

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

**NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
INVENTORY -- NOMINATION FORM**

6.28
FOR NPS USE ONLY
RECEIVED JUN 28 1978
DATE ENTERED *Boundary Review approved 11/28/78*

SEE INSTRUCTIONS IN *HOW TO COMPLETE NATIONAL REGISTER FORMS*
TYPE ALL ENTRIES -- COMPLETE APPLICABLE SECTIONS

1 NAME *Swan Point Cemetery and*
HISTORIC *Trolley Shelter (Amendment to Swan Point Cemetery)*

AND/OR COMMON

2 LOCATION
STREET & NUMBER *Opposite 585 Blackstone Boulevard*

CITY, TOWN *Providence* VICINITY OF *1 - Fernand J. St Germain*
STATE *Rhode Island* CODE *44* COUNTY *Providence* CODE *007* ✓

3 CLASSIFICATION

CATEGORY	OWNERSHIP	STATUS	PRESENT USE
<input type="checkbox"/> DISTRICT	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> PUBLIC	<input type="checkbox"/> OCCUPIED	<input type="checkbox"/> AGRICULTURE
<input type="checkbox"/> BUILDING(S)	<input type="checkbox"/> PRIVATE	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> UNOCCUPIED	<input type="checkbox"/> COMMERCIAL
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> STRUCTURE	<input type="checkbox"/> BOTH	<input type="checkbox"/> WORK IN PROGRESS	<input type="checkbox"/> EDUCATIONAL
<input type="checkbox"/> SITE	PUBLIC ACQUISITION	ACCESSIBLE	<input type="checkbox"/> ENTERTAINMENT
<input type="checkbox"/> OBJECT	<input type="checkbox"/> IN PROCESS	<input type="checkbox"/> YES: RESTRICTED	<input type="checkbox"/> GOVERNMENT
	<input type="checkbox"/> BEING CONSIDERED	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> YES: UNRESTRICTED	<input type="checkbox"/> INDUSTRIAL
		<input type="checkbox"/> NO	<input type="checkbox"/> MILITARY
			<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> OTHER: <i>abandoned</i>

4 OWNER OF PROPERTY

NAME *City of Providence*
STREET & NUMBER *25 Dorrance Street*
CITY, TOWN *Providence* VICINITY OF STATE *Rhode Island*

5 LOCATION OF LEGAL DESCRIPTION

COURTHOUSE, REGISTRY OF DEEDS, ETC. *Providence City Hall*
STREET & NUMBER *25 Dorrance Street*
CITY, TOWN *Providence* STATE *Rhode Island*

6 REPRESENTATION IN EXISTING SURVEYS

TITLE *Providence Broadbrush: Blackstone*
DATE *July, 1976* FEDERAL STATE COUNTY LOCAL
DEPOSITORY FOR SURVEY RECORDS *Rhode Island Historical Preservation Commission*
CITY, TOWN *Providence* STATE *Rhode Island*

7 DESCRIPTION

CONDITION

EXCELLENT
 GOOD
 FAIR
 DETERIORATED
 RUINS
 UNEXPOSED

CHECK ONE

UNALTERED
 ALTERED

CHECK ONE

ORIGINAL SITE
 MOVED DATE _____

DESCRIBE THE PRESENT AND ORIGINAL (IF KNOWN) PHYSICAL APPEARANCE

The Swan Point Trolley Shelter is located on one section of the median strip of Blackstone Boulevard opposite the entrance to Swan Point Cemetery (listed in the National Register). The amended area includes the median island between the intersection of Blackstone Boulevard and Elmgrove Avenue and the crossover between Hartshorn Road and Eighth Street.

Blackstone Boulevard is a two-hundred-foot wide, two-and-a-half-mile long residential thoroughfare of two broad traffic lanes separated by a wide, well-planted esplanade. The Boulevard, completed in 1904, connects Butler Avenue to the south with Hope Street at the northern end.

The flat, trapezoidal median island on which the shelter stands is longitudinally traversed by an unpaved path, and approximately six trees, including some fine elms, stand on either side of the path. The trolley shelter is at the southeastern corner of the island.

The low, ground-hugging shelter, completed in 1904, was designed by Olmsted Brothers of Brookline, Massachusetts, the landscape architects employed by the Proprietors of Swan Point Cemetery for the design of the western section of the cemetery bordering on Blackstone Boulevard. The symmetrically massed, open structure has low walls of relatively small, randomly placed boulders, a treatment which integrates the building to its site and echoes the design of the boulder wall which surrounds the cemetery. Two broad, open entrances, on the flanking walls of the building, give access to the path and to Blackstone Boulevard. Wide open spaces above the low stone walls regularly punctuate the four sides of the building.

Massive piled-stone piers at the four corners and flanking the entrances support the open framing of the hip roof, which rises in two stages above the wide overhanging eaves.

8 SIGNIFICANCE

PERIOD AREAS OF SIGNIFICANCE -- CHECK AND JUSTIFY BELOW

<input type="checkbox"/> PREHISTORIC	<input type="checkbox"/> ARCHEOLOGY-PREHISTORIC	<input type="checkbox"/> COMMUNITY PLANNING	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> LANDSCAPE ARCHITECTURE	<input type="checkbox"/> RELIGION
<input type="checkbox"/> 1400-1499	<input type="checkbox"/> ARCHEOLOGY-HISTORIC	<input type="checkbox"/> CONSERVATION	<input type="checkbox"/> LAW	<input type="checkbox"/> SCIENCE
<input type="checkbox"/> 1500-1599	<input type="checkbox"/> AGRICULTURE	<input type="checkbox"/> ECONOMICS	<input type="checkbox"/> LITERATURE	<input type="checkbox"/> SCULPTURE
<input type="checkbox"/> 1600-1699	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> ARCHITECTURE	<input type="checkbox"/> EDUCATION	<input type="checkbox"/> MILITARY	<input type="checkbox"/> SOCIAL/HUMANITARIAN
<input type="checkbox"/> 1700-1799	<input type="checkbox"/> ART	<input type="checkbox"/> ENGINEERING	<input type="checkbox"/> MUSIC	<input type="checkbox"/> THEATER
<input type="checkbox"/> 1800-1899	<input type="checkbox"/> COMMERCE	<input type="checkbox"/> EXPLORATION/SETTLEMENT	<input type="checkbox"/> PHILOSOPHY	<input type="checkbox"/> TRANSPORTATION
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 1900-	<input type="checkbox"/> COMMUNICATIONS	<input type="checkbox"/> INDUSTRY	<input type="checkbox"/> POLITICS/GOVERNMENT	<input type="checkbox"/> OTHER (SPECIFY)
		<input type="checkbox"/> INVENTION		

SPECIFIC DATES 1904

BUILDER/ARCHITECT Olmsted Brothers, Brookline, Mass

STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE

The Swan Point Trolley Shelter, the only original structure on the landscaped esplanade of Blackstone Boulevard, is significant to the history of both architecture and landscape architecture. Blackstone Boulevard, designed by H.W.S. Cleveland of Chicago and completed between 1892 and 1904, is itself considered eligible for the National Register, but its nomination has been postponed pending further survey work and analysis of the residential neighborhood surrounding it. The Trolley Shelter is proposed as an amendment to the Swan Point Cemetery nomination at this time to facilitate more immediate action on the commitment of funding for restoration of the shelter, which might otherwise be demolished.

The decision by the City of Providence in 1902 to construct a streetcar line along the median strip of Blackstone Boulevard prompted the Proprietors of Swan Point Cemetery to request permission of the city to construct, at the cemetery's expense, a shelter at the entrance to the cemetery. The Proprietors engaged Olmsted Brothers of Brookline for the design of the structure, which harmonizes with the treatment the firm used for the walls and entrance to the cemetery, and integrates two major late nineteenth-century landscaping projects in this part of Providence.

The trolley shelter is an excellent example of the picturesque park structures that the Olmsted firm, in conjunction with Henry Hobson Richardson, developed in the late nineteenth century. Structures of this type are relatively rare in Rhode Island, and the Swan Point Trolley Shelter is by far the finest example of the Richardsonian-inspired rusticity deemed eminently suitable in the late nineteenth and early twentieth centuries for park surroundings.

The shelter was well used until the streetcar system was abandoned by the City in 1946. Since then, the shelter has been abandoned, and it now shows signs of deterioration to the roof, although the structure remains sound.

See continuation sheet 1

9 MAJOR BIBLIOGRAPHICAL REFERENCES

Report of the Park Commissioners. City of Providence.
1903, 1904

10 GEOGRAPHICAL DATA

ACREAGE OF NOMINATED PROPERTY less than one
UTM REFERENCES

A	1, 9	3 01 75, 0	4, 6 3, 5 9, 0, 0	B			
	ZONE	EASTING	NORTHING		ZONE	EASTING	NORTHING
C				D			

VERBAL BOUNDARY DESCRIPTION

Median strip of Blackstone Boulevard with trolley car stop shelter opposite the entrance to Swan Point Cemetery.

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

STATE	CODE	COUNTY	CODE
STATE	CODE	COUNTY	CODE

11 FORM PREPARED BY

NAME / TITLE

Wm. McKenzie Woodward, Historic Preservation Planner

ORGANIZATION

Rhode Island Historical Preservation Commission

DATE

March, 1978

STREET & NUMBER

150 Benefit Street

TELEPHONE

401-277-2678

CITY OR TOWN

Providence

STATE

Rhode Island

12 STATE HISTORIC PRESERVATION OFFICER CERTIFICATION

THE EVALUATED SIGNIFICANCE OF THIS PROPERTY WITHIN THE STATE IS:

NATIONAL

STATE

LOCAL

As the designated State Historic Preservation 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.

FEDERAL REPRESENTATIVE SIGNATURE

Frederick C. Williams

TITLE State Historic Preservation Officer

DATE

June 21, 1978

FOR NPS USE ONLY

I HEREBY CERTIFY THAT THIS PROPERTY IS INCLUDED IN THE NATIONAL REGISTER

Charles Adams

DIRECTOR, OFFICE OF ARCHEOLOGY AND HISTORIC PRESERVATION

DATE

11-28-78

ATTEST:

James M. Magee

KEEPER OF THE NATIONAL REGISTER

DATE

1/22/78

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

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DATE ENTERED

CONTINUATION SHEET

1

ITEM NUMBER 8

PAGE 2

The restoration and maintenance of this structure will significantly improve the visual quality of this focal point of the northern part of Blackstone Boulevard and preserve an important ensemble of early twentieth-century landscape architecture.

Swan Point Cemetery and

7800 3445

Property

Trolley Shelter (Amendment to Swan Point Cemetery)

BOUNDARY REVISION

INCREASE X

DECREASE

MOVE

State

R.I.

Working Number

6.28.78

TECHNICAL

Photos 1

Maps 1

TAX REFORM ACT

MAR 5 1978

CONTROL

OK pl 6.30.78

HISTORIAN

Slightly discontinuous area - ARCHITECTURAL HISTORIAN
Shelter was constructed at same time of accept
entrance - Design by Olmstead Brothers - Branham
9.6.78

ARCHEOLOGIST

OTHER

REVIEW UNIT CHIEF

THE TROLLEY SHELTER IS HISTORICALLY ASSOCIATED WITH THE CEMETERY
AND IS COMPATIBLY DESIGNED TO REFLECT THE RURAL CHARACTER
OF THE CEMETERY.

BRANCH CHIEF

ACCEPT

Max Ducas

11/20/78

KEEPER

I HEREBY CERTIFY THAT THIS BOUNDARY REVISION IS ACCEPTED

for Charles Adams
KEEPER OF THE NATIONAL REGISTER

DATE 11.25.78

ATTEST: James Mac Boyd
CHIEF, BRANCH OF REGISTRATION

DATE 11/21/78

THIS FORM IS TO BE FILED WITH THE NATIONAL REGISTER NOMINATION.

State notified Federal Register Control Cards ADP



SWAN POINT CEMETERY AMENDMENT
BLACKSTONE BOULEVARD TROLLEY SHELTER
PROVIDENCE, RHODE ISLAND

Photographer: Warren Jagger

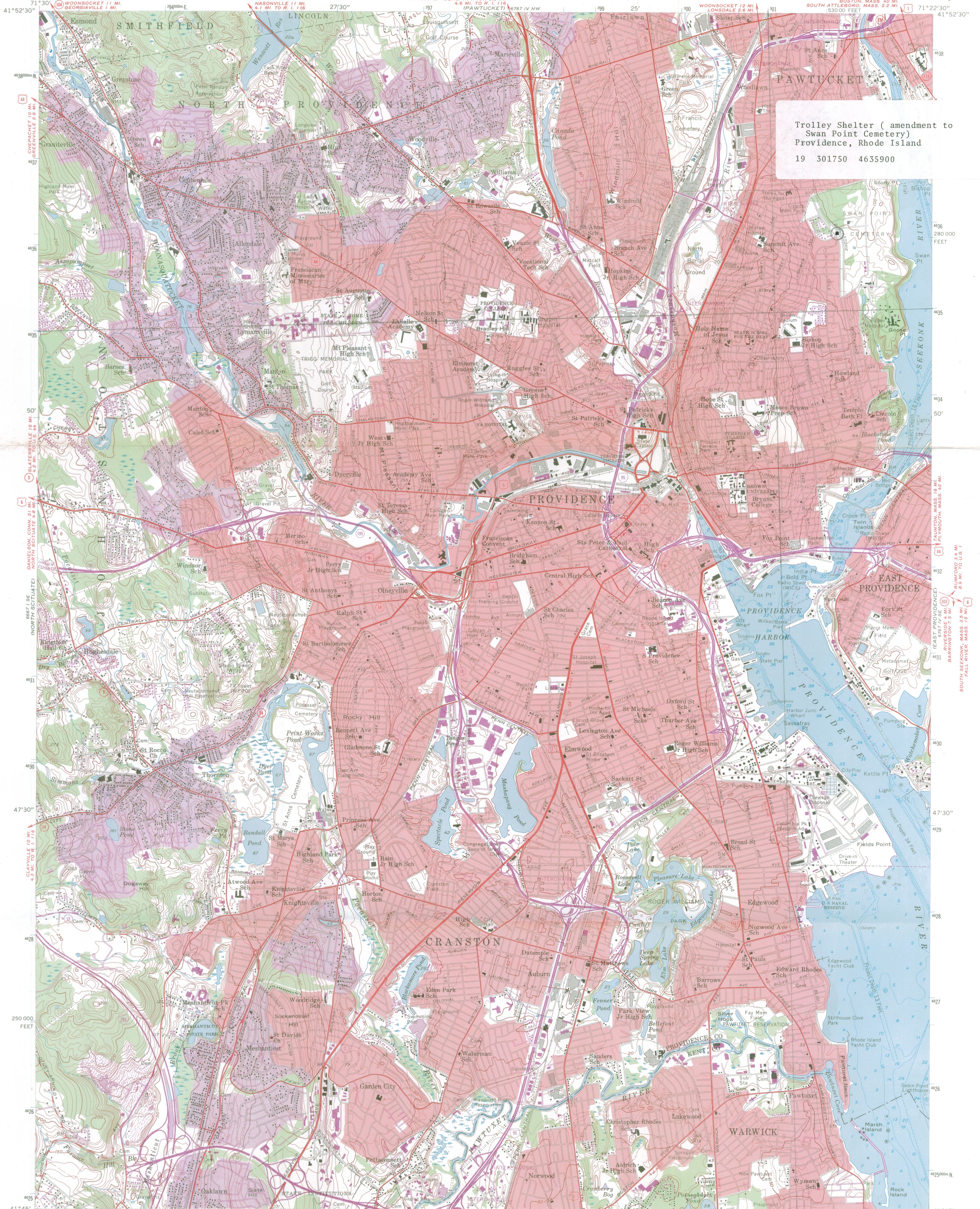
Date: March 1978

Negative: Rhode Island Historical Preservation Commission

Trolley Shelter, view to the northeast

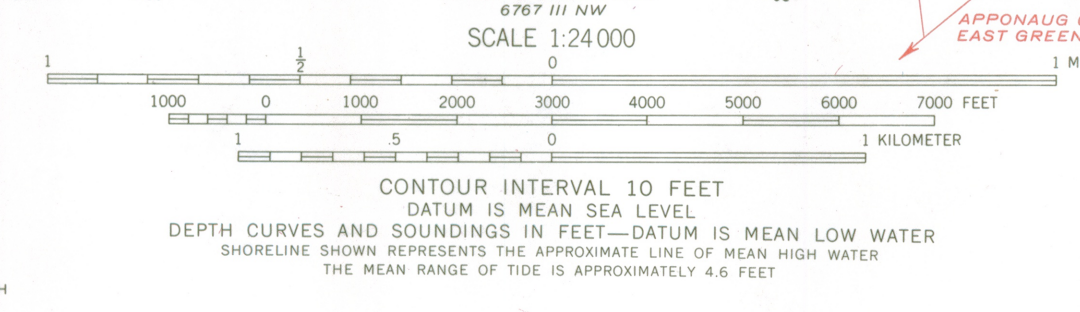
JUN 28 1978

*Boundary
were
approved
11/28/78*



Trolley Shelter (amendment to
Swan Point Cemetery)
Providence, Rhode Island
19 301750 4635900

Mapped, edited, and published by the Geological Survey
Control by USGS, USC&GS, and USCE
Culture and drainage in part compiled from aerial photographs
taken 1955. Topography taken from 1:31 680 scale map of
Providence 7.5 minute quadrangle, surveyed 1934-1935. Revised 1957
Hydrography compiled from USC&GS charts 278 (1954)
and 352 (1957)
Polyconic projection. 1927 North American datum
10,000-foot grid based on Rhode Island coordinate system
1000-meter Universal Transverse Mercator grid ticks,
zone 19, shown in blue
Red tint indicates areas in which only
landmark buildings are shown
Fine red dashed lines indicate selected fence and field lines
visible on aerial photographs. This information is unchecked

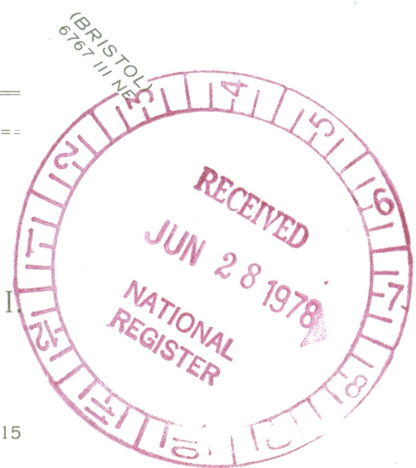


ROAD CLASSIFICATION
Heavy-duty ——— Light-duty ———
Medium-duty ——— Unimproved dirt ———
U. S. Route ——— State Route ———
Interstate Route ———

THIS MAP COMPLIES WITH NATIONAL MAP ACCURACY STANDARDS
FOR SALE BY U. S. GEOLOGICAL SURVEY, WASHINGTON, D. C. 20242
A FOLDER DESCRIBING TOPOGRAPHIC MAPS AND SYMBOLS IS AVAILABLE ON REQUEST

Revisions shown in purple compiled from aerial
photographs taken 1970. This information not
field checked
Purple tint indicates extension of urban areas

PROVIDENCE, R. I.
N4145—W7122.5/7.5
1957
PHOTOREVISED 1970
AMS 6767 IV SW—SERIES V815



12/15/78

ENTRIES IN THE NATIONAL REGISTER

STATE RHODE ISLAND

Date Entered

Name

Location

Swan Point Cemetery and Trolley Shelter

Providence
Providence County

Boundary increase approved November 28, 1978.

Also Notified

SHPO