

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES  
INVENTORY - NOMINATION FORM

(Type all entries - complete applicable sections)

STATE: Rhode Island	
COUNTY: Providence	
FOR NPS USE ONLY	
ENTRY NUMBER	DATE

1. NAME  
COMMON: Blackstone Canal  
AND/OR HISTORIC:

2. LOCATION  
STREET AND NUMBER: From Front Street Bridge To Steeple and Promenade Streets  
CITY OR TOWN: Lincoln Providence  
STATE: Rhode Island CODE: 44 COUNTY: Providence CODE: 007

3. CLASSIFICATION

CATEGORY (Check One)	OWNERSHIP			STATUS	ACCESSIBLE TO THE PUBLIC
District <input type="checkbox"/> Building <input type="checkbox"/>	Public <input type="checkbox"/>	Public Acquisition: <input type="checkbox"/>	Occupied <input type="checkbox"/>	Yes: in part	
Site <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Structure <input type="checkbox"/>	Private <input type="checkbox"/>	In Process <input type="checkbox"/>	Unoccupied <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Restricted <input type="checkbox"/>	
Object <input type="checkbox"/>	Both <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Being Considered <input type="checkbox"/>	Preservation work in progress <input type="checkbox"/>	Unrestricted <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	
PRESENT USE (Check One or More as Appropriate)					
Agricultural <input type="checkbox"/>	Government <input type="checkbox"/>	Park <input type="checkbox"/>	Transportation <input type="checkbox"/>	Comments <input type="checkbox"/>	
Commercial <input type="checkbox"/>	Industrial <input type="checkbox"/>	Private Residence <input type="checkbox"/>	Other (Specify) <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>		
Educational <input type="checkbox"/>	Military <input type="checkbox"/>	Religious <input type="checkbox"/>	Unused <input type="checkbox"/>		
Entertainment <input type="checkbox"/>	Museum <input type="checkbox"/>	Scientific <input type="checkbox"/>			

4. OWNER OF PROPERTY  
OWNER'S NAME:  
STREET AND NUMBER:  
CITY OR TOWN: STATE: CODE:

5. LOCATION OF LEGAL DESCRIPTION  
COURTHOUSE, REGISTRY OF DEEDS, ETC.: Lincoln Town Clerk City Hall  
STREET AND NUMBER: 100, Old River Road Dorrance and Washington Streets  
CITY OR TOWN: Lincoln Providence STATE: Rhode Island CODE: 26

6. REPRESENTATION IN EXISTING SURVEYS  
TITLE OF SURVEY: Not so represented  
DATE OF SURVEY: Federal  State  County  Local   
DEPOSITORY FOR SURVEY RECORDS:  
STREET AND NUMBER:  
CITY OR TOWN: STATE: CODE:

SEE INSTRUCTIONS

STATE:  
COUNTY:  
ENTRY NUMBER  
DATE  
FOR NPS USE ONLY

F. DESCRIPTION

CONDITION	(Check One)				
	Excellent <input type="checkbox"/>	Good <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Fair <input type="checkbox"/>	Deteriorated <input type="checkbox"/>	Ruins <input type="checkbox"/>
INTEGRITY	(Check One)		(Check One)		
	Altered <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Unaltered <input type="checkbox"/>	Moved <input type="checkbox"/>	Original Site <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	

DESCRIBE THE PRESENT AND ORIGINAL (if known) PHYSICAL APPEARANCE

The Blackstone Canal was designed to connect Providence, Rhode Island, and Worcester, Massachusetts--forty-five miles apart--for the transport of commercial good, primarily, and also of passengers. It was constructed during the years 1824--1828. In northern Rhode Island it partly parallels and partly combines with the Blackstone River and in Providence becomes a part of the Moshassuck River. Twenty or more feet wide throughout, it was where necessary stone-walled, both to contain the canal stream and to support the path required for horses towing the canal-boats. Because of a drop of 451 feet in altitude from Worcester to Providence, granite-walled locks had to be constructed at numerous points, but little visibly remains of these locks--now, only outside Providence--and nothing of their mechanisms.

From the intact Lincoln, Rhode Island, portion of the canal (already a separate nomination to the National Register), it flows under the Front Street Bridge in that town, through Scott Pond and--now--beneath the Sayles Finishing Plant, next combining with the Moshassuck River channel. Thence it continues southward for four and one-half miles under new streets and past mill complexes to Interstate Route 95, within the Providence area. In this section there are no remains of walls or tow-paths. South of Route 95, however, the canal retains its original granite walls--at least on the eastern tow-path side and often on both--for almost the entire remainder of its course into the city of Providence. This is now about one and one-half miles, terminating at the intersection of Steeple and Promenade Streets. In its time of use the canal ended finally at Market Square, some blocks south, where there was landing, a stair and a shelter for the transfer of passengers and cargo. These last stretches and the basin end of the canal are now covered by a network of modern pavements and squares.

The remaining Rhode Island sections of this canal display various types of stone wall construction, both with and without mortar. In most places they have maintained themselves sturdily; in others they have sometimes been repaired or rebuilt. Their general condition appears good. As one exception in Providence, there are remains of what once might have been a set of locks above Mill Street, for such were shown in an early survey. The canal remains a long finger through a good part of Providence, and it still flows.

SEE INSTRUCTIONS

**SIGNIFICANCE**

**PERIOD (Check One or More as Appropriate)**

Pre-Columbian  16th Century  18th Century  20th Century   
 15th Century  17th Century  19th Century

**SPECIFIC DATE(S) (If Applicable and Known) 1823 - 1828**

**AREAS OF SIGNIFICANCE (Check One or More as Appropriate)**

Aboriginal <input type="checkbox"/>	Education <input type="checkbox"/>	Political <input type="checkbox"/>	Urban Planning <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Prehistoric <input type="checkbox"/>	Engineering <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Religion/Philosophy <input type="checkbox"/>	Other (Specify) <input type="checkbox"/>
Historic <input type="checkbox"/>	Industry <input type="checkbox"/>	Science <input type="checkbox"/>	_____
Agriculture <input type="checkbox"/>	Invention <input type="checkbox"/>	Sculpture <input type="checkbox"/>	_____
Art <input type="checkbox"/>	Landscape <input type="checkbox"/>	Social/Humanitarian <input type="checkbox"/>	_____
Commerce <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Architecture <input type="checkbox"/>	Theater <input type="checkbox"/>	_____
Communications <input type="checkbox"/>	Literature <input type="checkbox"/>	Transportation <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	_____
Conservation <input type="checkbox"/>	Military <input type="checkbox"/>		_____
	Music <input type="checkbox"/>		_____

**STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE (Include Personages, Dates, Events, Etc.)**

The Blackstone Canal was at its beginnings (thought of in 1823, opened for use in 1828) another with many canals being stretched throughout the eastern United States. In the first third of the XIX Century occurred what might be called a frenzy of canal-building, induced by swift industrial and commercial development and the consequent need for a transportation network. All are familiar with the Erie Canal; there were also the Chesapeake and Delaware, the Philadelphia State, the Chesapeake and Ohio, the Louisville and Portland, the Morris--Delaware and Raritan, the Georgetown etc. The Blackstone Canal justifiably takes a place among them in national history, and in Rhode Island it certainly takes a notable place in local history.

Here, its functions were to assist in commerce between Providence and Worcester and to stimulate the industrial development of intervening towns and villages along the Moshassuck and Blackstone Rivers. These it did during its useful life of about twenty years, ended by the introduction of a Providence--Worcester railroad. It had forty-nine locks, as well as "tow-paths, basins, dams, wharves, embankments, toll houses, and other necessary appendages" demonstrative of the engineering and building skills of the times. Its Rhode Island management was in the hands of a corporation which had been formed by such prominent citizens as Edward Carrington, Stephen H. Smith and Moses B. Ives. Another corporation financed and managed the construction and operation of the canal's Massachusetts portions.

In Rhode Island there are still many parts of the canal visibly intact (while in Massachusetts there remain only a few vague and swampy evidences of its existence at all); In these sections we have historically valuable survivals of the engineering and transportation ambitions and technology of the 1820's. We can see the masonry retaining walls, variously built, some tow-paths and wharfage areas, and the path of the canal into the centre of Providence. In many northern parts of the

(See Continuation Sheet)

SEE INSTRUCTIONS

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES  
INVENTORY - NOMINATION FORM

(Continuation Sheet)

STATE Rhode Island	
COUNTY Providence	
FOR NPS USE ONLY	
ENTRY NUMBER	DATE

(Number all entries)

8. Significance.

city--a section not lately noted for its beauty but scheduled for improvement--segments of the canal with water still flowing, railed and sometimes overhung by trees, provide almost the only, alive, picturesque thing to be seen and watched.

In many cities "pocket parks" of green have lately been created. In the remains of the Blackstone Canal, Providence has pocket streams of running water between ruggedly handsome old masonry. They are interesting now to discover; in future, freed of debris, they can form even more pleasurable accents in developed areas. Above all, they should be kept as visible and tangible parts of the city's and the state's history of growth, planning, commercial ambition and prosperity.

9. MAJOR BIBLIOGRAPHICAL REFERENCES

Cady, John Hutchins: The Civic and Architectural Development of Providence, 1636-1950. (Providence, R. I., 1957).  
Map of the Blackstone Canal (based on the original survey), 1828-1830  
 (at Rhode Island Historical Society, Providence).  
 Greene, Welcomes Arnold: The Providence Plantations for Two Hundred and Fifty Years (Providence, 1886).

10. GEOGRAPHICAL DATA

LATITUDE AND LONGITUDE COORDINATES DEFINING A RECTANGLE LOCATING THE PROPERTY			O R	LATITUDE AND LONGITUDE COORDINATES DEFINING THE CENTER POINT OF A PROPERTY OF LESS THAN ONE ACRE		
CORNER	LATITUDE			LATITUDE		LONGITUDE
	Degrees	Minutes	Seconds	Degrees	Minutes	Seconds
NW	71°	24'	26"	41°	54'	22"
NE	71°	24'	00"	41°	54'	22"
SE	71°	24'	22"	41°	49'	36"
SW	71°	24'	50"	41°	49'	36"

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

STATE:	CODE	COUNTY	CODE
STATE:	CODE	COUNTY:	CODE
STATE:	CODE	COUNTY:	CODE
STATE:	CODE	COUNTY:	CODE

11. FORM PREPARED BY

NAME AND TITLE:  
 Richard B. Harrington, Consultant

ORGANIZATION: Rhode Island Historical Preservation Commission      DATE: July 28, 1970

STREET AND NUMBER:  
 State House, 90, Smith Street

CITY OR TOWN: Providence      STATE: Rhode Island, 02903      CODE: 28

12. STATE LIAISON OFFICER CERTIFICATION

NATIONAL REGISTER VERIFICATION

As the designated State Liaison 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. The recommended level of significance of this nomination is:

National       State       Local

Name \_\_\_\_\_

Title \_\_\_\_\_

Date \_\_\_\_\_

I hereby certify that this property is included in the National Register.

Chief, Office of Archeology and Historic Preservation

Date \_\_\_\_\_

ATTEST:

Keeper of The National Register

Date \_\_\_\_\_

SEE INSTRUCTIONS

Amendment to Blackstone Canal, Providence

Form 10-300 (Dec. 1968)

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES INVENTORY - NOMINATION FORM

(Type all entries - complete applicable sections)

STATE: Rhode Island	
COUNTY: Providence	
FOR NPS USE ONLY	
ENTRY NUMBER	DATE

**1. NAME**

COMMON: Paul Ronci Memorial Park

AND/OR HISTORIC: Blackstone Canal

**2. LOCATION**

STREET AND NUMBER: from Front Street north to the Ashton Dam

CITY OR TOWN: Lincoln

STATE: Rhode Island      CODE: 44      COUNTY: Providence      CODE: 007

**3. CLASSIFICATION**

CATEGORY (Check One)	OWNERSHIP	STATUS	ACCESSIBLE TO THE PUBLIC
District <input type="checkbox"/> Building <input type="checkbox"/>	Public <input type="checkbox"/>	Occupied <input type="checkbox"/>	Yes: Restricted <input type="checkbox"/>
Site <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Structure <input type="checkbox"/>	Private <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Unoccupied <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Unrestricted <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Object <input type="checkbox"/>	Both <input type="checkbox"/>	Preservation work in progress <input type="checkbox"/>	No: <input type="checkbox"/>
PRESENT USE (Check One or More as Appropriate)			
Agricultural <input type="checkbox"/>	Government <input type="checkbox"/>	Park <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Transportation <input type="checkbox"/> Comments <input type="checkbox"/>
Commercial <input type="checkbox"/>	Industrial <input type="checkbox"/>	Private Residence <input type="checkbox"/>	Other (Specify) <input type="checkbox"/>
Educational <input type="checkbox"/>	Military <input type="checkbox"/>	Religious <input type="checkbox"/>	
Entertainment <input type="checkbox"/>	Museum <input type="checkbox"/>	Scientific <input type="checkbox"/>	

**4. OWNER OF PROPERTY**

OWNERS NAME: Frank Ronci Company, Inc.

STREET AND NUMBER: 2, Atlantic Boulevard

CITY OR TOWN: North Providence      STATE: Rhode Island      CODE: 44

**5. LOCATION OF LEGAL DESCRIPTION**

COURTHOUSE, REGISTRY OF DEEDS, ETC.: Lincoln Town Hall

STREET AND NUMBER: Old River Road

CITY OR TOWN: Lincoln      STATE: Rhode Island      CODE: 44

APPROXIMATE ACREAGE OF NOMINATED PROPERTY: 3/4 acres

**6. REPRESENTATION IN EXISTING SURVEYS**

TITLE OF SURVEY: Not known to be represented in any survey

DATE OF SURVEY: Federal  State  County  Local

DEPOSITORY FOR SURVEY RECORDS:

STREET AND NUMBER:

CITY OR TOWN:      STATE:      CODE:

SEE INSTRUCTIONS

STATE: COUNTY: ENTRY NUMBER DATE FOR NPS USE ONLY

7. DESCRIPTION

CONDITION	(Check One)					
	Excellent <input type="checkbox"/>	Good <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Fair <input type="checkbox"/>	Deteriorated <input type="checkbox"/>	Ruins <input type="checkbox"/>	Unexposed <input type="checkbox"/>
INTEGRITY	(Check One)			(Check One)		
	Altered <input type="checkbox"/>	Unaltered <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Moved <input type="checkbox"/>	Original Site <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>		

DESCRIBE THE PRESENT AND ORIGINAL (If known) PHYSICAL APPEARANCE

The stretch of the Blackstone Canal beginning at Front Street in Lincoln and extending four miles north to the Ashton Dam comprises the Paul Ronci Memorial Park. It is the longest segment of the original forty-five mile canal still intact. Both the canal and the tow-path exist in good condition. There are no locks or engineering structures along this stretch of the canal. The width of the canal varies between thirty-two and forty-five feet at the top. The bottom width is eighteen feet. Present water level averages between three and four feet in depth.

The land for use as a park includes the canal, tow-path, and fifteen feet on either side of the canal. The canal banks have a ground cover of brush and small-to-medium-size trees. The walls of the canal for the last two thousand feet at the northern end are lined with cut-stone blocks. The physical appearance to-day is, in short, much the same as it was during the years 1828 to 1848 when the canal was in use, transporting goods between Providence, Rhode Island, and Worcester, Massachusetts.

SEE INSTRUCTIONS

8. SIGNIFICANCE

PERIOD (Check One or More as Appropriate)

- Pre-Columbian       16th Century       18th Century       20th Century   
 15th Century       17th Century       19th Century

SPECIFIC DATE(S) (If Applicable and Known)

AREAS OF SIGNIFICANCE (Check One or More as Appropriate)

- |                |              |                                     |                     |                                     |                 |                          |
|----------------|--------------|-------------------------------------|---------------------|-------------------------------------|-----------------|--------------------------|
| Aboriginal     | Education    | <input type="checkbox"/>            | Political           | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> | Urban Planning  | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| Prehistoric    | Engineering  | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> | Religion/Philosophy | <input type="checkbox"/>            | Other (Specify) | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| Historic       | Industry     | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> | Science             | <input type="checkbox"/>            | _____           | _____                    |
| Agriculture    | Invention    | <input type="checkbox"/>            | Sculpture           | <input type="checkbox"/>            | _____           | _____                    |
| Art            | Landscape    | <input type="checkbox"/>            | Social/Humanitarian | <input type="checkbox"/>            | _____           | _____                    |
| Commerce       | Architecture | <input type="checkbox"/>            | Theater             | <input type="checkbox"/>            | _____           | _____                    |
| Communications | Literature   | <input type="checkbox"/>            | Transportation      | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> | _____           | _____                    |
| Conservation   | Military     | <input type="checkbox"/>            |                     |                                     | _____           | _____                    |
|                | Music        | <input type="checkbox"/>            |                     |                                     | _____           | _____                    |

STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE (Include Personages, Dates, Events, Etc.)

The canal was constructed between the years 1824 and 1828. It linked the cities of Worcester, Massachusetts, and Providence. The forty-five-mile stretch, with a drop of 451 feet in altitude, employed granite locks. The canal was not built as one independent and continuous stretch for its entire length, as it utilized the parallel Blackstone River at various points, thus saving some construction costs.

Built at the height of the canal frenzy, the Blackstone had a life of nearly twenty-five years--few of them prosperous. To begin with, it was too late in coming. John Brown of Providence had seen the advantages of such a canal opening up country markets for Providence trade in the late 1700's; but when his fellow-merchant, Edward Carrington, brought that vision to realization in the 1820's the coming of the railroad already heralded a faster and better way of moving goods and passengers. In addition, the canal project was underfinanced. Also, hasty planning had failed to provide a proper system of reservoirs to maintain a continuous water level; droughts and diversions of water by mill-owners resulted in frequent interruptions of service.

To-day few sections of the canal remain. There are no known locks still to be seen, though some of their remains may exist. In several places in Massachusetts the canal has been filled in. The canal bed in Rhode Island, however, is largely intact.

SEE INSTRUCTIONS



**9. MAJOR BIBLIOGRAPHICAL REFERENCES**

Carrington, Edward: Papers (at Rhode Island Historical Society, Providence).

Blackstone Canal Company: Account books (at Rhode Island Historical Society, Providence.)

Blackstone Canal, Trustees of: Minutes (in Thomas A. Jenckes Collection at Rhode Island Historical Society, Providence).

Map of the Blackstone Canal (based on the original survey, 1828-1830).  
(at Rhode Island Historical Society, Providence)

**10. GEOGRAPHICAL DATA**

LATITUDE AND LONGITUDE COORDINATES DEFINING A RECTANGLE LOCATING THE PROPERTY			O R	LATITUDE AND LONGITUDE COORDINATES DEFINING THE CENTER POINT OF A PROPERTY OF LESS THAN ONE ACRE		
CORNER	LATITUDE			LATITUDE		LONGITUDE
	Degrees	Minutes	Seconds	Degrees	Minutes	Seconds
NW	41°	56'	15"	71°	26'	02"
NE	41°	56'	15"	71°	24'	02"
SE	41°	54'	24"	71°	24'	22"
SW	41°	54'	24"	71°	26'	02"

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

STATE:	CODE	COUNTY	CODE
STATE:	CODE	COUNTY:	CODE
STATE:	CODE	COUNTY:	CODE
STATE:	CODE	COUNTY:	CODE

**11. FORM PREPARED BY**

NAME AND TITLE:  
Albert T. Klyberg, Director

ORGANIZATION  
Rhode Island Historical Society

DATE  
Oct. 2, 1970

STREET AND NUMBER:  
52, Power Street

CITY OR TOWN:  
Providence

STATE  
Rhode Island, 02906

CODE  
44

**12. STATE LIAISON OFFICER CERTIFICATION**

As the designated State Liaison 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. The recommended level of significance of this nomination is:

National  State  Local

Name \_\_\_\_\_

Title State Liaison Officer

Date \_\_\_\_\_

**NATIONAL REGISTER VERIFICATION**

I hereby certify that this property is included in the National Register.

\_\_\_\_\_  
Chief, Office of Archeology and Historic Preservation

Date \_\_\_\_\_

ATTEST:

\_\_\_\_\_  
Keeper of The National Register

Date \_\_\_\_\_

SEE INSTRUCTIONS

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES  
INVENTORY - NOMINATION FORM

(Type all entries - complete applicable sections)

STATE: Rhode Island	
COUNTY: Providence	
FOR NPS USE ONLY	
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1. NAME

COMMON: Blackstone Canal

AND/OR HISTORIC:

2. LOCATION

STREET AND NUMBER:  
From Front Street Bridge To Steeple and Promenade Streets

CITY OR TOWN:  
Lincoln Providence

STATE: Rhode Island CODE: 44 COUNTY: Providence CODE: 007

3. CLASSIFICATION

CATEGORY (Check One)	OWNERSHIP	STATUS	ACCESSIBLE TO THE PUBLIC
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Site <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Structure <input type="checkbox"/>	Private <input type="checkbox"/>	In Process <input type="checkbox"/>	Restricted <input type="checkbox"/>
Object <input type="checkbox"/>	Both <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Being Considered <input type="checkbox"/>	Unrestricted <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
PRESENT USE (Check One or More as Appropriate)			
Agricultural <input type="checkbox"/>	Government <input type="checkbox"/>	Park <input type="checkbox"/>	Transportation <input type="checkbox"/> Comments <input type="checkbox"/>
Commercial <input type="checkbox"/>	Industrial <input type="checkbox"/>	Private Residence <input type="checkbox"/>	Other (Specify) <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> <u>Unused</u>
Ed. cultural <input type="checkbox"/>	Military <input type="checkbox"/>	Religious <input type="checkbox"/>	
Entertainment <input type="checkbox"/>	Museum <input type="checkbox"/>	Scientific <input type="checkbox"/>	

4. OWNER OF PROPERTY

OWNER'S NAME:

STREET AND NUMBER:

CITY OR TOWN: STATE: CODE:

5. LOCATION OF LEGAL DESCRIPTION

COURTHOUSE, REGISTRY OF DEEDS, ETC:  
Lincoln Town Clerk City Hall

STREET AND NUMBER:  
100, Old River Road Dorrance and Washington Streets

CITY OR TOWN: Providence STATE: Rhode Island CODE: 28

APPROXIMATE ACREAGE OF NOMINATED PROPERTY: 16.9

6. REPRESENTATION IN EXISTING SURVEYS

TITLE OF SURVEY:  
Not so represented

DATE OF SURVEY: Federal  State  County  Local

DEPOSITORY FOR SURVEY RECORDS:

STREET AND NUMBER:

CITY OR TOWN: STATE: CODE:

SEE INSTRUCTIONS

STATE:  
COUNTY:  
ENTRY NUMBER  
DATE  
FOR NPS USE ONLY

7. DESCRIPTION

CONDITION	(Check One)					
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INTEGRITY	(Check One)			(Check One)		
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S. SIGNIFICANCE

PERIOD (Check One or More as Appropriate)

- Pre-Columbian       16th Century       18th Century       20th Century   
 15th Century       17th Century       19th Century

SPECIFIC DATE(S) (If Applicable and Known) 1823 - 1828

AREAS OF SIGNIFICANCE (Check One or More as Appropriate)

- |                |              |                                     |                |                                     |                 |                                     |
|----------------|--------------|-------------------------------------|----------------|-------------------------------------|-----------------|-------------------------------------|
| Aboriginal     | Education    | <input type="checkbox"/>            | Political      | <input type="checkbox"/>            | Urban Planning  | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> |
| Prehistoric    | Engineering  | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> | Religion/Phi-  |                                     | Other (Specify) | <input type="checkbox"/>            |
| Historic       | Industry     | <input type="checkbox"/>            | losophy        | <input type="checkbox"/>            | _____           |                                     |
| Agriculture    | Invention    | <input type="checkbox"/>            | Science        | <input type="checkbox"/>            | _____           |                                     |
| Art            | Landscape    | <input type="checkbox"/>            | Sculpture      | <input type="checkbox"/>            | _____           |                                     |
| Commerce       | Architecture | <input type="checkbox"/>            | Social/Human-  |                                     | _____           |                                     |
| Communications | Literature   | <input type="checkbox"/>            | itarian        | <input type="checkbox"/>            | _____           |                                     |
| Conservation   | Military     | <input type="checkbox"/>            | Theater        | <input type="checkbox"/>            | _____           |                                     |
|                | Music        | <input type="checkbox"/>            | Transportation | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> | _____           |                                     |

STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE (Include Personages, Dates, Events, Etc.)

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(See Continuation Sheet)

SEE INSTRUCTIONS

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES  
INVENTORY - NOMINATION FORM

(Continuation Sheet)

STATE	Rhode Island	
COUNTY	Providence	
FOR NPS USE ONLY		
ENTRY NUMBER	DATE	

(Number all entries)

8. Significance.

city--a section not lately noted for its beauty but scheduled for improvement--segments of the canal with water still flowing, railed and sometimes overhung by trees, provide almost the only, alive, picturesque thing to be seen and watched.

In many cities "pocket parks" of green have lately been created. In the remains of the Blackstone Canal, Providence has pocket streams of running water between ruggedly handsome old masonry. They are interesting now to discover; in future, freed of débris, they can form even more pleasurable accents in developed areas. Above all, they should be kept as visible and tangible parts of the city's and the state's history of growth, planning, commercial ambition and prosperity.

9. MAJOR BIBLIOGRAPHICAL REFERENCES

Cady, John Hutchins: The Civic and Architectural Development of Providence, 1636-1950. (Providence, R. I., 1957).  
Map of the Blackstone Canal (based on the original survey), 1828-1830  
 (at Rhode Island Historical Society, Providence).  
 Greene, Welcome Arnold: The Providence Plantations for Two Hundred and Fifty Years (Providence, 1886).

10. GEOGRAPHICAL DATA

LATITUDE AND LONGITUDE COORDINATES DEFINING A RECTANGLE LOCATING THE PROPERTY				O R	LATITUDE AND LONGITUDE COORDINATES DEFINING THE CENTER POINT OF A PROPERTY OF LESS THAN ONE ACRE				
CORNER	LATITUDE				LONGITUDE				
	Degrees	Minutes	Seconds	Degrees	Minutes	Seconds	Degrees	Minutes	Seconds
NW	71°	24'	26"	41°	54'	22"			
NE	71°	24'	00"	41°	54'	22"			
SE	71°	24'	22"	41°	49'	36"			
SW	71°	24'	50"	41°	49'	36"			

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

STATE:	CODE	COUNTY	CODE
STATE:	CODE	COUNTY:	CODE
STATE:	CODE	COUNTY:	CODE
STATE:	CODE	COUNTY:	CODE

11. FORM PREPARED BY

NAME AND TITLE:  
 Richard B. Harrington, Consultant

ORGANIZATION:  
 Rhode Island Historical Preservation Commission

DATE:  
 July 28, 1970

STREET AND NUMBER:  
 State House, 90, Smith Street

CITY OR TOWN:  
 Providence

STATE:  
 Rhode Island, 02903

CODE:  
 28

12. STATE LIAISON OFFICER CERTIFICATION

NATIONAL REGISTER VERIFICATION

As the designated State Liaison 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. The recommended level of significance of this nomination is:

National  State  Local

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Title: \_\_\_\_\_

Date: \_\_\_\_\_

I hereby certify that this property is included in the National Register.

Chief, Office of Archeology and Historic Preservation

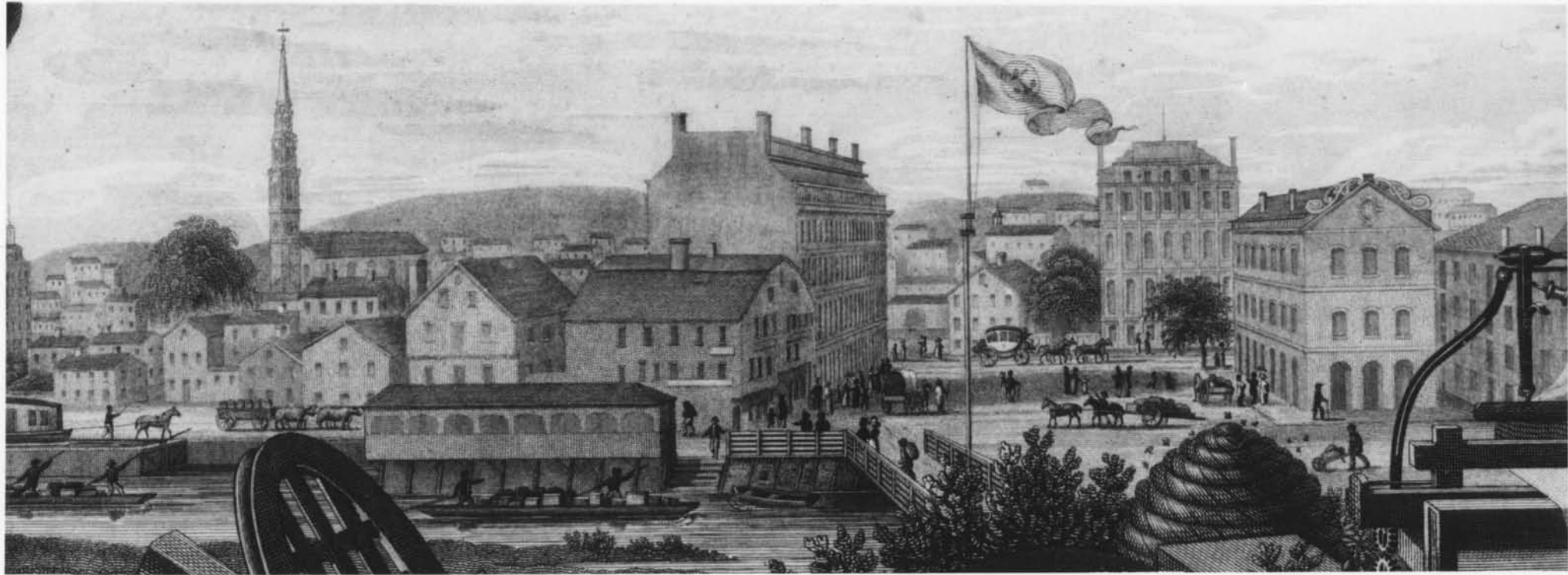
Date: \_\_\_\_\_

ATTEST:

Keeper of The National Register

Date: \_\_\_\_\_

SEE INSTRUCTIONS



UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR  
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES  
PROPERTY PHOTOGRAPH FORM

(Type all entries - attach to or enclose with photograph)

STATE

Rhode Island

COUNTY

Providence

FOR NPS USE ONLY

ENTRY NUMBER

DATE

SEE INSTRUCTIONS

1. NAME

COMMON: Blackstone Canal

AND/OR HISTORIC:

2. LOCATION

STREET AND NUMBER:

From Front Street Bridge

To Steeple and Promenade Streets

CITY OR TOWN:

Lincoln

Providence

STATE:

Rhode Island

CODE

38

COUNTY:

Providence

CODE

007

3. PHOTO REFERENCE

PHOTO CREDIT: Rhode Island Historical Society

DATE OF ~~EXPOSURE~~ ENGRAVING: 1830; copy negative, 1970

NEGATIVE FILED AT: Rhode Island Historical Society, 52, Power Street,  
Providence, Rhode Island, 02906

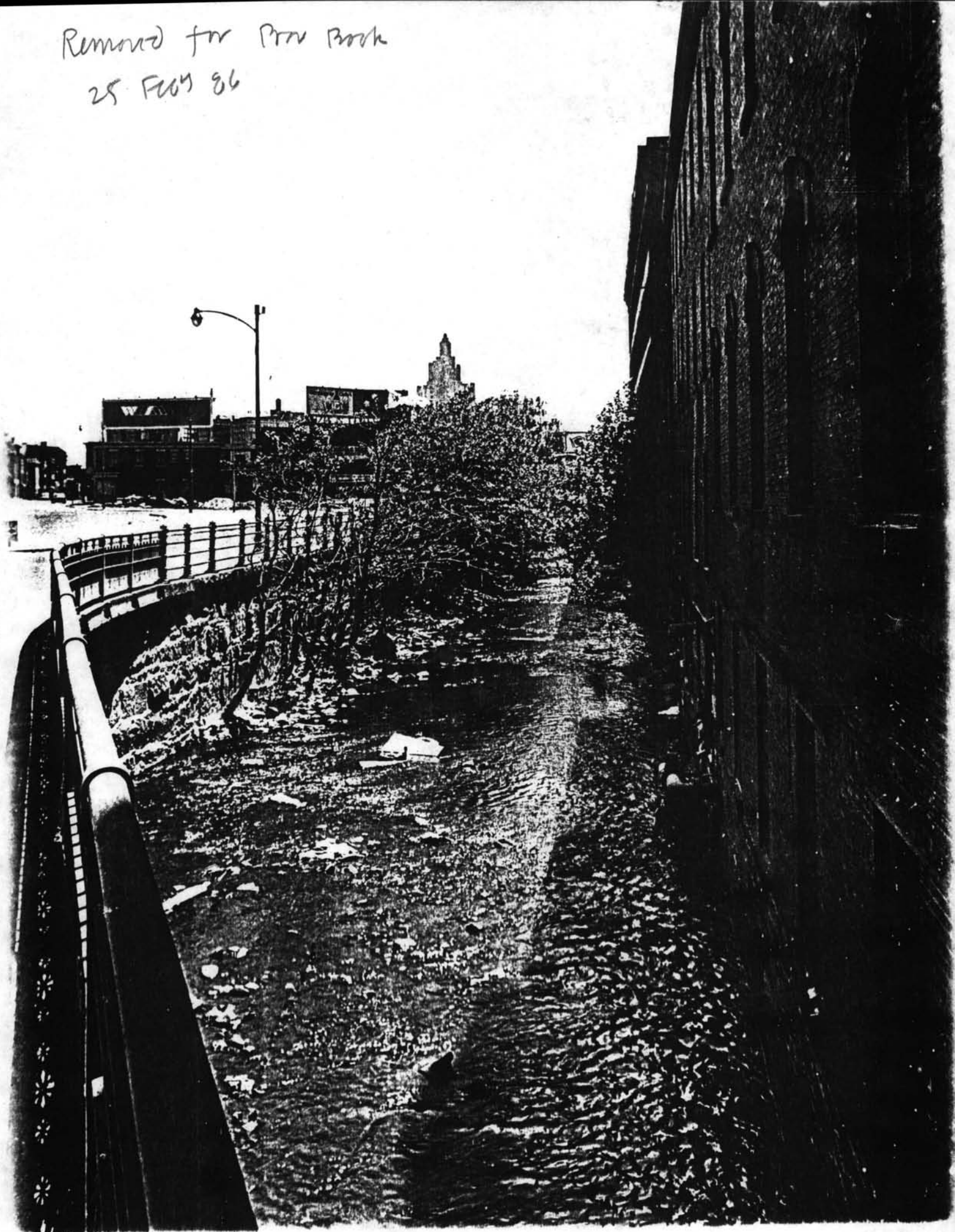
4. IDENTIFICATION

DESCRIBE VIEW, DIRECTION, ETC.

View from the west towards Market Square in Providence, showing on  
left the terminus of the Blackstone Canal.



Removed for Pro Book  
25 Feb 86



UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR  
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES  
PROPERTY PHOTOGRAPH FORM

(Type all entries - attach to or enclose with photograph)

STATE Rhode Island	
COUNTY Providence	
FOR NPS USE ONLY	
ENTRY NUMBER	DATE

SEE INSTRUCTIONS

1. NAME			
COMMON: Blackstone Canal			
AND/OR HISTORIC:			
2. LOCATION			
STREET AND NUMBER:			
From Front Street Bridge		To Steeple and Promenade Streets	
CITY OR TOWN:			
Lincoln		Providence	
STATE:	CODE	COUNTY:	CODE
Rhode Island	38	Providence	007
3. PHOTO REFERENCE			
PHOTO CREDIT: Philip Seibert			
DATE OF PHOTO: May, 1970			
NEGATIVE FILED AT: William D. Warner, 30, Benefit Street, Providence, Rhode Island, 02901			
4. IDENTIFICATION			
DESCRIBE VIEW, DIRECTION, ETC.			
The canal as seen from the Smith Street bridge, flowing southward into downtown Providence.			



UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR  
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

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Lincoln

Providence

STATE:

Rhode Island

CODE

38

COUNTY:

Providence

CODE

007

3. PHOTO REFERENCE

PHOTO CREDIT: Philip Seibert

DATE OF PHOTO: May, 1970

NEGATIVE FILED AT: William D. Warner, 30 Benefit Street,  
Providence, Rhode Island, 02904

4. IDENTIFICATION

DESCRIBE VIEW, DIRECTION, ETC.

The canal as it passes the Eagle Mills at the west edge of the Screw Company property on Stevens Street, Providence (See N. R. nomination for Moshassuck Square, Providence).



UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR  
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES  
PROPERTY PHOTOGRAPH FORM

(Type all entries - attach to or enclose with photograph)

Rhode Island	
COUNTY Providence	
FOR NPS USE ONLY	
ENTRY NUMBER	DATE

SEE INSTRUCTIONS

1. NAME

COMMON: Blackstone Canal  
AND/OR HISTORIC:

2. LOCATION

STREET AND NUMBER: From Front Street Bridge To Steeple and Promenade Streets

CITY OR TOWN: Lincoln Providence

STATE: Rhode Island	CODE 38	COUNTY: Providence	CODE 007
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3. PHOTO REFERENCE

PHOTO CREDIT: Philip Seibert

DATE OF PHOTO: May, 1970

NEGATIVE FILED AT: William D. Warner, 30, Benefit Street,  
Providence, Rhode Island, 02904

4. IDENTIFICATION

DESCRIBE VIEW, DIRECTION, ETC.

Western granite-block wall of the canal opposite the Eagle Mills of the American Screw Company, Stevens Street, Providence (See N. R. nomination for Moshassuck Square, Providence), just before the canal is crossed by Stevens Street.



UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR  
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES  
PROPERTY PHOTOGRAPH FORM

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COUNTY Providence	
FOR NPS USE ONLY	
ENTRY NUMBER	DATE

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COMMON: Blackstone Canal			
AND/OR HISTORIC:			
2. LOCATION			
STREET AND NUMBER:			
From Front Street Bridge		To Steeple and Promenade Streets	
CITY OR TOWN:			
Lincoln		Providence	
STATE:			
Rhode Island		CODE	COUNTY:
		38	Providence
			CODE
			007
3. PHOTO REFERENCE			
PHOTO CREDIT: Philip Seibert			
DATE OF PHOTO: May, 1970			
NEGATIVE FILED AT: William D. Warner, 30, Benefit Street			
Providence, Rhode Island, 02904			
4. IDENTIFICATION			
DESCRIBE VIEW, DIRECTION, ETC.			
The canal as it emerges from the Sayles Finishing Plant in Lincoln, Rhode Island, following the Moshassuck River bed.			





UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR  
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES

PROPERTY PHOTOGRAPH FORM

(Type all entries - attach to or enclose with photograph)

STATE Rhode Island	
COUNTY Providence	
FOR NPS USE ONLY	
ENTRY NUMBER	DATE

SEE INSTRUCTIONS

1. NAME			
COMMON: Blackstone Canal			
AND/OR HISTORIC:			
2. LOCATION			
STREET AND NUMBER: From Front Street Bridge To Steeple and Promenade Streets			
CITY OR TOWN: Lincoln Providence			
STATE: Rhode Island	CODE 30	COUNTY: Providence	CODE 007
3. PHOTO REFERENCE			
PHOTO CREDIT: Philip Seibert			
DATE OF PHOTO: May, 1970			
NEGATIVE FILED AT: William D. Warner, 30, Benefit Street, Providence, Rhode Island, 02901			
4. IDENTIFICATION			
DESCRIBE VIEW, DIRECTION, ETC. East wall of the canal in Providence, of piled stones without mortar.			



UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR  
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES  
PROPERTY PHOTOGRAPH FORM

(Type all entries - attach to or enclose with photograph)

Rhode Island	
COUNTY	
Providence	
FOR NPS USE ONLY	
ENTRY NUMBER	DATE

SEE INSTRUCTIONS

1. NAME			
COMMON: Blackstone Canal			
AND/OR HISTORIC:			
2. LOCATION			
STREET AND NUMBER:			
* From Front Street Bridge		To Steeple and Promenade Streets	
CITY OR TOWN:			
Lincoln		Providence	
STATE:	CODE	COUNTY:	CODE
Rhode Island	38	Providence	007
3. PHOTO REFERENCE			
PHOTO CREDIT: Philip Seibert			
DATE OF PHOTO: May, 1970			
NEGATIVE FILED AT: William D. Warner, 30, Benefit Street, Providence, Rhode Island, 02901			
4. IDENTIFICATION			
DESCRIBE VIEW, DIRECTION, ETC.			
East wall of the canal in Providence, of stones and mortar.			



UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR  
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES  
PROPERTY PHOTOGRAPH FORM

(Type all entries - attach to or enclose with photograph)

STATE Rhode Island	
COUNTY Providence	
FOR NPS USE ONLY	
ENTRY NUMBER	DATE

SEE INSTRUCTIONS

1. NAME

COMMON: Paul Ronci Memorial Park

AND/OR HISTORIC: Blackstone Canal

2. LOCATION

STREET AND NUMBER:

from Front Street north to the Ashton Dam

CITY OR TOWN:

Lincoln

STATE:

Rhode Island, 02865

CODE

114

COUNTY:

Providence

CODE

007

3. PHOTO REFERENCE

PHOTO CREDIT: Rhode Island Historical Society

DATE OF PHOTO: 1965

NEGATIVE FILED AT: Rhode Island Historical Society, 52, Power Street,  
Providence, Rhode Island, 02906

4. IDENTIFICATION

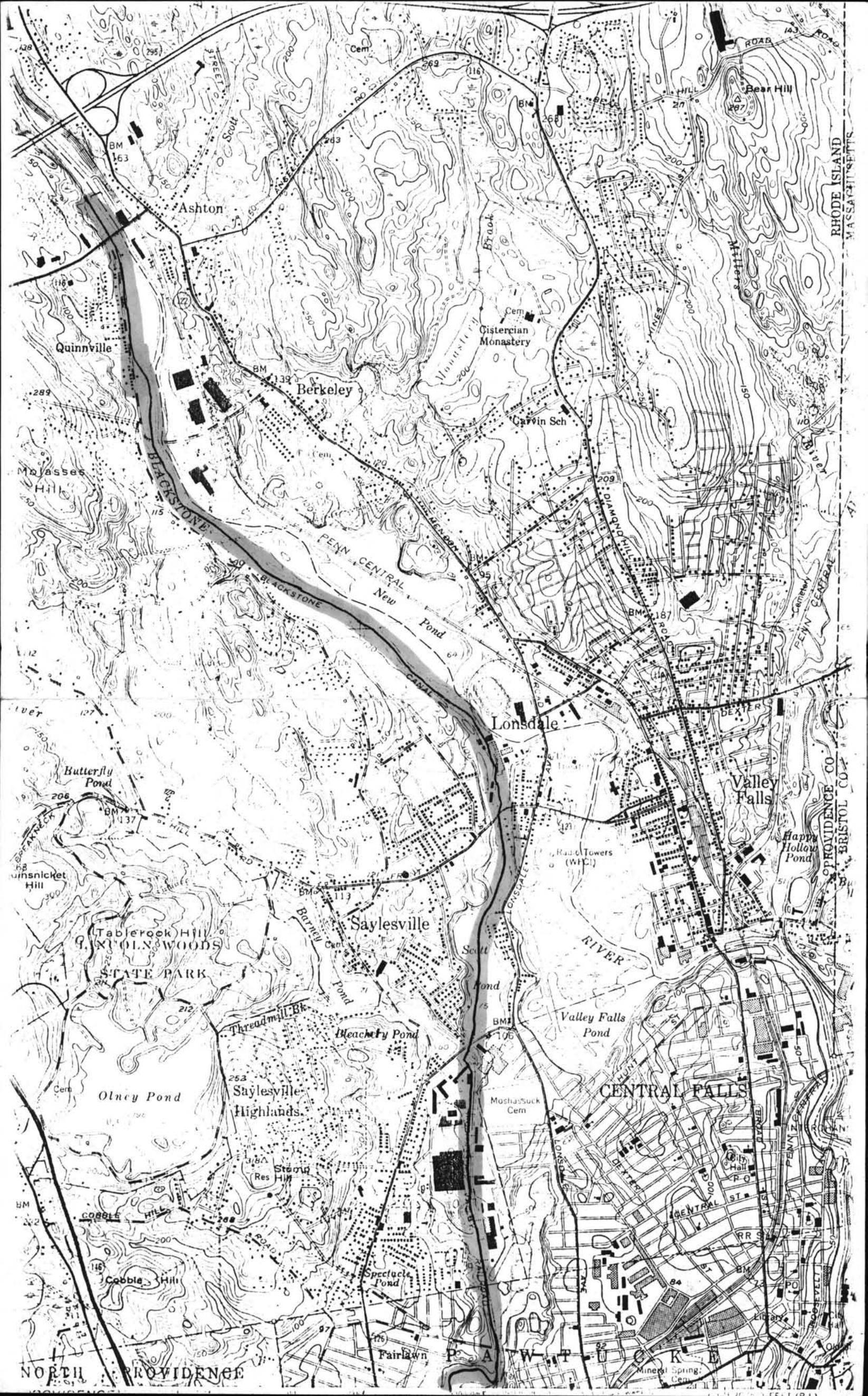
DESCRIBE VIEW, DIRECTION, ETC.

View looking north along canal from its southern (Lonsdale)  
portion and showing tow-path at right.

PROVIDENCE QUADRANT  
RHODE ISLAND  
7.5 MINUTE SERIES (TOPOGRAPHIC)

BOSTON, MASS 40 MI  
SOUTH ATTLEBORO, MASS 2.2 MI  
53000 FEET





RHODE ISLAND  
MASSACHUSETTS

PROVIDENCE CO.  
BRISTOL CO.

NORTH PROVIDENCE

W.P.U. K.E.T.



NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES  
PROPERTY MAP FORM

(Type all entries - attach to or enclose with map)

STATE Rhode Island	
COUNTY Providence	
FOR NPS USE ONLY	
ENTRY NUMBER	DATE

SEE INSTRUCTIONS

1. NAME

COMMON: Blackstone Canal  
AND/OR HISTORIC:

2. LOCATION

STREET AND NUMBER:  
From Front Street Bridge To Steeple and Promenade Streets

CITY OR TOWN:  
Lincoln Providence

STATE: Rhode Island	CODE 38	COUNTY: Providence	CODE 007
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3. MAP REFERENCE

SOURCE: U. S. Geological Survey

SCALE: Enlarged photographically to 1" = 1,500'

DATE: 1957

4. REQUIREMENTS

TO BE INCLUDED ON ALL MAPS .

1. Property boundaries where required.
2. North arrow.
3. Latitude and longitude reference.

The course of the canal is indicated in red.