

CULTURAL RESOURCES INVENTORY – LANDSCAPES * OLMSTED PROJECT COVER SHEET

Please submit completed form to: Architectural Survey Coordinator
State Historic Preservation Office, Connecticut Department of Economic and Community Development
450 Columbus Boulevard, Suite 5, Hartford, CT 06103

I D E N T I F I C A T I O N	PROPERTY NAME (Current/Historic) State Capitol Grounds		
	COUNTY Hartford	TOWN/CITY Hartford	VILLAGE
	JOB NUMBER Primary: 00613 Related Job Numbers: 00801		
	Landscape Type <input type="checkbox"/> Park, Parkway, Recreation Area. Scenic Reservation <input type="checkbox"/> City/Regional Plan, Improvement Project <input type="checkbox"/> Subdivision, Suburban Community <input type="checkbox"/> College/School Campus <input type="checkbox"/> Grounds of Residential Institution <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Grounds of Public Building <input type="checkbox"/> Private Estate / Homestead <input type="checkbox"/> Cemetery / Burial Lot / Memorial / Monument <input type="checkbox"/> Grounds of Commercial / Industrial Building <input type="checkbox"/> Country Club / Resort, Hotel, Club <input type="checkbox"/> Grounds of Church <input type="checkbox"/> Arboretum, Garden <input type="checkbox"/> Exhibition, Fair <input type="checkbox"/> Miscellaneous		
	DATE OF ORIGINAL PROJECT: 1870s SUBSEQUENT PROJECTS: 1895		

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DESIGNER(S) (primary)

- Frederick Law Olmsted, Sr.
- John Charles Olmsted
- Frederick Law Olmsted, Jr.
- Other firm member(s):
- Other notes:

Other Designers (prior to or following Olmsted project):

Repositories consulted with source materials

- Frederick Law Olmsted National Historic Site, Olmsted Archives (online albums)
- Library of Congress
- Olmsted Online (OlmstedOnline.org)
- National Archives and Record Administration
- Connecticut State Library
- Hartford History Center
- Other:

Observations regarding features characteristic of Olmsted firm design

The Olmsted firm was hired in the 1870s to develop plans for the Connecticut State Capitol Grounds as the site overlooking Bushnell Park was developed based on the relocation of Trinity College. The firm prepared drawings for siting the building, grading, and providing circulation features to access the building.

The property today retains the primary layout as proposed by the Olmsted firm, although parking has been added along the main road leading around the north, west, and south of the building. The oval turnaround south of the building has been removed, while pedestrian paths east of the building have been partially modified. The grades continue to reflect the work completed by the Olmsted firm. Tree plantings may also still survive from the original design.

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	COUNTY Hartford	TOWN/CITY Hartford	VILLAGE	
	STREET AND NUMBER (and/or location) Trinity Street and Capitol Avenue			
	OWNER(S) <input type="checkbox"/> PRIVATE <input type="checkbox"/> MUNICIPAL <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> STATE <input type="checkbox"/> FEDERAL <input type="checkbox"/> TRIBAL <input type="checkbox"/> EASEMENT			
	LAT/LONG COORDINATES <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Center Point <input type="checkbox"/> Polygon 41.764358, -72.682262			
	PARCEL INFORMATION Acres: 16.04 PID(s): MBLU(s): 418001003, 418001002, 418001004			
	USE (Present) Government administration		(Historic) Government administration	
	SURVEY TYPE <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Reconnaissance-Level <input type="checkbox"/> Intensive-Level			
	D E S C R I P T I O N	LANDSCAPE TYPE (Check all that apply) <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Designed <input type="checkbox"/> Vernacular <input type="checkbox"/> Cultural/Ethnographic <input type="checkbox"/> Agricultural <input type="checkbox"/> Linear <input type="checkbox"/> System/Multi-Site <input type="checkbox"/> Residential <input type="checkbox"/> Commercial <input type="checkbox"/> Industrial <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Institutional <input type="checkbox"/> Maritime <input type="checkbox"/> Green <input type="checkbox"/> Park- Active Recreation <input type="checkbox"/> Park-Passive Recreation or Commemorative <input type="checkbox"/> Other – specify: Institutional		
		DATE OR PERIOD (Include source of date) 1870s; 1895-1896 (Olmsted Research Guide Online)		
DESIGNERS (Entities that created, designed, constructed, or shaped the landscape) F.L. Olmsted firm				
DESIGN SCOPE (For designed landscapes, explain what work was commissioned.) Site plan for the State Capitol grounds that included circulation, grading, and plantings				
LOCATION OF DRAWINGS/IMAGES/SOURCE MATERIAL Frederick Law Olmsted National Historic Site; Library of Congress, Hartford History Center				
VISUAL ASSESSMENT SUMMARY (Check boxes for the qualities that are key features of this landscape. If attaching descriptive narrative, consider these categories.) <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Layout & Spatial Relationships (siting of building, circulation) <input type="checkbox"/> Water Features <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Circulation (access drive and walks) <input type="checkbox"/> Drainage <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Topography (grading to establish plinth for building) <input type="checkbox"/> Buildings/Structures/Objects <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Plantings/Vegetation (tree plantings) <input type="checkbox"/> Recreational Space <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Views & Vistas (commanding view to and from building) <input type="checkbox"/> Other: <input type="checkbox"/> Boundaries <input type="checkbox"/> Design Style: Picturesque				

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C O N D I T I O N	EXISTING CONDITION <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Recognizable <input type="checkbox"/> Not Extant/Not Recognizable Changes: Parking has been added, and an oval turnaround south of the building has been removed		
	POTENTIAL THREATS <input type="checkbox"/> None Known <input type="checkbox"/> Infrastructure Improvements <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Onsite Development <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Adjacent Development <input type="checkbox"/> Vandalism <input type="checkbox"/> Overuse <input type="checkbox"/> Deferred Maintenance <input type="checkbox"/> Invasive Vegetation <input type="checkbox"/> Environmental – specify: <input type="checkbox"/> Other – specify:		
E N V I R O N M E N T	SETTING (One sentence description) The State Capitol is set within downtown Hartford		
	VEGETATION <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Maintained Open Land <input type="checkbox"/> Natural Open Land <input type="checkbox"/> Woodland/Forest <input type="checkbox"/> Wetland <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Specimen Plants <input type="checkbox"/> Other – specify:		
	SLOPE <input type="checkbox"/> Level/Nearly Level <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Moderate Slope <input type="checkbox"/> Steep Slope Elevation (ASML): 83'		
	CONNECTICUT PHYSIOGRAPHIC PROVINCE (Eco-Region) <input type="checkbox"/> Northwest Highlands <input type="checkbox"/> Western Uplands <input type="checkbox"/> Western Coastal Slope <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Central Valley <input type="checkbox"/> Eastern Coastal Slope <input type="checkbox"/> Eastern Uplands		
	Soil Description: Dominated by loamy Udorthents, Wethersfield, and urban soils, generally well drained		
H I S T O R Y	SUMMARY (Provide a brief overview in this space. More detailed narrative can be attached.) The State Capitol was sited at the edge of Hartford's Bushnell Park, for which the Olmsted firm consulted on site plans prepared by Jacob Weidenmann, as well as the grounds of the building. The park is the oldest publicly-funded park in the United States. The Olmsted firm devised site plans for the State Capitol Grounds, which replaced the original site of Trinity College, that addressed grading, circulation, layout, and plantings between the late 1870s and mid-1890s.		
	NATIONAL REGISTER RECOMMENDATION Entered by: <input type="checkbox"/> Recommended Eligible (Criterion <input type="checkbox"/> A <input type="checkbox"/> B <input type="checkbox"/> C <input type="checkbox"/> D) <input type="checkbox"/> Not Eligible <input type="checkbox"/> Not Evaluated Explanation: Connecticut State Capitol National Historic Landmark; landscape contributes NR Listed: <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> District-Contributing <input type="checkbox"/> District-Non-Contributing <input type="checkbox"/> Individual <input type="checkbox"/> Insufficient Documentation		
R E P O R T E D B Y	NAME Liz Sargent and Maeve Corcoran	ORGANIZATION Red Bridge Group	DATE December 2021
	ADDRESS 2100 Green Street, San Francisco, California 94123		
	PHOTOGRAPHER Liz Sargent	DATE September 16, 2021	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Permission to use photographs (public domain)
	SURVEY METHOD <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Site Visit/In-Person Walkover <input type="checkbox"/> Drive-through/Windshield <input type="checkbox"/> Digital Review Only		

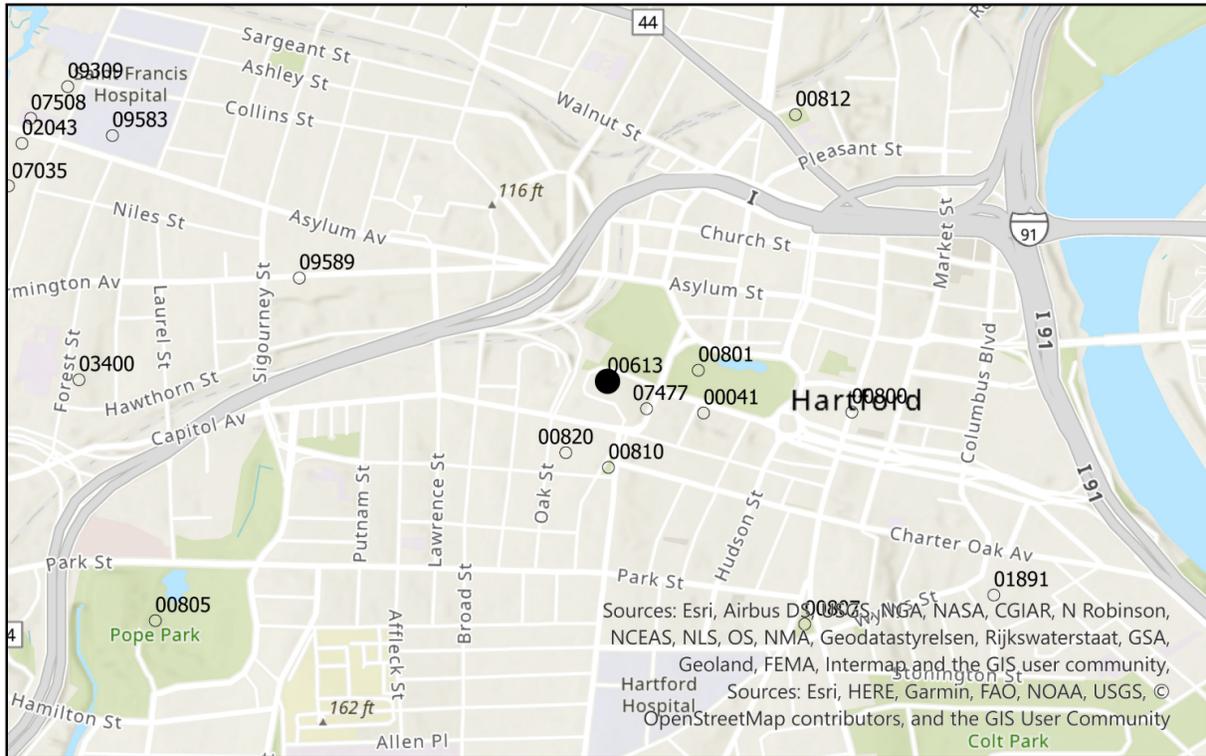
ATTACHMENTS (Include the following items in the PDF)

- Location Map Site Map Photographs with captions Historic Images (if applicable)
 Narrative Description of Property Historical Narrative of Property References

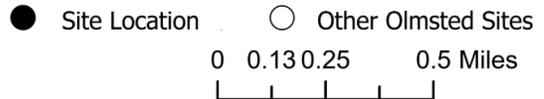
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CONTINUATION SHEET State Capitol Grounds (#00613) / Trinity Street and Capitol Avenue, Hartford

GRAPHICS

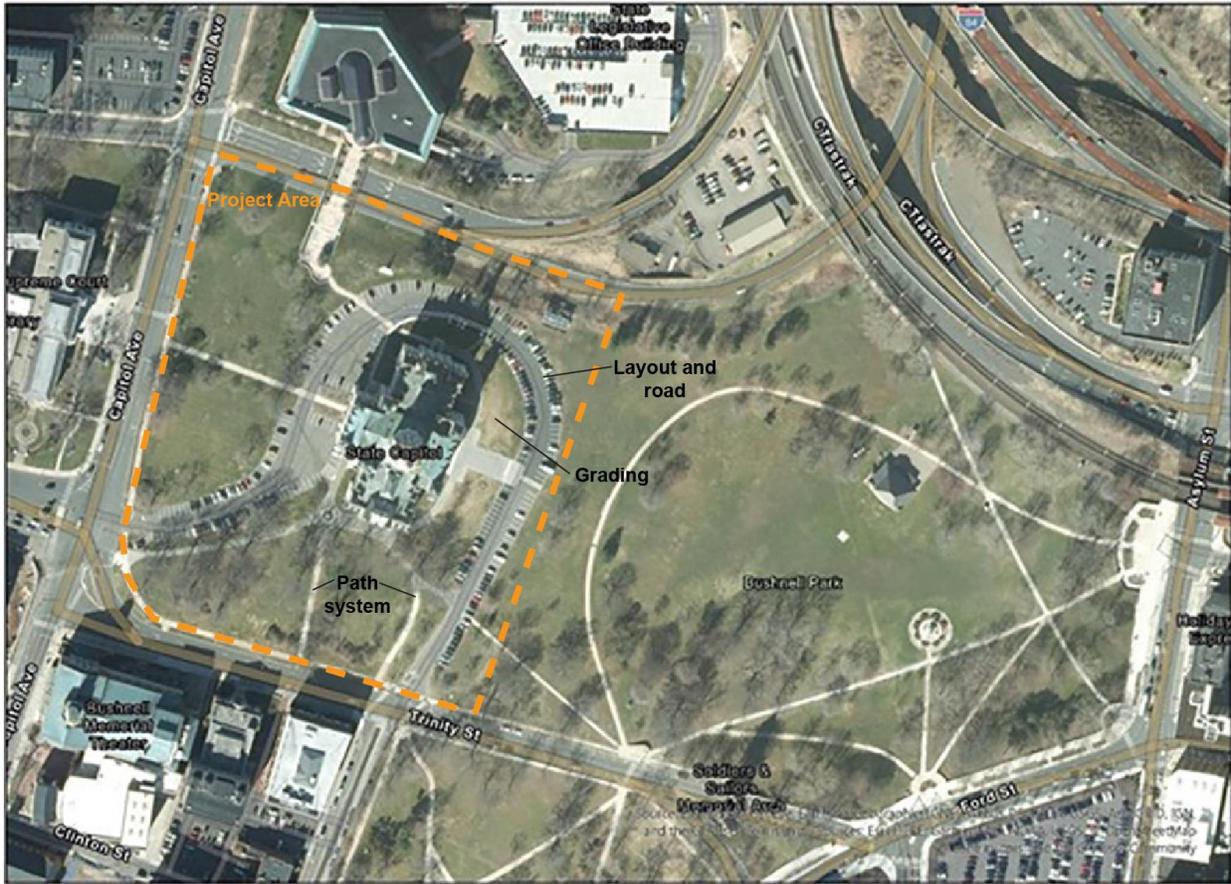


JOB: 00613 LOCATION: Hartford

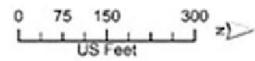


CULTURAL RESOURCES INVENTORY – LANDSCAPES * OLMSTED PROJECT

CONTINUATION SHEET State Capitol Grounds (#00613) / Trinity Street and Capitol Avenue, Hartford



JOB: 00613 LOCATION: Hartford PROJECT: State House Grounds

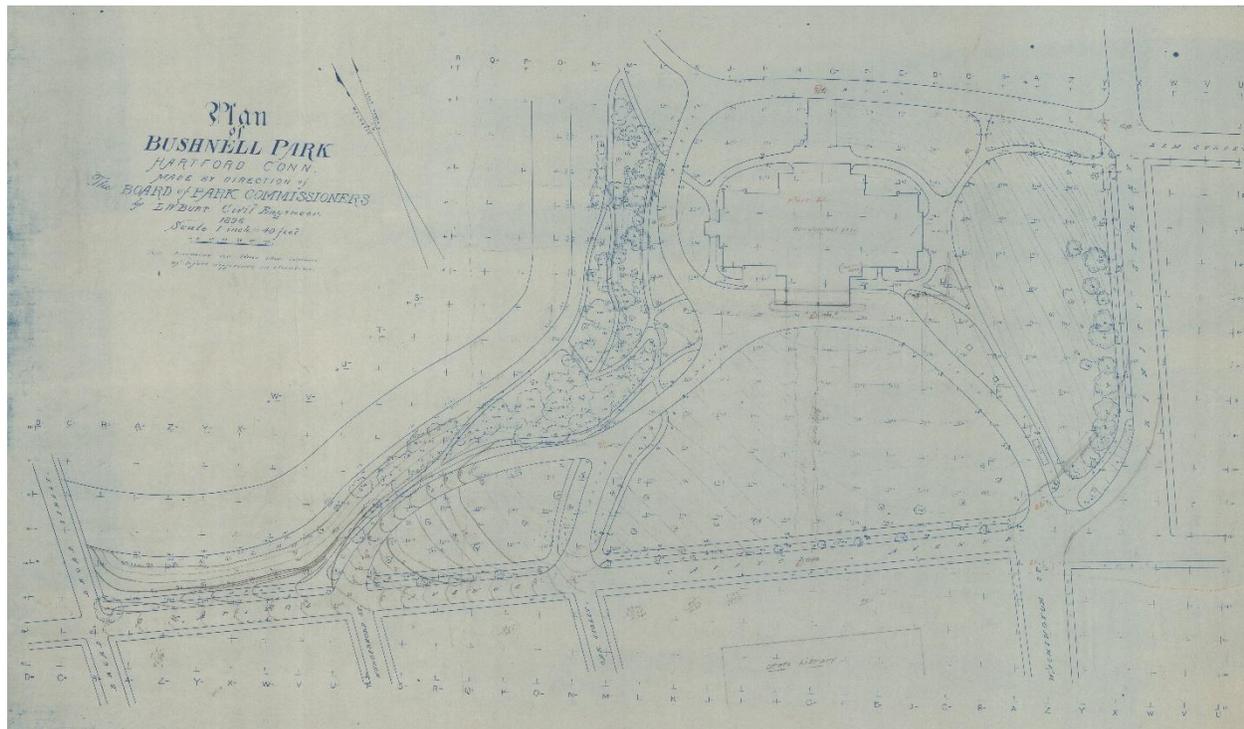


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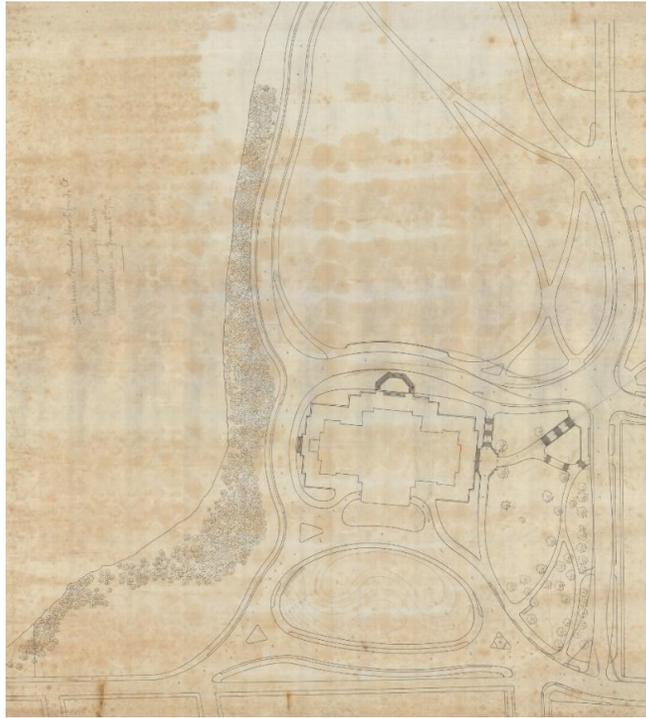
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Plans for the State Capitol Grounds to be referred to in determining subgrades in work to be done in 1878. (Source: courtesy Frederick Law Olmsted National Historic Site)



Plans for the State Capitol Grounds adjacent to Bushnell Park, prepared by LW Burt Civil Engineer, 1896. (Source: courtesy Frederick Law Olmsted National Historic Site)



Plans for the State Capitol Grounds adjacent to Bushnell Park, showing the Little River to the south and the park to the north and east, prepared by the Olmsted firm. (Source: courtesy Frederick Law Olmsted National Historic Site)



View west toward the State Capitol building from Bushnell Park. (All photographs taken by authors in 2021 unless otherwise noted)



View from the State Capitol building to Bushnell Park