

6. Function or Use

Historic Functions (enter categories from instructions)

GOVERNMENT: Public Works

Current Functions (enter categories from instructions)

GOVERNMENT: Public Works

7. Description

Architectural Classification
(enter categories from instructions)

LATE 19TH EARLY 20TH CENTURY REVIVALS:
Georgian Revival

Materials (enter categories from instructions)

foundation concrete

walls brick

roof asphalt

other

Describe present and historic physical appearance.

The Reservoir Avenue Sewage Pumping Station is situated on the south side of the intersection of Reservoir and Pontiac Avenues, very near the southern city limit, in an areas of southwest Providence known as the "Reservoir Section" or "Triangle". Erected in 1931, the building consists of a poured concrete substructure containing wet and dry wells, and a hipped-roofed superstructure with pressed red brick exterior. Natural illumination is provided by narrow horizontal windows set high in the walls below solid-arched heads. Metal doors are located in the east and north elevations.

The east door provided access to the pump room. Here, two sewage pumps are located in the subterranean dry well. The control room above has interior walls of yellow glazed brick, and metal doors in the floor, inset with glass block, provide both views and access to the pumps. The south door opens into the wet well, which occupies approximately two-thirds of the building. Two manually-operated gate valves near the west wall control flow of sewage into two parallel concrete channels in the wet well. Near the east end is a similar pair of valves that control the flow from each channel to the pumps.

Sewage is pumped 300-400 feet from Reservoir Avenue east to a gravity conduit in Rutherglen Avenue. This line conveys the sewage to the South Providence interceptor, by which is carried to treatment at Fields Point. Although the exterior of the structure is in fairly good condition, the interior, particularly the wet well, exhibits deterioration and need for rehabilitation.

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
1931-1935

Significant Dates
1931

Cultural Affiliation
N/A

Significant Person
N/A

Architect/Builder
Office of City Engineer, Providence

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

The Reservoir Avenue Sewage 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 contexts Historic and Architectural Resources of Providence, 1636-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. The Reservoir Avenue Pumping Station conforms to this property type definition, having been built in 1931 under City Engineer S. Frank Nolan to facilitate the conveyance of sewage from a low-lying area of the city to the treatment plant at Fields Point.

Authorization for construction of the pump station was obtained through a City Council resolution in April, 1931. The "triangle" it was intended to service lay immediately adjacent to the east, consisting of approximately 50 acres located between Reservoir Ave., Pontiac Ave., and what is now Route 10. This area, lying south of Mashpaug Pond, was included in Providence's reannexation of part of Cranston in 1868. Located at the extreme south edge of the city, the "triangle" was apparently not extensively populated until the 20th century. That it had been by the end of the 1920's is indicated by the decision to build a pump station to service the area. Reservoir Avenue Pumping Station is thus historically and functionally associated with Providence's sewage treatment system. Its construction, like that of the earlier (1913) Washington Park pump station, illustrates the continued expansion of the system in response to the residential and industrial expansion of the city in the early decades of the 20th century.

See continuation sheet

9. Major Bibliographical References

Department of Public Works, Providence. Annual Report for 1931.

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

Acreeage of property less than one acre

UTM References

A 19 29,788,0 4,628,830
 Zone Easting Northing

C

B
 Zone Easting Northing

D

See continuation sheet

Verbal Boundary Description

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

See continuation sheet

Boundary Justification

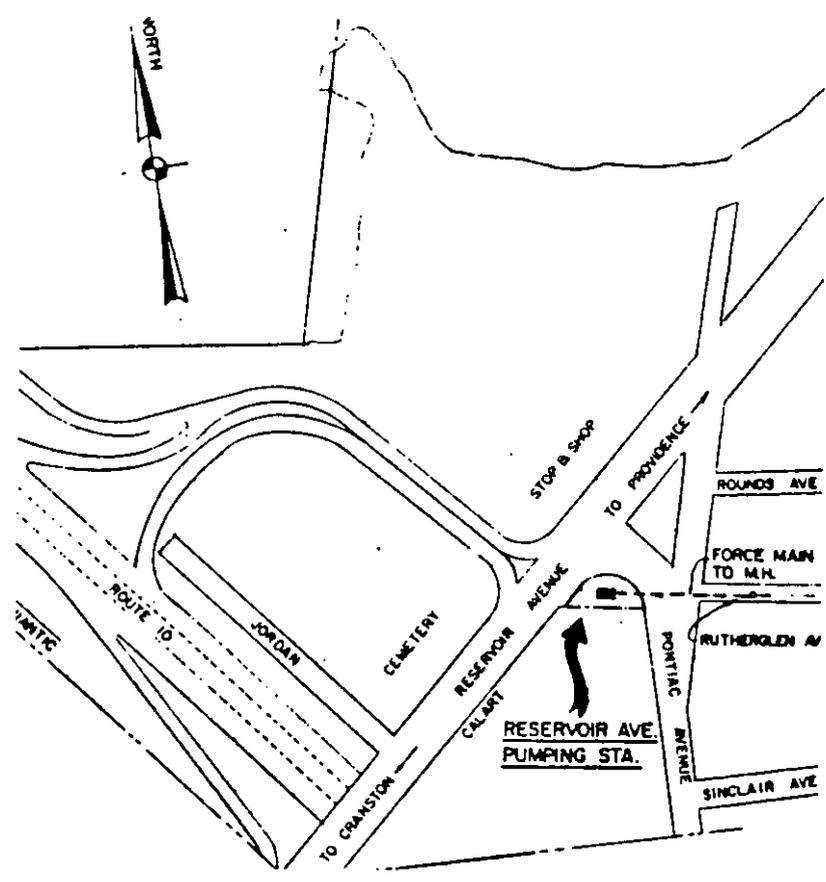
The boundaries encompass all significant features and do not exclude any features that contribute to the importance of the resource.

See continuation sheet

11. Form Prepared By

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

RESERVOIR AVENUE PUMPING STATION



LOCATION PLAN
NOT TO SCALE

Source: Narragansett Bay Commission



RESERVOIR AVENUE PUMPING STATION
PROVIDENCE, RI

PHOTO: M. H. BOWERS

JULY 1987

NEG. BY LOUIS BERGER & ASSOC., INC.
EAST ORANGE, NJ

VIEW: LOOKING NORTH -





RESERVOIR AVENUE PUMPING STATION
PROVIDENCE, RI

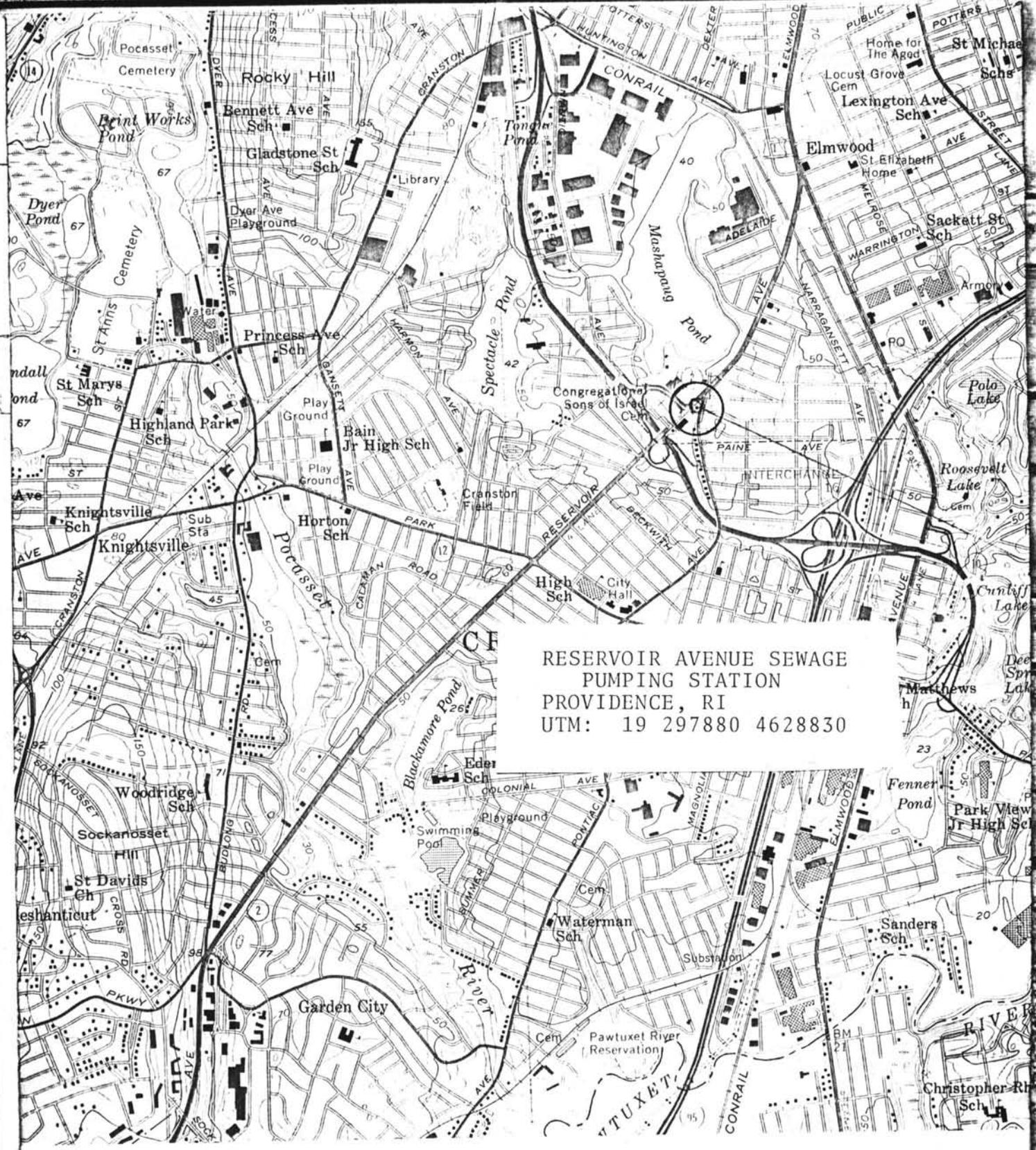
PHOTO: M. H. BOWERS

JULY 1987

NEG. BY: LOUIS BERGER & ASSOC., INC.
EAST ORANGE, NJ

VIEW: LOOKING SOUTH

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RESERVOIR AVENUE SEWAGE
PUMPING STATION
PROVIDENCE, RI
UTM: 19 297880 4628830