

Danyelle King  
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Professor Harmansah  
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### Crook Point Bridge: Observations on its Function as a Heterotopic Space

The Saturday afternoon that I visit the bridge, the weather forecast has lied. It is not bright, as promised, but even the weather it self is deceptive: the overcast sky doesn't yield the expected chill. Nevertheless, there are few people. Without sports or barbeques, the fields lie dormant against their intended purposes, the garden sits unattended, and the parking lot is naked without cars. I imagine the unreliable weather is responsible for this, because the area itself flows nicely from the main street, Gano. Crook Point emerges behind a small grocery, Gano Mart, and unfolds as a series of parking lots connected by one expanse of pavement, which becomes a dead-end. Flanking the parking areas are small spheres of activity.

On the walk over, I've kept a keen eye toward Providence's mastery at the seamless integration of spaces, seemingly unrelated. Communal and residential areas interact as small sectors of gathering emerge along trails of homes. Wayland and Richmond Squares, Thayer and Wickenden Streets, among others, serve as spaces away from downtown Providence that foster social and cultural exchange on a scale congruent with their surroundings. Offering tastes of local curiosities, they become venues for distinct areas of artistry and action. Everything is available on-foot, and subsequently, Providence begins to feel as if it is a very large small-town.

Crook Point maintains many of the same qualities as these organically emerging districts of action. The broader area depicted in the sketch is unassuming in proportion, it does not upset the surrounding spatial accord. The area seems to be planned, with consideration to parking, accessibility, waste management, its general usefulness to the community, and its integration with the neighborhood. Its use

seems to mainly lie in the green space it provides. Interestingly, Crook Point is opposite another park, however that park lacks marked spaces for physical activity, and therefore seems to be used less.

Entering the paved trail/ road brings a dead-end, intended to stop pedestrian traffic from entering the space beyond FIELD C. This implicit command is reinforced by the discontinuance of the pavement, building D, field C, a small hill, a broken fence, two big trees, and overgrown brush. Continuing toward the bridge, a large pile of trash and more overgrown brush attempt to stop access to the bridge. This brings us to our first understanding of the bridge as a heterotopias: the halt of its usage. Physical restrictions imply the desire (of a governing body?) for the discontinuance of the space's use, while a worn footpath signals former usage. Once a continuance of space, serving as a connection from one place to another, the Bridge is now a dead-end, juxtaposing its built purpose against its current exemplifies how the space maintains two uses that are incompatible, embodying the third of Foucault's principles. The river itself has replaced the bridge as a connection.

Furthermore, the bridges decay itself displays its implicit non-use. In a very short area two distinct spaces may be described: the used, which covers the area before the fence, and the unused, which remain so because not only is there no prescribed purpose for being there, but it also has been made clear through physical attributes we understand we are not supposed to be there. In the hour I've been here, seven people have kayaked on the river, whereas only three people visited the bridge. In this way, the fifth principle of heterotopias emerges.

More in question, is how this site functions within Foucault's sixth principle. How does the bridge retain a meaningful relationship to its surroundings? That inquiry would be better explained by the locals, people who either have established an interest in the use of the space, or those who don't care at all. Either way, the bridge still provides a backdrop for the Fox Point neighborhood, and imposes itself in a very domineering way, for somewhere unused.

