

1078

United States Department of the Interior  
National Park Service

# National Register of Historic Places Registration Form

This form is for use in nominating or requesting determinations for individual properties and districts. See instructions in National Register Bulletin, *How to Complete the National Register of Historic Places Registration Form*. If any item does not apply to the property being documented, enter "N/A" for "not applicable." For functions, architectural classification, materials, and areas of significance, enter only categories and subcategories from the instructions.



### 1. Name of Property

Historic name: Edgewood Historic District – Taft Estate Plat, Amendment (Boundary Increase)

Other names/site number: \_\_\_\_\_

Name of related multiple property listing: Historic and Cultural Resources of the Edgewood Neighborhood, Cranston, Rhode Island

(Enter "N/A" if property is not part of a multiple property listing)

### 2. Location

Street & number: East Side of Narragansett Boulevard, between Windsor Road and Ocean Avenue

City or town: Cranston State: RI County: Providence

Not For Publication:  Vicinity:

### 3. State/Federal Agency Certification

As the designated authority under the National Historic Preservation Act, as amended,

I hereby certify that this X 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 X meets \_\_\_ does not meet the National Register Criteria. I recommend that this property be considered significant at the following level(s) of significance:

\_\_\_ national \_\_\_ statewide x local

Applicable National Register Criteria:

x A \_\_\_ B x C \_\_\_ D

	<u>10/27/2014</u>
<b>Signature of certifying official/Title:</b>	<b>Date</b>
<u>RI Historical Preservation &amp; Heritage Commission</u>	
<b>State or Federal agency/bureau or Tribal Government</b>	

In my opinion, the property \_\_\_ meets \_\_\_ does not meet the National Register criteria.

\_\_\_\_\_  
**Signature of commenting official:** **Date**

**Title :** **State or Federal agency/bureau or Tribal Government**

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**4. National Park Service Certification**

I hereby certify that this property is:

- entered in the National Register
- determined eligible for the National Register
- determined not eligible for the National Register
- removed from the National Register
- other (explain:)

*John Edward H. Beall*  
Signature of the Keeper

*12.22.14*  
Date of Action

**5. Classification**

**Ownership of Property**

(Check as many boxes as apply.)

- Private:
- Public – Local
- Public – State
- Public – Federal

**Category of Property**

(Check only one box.)

- Building(s)
- District
- Site
- Structure
- Object

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**Number of Resources within Property**

(Do not include previously listed resources in the count)

Contributing	Noncontributing	
_____	_____	buildings
<u>1</u>	_____	sites
_____	_____	structures
_____	_____	objects
<u>1</u>	<u>0</u>	Total

Number of contributing resources previously listed in the National Register 0

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**6. Function or Use**

**Historic Functions**

(Enter categories from instructions.)

LANDSCAPE/natural feature, park

\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

**Current Functions**

(Enter categories from instructions.)

LANDSCAPE/natural feature, park, conservation area

\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

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## 7. Description

### Architectural Classification

(Enter categories from instructions.)

N/A

\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

**Materials:** (enter categories from instructions.)

Principal exterior materials of the property: EARTH; STONE; CONCRETE

### Narrative Description

(Describe the historic and current physical appearance and condition of the property. Describe contributing and noncontributing resources if applicable. Begin with a **summary paragraph** that briefly describes the general characteristics of the property, such as its location, type, style, method of construction, setting, size, and significant features. Indicate whether the property has historic integrity.)

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#### Summary Paragraph

This amendment to the “Edgewood Historic District – Taft Estate Plat” extends the eastern boundary of the existing district across Narragansett Boulevard to the Providence River (upper Narragansett Bay), adding a 21,670 sq.ft. parcel of waterfront open space to the historic district. This parcel is part of a character-defining topographical feature in the Taft Estate Plat: Stillhouse Cove, which influenced the distinctive curvature of Narragansett Boulevard through the plat as well as the arrangement of house lots, all of which are west of Narragansett Boulevard with many having scenic views from the bluffs overlooking the cove. In 1915-1916 this natural open space became part of the Stillhouse Cove Reservation in the metropolitan park system, and it remains a public park today, now owned by the City of Cranston. The nominated parcel is the southernmost of two parcels that comprise this park.

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## Narrative Description

### Inventory

Contributing elements within the Edgewood Historic District – Taft Estate Plat are defined as those sites, buildings, structures, and objects that relate visually and historically to the district’s areas of significance between ca. 1850 and 1941, the period in which both the Taft Estate Plat and the larger Edgewood neighborhood substantially achieved their present form.

Note: While only one of the two parcels in the Stillhouse Cove Reservation is the subject of the Amendment, both parcels together along with the adjacent section of Narragansett Boulevard present a unified landscape. This narrative describes that landscape as a whole, noting individual features that are specific to the nominated southern parcel. The northern parcel is anticipated to be nominated to the National Register as part of the Aberdeen Plat Historic District.

#### NARRAGANSETT BOULEVARD - STILLHOUSE COVE RESERVATION (SOUTHERN PARCEL)

The Stillhouse Cove Reservation lies on the east side of Narragansett Boulevard, bounded by Strathmore Place on the north and Ocean Avenue on the south. It is approximately 1,500 feet long, with a concave-curved shoreline. The cove lands are broadest at the northern end of the cove, about 365 feet wide abutting Strathmore Place, and gradually taper down to a narrow strip about 30 to 60 feet wide near Ocean Avenue.<sup>1</sup> The land is mostly level adjacent to Narragansett Boulevard, and then slopes down toward the water.

The southern parcel of the Reservation occupies approximately half of its length, from roughly opposite Windsor Road to Ocean Avenue, and is about 100 feet wide at its widest point, where it abuts the northern parcel.

Stillhouse Cove is an intertidal zone, so the land area of the Reservation has historically consisted mostly of salt marsh and beach. The general contours of the shoreline have remained much the same, and while the landscape features have changed somewhat due to a combination of weather, plant life cycles, erosion, and other maintenance issues, the cove lands today are still consistent with their early 20<sup>th</sup> century appearance, as seen in historic photos (*Figures 1 and 2*).

In 2004, the City of Cranston (with multiple other stakeholders) began a restoration of the Stillhouse Cove Reservation that was continued in 2007 by the Edgewood Waterfront Preservation Association. The natural salt marsh was restored, and invasive vegetation was removed. Erosion control measures, including 850 linear feet of rip-rap wall and a new storm-water drainage system, were installed. Public access was also improved: a new concrete sidewalk with granite curbs was built along the street edge, and an area of green lawn, with

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<sup>1</sup> Distances are approximate, measured on Google Maps. Widths were measured from the east line of Narragansett Boulevard to the water.

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scattered trees and park benches, was installed next to that sidewalk to protect the marsh and the beach.<sup>2</sup> In the southern parcel of the Reservation, a boat ramp opposite Circuit Drive (built sometime after 1962) is scheduled for replacement (in pre-cast concrete) by 2015.

While most of Narragansett Boulevard runs straight along the top of a line of 30-foot bluffs overlooking the Providence River, the last 0.3 mile section of road, from Sefton Drive southward to Ocean Avenue, slopes down in front of the bluffs to sea level and curves around Stillhouse Cove. This change in grade and curvature, along with the sweeping and unobstructed waterfront views that open up on the roadway's east side as it descends to Stillhouse Cove, are unique and character-defining features of the southern end of Narragansett Boulevard. Although the 1904 Taft Estate Plat map shows Narragansett Boulevard as being 80 feet wide (which is the consistent width of its right-of-way for its entire 1.3 mile length), the section that curves around Stillhouse Cove was originally built as a single-lane road (*Figures 1 and 2*). It was widened in the 1940s as part of a sewer improvement project, which required some filling of the cove lands near Ocean Avenue.<sup>3</sup>

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## 8. Statement of Significance

### Applicable National Register Criteria

(Mark "x" in one or more boxes for the criteria qualifying the property for National Register listing.)

- A. Property is associated with events that have made a significant contribution to the broad patterns of our history.
- B. Property is associated with the lives of persons significant in our past.
- C. Property embodies the distinctive characteristics of a type, period, or method of construction or represents the work of a master, or possesses high artistic values, or represents a significant and distinguishable entity whose components lack individual distinction.
- D. Property has yielded, or is likely to yield, information important in prehistory or history.

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<sup>2</sup> Cranston Planning Dept. files.

<sup>3</sup> A 1905 plan to widen Narragansett Boulevard near Ocean Avenue would have taken some land from adjacent house lots on the west side of the boulevard. Whether this work was actually done is unknown.

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**Criteria Considerations**

(Mark “x” in all the boxes that apply.)

- A. Owned by a religious institution or used for religious purposes
- B. Removed from its original location
- C. A birthplace or grave
- D. A cemetery
- E. A reconstructed building, object, or structure
- F. A commemorative property
- G. Less than 50 years old or achieving significance within the past 50 years

**Areas of Significance**

(Enter categories from instructions.)

COMMUNITY PLANNING AND DEVELOPMENT

**Period of Significance**

ca. 1850-1941

**Significant Dates**

1904

1915

**Significant Person**

(Complete only if Criterion B is marked above.)

N/A

**Cultural Affiliation**

N/A

**Architect/Builder**

N/A

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**Statement of Significance Summary Paragraph** (Provide a summary paragraph that includes level of significance, applicable criteria, justification for the period of significance, and any applicable criteria considerations.)

Waterfront open space has been an important visual characteristic of the Taft Estate since 1860, when Orray Taft purchased the 35-acre Brattle Farm in Edgewood as his rural retreat, and built his country home on the bluffs overlooking Stillhouse Cove. When the estate was platted for residential development in 1904, the house lots were all laid out on the west side of Narragansett Boulevard, leaving the cove lands to the east as natural open space, in keeping with the garden suburb precept of utilizing topographic features to provide scenic views. This not only enhanced the plat's marketability and rapid pace of development, but also set the stage for the Stillhouse Cove Reservation to be incorporated into the State of Rhode Island's metropolitan park system in 1915, highlighting its significance both to the plat and the larger Edgewood neighborhood. The portion of the Stillhouse Cove Reservation that was included in the original plat meets Criterion A for National Register listing for its associations with community planning, and still maintains integrity of location, setting, materials, feeling, and association. It contributes to the overall significance of the historic district at the local level.

**Narrative Statement of Significance** (Provide at least **one** paragraph for each area of significance.)

The history of the Taft Estate, within the context of Edgewood's development as a suburban residential neighborhood, is explained in the National Register nomination for the "Edgewood Historic District – Taft Estate Plat." This narrative expands briefly on the importance of Stillhouse Cove and Narragansett Boulevard to the development of the plat.

By the end of the 19<sup>th</sup> century, the Taft estate was bounded by what is now Massasoit Avenue on the north, Broad Street on the west, Ocean Avenue on the south, and the Providence River on the east. In 1896, Edward P. Taft deeded to the Town of Cranston, "for highway purposes," a strip of land running along the entire east side of his estate, 80 feet wide by about half a mile long, which curved at its southern end around the shoreline of Stillhouse Cove.<sup>4</sup> This may have been the first stretch of right-of-way acquired by the Town for the construction of Narragansett Boulevard (completed in 1906).

A year later, apparently anticipating an increased demand for new suburban housing in Edgewood, especially once Narragansett Boulevard was completed, Edward P. Taft began to subdivide his property for residential development. He started at the northern end of the estate (furthest away from his own home) with a plat depicting house lots on Massasoit Avenue and "Canonicus Avenue" (now Sefton Drive), recorded in 1897.<sup>5</sup>

<sup>4</sup> Deed Book 85, Page 331. As described in this deed, the highway right-of-way was bounded on the north by land owned by Lucy M. Hayward; her name is seen on Plat Card 107, "Plat of Canonicus Avenue" (1900) as the owner of land just north of Massasoit Avenue.

<sup>5</sup> Plat Card 108 (see bibliography for full citation).



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After Taft died in 1899, the estate was essentially split in half, with each half subsequently sold to other owners and then platted multiple times. As a result, the cove lands, which had originally been a unified landscape when part of the Taft Estate, were likewise subdivided into two parcels. The northern portion of the Taft Estate, including about half of Stillhouse Cove, eventually became the Aberdeen Plat of 1901 (anticipated to be nominated to the National Register as a historic district).

When Stephen B. Brown purchased the southern half of the estate in July 1904, and a month later recorded the Taft Estate Plat, the natural topography of the land clearly influenced the design of the plat as a garden suburb, with a curvilinear layout of streets and an irregular division of lots. Stillhouse Cove's salt water marsh and beach were not well suited for housing construction, but they were a scenic and recreational amenity, and the tall bluffs rising above the cove were an ideal building site, elevated above the flood plain and offering extensive water views. As Orray Taft had done over half a century before, the Taft Estate Plat likewise capitalized on these unique features. The map of the plat, dated August 1904, shows the curving Narragansett Boulevard with the cove lands on its east side, consisting of broad "salt marsh land" on the north tapering to a very narrow strip on the south.

A few months after the Taft Estate Plat was recorded, in November 1904, the Rhode Island General Assembly enacted legislation to create the Metropolitan Park Commission (MPC), authorized to create a system of public parks, reservations, and parkways in eleven municipalities that lay within a 10 mile radius of the State Capitol in Providence. Within a year the MPC, in consultation with Frederick Law Olmsted, Jr., had identified a preliminary wish list of areas to be acquired as parks and public reservations, as well as connecting pathways, drives and boulevards.

The MPC cited Narragansett Boulevard as a model for a proposed parkway in Warwick on the west shore of Narragansett Bay from Pawtuxet south to Warwick Neck (later built as Narragansett Parkway). A 1906 map shows Narragansett Boulevard as part of the metropolitan park system, but that roadway has always remained in municipal ownership. Stillhouse Cove was not on the MPC's original wish list, but as a scenic natural landscape that was not well suited for building, it certainly fit the selection criteria, and in 1912 the MPC proposed to acquire Stillhouse Cove as a state reservation. The Edgewood Improvement Association heartily endorsed this proposal because it would allow the public to continue to enjoy and use Stillhouse Cove, and would also protect property values adjacent to the waterfront.<sup>6</sup>

As of 1912, 28 new houses had already been built in the Taft Estate Plat; five more were added over the next three years, so seventy-seven percent of the 43 contributing buildings in the historic district were standing by the time the Metropolitan Park Commission acquired Stillhouse Cove. About half of these houses, located near the east ends of Circuit Drive, Stratford Road, and Windsor Road as well as on Selkirk Road and Narragansett Boulevard itself, would have had water views, and Stillhouse Cove could be reached within a

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<sup>6</sup> *Providence Journal*, April 6, 1912, p. 5.

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five-minute walk of any location within the plat. That proximity must have been a major selling point for the homeowners who chose to buy in the Taft Estate Plat.

The Metropolitan Park Commission acquired the Stillhouse Cove Reservation (which included about 38 acres of water and about 5 acres of land) by eminent domain in 1915 (*Figure 3*).<sup>7</sup> The MPC Annual Report of 1916 celebrated this accomplishment as “the most notable work during the past year,” and the *Providence Journal* likewise endorsed this new state reservation, noting that it would “insure the protection of the lower end of the boulevard for all time against the erection of buildings of any character intended to mar the landscape.”<sup>8</sup>

The MPC’s acquisition of Stillhouse Cove reunited the cove lands that had been divided by the Aberdeen Plat of 1901 and the Taft Estate Plat of 1904.

The Metropolitan Park Commission had chronic problems with a lack of funding, and dissolved in 1935. Oversight of the metropolitan (later, state) park system passed to several successive state agencies.<sup>9</sup> About 20 acres of the Reservation, all under water, was sold to the R.I. Yacht Club in 1955. In 1978 a group of concerned neighbors formed the Edgewood Waterfront Preservation Association to address over a decade of neglect in the cove lands, organizing clean-ups and working with various government agencies to restore the marsh and the beach. The City of Cranston acquired the Stillhouse Cove Reservation in 1984,<sup>10</sup> and since then has worked with the Edgewood Waterfront Preservation Association and other neighborhood groups to preserve and protect this beloved public park, which has historical roots in the original development of the Taft Estate Plat.

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<sup>7</sup> Deed Book 131/Page 95. This document, dated July 30, 1915, does not name the owner(s) of the cove lands at the time of condemnation, but it is referenced in the Grantor Index under the name of Stephen B. Brown, who had been the owner of all the land that was included in the Taft Estate Plat of 1904, including the southern portion of Stillhouse Cove. (Note that the condemnation legislation is also dated 1915, as is the plat map of the Stillhouse Cove condemnation. The chain of title card for Assessor’s Plat 2-2, Lot 2174, indicates that the property was condemned by the Metropolitan Park Commission in 1916, but this is evidently an error. The acreage of the Reservation comes from an article in *Providence Magazine* (March 1919, p. 112), which also erroneously states that Stillhouse Cove was acquired in 1916 by a combination of condemnation and purchase. No evidence was found in Cranston deeds of the outright purchase of any portion of the cove lands in 1915, or of any land transfers in 1916.)

<sup>8</sup> *Providence Journal*, May 28, 1915, p. 9.

<sup>9</sup> R.I. Dept. of Agriculture & Conservation, Division of Forests, Parks & Parkways, 1935-1952; R.I. Dept. of Public Works, Division of Parks & Recreation, 1952-1965; R.I. Dept. of Natural Resources, Division of Parks & Recreation, 1965-1977; R.I. Department of Environmental Management, Division of Parks & Recreation, 1977-1984.

<sup>10</sup> Deed Book 505/Page 149.

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## 9. Major Bibliographical References

**Bibliography** (Cite the books, articles, and other sources used in preparing this form.)

### PRIMARY SOURCES

#### MAPS

Beers, D.G. & Co. Atlas of the State of Rhode Island and Providence Plantations.  
Philadelphia, 1870.

Everts and Richards. New Topographical Atlas of Surveys, Providence County, Rhode Island.  
Philadelphia, 1895.

Hopkins, G.M. Atlas of the City of Providence and Environs. Philadelphia, 1882.

Richard's Map Company. Richard's Standard Atlas of the Providence Metropolitan District,  
Vol. 2. Springfield, Mass., 1917.

Sanborn Insurance Company. Map of Cranston, Providence Co., Rhode Island, Vol. 1. New  
York, 1921. Online at <http://sanborn/umi.com> (pages 100, 102, and 104).

### PUBLIC RECORDS

#### City of Cranston

Assessor's Office: Chain of Title Card and Assessor's Plat Maps

City Clerk's Office: Land Evidence Records – Deeds and Development Plat Maps, including:

Plat Card 107: "Plat of Canonicus Avenue, Cranston, R.I., which Avenue corresponds with 'Canonicus Avenue' as shown on the plat entitled, 'Plat of Land in Cranston, R.I. belonging to Edward P. Taft, by J.A. Latham,' by J.A. Latham, May 1900. [Shows a reconfiguration of the 1897 plat, as all of the land on the north side of Massasoit Avenue and most of the land on its south side now belonged to Emma L. Flint. "Canonicus Avenue" (now Sefton Drive), Broad Street, and Narragansett Boulevard are all shown; no house lots are depicted.]

Plat Card 108: "Plat of Land in Cranston, R.I. belonging to Edward P. Taft," by J.A. Latham, January 1897. [Shows numbered house lots on Massasoit Avenue and "Canonicus Avenue (now Sefton Drive) between Broad Street on the west and "Allens Avenue" (now Narragansett Boulevard) on the east. The cove lands east of "Allens Avenue" are not depicted.]

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Plat Card 160: "Plat of the Taft Estate," surveyed and platted by Elwyn M. Clark, August 1904. [Shows the area between Windsor Road on the north, Broad Street on the west, Ocean "Street" (now Avenue) on the south, and Narragansett Bay on the east, including part of Narragansett Boulevard and the "salt marsh land" east of it.]

Plat Card 218: "State of Rhode Island Metropolitan Park Commission, Plan of Land near Stillhouse Cove, Cranston, R.I., condemned by the Metropolitan Park Commission of Providence Plantations under the Provisions of Chapter 1248 of the Public Laws of 1915," May 1915.

Planning Department files, including:

"Map of the proposed widening of Narragansett Boulevard from Ocean Street northerly," by J.A. Latham, July 3, 1905.

"Narragansett Boulevard, City of Cranston Sanitary Sewers Preliminary Survey, Work Projects Administration," Plan No. 602-5 (between Massasoit Avenue and Windsor Road), July 3, 1940 and Plan No. 602-6 (between Windsor Road and Ocean Avenue), July 5, 1940.

State of Rhode Island and Providence Plantations

Maps (in chronological order)

"Map of the Metropolitan District of Providence Plantations, showing proposed System of Parks, Boulevards, and Public Reservations," 1906. [In 1906 Metropolitan Park Commission Annual Report.]

Metropolitan Park Commission. "Stillhouse Cove: Land Owned by M.P.C. in Cranston, R.I.," July 1929.

Dept. of Agriculture & Conservation, Division of Forests, Parks & Parkways. "Proposed Marine Park at Still House Cove [*sic*], Cranston, R.I.," April 6, 1936.

Other Records

Acts and Resolves Passed by the General Assembly of the State of Rhode Island and Providence Plantations at the January Session, A.D. 1915, Chapter 1248: "An Act to Condemn Certain Land by the State for Metropolitan Park Purposes." Providence, 1915. [Stillhouse Cove was Parcel Six in this acquisition.]

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Dept. of Agriculture & Conservation. Annual Report for FY 1952-53. Providence, 1953.

Digest of Annual Reports of State Agencies. Providence, 1963-64, 1965-66, and 1977-78.

A Metropolitan Park System: Report upon a System of Public Reservations for the Metropolitan District of Providence Plantations: To the General Assembly at January Session 1905. Providence, 1905.

Annual Reports of the Board of the Metropolitan Park Commissioners. Providence, 1906-1912, 1923-1935. [Reports for some intervening years, including 1916, are available in the collection of the R.I. Historical Society Library, which was closed during the preparation of this Amendment.]

#### UNPUBLISHED SOURCES

Rhode Island Historical Preservation & Heritage Commission files, including:

Edgewood Waterfront Preservation Association. "Application for Hurricane Sandy Disaster Relief Funds for Historic Properties." Typescript, 2013.

Klyberg, Albert T. "A Wider View of the History of the Hundred Years of State Parks in Rhode Island: the "deeded out," diminished, or obsolete state parks of Rhode Island." Typescript, 2012.

#### PUBLISHED SOURCES

Ames, David L. and Linda Flint McClelland. National Register Bulletin: Historic Residential Suburbs. Washington, D.C., 2002.

Metropolitan Park Commission. Guide Book to the Reservations of the Metropolitan Park System of Rhode Island (Second Edition). Providence, 1926.

#### Providence Journal

"Edgewood Favors Park Bond Issue," April 6, 1912, p. 5.

"Plan Big Addition for Park System: Metropolitan Commission to add Eight More Parcels," May 28, 1915, p. 9 (front page of Section Two).

#### Providence Magazine: The Board of Trade Journal

Vol. 31, No. 3, March 1919, pp. 109-116: "Park Association has changed Visions into Realities."

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## WEBSITES

Google Maps: [www.googlemaps.com](http://www.googlemaps.com).

Rhode Island Yacht Club: [www.riyachtclub.org/aboutus/historyoftheclub.html](http://www.riyachtclub.org/aboutus/historyoftheclub.html)

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### 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 # \_\_\_\_\_
- recorded by Historic American Landscape Survey # \_\_\_\_\_

### Primary location of additional data:

- State Historic Preservation Office
- Other State agency
- Federal agency
- Local government
- University
- Other

Name of repository: \_\_\_\_\_

Historic Resources Survey Number (if assigned): \_\_\_\_\_

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## 10. Geographical Data

**Acreage of Property** 21,670 sq.ft; including Narragansett Blvd. roadway: approx. 2 acres. (Total acreage of historic district is now approx. 16 acres.)

Use either the UTM system or latitude/longitude coordinates

### Latitude/Longitude Coordinates

Datum if other than WGS84: \_\_\_\_\_

(enter coordinates to 6 decimal places)

- |              |            |
|--------------|------------|
| 1. Latitude: | Longitude: |
| 2. Latitude: | Longitude: |
| 3. Latitude: | Longitude: |
| 4. Latitude: | Longitude: |

Or

### UTM References

Datum (indicated on USGS map):

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Note: These references include the original historic district plus the added land area.

NAD 1929 or  NAD 1983

- |             |                  |                   |
|-------------|------------------|-------------------|
| 1. Zone: 19 | Easting: 301100  | Northing: 4626960 |
| 2. Zone: 19 | Easting: 301440  | Northing: 4627000 |
| 3. Zone: 19 | Easting: 301400  | Northing: 4626860 |
| 4. Zone: 19 | Easting : 301560 | Northing: 4626740 |
| 5. Zone: 19 | Easting: 301200  | Northing: 4626740 |

**Verbal Boundary Description** (Describe the boundaries of the property.)

This Amendment extends the eastern boundary of the existing historic district eastward across Narragansett Boulevard to include all of Lot 2174 in Assessor’s Plat 2-2.

**Boundary Justification** (Explain why the boundaries were selected.)

On the 1904 Taft Estate Plat map, the northern boundary is a line that extends from the rear property lines of house lots on the north side of Windsor Road, straight across Narragansett Boulevard to the Providence River/upper Narragansett Bay. This Amendment brings into the historic district an area of natural open space that was originally part of the Taft Estate and has been a public park since 1915-1916.

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**11. Form Prepared By**

name/title: Kathryn J. Cavanaugh, Preservation Consultant  
organization: \_\_\_\_\_  
street & number: 82 Larch Street  
city or town: Providence state: RI zip code: 02906  
e-mail kathycavanaugh@cox.net  
telephone: 401-273-4715  
date: June 18, 2014

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### Additional Documentation

Submit the following items with the completed form:

- **Maps:** A **USGS map** or equivalent (7.5 or 15 minute series) indicating the property's location.
- **Sketch map** for historic districts and properties having large acreage or numerous resources. Key all photographs to this map.
- **Additional items:** (Check with the SHPO, TPO, or FPO for any additional items.)

### Photographs

Submit clear and descriptive photographs. The size of each image must be 1600x1200 pixels (minimum), 3000x2000 preferred, at 300 ppi (pixels per inch) or larger. Key all photographs to the sketch map. Each photograph must be numbered and that number must correspond to the photograph number on the photo log. For simplicity, the name of the photographer, photo date, etc. may be listed once on the photograph log and doesn't need to be labeled on every photograph.

### Photo Log

Name of Property: Stillhouse Cove Reservation, Narragansett Boulevard (southern parcel)

City or Vicinity: Cranston

County: Providence

State: RI

Photographer: Kathryn J. Cavanaugh

Date Photographed: April 23, 2014

Description of Photograph(s) and number, include description of view indicating direction of camera:

1 of 4. View from Narragansett Boulevard at Ocean Avenue, looking northeast over Stillhouse Cove and the public park.

2 of 4. View from within the public park near Ocean Avenue, looking northwest over Stillhouse Cove and Narragansett Boulevard.

3 of 4. View from within the public park, south of Windsor Road, looking northeast over Stillhouse Cove and Narragansett Boulevard (also seen is the northern parcel of the cove lands).

4 of 4. View from within the public park, roughly opposite Windsor Road, looking south over Stillhouse Cove and Narragansett Boulevard.



Edgewood Historic District – Taft Estate Plat  
Amendment  
Name of Property

Providence Co., R.I.  
County and State



**Figure 1: Stillhouse Cove, looking northeast from the former Taft Estate and across Narragansett Boulevard, in 1919.**



**Figure 2: Stillhouse Cove, looking southeast from the former Taft Estate and across Narragansett Boulevard, in 1921.**

Edgewood Historic District – Taft Estate Plat  
Amendment

Name of Property

Providence Co., R.I.

County and State

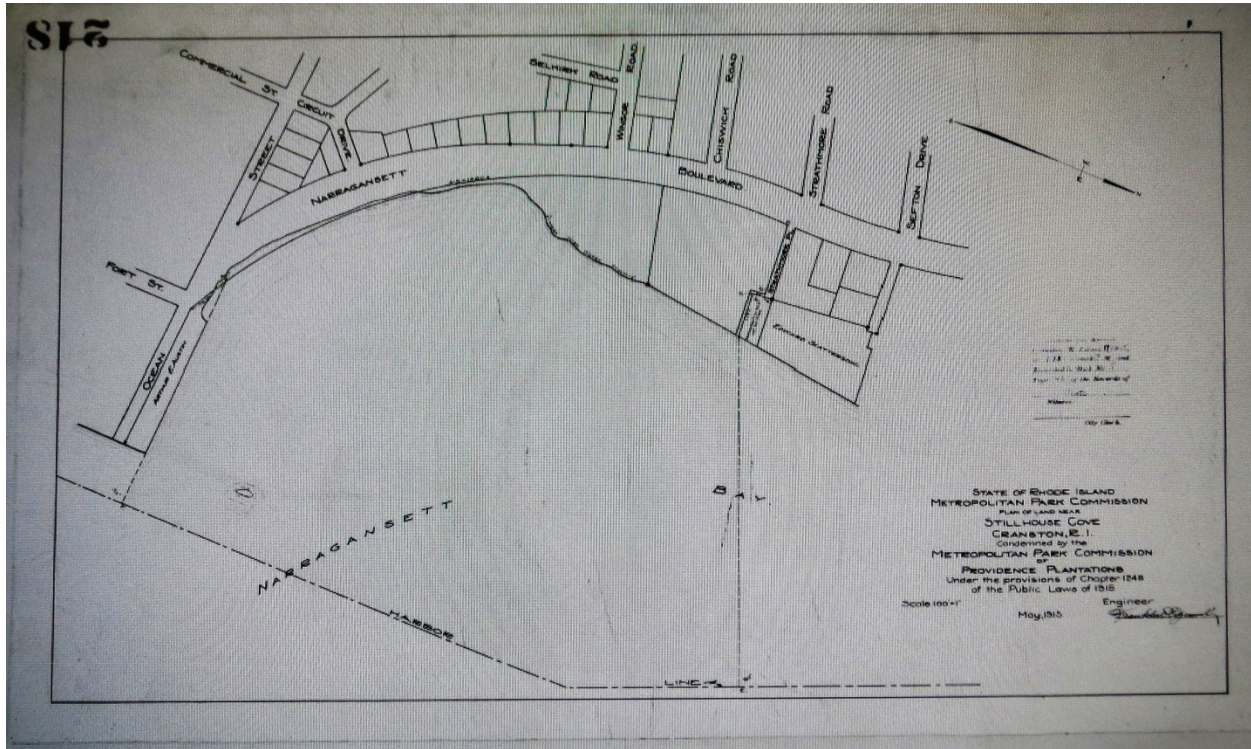
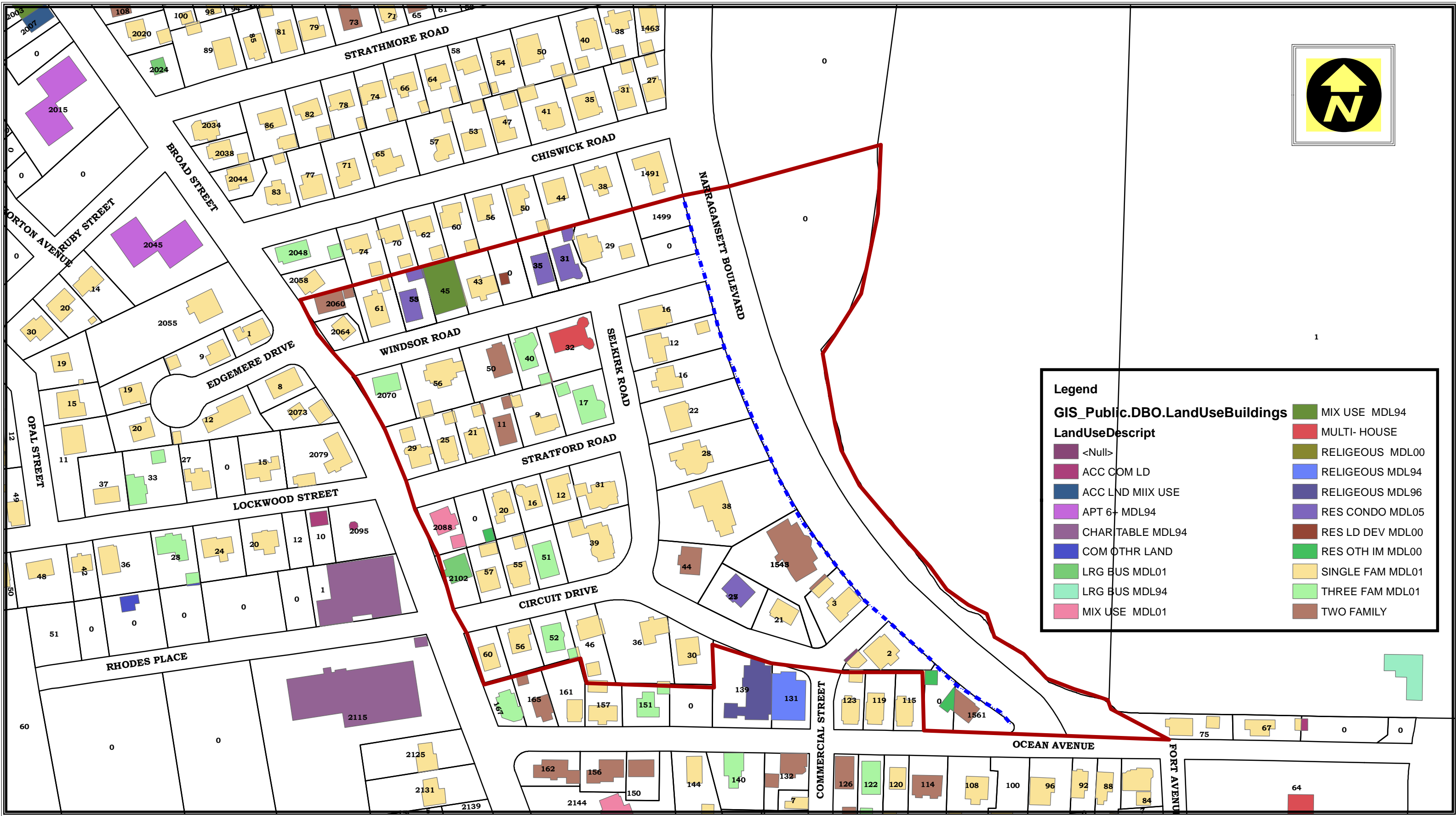
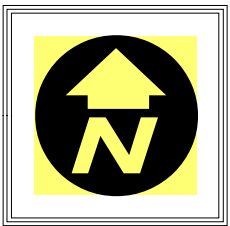


Figure 3: Stillhouse Cove Reservation, Metropolitan Park Commission Condemnation Plat, May 1915 (Cranston Plat Card 218).



**Legend**

**GIS\_Public.DBO.LandUseBuildings**

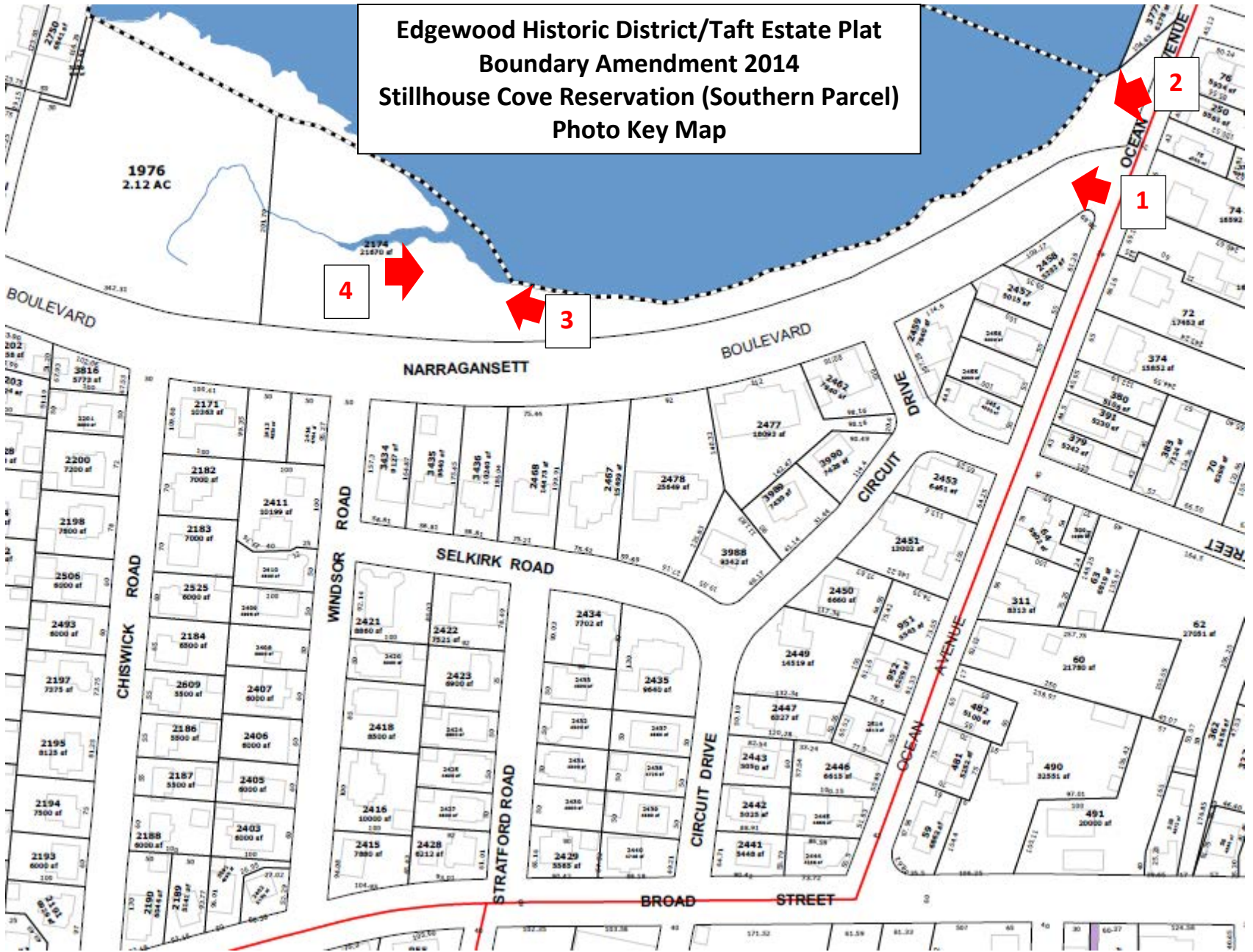
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ACC COM LD	MULTI- HOUSE
ACC LND MIIX USE	RELIGIOUS MDL00
APT 6+ MDL94	RELIGIOUS MDL94
CHARITABLE MDL94	RELIGIOUS MDL96
COM OTHR LAND	RES CONDO MDL05
LRG BUS MDL01	RES LD DEV MDL00
LRG BUS MDL94	RES OTH IM MDL00
MIX USE MDL01	SINGLE FAM MDL01
	THREE FAM MDL01
	TWO FAMILY

**EDGEWOOD HISTORIC DISTRICT-TAFT ESTATE PLAT  
JUNE 2014 BOUNDARY AMENDMENT  
CITY OF CRANSTON, RI**

	AMENDED BOUNDARY
	EXISTING EAST BOUNDARY

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Edgewood Historic District/Taft Estate Plat  
Boundary Amendment 2014  
Stillhouse Cove Reservation (Southern Parcel)  
Photo Key Map













UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR  
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES  
EVALUATION/RETURN SHEET

REQUESTED ACTION: NOMINATION

PROPERTY Edgewood Historic District--Taft Estate Plat (Boundary Incre  
NAME: ase)

MULTIPLE Edgewood Neighborhood, Cranston, R.I. MPS  
NAME:

STATE & COUNTY: RHODE ISLAND, Providence

DATE RECEIVED: 11/07/14 DATE OF PENDING LIST: 12/05/14  
DATE OF 16TH DAY: 12/22/14 DATE OF 45TH DAY: 12/24/14  
DATE OF WEEKLY LIST:

REFERENCE NUMBER: 14001078

REASONS FOR REVIEW:

APPEAL: N DATA PROBLEM: N LANDSCAPE: N LESS THAN 50 YEARS: N  
OTHER: N PDIL: N PERIOD: N PROGRAM UNAPPROVED: N  
REQUEST: N SAMPLE: N SLR DRAFT: N NATIONAL: N

COMMENT WAIVER: N

ACCEPT  RETURN  REJECT 12-22-14 DATE

ABSTRACT/SUMMARY COMMENTS:

Entered in  
The National Register  
of  
Historic Places

RECOM./CRITERIA \_\_\_\_\_

REVIEWER \_\_\_\_\_ DISCIPLINE \_\_\_\_\_

TELEPHONE \_\_\_\_\_ DATE \_\_\_\_\_

DOCUMENTATION see attached comments Y/N see attached SLR Y/N

If a nomination is returned to the nominating authority, the nomination is no longer under consideration by the NPS.



STATE OF RHODE ISLAND AND PROVIDENCE PLANTATIONS

HISTORICAL PRESERVATION & HERITAGE COMMISSION

Old State House • 150 Benefit Street • Providence, R.I. 02903-1209

TEL (401) 222-2678

FAX (401) 222-2968

TTY / Relay 711

Website [www.preservation.ri.gov](http://www.preservation.ri.gov)



October 27, 2014

Mr. J. Paul Loether, Chief  
National Park Service 2280, 8<sup>th</sup> Floor  
National Register of Historic Places  
1201 I (Eye) Street, NW  
Washington, DC 20005

Dear Mr. Loether:

The enclosed disk contains the true and correct copy of the National Register of Historic Places nomination for Edgewood Historic District - Taft Estate Plat, Amendment (Boundary Increase), Cranston, Rhode Island, to the national Register of Historic Places

Notification procedures required by law have been followed. The nomination has been reviewed by the Rhode Island Review Board and approved.

Pursuant to the National Historic Preservation Act of 1966, as amended in 1980, as State Historic Preservation Officer for Rhode Island, I hereby nominate this property to the National Register of Historic Places.

Sincerely,

Edward F. Sanderson

Deputy State Historic Preservation Officer

/mam  
enclosure