

PROVIDENCE SEWAGE TREATMENT SYSTEM,
Fields Point Plant, Laboratory
Ernest Street
Providence
Providence County
Rhode Island

HAER No. RI-20-F

HAER
RI
4-PROV,
191F-

PHOTOGRAPHS

WRITTEN HISTORICAL AND DESCRIPTIVE DATA

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

HAER
RI
4-PROV,
191F-

HISTORIC AMERICAN ENGINEERING RECORD
PROVIDENCE SEWAGE TREATMENT SYSTEM:
Fields Point Plant, Laboratory

HAER NO. RI-20-F

LOCATION: East end of Ernest Street, Providence,
Providence County, Rhode Island
UTM: 19.301390.4629480
Quad: Providence, RI

DATE OF CONSTRUCTION: 1899-1900

ENGINEER: Otis F. Clapp

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

PRESENT USE: Demolished 1987

SIGNIFICANCE: The laboratory was one of three
buildings erected during the original
development of Fields Point as the City
of Providence's facility for treatment
of sewage using the chemical
precipitation process.

PROVIDENCE SEWAGE TREATMENT SYSTEM:
FIELDS POINT PLANT, LABORATORY
HAER NO. RI-20-F (Page 2)

DESCRIPTION:

The laboratory at the Fields Point sewage treatment plant in Providence was completed in 1900. It was located south of the chemical building and sludge press house and perpendicular to both. The building's overall dimensions were 52.5 x 26.5. It was massed as a three-bay front-gable center pavilion with two-bay hipped-roofed wings to the north and south. The building had two levels, the lower, or basement level accessed from the west, the upper from the east. Poured concrete foundations supported 14-inch-thick brick walls with 2-inch air spaces. The roof, originally slate-shingled, had simple brackets at the eaves. The cornices of the central pavilion were partially returned to frame a lunette at each gable end. Two tall brick chimneys were symmetrically placed on the roof ridge, flanking the central pavilion.

Openings in the lower, or basement level had segmental arches, plus a wide basket arch that framed the centered main entrance on the east elevation. Quarry-faced granite was used for quoins, the Gibbs-style entry surround, and as beltcourses at the level of (and incorporating) basement window lintels and first story window sills. All openings on the first story were round-arched, the shape emphasized by continuous brick corbelling. Originally fitted with 1/1 double hung sash, windows were later remodeled with glass block. The entrance to the first floor was originally in the north end of the west side. Subsequently, the central round-arched window in the center of the pavilion was lengthened and fitted with a door. The original entrance was then partially filled with brick and glass block.

As originally designed, the building contained a bacteriological laboratory, chemical laboratory and wainscoted office on the first floor. In the basement was a room for hot water heating equipment, plus two rooms for laboratory expansion. In 1959, a two-story reinforced concrete and brick addition was built off the south end of the laboratory. The laboratory and addition were demolished in 1987.

HISTORICAL INFORMATION

The laboratory was one of three buildings originally constructed at Fields Point during development of the facility to process sewage through chemical precipitation. It was designed in the office of the City Engineer under Otis F. Clapp. The original function of the laboratory was to provide quarters, convenient to the precipitation tanks, for the laboratory equipment and

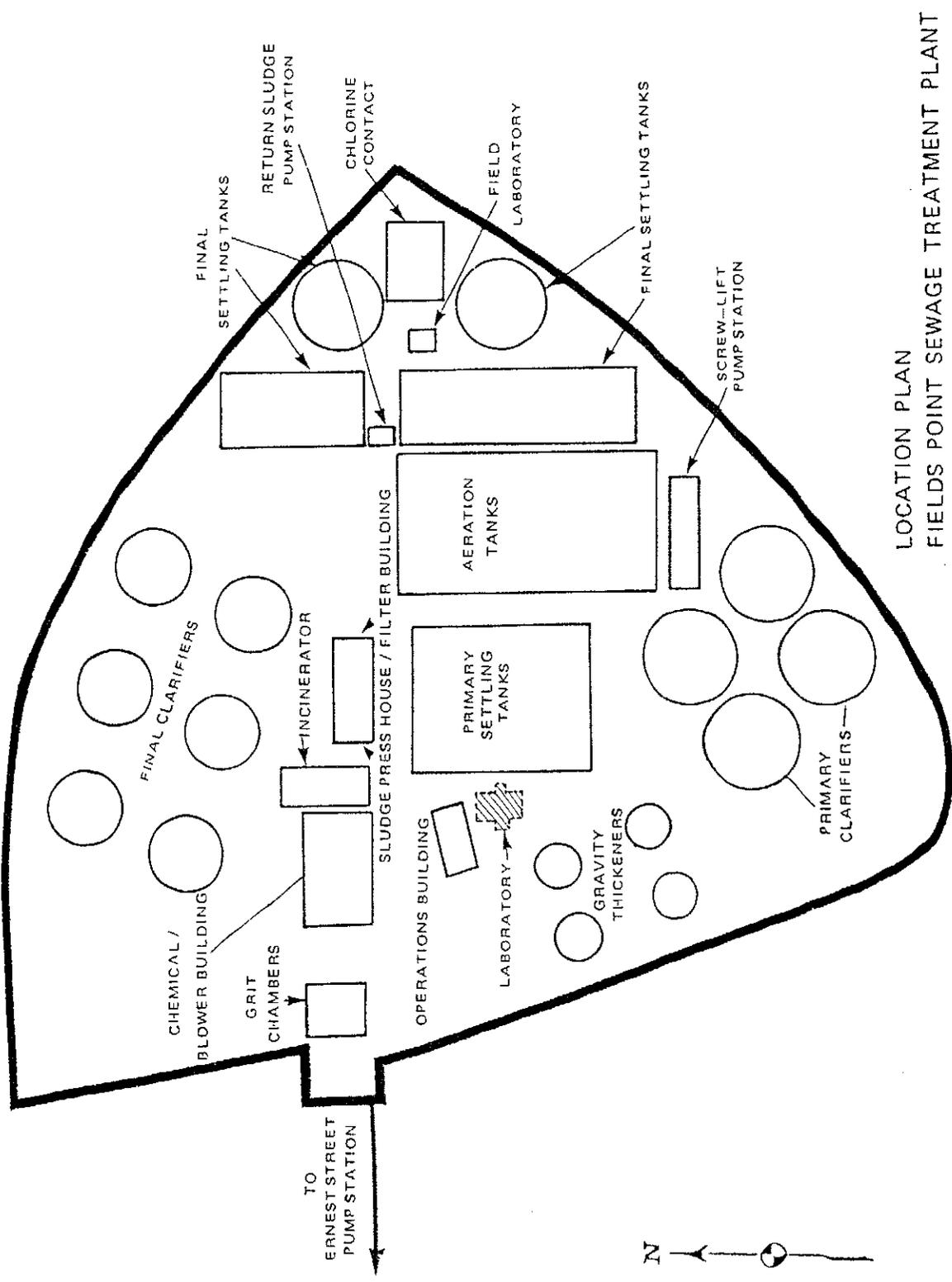
PROVIDENCE SEWAGE TREATMENT SYSTEM:
FIELDS POINT PLANT, LABORATORY
HAER NO. RI-20-F (Page 3)

offices for laboratory personnel. These personnel performed the various tests required for operation of the plant and for monitoring the operation and efficiency of the chemical precipitation process. It also served as administrative space for the plant, particularly after the construction of a modern laboratory addition in the 1950's.

BIBLIOGRAPHY

Narragansett Bay Commission, Drawing Files, FP-106-111.

Providence City Engineer. Annual Report for 1900.



LOCATION PLAN
 FIELDS POINT SEWAGE TREATMENT PLANT

Sketch plan based on 'Fields Point Wastewater Treatment Facility Improvements,' no date. Source: Narragansett Bay Commission