
The Arnold Arboretum of Harvard University

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National Park Service agreement, 1991-2001

Archives of the Arnold Arboretum of Harvard University
125 Arborway, Jamaica Plain, Massachusetts

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Descriptive Summary

Repository: Arnold Arboretum, Jamaica Plain, MA 02130
Call No.: I A-7
Location: Archives
Title: National Park Service agreement
Date(s): 1991-2001
Creator: Arnold Arboretum of Harvard University and the National Park Service
Quantity: 1.5 linear feet
Language of material: English

Abstract: In 1991 the Arnold Arboretum signed a cooperative agreement with the National Park Service (NPS) with the purpose of setting up a structure to collaborate on a range of programs and services in the area of historic landscape preservation. One of the goals of the original collaboration was to establish the Olmsted Center for Landscape Preservation as a joint venture of the NPS and the Arnold Arboretum. After extensive planning and research, the administrative complications of joining a Federal agency and a unit of a large university prevented a formal partnership and the collaboration ended in the late 1990s. The Olmsted Center continues as a program of the NPS. The bulk of the collection reflects 17 signed amendments to the initial cooperative agreement between the Arboretum and the NPS (1991).

Note: Access to Finding Aid record in Hollis.

Preferred Citation: National Park Service agreement, 1991-2001, Archives of the Arnold Arboretum of Harvard University.

Processing Information


Acquisition Information

Provenance: This collection was transferred to the Archives by staff involved with the joint projects of the Arnold Arboretum and the Olmsted Center for Landscape Preservation of the National Park Service in 2009.

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**Historical Note**

In 1991 the Arnold Arboretum of Harvard
University signed a cooperative agreement with the [National Park Service](https://www.nps.gov) (NPS) with the
purpose of setting up a structure to collaborate
on a range of programs and services in the area
of historic landscape preservation. The
collaboration brought together the resources of
the North Atlantic Region of National Park
Service, which owns and manages one of the
largest groups of historic gardens and cultural
landscapes in the country, and the Arnold
Arboretum, which has been collecting and
curating plants hardy in the North Temperate
Zone for over 100 years. The design of the
Arboretum itself was a joint effort in the late
1880s and 1890s of landscape architect
Frederick Law Olmsted (1822-1903) and
Charles Sprague Sargent (1841-1927), the
Arboretum’s first director. This new collaboration linked the Arboretum with the NPS
[Olmsted Center for Landscape Preservation](https://www.nps.gov) housed at the [Frederick Law Olmsted
National Historic Site](https://www.nps.gov) in Brookline, Massachusetts.

The cooperative agreement was signed by Robert Cook, director of the Arboretum,
and by Nora Mitchell of the National Park Service. Phyllis Andersen was hired by the
Arboretum in 1992 to manage the cooperative projects. Arboretum staff members
that participated in the projects were: Peter del Tredici, Gary Koller, Jack Alexander,
Tom Ward, and Stephen Spongberg. Project personnel hired by the Arboretum for
specific projects included Kristin Claeyys Baker and Kirsten Thornton. The National
Park Service staff included Charles Pepper, Lauren Meier, Margie Coffin, Rolf Diamant
and Paul Weinbaum. The cooperative agreement created a number of individual
projects: a historic landscape maintenance workshop held in 1991, a cultural
landscape report and treatment plan for the Frederick Law Olmsted National Historic Site, plant inventories of seven National Park Service sites (Adams National Historic Park, Saint Gaudens National Historic Site, Longfellow National Historic Site, Glenmont National Historic Site, Vanderbilt National Historic Site, and the Sagamore Hill Theodore Roosevelt National Historic Site). The Historic Plant Preservation project included a historic plant nursery established at the Arnold Arboretum for plants propagated from NPS historic sites to serve as future replacements for significant specimens. A guide to preparing a plant inventory for a historic site and a manual for maintaining a historic plant nursery was prepared. The historic plant nursery eventually moved from the Arboretum to the Lyman Estate in Waltham Massachusetts owned and managed by Historic New England.

One of the final projects of the collaborative venture was a Historic Resource Study for the Marsh-Billings National Historic Site in Woodstock, Vermont. Several academic historians (Robert Dorman, Mark Madison, and Daniel Nadenicek) were commissioned to prepare segments of this site history.

One of the goals of the original collaboration was to establish the Olmsted Center for Landscape Preservation as a joint venture of the NPS and the Arnold Arboretum. After extensive planning and research, the administrative complications of joining a Federal agency and a unit of a large university prevented a formal partnership and the collaboration ended in the late 1990s. The Olmsted Center continues as a program of the NPS.

Scope and Content
Dating from 1991-2001 the collection contains correspondence, cooperative agreements, meeting notes, performance updates, photographic slides, drafts of publications, as well as budgetary, programmatic and staff information for the joint projects of the Arnold Arboretum and the Olmsted Center for Landscape Preservation of the National Park Service. The bulk of the collection reflects 17 signed amendments to the initial cooperative agreement between the Arboretum and the NPS (1991). The amendments and their supporting documents outline programmatic initiatives and extensions undertaken between the two institutions throughout the 1990’s.

Arrangement
This collection is arranged in 5 series:
Series I: National Park Service and the Arnold Arboretum Cooperative Agreement (CA1600-1-90090)

Series II: Institute for Cultural Landscape Studies at the Arnold Arboretum and the National Park Service, Olmsted Center for Landscape Preservation

Series III: Olmsted Center for Landscape Preservation

Series IV: National Park Service and the Arnold Arboretum Cooperative Agreement Amendments 1-17.

Series V: Slides

Container List
Box 1

Series I: National Park Service and the Arnold Arboretum Cooperative Agreement (CA1600-1-90090)

Folder


2. Workshops and Programs: Contains brochures, workshop packets, and budget data, agendas, lesson plans, and correspondence, proposals for other grants: meeting notes, correspondence, and personnel (Phyllis Andersen, Bob Cook, Peter Del Tredici, Tom Ward, Richard Schulhoff, Pamela J. Thompson, Lauren Meier).

Series II: Institute for Cultural Landscape Studies at the Arnold Arboretum and the National Park Service, Olmsted Center for Landscape Preservation

Folder


Series III: Olmsted Center for Landscape Preservation

Folder


3. Applications, meeting notes, and memos, pertaining to potential projects for Arnold Arboretum and Olmsted Center for Landscape Preservation collaboration.


5. Steering Committee Meeting: March 23, 1995

6. Steering Committee Meeting: September 6, 1995


Box 2
Series IV: National Park Service and the Arnold Arboretum Cooperative Agreement Amendments (CA1600-1-90090)

Folder

   A. Signed amendment and correspondence between Arnold Arboretum and National Park Service regarding extensions to amendment; proposals for grant-funded projects that would fall under the purview of Amendment 1, as well as notes on those proposals. Historic Landscape Maintenance Workshops held on July 10, 1991, May 5-6, 1993 and July 18-20, 1994: agenda, applications, attendee and participant lists, brochures, correspondence, financial data, invitations, and note.


Proposal, personnel correspondence and notes regarding specialists for the project, correspondence, documentation for planning of inventory database, bibliographies, project summary report, meeting notes and minutes.

4. Amendment 3: Historic Plant Inventory, Preliminary inventory data collected during project.

5. Amendment 3: Historic Plant Preservation Program and Plant Nursery, 1995-2001: Contains meeting notes, correspondence, and status sheets for: Adams National Historical Park; Delaware Water Gap National Recreational Area; Olmsted, Longfellow, and Kennedy National Historic Sites; Fredericksburg and Spotsylvania Memorial National Military Park; George Washington Birth place National Monument; Martin Van Buren National Historic Site; Petersburg National Battlefield; Saint Gaudens National Historic Site; Weir Farm National Historic Site; Sagamore Hill National Historic Site; Edison National Historic Site; Hampton National Historic Site; Minuteman National Historical Park; Petersburg National Battlefield, Roosevelt-Vanderbilt National Historic Site.


Box 3
Series IV: National Park Service and the Arnold Arboretum Cooperative Agreement Amendments (CA1600-1-90090)

Folder


11. Amendment 7: “Development of a Cultural Landscape treatment Plan for Frederick Law Olmsted National historic Site, Phase II.” September 7, 1994. Signed amendment and correspondence between Arnold Arboretum and National Park Service, includes notes, personnel: Tracy Boaz, new hire under Amendment 7; Mac Griswold, resume, biography, promotional materials, and correspondence; correspondence, as well as notes, resumes, and references for prospective graphic designers Beth McKinney and Andy Winther.
12. Amendment 7: Copies of files from Frederick Law Olmsted National Historic Site regarding "Fairsteds."

13. Amendment 7: Letters of request and permissions to reproduce images in "Fairsteds" publication. Correspondence, notes, and lists regarding distribution of the publication.


Box 4
Series IV: National Park Service and the Arnold Arboretum Cooperative Agreement Amendments (CA1600-1- 90090)

Folder

17. Amendment 8: “Historic Resource Study for Marsh – Billings National Historic Park.” September 6, 1994. Signed amendment and correspondence between Arnold Arboretum and National Park Service also includes project planning and guidelines, summaries of work, correspondence regarding project funding, and meeting notes. Information about the Marsh-Billings-Rockefeller National Historical Park, including workshop reports, promotional materials, and maps of the site.

18. Amendment 8: Project personnel, includes lists of possible historians for project, as well as correspondence resumes, and sample chapters from: Rob Dorman, Mark Madison, Greg Mitman and Dan Nadenicek.


Box 5
Series IV: National Park Service and the Arnold Arboretum Cooperative Agreement Amendments (CA1600-1- 90090)

Folder


27. Amendment 12: “The purpose of the amendment is to update the administrative and other provisions of this cooperative agreement.” July 27, 1995. Signed amendment and attachments from US Dept of Interior. Includes funding proposal.


Series V: Slides Folder

1. Historic Plant Inventory Project Sites:
• Adams National Historical Park, Quincy, MA
• Frederick Law Olmsted National Historic Site, Brookline, MA
• Saint Gaudens National Historic Site, Cornish, NH
• Longfellow Historic Site, Cambridge, MA
• Glenmont National Historic Site (home of Thomas Edison) East Orange, NJ
• Vanderbilt National Historic Site, Hyde Park, NY
• Sagamore Hill Theodore Roosevelt National Historic Site, Oyster Bay, NY

2. Graphics, negatives and invoices for panels, captions and images.