

CULTURAL RESOURCES INVENTORY – LANDSCAPES * OLMS TED 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) Naugatuck Green / District School Grounds and Park		
	COUNTY New Haven	TOWN/CITY Naugatuck	VILLAGE
	JOB NUMBER Primary: 01237 Related Job Numbers:		
	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 checked="" type="checkbox"/> College/School Campus <input type="checkbox"/> Grounds of Residential Institution <input 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: 1891		
	SUBSEQUENT PROJECTS: 1916		

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DESIGNER(S) (primary)

- Frederick Law Olmsted, Sr.
- John Charles Olmsted
- Frederick Law Olmsted, Jr.
- Other firm member(s): Charles Eliot, Warren H. Manning
- Other notes:
- Other Designers (prior to or following Olmsted project): McKim, Mead, and White

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 paths within the green suggest a quadrangle-like arrangement and are aligned with the doors of the school and surrounding streets. Subtle curves in the paths soften the angular form. Charles Eliot is likely the original designer of the space, and conducted this work prior to joining the Olmsted firm, bringing the commission with him. Warren H. Manning inherited the commission and further articulated the spatial system of the area, in conjunction with the McKim, Mead and White high school constructed on axis with Division Street and was involved in the design of Hillside Avenue and surrounding park space.

Surviving features resulting from the Olmsted firm's design work include:

- Open green
- Path alignments

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I D E N T I F I C A T I O N D E S C R I P T I O N	PROPERTY NAME (Current/Historic) Naugatuck Green / District School Grounds and Park (Job #01237)		
	COUNTY New Haven	TOWN/CITY Naugatuck	VILLAGE
	STREET AND NUMBER (and/or location) 124 Meadow Street		
	OWNER(S) <input type="checkbox"/> PRIVATE <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> MUNICIPAL <input 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 41.490596, -73.055921		
	PARCEL INFORMATION Acres: 1.06 PID(s): 11326 MBLU(s): 9-7W8		
	USE (Present) Park	(Historic) Park	
	SURVEY TYPE <input type="checkbox"/> Reconnaissance-Level <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Intensive-Level		
	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 checked="" type="checkbox"/> Park-Passive Recreation or Commemorative <input type="checkbox"/> Other – specify:		
	DATE OR PERIOD (Include source of date) 1891/1916 (Olmsted Research Guide Online)		
DESIGNERS (Entities that created, designed, constructed, or shaped the landscape) Olmsted firm (Charles Eliot, Warren H. Manning), McKim, Mead and White			
DESIGN SCOPE (For designed landscapes, explain what work was commissioned.) Public green associated with elementary school grounds			
LOCATION OF DRAWINGS/IMAGES/SOURCE MATERIAL Frederick Law Olmsted National Historic Site; Library of Congress			
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 <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Circulation <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Topography <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Plantings/Vegetation <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Views & Vistas <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Boundaries		<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Water Features <input type="checkbox"/> Drainage <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Buildings/Structures/Objects <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Recreational Space <input type="checkbox"/> Other: <input type="checkbox"/> Design Style:	

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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: Gazebo and additional veteran's monument	
	POTENTIAL THREATS <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> None Known <input type="checkbox"/> Infrastructure Improvements <input type="checkbox"/> Onsite Development <input 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) This park is located in a historic town center in the midst of churches, public buildings, and offices	
	VEGETATION <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Maintained Open Land <input type="checkbox"/> Natural Open Land <input type="checkbox"/> Woodland/Forest <input type="checkbox"/> Wetland <input type="checkbox"/> Specimen Plants <input type="checkbox"/> Other – specify:	
H I S T O R Y	SLOPE <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Level/Nearly Level <input type="checkbox"/> Moderate Slope <input type="checkbox"/> Steep Slope Elevation (ASML): 220' CONNECTICUT PHYSIOGRAPHIC PROVINCE (Eco-Region) <input type="checkbox"/> Northwest Highlands <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Western Uplands <input type="checkbox"/> Western Coastal Slope <input type="checkbox"/> Central Valley <input type="checkbox"/> Eastern Coastal Slope <input type="checkbox"/> Eastern Uplands Soil Description: Site dominated by urban soils.	
	SUMMARY (Provide a brief overview in this space. More detailed narrative can be attached.) In 1892, Charles Eliot developed the design for this space on behalf of John Howard Whittemore, in concert with McKim, Mead, and White's design for the adjacent school. In 1893, Eliot joined the Olmsted firm as a partner, and the Olmsted firm continued to consult on the project. In 1896, Warren H. Manning took over the project in independent practice and prepared further plans for adjacent public improvements for a second school nearby.	
R E P O R T E D B Y	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: Property is listed within the Salem School property and Naugatuck Center Historic District NR Listed: <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> District-Contributing <input type="checkbox"/> District-Non-Contributing <input type="checkbox"/> Individual <input type="checkbox"/> Insufficient Documentation	
	NAME Kevan Klosterwill and Carolyn Brackett ORGANIZATION Red Bridge Group	
ADDRESS 2100 Green Street, San Francisco, California 94123		
PHOTOGRAPHER Kevan Klosterwill		DATE 9/16/21 <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Permission to use photographs
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 Naugatuck Green and School (#01237) / 124 Meadow Street, Naugatuck

DESCRIPTION (Visual Assessment Summary)

Layout & Spatial Relationships: Site is a rectilinear green with a central monument and diverging paths aligned to the adjacent school and surrounding intersections.

Circulation: Concrete paths in a gently curving V-shaped arrangement cross the site. A concrete plaza is located where they converge. Concrete sidewalks bound the park on surrounding streets.

Topography: The site is relatively flat. A stair across the street leads to the high school.

Plantings/Vegetation: The site is largely turf, with mature canopy trees, including locust and maple.

Views & Vistas: Maple Street is aligned with the green's central monument and the school behind it. Pathways in the green also converge on the monument, and lead to the walk across the street toward the greenspace leading to the high school.

Water Features: A stone fountain and basin are located behind the monument.

Buildings/Structures/Objects: The site features several monuments of varying sizes. A newer gazebo is located in the western portion of the green. Furnishings include benches and lampposts. Stone curbing punctuated with bollards lines portions of the pathways and sidewalks.

Recreational Space: The site is dedicated to passive recreational uses.

HISTORICAL NARRATIVE

John Howard (J.H.) Whittemore was an industrialist who built an iron manufacturing empire in Naugatuck in the late 19th century and was instrumental in community plans including a library and school.

In 1891 Whittemore contacted Olmsted Brothers regarding "improving a very rough piece of ground lying contiguous to our churches and 'the green' and putting therein a new school house." Stating his desire to show "more care from a 'Landscape and Architecture'" perspective than usual, he described a "modest bricking building of eight or 10 rooms" on two or three acres. Designed by renowned architectural firm McKim, Mead and White, the school was built in 1893 and opened in 1894.

By June of 1894, Warren Manning had made a site visit, and a follow up letter from Whittemore discussed landscaping. Whittemore expressed his desire for a plan that placed only a few trees in the front, while in the back he wanted "enough trees to screen school from adjoining grounds." The letter also discussed placement of the soldiers' monument on the Green.¹

When J.H. Jr., son of Whittemore and his wife, Julia, died at the age of 15 in 1887, he decided to build a library in his son's memory. The Howard Whittemore Memorial Library was also designed by McKim, Mead & White. Minimal correspondence exists between Whittemore and the Olmsted Brothers. Evidently Whittemore hired the firm to landscape the library grounds. A June 1894 letter from Whittemore notes that Mrs. (Julia) Whittemore has reviewed the plan and "pronounces it very satisfactory." Whittemore directed the firm to complete the plan and order stock.²

¹ Project Correspondence, Library of Congress.

² Salem Elementary School,

https://salem.naugatuck.k12.ct.us/apps/pages/index.jsp?uREC_ID=782346&type=d&pREC_ID=1179841, accessed December 20, 2021.

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CONTINUATION SHEET Naugatuck Green and School (#01237) / 124 Meadow Street, Naugatuck

GRAPHICS

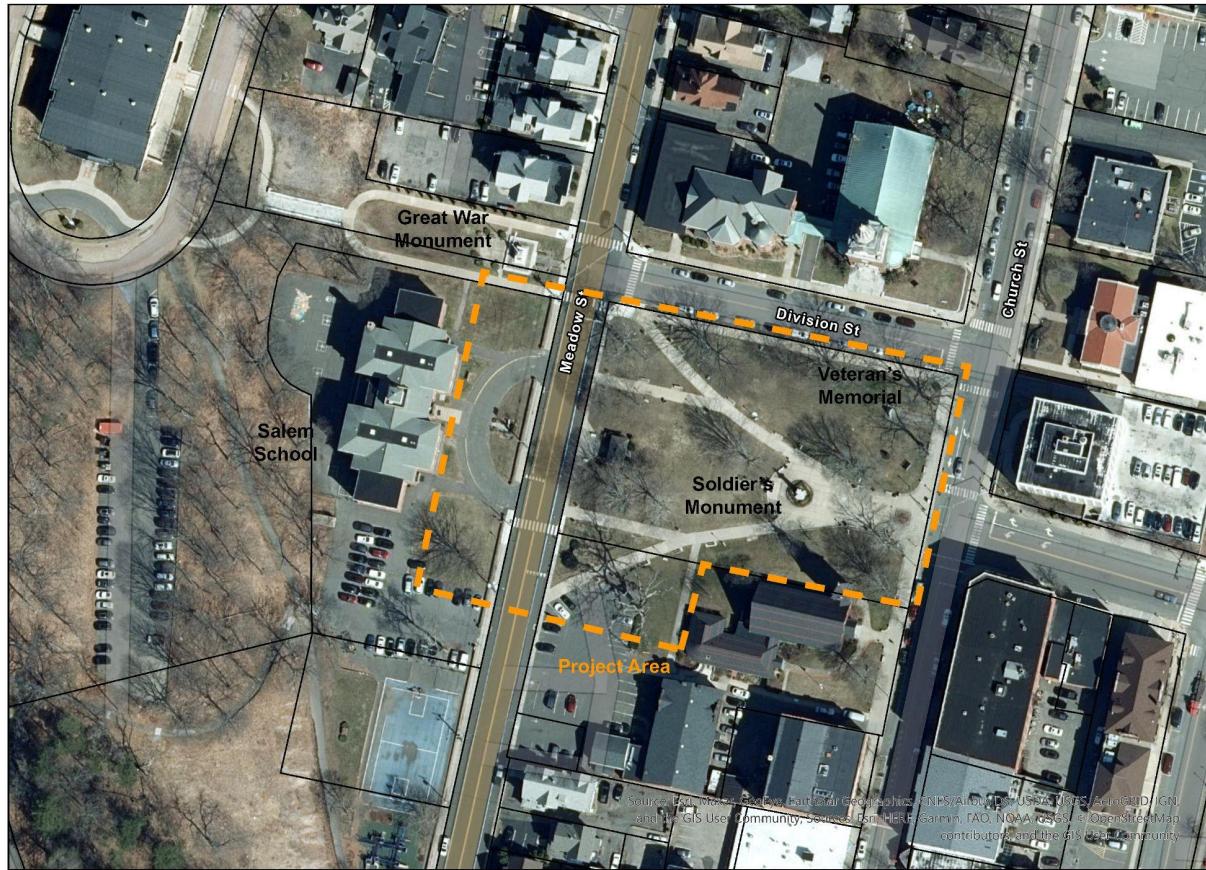


JOB: 01237 LOCATION: Naugatuck

● Site Location ○ Other Olmsted Sites
0 0.06 0.13 0.25 Miles

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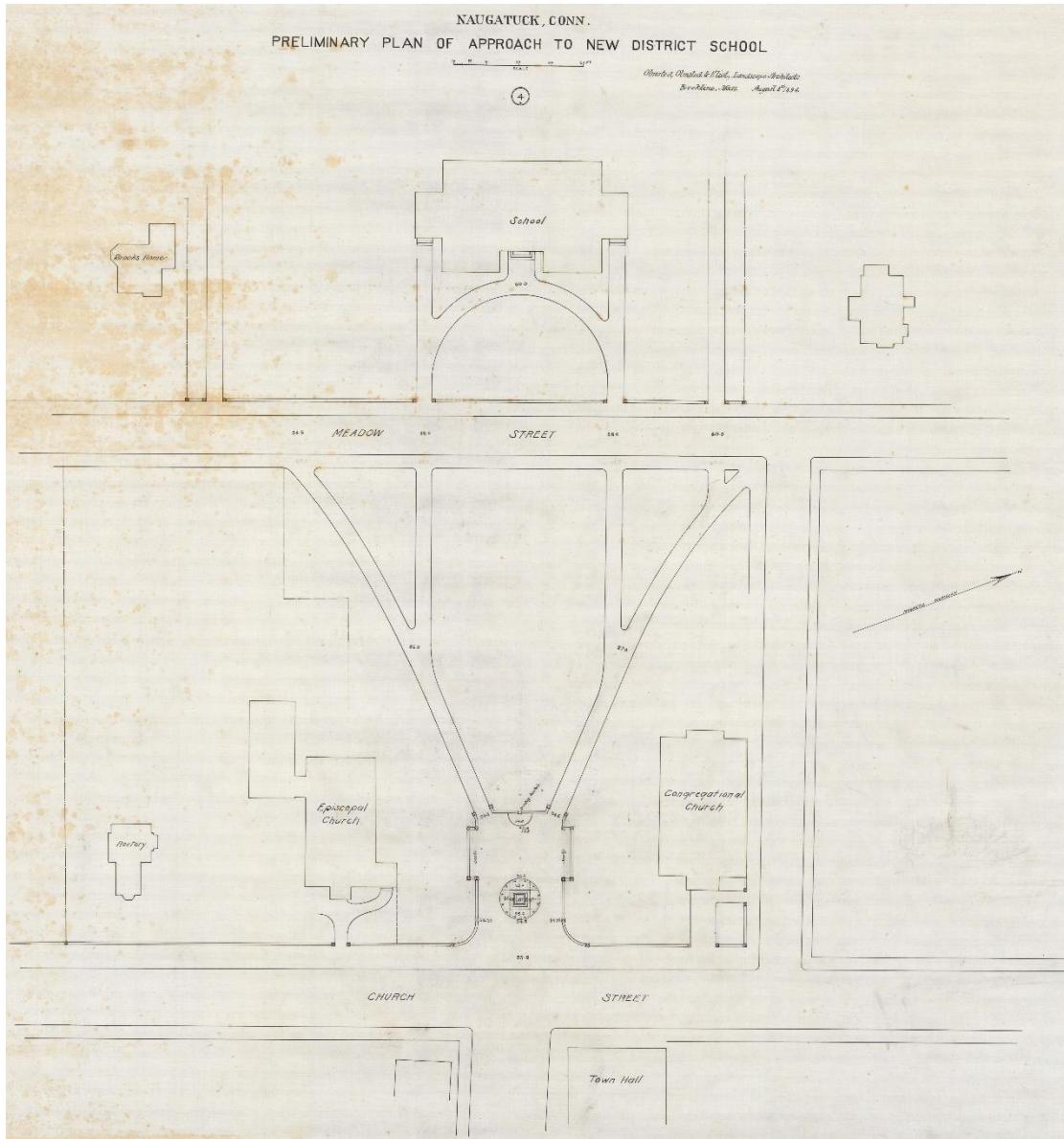
CONTINUATION SHEET Naugatuck Green and School (#01237) / 124 Meadow Street, Naugatuck



JOB: 01237 LOCATION: Naugatuck PROJECT: Naugatuck School / Common

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CONTINUATION SHEET Naugatuck Green and School (#01237) / 124 Meadow Street, Naugatuck



Preliminary Plan of Approach to the New District School, Olmsted, Olmsted & Eliot Landscape Architects.
(Source: courtesy Frederick Law Olmsted National Historic Site)

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CONTINUATION SHEET Naugatuck Green and School (#01237) / 124 Meadow Street, Naugatuck



JOB: 01237 LOCATION: Naugatuck PROJECT: Naugatuck School / Common

0 50 100 200
US Feet 

Aerial photograph overlaid with Olmsted firm plan. (Source: Kevan Klosterwill)

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View west toward Soldiers' monument. (All photographs taken by authors in 2021 unless otherwise noted)



View south to monument.

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View east from stairs to paths below, with green in background.