

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

**National Register of Historic Places
Continuation Sheet**

Section number _____ Page _____

SUPPLEMENTARY LISTING RECORD

NRIS Reference Number: 90001430 Date Listed: 09/26/90

Black Rock Gardens Historic District Fairfield CT
Property Name County State

Wartime Emergency Housing in Bridgeport MPS
Multiple Name

This property is listed in the National Register of Historic Places in accordance with the attached nomination documentation subject to the following exceptions, exclusions, or amendments, notwithstanding the National Park Service certification included in the nomination documentation.


Signature of the Keeper

9/26/90
Date of Action

=====

Amended Items in Nomination:

10. Geographical Data: Acreage & VBD

More specifically, the acreage is 7. The accurate scale of the sketch map sufficing for the verbal boundary description is 1" = 213'.

This information has been confirmed with John Herzan, National Register Coordinator, CTSHPO, by telephone.

DISTRIBUTION:

- National Register property file
- Nominating Authority (without attachment)

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

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AUG 13 1990

National Register of Historic Places
Registration Form

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 Black Rock Gardens Historic District (use for publication)
historic name Black Rock Gardens
other names/site number Black Rock Development
Wartime Emergency Housing In Bridgeport, 1916 - 1920 (Multiple Property Form)

2. Location
street & number See Continuation Sheet not for publication N/A
city, town Bridgeport vicinity
state Connecticut code CT county Fairfield code 001 zip code 06605

3. Classification

| | | | |
|---------------------------------------------|----------------------------------------------|-------------------------------------|--------------------|
| Ownership of Property | Category of Property | Number of Resources within Property | |
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> private | <input type="checkbox"/> building(s) | Contributing | Noncontributing |
| <input type="checkbox"/> public-local | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> district | <u>12</u> | <u>0</u> buildings |
| <input type="checkbox"/> public-State | <input type="checkbox"/> site | _____ | _____ sites |
| <input type="checkbox"/> public-Federal | <input type="checkbox"/> structure | _____ | _____ structures |
| | <input type="checkbox"/> object | _____ | _____ objects |
| | | <u>12</u> | <u>0</u> Total |

Name of related multiple property listing:
Wartime Emergency Housing In Bridgeport

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.
John W. Shannahan 8/9/90
Signature of certifying official John W. Shannahan, State Historic Preservation Officer Date
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:)

Beth G. Swartz 9-26-90
Signature of the Keeper Date of Action

6. Function or Use

Historic Functions (enter categories from instructions)

Domestic/multiple dwelling

Current Functions (enter categories from instructions)

Domestic/multiple dwelling**7. Description**

Architectural Classification

(enter categories from instructions)

Late 19th and 20th Century Revivals:Colonial Revival

Materials (enter categories from instructions)

foundation Granitewalls Brickroof Roll asphalt

other _____

Describe present and historic physical appearance.

Located on the southwest side of Fairfield Avenue and extending from Rowsley Street west to Brewster Street, then southeast to Nash Lane, and including Haddon Street (see Map), the Black Rock Gardens complex forms a tight enclave in a mixed-use residential/commercial area in the southwest section of Bridgeport known as Black Rock.

This apartment complex consists of 12 attached and free-standing red brick blocks facing seven streets and grouped around courtyards reminiscent of college quadrangles. With the exception of irregular buildings at the corners of Fairfield Avenue and Brewster Street, at the corner of L-shaped Rowsley Street, and Haddon and Rowsley Streets, all blocks are rectangular in plan. Each block rises three stories above a high basement and terminates with a plain parapet concealing a flat roof. All elevations are expressed with brick laid in common bond and are enlivened with cast-stone stringcourse, keystones, and sills. Angled oriel windows and blind round arches, used sparingly, add further visual interest to the restrained articulation of these buildings. The Fairfield Avenue and Brewster Street facades are the most formal, with the middle band of windows articulated as 6/6 double-hung sash with false baluster spandrels and false arch heads (Photographs 1 and 2). The facades of the buildings facing interior streets are slightly less formal, broken into smaller expanses; the middle band of windows alternates between 6/6 double-hung sash topped by brick arches with cast keystones and angled, multi-pane oriel windows (Photographs 3, 4 and 5). Entrances feature low stoops and include various classically inspired, Colonial Revival surrounds as well as shallow enclosed porches articulated in the classical orders with full entablatures (Photographs 2, 3, and 5). At the rear of each block are full-height wooden porches, some of which have been enclosed, serving all apartments (Photograph 6).

Alterations to the buildings have been few and consist primarily of aluminum storm sash and awnings shading selected windows. The buildings retains their original windows and all other original decorative elements.

 See continuation sheet

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National Park Service

Multiple Property Form
Wartime Emergency Housing in Bridgeport,
(1916 - 1920)

National Register of Historic Places Continuation Sheet

Section number 2 Page 1

Black Rock Gardens Inclusive Address List

554 through 606 Brewster Street
2759 through 2825 Fairfield Avenue
20 through 78 Haddon Street
13 through 81 Nash Lane
20 through 109 Rowsley Street

Black Rock Gardens is owned by The Bridgeport Mutual Management Corporation
located at 240 Fairfield Avenue, Suite 309
Bridgeport, CT 06604

This complex has less than 50 properties.

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)

Community Planning and Development
Architecture
Social History

Period of Significance

1916 - 1920

Significant Dates

1916 - 1920

Cultural Affiliation

N/A

Significant Person

Architect/Builder

R. Clipston Sturgis and Skinner & Walker,
and Arthur A. Shurtleff

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

Black Rock Gardens, known as the Black Rock Development when built, is significant due to its direct association with the U.S. Housing Corporation's efforts to provide emergency housing for workers manning the factories of the city's war-related industries. It is a good example of the first government-subsidized housing built in Bridgeport. It survives as a local legacy reflecting the high design quality and first national housing standards achieved through the earliest government-owned housing program in the U.S. It is an excellent example of the work of the collaborative efforts of R. Clipston Sturgis, Skinner and Walker, and planner Arthur Shurtleff, who created a well-conceived and executed model housing unit that maintains a distinct urban character incorporating middle-class housing tastes with English Garden City and American Garden Suburb tenets. As built, the complex presents a strong visual presence and prominence derived from a cohesive site plan, shared materials, and similar scale, proportion, and design quality that set it apart from its immediate context. It is also significant for its association with Bridgeport's most intense period of growth, as housing for workers involved in defense work at the Bullard Machine Tool Company in Fairfield.

See continuation sheet

9. Major Bibliographical References

See National Register of Historic Places Multiple Property Documentation Form
(Wartime Emergency Housing in Bridgeport, 1916 - 1920)

Previous documentation on file (NPS): N/A
 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 # _____

See continuation sheet

Primary location of additional data:
 State historic preservation office
 Other State agency
 Federal agency
 Local government
 University
 Other
Specify repository: _____

10. Geographical Data

Acreage of property Less than 9 acres

UTM References

A

| | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
|------|---|---------|---|---|---|----------|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| 1 | 8 | 6 | 4 | 8 | 9 | 4 | 0 | 4 | 5 | 5 | 7 | 5 | 3 | 5 |
| Zone | | Easting | | | | Northing | | | | | | | | |

C

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B

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|------|--|---------|--|--|--|----------|--|--|--|--|--|--|--|--|
| | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| Zone | | Easting | | | | Northing | | | | | | | | |

D

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See continuation sheet

Verbal Boundary Description

See Figure #1 (Map)

See continuation sheet

Boundary Justification

See continuation sheet

11. Form Prepared By

name/title Steven Bedford and Nora Lucas, Reviewed by John Herzan, National Register Coordinator
organization Preservation Computer Services, Inc. date June 30, 1989
street & number 306 Beach Avenue telephone (914) 698 5440
city or town Mamaroneck state NY zip code 10543

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

Multiple Property Form
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(1916 - 1920)

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Section number 10 Page 1

Boundary Justification

The Black Rock Gardens Historic District is located within a clearly defined neighborhood of Bridgeport outlined by the boundaries of the original land purchased by the U. S. Housing Corporation in 1918. Distinctive architectural features, including overall building design, identify the buildings associated with the U. S. Housing Corporation development. Landscape features, such as sidewalks, interior courtyards, and flowering trees, add cohesiveness to the district. The edges of the district are bordered by nineteenth and twentieth-century residential and commercial construction.

United States Department of the Interior
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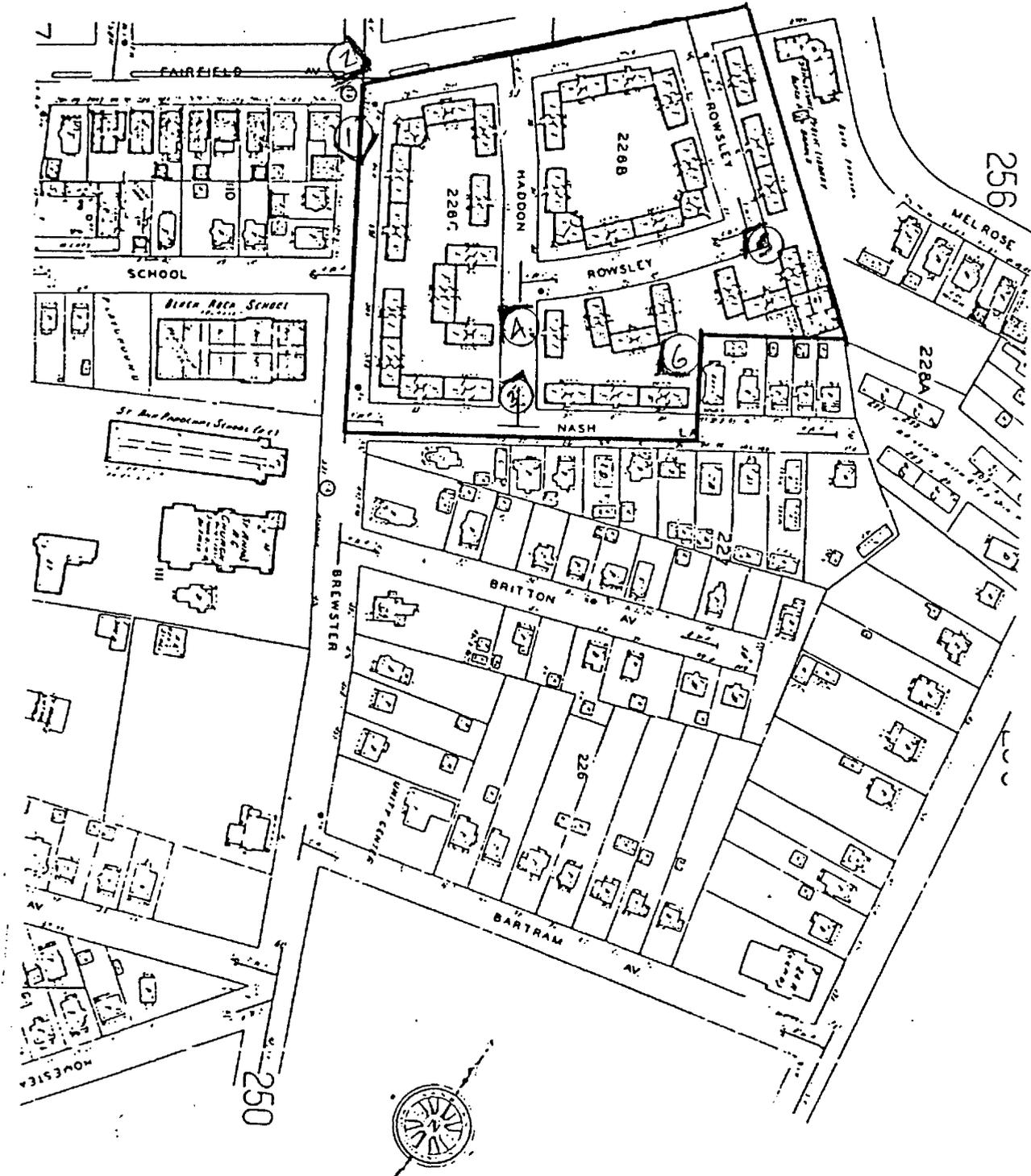
Multiple Property Form
Wartime Emergency Housing In Bridgeport
1916 - 1920

National Register of Historic Places Continuation Sheet

Map & Photo

Section number Key Page 1

Figure #1
Black Rock Gardens
Photo Key and Boundary Map



**United States Department of the Interior
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Multiple Property Form
Wartime Emergency Housing In Bridgeport
1916 - 1920

**National Register of Historic Places
Continuation Sheet**

Section number Photos Page 1

BP/1/7/89

WORLD WAR I, EMERGENCY HOUSING IN BRIDGEPORT, 1916 - 1920 MULTIPLE PROPERTY
NOMINATION

Bridgeport, Connecticut

Seaside Village

#87 - 103 Simes Street, looking south

Photograph # 1

BP/1/8/89

WORLD WAR I, EMERGENCY HOUSING IN BRIDGEPORT, 1916 - 1920 MULTIPLE PROPERTY
NOMINATION

Bridgeport, Connecticut

Seaside Village

Courtyard off Simes Street (#96 - 124), looking west

Photograph # 2

BP/1/9/89

WORLD WAR I, EMERGENCY HOUSING IN BRIDGEPORT, 1916 - 1920 MULTIPLE PROPERTY
NOMINATION

Bridgeport, Connecticut

Seaside Village

114 - 98 Simes Street

Photograph # 3

BP/1/10/89

WORLD WAR I, EMERGENCY HOUSING IN BRIDGEPORT, 1916 - 1920 MULTIPLE PROPERTY
NOMINATION

Bridgeport, Connecticut

Seaside Village

#163 - 181 Alsace Street, looking west

Photograph # 4

BP/1/11/89

WORLD WAR I, EMERGENCY HOUSING IN BRIDGEPORT, 1916 - 1920 MULTIPLE PROPERTY
NOMINATION

Bridgeport, Connecticut

Seaside Village

Courtyard at 213 - 223 Alsace Street

Photograph # 5

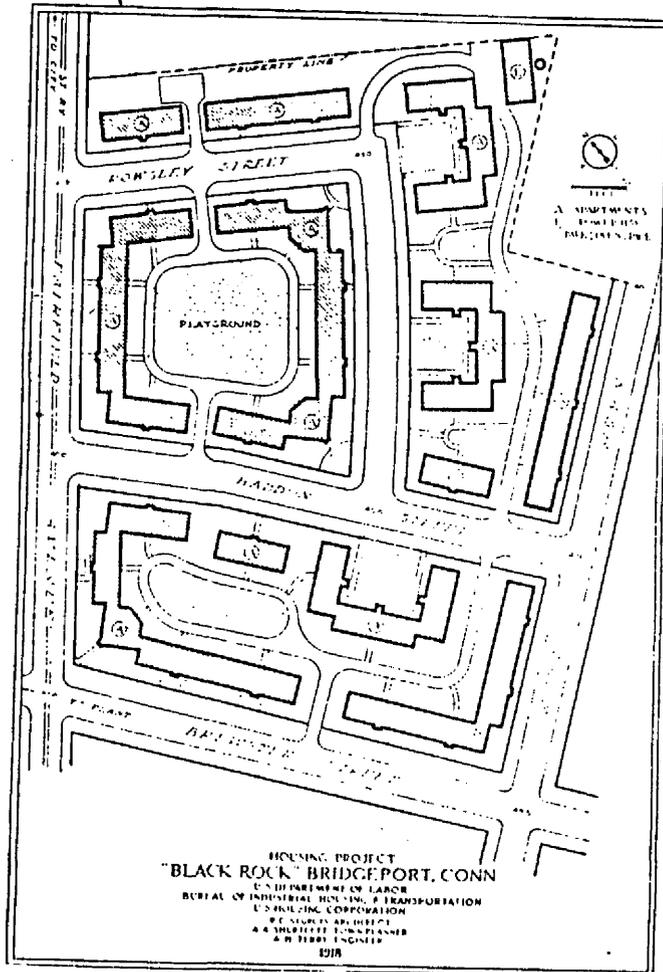
United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

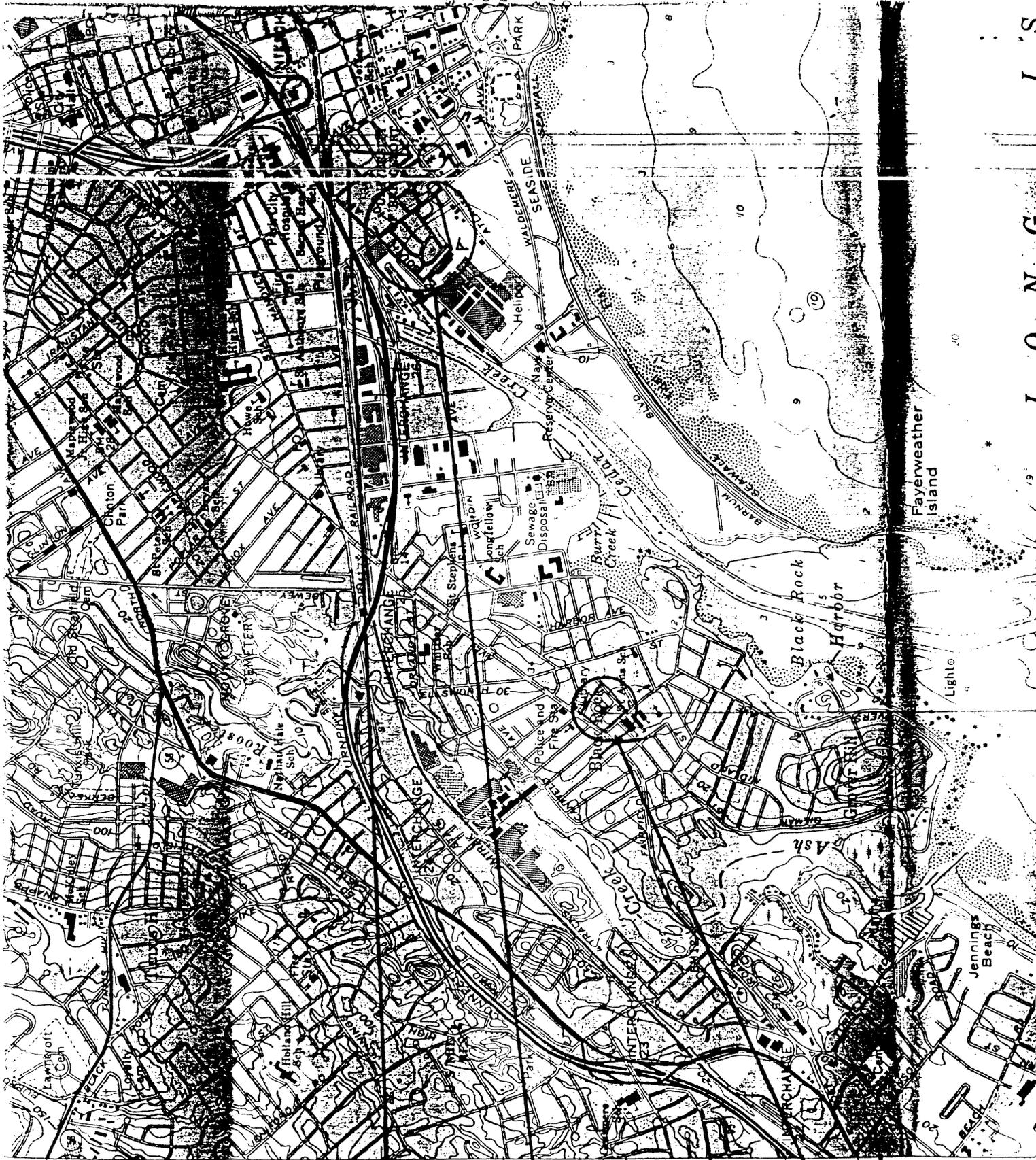
Multiple Property Form
Wartime Emergency Housing In Bridgeport
1916 - 1920

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Section number Plan Page 1

Black Rock Gardens, Bridgeport, Connecticut
Report of the United States Housing Corporation, P.123





STAMFORD 19 N 1 MI. TO IN ERCHANGE 21
 WESTPORT 6 N 1 MI. TO IN ERCHANGE 21
 NORWALK 9 N 1 MI. TO IN ERCHANGE 21
 4558
 4559
 2 MI. TO CONN. 15

2 APARTMENTS
 ASHMD MORNING 4557960

THE VILLAGE
 6.5 ACRES
 MORNING 4558410
 2900 4558580
 100 4558700
 1300 4558510

BLACK ROCK GARDENS
 555 THY 9 ACRES I
 MORNING 4557535