

PROVIDENCE SEWAGE TREATMENT SYSTEM,
Washington Park Pumping Station
Shipyards Street
Providence
Providence County
Rhode Island

HAER No. RI-20-D

HAER
RI
4-PROV,
191D-

PHOTOGRAPHS

WRITTEN HISTORICAL AND DESCRIPTIVE DATA

HISTORIC AMERICAN ENGINEERING RECORD
Mid-Atlantic Region
Department of the Interior
Philadelphia, Pennsylvania 19106

HAER
RI
4-PROV,
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HISTORIC AMERICAN ENGINEERING RECORD
PROVIDENCE SEWAGE TREATMENT SYSTEM:
Washington Park Pumping Station

HAER NO. RI-20-D

LOCATION: Shipyard Street, Providence, Providence
County, Rhode Island
UTM: 19.301400.4629170
Quad: Providence, RI

DATE OF CONSTRUCTION: 1912-1913

ENGINEER: Otis F. Clapp

PRESENT OWNER: Narragansett Bay Commission
44 Washington Street, Providence, RI

PRESENT USE: Sewage Pumping Station

SIGNIFICANCE: Washington Park Pumping Station is
historically and functionally associated
with the operation of sewage treatment
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.

PROVIDENCE SEWAGE TREATMENT SYSTEM
WASHINGTON PARK PUMPING STATION
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DESCRIPTION:

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's concrete substructure, measuring approximately 16' x 40', is divided into a wet well/bar screen chamber and a dry well containing two pumps. The wet well, occupying the southern portion of the substructure, contains manually-operated gate valves which control flow into the chamber. Opposite the gates are steel bar screens, which trap debris. The level of sewage within the chamber is controlled by a float system: when a preset level is reached, a pump starts automatically. The two pumps can be operated independently of one another, or at the same time if the flow exceeds the capacity of a single pump. This portion of the substructure is entered through a wooden bulkhead, from which a short flight of steps descends. A larger wooden bulkhead adjacent to the first permits equipment to be moved in or out. A wooden monitor positioned above the bar screens provides light and ventilation.

Above the pump chamber is a one-room superstructure, approximately 16 feet square. The superstructure is built 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 plastered, painted walls and concrete floor in which are set two heavy steel bulkheads providing access to the pump chamber. The room, which contains the controls for the pumps, 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 right below the eaves. Originally glazed, with muntins set in a lattice pattern, these openings have been filled in. 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.

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WASHINGTON PARK PUMPING STATION
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HISTORICAL INFORMATION:

Washington Park Pumping Station was 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.

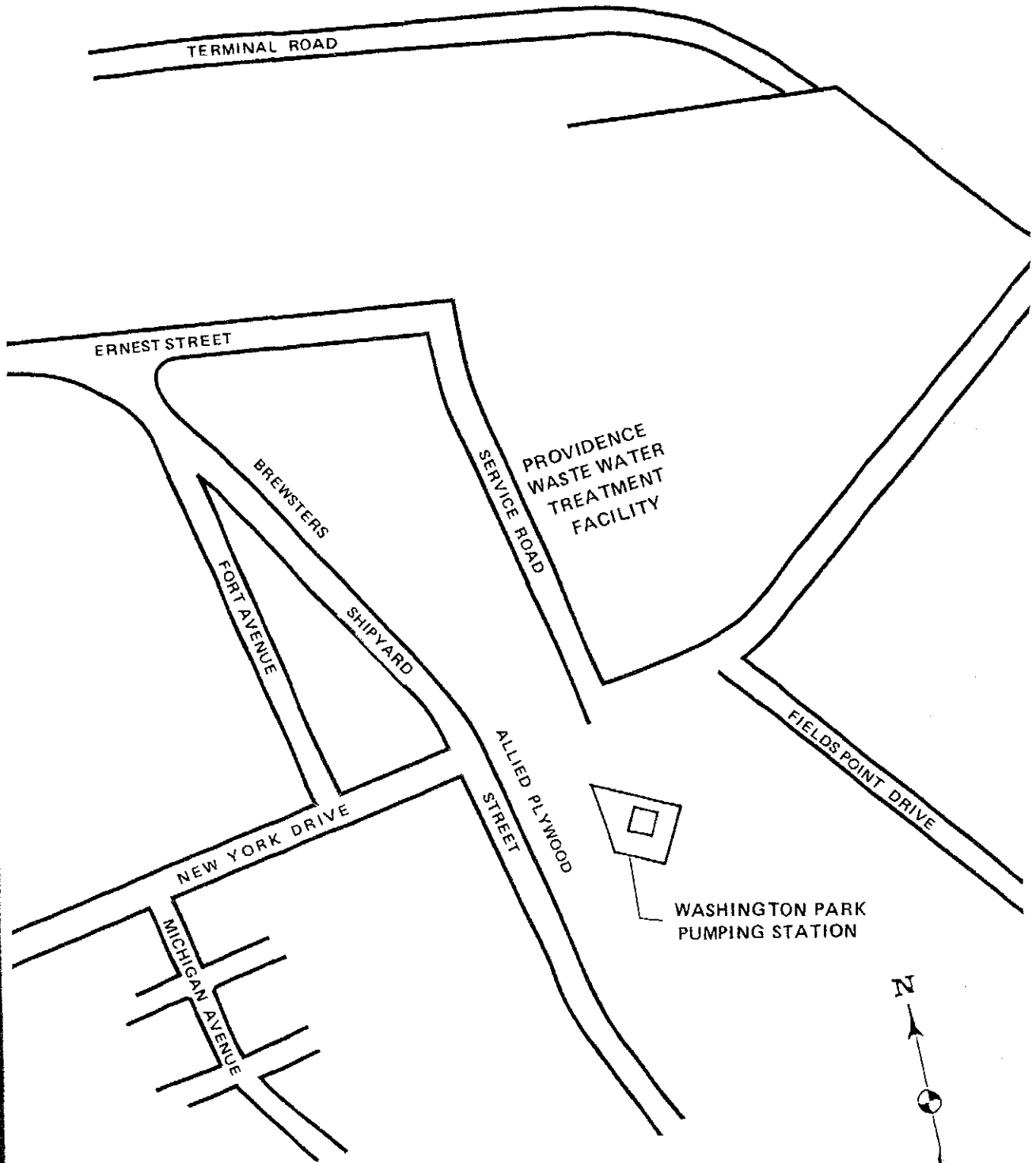
The Washington Park area, located in the extreme southern portion of Providence, was included in that part of Cranston reannexed by Providence in 1868. It remained largely undeveloped until public transportation, in the form of horsecar lines, made the area practically accessible. Sustained residential 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 F. Clapp supervised plans for a small pumpstation, which was put into service in 1913.

BIBLIOGRAPHY:

Woodward, WM. McKenzie and Edward F. Sanderson. Providence: A City wide 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.



LOCATION PLAN
NOT TO SCALE

