

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 Return Sludge Pumping Station, Fields Point Sewage Treatment Plant
other names/site number _____

2. Location

street & number Ernest Street n/a not for publication
city, town Providence n/a vicinity
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	
		Contributing	Noncontributing
<input type="checkbox"/> private	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> building(s)	<u>1</u>	_____ buildings
<input type="checkbox"/> public-local	<input type="checkbox"/> district	_____	_____ sites
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> public-State	<input type="checkbox"/> site	_____	_____ structures
<input type="checkbox"/> public-Federal	<input type="checkbox"/> structure	_____	_____ objects
	<input type="checkbox"/> object	<u>1</u>	<u>0</u> Total

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 meets 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 meets 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: Georgian
 Revival

Materials (enter categories from instructions)

foundation concrete

walls brick

roof asphalt

other _____

Describe present and historic physical appearance:

The Return Sludge Pumping Station is located in the easterly portion of the Fields Point sewage treatment plant operated by the Narragansett Bay Commission in Providence. Situated adjacent to aeration tanks, the building contains pumps which return a portion of biologically active sludge from these tanks back into the treatment process.

The Return Sludge Pumping Station is a hipped-roofed structure of concrete and pressed red brick. It is massed as a four-bay by six-bay main block with a symmetrically placed hipped-roofed extension on the west side. The floor lies well below grade, as the structure is essentially a covered concrete dry well containing pumps. The pumps are accessed from a metal stair extended from a catwalk along the west and south sides. The interior is illuminated by tall windows fitted with 6/3 metal horizontal hinged sash. Three electrically-operated Worthington pumps, with associated valves and controls, occupy the structure. On the ridge of the composition-shingled main roof are a metal ventilator and a short brick chimney.

As basically a container for pumps, the building presents a utilitarian quality that has remained essentially unaltered since its construction in 1934-5. The original pumps, however, are no longer present, having been replaced in 1956. These in turn were replaced in 1979.

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conversion of the facility from the chemical precipitation to activated sludge process in the 1930's, the first intent was to remodel the effluent well to a gravity-operated sludge return. This plan, developed in 1930, was apparently abandoned in 1934. The decision to return sludge by pumping led to complete removal of the old effluent well (a new effluent well was built at what is now the site of the field lab) and erection of this pump station in its place.

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Continuation Sheet**

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Verbal Boundary Description:

The area included consists of a square approximately 30 feet on each side, corresponding to the exterior dimensions of "footprint" of the Return Sludge Pumping Station.

Boundary Justification:

Due to the extensive renovation and new construction at Fields Point, both since 1935 and currently in process, features adjacent to or in the vicinity of the Return Sludge Pump Station which in the past could have been associated with the building and contribute to its significance have been completely removed or altered beyond reasonable recognition of their original character. While the Fields Point Plant continues to perform, in a broad sense, its historic function the built environment, both above and below ground, in which the Return Sludge Pumping Station achieved significance no longer exists. Restriction of the boundary to the outer edged of the Return Sludge Pumping Station permits inclusion of all significant elements, and excludes no elements which contribute to its importance.

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
1934-5

Significant Dates
1934-5

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 Return Sludge Pumping Station at Fields Point is significant in the area of Community Planning and Development under Criterion A for its association with the historical development of sewage treatment facilities in Providence, and specifically with the conversion of Fields Point to take advantage of new technologies and thereby better meet the sanitary needs of the City of Providence. The Return Sludge Pumping Station 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. The Return Sludge Pumping Station conforms to this property type definition, having been built in 1934-35 as an integral component in the remodeling of Fields Point in the early 1930's. During this period, the Fields Point facility was converted from a chemical precipitation facility to one utilizing the activated sludge process. In the course of this conversion, existing features were either remodelled or removed, and a large number of new elements constructed. The Return Sludge Pumping Station was part of this new construction program, and is now almost the only structure within the plant whose original construction can be associated with this important development in the history of sewage treatment in Providence. The pump station continues to perform its historic function (the return of a portion of the activated sludge back into the treatment process) and retains its essential physical integrity, although the original pumps are no longer present.

The site of the Return Sludge Pumping Station corresponds to that of an effluent well that was built during the original development of Fields Point between 1898 and 1901. During

See continuation sheet

9. Major Bibliographical References

Narragansett Bay Commission, Drawing Files: FP37, 84, 279, 398.

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

Acreage of property less than one acre

UTM References

A

1	9	3	0	1	5	5	0	4	6	2	9	5	0	0
Zone		Easting						Northing						

C

Zone		Easting						Northing						

B

Zone		Easting						Northing						

D

Zone		Easting						Northing						

See continuation sheet

Verbal Boundary Description

See continuation sheet

Boundary Justification

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



RETURN SLUDGE PUMPING STATION, FIELDS POINT

PROVIDENCE, RI

PHOTO: M.H. BOWERS

JULY 1987

NEG. BY: LOUIS BERGER & ASSOC., INC.

EAST ORANGE, NJ

VIEW: LOOKING EAST

#2



RETURN SLUDGE PUMPING STATION, FIELDS POINT
PROVIDENCE, RI

PHOTO: M. H. BOWERS

JULY 1987

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

VIEW: INTERIOR VIEW LOOKING SOUTHEAST FROM
CARWALK ON WEST SIDE, UPPER LEVEL

X3



RETURN SLUDGE PUMPING STATION, FIELDS POINT
PROVIDENCE, RI

PHOTO: M.H. BOWERS
JULY 1987

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

VIEW: LOOKING WEST

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RETURN SLUDGE PUMPING STATION, FIELDS POINT
PROVIDENCE, RHODE ISLAND
UTM: 19/301550.4629500