



State of Rhode Island
DEPARTMENT OF BUSINESS REGULATION
1511 Pontiac Avenue, Bldg. 68-2
Cranston, Rhode Island 02920

**Division of
Building, Design
and
Fire Professionals**

Board of Registration for Professional Land Surveyors

General Presumptions of Practice

The following presumptions shall be utilized unless sound evidence exists to justify alternative practices:

Section 1: Walls and Fences

1. The center of a wall or fence shall be the dividing line between abutting properties when neither is a public way, unless otherwise defined.
2. The face of a wall or fence nearest the center line of a public way shall be taken as the limit of the right-of-way, provided either of the following conditions exist:
 - a. Both faces of the wall or fence are exposed to the same height; or
 - b. The wall or fence retains land abutting the public way.
3. The exposed face of every wall or fence that supports a public way shall be the boundary line of the right-of-way.
4. The exterior face of a wall or fence enclosing a cemetery or burial ground shall delineate the boundary line of the cemetery or burial ground unless one or more of these walls or fences is of the type enumerated in paragraphs 1 through 3 above, whereupon those assumptions shall be utilized.
5. The surveyor is advised to consider the extension of title lines to the centerline of the public right-of-way.

Section 2: Side Shots

1. All locations made and/or set from any traverse are to be accomplished using the same procedure and equal or better precision as that utilized for the primary traverse and the CLASS of precision shall be stated.
2. All side shots made from any traverse shall be made in accordance with practices and techniques which ensure confident locations.

3. A traverse run to locate or set angles or line points on boundary lines should be located as closely as practical to the presumed boundary lines. The surveyor shall have the flexibility to increase the separation distance between the primary traverse and the boundary lines in those instances where instrumentation may yield greater precision from said increased separation distance.
4. It is suggested that all distances be laid-out or observed a minimum of two (2) times. All angles and repetitions of angles shall be turned and read in the direct and indirect positions and all observed data shall be recorded.
5. Prior to the establishment of the primary traverse, a diligent search shall be made for all angle points on boundary lines initially presumed to be along stone walls, fences or other physical evidence. Walls, fences or other physical monuments of a similar nature shall be observed along their entire length for angle points and deflections.
6. The surveyor shall be responsible for determining which deviations from a straight line will constitute angle points in the boundary line and which may be the result of vandalism or the ravages of time. The surveyor shall locate and record those deviations determined to be angle points.