THE UNIVERSITY OF RHODE ISLAND COLLEGE OF THE ENVIRONMENT AND LIFE SCIENCES COOPERATIVE EXTENSION



Protecting families, communities and the environment with healthy septic systems

A guide to finding septic system permits & plans through the RIDEM OWTS Permit Search

ri.gov/DEM/OWTS

New England Onsite Wastewater Training Program (NEOWTP) is part of the Onsite Wastewater Resource Center @uricoopext () © uri.edu/coopext/owt | newowtp@uri.edu 401.874.5950 Cooperative Extension University of Rhode Island Room 001H Coastal Institute 1 Greenhouse Road Kingston, R.I. 02881

To find a septic system permit / plan: Step 1: Do some homework

Collect the following information about the property:

- Current address (street #, street name, RI town)
 - Some street names change over time list old names too!
 - Some addresses in permits refer to telephone pole #s – these might be the same today, or they might not be

• Town's tax assessor's Plat & Lot number

- Search on the town tax assessor's database in RI, this is often using "Vision Government Solutions" webpages
- Can search for the lot on town's web GIS database (if available)
- Note: These numbers may be different today than they were 30+ years ago
- Names of past property owners / developers
 - May be listed on parcel / tax card info
 - May need to contact town hall to find previous owners if there are many
- If possible... find out
 - Rough age of system / year of installation / repair
 - Any permit numbers associated with the system

To find a septic system permit / plan: Step 2: go to https://www.ri.gov/DEM/owts

fi.gov/DEM/owts С ☆ R State of Rhode Island **OWTS Search - Office of Water Resources OWTS Website** RI.gov Department of Environmental Management Welcome to RI DEM's Onsite Wastewater Treatment System (OWTS) Permit Application Search. This page searches permitting activities administered by the State for OWTS permit applications received after 1968. Permits are designed to meet requirements of RI State Law to ensure the proper location, design, installation and maintenance of OWTS used for the treatment and dispersal of wastewater, which is an essential part of protecting public health and our water resources. For additional information, please visit our website at dem.ri.gov/septic. Enter search criteria below to view historical information or permit status for all applications. When viewing the details of a conformed permit, you may Download PDF images (if available) or Generate a Certificate of Conformance for all permits if one has been granted by the DEM. To schedule a DEM File Review, email a Request for Records Form to DEM.FileReview@dem.ri.gov DEM OWTS (Septic System) Permit Search Step 1: ENTER the OWTS Permit # for the record you want to view OR select the City/Town where the property is located and click SEARCH. Step 2: WAIT for the next search box to appear where you can enter additional criteria to filter, sort and search within the results. City/Town: **OWTS Permit #:** Select City/Town New Applications Received in the last 30 days Approved in the last 30 days Conformed in the last 90 days SEARCH

To find a septic system permit / plan: Step 3a: If you know permit # (format: [#][#][#][#]-[#][#][#]]

State of Rhode Island

OWTS Search - Office of Water Resources Department of Environmental Management

OWTS Website RI.gov

10 1

Welcome to RI DEM's Onsite Wastewater Treatment System (OWTS) Permit Application Search. This page searches permitting activities administered by the State for OWTS permit applications received after 1968. Permits are <u>designed to meet requirements of RI</u> State Law to ensure the proper location, design, installation and maintenance of

Enter Permit (e.g. 1234-0987) into box State Law to ensure the proper location, design, installation and maintenance of spersal of wastewater, which is an essential part of protecting public health and formation, please visit our website at dem.ri.gov/septic.

storical information or permit status for all applications. When viewing the ay **Download** PDF images (if available) or Generate a **Certificate of** is been granted by the DEM.

o schedule a DEM File Review, email a Request for Records Form to DEM.FileReview@dem.ri.gov

DEM OWTS (Septic System) Permit Search

Step 1: ENTER the OWTS Permit # for the record you want to view <u>OR</u> select the City/Town where the property is locc ed and click SEARCH.

Step 2: WAIT for the next search box to appear where you can enter additional criteria to filter, sort and search within the results.

OWTS Permit #:

City/Town:

Select City/Town

New Applications Received in the last 30 days
 Conformed in the last 90 days

SEARCH



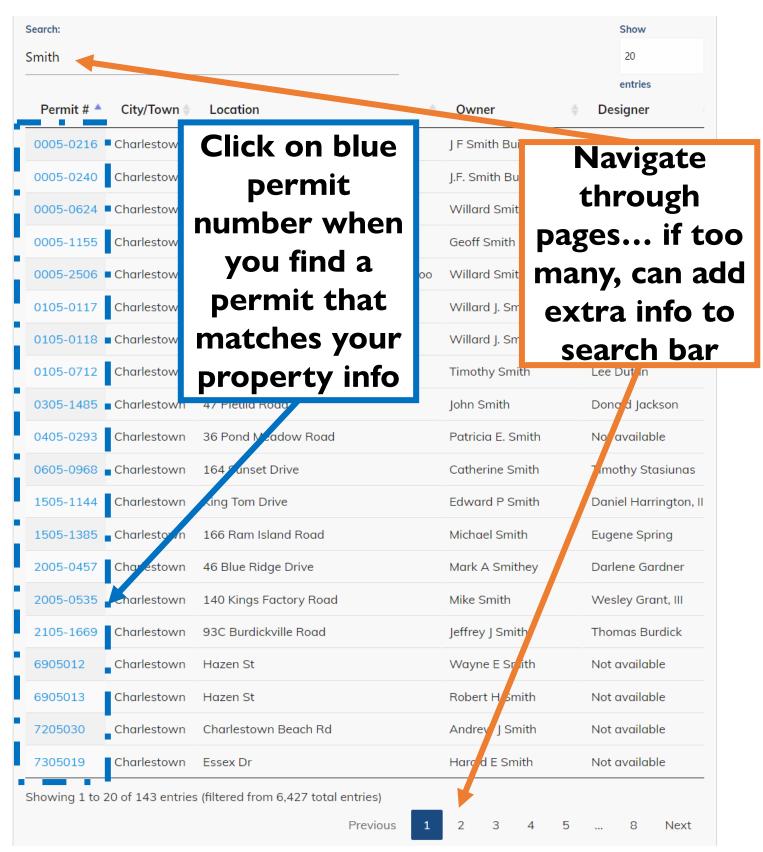
To find a septic system permit / plan: Step 3b: If you <u>don't</u> know permit

State of Rhode Island		
	office of Water Resources ental Management	OWTS Website RI.gov
permitting activities administered designed to meet requirements of OWTS used for the treatment and	stewater Treatment System (OWTS) Permit Applicat d by the State for OWTS permit applications receive f RI State Law to ensure the proper location, design d dispersal of wastewater, which is an essential pc al information, please visit our website at dem.ri.gc	Select RI
	w historical information or permit status for all app u may Download PDF images (if available) or Gene e has been granted by the DEM.	City/Town
To schedule a DEM File	e Review, email a Request for Records Form to DEM.F	ileReview@dem.ri.ç.vv
- DEM OWTS (Septic System) P	ermit Search	
Step 1: ENTER the OWTS Perm property is located and click SE	iit # for the record you want to view <u>OR</u> select th ARCH.	ne City/Town v nere the
Step 2: WAIT for the next searc search within the results.	h box to appear where you can enter additional	criteria to fil er, sort and
	City/Town:	
OWTS Permit #:	Select City/Town	· ·
	in the last 30 days Approved in the last 30 da	ys

To find a septic system permit / plan: Step 4: use past owners, street address, plat/lot to filter results...

5 .	DEM/owts/permit				_	£ ☆	
OWTS Permit	#•		_{City/Town:} Charlestown				•
	plications Recei ned in the last 9		oproved in the last 3	0 days			
				Туре			
SEARCH				narro			'n
				r	esult	ts	
		taria ta filtar raquita. Cliak agu	ump he dings to se	ort roculto			
Step 3: ADD	any search crit	lend to miler results. Click con	unings to so	n i results.			
Step 3: ADD	any search crit	teria to filter results. Click col	unin a adings to so	nt results.			
Step 3: ADD	any search crit	tend to inter results. Click con	unin biladings to se	n tresuits.			
	any search crit	tend to inter results. Click con		n tresuits.			
Step 3: ADD	any search crit	tend to inter results. Click con		n tresuits.		Show	
Search:		Dwner, Designer, Plat/Lot		n tresuits.		Show 20	
Search:				n tresuits.			
Search:			Owner	¢ (Tesuits.		20 entries	Ple
Search: Type Here to f	ülter by Street, C	Dwner, Designer, Plat/Lot		¢		20 entries er 🔶	
Search: Type Here to f Permit # ▲	ilter by Street, C City/Town 🌢	Dwner, Designer, Plat/Lot Location	Owner	\$ yn	Designe	20 entries er 🔶 ackson	23/4
Search: Type Here to f Permit # ▲ 0005-0011	ilter by Street, C City/Town Charlestown	Dwner, Designer, Plat/Lot Location Lady Slipper Drive	Owner Steven Dudsh	∳ yn 1s	Designe Donald Jo	20 entries er \blacklozenge ackson ackson	23/4 23/4
Search: <i>Type Here to f</i> Permit # • 0005-0011 0005-0029	ilter by Street, C City/Town Charlestown Charlestown	Dwner, Designer, Plat/Lot Location Lady Slipper Drive Lady Slipper Drive	Owner Steven Dudsh Kevin Tompkir	∳ yn is nsee	Designe Donald Jo Donald Jo	20 entries er \blacklozenge ackson ackson iisvert	23/4 23/4 28/3
Search: <i>Type Here to f</i> Permit # ^ 0005-0011 0005-0029 0005-0032	ilter by Street, C City/Town Charlestown Charlestown Charlestown	Dwner, Designer, Plat/Lot Location Lady Slipper Drive Lady Slipper Drive 780 Alton-Carolina	Owner Steven Dudshy Kevin Tompkir Jack Woodma	yn Is Insee rtners, LLC	Designe Donald Jo Donald Jo Andre Bo	20 entries er (*) ackson ackson isvert isella	23/4 23/4 28/3 2/23
Search: <i>Type Here to f</i> Permit # • 0005-0011 0005-0029 0005-0032 0005-0051	ilter by Street, C City/Town Charlestown Charlestown Charlestown Charlestown	Dwner, Designer, Plat/Lot Location Lady Slipper Drive Lady Slipper Drive 780 Alton-Carolina West Beach Road	Owner Steven Dudshy Kevin Tompkin Jack Woodma AJT Realty Par	yn Is Insee rtners, LLC Immes, Inc.	Designe Donald Jo Donald Jo Andre Bo Joseph Fr	20 entries er (*) ackson ackson isvert risella ackson	Plc 23/4 28/3 2/23 2/23 17/1
Search: <i>Type Here to f</i> Permit # • 0005-0011 0005-0029 0005-0032 0005-0051 0005-0055	ilter by Street, C City/Town Charlestown Charlestown Charlestown Charlestown Charlestown Charlestown	Dwner, Designer, Plat/Lot Location Lady Slipper Drive Lady Slipper Drive 780 Alton-Carolina West Beach Road Narrow Lane	Owner Steven Dudshy Kevin Tompkin Jack Woodma AJT Realty Pai Dartmouth Ho	yn Is Insee rtners, LLC Immes, Inc.	Designe Donald Jo Donald Jo Andre Bo Joseph Fr Donald Jo	20 entries er (*) ackson ackson bisvert risella ackson asierski	23/4 23/4 28/3 2/23 2/23
Search: <i>Type Here to f</i> Permit # • 0005-0011 0005-0029 0005-0032 0005-0051 0005-0055	ilter by Street, C City/Town Charlestown Charlestown Charlestown Charlestown Charlestown Charlestown	Dwner, Designer, Plat/Lot Location Lady Slipper Drive Lady Slipper Drive 780 Alton-Carolina West Beach Road Narrow Lane Duhamel Avenue	Owner Steven Dudshy Kevin Tompkin Jack Woodma AJT Realty Pai Dartmouth Ha Investco Corpo Lee Roy Ring	yn Is Insee Intners, LLC Iomes, Inc. Ioration	Designe Donald Jo Donald Jo Andre Bo Joseph Fr Donald Jo James Ka	20 entries er (*) ackson ackson isvert isella ackson sierski	23/4 23/4 28/3 2/23 23/3 17/3
Search: <i>Type Here to f</i> Permit # • 0005-0011 0005-0029 0005-0032 0005-0051 0005-0059 0005-0069	ilter by Street, C City/Town (*) Charlestown Charlestown Charlestown Charlestown Charlestown Charlestown Charlestown	Dwner, Designer, Plat/Lot Location Lady Slipper Drive Lady Slipper Drive 780 Alton-Carolina West Beach Road West Beach Road Narrow Lane Duhamel Avenue Kings Factory Road	Owner Steven Dudshy Kevin Tompkin Jack Woodma AJT Realty Pai Dartmouth Ha Investco Corpo Lee Roy Ring	yn Is Insee Intners, LLC Iomes, Inc. Ioration	Designe Donald Jo Donald Jo Andre Bo Joseph Fr Donald Jo James Ka Alfred Dio	20 entries er (*) ackson ackson isvert isella ackson sierski Orio Dowdell	23/ 23/ 28/ 2/2 23/ 17/ 21/

To find a septic system permit / plan: Step 5: find your permit! (hopefully)

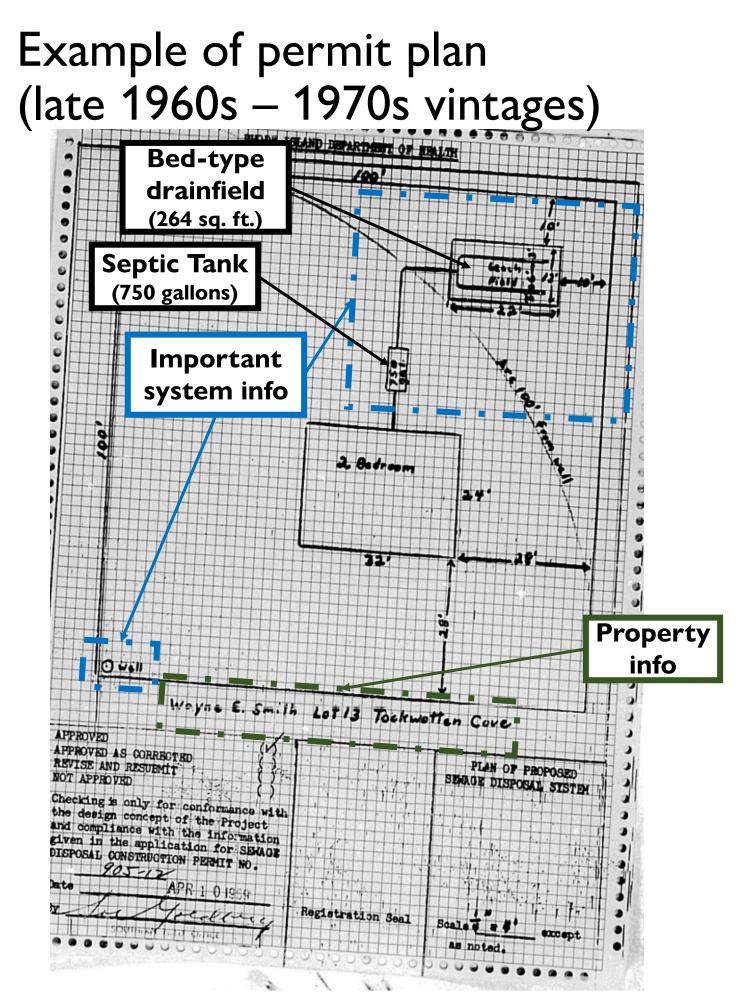


Files pre-1990 have less info

C ini.gov/DEM/owts/permits/	## = town	년 🆈 📁 🆈 [
State of Rhode Island OWTS Search - C Department of Environm	Office of Water Resources	OWTS Website RI.gov
Owner. Smith Designer: Not available Total Daily Flow: Not available For residential use, calculate app	d, Charlestown Permit ID # permit proved number of bedrooms by dividing the Total proved number of bedroom for systems or proved	
Last Updated: 04/21/2022 7:14	ilable for permits conformed before 1990.	
SEARCH AGAIN	OWTS Search - Office of Water R Department of Environmental Management OWTS Permit#: 6905### Location: Hazen St, Charlestown Plat/Lot: /13 Owner: Wayne E Smith Designer: Not available Total Daily Flow: Not available	s by dividing the Total Daily Flow by 150 gallons/bedroom for for systems approved in or after 2008.
	Last Updated: 04/21/2022 7:14 PM	

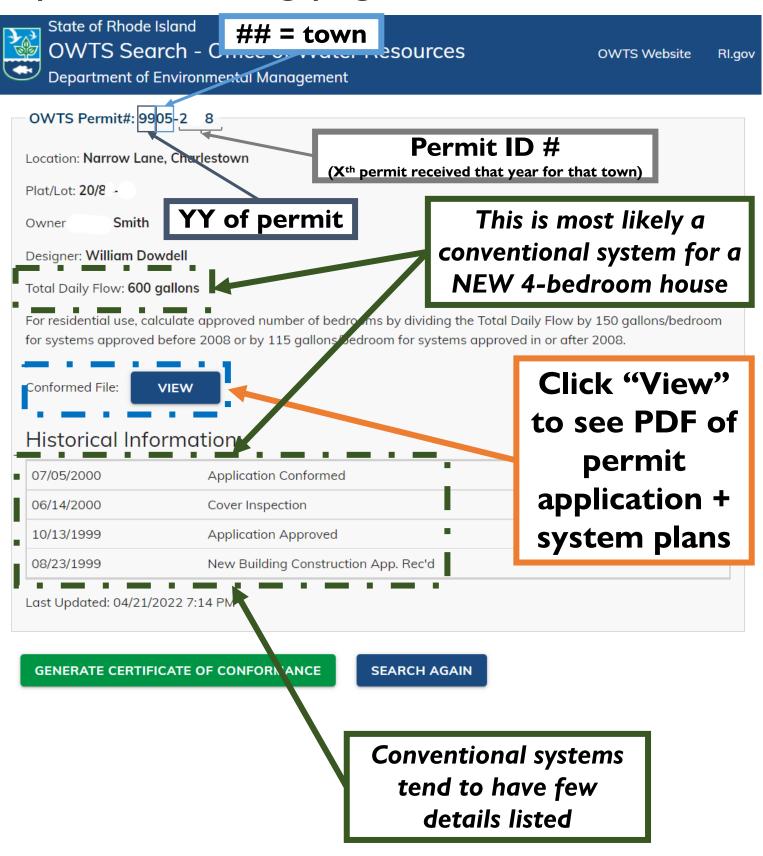
Example of permit (late 1960s – 1970s vintages)

Y of permit Permit ID Permit ID	Classifier Cove 13 10,000 sq ft 13 10,000 sq ft Classifier Cove 10,000 sq ft
x x	clasotten Cove Charlestown 380 13 10,000 sq ft
	Charlestown 380 13 10.000 sq ft
	LOCAL
PERSONS 3 NO. OF BEDROOMS 2 NO. TYPE: OWNER OF ESTABLISHMENT WAYDE I	L. & Emily G. Smith
	APPLICATION PERMIT DATE CEVELOF DATE NO. DEFILED DEFILED DATE CEVELOF CONF. DATE
N. P. C. DATE CONF. DATE 69	WELL NO. OR OTHER DBULED DEVEN DUG SPRING IDENTIFICATION:
CAPACITY OF SEPTIC TAME: 750 CALLONS	DEPTH DIAMETER DEPTH TO LANGUE
DESCRIPTION OF SOL: BTAVEL DEFTH: TO IMPERVICES TEST HOLE: FORMATION:	
DEPTH TO GROUND WATER 151 DATE TAKEN 14-14-69 PERCOLATION RATE: 2 min APPLICATION RATE: 12 min 12 min	PITFLOOR OR ORDER OF
HOMEOWNER X REG. ENGINEER NO. REG. LAND SUBVEYOR NO.	PROTECTED II. SANITARY SEAL Image: Comparison of the second seco
Construct	CAPACITE: DATE BY INSPECTIONS REMARKS
SEE REVERSE PLAN SIDE FOR PLAN FILE NO. ON 3002 3HVN H3NMO I Z 0 Y 4 11 Z 1 Y 4 11 Z 11 Y 4 11	RHODE ISLAND DEP'T. OF HEALTH - FOOD PROTECTION & SANITATION FORM F.F.S.



Onsite Wastewater Resource Center @ URI

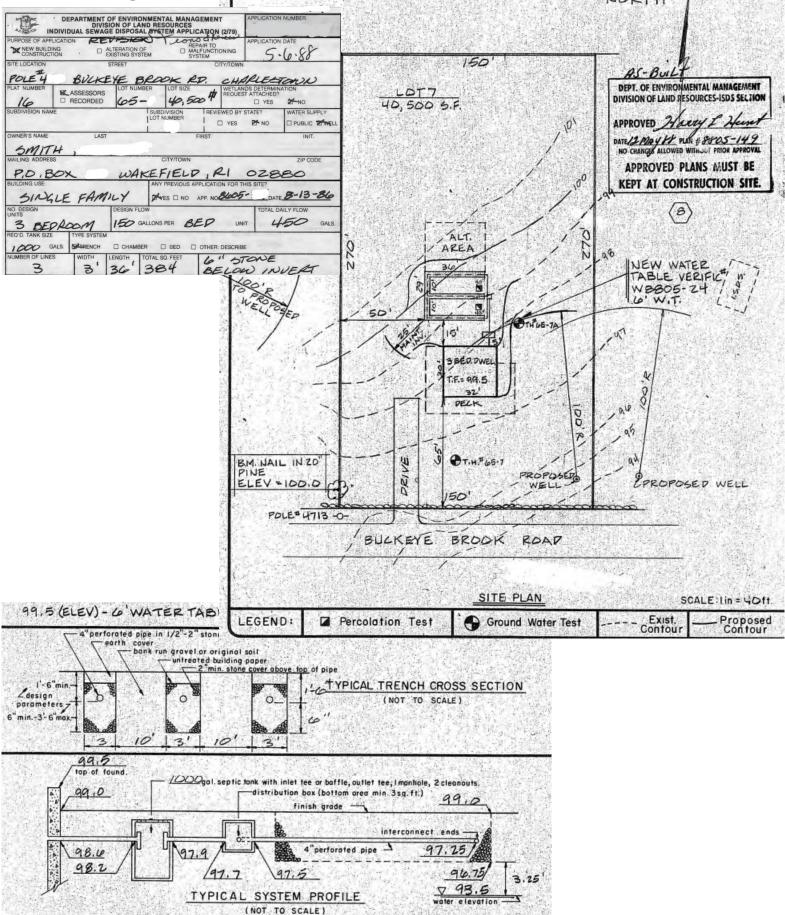
Files post-1990 have more info on permit landing page



Files post-1990 have more info on permit landing page

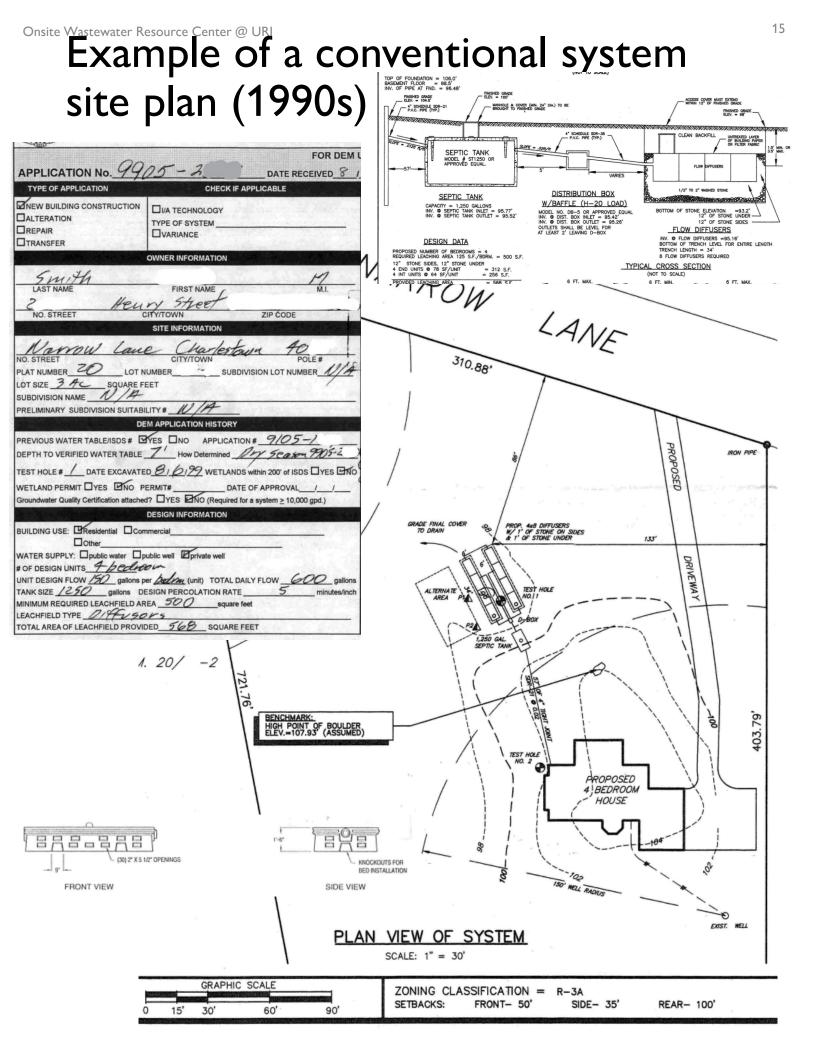
State of Rhode I	sland with the stand	
OWTS Sea	HH = TOWN	OWTS Website F
OWTS Permit#: 15 .ocation: King Tom Dr Plat/Lot: 7/.	ive, Charlestown (X th permit received t	it ID # that year for that town)
	ngton, III gallons	This is an ADVANCED system for a NEW 4- bedroom house
Conformed File: Historical Info 09/27/2016 09/27/2016	rmation: Conformance Mailed Application Conformed	Click "View" to see PDF of permit
09/27/2016 06/29/2016 09/26/2016	Under Review for Conformance Cover Inspection Submit Certificate of Construction	application + system plans
06/20/2016 12/14/2015	Start of Construction Approval Mailed	
12/14/2015 09/26/2016 12/14/2015 12/14/2015 12/04/2015 11/06/2015 11/06/2015 11/06/2015 11/05/2015	Application Approved Operation & Maintenance Report Required ADVANTEX AX-20 FILTER Application Review New Building Construction App. Rec'd Site Evaluation Report Mailed Site Evaluation Approved Site Evaluation Form Review Site Evaluation Form Review	Advanced systems are named (Advantex AX-20); modern permits have more regulatory requirements & steps
10/29/2015 10/28/2015 10/13/2015	Soil Evaluation - CONCUR Dry Season Inspection for Soil Dry Season Application Received	

Onsite Wastewater Resource Center @ URI Example of a conventional system site plan (1980s) North



Example of a conventional system certificate of construction (1980s)

DEPARTMLAL O' EL	ANAGERIAN
DIVISICI OF LAND R	ELOURCES
INDÍVIDUAL SEWACE DISI	PUSAL SYSTEMS
CERTIFICATE OF CON	STRUCTION
FOR INSTALLERS OF INDIVIDUAL ST	EWAGE DISPOSAL SYSTEMS
I EAN A. RIENDEAU	to the extent that I have performed
work on said system as of the 🖉 24	day of MAY , 1988,
tify that the individual sewage disposal :	
8805 - 1### was installed in con ISDS PERMIT NO.)	formance with the permit and plans
such system as approved by the Director of	
The property is located at Buckeye	BROOK Rd., (P.o/E # 4###
n + +	
(CITY OR TOWN)	ic tank is located as set forth below.
LEACHFIELD	
LEACHFIELD C TAN	
25' Q - TAN	N Swing ties
LEACHFIELD 25' Q - TAN 25' In 7' HQUSE	(measurements)
25' Q - TAN	
25' Q - TAN	(measurements)
DRIVEWAY	(measurements) help locate tank
BUCKEYE BRODK ROAD (T	(measurements) help locate tank
DRIVEWAY	(measurements) help locate tank
H. Hunt (SYSTEM INSPECTED BY)	(measurements) help locate tank
HQUSE BUCKEYE BROOK ROAD (T H. Hunt	(measurements) help locate tank

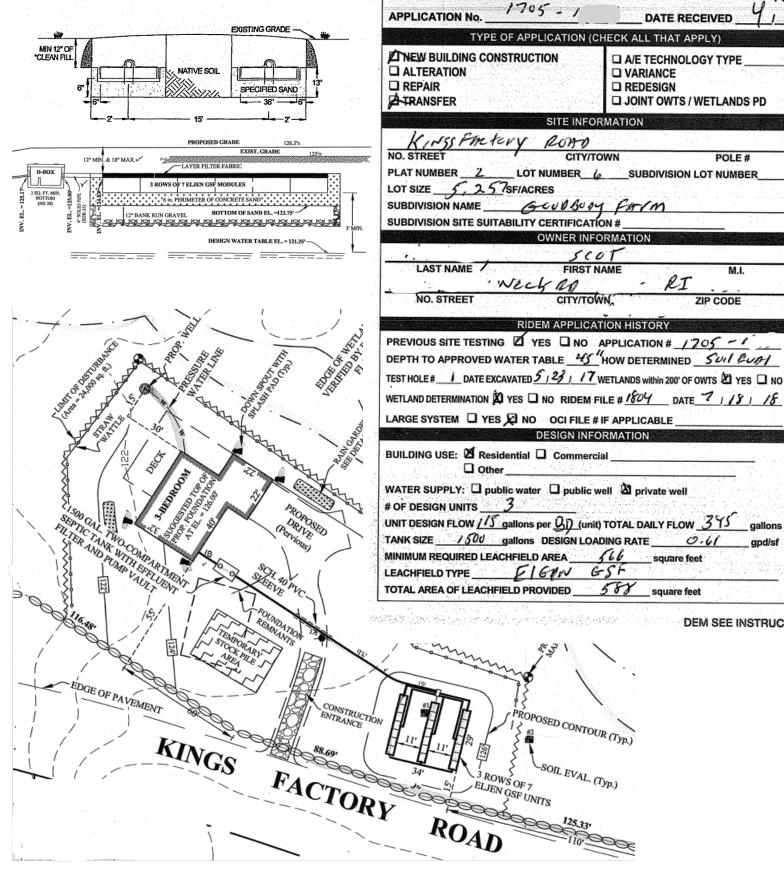


Example of a conventional system certificate of construction (1990s)

DIVIS	T OF ENVIRONMENTA ION OF GROUNDWAT SEWAGE DISPOSAL SY	ER & ISDS	
INSTALLER'S CERTIN	FICATE OF CONSTRUC	TION FOR ISDS SYS	STEM
	APPLICATIO	N NO. 9305 -	/###
I. <u>Richard Ringler</u> Installer's Name (Please Prin work on said system as of the certify that the individual sewag Nog <u>305-1###</u> vas installed in as approved by the Director of the Management. The property is located at (Street or Town of <u>Charlestoc</u> are located as set forth below:	e disposal system as s conformance with the he Rhode Island Depar PARTRIDGE	shown on the plans f e permit and plans fo tment of Environmer	, 19 <i>9</i> 6, for ISDS Permit or such system ntal in the City
Swing ties (measurements) help locate tank & distribution box	H Singer O Box	Septic Terring Dologo	
Richard Ringles Installer's Signature March 6, 1996 Date Signed		<u>606</u> License No.	

Example of a conventional system site plan (~2020) RHODE ISLAND DEPARTMEN

FIGURE 7: SECTION VIEW - TRENCH SYSTEM - LEVEL SITE



17

www.d

FOR R

ONSITE WASTEWATER TREAT

DATE RECEIVED

JOINT OWTS / WETLANDS PD

SUBDIVISION LOT NUMBER

POLE #

MI

gallons

gpd/sf

ZIP CODE

0.61

DEM SEE INSTRUCTION

square feet

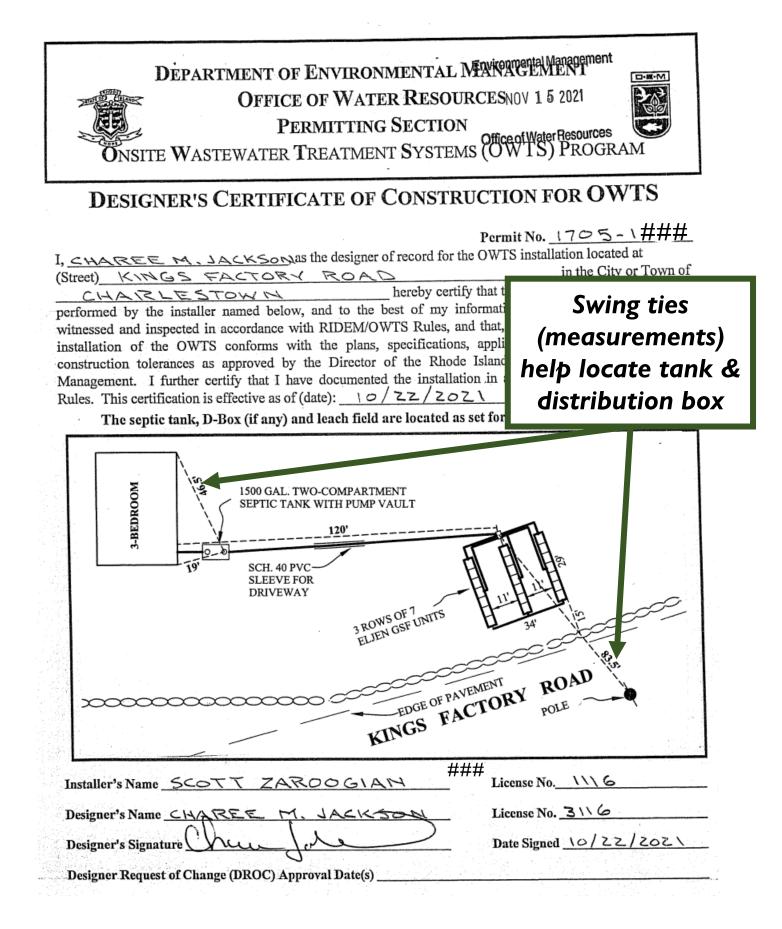
square feet

A/E TECHNOLOGY TYPE

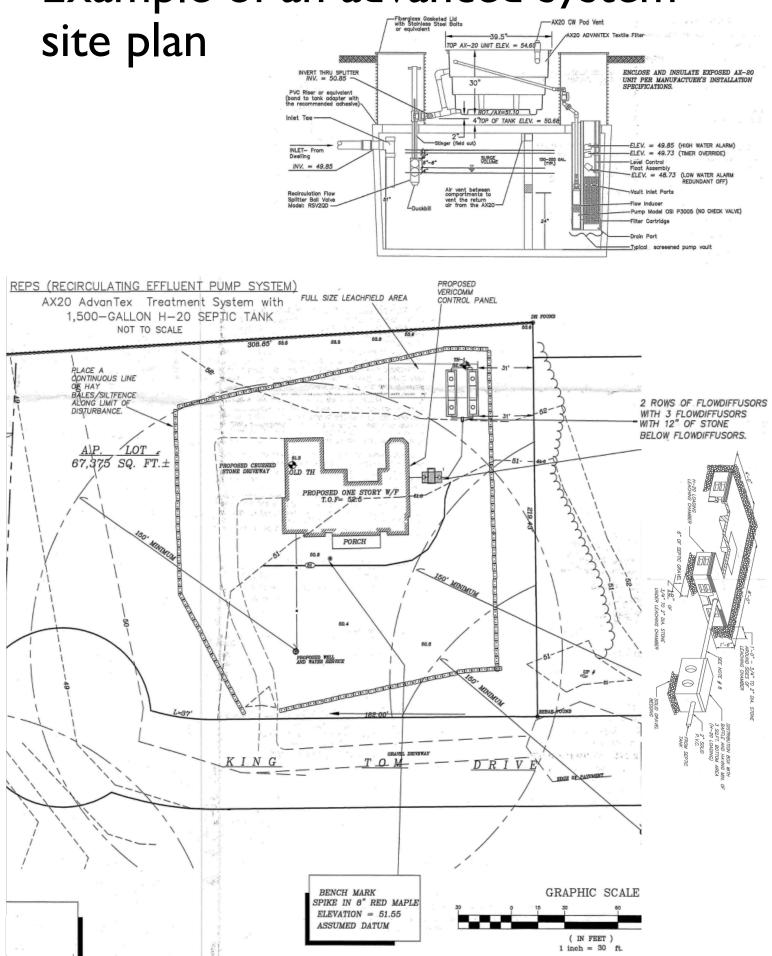
U VARIANCE

REDESIGN

Example of a conventional system certificate of construction (2021)

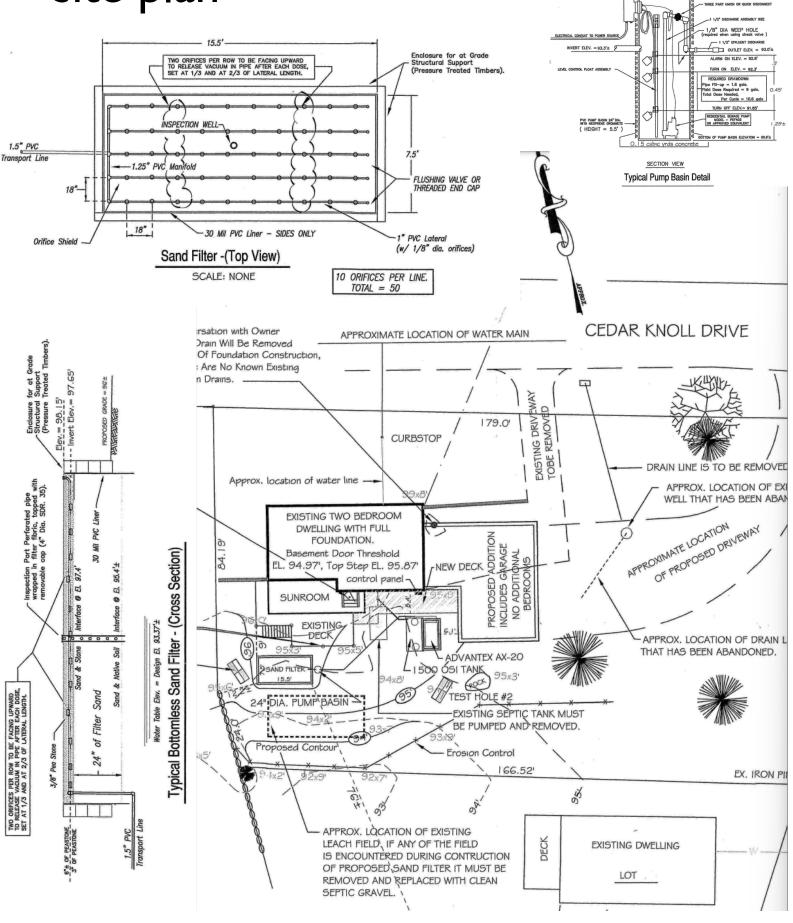


Example of an advanced system

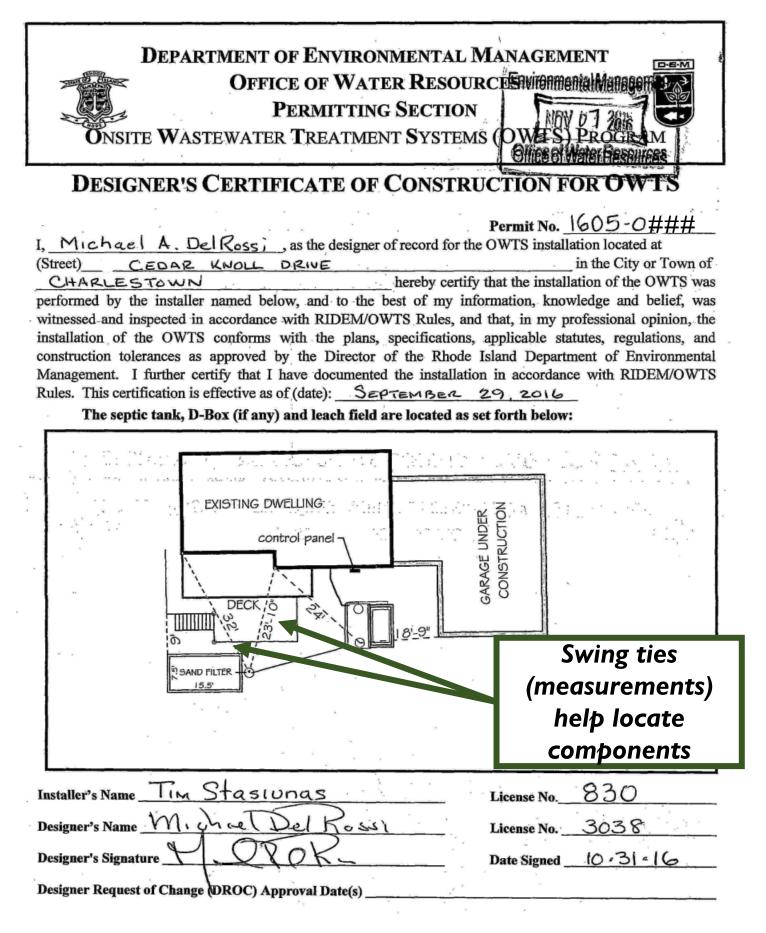


Onsite Wastewater Resource Center @ URI

Example of an advanced system site plan



Example of an advanced system certificate of construction (2016)



Tips for finding an OLD septic system permit / plan (pre-1990):

- Permits don't exist pre-1968
- Many plans (especially subdevelopments) don't have actual addresses – go by pole # or subdivision lot #.
 - Look at as many neighboring/nearby plans as you can and look at their location relative to today's address – often times you can figure out which lot is yours by looking at the parcel shape, orientation (which way is N?), and general location relative to roads and intersections
 - Sometimes road names change
- Beware of town's tax assessor's Plat & Lot number
 - Not always tied to plans; some towns re-numbered their lots in the past ~30 years. The town may be able to help ID your old parcel ID
- Names of past property owners / developers
 - May be listed on parcel / tax card info, but may need to contact town hall to find previous owners if property has changed hands many times OR original owner has had property for 40+ years
- If you can't find a permit...
 - Some permits got lost in some of the transitions from paper to microfilm to digital files at DEM...
 - Your local town hall may have info if not the plans, perhaps they have maintenance/inspection records and info that may provide clues
- If you find your permit number, but aren't able to look at PDF plans, you can request that DEM digitize them – fill out a records request (directions on permit website)
- Don't trust previous owners' memories of where the system might be – memory is tricky, and you might have major regrets if the system is not where it is remembered to be!