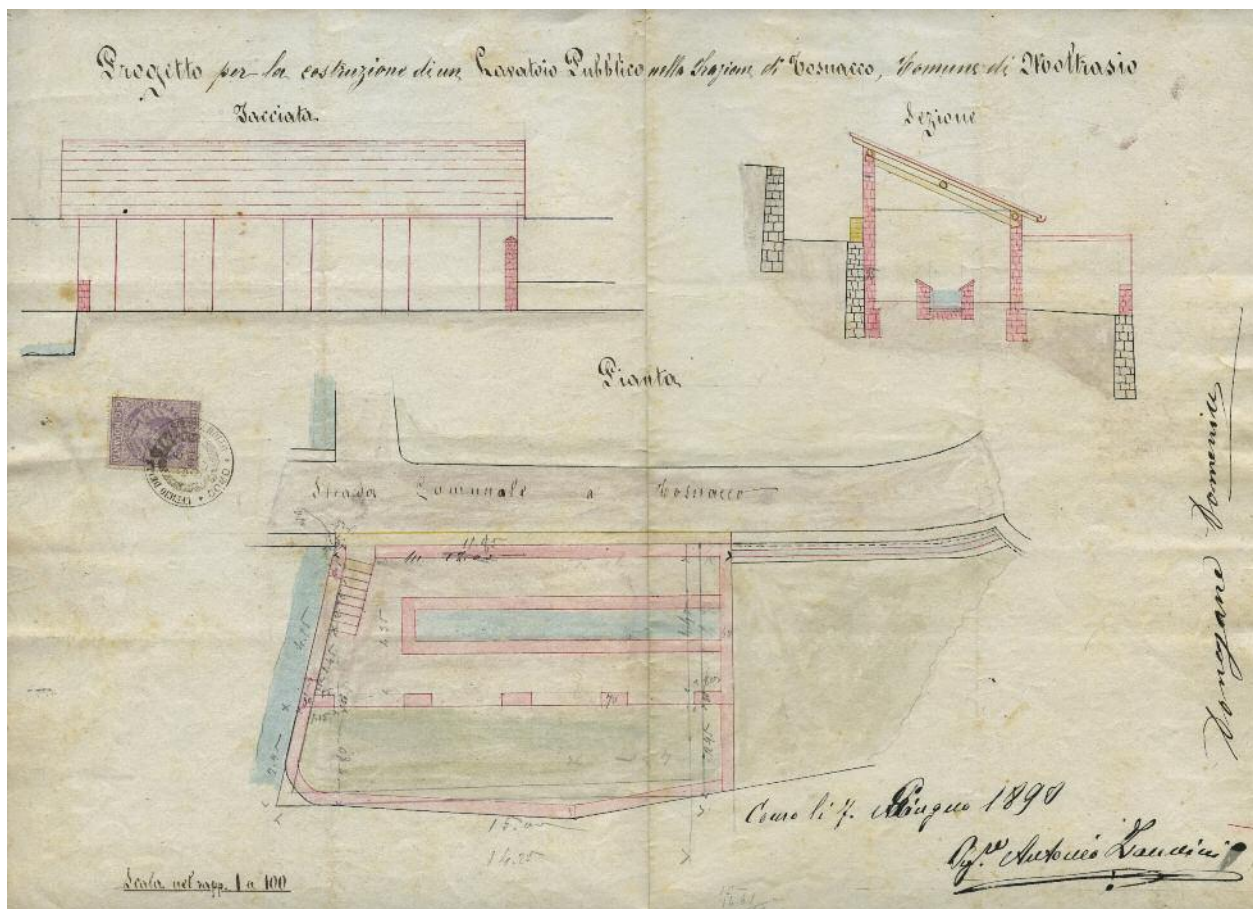
# Wash-house and fountains of Proo

The story of the wash-house of Proo began in September of 1888, when the City Council of Moltrasio agreed to hear the proposition from some homeowners to improve the aqueduct.

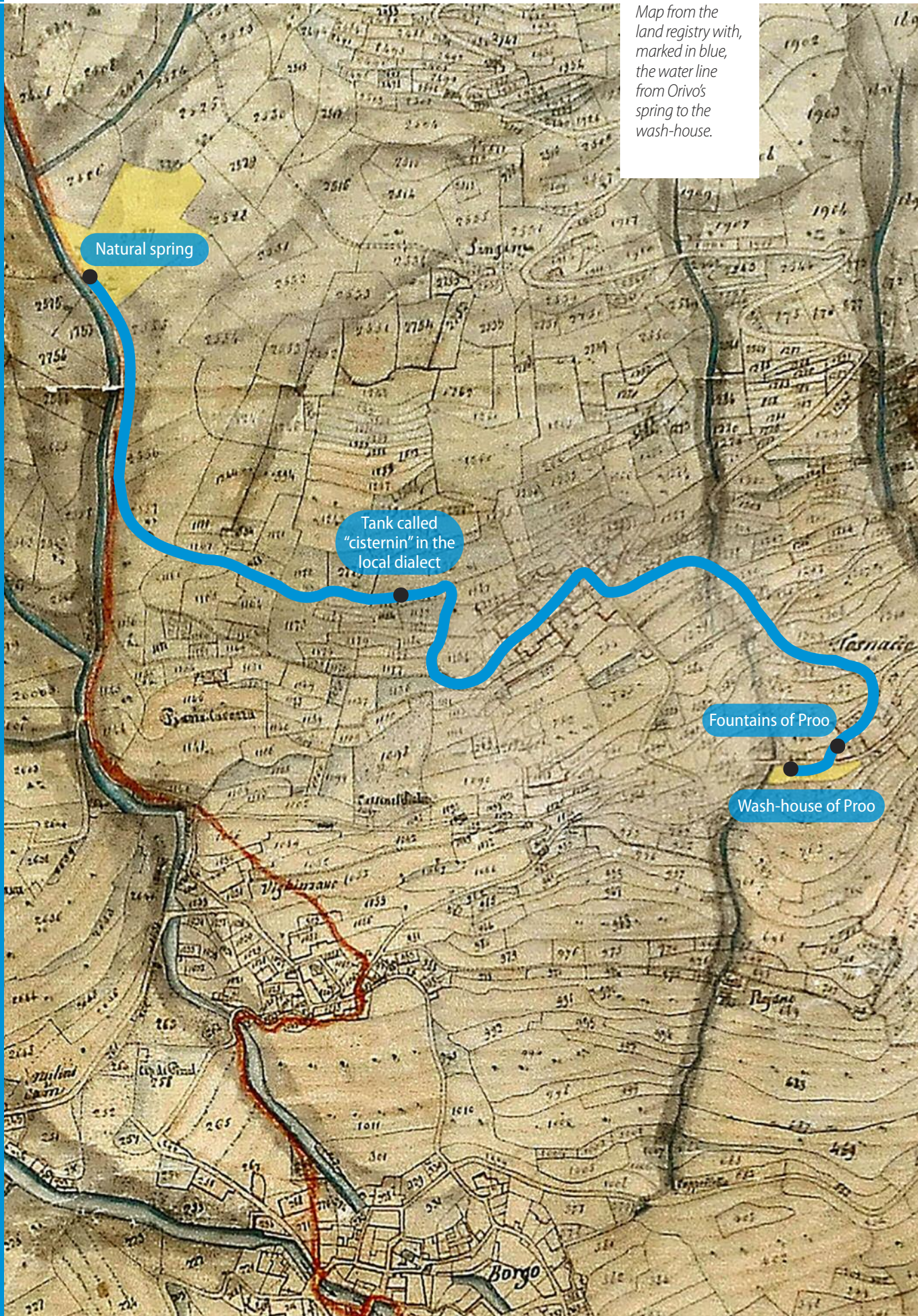
The primary focus initially was the urgently needed restoration operations, with the wash-house as a secondary consideration pending availability of materials. In fact, the Board only approved the project planned by engineer Antonio Zannini after two years, and so it was that on September 18<sup>th</sup>, 1890, in the area of Tosnacco, a wash-house was planned. Tosnacco was chosen

for the great need of local residents - at the time, there was no running water available to meet the needs of the approximately 400 residents of the area. To do their laundry, locals needed to walk to the lake, which was more than a kilometer away.

The project was financed with a mortgage to meet the expected cost of 1,279.34 Lire. At the same time, a new project was drawn up for the spring in Orivo, which already fed the small aqueduct of Tosnacco. This project would have better captured the increased water flow and better hygienic conditions needed to furnish the new wash-house.



Map from the land registry with, marked in blue, the water line from Orivo's spring to the wash-house.



Natural spring

Tank called "cisternin" in the local dialect

Fountains of Proo

Wash-house of Proo

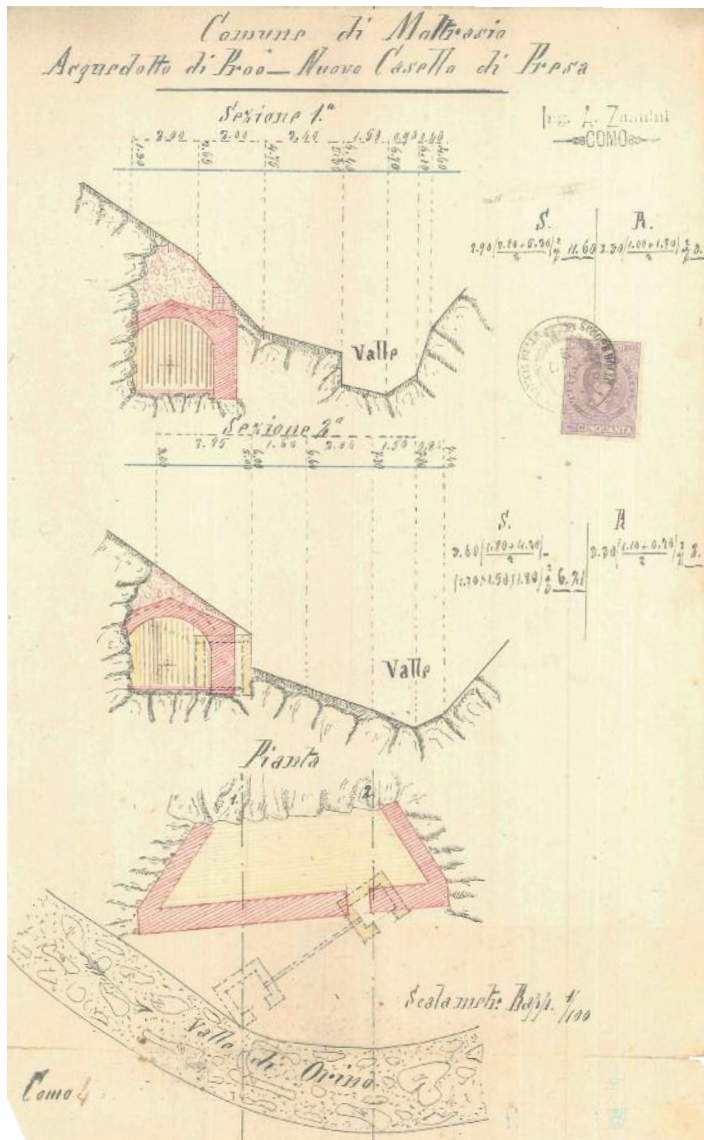


The first step towards construction took three years: the purchase of the necessary land by the Municipality.

In August 1893, an agreement was reached with the owners for the purchase of the land needed to realize the new intake work, and they were able to finalize and sign the agreement. One month later, the purchase deed for the area where the wash-house was to be built was drawn up. In the deed, dated September 26th, 1893, the agreement stipulated the expected purchase of the Municipality; 105 square meters of land for 105 Lire.

After this act, an appropriate contractor needed to be found to carry out the works. The Municipality held a public auction using the method called "Virgin Candle" (that

is, if no one makes a better offer during the time that three candles blow out, the last bidder wins the auction). The auction took place in City Hall with three participants and saw the victory of the entrepreneur Domenico Donegana, who won the contract for the amount of 1,587 Lire. The construction began during winter in 1894 and was completed the following May, as shown by a report drawn up and signed by Engineer Cetti, with a total expenditure of 2,577.93 Lire. During the construction, the City Council approved a request to tile the roof. These tiles replaced the original design's stone slabs as the contractor was unable to locate stone of Moltrasio slabs as envisioned in the original project outline.



## Wash-house and fountains of Proo

It is still possible to admire the original construction, including its water tank made of stone of Moltrasio obtained from the quarries, following the design of the engineer.

Fifty meters away, are located the fountains of Proo. Built before the wash-house, the fountains still have running water from the Orivo stream.

