

United States Department of the Interior  
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places  
Registration Form

JAN 24 1989

NATIONAL  
REGISTER

This form is for use in nominating or requesting determinations of eligibility for individual properties or districts. See instructions in *Guidelines for Completing National Register Forms* (National Register Bulletin 16). Complete each item by marking "x" in the appropriate box or by entering the requested information. If an item does not apply to the property being documented, enter "N/A" for "not applicable." For functions, styles, materials, and areas of significance, enter only the categories and subcategories listed in the instructions. For additional space use continuation sheets (Form 10-900a). Type all entries.

1. Name of Property

historic name Edgewood Yacht Club

other names/site number

2. Location

street & number 3 Shaw Avenue

N/A not for publication

city, town Cranston

N/A vicinity

state Rhode Island code RI county Providence code 007 zip code 02905

3. Classification

Ownership of Property

- private
- public-local
- public-State
- public-Federal

Category of Property

- building(s)
- district
- site
- structure
- object

Number of Resources within Property

Contributing	Noncontributing
<u>1</u>	<u>      </u> buildings
<u>      </u>	<u>      </u> sites
<u>      </u>	<u>      </u> structures
<u>      </u>	<u>      </u> objects
<u>1</u>	<u>      </u> Total

Name of related multiple property listing:

Number of contributing resources previously listed in the National Register 0

4. State/Federal Agency Certification

As the designated authority under the National Historic Preservation Act of 1966, as amended, I hereby certify that this  nomination  request for determination of eligibility meets the documentation standards for registering properties in the National Register of Historic Places and meets the procedural and professional requirements set forth in 36 CFR Part 60. In my opinion, the property  meets  does not meet the National Register criteria.  See continuation sheet.

Frederick W. Williams 5 Jan 1989  
Signature of certifying official Date  
Rhode Island Historical Preservation Commission  
State or Federal agency and bureau

In my opinion, the property  meets  does not meet the National Register criteria.  See continuation sheet.

\_\_\_\_\_  
Signature of commenting or other official Date  
\_\_\_\_\_  
State or Federal agency and bureau

5. National Park Service Certification

I, hereby, certify that this property is:

- entered in the National Register.  See continuation sheet.
- determined eligible for the National Register.  See continuation sheet.
- determined not eligible for the National Register.
- removed from the National Register.
- other, (explain:)

Sharon Byers 2/23/89  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
Signature of the Keeper Date of Action

**6. Function or Use**

Historic Functions (enter categories from instructions)

RECREATION AND CULTURE/sports  
facility

Current Functions (enter categories from instructions)

RECREATION AND CULTURE/sports  
facility**7. Description**Architectural Classification  
(enter categories from instructions)

LATE VICTORIAN/Shingle Style

Materials (enter categories from instructions)

foundation OTHER/Wood Pilings  
walls WOOD/Shingle

roof ASBESTOS

other

Describe present and historic physical appearance.

The Edgewood Yacht Club building, a private clubhouse erected in 1908 (Murphy, Hindle & Wright, architects), is located in the Edgewood neighborhood of Cranston at the foot of Shaw Avenue. It is a large two-and-one-half-story, wood-frame, Shingle Style building constructed on pilings in Narragansett Bay. The pilings are evenly spaced in rows, nine across and fourteen deep. The building, measuring approximately sixty-four feet by one hundred feet, is covered by a low gable-on-hip roof, accented with triangular dormers, brick chimneys, and a central octagonal, domed cupola rising from a square base. The roof extends over a two-story veranda around the perimeter of the building. A sidewalk leads from Shaw Avenue to a ramp which provides access to the first-story veranda and main entrance. A second walk curves from the ramp to an asphalt parking lot located on filled land south of the clubhouse. The walks are landscaped with shrubbery, in the midst of which is a two-ton anchor with a four-foot stock and two flukes. A fixed pier and floating docks extend from the east side of the clubhouse. A masonry seawall parallels the building, pier, and docks, beginning on shore at the southern edge of the parking lot and reaching out to the end of the slip area. The adjoining neighborhood comprises residential properties built on the bluffs above the club and fronting on Narragansett Boulevard.

On the west end of the clubhouse, a slight projection of the second-story veranda railing marks the location of the main entrance. Above that, on the veranda roof, is a small balcony fronted by a sign containing the letters "EYC." A wooden flagpole is set within the balcony rail. At the back of the balcony, a multi-pane arched window is set in a gable at the peak of the roof. The first story of the veranda has been enclosed on the south side to enlarge the adjoining rooms. The north veranda, separated from the entrance veranda by a gate, has storage lockers ranged along the inner side on the building's outer wall. The deck planks on open sections of the veranda are in poor condition. Most of the windows are six-over-one except for those of the veranda enclosure; here are metal units

United States Department of the Interior  
National Park Service

**National Register of Historic Places  
Continuation Sheet**

Section number 7 Page 7.2

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comprising single large, fixed panes flanked by casements and topped by transoms with four fixed panes.

Inside the first-floor plan consists of a wide central corridor running the length of the building, with meeting rooms, offices, storage rooms, and rest rooms on each side. In the corridor are trophy cases and large plaques listing the club's one-design winners for various classes from the 1930s to the present. The rooms are plain, without significant architectural detail. The Senior Room in the southeast corner of the building has wood paneling to a height of approximately six and one-half feet. A plaque above the paneling indicates the high-water mark of the 1938 hurricane.

An interior staircase to the second floor is located immediately to the right upon entering the building. There is also an exterior staircase between levels at the eastern end of the building. On the second floor there is a large hall with a stage and dressing rooms at the west end and an enclosed bar at the east end. Double doors by the bar lead to the veranda overlooking the water. Plywood paneling in the hall is the only significant alteration of the second-floor space. A ladder provides access to the attic and cupola.

A T-shaped pier extends approximately seventy-five feet out from the veranda on the east end of the building. The perpendicular arm of the "T" is covered by a flat roof that also serves as a viewing deck. The pier and deck are bounded by railings with the same detailing. A small area at the end of the pier is enclosed as an office for the dockmaster.

Large floating docks situated north and south of the fixed pier are used to store dinghys and small sailboats. Additional docks extend eastward from the ends of these two docks to provide access to the boatslips. The floating docks, all composed of interlocking wooden frames with flotation inserted between the planks, are secured to pilings but are removable for winter storage. Additional pilings stand outboard of the docks, for securing boats in their slips.

**United States Department of the Interior  
National Park Service**

**National Register of Historic Places  
Continuation Sheet**

Section number 8 Page 8.2

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Edgewood Yacht Club is only slightly younger than the state's oldest yacht club, Rhode Island Yacht Club,<sup>1</sup> and has long held important sailing activities. For many years, the club ran at least one regatta, one one-design race, and several special races. The predominant one-design boat races included Beetles, Stars, Indians, Snipes, 110s, and Puffins. Like many yacht clubs, the Edgewood Yacht Club during World War II formed an auxiliary coast guard to patrol the inland waters of Narragansett Bay. The club has long been a leader in providing sailing instruction to children and adults.

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<sup>1</sup>Yachting activity in Rhode Island was certainly not limited to local clubs in the nineteenth century; indeed, much of the significant marine activity here was under the auspices of the New York Yacht Club in Newport, where so many of the club members decamped for the summer.

**8. Statement of Significance**

Certifying official has considered the significance of this property in relation to other properties:

nationally  statewide  locally

Applicable National Register Criteria  A  B  C  D

Criteria Considerations (Exceptions)  A  B  C  D  E  F  G

Areas of Significance (enter categories from instructions)

ARCHITECTURE

Period of Significance

1908

Significant Dates

Significant Person

N/A

Architect/Builder

Murphy, Hindle & Wright

State significance of property, and justify criteria, criteria considerations, and areas and periods of significance noted above.

The oldest yacht clubhouse in the state, the Edgewood Yacht Club (1908, Murphy, Hindle & Wright, architects) is the only remaining example of a group once relatively common in this ocean-oriented state. Its form and siting typify those of late nineteenth- and early twentieth-century seaside clubhouses. The club which erected and still occupies the building played an important role in promotion of yacht racing in Narragansett Bay.

Established at this location in 1885 as the Edgewood Boat Club, this organization served the nascent, upper-middle-class suburb of Edgewood and included only a group of bayside bathhouses. The Club was formally incorporated as the Edgewood Yacht Club in 1889, and a clubhouse, which replaced the various temporary structures here, was constructed in 1903; its incineration in 1908 necessitated the construction of this structure.

Built on pilings in the water with docks extending into the bay, this building follows the format established for yacht clubs and boat houses in the nineteenth century and continued through the first four decades of the twentieth century. Most, like this one, were two stories high with circumferential verandas: the porches were important functionally--to catch the sea breezes and to provide ample room for lolling and watching approaching vessels--and their very form recalls the decks of ships. The interiors of these structures were invariably utilitarian, usually finished with matchboard paneling. Similar structures stood nearby to serve the Rhode Island Yacht Club and the Washington Park Yacht Club; perhaps the most elaborate of the genre was the Narragansett Boat Club on the Seekonk in Providence. All others have disappeared, prey to hurricanes in their vulnerable seaside settings, or destroyed by fires.

See continuation sheet

## 9. Major Bibliographical References

Davis, Jeff (Arthur W.), Yachting in Narragansett Bay 1921-1945, reprinted from the Providence Journal and Bulletin, Providence, 1946.

Edgewood Yacht Club 1987 Log, Cranston, 1987.

Morse, Alice W., "Information Collected About Pawtuxet and Edgewood, Ward One, Cranston, RI", 1943-1944.

Providence Board of Trade Journal, Providence, Vol. 26, 1914.

"Cranston, RI, Statewide Historical Preservation Report P-C-1"  
Rhode Island Historical Preservation Commission, Providence, 1980.

See continuation sheet

Previous documentation on file (NPS):

preliminary determination of individual listing (36 CFR 67) has been requested

previously listed in the National Register

previously determined eligible by the National Register

designated a National Historic Landmark

recorded by Historic American Buildings Survey # \_\_\_\_\_

recorded by Historic American Engineering Record # \_\_\_\_\_

Primary location of additional data:

State historic preservation office

Other State agency

Federal agency

Local government

University

Other

Specify repository:

Rhode Island Historical Preservation Commission

## 10. Geographical Data

Acreage of property less than one

UTM References

A 19 301310 4627480  
Zone Easting Northing

B \_\_\_\_\_  
Zone Easting Northing

C \_\_\_\_\_

D \_\_\_\_\_

See continuation sheet

Verbal Boundary Description

The nominated property includes all of Plat 2/2, lot 2852, as defined by the Cranston City Assessor; the boundary projects into the waters of Narragansett Bay to encompass the entire Yacht Club building.

See continuation sheet

Boundary Justification

The boundary includes the resource described and its immediate setting.

See continuation sheet

## 11. Form Prepared By

name/title Patricia A. Sheehan, Consultant

organization \_\_\_\_\_

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city or town Jamestown

date August, 1987

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