United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places
Registration Form

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
   city, town Providence
   state Rhode Island code RI county Providence code 007 zip code 02905

3. Classification
   Ownership of Property Category of Property Number of Resources within Property
   private building(s) Contributing Noncontributing
   public-local district 1 buildings
   public-State site
   public-Federal structure 0 sites
   object

   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 does not meet the National Register criteria. See continuation sheet.
   Signature of certifying official Date
   State or Federal agency and bureau

   In my opinion, the property 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:)

   Signature of the Keeper Date of Action
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 AND EARLY 20TH CENTURY
REVIVALS: Mediterranean Revival

Materials (enter categories from instructions)
foundation: concrete
walls: concrete, stucco
roof: asphalt, etc.
other

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.

☐ See continuation sheet
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.
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 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
9. Major Bibliographical References


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
X previously determined eligible by the National Register
☐ designated a National Historic Landmark
☐ recorded by Historic American Buildings
☐ Survey #
☐ recorded by Historic American Engineering
Record #

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

Specify repository:
Narragansett Bay Commission

10. Geographical Data

Acreage of property less than one

UTM References
A
Zone
Easting
Northing
4.61
17.0

B
Zone
Easting
Northing

C

D

See continuation sheet

Verbal Boundary Description

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
city or town Wellesley
state Mass.
zip code 02181

See continuation sheet
WASHINGTON PARK PUMPING STATION

LOCATION PLAN

NOT TO SCALE.

Source: Narragansett Bay Commission
WASHINGTON PARK PUMPING STATION
PROVIDENCE, RI

Photo: M. H. Bowers
July 1987

Neg. #5: Louis Berger & Assoc., Inc.
East Orange, NJ

View: North & East Elevations
Washington Park Pumping Station
Providence, RI

Photo: M. H. Bowers

July 1987

Eng. Mgr. Louis Berger & Assoc., Inc.
East Orange, NJ

View: Superstructure Above Wet Well,
Looking Southwest.
RETURN SLUDGE PUMPING STATION
FIELDS POINT
PROVIDENCE, RI
UTM: 19.301550.4629500

WASHINGTON PARK SEWAGE PUMPING STATION
PROVIDENCE, RI
UTM: 19.301400.4629170

ERNEST STREET SEWAGE PUMPING STATION
PROVIDENCE, RI
UTM: 19/300780.4629170