



United States Department of the Interior

NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

Frederick Law Olmsted National Historic Site
99 Warren St.
Brookline, MA 02445



IN REPLY REFER TO:

OLMSTED ARCHIVES ACCESS POLICY

The surviving records of the Olmsted firm are held primarily at the Frederick Law Olmsted National Historic Site and at the Library of Congress. Originally together in Brookline, these collections complement each other and are often best studied in tandem. The records document approximately 5,000 jobs conducted by the firm, beginning with the work of Frederick Law Olmsted, Senior in the 1860s, and followed by that of his sons and successors until 1980.

The Archives of the Frederick Law Olmsted National Historic Site include an estimated 139,000 landscape architectural plans and drawings, 70,000 sheets of planting lists, 60,000 photographic prints, 30,000 photographic negatives, 408 lithographs, financial records, job correspondence, records and reports and models relating to over 5,000 individual jobs which date from 1860's to 1980. There are also study collections on urban design, landscape architecture, and the fine arts in general, and a reference collection of maps and atlases. The Library of Congress holds the bulk of the firm's correspondence (see enclosure). The archival collection represents a rare continuity of work by a single professional office and reflects the history of the development of landscape architecture and environmental design in the United States.

We are currently involved in a building repair project that limits access to the archives. Within the limitations due to construction, we will make every effort possible to prepare materials requested for research use.

Prior to Scheduling Appointments

Once the researcher has contacted the archivist, materials related to the subject of interest will be gathered and mailed or emailed to the researcher. When plans exist, an inventory of the plans can be found on our web site at www.redisov.com/olmsted. Once all preliminary materials have been reviewed, a request for an appointment can be made.

Scheduling Research Appointments

Requests for research appointments need to be submitted in writing, and we encourage you to do so as early as possible. Please direct research requests to the **Olmsted Archives, Frederick Law Olmsted National Historic Site, 99 Warren Street, Brookline, Massachusetts 02445** or by email at **FRLA_Olmsted_Archives@nps.gov**. Requests should provide the researcher's professional or academic affiliation, the scope and purpose of research, Olmsted job number, if known, client name at the time of the firm's activity and project location. Any variant names or additional information that can be provided would be most helpful. Also include a listing of specific plans to be reviewed along with associated materials. Typically a researcher can see 50-60 plans during a full day research appointment.

We strongly suggest researchers consult other primary and secondary sources or information prior to requesting use of the Olmsted Archives. The information from these sources is often critical to interpreting the graphic material in the Olmsted Archives. Research appointments are scheduled from Monday to Friday. Space constraints limit the number of researchers during an appointment to three. Archival materials are non circulating.

Facilities

The Archives Department closes from 12:00 pm-1:00pm. Several restaurants are accessible by car or within a 15 minute walk. No lunchroom facilities are available on-site. Due to construction limited parking is available. Additional street parking is available along Dudley Street next to the Brookline Reservoir.

Reproduction Policy

The Olmsted Archives provides limited reprographic services. **A research appointment is necessary to obtain copies of plans.** We may not be able to accommodate all copy requests. In order to minimize damage from light, handling, and copy equipment, approval to copy and the selection of a copy process is at the discretion of the Archivist. We ask that researchers review the documents before requesting copies and be as selective as possible when choosing items to be reproduced. A maximum of ten plans per researcher may be reproduced. This is due to the large volume of research requests we receive as well as the fragile condition of the collection. Orders may take several weeks to process. Reproduction fees vary according to the size and condition of the document and the type of copy format required. Researchers may photograph documents at the site if the condition of the document permits. Researchers must provide their own camera. Please notify the staff if you wish to photograph at the time of your request for an appointment.

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**Courtesy of the National Park Service,
Frederick Law Olmsted National Historic Site**

Contact Information:

Mailing address: Olmsted Archives, Frederick Law Olmsted National Historic Site, 99 Warren Street, Brookline, MA 02445

Telephone: (617) 566-1689
Fax: (617) 268-2685
Email: FRLA_Olmsted_Archives@nps.gov

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