

**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

<b>I D E N T I F I C A T I O N</b>	<b>PROPERTY NAME</b> (Current/Historic) Connecticut State Courthouse / Williams Memorial Institute		
	<b>COUNTY</b> New London	<b>TOWN/CITY</b> New London	<b>VILLAGE</b>
	<b>JOB NUMBER</b> Primary: 01137 Related Job Numbers:		
	<b>Landscape Type</b> <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		
	<b>DATE OF ORIGINAL PROJECT:</b> 1890-1891 <b>SUBSEQUENT PROJECTS:</b>		

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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 Williams Memorial Institute property features a large Richardson Romanesque building designed by the architecture firm Shepley, Ruten & Coolidge. The building, sited atop a knoll along the prominent public thoroughfare of Broad Street, was designed to serve the needs of a high school for girls. The school opened in 1891 based on funds provided from a bequest of the estate of Harriet Peck Williams, as a memorial to her son, Thomas W. Williams II.

As they were working on the commission to design the school building, Shepley, Ruten & Coolidge wrote to the Olmsted firm in 1890 to request consultation in siting the building, indicating that the client must, "give up the idea of building a terrace in front of the Williams Institute on account of the expense." The Olmsted firm was brought in to address grading, siting of building-related landscape areas and circulation, as well as plantings. The Olmsted plans are assumed to have been implemented as part of the opening of the school. The general plan prepared by the firm shows the main building oriented toward Broad Street, with pedestrian entrances on Gibson Street, Brainard Street, and each corner where the two streets respectively intersect Broad Street. An oblong sidewalk is shown behind the building leading towards

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Mercer Street. Trees are shown as proposed to line Gibson, Mercer and Brainard Street, as well as the sidewalk system.

In 1951, after New London High School opened, the Williams Memorial Institute was converted from a comprehensive education to a college preparatory school. The institute program moved to the Connecticut College campus in 1954, where it remains operational as The Williams School. The state building was first used as a courthouse for the Connecticut State Judicial system in 1972. The state purchased the building in 1997. The rear of the property was truncated and developed for parking to accommodate court use.

Aside from the siting of the building, the majority of the rest of the site plan has been altered through later changes to the property to accommodate courthouse use. Surviving features from the Olmsted plan likely include the grading associated with the knoll and the wall and curbing along the property boundaries at Broad and Brainard Streets.

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	<b>COUNTY</b> New London	<b>TOWN/CITY</b> New London	<b>VILLAGE</b>											
	<b>STREET AND NUMBER (and/or location)</b> 112 Broad Street													
	<b>OWNER(S)</b> <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													
	<b>LAT/LONG COORDINATES</b> <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Center Point <input type="checkbox"/> Polygon 41.5762, -72.10334													
	<b>PARCEL INFORMATION</b> <b>Acres:</b> 3, current 1.5 <b>PID(s):</b> <b>MBLU(s):</b> E11-194-2.1													
	<b>USE (Present)</b> Connecticut State Judicial System courthouse		<b>(Historic)</b> High school for girls											
	<b>SURVEY TYPE</b> <input type="checkbox"/> Reconnaissance-Level <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Intensive-Level													
	D E S C R I P T I O N	<b>LANDSCAPE TYPE</b> (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:												
		<b>DATE OR PERIOD</b> (Include source of date) 1890-1891 (Olmsted Research Guide Online)												
<b>DESIGNERS</b> (Entities that created, designed, constructed, or shaped the landscape) FL Olmsted & Co. Landscape Architects														
<b>DESIGN SCOPE</b> (For designed landscapes, explain what work was commissioned.) Designed grounds for a high school campus, including entrances, paths, and plantings.														
<b>LOCATION OF DRAWINGS/IMAGES/SOURCE MATERIAL</b> Frederick Law Olmsted National Historic Site; Library of Congress														
<b>VISUAL ASSESSMENT SUMMARY</b> (Check boxes for the qualities that are key features of this landscape. If attaching descriptive narrative, consider these categories.)  <table border="0"> <tr> <td><input checked="" type="checkbox"/> <b>Layout &amp; Spatial Relationships</b></td> <td><input type="checkbox"/> <b>Water Features</b></td> </tr> <tr> <td><input checked="" type="checkbox"/> <b>Circulation</b></td> <td><input type="checkbox"/> <b>Drainage</b></td> </tr> <tr> <td><input checked="" type="checkbox"/> <b>Topography</b></td> <td><input checked="" type="checkbox"/> <b>Buildings/Structures/Objects</b></td> </tr> <tr> <td><input checked="" type="checkbox"/> <b>Plantings/Vegetation</b></td> <td><input type="checkbox"/> <b>Recreational Space</b></td> </tr> <tr> <td><input checked="" type="checkbox"/> <b>Views &amp; Vistas</b></td> <td><input type="checkbox"/> <b>Other:</b></td> </tr> <tr> <td><input type="checkbox"/> <b>Boundaries</b></td> <td><input type="checkbox"/> <b>Design Style:</b></td> </tr> </table>			<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> <b>Layout &amp; Spatial Relationships</b>	<input type="checkbox"/> <b>Water Features</b>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> <b>Circulation</b>	<input type="checkbox"/> <b>Drainage</b>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> <b>Topography</b>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> <b>Buildings/Structures/Objects</b>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> <b>Plantings/Vegetation</b>	<input type="checkbox"/> <b>Recreational Space</b>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> <b>Views &amp; Vistas</b>	<input type="checkbox"/> <b>Other:</b>	<input type="checkbox"/> <b>Boundaries</b>	<input type="checkbox"/> <b>Design Style:</b>
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**DESCRIPTION (Visual Assessment Summary)**

**Layout & Spatial Relationships:** The large Williams Memorial Institute building sits atop an elevated plinth facing the important thoroughfare of Broad Street. Today, the principal entrance is to the west along an internal access drive. The building is edged to the east by Brainard Street. Williams Street is further to the west. Foundation plantings edge the building, while large shade trees frame Brainard Street and flowering cherries follow Broad Street. Flagpoles and signs front the building. Fenced utilities and gated parking are located to the rear of the building.

**Circulation:** Concrete sidewalks edge both Broad and Brainard Streets. Stone curbing and retaining walls mark the property boundary along the margins of the concrete sidewalks. The asphalt paved internal access road extends into the property from Broad Street and forms a circular turnaround at the primary building entrances. A service road extends from the circular turnaround to the rear of the building where there is parking and continues to Brainard Streets. Stairs lead through the stone wall along Brainard. These are sited on axis with a side entrance into the building that is no longer in use; the walk that once connected the stairs and the building is no longer extant.

**Topography:** The property rises to an elevated hillock in the center where the building is sited.

**Plantings/Vegetation:** Much of the property is maintained in turf. A large red oak and red maple are along Brainard Street, while flowering cherries are along Broad Street. Rhododendrons and other evergreen shrubs are used as foundation plantings around the building.

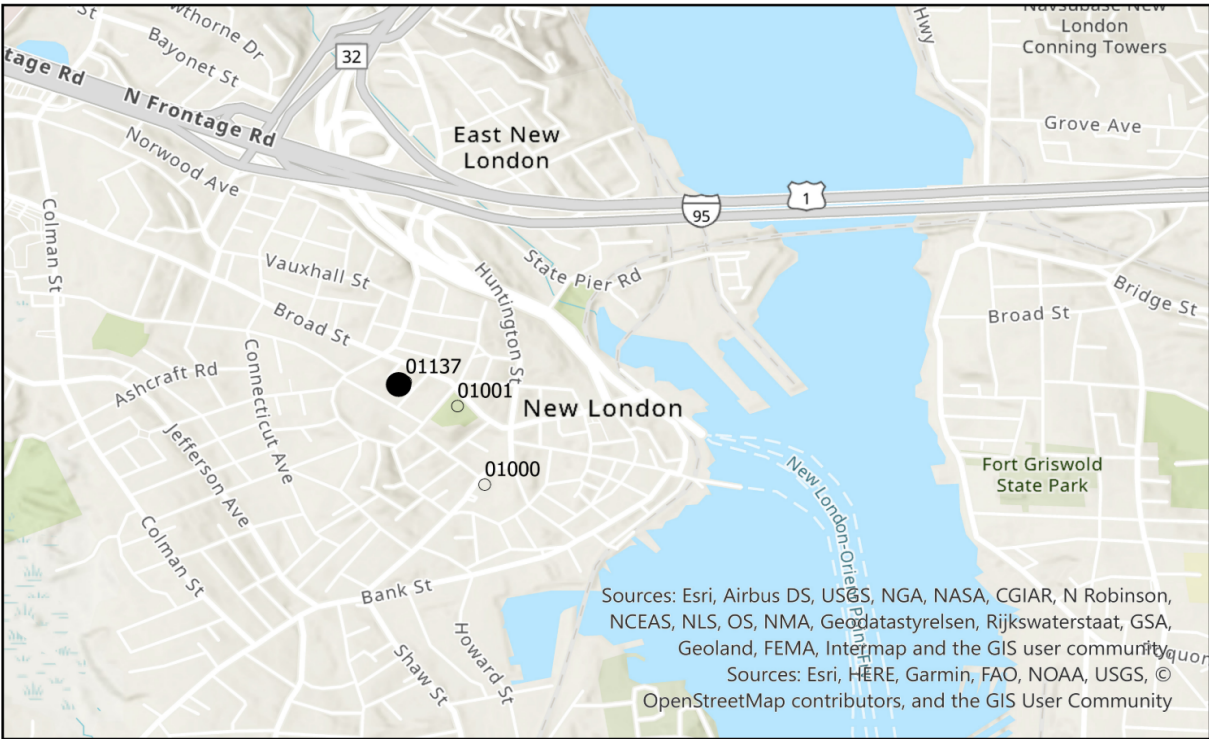
**Views & Vistas:** Views from the public roads and internal circulation center on the impressive building.

**Buildings/Structures/Objects:** The principal building is the Williams Memorial Institute. In addition to stone walls along the property boundary, there are prefabricated utility structures behind the building.

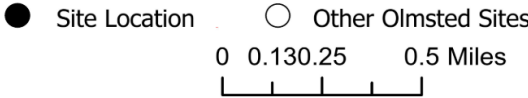
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CONTINUATION SHEET Williams Memorial Institute (#01137) / 112 Broad Street, New London

**GRAPHICS**



JOB: 01137 LOCATION: New London



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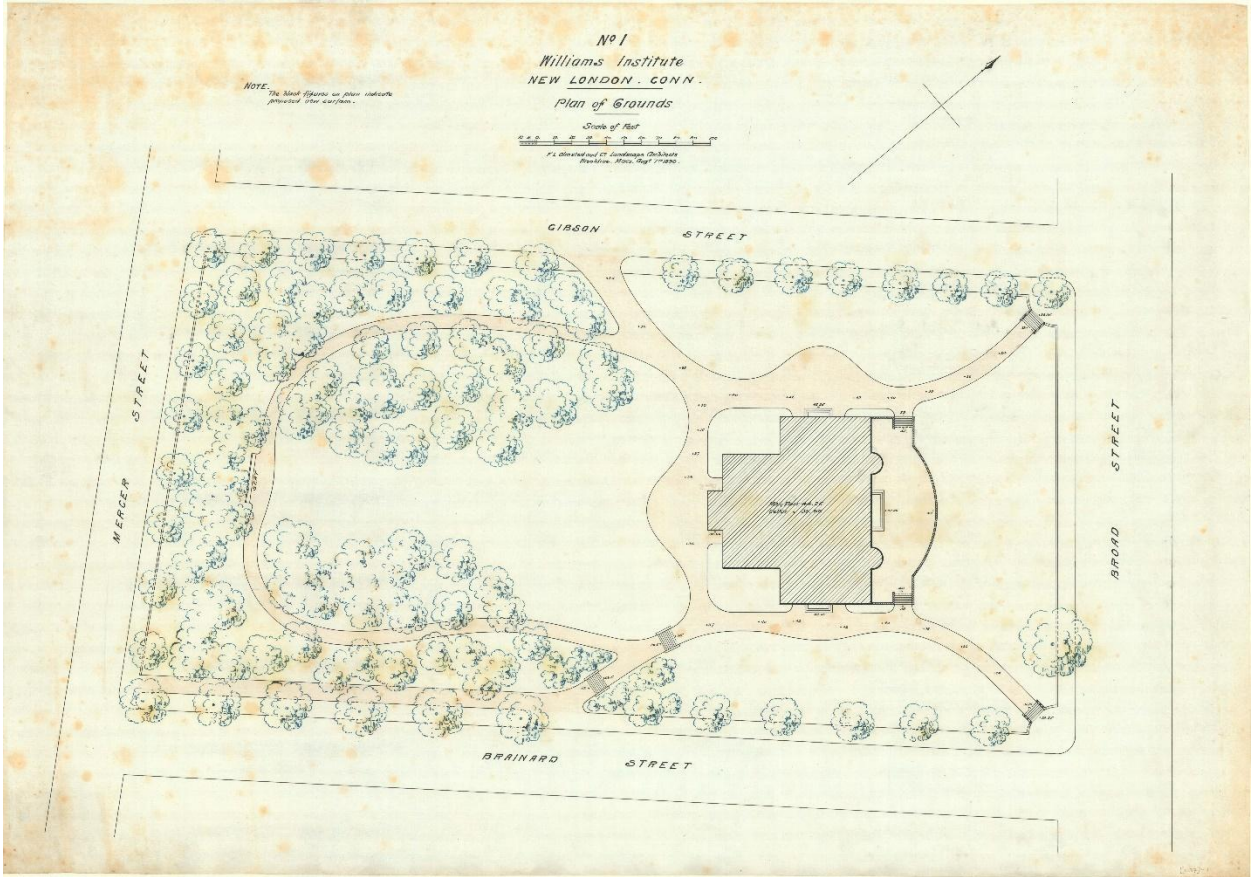
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CONTINUATION SHEET Williams Memorial Institute (#01137) / 112 Broad Street, New London



Plan of Grounds for Williams Institute, FL Olmsted & Co. Landscape Architects, 1890. (Source: courtesy Frederick Law Olmsted National Historic Site)

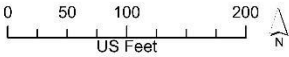


1934 aerial photograph of the property before the south end was developed for parking. (Source: UCONN Air Photo archive)

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Aerial photograph of the Williams Memorial Institute Grounds overlaid with the Olmsted firm plans, 1890. (Source: Kevan Klosterwill)



View southwest toward the Williams Memorial Institute building from Broad Street near the intersection with the internal access road. (All photographs taken by authors in 2021 unless otherwise noted)



View east across the lawn in front of the building and the cherry trees that sit near Broad Street.



View east toward the present-day principal entrance into the building from the internal access road.



View northwest along the service drive behind the building. Stone walls edge the property along Brainard Street on the east side.



View southwest toward the Williams Memorial Institute building from the sidewalk along Broad Street with the stone curbing that may date to the Olmsted design.