

Calvert Vaux Papers 1860-1921; bulk 1860s

The landscape architect Calvert Vaux was born in London, England in 1824 and died in New York City in 1894. After studying architecture in London, he came to the U.S. where he assisted A.J. Downing with the designs for the grounds of the Capitol building and the Smithsonian Institute. In 1857 he began the collaboration with Frederick Law Olmsted that resulted in the construction of Prospect Park in Brooklyn and Central, Morningside, and Riverside Parks in Manhattan. They also worked together on the South Park in Chicago, a village outside Chicago, and the state reservation at Niagara Falls, N.Y. Vaux also was for many years the landscape architect to the Department of Parks of New York City.

The papers consist of a few letters and copies of letters by Vaux, 1860-1894 relating to the design and construction of Central Park and the proposed plan to join Jersey City to New York City. There is also a group of letters, 1865-1887, to Vaux from Olmsted which deal with the design and construction of Prospect Park and other parks, and Olmsted's life and work in California, some letters to Vaux, 1867, 1895, relating to Prospect Park and the proposed Grant Monument in Central Park; letters to the editor of *The New York Tribune* concerning the relative roles of Vaux and Olmsted in the design of Prospect Park and Central Park, and some correspondence, 1921, between C. Bowyer Vaux and Frederick Law Olmsted, Jr. concerning their fathers' letters. In the papers there are also documents relating to Vaux's work, drawings, maps and plans for some of the work of Calvert and Downing Vaux, a report of Fort Greene Park in Brooklyn, a speech by Samuel Parsons, 1908, regarding the design and development of Central Park, a photographic portrait of Vaux, some clippings relating to the work of Vaux and Olmsted, and other printed material.

The collection (except oversize drawings) is available on microfilm. Master negative *ZZ-15458.

Calvert Vaux Papers

Oversize Portfolio

1. Rest for Convalescents, 69 Broadway, White Plains, NY (general plan), 1913
2. Rest for Convalescents, 69 Broadway, White Plains, NY (planting plan), 1913
3. Rest for Convalescents, 69 Broadway, White Plains, NY (new gateway plan), 1913
4. Hackley School Athletic Field, Tarrytown, NY (plan of improvements)
5. Broad Brook Farm, Seth Low estate, Bedford, NY (planting plan), 1906
6. Broad Brook Farm, Seth Low estate, Bedford, NY (planting plan), 1906
5. Unidentified
6. Union Square, Ladies Cottage,
7. Bryant Park, drinking fountain,
8. Rockwood Park, St. John, N.B. (design for Bear Pit), 1899
9. Rockwood Park, St. John, N.B. (design for Bear Pit), 1899
10. Plan of buildings in course of erection on 71st and 72nd Streets and First Avenue, New York City, for the Improved Dwelling Association
11. Dr. G.P. Davis, Grounds at Hartford (planting map), 1880?
12. Prospect Park, Arch C
13. Prospect Park, Arch C
14. Property of Mrs. William Baker, Montclair, NJ --not found, 10/31/97