Form No. 10-300 (Rev. 10-74)  

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR  
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE  

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES  
INVENTORY NOMINATION FORM  

SEE INSTRUCTIONS IN HOW TO COMPLETE NATIONAL REGISTER FORMS  
TYPE ALL ENTRIES -- COMPLETE APPLICABLE SECTIONS  

1. NAME  
HISTORIC  Trolley Shelter (Amendment to Swan Point Cemetery)  

AND/OR COMMON  

2. LOCATION  
STREET & NUMBER  
Opposite 585 Blackstone Boulevard  

CITY, TOWN  
Providence  

VICINITY OF  
1 - Fernand J. St Germain  

STATE  
Rhode Island  

CODE  
44  

COUNTY  
Providence  

CODE  
007  

3. CLASSIFICATION  
CATEGORY  SITE  
X STRUCTURE  PUBLIC ACQUISITION  

OWNERSHIP  PRIVATE  

PUBLIC  

present use  
X AGRICULTURE  

COMMERCIAL  

EDUCATIONAL  

ENTERTAINMENT  

GOVERNMENT  

INDUSTRIAL  

TRANSPORTATION  

MILITARY  

X OTHER: abandoned  

4. OWNER OF PROPERTY  
NAME  City of Providence  

STREET & NUMBER  25 Dorrance Street  

CITY, TOWN  Providence  

VICINITY OF  
STATE  Rhode Island  

5. LOCATION OF LEGAL DESCRIPTION  
COURTHOUSE, REGISTRY OF DEEDS, ETC.  Providence City Hall  

STREET & NUMBER  25 Dorrance Street  

CITY, TOWN  Providence  

STATE  Rhode Island  

6. REPRESENTATION IN EXISTING SURVEYS  
TITLE  Providence Broadbrush: Blackstone  

DATE  July, 1976  

DEPOSITORY FOR SURVEY RECORDS  Rhode Island Historical Preservation Commission  

CITY, TOWN  Providence  

STATE  Rhode Island
The Swan Point Trolley Shelter is located on one section of the median strip of Blackstone Boulevard opposite the entrance to Swan Point Cemetery (listed in the National Register). The amended area includes the median island between the intersection of Blackstone Boulevard and Elmgrove Avenue and the crossover between Hartshorn Road and Eighth Street.

Blackstone Boulevard is a two-hundred-foot wide, two-and-a-half-mile long residential thoroughfare of two broad traffic lanes separated by a wide, well-planted esplanade. The Boulevard, completed in 1904, connects Butler Avenue to the south with Hope Street at the northern end.

The flat, trapezoidal median island on which the shelter stands is longitudinally traversed by an unpaved path, and approximately six trees, including some fine elms, stand on either side of the path. The trolley shelter is at the southeastern corner of the island.

The low, ground-hugging shelter, completed in 1904, was designed by Olmsted Brothers of Brookline, Massachusetts, the landscape architects employed by the Proprietors of Swan Point Cemetery for the design of the western section of the cemetery bordering on Blackstone Boulevard. The symmetrically massed, open structure has low walls of relatively small, randomly placed boulders, a treatment which integrates the building to its site and echoes the design of the boulder wall which surrounds the cemetery. Two broad, open entrances, on the flanking walls of the building, give access to the path and to Blackstone Boulevard. Wide open spaces above the low stone walls regularly punctuate the four sides of the building.

Massive piled-stone piers at the four corners and flanking the entrances support the open framing of the hip roof, which rises in two stages above the wide overhanging eaves.
The Swan Point Trolley Shelter, the only original structure on the landscaped esplanade of Blackstone Boulevard, is significant to the history of both architecture and landscape architecture. Blackstone Boulevard, designed by H.W.S. Cleveland of Chicago and completed between 1892 and 1904, is itself considered eligible for the National Register, but its nomination has been postponed pending further survey work and analysis of the residential neighborhood surrounding it. The Trolley Shelter is proposed as an amendment to the Swan Point Cemetery nomination at this time to facilitate more immediate action on the commitment of funding for restoration of the shelter, which might otherwise be demolished.

The decision by the City of Providence in 1902 to construct a streetcar line along the median strip of Blackstone Boulevard prompted the Proprietors of Swan Point Cemetery to request permission of the city to construct, at the cemetery's expense, a shelter at the entrance to the cemetery. The Proprietors engaged Olmsted Brothers of Brookline for the design of the structure, which harmonizes with the treatment of the walls and entrance to the cemetery, and integrates two major late nineteenth-century landscaping projects in this part of Providence.

The trolley shelter is an excellent example of the picturesque park structures that the Olmsted firm, in conjunction with Henry Hobson Richardson, developed in the late nineteenth century. Structures of this type are relatively rare in Rhode Island, and the Swan Point Trolley Shelter is by far the finest example of the Richardsonian-inspired rusticity deemed eminently suitable in the late nineteenth and early twentieth centuries for park surroundings.

The shelter was well used until the streetcar system was abandoned by the City in 1946. Since then, the shelter has been abandoned, and it now shows signs of deterioration to the roof, although the structure remains sound.

See continuation sheet 1
The restoration and maintenance of this structure will significantly improve the visual quality of this focal point of the northern part of Blackstone Boulevard and preserve an important ensemble of early twentieth-century landscape architecture.
MAJOR BIBLIOGRAPHICAL REFERENCES

Report of the Park Commissioners. City of Providence. 1903, 1904

GEOGRAPHICAL DATA

ACREAGE OF NOMINATED PROPERTY: less than one

UTM REFERENCES

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</tr>
<tr>
<td>B 4,6</td>
<td>35 9,0</td>
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VERBAL BOUNDARY DESCRIPTION

Median strip of Blackstone Boulevard with trolley car stop shelter opposite the entrance to Swan Point Cemetery.

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

<table>
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<tr>
<th>STATE</th>
<th>CODE</th>
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FORM PREPARED BY

NAME/TITLE: Wm. McKenzie Woodward, Historic Preservation Planner

Rhode Island Historical Preservation Commission March, 1978

150 Benefit Street 401-277-2678

Providence Rhode Island

STATE HISTORIC PRESERVATION OFFICER CERTIFICATION

THE EVALUATED SIGNIFICANCE OF THIS PROPERTY WITHIN THE STATE IS:

NATIONAL _ STATE X LOCAL ___

As the designated State Historic Preservation 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.

FEDERAL REPRESENTATIVE SIGNATURE: Frederick Williams

TITLE: State Historic Preservation Officer

DATE: June 21, 1978
SWAN POINT CEMETERY AMENDMENT
BLACKSTONE BOULEVARD TROLLEY SHELTER
PROVIDENCE, RHODE ISLAND

Photographer: Warren Jagger
Date: March 1978
Negative: Rhode Island Historical Preservation Commission
Trolley Shelter, view to the northeast
PROVIDENCE QUADRANGLE
RHODE ISLAND
7.5 MINUTE SERIES (TOPOGRAPHIC)

PAWTUCKET

Trolley Shelter (amendment to Swan Point Cemetery)
Providence, Rhode Island

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