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United States Department of the Interior  
National Park Service

DEC 02 1988

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

historic name Washington Park Sewage Pumping Station

other names/site number \_\_\_\_\_

2. Location

street & number Shipyard Street

n/a not for publication

city, town Providence

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

Name of related multiple property listing: Historic and Architectural Resources of Providence, 1636-present (Sewage Treatment, 1895-1935)

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.

Fred R. Williams  
Signature of certifying official

22 Nov 1988  
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 A. Savage  
Signature of the Keeper

1-13-89  
Date of Action

Beth A. Savage  
Signature of the Keeper

Date of Action

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**6. Function or Use**

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Historic Functions (enter categories from instructions)

GOVERNMENT: Public Works

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Current Functions (enter categories from instructions)

GOVERNMENT: Public Works

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**7. Description**

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Architectural Classification

(enter categories from instructions)

LATE 19TH AND EARLY 20TH CENTURYREVIVALS: Mediterranean Revival

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Materials (enter categories from instructions)

foundation concretewalls concretestuccoroof asphaltother 

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**Describe present and historic physical appearance.**

Washington Park Sewage Pumping Station is located approximately 1000 feet south of Providence's Fields Point sewage treatment facility, in a light industrial/commercial area near the Providence River. The pump station is set well back from the street, accessed from a narrow lane and surrounded by a high chain-link fence.

The station is approximately 16 feet square, consisting of one story plus substructure. The substructure, of poured concrete, consists of a dry well, in which the pumps are located. Adjacent to the south is a subterranean concrete wet well in which manually-operated gate valves are located to control the flow of sewage from two channels to the pumps. The station superstructure, situated above the dry well, is constructed primarily of concrete block, with stuccoed exterior walls, and composition shingled hipped roof. The interior, entered through a door on the north side, consists of a single room with concrete floor, which houses the controls for the pumps. It was originally heated by a stove, as evidenced by a brick chimney at one corner, and is ventilated through a louvered wooden vent centered on the roof. Long rectilinear window openings are found in each elevation, set close beneath the eaves. Originally glazed, with munins set in a lattice pattern, these openings have been filled in. Entry into the wet well is through a pair of exterior wooden bulkhead doors which abut a low (approximately four feet high) wooden "superstructure" with hipped roof. Unglazed window openings in the walls of the superstructure provide natural light and ventilation.

The principal alterations to the station have been the filling in of windows and the replacement of the original clay tile roofing with composition shingles. In addition, the original pumps (two electrically-driven 8-inch vertical DeLaval centrifugal pumps) were replaced in the late 1970's.

**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

Period of Significance  
1912-1935

Significant Dates  
1912

Cultural Affiliation  
N/A

Significant Person  
N/A

Architect/Builder  
Office of the City Engineer, Providence

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

Washington Park Pumping Station is significant in the area of Community Planning and Development under Criterion A for its association with the historical development of sewage processing and treatment facilities in Providence. It represents a property type associated with the historic context Historic and Architectural Resources of Providence, 1635-present (The Making of a Metropolis, 1865-1945; Public Works and Utilities: Sewage Treatment, 1895-1935). This property type consists of buildings and structures designed and built to function in the processing and treatment of sewage, constructed under City auspices between 1895 and 1935. Washington Park Pumping Station conforms to this property type definition, having been built in 1912-13 to pump sewage, collected by gravity conduits from an area lying between Virginia Avenue and the Providence River, directly to the Fields Point plant for treatment. The structure retains overall structural integrity, and though the original pumps have been replaced, it continues to perform its historical function in essentially the same manner for which it was originally built.

The Washington Park area, located in the extreme southern portion of Providence, was included in that part of Cranston reannexed by Providence in 1868. It remained largely undeveloped until public transportation, in the form of horsecar lines, made the area practically accessible. Sustained residential development began in 1891, and continued steadily into the 1930's. As the area was built up, the city extended its sewage lines accordingly. However, a portion of the Washington Park area lay at such a low elevation that pumping was required to convey drainage from the area into the Fields Point treatment plant. Therefore in 1911, City Engineer Otis P. Clapp supervised plans for a small pump station, which was put into service in 1913.

Washington Park Pumping Station is therefore historically and functionally associated with the operation of sewage treatment

See continuation sheet

**9. Major Bibliographical References**

Woodward, WM. McKenzie and Edward F. Sanderson. Providence: A Citywide Survey of Historic Resources. Rhode Island Historical Preservation Commission, 1986.

City Engineer, Providence, RI. Annual Reports for 1911, 1913, 1915.

Narragansett Bay Commission, Drawing Files, WP-22, WP-23.

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 # \_\_\_\_\_

See continuation sheet

Primary location of additional data:

- State historic preservation office
- Other State agency
- Federal agency
- Local government
- University
- Other

Specify repository:

Narragansett Bay Commission

**10. Geographical Data**

Acreage of property less than one

UTM References

A 

1	9
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3	0	1	4	0	0
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4	6	2	9	1	7	0
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Zone Easting Northing

B 

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Zone Easting Northing

C 

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D 

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See continuation sheet

Verbal Boundary Description

See continuation sheet

Boundary Justification

See continuation sheet

**11. Form Prepared By**

name/title M.H. Bowers, Architectural Historian  
organization Louis Berger & Associates, Inc. date September 1987  
street & number 20 William Street telephone 617-235-5874  
city or town Wellesley state Mass. zip code 02181

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

**National Register of Historic Places  
Continuation Sheet**

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facilities in Providence. Its construction illustrates the continuing expansion of the system in response to residential and industrial expansion of the city in the early 20th century.

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

**National Register of Historic Places  
Continuation Sheet**

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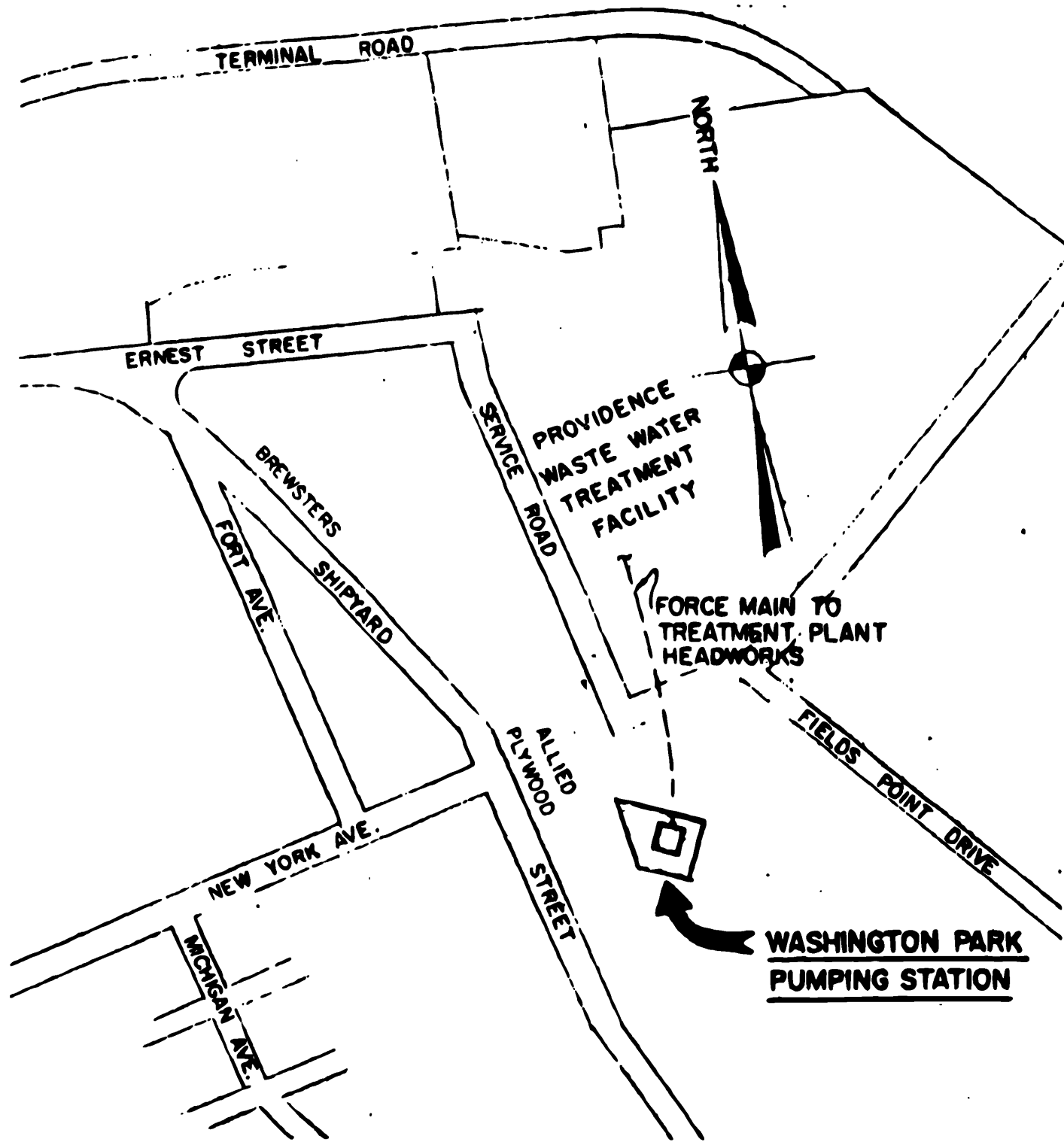
**Verbal Boundary Description:**

The area included conforms to the present boundaries of the lot on which the Washington Park Pumping Station is located.

**Boundary Justification:**

The boundaries encompass all significant features associated with the resource, and do not exclude any features that contribute to the importance of the resource.

# WASHINGTON PARK PUMPING STATION



## LOCATION PLAN

NOT TO SCALE.

Source: Narragansett Bay Commission