

12/73

**NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
INVENTORY - NOMINATION FORM**

(Type all entries - complete applicable sections)

STATE: Rhode Island	
COUNTY: Providence	
FOR NPS USE ONLY	
ENTRY NUMBER	DATE
2	2 SEP 1972

1. NAME

COMMON:
Jenks Park and Cogswell Tower

AND/OR HISTORIC:

2. LOCATION

STREET AND NUMBER:
Adjoining 580 Broad Street to the north

CITY OR TOWN:
Central Falls

STATE: Rhode Island, 02863	CODE: 44	COUNTY: Providence	CODE: 007
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3. CLASSIFICATION

CATEGORY (Check One)	OWNERSHIP	STATUS	ACCESSIBLE TO THE PUBLIC
<input type="checkbox"/> District <input type="checkbox"/> Building <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Site <input type="checkbox"/> Structure <input type="checkbox"/> Object <input type="checkbox"/> Both	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Public <input type="checkbox"/> Private <input type="checkbox"/> Both	Public Acquisition: <input type="checkbox"/> In Process <input type="checkbox"/> Being Considered	<input type="checkbox"/> Occupied <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Unoccupied <input type="checkbox"/> Preservation work in progress
PRESENT USE (Check One or More as Appropriate)			
<input type="checkbox"/> Agricultural <input type="checkbox"/> Commercial <input type="checkbox"/> Educational <input type="checkbox"/> Entertainment	<input type="checkbox"/> Government <input type="checkbox"/> Industrial <input type="checkbox"/> Military <input type="checkbox"/> Museum	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Park <input type="checkbox"/> Private Residence <input type="checkbox"/> Religious <input type="checkbox"/> Scientific	<input type="checkbox"/> Transportation <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Other (Specify) <u>and clock tower</u>

4. OWNER OF PROPERTY

OWNER'S NAME:
City of Central Falls

STREET AND NUMBER:
580 Broad Street

CITY OR TOWN:
Central Falls

STATE: Rhode Island, 02863	CODE: 44
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5. LOCATION OF LEGAL DESCRIPTION

COURTHOUSE, REGISTRY OF DEEDS, ETC:
Central Falls City Hall

STREET AND NUMBER:
580 Broad Street

CITY OR TOWN:
Central Falls

STATE: Rhode Island, 02863	CODE: 44
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6. REPRESENTATION IN EXISTING SURVEYS

TITLE OF SURVEY:
Not so represented

DATE OF SURVEY: Federal State County Local

DEPOSITORY FOR SURVEY RECORDS:

STREET AND NUMBER:

CITY OR TOWN:

STATE:	CODE:
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SEE INSTRUCTIONS

STATE:	ENTRY NUMBER	DATE
COUNTY:		
	2	2 SEP 1972
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7. DESCRIPTION

CONDITION	(Check One)					
	<input type="checkbox"/> Excellent	<input type="checkbox"/> Good	<input type="checkbox"/> Fair	<input type="checkbox"/> Deteriorated	<input type="checkbox"/> Ruins	<input type="checkbox"/> Unexposed
	(Check One)			(Check One)		
	<input type="checkbox"/> Altered	<input type="checkbox"/> Unaltered	<input type="checkbox"/> Moved	<input type="checkbox"/> Original Site		

DESCRIBE THE PRESENT AND ORIGINAL (if known) PHYSICAL APPEARANCE

The four-and-one-half acres comprising Jenks Park were developed on a typical XIX-century scenic plan. Donated in 1890 to what was then the Central Falls Fire District in the town of Lincoln, Jenks Park was the gift of Alvin F. Jenks, a local industrialist whose family had long resided in the area. Local accounts mentioning Jenks Park have, from the first, styled it one of the finest parks of its size in the state or nation. Occupying a deep, narrow site running back from Broad Street to Washington Street, the park is flanked on the north by Nôtre Dame Church, its convent, parish house and school, and on the south by the present City Hall (formerly the high school) and a row of dwellings facing Summit Street. The park's front on Broad Street, formalized by a low granite retaining-wall and a segmental archway marking the beginning of the park's principal walk, has become the site of several memorials and "ornaments," the most eye-catching of which is an out-sized cast-iron urn of Renaissance inspiration. These accretions, though out of keeping with the park's informal design, serve as a screen between street and inner park, protecting and--indirectly--enhancing its character.

The author of the Jenks Park plan (as yet unknown) capitalized on the possibilities inherent in the site: From the gently-sloping property there project three craggy rock out-croppings, ranging in height from 25 to 150 feet. Threaded between them is a broad path shaded by an allée of oak and copper beech trees. One great, striated rock pile was left untouched, and it marks the bifurcation of the park's main path towards its nether end. Another out-cropping, in the park's southwest extremity, is encircled by a flight of steps leading to one of the park's three pavilions. These "summer-houses," intended for sheltered seating, are roofed with arching umbrellas of sheet metal supported by central iron masts and secured to the pavement by iron rods; they resemble carousel canopies, and these merry-go-round gazebos are among the park's most charming and unique features. The highest eminence, known as Dexter's Ledge, was in the original park layout extended with a high retaining-wall surmounted by a circular promenade and a second pavilion. At the southeast corner what appears to be an artificial hillock was created; on its summit a fountain was installed, its granite foundations now planted with flowers. Overlooking Broad Street on the east side of this hillock is the third of the park's pavilions. A fish pond formerly enlivened the lawn below Dexter's Ledge north of the park path. Essentially, Jenks Park was a meandering path surrounded by trees, lawns and flowers, accented by high, rocky rises on which were erected picturesque seating pavilions, a fountain and an observation terrace.

The only major addition to Jenks Park since the 1890's is the imposing stone clock tower erected in the center of the Dexter's Ledge promenade. This monument was made possible by a bequest of \$4855.35 from Caroline E. Cogswell, a former resident. Her will was contested in San Francisco courts, however, with the result that the benefaction was not received by Central Falls until 1904.

(See Continuation Sheet 1.)

SEE INSTRUCTIONS

SIGNIFICANCE

PERIOD (Check One or More as Appropriate)

<input type="checkbox"/> Pre-Columbian	<input type="checkbox"/> 16th Century	<input type="checkbox"/> 18th Century	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 20th Century
<input type="checkbox"/> 15th Century	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 17th Century	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 19th Century	

SPECIFIC DATE(S) (If Applicable and Known) 1676, 1890, 1904

AREAS OF SIGNIFICANCE (Check One or More as Appropriate)

<input type="checkbox"/> Aboriginal	<input type="checkbox"/> Education	<input type="checkbox"/> Political	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Urban Planning
<input type="checkbox"/> Prehistoric	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Engineering	<input type="checkbox"/> Religion/Philosophy	<input type="checkbox"/> Other (Specify)
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Historic	<input type="checkbox"/> Industry	<input type="checkbox"/> Science	_____
<input type="checkbox"/> Agriculture	<input type="checkbox"/> Invention	<input type="checkbox"/> Sculpture	_____
<input type="checkbox"/> Architecture	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Landscape Architecture	<input type="checkbox"/> Social/Humanitarian	_____
<input type="checkbox"/> Art	<input type="checkbox"/> Literature	<input type="checkbox"/> Theater	_____
<input type="checkbox"/> Commerce	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Military	<input type="checkbox"/> Transportation	_____
<input type="checkbox"/> Communications	<input type="checkbox"/> Music		_____
<input type="checkbox"/> Conservation			_____

STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE

SEE INSTRUCTIONS

The mile-square City of Central Falls was set off from Lincoln in 1895. This political act could not alter the fact that, as far as planning was concerned, Central Falls developed as a part of a larger industrial district, the major portion of which was in Pawtucket. Although this area was initially settled in the XVII century, it was sparsely populated until the 1780's and 1790's when the power provided by the Blackstone River began to spark industrial development.

In the century between the coming of industry and the incorporation of Central Falls the area became rapidly urbanized. It was neither legally nor consciously an entity, and when incorporated was already built up, largely with inexpensive housing for mill operatives. Mill owners for the most part lived elsewhere. In addition, the exigencies of retail trade, combined with the effect of a north-south orientation to the street-car lines, served to favor Pawtucket as a shopping area at the expense of Central Falls. The city had no civic center, not even a major intersection suggesting ~~itself~~ itself as the center of town. It was fortuitous, then, that Alvin F. Jenks gave a vacant piece of property to become a park. This small park is as important in densely-populated Central Falls now as it was when dedicated eighty years ago. The park was, and is, "the City's only breathing space."

Central Falls, long known as the most thickly-settled square mile in the nation, relies heavily on the assets of Jenks Park. From the first, thousands of factory workers and their families came to the park to stroll its tree-shaded walks, enjoy its lawns, pond and fountain, its carousel pavilions, and the clock-tower promenade. Unlike most inner-city parks, Jenks Park remains a popular retreat. Concerts are held here in the summer. And almost all year-round the paths have walkers and the pavilions shelter intense conversations and intricate childhood fantasies.

The citizens of Central Falls have lavished care and embellishments upon their park. Memorial and ornamental accretions attest to the pride residents take in it: it is their front lawn as well as their quiet rear garden. Here, beside the city's main thoroughfare are the flagpole and military honor roll; a World War I artillery piece and the Firemen's Monument; here official reviewing-stands are erected for parades.

(See Continuation Sheet 2.)

9. MAJOR BIBLIOGRAPHICAL REFERENCES

"Albert H. Humes Dies in 85th Year," in Providence Journal, July 30, 1947, p. 12.
 Central Falls, Rhode Island: ... Annual Reports, 1902-1905.
 "Central Falls Park Memorial Built from Bequest Made by Woman Quarter Century Ago," in Pawtucket Times, September 13, 1929.
 Curley, Thomas J.: "History of Central Falls," in Diamond Jubilee B.. Booklet (Central Falls, Rhode Island, 1970), p. 2.
Representative Men & Old Families of Rhode Island (Chicago, 1908), Vol. 3, pp. 2122-2123.
 (See Continuation Sheet 3.)

10. GEOGRAPHICAL DATA

LATITUDE AND LONGITUDE COORDINATES DEFINING A RECTANGLE LOCATING THE PROPERTY			O R	LATITUDE AND LONGITUDE COORDINATES DEFINING THE CENTER POINT OF A PROPERTY OF LESS THAN TEN ACRES		
CORNER	LATITUDE	LONGITUDE		LATITUDE	LONGITUDE	
	Degrees Minutes Seconds	Degrees Minutes Seconds		Degrees Minutes Seconds	Degrees Minutes Seconds	
NW	° ' "	° ' "		41° 53' 15" N	71° 23' 20" W	
NE	° ' "	° ' "				
SE	° ' "	° ' "				
SW	° ' "	° ' "				

APPROXIMATE ACREAGE OF NOMINATED PROPERTY: Not more than 4 1/2 to 5

LIST ALL STATES AND COUNTIES FOR PROPERTIES OVERLAPPING STATE OR COUNTY BOUNDARIES

STATE:	CODE	COUNTY	CODE

11. FORM PREPARED BY

NAME AND TITLE:
David Chase, Surveyor-Researcher

ORGANIZATION: Rhode Island Historical Preservation Commission DATE: July 6, 1972

STREET AND NUMBER:
John Brown House, 52 Power Street

CITY OR TOWN: Providence STATE: Rhode Island, 02906 CODE: 144

12. STATE LIAISON OFFICER CERTIFICATION NATIONAL REGISTER VERIFICATION

<p>As the designated State Liaison Officer for the National Historic Preservation Act of 1966 (Public Law 89-665), I hereby nominate this property for inclusion in the National Register and certify that it has been evaluated according to the criteria and procedures set forth by the National Park Service. The recommended level of significance of this nomination is:</p> <p>National <input type="checkbox"/> State <input type="checkbox"/> Local <input checked="" type="checkbox"/></p> <p>Name <u>Frank Williams</u></p> <p>Title <u>State Liaison Officer</u></p> <p>Date <u>July 14, 1972</u></p>	<p>I hereby certify that this property is included in the National Register.</p> <p><u>Robert J. Wiley</u> Chief, Office of Archeology and Historic Preservation</p> <p>Date <u>9/22/72</u></p> <p>ATTEST:</p> <p><u>William Skuntz</u> Keeper of The National Register</p> <p>Date _____</p>
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19/301820/463985 SEE INSTRUCTIONS
 UTM REF
 1212-78202

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
INVENTORY - NOMINATION FORM

(Continuation Sheet)-1

STATE Rhode Island	
COUNTY Providence	
FOR NPS USE ONLY	
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(Number all entries)

7. Description.

The heavy stone walls of Cogswell Tower were laid up rubble-fashion, with irregular wide mortar joints scored to produce a richer texture. The effect harmonizes with the stonework of the retaining wall, and the rock of the ledge itself. This massive tower, eighteen feet square at the base, rises seventy feet. Its subtly-battered walls, fourteen feet square at the top, are carried up into corner piers forming plinths for cast-stone ball finials. Between the corner piers the roof deck is finished with a moulded copper frieze and cornice. Rough plank paling now fills the interspaces between the piers, obscuring from view a copper-sheathed hip roof. On the roof pinnacle a carved wooden eagle with an eight-foot wing-span formerly perched; it was destroyed by lightning years ago.

Each side of the tower has a glazed clock-face with Roman numerals. Below each clock-face is an observation balcony railed in wrought iron and approached through an unadorned doorway (these openings now closed by modern flush-paneled doors). Below each balcony, and approximately twenty feet above the terrace, is a small rectangular window opening. At terrace level on the east side is a round-arched entrance with a steel-plate door which gives access to the interior wooden stairs and platforms. Surrounding the tower, a cast-iron trellis roofs the promenade. Much of the weight of this tower (reportedly 910 tons) is supported by a brick barrel-vault sprung from the ledge and concealed within the retaining wall. Wall, ledge and vault form a vast, dank chamber beneath the tower. Local engineers regard this substructure as a feat of considerable skill.

The site-concept which resulted in the placement of the tower has genius. Building the tower atop Dexter's Ledge accentuated its boldness, gave it a startling "king-of-the-mountain" aspect from below and, not coincidentally, made it visible throughout Central Falls and for miles beyond. Placing the tower's mass--dense, square and vertical--within a pergola of delicate ironwork--light, open, curvilinear and horizontal in emphasis--was equally inspired. The Dexter's Ledge complex deserves note as a planning achievement. Though developed over a period of years by several designers, the common thread has been that of utilizing the potential of a topographic irregularity, making it a pleasant, useful park area, using it to create vistas for the park below, and applying its scale to the creation of a landmark for the entire city and region.

The creator of Cogswell Tower was Albert H. Humes (1864-1947), a busy architect working out of Pawtucket and responsible for a good number of public buildings and large residences throughout Rhode Island and in neighboring portions of Massachusetts. He was once a power in Progressive politics and ran as Bull Moose candidate for governor in 1912. Cogswell Tower provided him an opportunity to combine his political and architectural interests, for he was mayor of Central Falls in 1903-1904, the years in which it was planned and construction begun. Building contractor

(See Continuation Sheet 2.)

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
INVENTORY - NOMINATION FORM

(Continuation Sheet)-2

STATE Rhode Island	
COUNTY Providence	
FOR NPS USE ONLY	
ENTRY NUMBER	DATE
2	2 SEP 1972

(Number all entries)

7. Description.

for the tower was George R. Humes, brother of the mayor-architect. The tower's clock was manufactured by the E. Howard Clock Company of Boston. Its mechanism, originally powered by a 400-pound weight and regulated by a 90-pound pendulum, has been electrified.

Cogswell Tower is in fairly good condition and state of preservation. It has lost its eagle, its original balcony doors and the dedicatory plaque once affixed over the main (east) entrance from the promenade. These losses, however, do not fundamentally alter the structure's effect. The park as a whole is well maintained.

8. Significance.

If Jenks Park as a whole may be cited as Central Falls's chief recreational and memorial resource, the clock tower should be singled out as its symbol and festive ornament. Cogswell Tower, decked with swags of colored lights, is Central Falls's Christmas tree. At all times this imposing structure is noted as the city's one major landmark. By common and official consent Cogswell Tower is the emblem of Central Falls, appearing on official stationery and publications. It is the symbol of civic pride.

Alvin F. Jenks and Caroline E. Cogswell merit recognition as the individuals who made park and tower possible. Mr. Jenks was a descendant of Joseph Jenks, Jr., XVII-century founder of Pawtucket, and of Stephen Jenks, Jr., who established a machine shop in Central Falls which furnished the American army with 10,000 muskets in the War of 1812. In 1830, Alvin F. Jenks's father, in company with David G. Fales, established the firm of Fales & Jenks which became a major manufacturer of cotton machinery. For thirty-five years (until removing to Pawtucket) Fales & Jenks remained in Central Falls, where Alvin F. Jenks in 1850 joined the firm. It was fitting, then, that later on Mr. Jenks should create and donate to Central Falls the park which bears his name.

The donor of the clock tower, Caroline E. Cogswell, died in San Francisco in 1902. In contrast to Mr. Jenks, Mrs. Cogswell's life and family were not rooted in the history of Central Falls--in fact, at the time of her death she had not lived in Rhode Island for over fifty years. Born Caroline E. Richards, she married Dr. H. D. Cogswell of Pawtucket in 1847 and soon afterwards moved to California, where her husband amassed a real-estate fortune. Dr. Cogswell became an avid philanthropist, showering a horde of memorials upon cities throughout the nation, and his wife chose Central Falls as a place in which to follow his example.

(See Continuation Sheet 3.)

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
INVENTORY - NOMINATION FORM

(Continuation Sheet)-3

STATE Rhode Island	
COUNTY Providence	
FOR NPS USE ONLY	
ENTRY NUMBER	DATE
22	SEP 1972

(Number all entries)

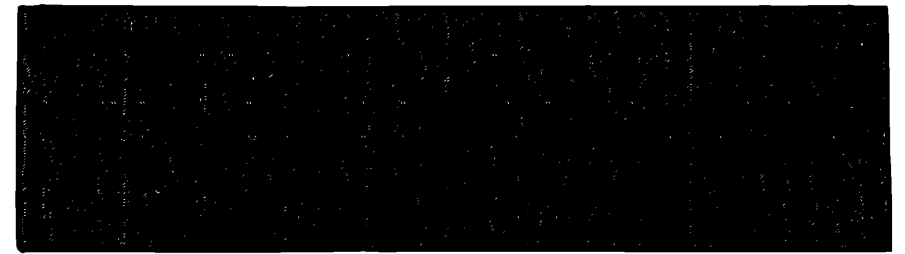
8. Significance.

Dexter's Ledge, site of Cogswell Tower, had a part in the earliest historic event associated with Central Falls. It served as an Indian lookout post during King Philip's War. In late March, 1676, Captain Michael J. Pierce led a band of sixty-three colonists and Indian allies in an attack on a Narragansett stronghold in the vicinity of Jenks Park. Narragansett lookouts on Dexter's ledge spotted the approaching enemy and gave warning; the attackers were surprised in a decisive ambush from which not a member of Pierce's force returned. Thus the significance of Jenks Park, though primarily residing in its value as a well-planned open space in a densely built-up city, has an historic aspect as well.

9. Major Bibliographical References.

Simister, Florence Parker: "Rhode Exodus," in Rhode Island Yearbook, 1970 (Providence, Rhode Island, 1970), pp. 79-81.

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

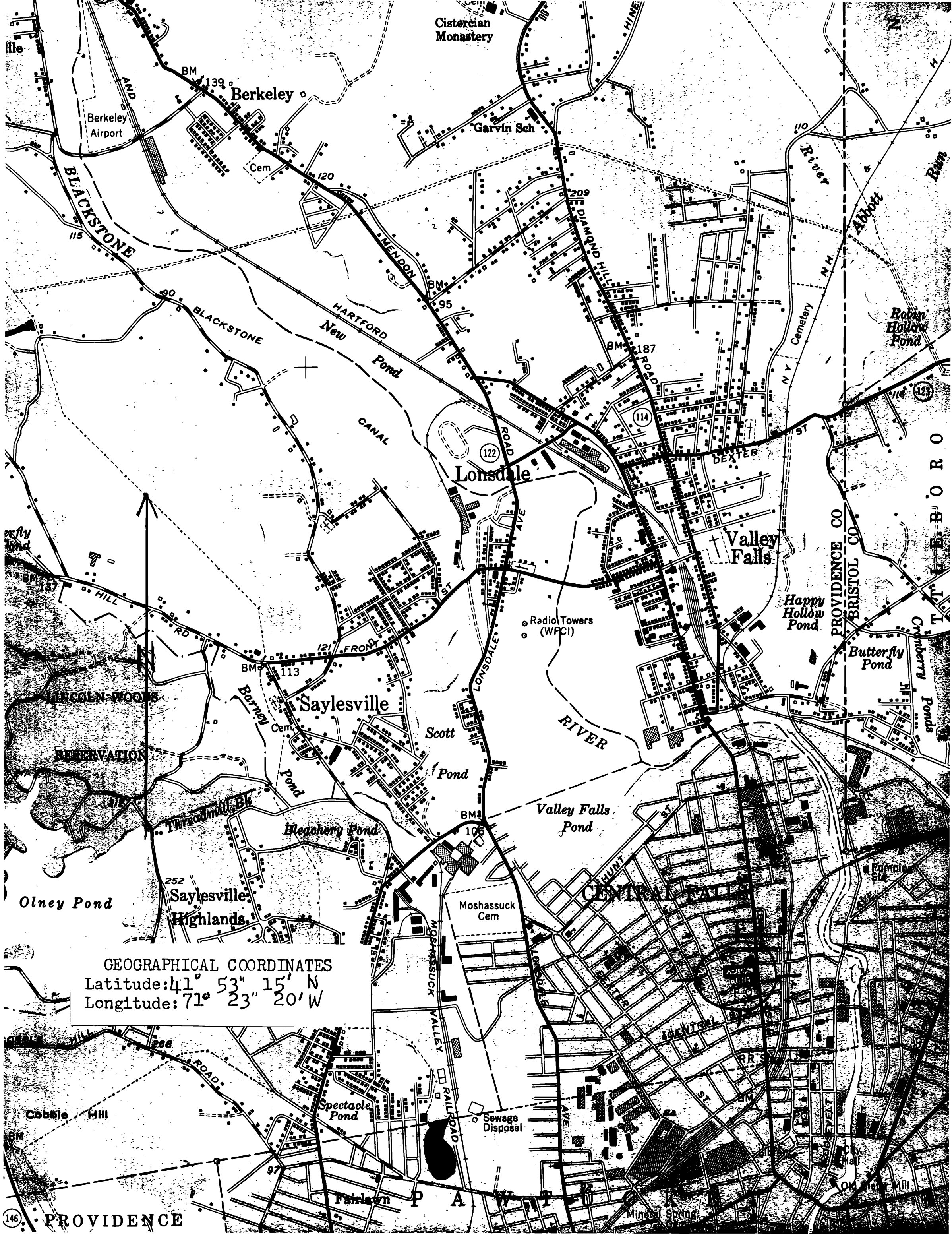


**NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
INVENTORY -- NOMINATION FORM**

CONTINUATION SHEET 29

ITEM NUMBER 7 PAGE 29

1. Name: Jenks Park and Cogswell Tower 110, 180,
2. Location: Adjoining 580 Broad Street, Central Falls, RI
3. Owner: City of Central Falls
580 Broad Street
Central Falls, RI
4. Description: Jenks Park is a late-19th century urban park, located on a deep, narrow lot. Broad paths meander among several rocky outcroppings and the various memorials and ornaments. The park contains three seating pavilions, roofed with arching umbrellas of sheet metal and supported by central iron masts. Cogswell Tower (1904), the focus of the park, is an imposing stone clock tower, 18 feet square and 70 feet tall, and supported by a brick barrel vault. The tower was designed by Albert Humes, a Pawtucket architect who was mayor of Central Falls in 1903-04; the contractor was George Humes, brother of the mayor-architect.
5. Dates: 1890, 1904
6. Significance: Jenks Park is the only major park in Central Falls. Built on land donated by Alvin Jenks, whose family's firm had been tied to the city since the early 19th century, the park has been since its opening been the city's "breathing space." The designer of the park is unknown, but, in the history of recreation in the densely-developed city, Jenks Park is a vital element. Cogswell Tower, the gift of Caroline Cogswell, is the city's symbol and its festive ornament, the sign and emblem of Central Falls.
7. Acreage: 4½-5 acres
8. Plat 5, lot 6
9. UTM Reference: 19.301770 4639850
10. Entered on National Register September 22, 1972



GEOGRAPHICAL COORDINATES

Latitude: $41^{\circ} 53' 15''$ N
Longitude: $71^{\circ} 23' 20''$ W