

**Frederick Law Olmsted National Historic Site
Olmsted Archives
Landscape Design Records
Specifications and Contracts, 1939-1968**

Sub-series: Specifications, 1950-1965

Accession number: FRLA-1

Catalog number: FRLA-47345

Collection number: 2001.001/06

Quantity: 2,631 items; 2.5 linear feet

Storage: 5 document boxes

Date range: 1902-1965; bulk 1950-1965

Description:

These files were located in one drawer of an historic oak filing cabinet in the upper drafting room of the office wing. The drawer was labeled "Specifs." The collection primarily consists of "ditto masters"¹ of specifications. Specifications present the terms of a contract for a landscape design project, setting out the proposed plans for construction work and planting. Also included in this collection are bidding instructions for contractors, plant lists, preliminary and general reports, and site studies. For the most part, the folders are arranged numerically by job number.

The collection does include several files that are devoted to non-job related materials. An interesting item in "Miscellaneous Ditto Masters, 1962-1965" (Box 1, Folder 5) is a copy of "Some Aspects of the Life and Times of the Olmsteds," a speech delivered by Joseph Hudak to the Brookline Historical Society in 1959. The file for the Hubbard Educational Trust (Box 1, Folder 1) primarily contains reports of meetings.² The four folders that have numbers with an "LR" prefix contain "Low-Rent Housing Bulletins" published by the Public Housing Administration.

Titles in brackets were given to materials that were stored, not in folders, but as loose items in the back of the file cabinet drawer. Items of note are a compilation of Christmas verses written by Olmsted employees between 1954 and 1959; resumes of the men who were firm partners in 1958; and a pamphlet published in 1902 by the Olmsted Brothers entitled "Statement as to Professional Methods and Charges," which describes in detail the working processes of the firm.

¹ Ditto masters are original documents designed to be reproduced by means of a spirit-duplicator machine. The text was typed on a sheet of paper backed with another sheet coated with a waxy dye. The pressure of typing imprinted the text in reverse on the verso of the top sheet. This "ditto master" was then wrapped around the drum of a spirit-duplicator machine, which soaked the paper with a thin layer of solvent to soften the dye. When the original was pressed (in the machine) against clean sheets of paper, multiple copies of the text were produced.

² The trust was founded in 1953 in memory of Henry Vincent Hubbard; its aim was to further education in the field of landscape architecture. Notes from the annual meeting in 1965 list 15 directors, including William Marquis, Charles W. Eliot, and Leon Zach. See also the *Hubbard Educational Trust Collection*, Frederick Law Olmsted National Historic Site, Brookline, Massachusetts.

Collection Listing:

Box 1

Folder:

1. Hubbard Educational Trust, Ditto Masters, 1962-1965
2. Job #318 Williams College (Specifications), Ditto Masters, 1959-1960
3. Job #318 Williams College Specs. 23 August, 1962
4. Job #318 Williams College Specs. – 24 Aug., 1962/ Oct. 25, 1963
5. Miscellaneous Ditto Masters, 1962-1965
6. Job #801 Bushnell Park, Ditto Masters, 1961
7. Job #1314 Larz Anderson Park, Ditto Masters, 1961
8. Job #1804 Roxbury Latin School, Ditto Masters, 1961-1963
9. Job #3498 Eastern Kentucky State College, Ditto Masters, Preliminary Report, 1958
10. Job #3536 PC Lafayette College, 1963
11. Job #5556 Heath Estates – Contract and Specifications/ Ditto Masters, 1956
12. Job #6957 Union County Park Comm./ Study of Potential Park Sites/ Ditto Masters, 1962
13. Job #6974 Southern Baptist (Ditto Masters) Plant List and Specs. For Plan #189, 1960-1963
14. Job #7029 (Bok) Mt. Lake Sanctuary – Specifications/ Ditto Masters, 1924; 1958³
15. Job #7172 Trailside Museum & Science Center – Watchung Reservation, 1965
16. Job #7173 Rahway River Park, Development Report, August 1962

Box 2

Folder:

1. Job #7183 Echo Lake – Nomahegan, 1963
2. Job #7411 Duke University, Ditto Masters, 1959-1961
3. Job #7967 General Development Report – Univ. of Alabama, 1962-1964
4. Job #9603 and 9619 Washington Elms/ New Towne Court, Ditto Masters, 1958 [1 of 2]
5. Job #9603 and 9619 Washington Elms/ New Towne Court, Ditto Masters, 1958 [2 of 2]
6. Job #9603 and 9619 Washington Elms/ New Towne Court, Ditto Masters, 1959
7. Job #9735 Brown, G. G., Ditto Masters, 1960
8. Job #9791 Univ. of Mississippi, Bldg. Identification Key, 1962
9. Job #9869 Carney Hospital, Plant List to Acc. Plan #61, 11 September 1962
10. Job #9946 Baltimore Cathedral, Ditto Masters, 1960

Box 3

Folder:

1. Job #9980 Robert L. Henderson, Brookline, Massachusetts, 1963
2. Job #9990 Towson State Teachers College/(Prel. Campus Dev. Report), Ditto Masters, 1959
3. Job #9992 National Shrine, 1959
4. Job #10027 Metropolitan Museum/ Ditto Masters/ Contract and Specifications, 1957
5. Job #10051 Nat. Life Ins., Vt./ Ditto Masters/ Specifications, 1960
6. Job #10052 Methuen Municipal Building, Plan #42/ Ditto Master, n.d.
7. Job #10058 Patapsco Tunnel, Letters to Greiner Company, Ditto Masters, 1958-1959
8. Job #10067 Sloan-Kettering, Specs. and Proposal/ Ditto Masters, 1959

³Contains a document entitled “Mountain Lake Corporation, Procedure for the Approval of Plans” written by Frederick Law Olmsted, Jr. in 1924.

9. Job #10078 Camden Shipyard Development, Ditto Masters, 1959
10. Job #10083 Jack Daniel Distillery, Plant List, Ditto Masters, 1960
11. Job #10088 Cuneo, E. L., Ditto Masters, Memo Specifications, 1959
12. Job #10091 South End Park, Ditto Masters, 1959
13. Job #10092 Regional Catholic, 1959
14. Job #10099 St. Mary's Sem. Jr. College, Ditto Masters, 1959
15. Job #10101 Trustman, A. R., Ditto Masters, 1960
16. Job #10109 Crane Memorial Reservation, Ditto Masters, 1960
17. Job #10118 Sears, Roebuck (Saugus), Ditto Masters, 1960
18. Job #10119 Newtonville First Church of Christ, Scientist, Ditto Masters, 1960
19. Job #10120 Mobile Baptist College, 1960-1961

Box 4

Folder:

1. Job #10123 Wickham Park, 1961-1965 [1 of 2]
2. Job #10123 Wickham Park, 1961-1965 [2 of 2]
3. Job #10123 Wickham Park, Ditto Masters, 1962
4. Job #10123 Wickham Park, Cistern Specs., 1962
5. Job #10127 Miss. College, Prelim. Dev. Report, Ditto Masters, 1964
6. Job #10129 Zimman, H. O., Ditto Masters, 1961
7. Job #10135 Plimoth Plantation, Ditto Masters, 1961
8. Job #10137 Runkle School, Detailed Planting Specs., Ditto Masters, 1962-1964
9. Job #10138 Eastern Nazarene College, Campus Development Report, Ditto Masters, 1962
10. Job #10141 Kennecott Copper, Specifications, 1962
11. Job #10172 Mission of Nombre de Dios, 1964
12. Job #10181 Miss. R & D Center, n.d.
13. Job #10189 Coolidge Playground, Brookline, Massachusetts, 1965
14. Job #10197 Gordon College, Wenham, Massachusetts, 1965

Box 5

Folder:

1. Job #10198 Robinson Playground, Brookline, Massachusetts, 1965
2. Job #10199 Linden Park, Brookline, Massachusetts, 1965
3. Job #10200 Linden Square, Brookline, Massachusetts, 1965
4. LR-9 Lawns and Planting, 1950-1951
5. LR-3 Site Planning, 1950-1951
6. LR-4 Site Engineering, 1950-1951
7. LR-12 Construction Contract Documents, 1951
8. [Rough Draft of Contract and Specifications, New Towne Court and Washington Elms Housing Projects], 1958
9. [Preliminary Draft, "Contract and Specifications," New Towne Court and Washington Elms Housing Projects], 1958
10. ["Guide for Writing Landscape Architecture Specifications" by Olmsted Brothers], 1955
11. [Christmas Verses by Olmsted Brothers' Employees], 1954-1959
12. [Key Personnel, 1958 and Employee's Addresses, 1959]
13. [Miscellaneous Documents], 1940-1959
14. ["Statement as to Professional Methods and Charges" by Olmsted Brothers], 1902
15. [Patapsco Tunnel, Contractor's Final Estimate Certificates], 1959