
National Park Service
Cultural Landscapes Inventory

2011

Revised: 2/2025



Roger Williams NMem Landscape
Roger Williams National Memorial

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Introduction

The Cultural Landscape Inventory (CLI)

The Cultural Landscape Inventory (CLI) is a comprehensive inventory of all cultural landscapes in the National Park System. Landscapes that are listed, or eligible for listing, on the National Register of Historic Places, or are otherwise managed as cultural resources and in which the National Park Service has, or plans to acquire, legal interest are included in the inventory. The CLI identifies and documents each landscape's location, size, physical development, landscape characteristics, character-defining features, and condition. Cultural landscapes have approved CLIs when concurrence with the findings is obtained from the park superintendent and all required data fields are entered into the Cultural Resources Information System (CRIS-CL) database. In addition, for landscapes not currently listed on the National Register and/or without adequate documentation, concurrence is required from the State Historic Preservation Officer, Tribal Historic Preservation Officer, or the Keeper of the National Register.

Scope of the CLI

The information contained within the CLI is compiled from primary and secondary sources and through on-site surveys of the landscape. The level of investigation is dependent upon scoping the need for information.

The baseline information collected provides a comprehensive look at the historical development and significance of the landscape. Documentation and analysis of the existing landscape identifies character-defining characteristics and features and allows for an evaluation of the landscape's integrity and an assessment of the landscape's condition. The CLI also includes historic maps, drawings, and images; photographs of existing conditions; and a site plan that indicates major features. The CLI documents the existing condition of park landscape resources and identifies impacts, threats, and measures to stabilize condition. This information can be used to develop strategies for improved stewardship. Unlike a Cultural Landscape Report (CLR), the CLI does not provide management recommendations or treatment guidelines for the cultural landscape, but it may identify stabilization measures.

The Cultural Resources Information System (CRIS)

CRIS is the National Park Service's database of cultural resources on its lands, consisting of archeological sites, historic structures, ethnographic resources, and cultural landscapes. Cultural Resources Inventory System (CRIS) replaces three legacy inventory systems: ASMIS (archeology), CLI (cultural landscapes), and LCS (historic structures); and it reinstates the former ERI (ethnographic resources). This Cultural Landscape Inventory document reflects the information in a corresponding CRIS Cultural Landscape record.

Statutory and Regulatory Foundation

The legislative, regulatory, and policy directives for conducting and maintaining the CLI within CRIS are:

- National Historic Preservation Act (NHPA) of 1966 (16 USC 470h-2(a)(1)) Sec. 110
- Executive Order 13287: Preserve America, 2003. Sec. 3 (a and c)
- Secretary of the Interior's Standards and Guidelines for Federal Agency Historic Preservation Programs
- Pursuant to the National Historic Preservation Act, 1998. Std. 2
- Cultural Resource Management Guideline, 1997, Release No. 5, page 22; issued pursuant to Director's Order #28 (DO-28)

The NHPA requires the identification, evaluation, and nomination of historic properties to the National Register of Historic Places and the maintenance and expansion of an inventory of cultural resources. DO-28 requires a cyclic assessment of the current condition of cultural landscapes based on an assessment interval, with a default of six years.

Use

Beyond fulfilling legal and policy requirements, park staff can use the Cultural Landscape Inventory in the following ways:

- To learn about park cultural landscapes (all staff)
- To inform management decisions (park managers)
- To inform project planning and development (park managers, facility managers, project managers, compliance specialists)
- To monitor the condition of the cultural landscape and take measures to protect its significance and integrity (cultural resource managers, facility managers)
- To recognize the stabilization and treatment needs of landscape features and plan work within cultural landscapes to address the needs (facility managers, cultural resource managers)
- To understand the cultural value of natural systems in a cultural landscape (natural resource managers)
- To create programming and educational materials based on site history (interpretation and education specialists)
- To recognize impacts within cultural landscapes and enforce protection measures (visitor and resources protection staff)

General Information

Property Level and CLI Numbers

Inventory Unit Name:	Roger Williams NMem Landscape
Resource Classification:	Cultural Landscape
CLI Identification Number:	650048
Parent Landscape:	650048
Inventory Status:	Complete

Park Information

Park Name:	Roger Williams National Memorial
Alpha Code:	ROWI
Park Organization Code:	1860
Park District:	ROWI
Region:	Northeast
Restricted:	Yes

Landscape Description:

Located at the foot of College Hill in downtown Providence, Rhode Island, Roger Williams National Memorial is a small urban park established by Congress to commemorate the founder of Providence and his significant contributions to the principles of freedom in the United States. Roger Williams landed at the future site of the national memorial in 1636, attracted by the presence of a fresh-water spring. Here, he laid out the Providence settlement and established its government that ensured freedom of religion through the separation of church and state. Williams built his house across the street from the spring, and lived there on and off until his death in 1683. During the subsequent four centuries, the spring—later recognized as a symbolic wellspring of both Rhode Island and the concept of religious freedom in the United States—became hidden by urban development. As interest in the city's past grew, the spring was revealed in the early twentieth century and finally enshrined within Roger Williams National Memorial, designated in 1965 and substantially completed in 1982. Although mostly a contemporary resource, the 4.5-acre park, with its winding paths, open lawns, and groves of trees, includes an early twentieth-century municipal memorial to Roger Williams and the founding of Providence, as well as an eighteenth-century house that is the only remnant of the residential, commercial, civic, and industrial buildings that existed on the site before it was cleared in the 1970s through the city's urban renewal program.

HISTORICAL OVERVIEW

Roger Williams and the Providence Wellspring, to 1683:

Prior to European settlement that began in the seventeenth century, the 4.5-acre national memorial site, located at a cove at the head of Narragansett Bay, was within the homeland of the Narragansett people. Little is known about the cultural landscape at this time, except that the site consisted of shoreline with a fresh-water spring, bordering the Pawtucket Trail that roughly corresponded with the present alignment of North Main Street. In 1636, Roger Williams, who had been exiled from the Massachusetts Bay Colony, landed at the site of the future national memorial where he founded Providence as the first English colony in North America based on civil rather than religious law—the ideal that religion was a matter of individual conscience. Williams laid out a settlement that, unlike typical New England villages, followed a linear pattern with home lots extending to the east of Towne Street (North Main Street) up the adjoining hill (College Hill), with common lands reserved to the west of the street along the cove shoreline. Williams built his own

house on the home lot across North Main Street from the spring. The settlement grew slowly and remained reliant on an agricultural and fishing economy during the seventeenth century. Williams died in Providence in 1683.

The Urban Period, 1683-1965:

In the decades following Williams's death, Providence grew into a prosperous mercantile city. During the eighteenth century, the town center shifted from the original settlement south toward Weybosset Point (present downtown). After the Revolution and into the early twentieth century, Providence grew into the state's largest city, a center of industry and commerce, and the seat of state government. From a beach and common lands in the late seventeenth century, the site of the future national memorial developed by the mid eighteenth century into dense urban blocks, with wharfs built along the old cove shoreline. Narrow streets known as gangways provided access from the wharfs to North Main Street. The spring was part of a lot sold in 1721 to Gabriel Bernon that contained a provision in the deed guaranteeing public access to its waters in perpetuity. After loss of navigation on the cove and subsequent filling in the mid nineteenth century, the national memorial site was developed for a variety of commercial and manufacturing uses, with meat-packing industries locating along the remnants of the cove that were channelized into an extension of the Moshassuck River.

In the late nineteenth century, interest began to emerge in marking and commemorating sites of early Providence. At this time, the site of the spring was concealed by a building, but its waters remained accessible through a pump and trough on the adjoining streets. By 1900, these last vestiges of the spring were removed. Six years later, the building over the spring was marked with a plaque identifying it as the Roger Williams Spring and the place where Providence was founded in 1636. Development pressures and the approach of Providence's tercentennial in 1936 led to renewed commemorative and preservation efforts in the 1920s and 1930s. In 1922, a house that had been built over the spring well was demolished to make way for a new building, but the developer agreed to preserve the old stone well in the new basement. Six years later, the federal government funded the placement of a granite monument along North Main Street to mark the site of the spring. At the same time, planning had begun to erect a grand monument to Williams at nearby Prospect Park on College Hill. Unsatisfied with the spring remaining concealed in a cellar, Jerome Hahn, a retired state judge and Providence resident, purchased the building over the spring, demolished it, and donated the site to the city for development of a public park that would return public access to the spring. By 1933, the city completed construction of a small Colonial Revival-style landscape courtyard, designed by architect Norman Isham and designated Roger Williams Spring Park. At the same time, parishioners from nearby St. John's Cathedral had acquired buildings to the north of the spring to create a park commemorating Gabriel Bernon, the founder of the cathedral and original owner of the spring lot. The church group had the buildings demolished and gave the land to the city in 1942, but the city did not make improvements to the park until c.1953.

In 1957, the Providence City Plan Commission issued an urban renewal plan that identified the area along North Main Street including Roger Williams Spring Park as a blighted area to be cleared and redeveloped. This plan caused concern among history-minded citizens and led the Providence Preservation Society to spearhead a revised plan to expand the park into a national park honoring Roger Williams. The proposed park extended across eleven adjoining blocks corresponding with the existing national memorial site. In 1960, the first legislation was introduced in Congress to create the new national park.

Establishment and Development of the National Memorial, 1965-Present:

After much deliberation over the name of the new national park, legislation was passed in 1965 to establish Roger Williams National Memorial, the designation chosen due to the park's small size and lack of historic resources related to Williams. Soon after, the Providence Redevelopment Agency began planning for acquisition of the property and by 1969 began condemnation proceedings. Demolition of buildings and streets on the site began in 1971. In 1974, the National Park Service acquired the entire 4.5-acre site from the Providence Redevelopment Agency. Final demolitions and removal of the side streets were completed in 1975.

While the original plans for the national memorial called for clearing all development on the site, the National Park Service agreed to keep three resources: Roger Williams Spring Park, Bernon Park, and the Antram-Gray house, an eighteenth-century building at the northeast corner of the site that was moved forty feet south in 1974 to accommodate widening of Smith Street. In 1977, the National Park Service accepted a final development concept for the site: a landscape park intended as an open space setting where visitors could contemplate the significance of Roger Williams. The design did not include a built memorial to Williams. After some initial site work and rehabilitation of the Antram-Gray house, the national memorial opened to the public in 1979. Construction of the landscape, designed by Albert Veri and Associates of Providence based on the 1977 park development concept, was undertaken between 1980 and 1982, with some minor work occurring into the next year. In the following decades, the landscape matured

and several new features were added, including memorial plaques and monuments, trees, signs, and planting beds.

SIGNIFICANCE SUMMARY

The Roger Williams National Memorial site is nationally significant due to its designation by Congress in 1965 as a national memorial “in commemoration of his [Roger Williams] outstanding contributions to the development of the principles of freedom in this country.” The landscape meets two criteria of the National Register of Historic Places: Criterion A in the areas of religion and exploration/settlement for its association with the history of religious freedom and the establishment of civil law; and Criterion B for its association with Roger Williams, who founded Providence and championed the separation of church and state. None of the site’s above-ground resources contribute to its national significance. The existing landscape, which contains no intrinsic memorials to Roger Williams, is a result of a National Park Service planning process that was completed in the early 1980s and does not reflect the specific intent of Congress. Two features at the site, the Roger Williams Spring (Hahn Memorial) and Antram-Gray house are significant at the local and state levels as contributing resources within the National Register-listed College Hill Historic District. The Roger Williams Spring, built in 1931-1933 as Roger Williams Spring Park, is significant at the state and local levels under National Register Criterion A in the areas of religion and exploration settlement, Criterion B for association with Roger Williams, and under Criterion C in the areas of architecture and landscape architecture. The courtyard also meets Criteria Consideration F (commemorative properties) because its significance is derived from its value as a cultural expression at the date of creation. The architectural significance of the Antram-Gray house, or other areas of significance not related to the landscape, such as archeology and collections, is not discussed in this cultural landscape inventory.

The primary period of significance for Roger Williams National Memorial, as reflected in the site’s congressional legislation, begins in 1636, the year that Roger Williams landed there near the site of the spring to found the settlement of Providence and establish a colony based on principles of religious freedom. The period ends in 1683, representing the span of years that Williams lived in Providence across from the site until his death. The Roger Williams Spring (Hahn Memorial) has a period of significance distinct from the national memorial site. As a component of the College Hill Historic District, it is part of the district’s period of significance that extends from the founding of Providence in 1636 to the mid twentieth century. The significant date for the Roger Williams Spring is 1933, the date it was completed.

ANALYSIS AND EVALUATION SUMMARY AND CONDITION

The physical integrity of the site’s landscape is evaluated by comparing landscape characteristics and features present during the periods of significance (1636-1683, and 1933 for the Roger Williams Spring) with current conditions (2010). There are no above ground resources associated with the significance of the national memorial site. However, the Roger Williams Spring (Hahn Memorial) and its associated courtyard continue to reflect its Colonial Revival and neoclassical garden design from 1933 as designed by Norman Isham. The axial plan with a central parterre, fence, gates, staircase, and wellcurb, and much of the planting design are still intact.

Since 1933, the overgrowth of the plantings, change in planting design at the west end of the courtyard, loss of spatial enclosure, and addition of a brick walkway, detract from the historic character of the Roger Williams Spring area. The remainder of the site’s landscape represents a contemporary design planned in the 1970s by the National Park Service and designed in 1980-1982 by Albert Veri. Within this landscape are the Antram-Gray house built and enlarged between c.1729 and 1781, and non-historic paths, parking areas, groves of trees, lawn areas, and various small monuments.

The Roger Williams National Memorial landscape is in good condition and shows no clear evidence of major negative disturbance and deterioration by natural and/or human forces. The site’s cultural and natural values are as well preserved as can be expected under the given environmental conditions. No immediate corrective action is required to maintain its current condition.

Landscape Hierarchy Description:

Roger Williams National Memorial consists of one cultural landscape, named Roger Williams National Memorial Landscape.

Landscape Type:

Historic Site

Other Names:

Other Name:	Roger Williams National Memorial	Other Name Type:	Both Current And Historic
Other Name:	Roger Williams Spring	Other Name Type:	Historic

Site Plan

Roger Williams NMem Landscape
Roger Williams National Memorial



Site plan for Roger Williams National Memorial (north side).

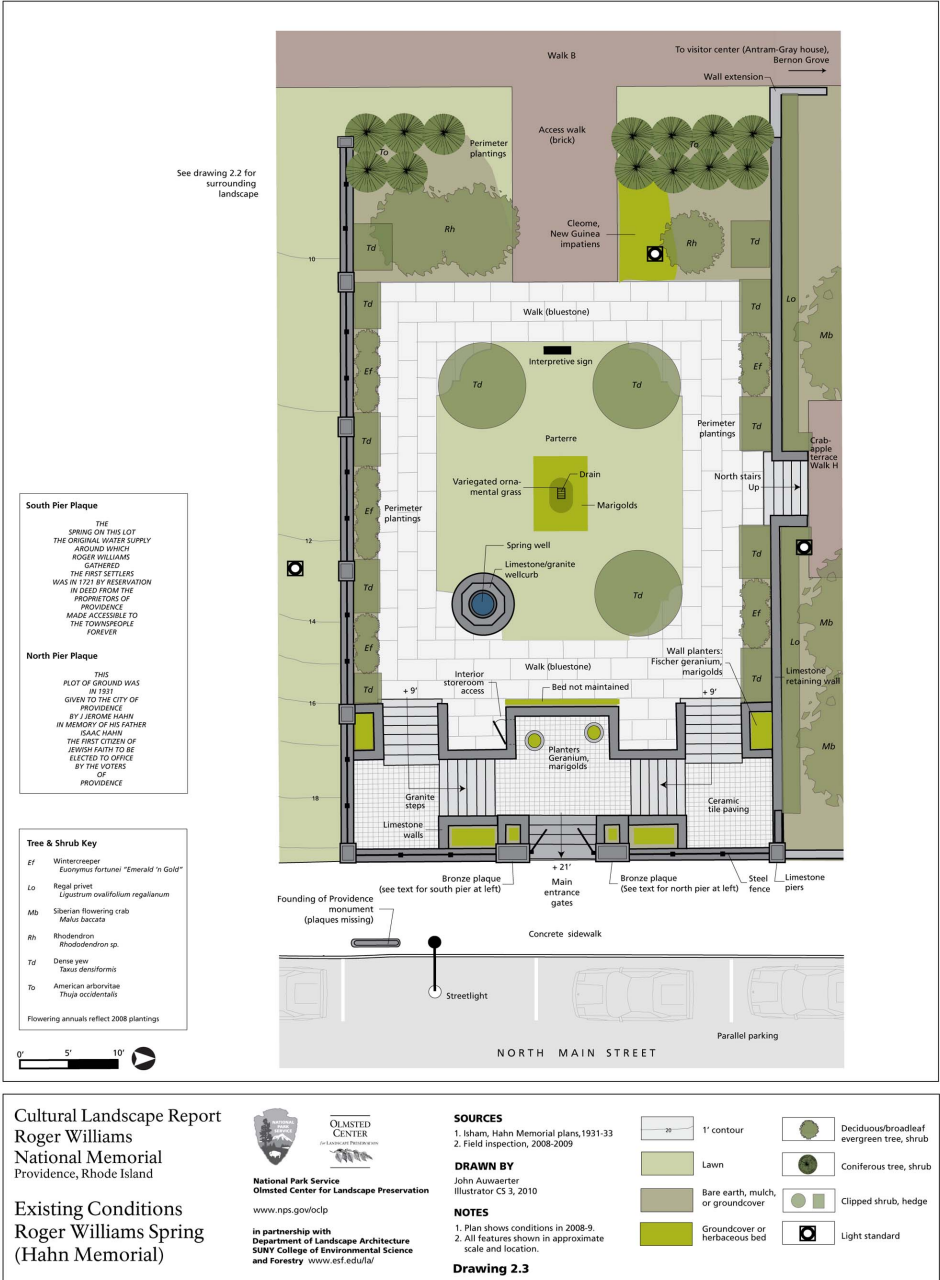
Roger Williams NMem Landscape

Roger Williams National Memorial



Site plan for Roger Williams National Memorial (south side).

Roger Williams NMem Landscape
Roger Williams National Memorial



Site plan for the Roger Williams Spring (Hahn Memorial) at Roger Williams National Memorial.

Concurrence Information

Concurrence Status:

Park Superintendent Concurrence: Yes

Park Superintendent Date of Concurrence: 07/28/2011

Completion Status Explanatory Narrative:

Information for this inventory is based on the "Cultural Landscape Report for Roger Williams National Memorial" was written by John Auwaerter and Karen Cowperthwaite. The report was published in 2010 through State University of New York College of Environmental Science and Forestry and the National Park Service Olmsted Center for Landscape Preservation in Boston, Massachusetts. George W. Curry was the Project Director.

Concurrence Graphic Information:

Attachment File Path



STATE OF RHODE ISLAND AND PROVIDENCE PLANTATIONS
HISTORICAL PRESERVATION & HERITAGE COMMISSION

Old State House • 150 Benefit Street • Providence, R.I. 02903-1209

TEL (401) 222-2678 FAX (401) 222-2968
TTY (401) 222-3700 Website www.preservation.ri.gov

August 24, 2011

Mr. Jeff Killion
National Park Service
Olmstead Center for Landscape Preservation
15 State Street, 6th Floor
Boston, MA 02109

Re: Cultural Landscapes Inventory
Roger Williams National Memorial, Providence, RI

Dear Mr. Killion:

The Rhode Island Historical Preservation and Heritage Commission staff has reviewed the Cultural Landscapes Inventory for Roger Williams National Memorial that you have provided us. We understand that this inventory is intended to provide a complete list of the aboveground resources and features within the National Memorial with an assessment of their National Register status.

We find that the inventory has been very thorough and accurate and we generally concur with the findings. Our one substantive comment concerns the well at the Roger Williams Spring, which is visible beneath the c. 1932 octagonal stone wellcurb. This stone masonry structure predated the creation of the Roger Williams Spring Park and was traditionally considered to contain the Roger Williams Spring in 1886 and probably earlier as well. In light of this history, we request that the well itself be included as a contributing landscape feature that is significant in the history of the College Hill Historic District.

In addition, we also have the following textual comments.

Chronology (pp. 32-33):

- 1638 – Towne Street and the associated village included South as well as North Main Street.
- 1680 – Pardon Tillinghast built his wharf on the Providence River south of the cove.
- 1722 – More relevant for this part of town than the 1723 Congregational Church was the construction of King's Chapel on the east side of Towne Street at Smith Street.
- 1790 – Slater's first operation was begun in 1790 in an old fulling mill; his (the) first textile mill was 1793; and all of this took place in Pawtucket.
- 1826 – The Blackstone Canal was completed in 1828 and begun in 1824.

P. 40: Roger Williams received the Providence land as a gift, not a purchase.

P. 41: King Philip's War began in 1675; the Narragansetts' attack came in 1676.

P. 49: Isham wrote *Early Rhode Island Houses* with Albert Brown, not his architectural partner, Brendan Wright.

Thank you for the opportunity to comment and we look forward to seeing the archaeological resources report for the National Memorial when it is completed.

Very truly yours,

Edward F. Sanderson
Executive Director
State Historic Preservation Officer

SHPO concurrence letter, August 24, 2011 (8 pages).



United States Department of the Interior

NATIONAL PARK SERVICE
Northeast Region
United States Custom House
200 Chestnut Street
Philadelphia, PA 19106

IN REPLY REFER TO:

H30 (NER-HPPC)

AUG - 2 2011

Edward F. Sanderson
Executive Director & State Historic Preservation Officer
Rhode Island Historical Preservation & Heritage Commission
Old State House
150 Benefit Street
Providence, RI 02903

Dear Mr. Sanderson:

Enclosed you will find a copy of the Cultural Landscapes Inventory (CLI) for the Roger Williams National Memorial landscape located within Roger Williams National Memorial. We seek to reconfirm our agreement on previously evaluated resources and your concurrence on the status of resources and features identified in this CLI previously unevaluated for listing in the National Register of Historic Places. The report has been prepared by a team of historical landscape architects with the National Park Service (NPS) Olmsted Center for Landscape Preservation. The CLI program and the enclosed report continue the NPS efforts to update our cultural resource inventories.

Through the CLI program, the NPS is currently in the midst of a nationwide effort to inventory its cultural landscapes. The CLI is conducted in accordance with Section 110 of the National Historic Preservation Act of 1966 (as amended). It is an inventory of baseline information for all historically significant cultural landscapes within the national park system, and it examines multiple landscape features that contribute to the significance of historic properties. The CLI process includes gathering information from existing secondary sources and conducting on-site reconnaissance of the existing landscape. The information collected provides a comprehensive look at the historical development and significance of the landscape, placing it in context of the property's overall significance. For landscapes found potentially eligible for the National Register of Historic Places, the evaluation describes their character-defining features and assesses the landscape's overall historical integrity. It also raises questions about the landscape that need further study.

It is important to note that the CLI reports are not intended as comprehensive inventory reports for any one property, although for some properties they provide fuller documentation than for others. For example, the reports do not include a full architectural description of structures, but document structures as elements of the overall landscape, and similarly documents other characteristics such as vegetation, spatial organization, and views and vistas. The CLI is one component of the NPS inventory effort that also includes cultural resource inventories for historic structures, archeological sites, ethnographic resources, and museum objects. For

example, the NPS List of Classified Structures inventory includes structural features of cultural landscapes, but the CLI takes a more encompassing approach to the properties, inventorying all above-ground features in each park in which the NPS has a legal or mandated interest.

Roger Williams National Memorial was authorized by Congress on October 22, 1965 as a "national memorial to Roger Williams in commemoration of his outstanding contributions to the development of the principles of freedom in the United States," on no more than five acres of land "at the site of the old town spring, traditionally called Roger Williams Spring." At this time, the property's lands were occupied by the Antram-Gray house (c.1729), Roger Williams Spring Park (Hahn Memorial) (1931-1933), Berron Park (Berron Grove) (1953), and other buildings and streets. However, none of these resources were identified as contributing to the significance of the congressionally authorized national memorial site.

The property was administratively listed in the National Register of Historic Places on October 15, 1966 upon passage of the National Historic Preservation Act. According to the National Register database, the listing for Roger Williams National Memorial was entered without documentation under National Register Criterion A in the areas of religion and exploration/settlement, Criterion B for its association with Roger Williams, and Criteria Considerations A (religious properties) and F (commemorative properties).

Roger Williams National Memorial is also included within the College Hill Historic District. The original boundaries of the district were established on November 10, 1970, when the area east of North Main Street across from the national memorial was listed in the National Register under National Register Criterion C in the area of architecture for the period 1730-1825. The significance of the district was elevated with its designation as a National Historic Landmark on December 30, 1970. On August 9, 1976, the National Register listing was amended through a major expansion of the district's boundaries that included, among other areas, the site of Roger Williams National Memorial. Additional areas of significance for the district were identified under Criteria A and C for the period 1636 to present (1976), as well as under Criteria Consideration C (birthplaces and graves). The district was documented for its significance as the site of the original settlement of Providence Plantations in 1636, for illustrating the historic growth of the city in its political, social, and educational institutions, and for its architecture spanning the eighteenth to the twentieth centuries. Specifically mentioned is the settlement of Roger Williams and his followers around a spring located on the west side of what is now North Main Street, and the signing of a "civil compact" that guaranteed religious liberty for the first time in the new world (National Register, Sec. 8). The National Historic Landmark designation was not expanded to include the enlarged National Register district.

To date, two resources within Roger Williams National Memorial, aside from the congressionally legislated property, have been determined eligible for National Register listing through consultation with your office. As part of the List of Classified Structures inventory, the National Park Service requested concurrence that the Roger Williams Spring (Hahn Memorial) was a contributing resource of the College Hill Historic District, and that the Antram-Gray house was not due to lack of historic integrity (because of its alteration and relocation). In a letter

dated February 19, 1996, your office concurred with the National Park Service's opinion on the Roger Williams Spring, but disagreed with its opinion on the Antram-Gray house. The National Park Service subsequently agreed with your office's opinion on the eligibility of the Antram-Gray house.

The enclosed CLI for the Roger Williams National Memorial fully evaluates the cultural landscape, particularly the associated landscape characteristics and features, and finds that the site's landscape retains integrity to the areas of religion, exploration/settlement, politics/government, architecture, and landscape architecture. As noted previously, two of the property's features compiled on the attached list have been determined as eligible for listing on the National Register. The CLI identifies eight additional features related to circulation, vegetation, buildings and structures, and constructed water features that also contribute to the significance and historic character of the Roger Williams Spring (Hahn Memorial).

We call your particular attention to the Landscape Description, National Register Information and the Statement of Significance, and Analysis and Evaluation Summary in the enclosed CLI.

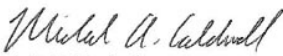
Based on the CLI, we seek to reconfirm our agreement on previously evaluated resources and your concurrence on the status of resources and features identified in this CLI:

- The Roger Williams National Memorial site is nationally significant under Criterion A in the areas of religion and exploration/settlement and Criterion B for its association with Roger Williams.
- The Roger Williams Spring (Hahn Memorial) and Antram-Gray house are significant at the local and state levels as contributing resources within the College Hill Historic District. The Roger Williams Spring, built in 1931-1933 as Roger Williams Spring Park, is significant under Criterion A in the areas of religion and exploration/settlement, and under Criterion C in the areas of architecture and landscape architecture. The courtyard also meets Criteria Consideration F (commemorative properties).
- The national memorial landscape retains integrity to its period of significance of 1636-1683 only in location. All other aspects of integrity are not apparent in the landscape as built in 1980-1982.
- The Roger Williams Spring (Hahn Memorial) retains integrity to its period of significance, the year 1933.
- The categorization of contributing and non-contributing landscape characteristics and features (see attached list).

If you concur with these findings, we ask that you please sign on the space provided and return this letter to Jeff Killion, CLI Coordinator (Address: National Park Service, Olmsted Center for Landscape Preservation, 15 State Street, 6th Floor, Boston, MA 02109). We would appreciate

your response at your earliest convenience. Thank you for your attention to this inventory.
Should you have any questions, please feel free to contact Mr. Killion at 617-223-5053.

Sincerely,


for Dennis R. Reidenbach
Regional Director
Northeast Region

Enclosure

cc:
Superintendent, Roger Williams National Memorial

I concur with the National Park Service categorizations of the Roger Williams National Memorial landscape resources and features at Roger Williams National Memorial, as contributing and non-contributing.

Rhode Island State Historic Preservation Officer

Date

CULTURAL LANDSCAPES INVENTORY
CONCURRENCE FORM

Roger Williams National Memorial Landscape
Roger Williams National Memorial

Roger Williams National Memorial concurs with the findings of the Cultural Landscape Inventory (CLI) for the Roger Williams National Memorial Landscape including the following specific components:

MANAGEMENT CATEGORY: Must Be Preserved and Maintained

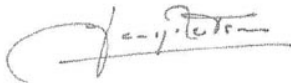
CONDITION ASSESSMENT: Good

Good: indicates the inventory unit shows no clear evidence of major negative disturbance and deterioration by natural and/or human forces. The inventory unit's cultural and natural values are as well preserved as can be expected under the given environmental conditions. No immediate corrective action is required to maintain its current condition.

Fair: indicates the inventory unit shows clear evidence of minor disturbances and deterioration by natural and/or human forces, and some degree of corrective action is needed within 3-5 years to prevent further harm to its cultural and/or natural values. If left to continue without the appropriate corrective action, the cumulative effect of the deterioration of many of the character defining elements will cause the inventory unit to degrade to a poor condition.

Poor: indicates the inventory unit shows clear evidence of major disturbance and rapid deterioration by natural and/or human forces. Immediate corrective action is required to protect and preserve the remaining historical and natural values.

The Cultural Landscape Inventory for the Roger Williams National Memorial Landscape is hereby approved and accepted.



Superintendent, Roger Williams National Memorial

7/28/11

Date

Park concurrence form, July 28, 2011.

NPS Cultural Landscapes Inventory – Roger Williams National Memorial Landscape
Roger Williams National Memorial
List of Contributing and Non-Contributing Landscape Features
July 2011

Contributing Landscape Characteristics & Associated Features

The following landscape characteristics and associated features contribute to the property's historic character, though not all are considered countable resources according to the National Register of Historic Places. Those marked with an (*) were identified as contributing resources by the Rhode Island State Historic Preservation Office on February 19, 1996.

Spatial Organization

- * Roger Williams Spring (Hahn Memorial)

Circulation

- Roger Williams Spring Main Stairway
- Roger Williams Spring North Stairs
- Roger Williams Spring Walks

Vegetation

- Roger Williams Spring Perimeter Plantings
- Roger Williams Spring Parterre

Buildings and Structures

- * Antram-Gray House
- Roger Williams Spring Enclosure Walls
- Roger Williams Spring Main Entrance Gateway

Constructed Water Features

- Roger Williams Spring Wellcure

Non-Contributing Landscape Characteristics & Associated Features

Spatial Organization

- Amphitheatre
- Bernon Grove

Land Use

- Picnic Area

Circulation

- Antram-Gray House North Entrance Walk
- Antram-Gray House Driveway

Brick Terrace Bistro Chairs
Constitution Bicentennial Marker
Dumpster
Dumpster Screening Fence
Flagpole
Gabriel Bernon Monument
Garbage Receptacles
Roger Williams Spring Entrance Planter
Interpretive Waysides
Liberty Tree Marker
Light Standards
National Memorial Entrance Signs
Pet Waste Station
Picnic Tables
Planters
Signs
Snowtown Riot Monument
Tree of New Hope Marker

Cultural Landscapes Inventory
CLI Update Certification Form
2025

Roger Williams National Memorial
Roger Williams NMem Landscape

Roger Williams National Memorial concurs with the update for the following CLI, including:

CONDITION ASSESSMENT: Good – Roger Williams NMem Landscape

Good: indicates the inventory unit shows no clear evidence of major negative disturbance and deterioration by natural and/or human forces. The inventory unit's cultural and natural values are as well preserved as can be expected under the given environmental conditions. No immediate corrective action is required to maintain its current condition.

Fair: indicates the inventory unit shows clear evidence of minor disturbances and deterioration by natural and/or human forces, and some degree of corrective action is needed within 3-5 years to prevent further harm to its cultural and/or natural values. If left to continue without the appropriate corrective action, the cumulative effect of the deterioration of many of the character defining elements, will cause the inventory unit to degrade to a poor condition.

Poor: indicates the inventory unit shows clear evidence of major disturbance and rapid deterioration by natural and/or human forces. Immediate corrective action is required to protect and preserve the remaining historical and natural values.

The CLI Update at Roger Williams National Memorial are hereby approved and accepted.

WILLIAM BREITKREUTZ	 Digitally signed by WILLIAM BREITKREUTZ Date: 2025.02.12 17:14:27 -05'00'
Superintendent, Roger Williams National Memorial	Date

Park concurrence form, February 12, 2025.

Revision:

Revised By	Type of Revision	Revision Date	Revision Narrative
Jeff Killion	CLI Update	02/12/2025	Three levels of effort have been developed for CLI Updates: A, B, and C. Level C is limited to a condition reassessment of the landscape; Level B includes C and is a targeted update of select data fields; Level A includes C and is a comprehensive update of all data fields. This 2025 update to the Roger Williams National NMem Landscape CLI has been conducted at a Level C effort. See Landscape Documents in CRIS-CL for correspondences with park.

Geographic Information

State and County:

State	County
Rhode Island	Providence County

Size (Acres): 4.5

Land Tract Number(s)

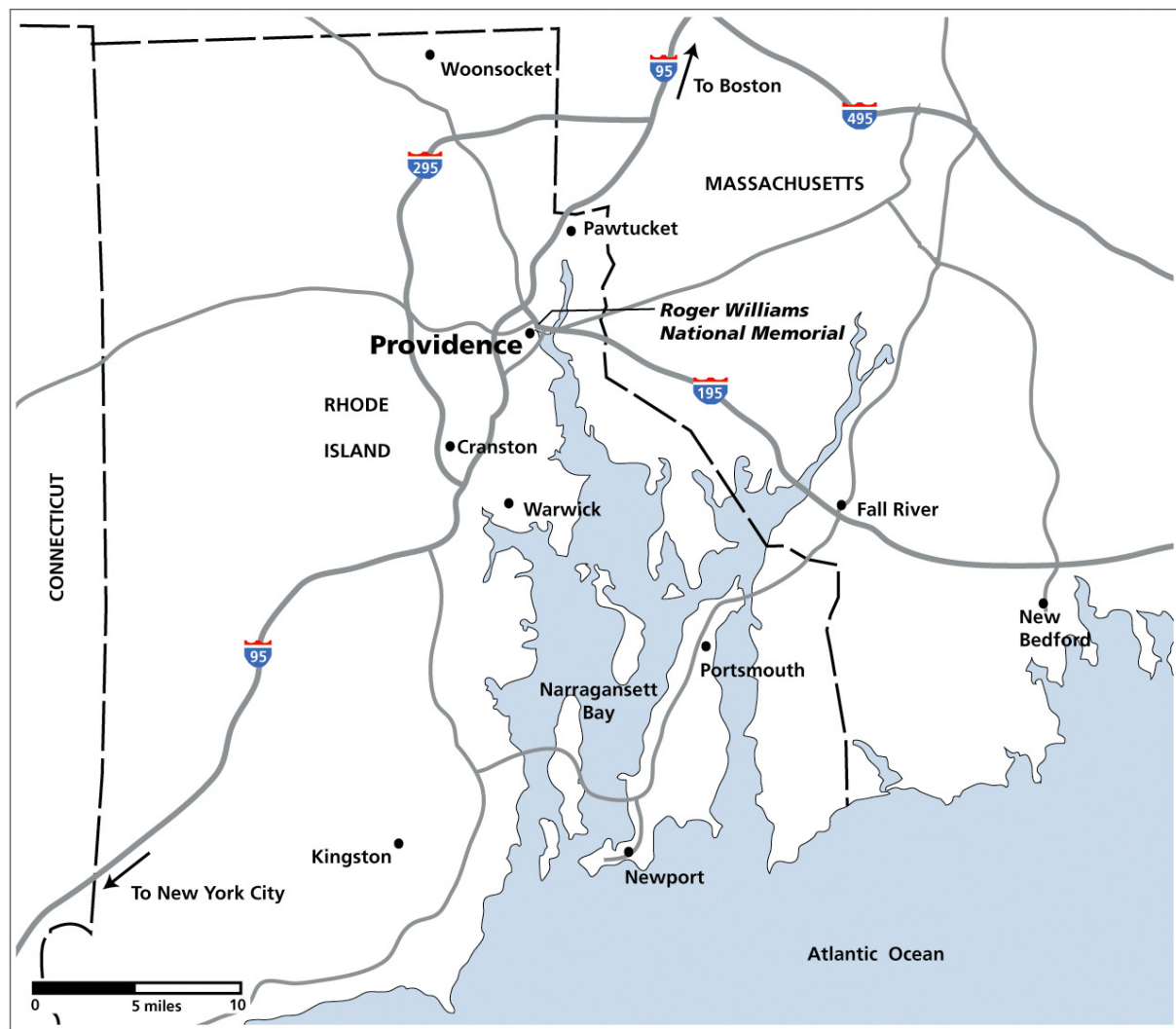
Boundary Description:

The boundaries of Roger Williams National Memorial are the National Park Service boundaries defined by North Main Street, Canal Street, Smith Street, and Park Row. For the purposes of this inventory, the national memorial boundaries are assumed to be the inside of the sidewalks and the curb along Park Row. The national memorial is also contained within the boundaries of the National Register-listed College Hill Historic District.

Boundary Coordinates

Source	Type of Point	Latitude	Longitude	Narrative
USGS Map 1:24,000	Point	-71.4094921996288	41.8284840744654	

Location Map:



Location of Roger Williams National Memorial and Providence in Rhode Island and surrounding area of southeastern New England. (SUNY ESF)

W

Regional Landscape Contexts:

Type of Context: Political

Description:

Roger Williams National Memorial is located at the northern end of Narragansett Bay in Providence, Rhode Island's capital and largest city (see Regional Landscape Context graphic). Founded in 1636, Providence is the earliest European settlement in Rhode Island, followed by Newport, Portsmouth, and Warwick. Providence is part of a metropolitan corridor that stretches along Interstate 95 from Boston 50 miles to the northeast, to New York City, 180 miles to the southwest.

Type of Context: Cultural

Description:

The 4.5-acre memorial is located a short distance north of Providence's downtown central business district on a narrow rectangular green space located between North Main Street and Canal Street. The Rhode Island capitol is approximately 750 feet west of the memorial, across the channelized Moshassuck River. The neighborhood surrounding the memorial is a mix of low-scale residential, commercial, religious, and civic buildings, most dating back to the eighteenth century. There are a number of vacant or open areas, the largest being the national memorial, that were once occupied by buildings and streets removed through the city's urban renewal program beginning in the 1950s. On the east side of North Main Street across from the national memorial is the old Rhode Island State House and Saint John's Cathedral (Episcopal), and across Canal Street to the west is the Moshassuck River (Blackstone River Canal). East of North Main Street is College Hill, a neighborhood of largely eighteenth- and nineteenth-century buildings that is home to Brown University, the Rhode Island School of Design (RISD), and the First Baptist Church that was founded by Roger Williams in 1638. Numerous narrow streets and alleyways extend up the hill from North Main Street across from the national memorial. The Roger Williams monument in Prospect Park, completed in 1939, overlooks the national memorial from several blocks east on College Hill. The area west of the national memorial between the canal and the capitol, once occupied by rail yards, is being redeveloped for housing and other uses.

Type of Context: Physiographic

Description:

The national memorial landscape features subtle topographic changes that define spaces and enclose the landscape from the adjoining streets. These changes respond to the overall drop in elevation of approximately twelve feet from North Main Street to Canal Street that is a remnant of the natural shoreline of the Great Salt Cove. The primary topographic feature is the bowl of the amphitheater, which has a twelve-foot elevation change from the overlook on the east side along North Main Street and is level with Canal Street on the west. The northern half of the landscape is largely flat due to retaining walls along North Main Street. Low berms screen the parking areas and provide variety to the shaded lawn west of the Antram-Gray house. College Hill is to the east of Roger Williams National Memorial and Moshassuck River is to the west of the national memorial.

Management Information

General Management Information

Management Category: Must be Preserved and Maintained

Management Category Date: 07/28/2011

Management Category Explanatory Narrative:

The Roger Williams National Memorial landscape meets the criteria for “Must be Preserved and Maintained” management category as defined in the “Cultural Landscapes Inventory Professional Procedures Guide” because of its designation as a national memorial in its enabling legislation on October 22, 1965.

Management Agreements:

Legal Interests:

Type of Interest: Fee Simple

Narrative:

Located in managed wilderness?: Unknown

Adjacent Lands Information

Do Adjacent Lands Contribute? No

Adjacent Lands Narrative:

National Register Information

National Register of Historic Places

Documentation Status: Entered Inadequately Documented

Documentation Narrative Description:

Roger Williams National Memorial was authorized by Congress on October 22, 1965 as a “national memorial to Roger Williams in commemoration of his outstanding contributions to the development of the principles of freedom in the United States,” on no more than five acres of land “at the site of the old town spring, traditionally called Roger Williams Spring.” At this time, the property’s lands were occupied by the Antram-Gray house (c.1729), Roger Williams Spring Park (Hahn Memorial) (1931-1933), Bernon Park (Bernon Grove) (1953), and other buildings and streets. However, none of these resources were identified as contributing to the significance of the congressionally authorized national memorial site.

The property was administratively listed in the National Register of Historic Places on October 15, 1966 upon passage of the National Historic Preservation Act. According to the National Register database, the listing for Roger Williams National Memorial was entered without documentation under National Register Criterion A in the areas of religion and exploration/settlement, Criterion B for its association with Roger Williams, and Criteria Considerations A (religious properties) and F (commemorative properties).

Roger Williams National Memorial is also included within the College Hill Historic District. The original boundaries of the district were established on November 10, 1970, when the area east of North Main Street across from the national memorial was listed in the National Register under Criterion C in the area of architecture for the period 1730-1825. The significance of the district was elevated with its designation as a National Historic Landmark on December 30, 1970. On August 9, 1976, the National Register listing was amended through a major expansion of the district’s boundaries that included, among other areas, the site of Roger Williams National Memorial. Additional areas of significance for the district were identified under Criteria A and C for the period 1636 to present (1976), as well as under Criteria Consideration C (birthplaces and graves). The district was documented for its significance as the site of the original settlement of Providence Plantations in 1636, for illustrating the historic growth of the city in its political, social, and educational institutions, and for its architecture spanning the eighteenth to the twentieth centuries. Specifically mentioned is the settlement of Roger Williams and his followers around a spring located on the west side of what is now North Main Street, and the signing of a “civil compact” that guaranteed religious liberty for the first time in the new world (National Register, Sec. 8). The National Historic Landmark designation was not expanded to include the enlarged National Register district.

To date, two resources within Roger Williams National Memorial, aside from the congressionally legislated property, have been determined eligible for National Register listing through consultation with the Rhode Island Historical Preservation and Heritage Commission (SHPO). As part of the List of Classified Structures inventory, the National Park Service requested concurrence that the Roger Williams Spring (Hahn Memorial) was a contributing resource of the College Hill Historic District, and that the Antram-Gray house was not due to lack of historic integrity (because of its alteration and relocation). In a letter dated February 19, 1996, the SHPO concurred with the National Park Service’s opinion on the Roger Williams Spring, but disagreed with its opinion on the Antram-Gray house. The National Park Service subsequently agreed with the SHPO’s opinion on the eligibility of the Antram-Gray house.

According to research conducted for this CLI and the categories of National Register documentation outlined in the “CLI Professional Procedures Guide,” the Roger Williams National Memorial landscape is inadequately documented based on the existing National Register documentation and previous correspondence with the Rhode Island SHPO. None of the contributing features related to circulation, vegetation, or constructed water features associated with the Roger Williams Spring (Hahn Memorial) have been documented. Therefore, for purposes of the CLI, the property is considered “Entered-Inadequately Documented.”

Eligibility: Eligible -- SHPO Consensus Determination

Concurrence Eligibility Date: 08/24/2011

Concurrence Narrative:

The Rhode Island Historical Preservation and Heritage Commission concurred with the findings of the CLI on August 24, 2011. In addition to several textual corrections, the Commission's main comment was regarding the well at Roger Williams Spring, which is visible below the c.1932 wellcurb: "This stone masonry structure predated the creation of the Roger Williams Spring Park and was traditionally considered to contain the Roger Williams Spring in 1886 and probably earlier as well. In light of this history, we request that the well itself be included as a contributing landscape feature that is significant in the history of the College Hill Historic District." Based on this comment, the well has been added as a specific feature.

Significance Level: National

Contributing: Individual

Classification: Site

Statement of Significance for National Register of Historic Places:

Roger Williams National Memorial is significant as a congressionally designated national memorial, with resources that are historically significant at the state and local level as part of the National Register-listed College Hill Historic District. The following statement of significance, intended to inform future National Register documentation, pertains to the landscape and does not address the Antram-Gray house that is significant in the area of architecture, or other areas of significance not related to the landscape, such as archeology and collections (CLR 2010:105-107).

NATIONAL MEMORIAL SITE

As designated by Congress in 1965, Roger Williams National Memorial derives its national significance "in commemoration of his [Roger Williams] outstanding contributions to the development of the principles of freedom in this country" (79 Stat. 1069). The property meets two National Register criteria: Criterion A in the areas of religion and exploration/settlement for its association with the history of religious freedom and the establishment of civil law; and Criterion B for its association with Roger Williams, who founded Providence and championed the separation of church and state.

The primary resource associated with the national memorial is the site that was the location of the old town spring where Roger Williams founded Providence in 1636. The exact location of the spring within the site, now underground, is not known. The stone well in the Roger Williams Spring courtyard (Hahn Memorial) is traditionally held to contain the head (outlet) of the spring. The national memorial site was common land in the Providence settlement. While Williams did not own or live on any part of the site, he did live most of his life across from the site on the east side of North Main Street until his death in 1683.

Congress did not specifically identify the Roger Williams Spring (Hahn Memorial) as intrinsic to the commemorative purpose of the national memorial in the 1965 legislation. Park planners also did not intend the site design, as built according to plans by Albert Veri & Associates in 1980-1982, as a commemorative feature of the site, but rather as an enhancement to the setting. While the Hahn Memorial and the contemporary landscape do not contribute to the significance of the national memorial, research for this CLI finds that the stone-lined well, above which the Hahn Memorial is located, approximates the site of the spring used by Roger Williams and his companions.

Note:

Established through acts of Congress as historic areas of the National Park System, all national memorials are administratively listed in the National Register of Historic Places upon their creation (CLR 2010:101, citing National Register Program Federal Regulations, 36). Commemorative properties not listed through an act of Congress or Executive Order generally must meet National Register Criteria Consideration F, which reads: "A property primarily commemorative in intent can be eligible if design, age, tradition, or symbolic value has invested it with its own exceptional significance" (CLR 2010:101, citing National Park Service 1990:39). The intent of this is to ensure that significance is based on the physical resource rather

than on the associated person or event. For national memorials, however, Congress establishes through legislation that the site is invested with its own exceptional significance. Therefore, Criteria Consideration F does not apply.

The definition of what resources are intrinsic to the commemorative purpose of national memorials can be open to interpretation depending on the content of the enabling legislation. The intrinsic resources—generally recognized as “the memorial”—may take a variety of forms, from a sculpture or monument, to a building or landscape. The iconic temple completed in 1922 to the design of Henry Bacon with a sculpture of Lincoln by Daniel Chester French is intrinsic to the Lincoln Memorial in Washington, D.C. The 1842 Customs House is intrinsic to Federal Hall National Memorial, designated by Congress to commemorate the site of the nation’s first capitol where George Washington took the oath of office. The Lawrence Halprin-designed series of landscape rooms is intrinsic to the Franklin D. Roosevelt National Memorial in Washington D.C. This memorial was completed nearly forty years after Congress designated the site in West Potomac Park in 1959. At other national memorials, the memorial is the site itself. Congress established Chamizal National Memorial near El Paso, Texas, in 1968 on formerly disputed land to commemorate the Chamizal Convention of 1963 that settled a U.S.-Mexico boundary dispute. The memorial is a fifty-five-acre tract of border territory (CLR 2010:101, citing National Park Service, Lincoln Memorial webpage, <http://www.nps.gov/linc/> (accessed 4 February 2009); National Park Service website for Federal Hall National Memorial, <http://www.nps.gov/feha/> (accessed 4 February 2009); List of Classified Structures entry for Franklin D. Roosevelt National Memorial, Room 1, 625749; and National Park Service, Chamizal National Memorial website, <http://www.nps.gov/cham/index.htm> (accessed 4 February 2009).

When Congress clearly defines a preexisting resource as significant for its commemorative value, then its evaluation as intrinsic to the national memorial is clear. The situation is less clear at the many national memorials that were built after Congress designated the sites. In these cases, the resources within the national memorial are intrinsic or otherwise significant if they were the product of a planning and design process established by Congress in the legislation for the national memorial. At the Franklin D. Roosevelt National Memorial, the Lawrence Halprin-designed memorial is intrinsic to the national memorial because it was built at the direction of a commission created by Congress for that purpose. In other cases, such as DeSoto National Memorial near Tampa Bay, Florida, established in 1948, Congress simply directed the Secretary of the Interior to construct a “suitable memorial, together with such connecting roads and public facilities as may be desirable.” Congress was not specific about its intent for the memorial and therefore the memorial was designed according to the National Park Service planning process. As a result, the park service did not erect a traditional memorial, but rather commemorated Hernando de Soto’s landing at the site in 1539 by interpreting the site’s natural and cultural history (CLR 2010:101-102, citing U.S. Code Title 16, Chapter 1, Subchapter 61, section 450dd, DeSoto National Memorial website, www.nps.gov/deso/parkmgmt/lawsandpolicies.htm (accessed 2 February 2009) and DeSoto National Memorial, <http://www.nps.gov/deso/> (accessed 8 July 2009).

For the Roger Williams National Memorial, the legislation passed by Congress on October 22, 1965 directed the Secretary of the Interior to acquire a site for the national memorial not to exceed five acres that would include “...the site of the old town spring, traditionally called Roger Williams Spring, in Providence, Rhode Island.” As with DeSoto National Memorial, however, Congress was not specific about its intent for the resource that would be intrinsic to the commemorative purpose of the site. The only resource that Congress deemed intrinsic was the property between Canal and North Main Streets. Congress did not establish a commission to direct the development of Roger Williams National Memorial, nor did it identify resources that existed within the site in 1965 as significant, notably Roger Williams Spring Park (Hahn Memorial) with its well that tradition held to be the source of the spring.

ROGER WILLIAMS SPRING (HAHN MEMORIAL)

The Roger Williams Spring, built in 1931-1933 as Roger Williams Spring Park, is significant at the state and local levels under National Register Criterion A in the areas of religion and exploration/settlement, Criterion B for its association with Roger Williams, and under Criterion C in the areas of architecture and landscape architecture. The courtyard meets Criteria Consideration F (commemorative properties) because its significance is derived from its value as a cultural expression at the date of creation. The courtyard is over fifty years old and possesses design significance in its own right, rather than through its

association with Roger Williams, Isaac Hahn, or the history of religious freedom in the United States.

Under Criteria A and B, the Roger Williams Spring (Hahn Memorial) is significant as an expression of an early twentieth century movement to commemorate Roger Williams and the founding of the colony of Rhode Island and Providence Plantations. This movement began in the nineteenth century and culminated with the approach of the tercentennial of Providence's founding in 1936. The Roger Williams Spring Park was one of two major monuments erected in the 1930s to commemorate Roger Williams within the original settlement of Providence Plantations. Long identified as the place where Roger Williams founded Providence, the site of the spring was first marked with a bronze tablet in 1906 and then by a granite monument erected by the U.S. War Department along the curbside in 1928. Judge Jerome Hahn acquired the site of the spring soon after this granite monument was erected, and the small courtyard park was constructed between 1931 and 1933 by the Providence Park Department according to a design by architect Norman Morrison Isham (1864-1943). Development of the Roger Williams Spring Park occurred at the same time that efforts were underway to erect a more elaborate monument to Roger Williams at nearby Prospect Park on College Hill, overlooking the site of the spring and the Rhode Island capitol.

The Roger Williams Spring (Hahn Memorial) is also significant under Criterion C as a representative example of early twentieth-century architecture and landscape architecture in Providence designed by architect Norman Morrison Isham. The small courtyard, built within a tenth-acre urban lot, reflects Colonial Revival and neoclassical garden design through its axial plan with a central parterre, and classical detailing on its stone piers, fence and gates, staircase, and wellcurb. Isham, who was an important Rhode Island architect considered a foremost authority in the field of early American architecture and furniture, was best known for his restoration work on first-period Rhode Island buildings. Because of limited available documentation, it is not possible in this report to document the design significance of the Roger Williams Spring in Isham's career and work. Further research is warranted to fully document this area of significance and potential of the Roger Williams Spring to reflect the work of a master as defined by the National Register criteria.

While the original urban setting of the Roger Williams Spring has been lost, the site's original design remains largely intact. Structural alterations since its completion in 1933 date to the National Park Service ownership and are limited to replacement of two planting beds adjacent to the staircase with bluestone paving, in-kind replacement of the ceramic tile surface on the staircase landings, and addition of a walk connecting the courtyard with the circulation system of the national memorial landscape built in 1980-1982.

The plantings were originally a mixed palette of conifers and broadleaf evergreens, including rhododendron, yew, Norway spruce, arborvitae, and leatherleaf viburnum, with English ivy and a central lawn parterre bordered by annuals. This border was replaced by a privet hedge within a few years. All of the plantings have been replaced. In its replacement of most of the plantings in 1981, the National Park Service retained the overall design and evergreen scheme, but did not replace the border hedges in the parterre.

PERIODS OF SIGNIFICANCE

As defined by the National Register, a period of significance is the time when a property achieved significance as illustrated through its existing physical resources or as determined by Congress. The primary period of significance for Roger Williams National Memorial, as reflected in the site's congressional legislation, begins in 1636, the year that Roger Williams landed there near the site of the spring to found the settlement of Providence and establish a colony based on principles of religious freedom. It is recommended that the period of significance span the years that Williams lived in Providence across from the site until his death in 1683.

The Roger Williams Spring (Hahn Memorial) and Antram-Gray house have periods of significance distinct from the national memorial site. As components of the National Register-listed College Hill Historic District, these two resources are part of the district's period of significance that extends from the founding of Providence in 1636 to the mid twentieth century. Significant dates are 1933, the date of completion of the Roger Williams Spring, and c.1729 and 1781 for the initial construction and enlargement of the Antram-Gray house.

ELIGIBILITY EVALUATION FOR BERNON GROVE

Although it meets the fifty-year threshold for National Register eligibility, Bernon Grove does not appear to meet the National Register criteria at the state or local levels due to lack of significance. The park, established on or near the purported site of Gabriel Bernon's house (Bernon founded St. John's Episcopal Cathedral as King's Chapel in 1722), does not reflect a historic design or association with historic events. The park was initially conceived in 1930 by the Bernon Realty Corporation made up of descendents of Gabriel Bernon and parishioners of Saint John's Cathedral. The corporation ran out of funds to develop the site and gave it to the city in 1942 as an undeveloped lot that it had cleared of buildings except for remnants of stone foundations along North Main Street. The city apparently never developed a plan for the park's landscape. Its improvements were limited to planting a grove of approximately nine Norway maple trees in 1953, and placing a small stone monument to Gabriel Bernon around the same time. The city owned Bernon Park until 1973. Although the trees were retained in the development of the national memorial landscape in 1980-1982, the park service made a number of changes to the site including addition of walks, relocation of the Gabriel Bernon monument, and reconstruction of the top course of the stone foundation wall.

National Register Significance Criteria:

- A - Associated with events significant to broad patterns of our history
- B - Associated with lives of persons significant in our past
- C - Embodies distinctive construction, work of master, or high artistic values

National Register Criteria Consideration:

F -- A commemorative property

National Register Periods of Significance (with Historic Context Themes):

Time Period: CE 1636 - CE 1683

Historic Context Theme	Subtheme	Facet	Other Facet
Peopling Places	Colonial Exploration and Settlement	American Exploration and Settlement	
Peopling Places	The Earliest Inhabitants:	The Early Peopling Of North America	

Time Period: CE 1933 - CE 1933

Historic Context Theme	Subtheme	Facet	Other Facet
Expressing Cultural Values	Architecture	Period Revivals (1870-1940)	
Expressing Cultural Values	Landscape Architecture	The Revival Of Classicism	

Area of Significance:

Area of Significance Category: Exploration - Settlement

Area of Significance Subcategory:

Explanatory Narrative:

Area of Significance Category: Religion

Area of Significance Subcategory:

Explanatory Narrative:

Area of Significance Category: Politics - Government

Area of Significance Subcategory:

Explanatory Narrative:

Area of Significance Category: Landscape Architecture

Area of Significance Subcategory:

Explanatory Narrative:

Area of Significance Category: Architecture

Area of Significance Subcategory:

Explanatory Narrative:

NRIS Information:

NRIS ID:	66000942
Primary Certification Date:	10/15/1966
Other Certifications and Date:	MM/dd/yyyy
NRIS ID:	66000942
Primary Certification Date:	10/15/1966
Other Certifications and Date:	MM/dd/yyyy

State Register Documentation:

National Historic Landmarks:

National Historic Landmark? No

Theme:

Contributing:

NHL ID:

NHL URL:

Date:

Statement of Significance for National Historic Landmark:

World Heritage Site:

World Heritage Site? No

Category:

WHS ID:

WHS URL:

Date:

Is Resource within a designated National Natural Landscape: No

Chronology and Physical History

Chronology:

Year	Event	Major Event Narrative
CE 1636	Settled	Roger Williams flees Massachusetts to the northern reaches of Narragansett Bay and negotiates purchase or use of land along the Great Salt River from the Narragansett Sachems, Canonicus and Miantonomi. Williams purportedly lands near a fresh-water spring along the eastern side of the Great Salt Cove within or near the national memorial site and founds the settlement of Providence.
CE 1637	Settled	Roger Williams signs a deed with the Narragansetts confirming his purchase of the lands at the cove.
CE 1638	Land Transfer	Roger Williams divides a portion of the settlement, known as Providence Plantations, to twelve fellow settlers or Proprietors. The core or village center of the settlement, located along the east side of the Pawtucket Trail (renamed Towne Street and presently North Main Street), is subdivided into parcels known as home lots. Roger Williams's home lot is across from the spring that is purportedly within the future national memorial site. The beach on the west side of the street, including the spring, is reserved as common lands.
CE 1646	Built	John Smith builds a town gristmill along the Moshassuck River, replacing the spring as Providence's public gathering place.
CE 1676	Destroyed	Most of Providence is destroyed in King Phillip's War, a conflict that resulted in the end of Native American power in southeastern New England.
CE 1680	Built	Pardon Tillinghast builds Providence's first wharf on the common lands along the south of the cove on the Providence River.
CE 1700	Built	First church is constructed on the west side of Towne Street.
CE 1722	Built	King's Chapel is built on the east side of Towne Street at Smith Street.
CE 1723	Built	Congregational Church is built.
CE 1726	Built	First Baptist Church is built on the west side of Towne Street.
CE 1731	Built	Colonial government built the Colony House.
CE 1747	Built	By this time, side streets known as gangways had been laid out across the national memorial site to connect Towne Street with wharfs along the Great Salt Cove. The properties between the gangways are known as warehouse lots, occupied by maritime commercial and industrial uses, along with residences fronting on Towne Street.
CE 1790 - 1799	Built	The first textile factories are built upriver from Providence (in Pawtucket), heralding the beginning of the area's transformation into an industrial area.

Year	Event	Major Event Narrative
CE 1816	Built	Nehemiah Dodge builds a three-story Federal-style brick house between the old town spring and Towne Street (North Main Street).
CE 1823	Built	Construction of North Water Street (Canal Street) along the east side of the cove is begun. This requires removal of the wharves and last remnants of the old shoreline and beach. Underground pipes are installed to drain the spring to the Moshassuck River.
CE 1824 - 1828	Built	The Blackstone River Canal is constructed, with its terminus in a boat basin at the confluence of the Great Salt Cove and Moshassuck River adjacent to the national memorial site.
CE 1832	Established	Providence is incorporated as a city.
CE 1834	Platted	The old town spring is identified as Tripe's Spring on a map by T. M. Sumner documenting conditions in c.1775-1777. The Tripe family, descendents of Gabriel Bernon, own the spring lot.
CE 1846 - 1854	Built	The Providence and Worcester Railroad begins a project to fill in portions of the cove to provide space for its tracks and station, further separating the national memorial site from the water.
CE 1854	Built	Transformation of the cove into an oval lake with a tree-lined promenade is completed; the Blackstone Canal is abandoned for shipping.
CE 1861	Built	Police Headquarters are built across from the Old State House.
CE 1867 - 1877	Built	Prospect Terrace is built on the parcel on College Hill.
CE 1871	Land Transfer	Betsy Williams, a descendent of Roger Williams, donates a one hundred acre property to the City of Providence.
CE 1875	Built	North Main Street is widened. The Dodge house, later owned by the Allen and Seagraves families, is moved back over the old town spring, which is encased within the cellar of the house.
CE 1877	Memorialized	The city dedicates the first monument to Roger Williams in Roger Williams Park located on the city's south side.
CE 1889 - 1892	Built	Providence fills the cove basin.
CE 1900	Built	The new Rhode Island capitol, on Smith Hill within view of the national memorial site, is completed. The city removes a pump and trough that provided public access to the waters of the old town spring.
CE 1906	Memorialized	The state installs a bronze plaque on the Dodge house noting the presence of the Roger Williams Spring in the cellar. A similar plaque is installed on the building at the site of Roger Williams's house at 233-235 North Main Street.
CE 1921	Purchased/Sold	Joseph Levy acquires the Dodge-Allen-Seagraves house containing the Roger Williams Spring.
CE 1922	Demolished	Joseph Levy demolishes the Dodge house.

Year	Event	Major Event Narrative
CE 1922 - 1923	Built	Joseph Levy builds a commercial building on the Dodge house site, but retains the Roger Williams Spring in the basement.
CE 1925 - 1926	Purchased/Sold	City receives gifts of land to enlarge Prospect Terrace on College Hill, east of the National Memorial Site.
CE 1928	Memorialized	A granite monument, funded by the U.S. War Department, is erected along the curbside of North Main Street in front of the Levy commercial building to commemorate the founding of Providence. The monument features two bronze plaques, one marking the site as the place where Providence was founded in 1636, and the other marking the site of the spring as the original center of Providence.
CE 1929	Planned	Jerome Hahn, a retired state judge, begins discussions with the city for removing the Levy commercial building to build a park around the Roger Williams Spring. Architect Norman M. Isham is contacted to develop a design for the park, and in June presents initial plans to the city park commission.
CE 1930 - 1931	Purchased/Sold	Jerome Hahn purchases the Levy commercial building; the city purchases the adjoining property to the north containing a three-story commercial building owned by M. Katz as part of the proposed park. By September, the city demolishes both the Levy and Katz buildings.
CE 1930	Built	Parishioners from St. John's Cathedral and descendants of Gabriel Bernon form the Bernon Realty Corporation for the development of a park north of the proposed Roger Williams Spring Park.
CE 1931	Land Transfer	Jerome Hahn donates his portion of the park property, called the spring lot, to the city of Providence in memory of his father, Isaac Hahn, for the development of Roger Williams Spring Park. Norman M. Isham completes plans for the Roger Williams Spring Park.
CE 1932	Built	City of Providence begins the masonry components of the park.
CE 1933	Built	The city appropriates funds to complete the spring lot portion of Roger Williams Spring Park. Construction is finished in the fall.
CE 1934	Established	The state incorporates the Roger Williams Memorial Association with authority to erect a monument to Roger Williams on Prospect Terrace.
CE 1937	Graded	Bernon Realty Corporation demolishes buildings on the site of its proposed park. The site is rough-graded.
CE 1939	Built	The Roger Williams monument at Prospect Terrace is completed.
CE 1942	Land Transfer	The Bernon Realty Corporation donates its property north of Roger Williams Spring Park to the city for development as a park in memory of Gabriel Bernon.
CE 1950 - 1959	Planted	Providence park department replaces most of the plantings in Roger Williams Spring Park and removes the annual border.

Year	Event	Major Event Narrative
CE 1953	Planted	The city park department makes improvements to Bernon Park by planting a small grove of Norway maples and seeding the ground. A small monument to Bernon is also erected around this time.
CE 1957	Built	The Providence City Plan Commission issues a public works improvements plan that identifies the North Main Street and College Hill area, including the future national memorial site, as deteriorated. Much of the area is recommended for demolition and redevelopment.
CE 1958	Established	The Providence Preservation Society and City Plan Commission develop an urban renewal plan for College Hill including the future national memorial site.
CE 1958	Established	Providence Mayor Walter Reynolds writes to the director of the National Park Service and requests support for the Roger Williams National Park as part of the College Hill renewal program. National Park Service advisory board assesses the site as a national monument rather than a national park.
CE 1960	Established	Rhode Island Senator Theodore F. Green sponsors a bill establishing Roger Williams National Monument under the Historic Sites Act of 1935, with a \$2,500,000 cost for acquisition and development.
CE 1963	Established	National Park Service drafts a bill that designates the site as Roger Williams National Memorial. The proposal calls for a new museum and park landscaping.
CE 1964	Established	The Advisory Board on National Parks, Historic Sites, Buildings and Monuments formally recommends establishment of Roger Williams National Memorial.
CE 1965	Established	On October 22, Congress passes a joint House-Senate act establishing Roger Williams National Memorial with an appropriation of \$700,000. President Lyndon Johnson signs the act into law.
CE 1969 - 1971	Planned	The Providence Redevelopment Agency begins condemnation proceedings on properties within the national memorial site.
CE 1971	Demolished	The Providence Redevelopment Agency begins demolition within the national memorial site.
CE 1972	Established	The National Park Service, the city, and the Redevelopment Agency agree on the boundaries of the national memorial, encompassing 4.5 acres.
CE 1973	Planned	In January of this year, the National Park Service develops a preliminary master plan for the national memorial.
CE 1974	Purchased/Sold	Roger Williams Spring Park and Bernon Park are transferred from the Providence Park Department to the Providence Redevelopment Agency. On June 19, the National Park Service signs a formal contract to purchase the 4.5-acre site.
CE 1975	Planned	The National Park Service holds public meetings over its proposed alternative designs for the national memorial, calling for removal of Roger Williams Spring Park and Bernon Park.

Year	Event	Major Event Narrative
CE 1976	Planned	National Park Service revises its design alternatives to retain Roger Williams Spring Park (renamed the Hahn Memorial), and Bernon Park, and to create a simple, open green space.
CE 1977	Planned	The National Park Service selects its preferred alternative for the design of the national memorial, entitled Rolling Topography. Superintendant selects a design concept and hires Albert Veri & Associates to develop site plans.
CE 1979	Developed	The national memorial formally opens to the public with the completion of the Antram-Gray house rehabilitation.
CE 1980	Planned	Veri & Associates and Caputo and Wick complete construction documents.
CE 1980	Built	A small granite monument is installed marking the dedication of a tree of "new hope."
CE 1981	Built	Phase II, encompassing most of the site work including grading, circulation, and plantings, is largely completed.
CE 1982	Built	Phase III, encompassing remaining plantings and walks and site furnishings, is completed.
CE 1987	Built	A small monument commemorating the bicentennial of the U.S. Constitution is installed near the amphitheater.
CE 2000	Planted	National Park Service adds raised beds north of the Antram-Gray house, and barrel planters along North Main Street and the Old State House allee. Ornamental grasses are added to the central bed of the Hahn Memorial.
CE 2002	Memorialized	A monument to the Snowtown Riot is installed west of the Antram-Gray house.
CE 2005	Planted	National Park Service lowers hedges along the perimeter and raises the canopy of trees to open sight lines.
CE 2007	Planted	A tulip tree (yellow poplar) and small monument commemorating the spirit of liberty are added near the amphitheater.

Physical History:

The following section provides information on the physical development and evolution of the site, organized by time periods. The narrative is taken directly from the 2010 report, "Cultural Landscape Report for Roger Williams National Memorial."

ROGER WILLIAMS'S PROVIDENCE, TO 1683

The Narragansett Bay region that included the future site of the national memorial had long supported people prior to the arrival of Roger Williams in 1636. Here, in this geographically sheltered place well inland from the Atlantic Ocean, Williams and his fellow colonists, through agreements with the native peoples, established a haven of religious freedom known as Providence Plantations. Lacking the traditional religious anchor found in Puritanical New England settlements, Providence instead centered on public gathering places including a freshwater spring (CLR 2010:11).

Natural Environment and Narragansett Homeland:

Narragansett Bay, the largest estuary in New England extending twenty-six miles inland from the Atlantic Ocean, is primarily a product of the last ice age that ended approximately 12,000 to 14,000 years ago. The bay served as the drainage from three main tributaries flowing into its north end: the Taunton River, Seekonk River, and the Great Salt (Providence) River. The retreating glacier and centuries of erosion left the land surrounding the upper bay with plains and rounded hills up to two hundred feet in elevation, covered in soils derived from glacial till transported from the rocky uplands to the north. Lowland areas along rivers and bays typically consisted of loamy soils with deposits of gravel, sand, silt, and clay left by glacial meltwaters (CLR 2010:12).

The site of the national memorial corresponds with what was once the eastern shore of the Great Salt Cove, a small, tidal bay in the Great Salt River that was fed by two tributaries, the Moshassuck and Woonasquatucket Rivers (Figure 1). The shallower, western part of the cove near the Woonasquatucket River was dominated by marshlands, while the east shore of the cove along the future national memorial site was beach with accumulations of eroded soils, including sandy loam and gravelly glacial till. The beach was at the base of a hill (later named Prospect or College Hill) that rose nearly two hundred feet above the level of the cove and formed a neck of land separating the Great Salt River on the west and the Seekonk River on the east. Uplands on the west side of the river, known as Weybosset Point, created a narrow passage in the Great Salt River to the south of the cove (CLR 2010:12).

The native vegetation of the area in and adjacent to the future national memorial site included deciduous forest that had become established approximately 5,000 to 2,000 years ago. Common tree species included chestnut and eastern white pine, beech, pignut hickory, black walnut, red cedar, hemlock, gray and yellow birch, American elm, pitch pine, and white, red, black, scarlet, and chestnut oak. Poorly drained and swampy soils typically supported red maple, American elm, alder, swamp white oak, yellow and gray birch, white-cedar, and black tupelo (sour gum). Common understory species included blueberry, huckleberry, mountain laurel, summersweet, ferns, bull brier, sumac, and poison ivy. The tidal beach along the Great Salt Cove was bordered by salt marsh between the low and high tide levels, characterized by species such as cordgrass, marine algae, glasswort, salt marsh sand-spurry, and lesser sea blite. Areas between the high tide line and uplands consisted of salt shrub with species such as groundsel-tree, saltmarsh elder, and pasture rose, together with salt meadow grass and switchgrass. The forest, marshlands, and waters of the Great Salt Cove area were rich in animal life, including fox, raccoon, deer, elk, bear, geese, grouse, turkey, sturgeon, salmon, shad, and herring, with rich beds of clams and oysters (CLR 2010:12).

At the time of European contact in the sixteenth and seventeenth centuries, much of the Narragansett Bay area was home to the Narragansett people, one of five Algonquian tribes living within the present limits of Rhode Island. The Narragansetts, meaning People of the Small Point, were the largest and most powerful of the five tribes in the seventeenth century. The Narragansett people lived in semi-permanent villages inland from the coast, and in temporary villages near the shores of bays and rivers during warm seasons. The inland camps were based on hunting, while the seasonal villages evolved around fishing and agriculture. Roger Williams wrote about the natives' cornfields and summer gardens along coastal plains (CLR 2010:13).

The site of the national memorial was located at a strategic location on the uppermost reaches of Narragansett Bay. Here was the intersection of a number of Indian paths including the Pawtucket and Louquassuck Trails heading north; the Wampanoag and Wachemocket (Montaup) Trails heading

east and south east; and the Narragansett Trail (Pequot Path) heading southwest through a ford across the Great Salt River to Weybosset Point. These trails were used by neighboring Native American peoples, including the Massachusett, Nipmuc, and Wampanoag, to reach the Great Salt Cove and its abundant natural resources. Although no evidence of Native American habitation remains within the national memorial site, the area was most likely a nexus of Native American life. At a similar spot across the cove near Weybosset Point, archeologists discovered the remains of native occupation going back more than 7,000 years. The national memorial site may have included or been near a seasonal village, agricultural fields, sacred grounds, or place of contention. In 1785, workers building on the site of a garden at the intersection of North Main and Bowen Streets discovered Indian remains, which according to nineteenth-century historian Henry Dorr, might have been from a burial place or a battlefield (CLR 2010:13).

Roger Williams and the Founding of Rhode Island:

It was not until more than a century after Giovanni da Verrazano sailed into Narragansett Bay in 1524 that Europeans began to settle in the region. Much sooner, however, the native peoples felt the effects of the arrival of Europeans elsewhere in New England and New Netherlands. From these initial settlements, European diseases spread across southern New England during the second decade of the seventeenth century, decimating many native communities, although largely sparing the Narragansetts (CLR 2010:13).

In 1636, two decades after this scourge and soon after a subsequent smallpox epidemic further ravaged native peoples, Roger Williams established the first European settlement in Narragansett Country with fellow Europeans from the Massachusetts Bay Colony, founded by English Puritans in 1630. Born in London in 1603, Roger Williams and his wife Mary immigrated in 1631 to the Massachusetts town of Boston. After some controversy, he accepted a position as assistant minister at the nearby town of Salem in a parish that shared his desire to separate from the Anglican Church. Williams's outspoken nature and radical views, which centered on his refusal to support civil authority over religious matters and the right of England to grant Native American lands in the name of Christendom, brought him into conflict with Massachusetts Bay authorities. In October 1635, the colonial court sentenced Williams to leave Massachusetts Bay within six weeks, citing his opposition to the authority of the magistrates. By January 1636, the court was informed that Williams had not left and was preaching his separatist teachings to about twenty supporters in his Salem home. Word also circulated that he intended to establish a new separatist settlement in Narragansett Country. Fearful of the influence of such a settlement so close to Massachusetts Bay, the magistrates ordered Williams's arrest and deportation to England. When authorities came for Williams, they found he had already left Salem and could not find where he had gone (CLR 2010:14).

Williams, with fellow supporters, had indeed left for Narragansett Country to found a new settlement, as the court had been initially informed. The men wandered south and west approximately forty miles through the thick forests to the headwaters of Narragansett Bay, landing along the eastern bank of the Seekonk River (in present East Providence). Here, Williams and his followers began planting fields and building huts for a settlement they named Providence. Soon, Williams received word that he had settled on land belonging to the Plymouth Colony that extended from Cape Cod west to the eastern shore of Narragansett Bay. Williams sailed in search of a new site for his colony in the unclaimed region to the west, heading south on the Seekonk River and then north up the Great Salt River into the Great Salt Cove, landing on its eastern shore near the mouth of the Moshassuck River at or near the present site of the national memorial (CLR 2010:14).

Before Williams brought the others to settle at the second site, he negotiated a purchase of the land (or use of it) from the Narragansett sachems Canonicus and Miantonomi, corresponding with most of present-day Providence County. With this agreement, Williams and his followers began the work of their second settlement in the spring or early summer of 1636. It would be the first permanent European settlement in Rhode Island, and was soon followed by several others, including Portsmouth in 1638 and Newport in 1639, both on the island of Rhode Island (today's Aquidneck Island) at the mouth of the bay, and Warwick on the western shore, in 1642 (CLR 2010:15).

Without a colonial patent to govern its laws, the settlers at Providence signed a compact in August 1637 that confirmed Williams's belief in civil rather than religious law with the words: "We do promise

to subject ourselves...to all such orders or agreements as shall be made for the public good," but "only in civil things" (CLR 2010:15, citing Woodward and Sanderson 1936:10). This civil legal foundation was carried into a patent granted in 1643-44 that united Providence with the three other settlements of Newport, Portsmouth, and Warwick as the Colony of Providence Plantations. This patent was superseded in 1663 by a royal charter from King Charles II that incorporated the four settlements as the Colony of Rhode Island and Providence Plantations (CLR 2010:15).

Settlement and Growth of Providence:

The foundation of Providence upon civil law influenced the development patterns of the settlement. Unlike Puritan villages in Massachusetts Bay, the Providence settlement did not cluster around a common area or church, but rather took on a linear pattern without a center. This pattern also related to the relatively narrow area of level land along the Pawtucket Trail, between the gravelly beach and the hill to the east. Similar to medieval English agricultural land-use practices, people lived in the core village and farmed outlying lands (CLR 2010:15).

Once Williams obtained permission from the Narragansetts, he and his companions settled in the late spring or early summer of 1636 near the fresh-water spring, creating five lots along the east side of the Pawtucket Trail. They began the hard work of improving the land, building shelter, and planting fields. Williams built his house across the trail from the spring (CLR 2010:15).

In 1637, Rogers Williams signed a deed with the Narragansetts confirming his earlier sole purchase of the lands at the cove and extending a distance into the surrounding countryside. The following year, he executed the so-called Initial Deed in which he divided a portion of his land to twelve fellow settlers known as the Proprietors. Land along the east side of the Great Salt Cove at the original landing place was divided into home lots that formed the settlement's core. Building off the initial five lots, the home lots were rectangular parcels extending east from the Pawtucket Trail, renamed Towne Street, up and over the hill to the east. The home lots were 100 to 135 feet wide and 1,600 to 3,000 feet long, comprising between four and eight acres of land. Here, Proprietors built their houses, barns, and gardens. The land along the west side of Towne Street, along the shoreline of the Great Salt Cove including the spring and present-day national memorial site, was held in common. Each Proprietor also received fields, shares of meadow, and rights of commonage in the lands surrounding the town (CLR 2010:16).

Without an official religion, the community did not build a central church, but probably first gathered for religious, civil, and other purposes around the spring on the common lands across from Roger Williams's home lot, and most likely in buildings as well. As the settlement grew, Proprietor John Smith built a town mill in 1646 along falls on the Moshassuck River a short distance north of the cove. This mill became a gathering place for townspeople and for occasional town meetings and religious services, functions it would serve for more than forty years. Throughout the remainder of the seventeenth century, no church building was erected in Providence (CLR 2010:16).

Providence grew slowly during its first two decades, remaining largely a self-reliant agricultural and fishing community that had been quickly eclipsed in size and importance by Newport, which prospered from the sea trade. In 1644, the Providence Proprietors had issued five allotments of home lots, bringing the total to fifty-two. By 1650, there were fifty-one houses in Providence, with thirty-four on the home lots along Towne Street and the rest scattered elsewhere in the town. While all of the home lots had been acquired, some had not yet been built upon with houses and barns (Figure 2). By 1670, the population of the entire town of Providence had grown to 1,000 (CLR 2010:16-17).

As Providence and other colonial settlements in Rhode Island continued to grow, tensions with the native peoples mounted. In 1675, these erupted into King Phillip's War, which resulted in the end of Native American political influence in southeastern New England. In Providence, the Narragansetts attacked the village in 1676 and burned most of the houses along Towne Street north of Weybosset Point. Roger Williams purportedly barricaded one house to protect the women and children of the town. Unable to regain their homelands, the Narragansetts watched as residents soon returned to rebuild following the original plan of the home lots. A period of prosperity and increasing settlement soon followed (CLR 2010:17).

Roger Williams remained a resident of Providence through most of its early history until his death in 1683. While there had been much change in the colony over the period since his initial settlement in 1636, the physical character of Providence remained largely a small agricultural and fishing village, although with hopes of building on the growing maritime trade in the region.

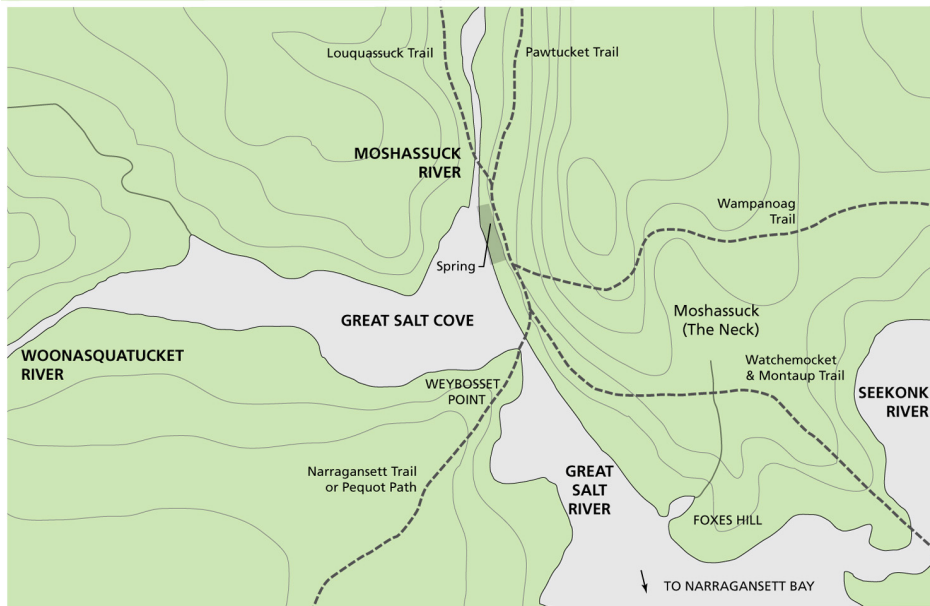


Figure 1. Map of the natural topography and waterways near the future national memorial site (gray shaded area). (SUNY ESF, based on a map of Providence by Charles Wyman Hopkins, *The Home Lots of the Early Settlers of the Providence Plantations*, 1886)

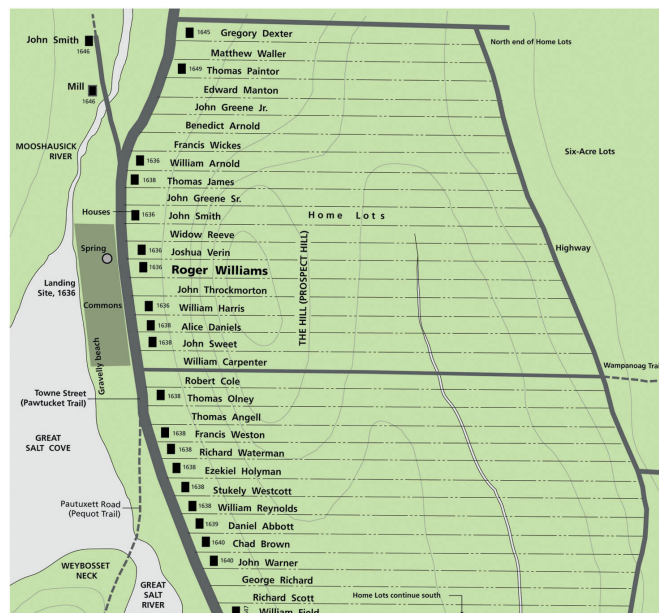


Figure 2. Map of Providence Plantations to 1650 and current national memorial site (shaded). (SUNY ESF based on maps in Greene, *Providence Plantations for 250 Years*, 1886, and Cady, *Civil and Architectural Development of Providence*, 1957)

THE URBAN PERIOD, 1683-1965

The century following Roger Williams's death in 1683 saw Providence Plantations develop into a thriving mercantile port around the core of the original village on Towne Street, with its center shifting south to Weybosset Point. After the Revolution and into the early twentieth century, Providence grew into the state's largest city, a center of industry and commerce, and the seat of state government. The site of the national memorial over this period of great change went from shoreline and public commons to dense urban blocks that were developed for residential, commercial, industrial, and civic uses (CLR 2010:23).

As Providence expanded, there was growing interest by the nineteenth century in commemorating its founding and association with Roger Williams and the history of religious freedom in the United States. By the early twentieth century, these efforts led to creation of the first memorials marking the site of the fresh-water spring and landing place of Roger Williams at the future national memorial site (CLR 2010:23).

From Rural Village to Industrial City:

The transformation of Providence and its original settlement along Towne Street into a bustling city traces back to the shift of the community's economic focus from agriculture to commerce in the late seventeenth century. The beginnings of this shift occurred a few years prior to Roger Williams's death, when in 1680 Pardon Tillinghast received permission from his fellow Proprietors to acquire a lot on the beach on the west side of Towne Street, south of Weybosset Point, to erect a wharf and warehouse for the sea trade. In the following years through the eighteenth century, all of the common lands along the shore were sold off in small lots, most about forty feet wide. These lots were initially developed primarily for warehouses and shops as well as some residences, with wharfs built into the cove and the Great Salt River (Providence River). This development involved filling and construction of bulkheads to create buildable land, although there remained a marked drop in elevation from Towne Street (CLR 2010:23).

While the vast majority of the shoreline commons gave way to commercial interests, there was one feature that the Proprietors wished to preserve for public benefit: the fresh-water spring along Towne Street where Roger Williams landed in 1636. The spring remained in community ownership until 1721, when the Proprietors sold it to Gabriel Bernon, who had built his house to the north of the spring in 1717 and founded the Anglican King's Chapel (later St. John's Episcopal) across the street in 1722. The Proprietors gave Bernon a deed to the spring that stipulated "liberty is reserved for the inhabitants to fetch water at said spring forever" (CLR 2010:23).

As part of the development of the cove shoreline, narrow streets known as gangways, measuring about twelve feet wide, were laid out between the warehouse lots to access the wharfs from Towne Street. Many of these streets were built by 1746, a few later. Smith Street, laid out in 1738 north of the spring, was a wider street that included a bridge across the Moshassuck River to the meadows and the industrial area clustered around the original town mill. During the first half of the eighteenth century, many of the lots were further subdivided with residential and commercial uses fronting on Towne Street. One such building was a two-story frame house at the corner of Smith and Towne Streets built by William Antram in c.1730 as a residence and distillery, with a wharf at the rear of the property along the cove. In addition to growing in density along the east side of the cove and river, Providence also expanded to Weybosset Point, connected to Towne Street by a bridge in 1711 and divided into home lots in 1718. By the time the colonies declared independence in 1776, Providence had grown into a compact village with wharves lining the cove and Providence River (CLR 2010:24).

In keeping with the original pattern of settlement, civic and religious institutions during the eighteenth century did not cluster in a central area, but instead were strung out along Towne Street, which remained the main street of the community. The village's first church building was constructed in 1700 along the west side of Towne Street north of the spring. King's Chapel (St. John's Episcopal) was built in 1722 on the east side of the street across from the spring; the First Baptist Church, an institution founded by Roger Williams, erected its building in 1726 on the west side of Towne Street north of Smith Street; and in 1731, the colonial government built the Colony House (State House) on the east side of the street south of Williams's home lot, set back across an open parade. One of the warehouse lots west of Towne Street across from the State House was set aside as a school lot by c.1750. Farther south on Towne Street near the bridge to Weybosset Point was the Congregational

Church built in 1723 (CLR 2010:24-25).

From a seaport town during colonial times, Providence in the century after the Revolution grew into a transportation hub and center of large-scale industry, overshadowing its earlier maritime trade. The rivers that converged at Providence provided the power that made the region an important center of the Industrial Revolution in America, with the first water-powered machine-driven textile factories built upriver from Providence on the banks of the Blackstone River (a branch of the Seekonk River) in the 1790s. Transportation improvements accompanied the industrial growth, leading to new roads, bridges, and a canal. The Blackstone River Canal, which connected Providence with the industrial towns as far north as Worcester, Massachusetts, was completed in 1828. In Providence, the canal followed the Moshassuck River and terminated at a boat basin at the confluence with the cove.

Several improvements

accompanied the building of the canal, including stone retaining walls and extension of North Water Street (present Canal Street) along the east side of the cove. Building of this street, begun in 1823, required removal of the wharfs along the old warehouse lots and obliteration of the last remnants of the shoreline where Roger Williams landed in 1636. Removal of the wharves apparently had little economic ramification for this area, as much of the maritime trade had earlier moved south following construction of a fixed-span bridge at Weybosset Point in 1816 (CLR 2010:25).

Between 1782 and 1830 during its early industrial boom, Providence quadrupled to a population of 16,836, and two years later, it was incorporated as a city. During this time, much of Providence's growth occurred south of the original home lots on Fox Point and adjoining India Point and to the southwest on Weybosset Point, which was expanded in area through filling in of the shoreline. Towne Street, renamed North and South Main Streets in 1807, continued to be a principal thoroughfare and home to civic and religious institutions as well as commercial and residential uses. A number of grand houses were built along North Main Street in the early years of the nineteenth century, along with more modest houses, some with fenced-in side yards. As the century progressed, the area along North Main Street became denser and more commercial, with three and four-story buildings with storefronts constructed on many of the lots (Figure 3). The prime residential neighborhood in the city during this time moved uphill from North Main Street. Known as Prospect Hill or College Hill due to its views and the location of Brown University, the neighborhood centered on Benefit Street, which was laid out along the rear of the old home lots, with narrow side streets along the lot boundaries connecting the two streets (CLR 2010:25-26).

The arrival of the railroads in the 1830s reinforced Providence's place as an transportation hub and industrial center, and led to further changes in the old core of the city. The rail lines, connecting to Boston and New York, entered the city along the Moshassuck and Woonasquatucket rivers and converged along the east and south sides of the cove on filled land. In 1846, the city approved a plan by the Providence and Worcester Railroad Company to fill in a large part of the cove to accommodate rail yards and a new central station along the north side of Weybosset Point in the growing central business district. The project, built between 1846 and 1854, created an oval lake within the cove measuring 1,300 by 1,180 feet, surrounded by an eighty-foot-wide tree-lined promenade (Figure 4). With the opening of the Providence and Worcester Railroad, the Blackstone Canal was abandoned for shipping (CLR 2010:26).

During the late nineteenth and early twentieth centuries, Providence continued to gain industrial might, and its population soared, making the city the country's twentieth largest by 1900. The railroad infrastructure grew along with the city, requiring additional land. In 1889, the city under pressure from the railroads approved a revision of the cove lands that resulted in filling of the entire cove and channelizing the two rivers, large sections of which were covered. In 1892, the city completed work on filling the cove basin, thus removing the last connection of the spring and original town settlement on North Main Street to the water. The filled land provided room for a new rail terminal, rail yards, and streets that were built in the 1890s, extending the area of the downtown business district. The Moshassuck River still flowed to the west of North Main Street, but was largely invisible in its deep stone lined channel (CLR 2010:27-28).

The new streets and fill at the site of the cove were also part of a plan begun in 1891 to create a new civic center on Smith Hill, the rise of land north of the former cove and south of Smith Street, to

replace the Old State House (Colony House) along North Main Street. The new Rhode Island Capitol, a monumental domed building completed in 1900 to the design of McKim, Mead and White, represented the designation of Providence as the state's sole capitol instead of the earlier practice of holding the state legislature in county seats. The building's dome, which reached an elevation of nearly two hundred feet—the height of College Hill—was visible throughout much of the city including from the Old State House, although partly obscured by the commercial and industrial buildings along North Main Street. The new capitol soon competed visually with tall office buildings that were built during the first three decades of the twentieth century in the booming downtown district on Weybosset Point (Figure 5) (CLR 2010:28).

The area of the original town settlement around the Roger Williams Spring along North Main Street experienced little of the high-rise development that characterized the downtown core in the early twentieth century (Figure 6). North Main Street, however, became an increasingly busy automobile artery. In 1934, it was designated as U.S. Route 44 that led from the vicinity of Poughkeepsie, New York through Connecticut and terminated at Plymouth, Massachusetts. The street remained anchored by St. John's and the Old State House, together with the city police headquarters built in 1861 across from the Old State House between North Main Street and Canal Street. A city atlas published in 1937 showed a variety of uses within the future national memorial site. Retail shops dominated North Main Street, while a mix of commercial, industrial, office, and residential uses were found along Canal Street and the gangways (CLR 2010:28-29).

The buildings within the national memorial site along North Main Street were three- and four-story nineteenth-century brick commercial buildings, such as the Lonsdale Block at 168-182 North Main Street, and two- and three-story frame eighteenth century buildings with later storefronts on the first floors, such as the Antram House at the corner of the Smith Street and the building at 204-208 North Main Street. Canal Street was characterized by a mix of brick and frame buildings, generally two to three stories with some taller, the one exception being the large one-story auto laundry building. The meat-packing factories on the west side of Canal Street were long frame and masonry buildings spanning the stone retaining walls of the river below (CLR 2010:28-29).

As in many Northeastern cities, Providence began a long period of decline after World War II due to a variety of issues including loss of industry, racial tensions, mortgage redlining, flight to the suburbs, shift to automobile transportation, and an anti-urban culture that had roots going back well before the war. By 1950, the city had begun to shrink, with its population declining to 248,674 from its height of 253,504 in 1940. By 1960, the city would lose another seventeen percent of its population. These shifts corresponded with a number of physical changes to the city beginning in the 1950s, including construction of expressways and interstates, and large-scale demolition and new construction in nine city neighborhoods designated as blighted. One of these neighborhoods was North Main Street and College Hill, including the site of the old town spring and home lot of Roger Williams (CLR 2010:30).

Commemorating Roger Williams and the Founding of Providence:

Interest in preserving and documenting remnants of Providence's early history along North Main Street was not new to the urban renewal era, but rather had been slowly developing over the previous century and a half. The old town spring—referred to as Roger Williams Spring as early as 1785—and the site of Williams's house were early subjects of this interest. In the 1830s on the eve of Providence's bicentennial, antiquaries examined the oldest standing houses along North and South Main Streets to see if anything might remain from Williams's house and others from the original settlement—apparently the buildings that stood prior to the Indian attack of 1676. After careful inspection, they reported that there were no buildings left. Around the same time, Providence resident T.M. Sumner located the cellar remains of Roger Williams's house and the location of the old town spring on a sketch map he drew in 1834 based on his recollections of the area in 1775-1777. He showed the cellar remains behind the Whipple house that stood directly on the street, and the spring at the rear of a house belonging to the Tripe family, descendants of Gabriel Bernon who had initially acquired the spring lot. Sumner labeled it "Tripe's Spring" and appears to show it being contained within a circular well. The spring was accessed by a road, later Alamo Lane, that he labeled "Passage to Spring" (CLR 2010:30-31).

When Sumner drew his map, a large three-story Federal style brick house, built by Nehemiah Dodge

in 1816, stood on the site of the old Tripe house. By this point, the spring was contained in the rear garden of the house and had probably fallen out of use as a primary public water supply. Dodge provided a pump from the spring at the rear of his property along the passageway (Alamo Lane), most likely to fulfill the stipulations of the 1717 deed to Gabriel Bernon that guaranteed public access to the water. From the pump, the spring drained to the Moshassuck River through underground pipes, which were probably installed with the extension of Canal Street in 1823 (CLR 2010:31).

Efforts to commemorate Roger Williams with civic monuments and markers also began early in the nineteenth century. In 1827, citizens of Providence proposed an ordinance providing funds for erecting a durable monument to Roger Williams as the founder of the city, but the proposal was not passed. The effort was revived in 1850 when the Providence Association of Mechanics and Manufacturers created a fund to erect a memorial to Roger Williams. This group was followed by the Roger Williams Monument Association, which was established in 1860 to erect a monument near the site of Roger Williams's home lot, but apparently not on North Main Street. The association received a major boost in 1865 when Stephen Randall, a direct descendent of Roger Williams, donated \$1,000 to the association for the monument. Two years later, the association purchased a small parcel located on College Hill, uphill from North Main Street near the Old State House and site of Roger Williams's house, in order to create a small park for the monument. The park, known as Prospect Terrace and completed in 1877, was supported by a high stone retaining wall extending out from the steep hillside, offering visitors panoramic views over the city (Figure 7). Efforts to place a monument there, however, were unsuccessful (CLR 2010:31-32).

The monument at Prospect Terrace was apparently halted by plans to erect a separate memorial to Roger Williams in a park on the city's south side, west of the Providence River near Cranston. Betsy Williams, a descendent of Roger Williams, donated the one-hundred acre property, originally the farm of Roger Williams's son, Joseph, to the city in 1871. She specified in her donation that the park, named Roger Williams Park, include a monument to Roger Williams. The city accepted her terms and in 1877, on high ground overlooking a pond, dedicated a large monument with bronze sculptures designed by Franklin Simmons of Rome (Figure 8). With this monument in place, interest in commemorating Roger Williams at the original settlement area on North Main Street faded (CLR 2010:32).

Despite this competition, work on documenting the sites associated with Roger Williams and the original Providence settlement on North Main Street continued. Allen's Map, drawn in 1860, documented the location of Roger Williams Spring and site of Williams's house, together with his burial site near Benefit Street (Figure 9). The map depicted the spring at the rear side of the Dodge house, then owned by Philip Allen. A second map documenting the location of the spring appeared in 1886 during Providence's 250th anniversary, entitled "Plan showing the approximate location of the Home Lots of the Early Settlers of Providence, R.I.," by C.W. Hopkins. The spring by this time was in the basement of the Dodge-Allen house, then owned by Jacob Seagraves, owing to the building's relocation with the widening of North Main Street in 1875. The absence of the spring from public view coincided with the appearance of romanticized accounts, such as the drawing of the original spring included in Welcome Arnold Greene's "The Providence Plantations," published in 1886. Despite the absence of firm documentation, there was apparently little disagreement that the well in the Dodge-Allen-Seagraves house contained the source of the Roger Williams Spring. The well's historic association became official when it appeared on a city map published in 1898 (CLR 2010:32-33).

In 1900, the city removed the spring pump along Allen's (Alamo) Lane, probably along with the trough in Canal Street. The water from the spring after this time drained underground to the sewer under Canal Street or to the Moshassuck River. With the disappearance of the spring's last public vestiges, the state placed a bronze plaque on the front of the Dodge-Allen-Seagraves house in 1906. The plaque read: "Under This House Still Flows the Roger Williams Spring" (CLR 2010:33-34, citing For Authentication of the Site of Roger Williams Spring, Summary of History of Roger Williams Spring Site, 1940:8).

The nearby site of Roger Williams's house also received attention during this time. In 1906, archeological investigations were undertaken to document foundation remains from the house, then

located in the rear yard of a three-story building at 233-235 North Main Street across from the spring. Architect and Brown University professor Norman M. Isham, who had published a book on early Rhode Island houses in 1895, worked on the project that led to verification of the site's association with Williams, as T.M. Sumner had shown on the map he made in 1834. The state affixed a bronze tablet, matching the design of the one on the Dodge-Allen-Seagraves house, to the front of the three-story building identifying it as the site of Roger Williams's house (CLR 2010:34).

The years after World War I, with the approach of the state's tercentennial in 1936 and redevelopment pressures within Providence, saw increased interest in preserving the sites associated with Roger Williams and the founding of Providence. The site of the spring had become widely acknowledged as the birthplace of the city's origin (CLR 2010:34).

Interest in preserving the spring site came to a head in the 1920s with a proposal for its redevelopment. In December 1921, Joseph Levye, a local businessperson who gained great wealth in the textile industry, acquired the Dodge-Allen-Seagraves house from the Rhode Island College of Pharmacy and Allied Sciences, which had occupied the house since 1912. Levye proposed to demolish the house and erect a new commercial building on the site. His plans raised concern among several organizations, which called for the city to acquire the property and preserve the building because of its history. Levye offered to sell the building at cost to those interested in preserving it, but after seven months of waiting, he decided to go ahead with his project and filed a building permit in June 1922. Public concern apparently stalled the city from quickly issuing the permit, but within a year, Levye received his permit and he demolished the old house and erected a new four-story commercial building on the site. In his plans, Levye retained the old stone well that was believed to contain the source of old town spring. He sealed the well within a new concrete vault, and promised to affix the bronze plaque from the Dodge-Allen-Seagraves house to the new building (CLR 2010:35).

Soon after Levye's new building went up on the spring site, the long-stalled proposal to erect a monument to Roger Williams at nearby Prospect Park, begun in 1850, was revived in anticipation of the state's tercentennial in 1936. In 1925 and 1926, the city received gifts of land to enlarge Prospect Terrace, apparently with the aim of providing room for a monument. By 1934, the state incorporated a new Roger Williams Memorial Association with authority to erect a monument on Prospect Terrace. In 1936 during the state's tercentennial year, the association held a design competition, which called for the memorial to relate to five specific sites, including the Old State House, Rhode Island Capitol, and the Roger Williams Spring. The association chose the design by architect Ralph Walker of the New York City firm of Voorhees, Gmelin, and Walker for a monumental portal overlooking the city from the edge of Prospect Terrace, sheltering a statue of Roger Williams and framing a vista of the capitol. The design included a fountain at the base of the terrace, apparently intended to symbolize the Roger Williams Spring. Construction of the memorial, restricted only to the portal and sculpture, was funded in part by the federal Works Progress Administration and completed in 1939 (CLR 2010:35).

Building of Roger Williams Spring Park and Bernon Park:

The demolition of the Dodge-Allen-Seagraves house, plans for the Roger Williams monument on Prospect Terrace, and the approach of Rhode Island's tercentennial in 1936, soon energized preservationists and renewed interest in the spring. The first project undertaken following construction of the new commercial building in 1923 was the addition of a new marker that would have supplemented the 1906 bronze plaque if Joseph Levye had reset it on his new building as promised. In August 1928, the federal Secretary of War approved the design of a granite monument to mark the site as the landing place of Roger Williams, funded through a \$1,500 appropriation from Congress. The monument was designed by Lieutenant B.F. Vandervoort of the War Department, Millin B. Brondson, Commissioner of Public Works for the city, and H.M. Chapin, librarian of the Rhode Island Historical Society. Shortly after the monument was approved in August 1928, it was installed on the sidewalk near the curb at the intersection of North Main Street and Alamo Lane. The monument featured two bronze tablets. The tablet facing the street read "Roger Williams Founded Providence Herein 1636." The tablet facing away from the street read "The spring of clear, cold water located 30 feet west of this point led Roger Williams to found Providence here in the year 1636, from which centre it has developed in four directions" (CLR 2010:36, citing "Williams Shaft Approved,

Memorial at Providence, R.I., Will Mark Where Founder Landed,” 1928:16).

Around the time of the monument's installation, Jerome Hahn, a Rhode Island Superior Court Judge, became involved in the effort to preserve the Roger Williams Spring. With his retirement from the Superior Court in 1928 after a ten year term, Hahn most likely had the time and interest to devote to the spring's preservation. He apparently became interested in the effort because of the association of the site with the history of religious freedom in the United States, a freedom that allowed his Jewish family to gain financial and political success. His father, Isaac Hahn, moved to Providence from Albany where Jerome had been born in 1868, and there established a successful textile factory that produced worsted and silk braids. His success in Providence led him to seek public office, and in 1884 he was elected as one of the twelve representatives from the city in the state general assembly. This election made Isaac Hahn the first person of the Jewish faith to hold public office in Providence, an achievement that Jerome Hahn felt was closely tied to the ideals of religious freedom symbolized by the spring hidden in the cellar of the commercial building along North Main Street (CLR 2010:36-37).

By 1929, Jerome Hahn had begun discussions with the city for building a park to reestablish the spring as a public resource as guaranteed in the 1721 deed to Gabriel Bernon. He soon reached a purchase agreement with Joseph Levy, the owner of the commercial building on the spring lot. A fellow Jew and a Russian immigrant, Levy was known as a patriotic figure and probably shared Hahn's interest in commemorating religious freedom. Given his wealth, he could probably afford to sell his relatively new building at a reasonable price, much as he had offered to sell the old Dodge-Allen-Seagraves house to a preservation organization at cost in 1922. With the city's support, Jerome Hahn purchased the spring lot in 1930 and in 1931 gave it to the City of Providence in memory of his father, Isaac Hahn. The name chosen for the site was Roger Williams Spring Park (CLR 2010:37).

As part of the initial planning, architect Norman M. Isham was contacted prior to May 1929 to develop an initial design for the small park that amounted to about one-tenth of an acre. Isham was certainly well qualified for the project, given his familiarity with the site, preservation work on College Hill, and research at the Roger Williams house site in 1906. With a graduate degree in art from Brown University, Isham began his career in architecture working for various Providence firms during the 1880s and 1890s. With publication of his 1895 treatise on early Rhode Island houses with his then partner, Albert Brown, Isham became known as an authority on early American architecture. In 1903, he began his own practice at his home in Wickford, Rhode Island, where in addition to new construction, he planned restoration projects for numerous historic buildings in New England and beyond. At the time of the spring park commission, he was also director of the department of architecture at the Rhode Island School of Design (CLR 2010:37).

In June 1929, Isham presented his plans for the park that included the adjoining lot to the north owned by M. Katz, occupied by a c.1875 three-story brick commercial building. In 1930, the City Council approved the city's acquisition of the two parcels (the Hahn lot through donation and the Katz lot through purchase) and authorized the park commission to improve the site by demolishing the buildings and constructing the park. By September 1930, the city had demolished both the Levy and Katz buildings, allowing Isham to get the levels he needed to finalize his initial design. With the buildings gone, Isham was able to investigate the features associated with the spring. These included the old stone-lined well assumed to be the source of the historic spring that was enclosed in a concrete box culvert dating to the 1923 construction of the Levy commercial building. An old drainpipe led southwest across the site to Alamo Lane, probably leading to the pump built by Nehemiah Dodge in c.1816. This line probably also led to the trough that had stood on Canal Street until c.1900 (CLR 2010:37-38).

In April 1931, Isham completed his initial plans for the park showing a two-part landscape with formal, geometric lines that reflected the popular Colonial Revival style. Isham's design for the south half of the park (the spring lot) featured a central parterre surrounding the spring well capped by an ornamental iron fence, and a double flight of stairs leading down from North Main Street. The Katz lot was proposed as a simple set of walks extending on axis with the center of the spring lot. Around both lots, Isham called for a substantial fence with stone piers and iron pickets. The estimated

construction cost was \$20,000, but with the growing economic crisis, the city decided by June 1931 to provide only half of this amount; by September, the funding was further reduced to \$8,000. Apparently, because of this, the portion of the park on the Katz lot was postponed for a future phase, and Isham focused his work on the spring lot (CLR 2010:38).

By October 1931, Isham had revised his design for parterre, calling for curved instead of angular corners and use of an octagonal stone wellcurb instead of an iron fence around the spring well. As in his original design, the wellcurb served as one of four symmetrical corner anchors to the parterre, to be surrounded by a wide bluestone path. By January 1932, the city had decided to begin work on the masonry parts of the design using the available \$8,000 through contract with the Coleman Construction Company of Barrington, Rhode Island. This work included retaining walls and paths (CLR 2010:39).

In May 1933, the year after the initial construction was undertaken, the city council appropriated the \$5,900 necessary for Coleman Construction to complete the remaining elements, including the stairs to North Main Street and the perimeter fence and gates. Isham finalized plans for these features by the end of the month. The perimeter fence featured a pair of monumental entrance gates on North Main Street that opened to a double flight of granite and limestone stairs leading to the lower terrace, ten feet below. Coleman Construction completed this work over the summer of 1933. Soon after, the piers to either side of the main gate were outfitted with bronze tablets. The north plaque commemorated the gift of the park by Judge Jerome Hahn in memory of his father, Isaac Hahn, as the first person of Jewish faith elected to public office in Providence. The south plaque recounted the history of the spring as the site where Providence was founded in 1636 and which was granted a public resource for the citizens of Providence in 1721 (CLR 2010:39-40).

With the structural elements complete, the city park department added the plantings that fall, probably to its own design (Figures 10 and 11). The evergreen plantings differed from the design Isham had shown on his October 1931 plan by adding a narrow border of annuals along the perimeter of the lawn parterre and outer edge of the bluestone walks. At three corners of the parterre were single yew shrubs that balanced the spring wellcurb at the southeast corner, and a small bed of annuals around the center drain. The city planted the sides of the courtyard with alternating rhododendron and evergreen shrubs, probably Norway spruce, with English ivy groundcover. Along the wall of the adjoining two-story building on Alamo Lane at the back of the courtyard, the city planted a screen of Norway spruce and assorted shrubs, probably rhododendron and leatherleaf viburnum. On top of the retaining wall adjoining the unfinished Katz Lot, clipped privet provided enclosure and screened the adjoining unfinished lot. The city completed these plantings by early November. On November 17, 1933, the city received a letter from Judge Hahn expressing his appreciation of the park's completion (CLR 2010:40).

The idea of creating parkland along North Main Street was also taken up by others during this time. As the city was planning development of Roger Williams Spring Park in 1930, parishioners of St. John's Church decided to transform the property to the north and across from the church into a park dedicated to the memory of Gabriel Bernon, the founder of St. John's. Bernon had lived on or near the proposed park site across from the chapel on one of the warehouse lots, and was the first owner of the spring lot when the deed securing public access was executed in 1721. He died in 1736 and was buried in the crypt of St. John's. Aside from the city's plans for the spring, the idea of the Bernon park was probably influenced by the designation of St. John's as the cathedral for the Episcopal Diocese of Rhode Island in 1929. Development of the park would have provided the cathedral with a different setting from the line of old commercial buildings that then faced the church (CLR 2010:41).

In 1930, parishioners and Bernon descendants formed the Bernon Realty Corporation to receive monetary donations and hold title to the property while legal interest was cleared. The corporation was headed by The Reverend James De Wolf Perry, Episcopal Bishop of Rhode Island. By 1937, the corporation had acquired property and demolished the row of buildings at 256-268 North Main Street and a tenement at 6 Church Street. The adjoining tenement building at 2-4 Church Street was demolished for a parking lot by the adjoining property owner. The corporation rough graded the empty lots and put up a wood fence along the North Main Street sidewalk because of a drop-off similar to what existed at the Katz Lot. The old stone foundation walls from the front walls of the

demolished buildings were kept as a retaining wall. The corporation was not able to complete its plans for the park because of financial difficulties stemming from the Depression. Without sufficient funds, the corporation decided to donate the property to the city (CLR 2010:41).

Once the corporation settled remaining encumbrances, it deeded the 8,500-square foot-lot to the city and in June 1942, the City Council accepted the donation as a memorial to Gabriel Bernon. The city, however, was slow to commit to the park improvements along North Main Street at either Bernon Park or the Katz Lot section of Roger Williams Spring Park. It was not until 1953, nearly a decade after it acquired Bernon Park, that the park department made some improvements by planting a small grove of Norway maple trees. It also installed a small monument to Bernon consisting of a gray granite tablet. The inscription on the stone read: "Near This Spot Lived/Gabriel Bernon/A Huguenot Refugee/Born LaRochelle France/April 6, 1644/Died Providence/February 1, 1736/Merchant Colonizer Churchman" (CLR 2010:41-42).

During the early 1950s, the Providence park department also replaced most of the plantings in Roger Williams Spring Park, perhaps because they had become overgrown during the war from lack of maintenance. This included removal of the annual borders and replacement of the border around the parterre with a low boxwood or privet hedge. Most of the Norway spruce and rhododendron shrubs along the perimeter of the courtyard were replaced with new shrubs, including columnar arborvitae along the west side adjoining the building to the rear, and pyramidal evergreens, probably yew, along the side walls. The city made no improvements to the Katz lot and the initial plan by Norman Isham, who died in 1943, remained unexecuted. The only feature on the Katz lot aside from a rough lawn was a pipe railing along North Main Street (CLR 2010:42).

There were few major changes along North Main Street and the surrounding area west to Canal Street through the mid-1960s, except for those triggered by the continued economic downturn, notably the loss of the meatpacking industries and the decline of buildings and retail stores on North Main Street. Despite this, most of the buildings within the national memorial site remained standing. The only notable loss after World War II was the old police headquarters between North Court Street and Haymarket Street, which was replaced by a parking lot that took up most of the narrow block. Across North Main Street, changes included the demolition of the 1844 Quaker Meetinghouse at the corner of South Court Street in 1950 and its replacement by a fire station, and the demolition of several buildings north of St. John's for construction of a new parish house, begun in 1963. As the new parish house was under construction, the city was planning the fate of the three-century-old urban area surrounding Roger Williams Spring Park. Comprising ten blocks south to Lonsdale Street between North Main and Canal Streets, this area would become the focus of an extensive urban renewal project to create a new memorial to Roger Williams and the founding of Providence, expanding the concept begun with Roger Williams Spring Park (CLR 2010:42-43).



Figure 3. The building in front of the site of Roger Williams's house, probably constructed in c.1840, looking east across North Main Street. (Roger Williams National Memorial archives)

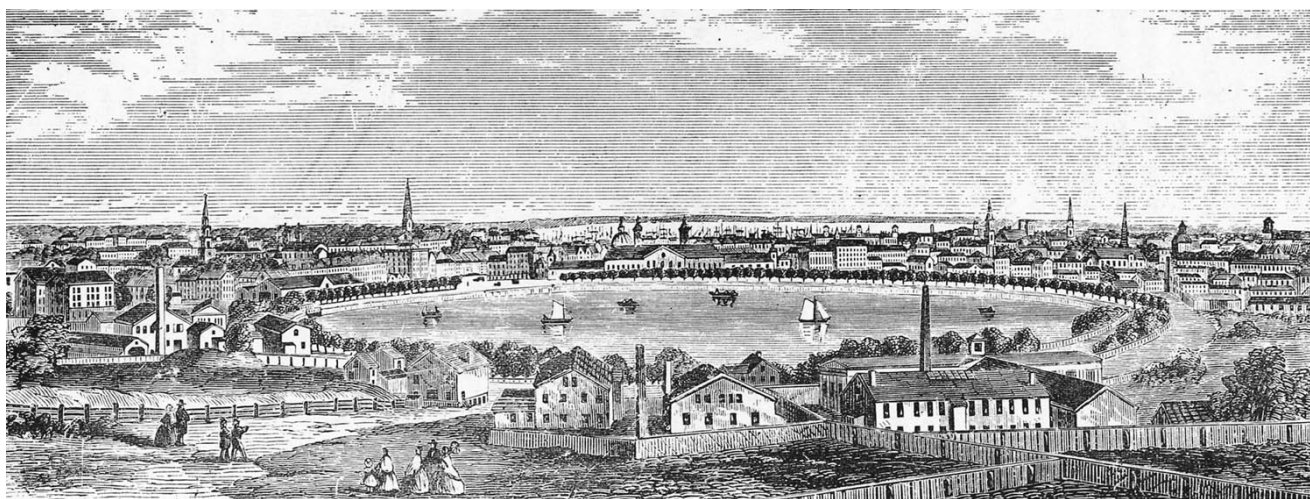


Figure 4. View of Providence in c.1860 looking southeast across the cove showing its reconfiguration into a promenade-lined oval between 1846-1856. The national memorial site is on the drawing's left side. (Courtesy of Rhode Island Historical Society)



Figure 5. Aerial photograph of downtown Providence looking northwest with the capitol and rail yard in the distance, c.1924. The site of the national memorial is off the upper right side of the photograph. (Rhode Island Historical Society, RHIX17459)

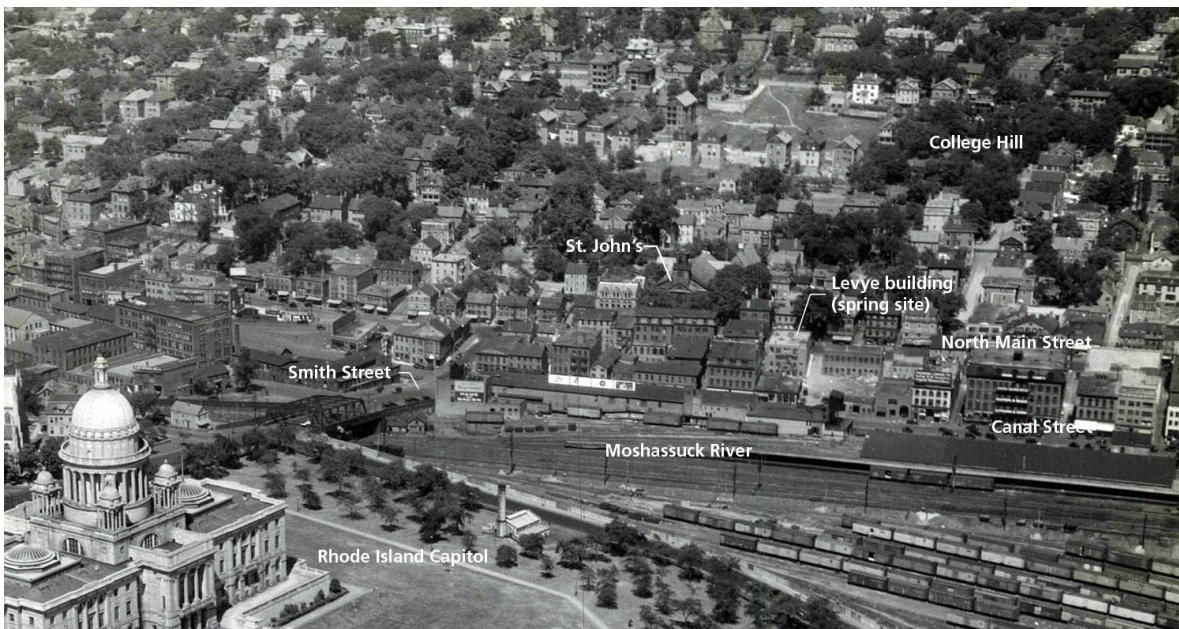


Figure 6. A 1924 aerial photograph looking east showing development at the present site of the national memorial, from Smith Street at left to right edge of photograph. (Courtesy of Providence Department of Planning and Development, annotated by SUNY ESF)



Figure 7. Looking northeast over downtown Providence from Prospect Terrace, c.1877. (Welcome Arnold Greene, *The Providence Plantations for 250 Years*, 1886)



Figure 8. The Roger Williams Memorial (1877) in Roger Williams Park, from a c.1910 photograph by the Detroit Publishing Company. (Library of Congress American Memory Collection, digital ID det4a17975)

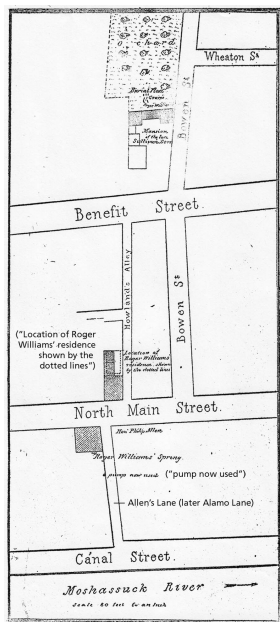


Figure 9. Detail of 1860 Allen's Map of "Roger Williams' Spring" at rear wall of Philip Allen's house, a pump from the spring, and site of Williams's house. (Rhode Island Historical Society, Antoinette Downing Papers, RHIX17461, annotated by SUNY ESF)

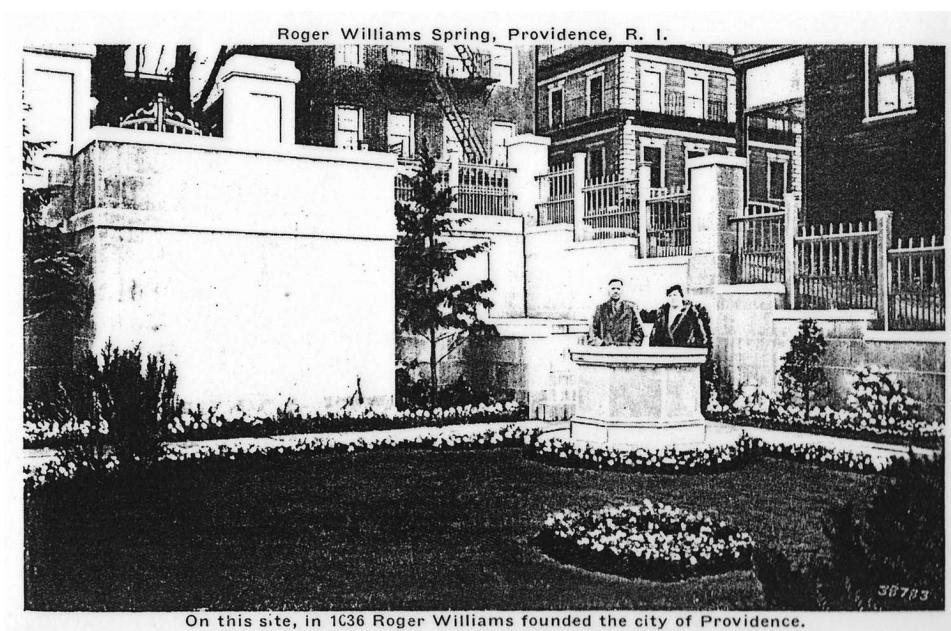


Figure 10. Postcard of Roger Williams Spring Park looking southeast toward North Main Street and Alamo Lane showing original planting scheme, c.1935. (Roger Williams National Memorial archives)

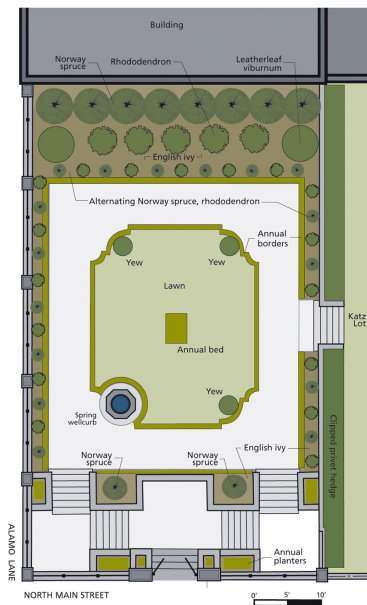


Figure 11. Plan showing approximate original planting scheme for Roger Williams Spring Park based on period photographs. (SUNY ESF)

THE NATIONAL MEMORIAL PERIOD, 1965-PRESENT

After more than six years of planning, Congress passed legislation in 1965 establishing Roger Williams National Memorial on the city blocks between North Main Street and Canal Street surrounding Roger Williams Spring Park. The newly designated national memorial, which included a \$700,000 federal appropriation for acquisition and development, was an expansion in both concept and physical extent of the earlier park, reflecting the ambitious urban redevelopment programs of the post-World War II period (CLR 2010:51).

At the time of the designation in 1965, the national memorial site was a mix of public and private property containing nearly fifty buildings in addition to ten city streets and the two city parks. As the city acquired the properties for the memorial, the National Park Service started planning for the redevelopment of the site, which began in earnest after federal acquisition of the property in 1974. The following year, the city completed demolition of all buildings, streets, and other improvements on the site except for the Antram-Gray house, Roger Williams Spring Park, and Bernon Park. After a multi-year site design and environmental review process, the National Park Service approved the final site design concept in 1977. Most of the construction was undertaken in three phases between 1980 and 1982. In the following decades, the landscape remained largely as designed with only a few minor alterations made to address operations and interpretation (CLR 2010:51).

Urban Renewal and Origins of the National Memorial Idea:

The ideals behind the creation of Roger Williams Spring Park and Bernon Park—to commemorate the founding and early history of Providence and to create green space in a dense, declining urban neighborhood—were continued in the city's post-war urban renewal programs. In 1947, as Providence was entering a period of stark decline in its population and economic base, the city created the Providence Redevelopment Agency to direct the clearing and rebuilding of blighted areas for public parks, housing, industrial sites, and commercial buildings. The work of the agency began in earnest following passage of federal legislation and funding through the Housing Acts of 1949 and 1954. A 1957 public works improvements plan by the Providence City Plan Commission directed the redevelopment agency to focus on designated neighborhoods of the city. One of these included the oldest parts of Providence along North and South Main Streets and portions of College Hill, including Roger Williams Spring Park (CLR 2010:51).

Reaction to the proposed demolition and redevelopment soon followed, particularly on College Hill with its numerous eighteenth and early nineteenth century buildings. Many city residents raised concerns at a time when historic preservation was generally absent from American city planning prior to passage of the federal Historic Preservation Act of 1966. In response to the proposed urban renewal, residents created the Providence Preservation Society in 1956 “for the encouragement of protecting, improving, and making proper use of our historic sites and buildings” (CLR 2010:52, citing Cady 1957:281-282). In 1958, the Society worked with the City Plan Commission to create a special plan for College Hill, funded by the federal Department of Housing and Urban Development, to take into account preservation of the neighborhood’s historic buildings. Entitled “College Hill: A Demonstration Study of Historic Area Renewal,” the plan documented the history of the neighborhood and made recommendations for improvements that retained historically significant buildings and designed compatible new infill construction. As part of the overall study, separate reports were developed to create detailed plans for several small areas within College Hill, two of which were along North Main Street. One of these was the “Historic Renewal Area” pilot study that addressed four blocks east of the spring that contained the site of Roger Williams’s home and some of the city’s oldest standing buildings. While the study called for preservation of many buildings, most along the east side of North Main Street were recommended for removal and replacement with new buildings that maintained the historic massing and setbacks within the neighborhood (CLR 2010:52).

The College Hill study recommended a far different approach in its pilot study for the west side of North Main Street across from the Historic Renewal Area. The study recommended the entire area between Haymarket Street (South Court Street) on the south and Smith Street on the north be cleared and redeveloped as a new and expanded Roger Williams Spring Park linked to other historic sites on College Hill through a proposed “Benefit Trail.” In developing the plans, William Warner, project chief for the College Hill Study, discussed the park proposal with staff of the National Park Service in the spring of 1958. Recognizing Roger Williams’s national significance in the history of religious freedom, the College Hill study called for the new park to be built as a national park for the “edification and inspiration of all the people of the United States.” Plans included a central one-acre developed area with a surrounding three-acre “landscaped park...to provide a pleasant outlook from the rehabilitated historical section of the hill to the east” (Figure 12) (CLR 2010:53, citing College Hill: A Demonstration Study:130-131). Plans for the central developed area, accessed by footbridges over North Main and Canal streets with parking west of Canal Street, featured a museum, reading room, walled garden with a relocated seventeenth-century house, and a fountain representing the Roger Williams Spring. In July 1958, the City Plan Commission voted unanimously to endorse the national park proposal (CLR 2010:52-53).

The city quickly acted on ushering the park proposal through the federal government. In August 1958, Providence Mayor Walter Reynolds wrote to Conrad Wirth, director of the National Park Service, urging his support for the Roger Williams National Park as part of the College Hill renewal program. Soon after, staff from the Advisory Board on National Parks, Historic Sites, Buildings and Monuments visited the Providence site to assess its eligibility as a national monument rather than as a national park as initially proposed. The Advisory Board proposed this change because the site was too small for a national park, which typically encompassed a variety of resources across a large area of land. The intent of a national monument, in contrast, was to preserve at least one nationally significant resource. Director Wirth followed with a personal visit to the site in March 1960, and was reportedly “favorably impressed” (CLR 2010:53, citing “The Town Spring and Roger Williams Memorial Common” 1959).

In May 1960, John Nicholas Brown, chair of the Board of the Providence Preservation Society, asked Rhode Island Senator Theodore F. Green to sponsor a bill establishing the Roger Williams National Monument. On August 9, 1960, Senator Green introduced the bill under the provisions of the Historic Sites Act of 1935 and with a \$2,500,000 price tag for acquisition and development. Two weeks later, the Senate passed the bill, but it failed in the House due to the cost. An identical bill was introduced in the next session of Congress, along with a supporting resolution from the Rhode Island Assembly. In September 1961, Assistant Secretary of the Interior Glen Carver reported that the bill should not be enacted because the spring site could not be authenticated as the significant resource necessary for national monument designation. The bill was ultimately referred back to the Department of the Interior and the National Park Service for further study (CLR 2010:53-54).

Carver was responding to a recommendation from the Advisory Board that the legislation be deferred because there was no conclusive documentation that the well in the Roger Williams Spring Park was the precise location of the actual 1636 spring. The Advisory Board instead recommended designation of the site as a national memorial because of the lack of a significant existing resource necessary for national monument designation. Within the National Park System, a national memorial was a designation for a site that was primarily commemorative and did not necessarily contain associated historic resources (CLR 2010:54).

More than two years later in November 1963, the National Park Service drafted a new bill to designate the site as Roger Williams National Memorial (rather than national monument) based on a feasibility study that recommended development of the four-acre site between Haymarket and Smith Streets. Much like the initial College Hill study, the proposal called for a small museum and “formal park landscaping” on the remainder of the site surrounding the spring site, replacing the two existing city parks, at a total development cost of \$590,000 (CLR 2010:54, citing Pautzke 1965). Part of the plan included funds for moving the Clemence-Irons House, a seventeenth century house in Johnston, Rhode Island, donated in 1947 to the Society for the Preservation of New England Antiquities (now Historic New England) to the memorial. To reduce costs to the federal government, the city of Providence agreed to donate its land within the site to the Providence Redevelopment Agency, and the agency, as part of its larger Eastside Renewal Project, agreed to condemn the private property, demolish all buildings, rough-grade the land, and sell the entire site to the federal government at a reduced cost of \$105,000. The feasibility study was followed by a formal recommendation in October 1964 by the Advisory Board on National Parks, Historic Sites, Buildings and Monuments supporting the establishment of Roger Williams National Memorial (CLR 2010:54).

In the summer of 1965, legislation for the establishment of the national memorial was ready for introduction into the House and Senate. In September 1965, Allen Edmunds, assistant regional director of the National Park Service, appeared before the House Subcommittee on National Parks and Recreation to provide testimony, stating: “We believe the establishment of a national memorial to Roger Williams at the site proposed in the bill is an appropriate means of commemorating on a national basis his outstanding contributions to the establishment of religious freedom” (CLR 2010:54, citing Edmunds 1965). Edmunds provided exhibits testifying to the proposed national memorial’s contributions to urban renewal in Providence. He showed the committee an aerial photograph of the proposed site, testifying: “A very small park, locally developed, has already been created here, but the unsightly and miscellaneous character of the surrounding buildings makes it completely inadequate as an expression of the national importance of Roger Williams. This aerial photograph reveals some of the blighted urban conditions this project and related programs are designed to correct” (CLR 2010:55, citing Edmunds 1965).

Establishment and Federal Acquisition of the National Memorial, 1965-1975:

On October 22, 1965, Congress passed a joint House-Senate act establishing Roger Williams National Memorial, signed into law by President Lyndon Johnson. The legislated purpose of the national memorial to Roger Williams was “in commemoration of his outstanding contributions to the development of the principles of freedom in this country.” The legislation allowed the Secretary of the Interior to acquire by gift or purchase up to five acres “at the site of the old town spring, traditionally called Roger Williams Spring,” but did not describe a specific boundary. The legislation also called for the national memorial to be administered as a historic area in accordance with the National Park Service Act of 1916 and the Historic Sites Act of 1935. Congress appropriated \$700,000 for property acquisition and development, but did not provide any specific direction on the planning and design of the national memorial (CLR 2010:55 and Appendix A).

Following passage of the legislation, the Providence Redevelopment Agency began planning for acquisition of the national memorial site, which at the time still consisted of numerous properties in city and private ownership. In November 1966, the city council approved the “Redevelopment Plan for the East Side Renewal Project,” which gave the Redevelopment Agency the authority to condemn private property on the site. The agency proposed staging site clearance over a two-year period to allow commercial and residential occupants time to relocate. The agency began condemnation proceedings on the private properties in 1969 and demolition of some of the buildings was underway

by early 1971. During this time, the National Park Service was negotiating with the city and Redevelopment Agency over the boundaries of the national memorial site. In 1970, initial agreement had been reached on a 3.9-acre site between Haymarket and Smith streets, an area reduced from earlier figures due to increased costs and the city's proposed widening of Canal and Smith Streets. By 1971, the National Park Service was requesting a larger site of 4.5 acres. By June 1972, the city reached agreement with the National Park Service on the 4.5-acre site extending from the proposed curbline of widened Lonsdale Street (Park Row) on the south to a widened Smith Street on the north and a widened Canal Street on the west. Only the curbline of North Main Street was to remain unchanged (CLR 2010:55-56).

As condemnation, demolition, and site boundaries were being worked out between 1969 and 1973, discussions were also underway on the extent of demolition on the site. In a change of position from the 1959 park proposal in the College Hill Demonstration Study, the Providence Preservation Society, together with the Rhode Island Historic Preservation Commission (State Historic Preservation Office), called for retention of the side streets (gangways), Roger Williams Spring Park, Bernon Park, and the Antram-Gray house. Antoinette Downing, chair of the Rhode Island Historic Preservation Commission felt that the spring park, although less than fifty years old at the time, was significant for its commemorative value and as a work of architect Norman Isham. Downing also requested that the area at the south end of the site be kept open to maintain a vista from the Old State House to the Rhode Island capitol (CLR 2010:56-57).

Initially, the city and the National Park Service were not interested in retaining these features, stating that agreements had already been reached on abandoning the side streets and for moving the Zachariah Allen House, an eighteenth century house located on Smith Street about a mile to the west (instead of the originally proposed Clemence-Irons house) to the national memorial site. By January 1973, the park service had completed a preliminary draft master plan that included a design concept similar to the one in the 1959 College Hill study consisting of an open green space with a cluster of visitor facilities, except that it located these facilities at the south end of the park, on axis with the Old State House. The Providence Preservation Society objected to this concept, which did not retain the Antram-Gray house, Roger Williams Spring Park, or side streets. By October 1973, the park service had changed its position based on the recommendations of the Rhode Island Historic Preservation Commission and decided to retain and relocate the Antram-Gray house as part of its acquisition of the 4.5-acre site. A decision on whether Roger Williams Spring Park and Bernon Park would be retained as part of the national memorial was not made at this point. Both parks were owned and maintained by the Providence Park Department until June 17, 1974 when they were transferred to the Providence Redevelopment Agency (CLR 2010:57-58).

On June 19, 1974, the National Park Service signed a formal contract with the Providence Redevelopment Agency to purchase the entire 4.5-acre national memorial site for \$149,300. On December 30, 1974, the agency conveyed title to the Department of the Interior. By this time, the park service had moved the Antram-Gray house to the site, forty feet from its original location outside of the widened right-of-way for Smith Street, but still facing North Main Street. Prior to the move, the house was documented by the Historic American Building Survey. Per the agreement for sale of the land, the Providence Redevelopment Agency cleared the site within a year after the sale of the property, except for the Antram-Gray house, Roger Williams Spring Park, and Bernon Park. The work included demolishing all remaining buildings, removing the side streets, and rough grading (CLR 2010:58).

Development of the National Memorial Landscape, 1974-2009

As land acquisition and building demolition were being finalized in 1974, the National Park Service's Denver Service Center, a system-wide office for planning, design, and construction, continued to refine design concepts for the national memorial developed in the preliminary draft master plan of January 1973. A revised master plan drafted in 1974 identified the site of the spring (Roger Williams Spring Park) as the historic area within the national memorial. Geoffrey Swan, team captain for the master plan, explained the intent of the master plan to make the spring the central memorial feature, with the remainder of the site serving as the setting. However, it was only the site of the spring, not the Norman Isham-designed courtyard, that the park service considered historic and therefore a basis for a memorial. In 1974, planners were proposing to redevelop the courtyard into a larger, bi-level

plaza connected by a major water feature to symbolize the spring as it existed in Roger Williams's day. Planners expressed several reasons for not retaining the small park in their master plan, including its inappropriateness as a national memorial to Roger Williams, its physical limits reflecting urban conditions that no longer existed, and the likelihood that it could not be successfully integrated into the design of a larger landscape (CLR 2010:58-59).

On December 2, 1975, the park service presented a set of alternative designs to the public that retained the basic concept of a landscape park with a central memorial feature at the spring site that also retained the Antram-Gray house. Public concerns centered on preservation of Roger Williams Spring Park and the view from the Old State House to the state capitol; keeping the south end of the site free of buildings; creating a simple design for the landscape using native vegetation; and finding an appropriate location for parking. During the spring of 1976 as the nation was celebrating its bicentennial, the park service worked closely with the Providence Preservation Society, Benefit Street Association, Roger Williams Family Association, and other interested groups and individuals to address these concerns. Despite its opinion that the small courtyard was not fitting for a national memorial and could not be successfully integrated into the larger landscape design, the park service ultimately agreed to retain Roger Williams Spring Park in all of the alternatives, rather than to replace it with a new memorial feature on the same site (CLR 2010:59).

Following these public meetings, planners at the Denver Service Center revised the alternative concepts. Common criteria set for each of the four alternatives were divided into two parts: design of the national memorial site (landscape), and design of facilities (visitor/interpretive center) that included keeping the Antram-Gray house on its relocated site. The criteria for the site design were: retention of the Roger Williams Spring Park (renamed the Hahn Memorial) and Bernon Park (Bernon Grove); establishment of a small outdoor meeting space at the north end of the site; consideration of an amphitheater to accommodate a large number of visitors; provision for a twenty-car parking lot at the north end of the site; use of an overall simple landscape design reminiscent of the natural shoreline environment of Roger Williams's time, using native vegetation where feasible; and design of spaces to discourage active recreation, such as football and baseball, and to maximize the potential of "restful seclusion and contemplation;" and establishment of a water feature to symbolically portray the original spring, either through a new feature or by rewatering the well in Roger Williams Spring Park (CLR 2010:59-60).

The four alternatives retained the original concept of an open, landscaped park with a central memorial feature, but differed in treatment of individual design elements. Concept 1, "Rolling Topography," designed the site as a natural contrast to the urban environment with winding paths, groves of trees, and a simple central water feature. Concept 2, "Granite Wall," was organized around a long wall running through the center of the site to serve as a sculptural and functional element. Concept 3, "Sculpture Competition," designed the site as a landscaped setting for a major work of sculpture. Concept 4, "Lawn Terraces," envisioned the site as a contemporary interpretation of the natural landscape that existed in 1636 (CLR 2010:60, citing National Park Service 1977:16-18).

The National Park Service publicized these four concepts, along with a project history, site history, description of the environment, and a record of consultation, in an environmental assessment printed in February 1977 entitled "A Place for Your Ideas" (CLR 2010:60). On September 2, 1977, Ray Weaver, the Superintendent of Roger Williams National Memorial, issued a record of decision that, based on public input, environmental impacts, and park service needs, selected Concept 1, "Rolling Topography," as the preferred alternative for the site design, with modifications. This concept reflected public preference for a simple, informal design reflective of English landscape gardening and American park design dating back to Frederick Law Olmsted's Central Park. Public comments on this alternative indicated a desire for minimizing structural development and parking, creating a stronger link to the Old State House, and removing the central water feature—the memorial element. In response, the park service refined the design by removing the fountain and realigning a path to connect with the Old State House, as documented on the final Concept Illustrative Plan appended to the September 1977 record of decision. With removal of the central water feature, the national memorial had no built feature commemorating Roger Williams. By renaming the spring park as the Hahn Memorial, it no longer served to commemorate Roger Williams. In addition to the landscape design, the final Concept Illustrative Plan also showed the Antram-Gray house as the site of the

memorial's visitor center, with a site to its rear for a new building, if necessary (CLR 2010:60-61).

Initial Improvements, 1976-1979.

As plans for the national memorial were being refined, the park service began some initial improvements to the site following completion of the city's widening of Smith Street and construction of new sidewalks along North Main Street in c.1976. The focus of this work was on rehabilitating the Antram-Gray house for park offices and a visitor center, and on creating a temporary parking lot along Canal Street. The regional office contracted for this work with a Boston architect, Richard White. He prepared construction drawings for renovation of the building and for site work including a gravel parking lot off Canal Street with a gravel walk leading to the Antram-Gray House. Work on the house, which preserved the exterior including its later store windows, was completed in 1979, allowing the park service to formally open the national memorial to the public. During this time, the entire site was seeded and a standard National Park Service metal signboard was installed facing the southwest corner of Smith and Canal Streets. Repairs were also made to the Hahn Memorial (CLR 2010:61).

Landscape Design, 1978-1980.

As work was underway on the Antram-Gray house renovations, the park solicited proposals to develop site design plans suitable for construction based on the concept approved in 1977. The National Park Service issued a request for qualifications and interviewed two firms, awarding the contract in c.1977 to Albert Veri & Associates, Inc., Landscape Architects and Planners, an office with about twenty-four staff located at 3 Governor Street in Providence. As an area resident, designer of local parks, and participant in the park service's public meetings on the site design alternatives in 1976, Albert Veri had a good understanding of the project's constraints and opportunities (CLR 2010:61-62).

Prior to the national memorial commission, Veri completed several other major park and urban design commissions, including Kennedy Plaza and Benefit Street in Providence, and Heritage Waterfront Park in Fall River, Massachusetts, as well as campus plans for the University of Rhode Island in Kingston and St. Andrews School in Barrington, Rhode Island. Veri received awards for his work from the American Society of Landscape Architects Rhode Island Chapter and the American Planning Association, and was elected a Fellow of the American Society of Landscape Architects in 1992 (CLR 2010:62).

For the Roger Williams National Memorial project, Albert Veri & Associates formed a joint venture with the engineering firm of Caputo and Wick, Ltd., of Rumford, Rhode Island, and worked in close collaboration with park planners at the National Park Service regional offices in Boston. Veri was particularly interested in revealing the old building foundations then being documented by park archeologists, but park service planners felt this was not appropriate to the approved landscape concept. Ultimately, Veri produced a schematic design that was in keeping with the site design concept finalized by the park service in September 1977, but differed in its details with stronger reference to the site's history of urban development that occurred after Roger Williams's lifetime (Figure 13) (CLR 2010:62).

Veri refined the overall layout of the park service concept by organizing the site into two somewhat distinct areas: the less-developed south half with its idealized rural landscape of rolling topography, winding walks, and groves of trees centered around a bowl-shaped open space referred to as the amphitheater; and a more developed and rectilinear north half incorporating the Hahn Memorial (former Roger Williams Spring Park) and visitor center in the Antram-Gray house. In the south half of the site, Veri adjusted the alignment of the serpentine walks and added an allee on axis with the Old State House to provide a connection between the two sites and to recall the alignment of the old streets. He also added a small circular overlook enclosed by a stone wall along North Main Street to allow views across the open space of the amphitheater toward the Rhode Island capitol in the distance. Veri intended the overlook to also serve as a performance stage. No sidewalks were specified along Lonsdale Street or Canal Street (CLR 2010:62-63).

In the north half of the site where Veri made a greater departure from the original park service concept, he redesigned the winding paths into a rectilinear arrangement that reflected the alignment

of the old buildings, side streets, and the Hahn Memorial. On the south side of the Antram-Gray house, Veri designed a ramp complex lined by stone walls and planters to provide universal access across the steep grade change from North Main Street. South of the ramp, Veri retained Bernon Grove as shown in the park service concept, and defined it by adding a walk along its western edge. At the south end of Bernon Grove, Veri designed a wide walk on the site of Church Street that ramped down from North Main Street to the parking lot along Canal Street. As reference to the old street, Veri designed the upper part of the walk with a broad edge of cobblestone paving and stone retaining walls where building foundations had previously stood. In Bernon Grove, the old stone foundation walls along North Main Street were kept to serve as retaining walls and provide a connection to the buildings that once stood there (CLR 2010:63).

At the Hahn Memorial, Veri integrated the courtyard with the surrounding landscape by extending a short walk to the west on a central axis. He specified replacement of the overgrown plantings using a palette of yews, rhododendrons, and euonymus similar to the original plantings with a clipped privet hedge along the north side, but did not call for replanting the borders around the central parterre. To partially close off the space at the west end where a building had originally stood, Veri specified a hedge of arborvitae. On the adjoining Katz Lot, Veri designed a small rectangular brick terrace inspired by those at the Tuileries Garden in Paris, where bistro chairs could be used as a place to sit and read (CLR 2010:64).

Veri unified the entire national memorial site design through plantings, furnishings, and use of red brick for the walks. Plantings were specified as a mixed evergreen and deciduous palette of native and non-native species. These consisted primarily of London planetree, red and sugar maple, honeylocust, Austrian pine, white fir, white pine, Japanese black pine, privet, Japanese holly, azalea, and yew, with elms in the Old State House allee. On the terrace next to the Hahn Memorial, Veri designed a grove of flowering Siberian crabapple trees with an understory of Japanese holly. Herbaceous plantings were limited to daylilies in the planters at the ramp complex, and annuals in the Hahn Memorial. Benches and garbage cans were designed in a simple contemporary style, while the light standards featured a historic design using the same standard that Veri specified in the Benefit Street improvement project (CLR 2010:64).

Landscape Construction, 1980-1982.

By April 1980, Albert Veri & Associates had produced with partners Caputo and Wick a complete set of existing conditions plans and construction documents, including sections, layout and grading plans, electrical plans, planting plans, and specifications for walls, walks, benches, and garbage cans. The plans were reviewed and approved through the park service's Denver Service Center. For funding purposes, the construction was divided into three phases, with Phase I completed in the fall of 1980. This phase was limited to the construction of the ramp structure adjoining the Antram-Gray house, with its stone walls and planters adjoining the grove of Norway maples in Bernon Park. A flagpole was installed on the west side of the ramp structure (CLR 2010:64).

Construction of Phase II, scoped to encompass the bulk of the landscape including grading, utilities, parking lot, walls, and a portion of the walks and plantings, began on July 27, 1981 following a groundbreaking ceremony attended by Rhode Island Senator Claiborne Pell and local dignitaries. The park service awarded the construction contract to Soprano Construction Company of Cranston, Rhode Island, based on updated construction drawings dated May 1981. Initial progress on site grading and utilities was slow because the contractors encountered numerous old foundations that required removal, necessitating a change order costing nearly \$20,000. By October 1981, grading and addition of new top soil was well underway, along with seeding of the turf and construction of the brick walks. In November, crews were planting specimen trees and shrubs, including replacement of the shrubs in the Hahn Memorial, and installing concrete and wood-slat benches (CLR 2010:64,66).

Apparently due to delays from the initial site preparation, Soprano Construction was not able to complete Phase II before the end of the fall 1981 construction season, leaving some of the brick paving and plantings to be finished in the spring of 1982 during Phase III. This final phase included the remaining plantings and construction of the overlook, Old State House allee, and a portion of the walk along the west side of the amphitheater bordering Canal Street. As completed, the landscape was built largely as designed, except for the Old State House allee, which due to an apparent error in

construction, was built off the axis with the Old State House parade. Park signage, added within two years of Phase III, included two main site identification signs with granite piers at the corner of North Main Street and Park Row, and at Canal and Smith Streets. Several interpretive waysides with text and illustrations were also installed at the Hahn Memorial, Bernon Grove, and at the overlook (CLR 2010:66).

As completed, the landscape of Roger Williams National Memorial was not a memorial in the traditional sense of having a central commemorative monument to Roger Williams. The landscape was, as intended, an unprogrammed landscape where visitors could contemplate Williams's contributions by quietly sitting on a bench, walking, taking part in a ranger-led tour, or by reading several historical waysides. The Hahn Memorial, originally Roger Williams Spring Park, was the only part of the landscape that formally commemorated Roger Williams and the founding of Providence. However, the ancillary nature of the courtyard within the larger landscape design and its renaming downplayed the courtyard's original commemorative function. The city retained the granite monument to Williams and the founding of Providence erected in 1928 along the adjoining sidewalk, but at some point following completion of the national memorial, the bronze plaques were stolen or removed (CLR 2010:66-67).

Post-Construction Changes, 1982-2009.

From its forlorn character at the time of park service acquisition in 1974, the site of Roger Williams National Memorial matured into a lush green space following the completion of construction in 1982. By the late 1990s, the site attracted on average more than 12,000 visitors annually to the visitor center in the Antram-Gray house, with about a quarter coming to learn about Roger Williams. While the primary use of the site was for interpretation and commemoration, it also functioned as a public park with diverse uses. Its success was due not only to the landscape design, but also to its proximity to Providence's revitalized downtown, the state capitol, and to College Hill, which had become a well-preserved and desirable neighborhood. The national memorial was also tied into a larger network of historic areas through its 1986 administrative incorporation into the John H. Chafee Blackstone River Valley National Heritage Corridor. A federally-designated area of mostly non-federal lands within the National Park System, the national heritage corridor was created to interpret the history of the Industrial Revolution in the corridor between Worcester, Massachusetts and Providence (CLR 2010:67-68).

In the years following construction, Albert Veri's design for the national memorial landscape became clear as the plantings grew from small, staked plants to groves and shady specimens. By the early 1990s, trees in the south half of the park screened views to the surrounding streets while also defining interior spaces such as the amphitheater, with evergreens branching down to the ground. Visible above the young canopy were the high-rises of downtown Providence to the south. Near the south end of the national memorial, the contrasting form of the Old State House allee connected the landscape with the National Historic Landmark-designated College Hill Historic District. In the north half of the site, growth of the plantings by the 1990s helped to define the more rectilinear spaces and screen views of the parking area and the Canal Street arterial (CLR 2010:68).

By the first decade of the 2000s, the park service made several minor changes to the landscape due to continued growth of the plantings and shifting operational, interpretive, and aesthetic needs. These changes included addition of whiskey barrel planters with flowering annuals along North Main Street and the Old State House allee, along with six rectangular raised beds between the Antram-Gray house and Smith Street planted with herbs grown during the colonial period. The planters in the ramp complex next to the house were also replanted with corn, beans, and squash (the Three Sisters) to interpret Native American agriculture. In the Hahn Memorial, the park planted ornamental grasses in the center bed and placed urns of annuals at the entrance on North Main Street. The greatest change to the landscape by the early 2000s occurred through the continued growth of trees and shrubs, which limited views of downtown and College Hill and gave a more enclosed character to the site. Some trees were removed or failed to become established, especially pines along the North Main Street side. In an effort to open the site and create a greater sense of safety, the park pruned all of the trees, both evergreen and deciduous, up to a consistent height of approximately twelve feet (CLR 2010:68-69).

While there was no formal memorial to Roger Williams in the landscape, the park did permit the installation of four small monuments and markers that, joining the Gabriel Bernon monument erected in 1953, reflected patriotic efforts and interest in the history of the site after Roger Williams's lifetime. These included a small granite marker added in 1980 to commemorate the planting of the "tree of New Hope" (meaning unknown); a boulder with a brass tablet placed west of the Antram-Gray House in 2002 by the Rhode Island Black Heritage Society to mark the site of the Snowtown Riot, a racial attack that occurred near the site in 1831; a granite tablet marking a white fir planted in 1987 near the Old State House allee to commemorate the bicentennial of the United States Constitution; and a tuliptree and small bronze marker added in 2007 near the amphitheater to commemorate the spirit of liberty (CLR 2010:69).

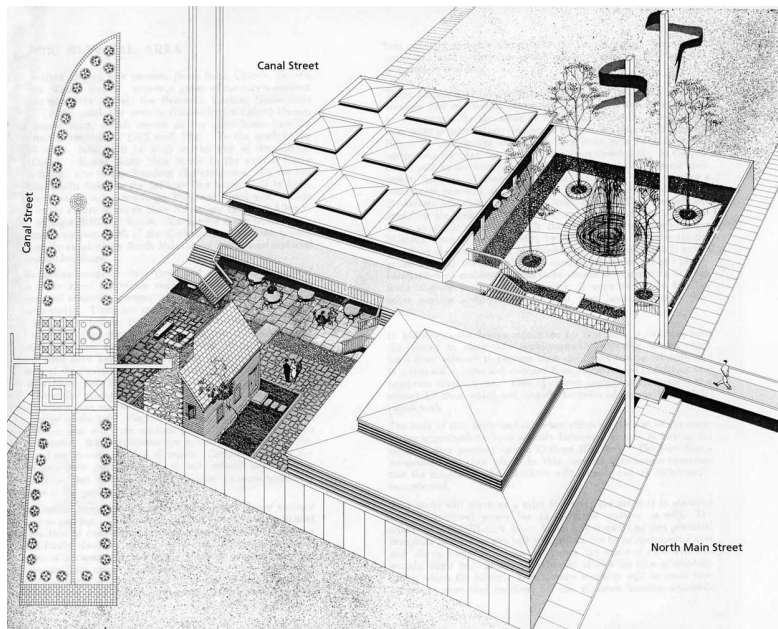


Figure 12. Concept for a proposed Roger Williams national park published by the City Plan Commission in 1959. (Providence City Plan Commission, *College Hill: A Demonstration Study of Historic Area Renewal*, 1959, annotated by SUNY ESF)



Figure 13. Plan of Roger Williams National Memorial by Albert Veri & Associates showing a rendered schematic design of c.1979. (Veri | Waterman Associates, Providence, Rhode Island)

Uses

Functions and Uses:

Major Category	Category	Use/Function	Historic	Current	Primary
Domestic (Residential)	Multiple Dwelling	Multiple Dwelling-Other	Yes	No	No
Domestic (Residential)	Village Site	Village Site	Yes	No	Yes
Landscape	Leisure-Passive (Park)	Leisure-Passive (Park)	Yes	Yes	No
Landscape	Plaza/Public Space (Square)	Urban Park	Yes	Yes	No
Recreation/Culture	Outdoor Recreation	Outdoor Recreation	No	Yes	Yes

Public Access:

Public Access: Unrestricted

Public Access Narrative:

Associated Ethnographic Group

Ethnographic Study Status: No Survey Conducted

Ethnographic Narrative:

An Ethnographic Overview and Assessment is scheduled for Fiscal Year 2013 that will research the relationships between the Narragansetts and the site.

Analysis & Evaluation of Integrity

Analysis and Evaluation of Integrity Narrative Summary:

Landscape characteristics identified for the Roger Williams National Memorial landscape include natural systems and features, spatial organization, land use, circulation, topography, vegetation, buildings and structures, constructed water features, views and vistas, small scale features, and archeological sites. Many of these characteristics have associated with them features that contribute to the site's overall historic setting significance and identity, as well as features that do not contribute or are undetermined.

The physical integrity of the site's landscape is evaluated by comparing landscape characteristics and features present during the periods of significance (1636-1683, and 1933 for the Roger Williams Spring) with current conditions (2010). There are no above ground resources associated with the significance of the national memorial site. However, the Roger Williams Spring (Hahn Memorial) and its associated courtyard continue to reflect its Colonial Revival and neoclassical garden design from 1933 as designed by Norman Isham. The axial plan with a central parterre, fence, gates, staircase, and wellcurb, and much of the planting design are still intact.

Since 1933, the overgrowth of the plantings, change in planting design at the west end of the courtyard, loss of spatial enclosure, and addition of a brick walkway, detract from the historic character of the Roger Williams Spring area. The remainder of the site's landscape represents a contemporary design planned in the 1970s by the National Park Service and designed in 1980-1982 by Albert Veri. Within this landscape are the Antram-Gray house built and enlarged between c.1729 and 1781, and non-historic paths, parking areas, groves of trees, lawn areas, and various small monuments.

INTEGRITY

According to the National Register, integrity is the ability of a property to convey its significance through physical resources. The National Register program identifies seven aspects of integrity: location, design, setting, material, workmanship, feeling, and association. The national memorial landscape retains integrity to its period of significance of 1636-1683 only in location; all other aspects of integrity are not apparent in the landscape as built in 1980-1982 (given its significance legislated by Congress, the site does not need to meet the aspects of integrity). The Roger Williams Spring (Hahn Memorial) retains integrity of location, design, materials, workmanship, feeling, and association to its design and construction as completed in 1933. The only aspect of integrity that has been lost is the setting. Evaluation of the integrity of the Antram-Gray house, which does not have any associated historic landscape (the surrounding landscape is the contemporary national memorial landscape), is beyond the scope of this cultural landscape inventory (CLI 2010:108).

The following evaluation of individual aspects of integrity pertains only to the Roger Williams Spring (Hahn Memorial) as the historic landscape within the national memorial.

Location:

Location refers to the place where the cultural landscape was constructed or where the historic event occurred. The Roger Williams Spring (Hahn Memorial) remains in the same location as when it was completed in 1933.

Design:

Design is the combination of elements that create the form, plan, space, structure, and style of a cultural landscape. The built components of the Roger Williams Spring (Hahn Memorial) remain largely unchanged from the period of construction in 1931-1933 with the exception of the additional walk that connects the courtyard to the surrounding contemporary landscape, and paving of two planting beds adjoining the staircase. The planting scheme retains the overall organization of the original except for the absence of the border hedge (originally an herbaceous bed) in the central parterre, and English ivy groundcover in the central bed and in the perimeter beds. The present species reflect a 1981 composition except for the yews at the corners of the parterre and the privet hedge along the north side. Despite these changes, the overall design of the courtyard remains intact.

Setting:

Setting refers to the physical environment within and adjoining the property. The setting of the Roger Williams Spring (Hahn Memorial) has changed dramatically since its completion in 1933. Originally designed as a small park partially enclosed by urban buildings, the memorial today is surrounded by the open landscape of the national memorial. The lot to the north of the courtyard, originally conceived as part of Roger Williams Spring Park, was open in 1933 and is today occupied by a brick terrace surrounded by a grove of crabapple trees. The setting along North Main Street remains, but the intersection with Alamo Lane that defined the south side of the memorial has been lost.

Materials:

Materials are the physical elements, both natural and constructed, that were used historically within the cultural landscape. The Roger Williams Spring (Hahn Memorial) retains integrity of built materials, including the limestone walls, painted steel fences and gates, granite steps, limestone and granite wellcurb, bluestone walks, and bronze tablets. The ceramic tile paving on the stair landings has been replaced in-kind. All of the plant materials except the yews at the corners of the parterre and the privet hedge along the north wall were replaced with different species after 1980, but the palette is similar to the historic species.

Workmanship:

Workmanship refers to the physical evidence of the crafts in the construction of the landscape. The Roger Williams Spring (Hahn Memorial) retains workmanship in its stone walls, steel fence and gates, bluestone walks, and brass tablets.

Feeling:

Feeling is an expression of the aesthetic or historic sense of a particular period in a cultural landscape. Despite the change in setting, the Roger Williams Spring (Hahn Memorial) retains the feeling of an enclosed, intimate courtyard entered through a monument gate with flanking commemorative tablets. This feeling is diminished upon entrance along the brick path to the west from within the national memorial.

Association:

Association refers to the direct link between the important historic event or person and the cultural landscape. The Roger Williams Spring (Hahn Memorial) retains its historic association with Roger Williams and the history of religious freedom through the presence of the bronze tablets at the main gate. One tablet commemorates the spring as the place where Roger Williams founded Providence in 1636 and as a public water source, and the other commemorates Isaac Hahn as the first person of Jewish faith to be elected to higher office from Providence. The change in name from Roger Williams Spring Park to the Hahn Memorial diminished the integrity of association by shifting the primary association away from Roger Williams. However, the park has recently reinstituted use of the name Roger Williams Spring.

The section that follows presents an analysis of landscape characteristics and their associated features and corresponding List of Classified Structures names and numbers, if applicable. It also includes an evaluation of whether the feature contributes to the property's National Register eligibility for the historic period (1636-1683 and 1933 for the Roger Williams Spring), contributes to the property's historic character, or if it is noncontributing, undetermined, or managed as a cultural resource.

Landscape Characteristic: Natural Systems and Features

This characteristic is comprised of the natural aspects that shape the landscape. The existing landscape of the Roger Williams National Memorial is an entirely constructed landscape and therefore has no natural systems and features (see Vegetation for managed flora, Topography for built landforms). The national significance of the site is, however, derived from a natural system: the fresh-water spring (old town spring) that attracted Roger Williams to land at the site in 1636 and found the settlement of Providence. While the natural hydrology of this spring may remain beneath the ground surface, it is not apparent in the cultural landscape. This natural system did influence the location of the Roger Williams Spring (Hahn Memorial), with its wellcurb at the purported site of the spring. The orientation of North Main Street and Canal Street also trace back to the natural landform of the Great Salt Cove, but no trace of this natural system remains visible today (CLR 2010:111).

Landscape Characteristic: Spatial Organization

This characteristic is defined by the arrangement of elements creating the ground, vertical, and overhead planes that define and create spaces. In 1636, the national memorial site consisted of the shoreline along the Great Salt Cove. There may have been a mix of fields and woods in the adjoining uplands, across the Pawtucket Trail (North Main Street). In the initial settlement of Providence, the uplands were developed with houses, gardens, and fields, but the shoreline remained undeveloped as common lands, within which was located the town spring. Over the course of the next three centuries, the shoreline was built up into urban spaces defined by streets and buildings, and the cove was filled for development of industries and railroads. In the early twentieth century, the urban street corridors were partially opened through development of Roger Williams Spring Park, Bernon Park, and parking lots. By 1975, the entire national memorial site was transformed into open space through demolition of all urban infrastructure except for the Antram-Gray house and the two parks. While this demolition returned in part the open character of the 1636 shoreline, the space was surrounded by urban infrastructure rather than the original cove, woods, and fields. Development of the national memorial landscape in 1980-82 partially enclosed the space through plantings. Overall, the spatial character of the national memorial landscape today retains little similarity to the character that existed during the historic period between 1636 and 1683, but does retain the later spatial character of the Roger Williams Spring (Hahn Memorial) completed in 1933 (CLR 2010:111-112).

Roger Williams Spring Courtyard.

The Roger Williams Spring (Hahn Memorial) was completed in 1933 as a partially enclosed park whose space was defined by its sunken courtyard framed by walls and fences along North Main Street and Alamo Lane (Figure 14). A two-story brick warehouse framed the west side of the park and a three-story commercial building across Alamo Lane added to the enclosure on the south side.

The north side of the park was enclosed by low retaining walls and a privet hedge that separated it from the empty Katz lot to the north (the undeveloped north half of the park). The courtyard lost some of its spatial enclosure with demolition of the buildings on the west and south sides in c.1973. The National Park Service returned some of the western enclosure through planting of an arborvitae hedge along the old west building line in c.1981. Despite the loss of the adjoining buildings, the Roger Williams Spring courtyard overall retains its historic spatial character.

Non-Contributing Features.

Two other spatial organization features that do not contribute to the site's significance include the amphitheater, built in 1982, and the Bernon Grove, dating to 1953.

Landscape Features:

Feature Name	CLI Feature ID	Feature Contribution	CRIS-HS Resource ID	Associated CRIS-AR ID	FMSS Record Type	FMSS Record Number	FMSS Exact Match
Roger Williams Spring Courtyard (Hahn Memorial)	150783	Contributing	40380		Location	68245	Yes
Amphitheater	150779	Noncontributing – Compatible					No
Bernon Grove	150787	Noncontributing – Compatible					No

Landscape Characteristic Graphics:



Figure 14. Looking west across the courtyard from the main stairway showing enclosure by walls, fences, and vegetation, 2008. The north stairway is partially visible on the right. (SUNY ESF)

Landscape Characteristic: Land Use

This characteristic describes uses that affect the physical form of the landscape. The site of the national memorial in 1636 and in subsequent years of early Providence was shoreline that was reserved as common lands for the town and used for multiple purposes, including the source of public drinking water, a town meeting place prior to building of the town mill in 1646, and a landing place for boats. After Roger Williams's death in 1683, the Proprietors sold off the shorefront common lands as warehouse lots, and the land was converted to 113 private commercial, industrial, maritime, and residential uses. The site continued to serve as access to the cove through the construction of narrow streets known as gangways that led from North Main Street to wharves along the shoreline. With the extension of Canal Street in 1823, maritime use of the site largely ceased with removal of the cove shoreline. Public use continued in small areas of the site through a city police station erected in 1861 and building of Roger Williams Spring Park in 1933 and Bernon Park by 1953. The spring park introduced public commemorative uses at the site. Use of the entire site for public commemoration, education, and recreation occurred with completion of the national memorial landscape in 1982. Although the present land uses did not exist during the historic period between 1636 and 1683, the site is in public ownership as it was in Roger Williams' day (Figures 15, 16, 17, and 18) (CLR 2010:112-113).

Non-Contributing Features.

One other land use feature, the picnic area that dates to c.1982, does not contribute to the site's significance.

Landscape Features:

Feature Name	CLI Feature ID	Feature Contribution	CRIS-HS Resource ID	Associated CRIS-AR ID	FMSS Record Type	FMSS Record Number	FMSS Exact Match
Picnic Area	150795	Noncontributing – Compatible					No

Landscape Characteristic Graphics:



Figure 15. Looking west along Smith Street (US 44/US 1) from north end of the national memorial with the Rhode Island capitol in the distance, 2008. (SUNY ESF)



Figure 16. Looking west along Park Row at the south edge of the national memorial with the downtown business district and redevelopment area in the background, 2008. (SUNY ESF)



Figure 17. View north along North Main Street from the intersection of Park Row at the southeast corner of the national memorial, 2008. (SUNY ESF)



Figure 18. The College Hill historic district looking east from the national memorial along Bowen Street, 2008, one of the narrow side streets that follow the boundaries of the original Providence home lots. (SUNY ESF)

Landscape Characteristic: Circulation

This characteristic describes systems of movement through the landscape. In 1636 and the early

years of Providence, there was most likely no defined circulation within the site. The Pawtucket Trail, later Towne Street (North Main Street), ran along its east side. There may have been a series of paths accessing the spring and the shoreline from the street. After Roger Williams's death in 1683 and development of the shoreline, the site was bisected by ten narrow side streets known as gangways that were built prior to 1747 to provide access from Towne Street to wharves along the cove. In 1823, Canal Street was built along the west side of the site. Aside from walks to houses and sidewalks along North Main and Canal Streets, the only other defined circulation within and adjoining the site prior to the national memorial were walks within Roger Williams Spring Park completed in 1933. All circulation except for the park walks was removed with clearing of the site that was completed in 1975. In c.1979, the National Park Service built a temporary gravel parking lot off Canal Street and a walk to the Antram-Gray house. With construction of the national memorial landscape between 1980 and 1982, the National Park Service built a system of brick walks, a ramp structure off North Main Street, and a parking lot at the site of the temporary lot off Canal Street. While the national memorial walks reflect some of the urban street patterns, none of the circulation within the site is related to what existed during the period of significance between 1636 and 1683 (CLR 2010:113).

Roger Williams Spring Main Stairway.

The main stairway in the Roger Williams Spring courtyard was built as part of the original construction of the park, completed in 1933 according to the design of Norman Isham (Figure 19). The stairway is set into the larger structure of limestone retaining walls that border North Main Street and the north and south sides of the courtyard. The steps include a short flight at the main entrance gates that provide access to a central landing area. From here, two symmetrical flights of stairs provide access to two lower landing areas, from which two additional flights of stairs lead to the main level of the courtyard. The steps are gray granite and the three landings are paved in off-white ceramic tiles that are an in-kind replacement of the original materials. Aside from the landing surface, the stairway remains unchanged since 1933. It is a character-defining feature of the Roger Williams Spring that reflects the formality of the landscape design.

Roger Williams Spring North Stairs.

Along the north side of the Roger Williams Spring is a small flight of steps that was built as part of the original construction of the park, completed in 1933 according to the design of Norman Isham (see Figure 14). The steps are located on axis with the center of the parterre within an opening in the limestone retaining wall that borders the north side of the courtyard. These steps were designed to provide access to the adjoining Katz Lot, which was originally intended as the northern half of the park, but which the city never built. Today, the steps provide access to a brick terrace surrounded by a grove of crabapple trees. There have been no changes to these steps since 1933.

Roger Williams Spring Walks.

The bluestone walks on the main level of the Roger Williams Spring were built as part of the original construction of the park, completed in 1933 according to the design of Norman Isham (see Figure 19). The walks consist of a continuous paved area surrounding the central parterre and are made up of individual bluestone slabs measuring approximately three feet by two feet. The outer perimeter of the walks forms a rectangle, while the interior corners that shape the parterre consist of paired convex and concave curves. In c.1980, the National Park Service altered the walks by extending the bluestone paving into two alcoves at the main stairway where there had originally been planting beds. The park also added a new brick walk at the western end to provide access to the system of walks in the national memorial. Aside from these changes, the Roger Williams Spring walks remain unaltered since their construction in 1933. The walks define the organization of the interior of the courtyard.

Non-Contributing Features.

Several circulation features do not contribute to the site's significance including the Antram-Gray house north entrance walk (built in c.1979), Antram-Gray house driveway (c.1979), NPS staff parking area (c.1980), and the Entrance ramp structure (1980). In addition, Walk A (1981-82), Walk B (1981-82), Walk C/Old State House allee (1982), Walk D (c.1982), Walk E (1981 with an extension built in 2007), Walk F/Church Street walk (1981), Walk G (1981), and Walk H (1981) do not contribute to the site's significance. Lastly, Roger Williams Spring (Hahn Memorial) access walk

(1981), Katz lot terrace (1981), the overlook (1982), visitor parking lot (1981), and the Park Row path (post-1981) do not contribute to the site's significance (Figures 20, 21, and 22).

Landscape Features:

Feature Name	CLI Feature ID	Feature Contribution	CRIS-HS Resource ID	Associated CRIS-AR ID	FMSS Record Type	FMSS Record Number	FMSS Exact Match
Roger Williams Spring Main Stairway	150797	Contributing	40380		Asset	1028926	No
Roger Williams Spring North Stairs	150807	Contributing	40380		Asset	1028926	No
Roger Williams Spring Walks	150809	Contributing			Asset	1028948	Yes
Antram-Gray House North Entrance Walk	150811	Noncontributing – Compatible					No
Antram-Gray House Driveway	150815	Noncontributing – Compatible					No
NPS Staff Parking Area	150817	Noncontributing – Compatible					No
Entrance Ramp Structure	150833	Noncontributing – Compatible					No
Walk A	150821	Noncontributing – Compatible					No
Walk B	150823	Noncontributing – Compatible					No
Walk C/Old State House Allee	150825	Noncontributing – Compatible					No
Walk D	150827	Noncontributing – Compatible					No
Walk E	150835	Noncontributing – Compatible					No
Walk F/Church Street Walk	150837	Noncontributing – Compatible					No
Walk G	150839	Noncontributing – Compatible					No
Walk H	150841	Noncontributing – Compatible					No
Roger Williams Spring (Hahn Memorial) Access Walk	150859	Noncontributing – Compatible					No
Katz Lot Terrace	150845	Noncontributing – Compatible					No
Overlook	150847	Noncontributing – Compatible					No
Visitor Parking Lot	150849	Noncontributing – Compatible					No
Park Row Path	150851	Noncontributing – Compatible					No

Landscape Characteristic Graphics:



Figure 19. The steps of the main stairway looking east along the south side of the courtyard, 2008. This photograph also shows the bluestone walks, octagonal wellcurb, and the doorway into the utility room within the stairway structure. (SUNY ESF)



Figure 20. The visitor parking area off Canal Street, view north showing the narrow island planted with London planetrees, 2008. (SUNY ESF)



Figure 21. View south along Walk H, one of the orthogonal walks characteristic of the northern half of the site, 2008. The walk parallels North Main Street (at left) and extends through Bernon Grove. (SUNY ESF)



Figure 22. View southwest along the northern half of Walk A, the long oval walk that frames the amphitheater, 2008. (SUNY ESF)

Landscape Characteristic: Topography

This characteristic is defined as the built, three-dimensional configuration of the landscape. In 1636, the topography of the national memorial site was the natural shoreline that sloped away from the Pawtucket Trail to the Great Salt Cove. After Roger Williams's death in 1683 as the beach was sold off for development, fill was added to create buildable land and bulkheads. The old topography remained evident in the steep slope of the side streets (gangways) that extended off North Main Street. With demolition of buildings on the sites of Roger Williams Spring Park and Bernon Park in the 1930s, the level of the ground was brought down to the old cellar floors. The grade change to North Main Street was accommodated with retaining walls. With completion of demolition and clearing in 1975, the entire site was rough graded outside of the Roger Williams Spring (Hahn Memorial) and Bernon Grove. With the exception of these two areas, the existing landform dates to construction of the national memorial in 1980-82. Aside from a general downward slope away from North Main Street, there is little trace of the topography that existed during the historic period between 1636 and 1683 (Figure 23) (CLR 2010:115).

Non-Contributing Features.

Two topography features that do not contribute to the site's significance include the amphitheater bowl (built in 1981) and the berms (1981).

Landscape Features:

Feature Name	CLI Feature ID	Feature Contribution	CRIS-HS Resource ID	Associated CRIS-AR ID	FMSS Record Type	FMSS Record Number	FMSS Exact Match
Amphitheater Bowl	150861	Noncontributing – Compatible					No
Berms	150863	Noncontributing – Compatible					No

Landscape Characteristic Graphics:



Figure 23. View southwest from the Roger Williams Spring (Hahn Memorial) showing the subtle topography of the southern half of the national memorial landscape, 2008. (SUNY ESF)

Landscape Characteristic: Vegetation

This characteristic describes the managed trees, shrubs, vines, groundcovers, and herbaceous plants in the landscape. In 1636, vegetation within and adjoining the national memorial site was entirely natural—probably beach grasses and low shrubs. During Roger Williams’s lifetime when the site was common lands, there may have been vegetation planted, but no record of this has been found. After Williams’s death in 1683 as the site became urbanized, there were plantings established in gardens associated with residences. As these residences were replaced with industrial and commercial buildings by the early twentieth century, most vegetation disappeared. Completion of Roger Williams Spring Park in 1933 reintroduced vegetation to the site, including lawn, hedges, shrubs, and annual plantings. In 1953, the city replaced some of these plantings around the same time it planted a grove of Norway maple trees at Bernon Park. All vegetation, except at the two parks, was removed from the site with the completion of demolition and clearing in 1975. Construction of the national memorial landscape in 1980-1982 introduced large amounts of vegetation, including lawn, shrubs, and hundreds of coniferous and deciduous trees, both native and exotic. The park service replaced the plantings in the Roger Williams Spring (Hahn Memorial) at the same time, and retained the Norway maples in Bernon Park. In the years after construction of the national memorial landscape, the National Park Service added planters with flowering annuals along North Main Street and several walks, plantings of annuals at the entrance signs, vegetables (Three Sisters) in the planters of the ramp complex, and six raised beds with herbs along Smith Street. Today, the vegetation of the national memorial does not reflect the historic character of vegetation that existed during the historic period between 1636 and 1683. The only plant materials that predate construction of the national memorial landscape are the Norway maples in Bernon Grove (CLR 2010:116-117).

Roger Williams Spring Perimeter Plantings.

The original construction of Roger Williams Spring Park featured plantings installed by the city park department, probably with input from architect Norman Isham. These included plantings that framed the perimeter of the terrace consisting of alternating rhododendron and yew with English ivy groundcover and a narrow border of flowering annuals along the walks. The varieties of annuals are not known. The west side, adjoining a now removed brick building, featured a screen of Norway spruce, fronted by leatherleaf viburnum and rhododendron. Individual Norway spruce were planted in the alcoves at the main stairway along the east side of the parterre. A clipped privet hedge ran along the top of the north retaining wall. In the late 1930s, the annual borders were replaced with a low clipped privet or boxwood hedge. In c.1953, the city park department removed the Norway spruce from the alcoves, replaced the screening along the west side with arborvitae, and replaced the rhododendron with yew. In 1981, the Park Service replaced all of the plantings, with the possible exception of the privet hedge along the north wall. The new plantings maintained the preexisting design and materials by employing yew and rhododendron, but replaced English ivy with wintercreeper euonymus and did not replant the border hedge of privet or boxwood (which probably had been removed by 1981). Although the existing perimeter plantings are not the original plants, they reflect the overall design of the original memorial. The substitution of euonymus for English ivy, loss of rhododendron along the north and south sides, and the loss of the border hedge detract from the historic character of the Roger Williams Spring (Hahn Memorial).

Roger Williams Spring Parterre.

Architect Norman Isham designed the center of Roger Williams Spring Park as a parterre that used the Roger Williams Spring well as one of its four corners. Defined by the surrounding bluestone walks, the parterre featured a lawn edged by annuals with a bed of annuals in the center (varieties unknown), and yews at three of the four corners. In the late 1930s, the city park department replaced the annual border with a low border hedge of privet or boxwood. In 1981, the park service replaced the three corner yews and did not replant the border hedge. The center bed, which surrounds a drain, is presently planted with ornamental grasses and marigolds. The corner yews are overgrown and are not in balance with the scale of the spring well curb. This overgrowth, loss of the edging, and use of nonhistoric ornamental grasses in the center bed detracts from the historic character of the Roger Williams Spring. Despite this, the parterre retains its overall design as initially built in 1933 (see Figure 14).

Non-Contributing Features.

Other vegetation features that do not contribute to the site's significance include trees, shrubs, and lawn areas. The Bernon Grove Norway maples (dating from c.1953), deciduous and coniferous groves (1981-1982), parking lot island trees (c.1981), Old State House allee elms (c.1982), Siberian crabapple grove (1982), Constitution bicentennial tree (1989), Liberty tree (2007), understory shrubs (1981-1982), and national memorial lawn (1981-1982) do not contribute to the site's significance (Figures 24 and 25).

Landscape Features:

Feature Name	CLI Feature ID	Feature Contribution	CRIS-HS Resource ID	Associated CRIS-AR ID	FMSS Record Type	FMSS Record Number	FMSS Exact Match
Roger Williams Spring Perimeter Plantings	151501	Contributing			Asset	1028957	No
Roger Williams Spring Parterre	151503	Contributing			Asset	1028957	No
The Bernon Grove Norway Maples	151505	Noncontributing – Compatible					No
Deciduous and Coniferous Groves	151507	Noncontributing – Compatible					No
Parking Lot Island Trees	151509	Noncontributing – Compatible					No
Old State House Allee Elms	151511	Noncontributing – Compatible					No
Siberian Crabapple Grove	151525	Noncontributing – Compatible					No
Constitution Bicentennial Tree	151527	Noncontributing – Compatible					No
Liberty Tree	151529	Noncontributing – Compatible					No
Understory Shrubs	151531	Noncontributing – Compatible					No
National Memorial Lawn	151533	Noncontributing – Compatible					No

Landscape Characteristic Graphics:



Figure 24. Whiskey-barrel planters and the interpretive plantings of the Three Sisters in the ramp structure, looking north toward the Antram-Gray house, 2008. (SUNY ESF)



Figure 25. The Old State House (1760) looking east from the allee in the national memorial, 2008. This allee was intended to be on axis with the walk to the Old State House. (SUNY ESF)

Landscape Characteristic: Buildings and Structures

This characteristic includes three-dimensional constructs, with buildings defined as shelter such as houses, barns, and garages; and structures as constructs that do not provide shelter, such as walls and bridges. In 1636, there were no buildings or structures within the site of the national memorial. During Roger Williams's lifetime, the site probably remained free of buildings and structures in its use as common lands for the town. After Williams's death in 1683, the site was sold into private ownership and developed over the next three centuries with numerous buildings and structures, ranging from houses, warehouses, shops, and factories, to sheds, wharfs, and retaining walls. The earliest buildings were frame with side gable roofs, such as the Antram-Gray house. South of this house was the residence of Gabriel Bernon, a founder of St. John's Episcopal Cathedral. Farther south, a three-story Federal-style brick house was built by Nehemiah Dodge adjacent to the Roger Williams Spring in 1816. With the widening of North Main Street in 1875, this building was moved over the spring, which was contained in the basement of the house. In c.1923, Joseph Levye tore down the Dodge house and built a new commercial building over the spring. The city then tore down this building in 1930 to build Roger Williams Spring Park. The adjoining c.1875 brick building was torn down at the same time for the park, except for its front foundation that was kept as a retaining wall. Soon after this, several buildings on the block to the north were torn down by the Bernon Realty Corporation for its proposed memorial park to Gabriel Bernon. The front foundations of these buildings were also kept as retaining walls (CLR 2010 117-118).

The Providence Redevelopment Agency demolished all remaining buildings within the national memorial site by 1975, except for the Antram-Gray house, which had recently housed the Thomas Gray Jewelry shop. The National Park Service agreed to retain this building and move it forty feet south to accommodate the city's widening of Smith Street. The park service moved this building in 1974 and rehabilitated it into the national memorial visitor center between 1976 and 1979. In construction of the national memorial landscape in 1980-82, the National Park Service did not add any buildings to the site, only several minor structures such as retaining walls. The existing buildings and structures do not reflect the historic character of the landscape during the historic period between 1636 and 1683 because none existed at that time. The existing buildings and structures are remnants of the urban development that occurred on the site during the following three centuries (CLR 2010:118).

Antram-Gray House.

The Antram-Gray house is one of two resources, along with the Roger Williams Spring (Hahn Memorial), that are significant apart from the national memorial designation. It is a two-story, side-gable frame and brick building constructed in c.1729 and doubled in size in c.1789. The building, with its storefront windows, retains changes made through the early twentieth century. A non-historic one-story shed addition at the rear dates to c.1979. The relocation of the building in 1974 retained its orientation to North Main Street. Originally a corner building, the house today is set back from Smith Street by a lawn approximately twenty feet deep. While this change detracts from the setting of this building as a component of the College Hill Historic District, it does not impact the historic character of the national memorial, since the house did not exist during Roger Williams's lifetime (Figure 26).

Roger Williams Spring Enclosure Walls.

Architect Norman Isham designed Roger Williams Spring Park with an enclosure that defined the park and accommodated the drop in elevation from the adjoining streets (see Figure 19). As completed in 1933, the enclosure featured retaining walls finished in limestone ashlar along the south, east, and north sides. The walls along the east side fronting North Main Street were part of a stairway that included a utility room beneath the center portion, accessed by a paneled door in the south alcove. The tops of this wall adjoining the stairs featured recesses used as planters. This wall and the south wall, which originally paralleled Alamo Lane, were surmounted by painted steel fence between limestone piers. The north wall did not have this fence because the park originally was intended to extend north onto the adjoining property known as the Katz Lot (today occupied by the crabapple terrace). The west end of the courtyard had neither the wall or fence because it

originally abutted a building, now gone. Since its completion in 1933, the enclosure walls and fence have undergone little change except for an extension to the western end of the north wall. No documentation was found on the historic color of the painted steel fences.

Roger Williams Spring Main Entrance Gateway.

Architect Norman Isham designed the main entrance to Roger Williams Spring Park with a monumental gateway that was integral to the adjoining enclosure walls (see Figure 19). Isham designed this structure with two, eight-foot-tall limestone piers with granite plinths and a pair of iron gates with pickets and ornamental scrollwork. Each pier featured a bronze plaque. The south plaque contained the text: "The/ Spring On This Lot/The Original Water Supply/Around Which/Roger Williams Gathered/The First Settlers/Was in 1721 By Reservation/In Deed From The/ Proprietors of/Providence/Made Accessible To/The Townspeople/Forever." The north plaque contained the text: "This/Plot of Ground Was/In 1931/Given To The City Of/Providence/By J Jerome Hahn/In Memory Of His Father/Isaac Hahn/ The First Citizen Of/Jewish Faith To Be/Elected To Office/By The Voters/ Of/ Providence." The main entrance gate today remains as originally constructed. In function, however, the main entrance gate was changed into an ancillary entrance with construction of the national memorial landscape in 1980-82. Most visitors today enter the courtyard at the north steps or walk along the west side from within the national memorial.

Non-Contributing Features.

Other buildings and structures that do not contribute to the site's significance include the Bernon Grove retaining wall (pre-1930), overlook stone wall (1982), ramp structure (1980), and the Walk F retaining walls (c.1981).

Landscape Features:

Feature Name	CLI Feature ID	Feature Contribution	CRIS-HS Resource ID	Associated CRIS-AR ID	FMSS Record Type	FMSS Record Number	FMSS Exact Match
Antram-Gray House	150865	Contributing	40008		Location	68240	Yes
Roger Williams Spring Enclosure Walls	150867	Contributing			Asset	1028952	No
Roger Williams Spring Main Entrance Gateway	150869	Contributing			Asset	1028923	Yes
Bernon Grove Retaining Wall	150871	Noncontributing – Compatible			Asset	1028952	No
Overlook Stone Wall	150873	Noncontributing – Compatible			Asset	1028952	No
Ramp Structure	150875	Noncontributing – Compatible					No
Walk F Retaining Walls	150877	Noncontributing – Compatible			Asset	1028952	No

Landscape Characteristic Graphics:



Figure 26. The Antram-Gray House, location of the visitor center and park offices, looking southwest across North Main Street with the state capitol in the background, 2008. (SUNY ESF)

Landscape Characteristic: Constructed Water Features

This characteristic describes structures that use water for aesthetic or utilitarian functions in the landscape.

Roger Williams Spring Well and Roger Williams Spring Wellcurb.

In the late spring or early summer of 1636, Roger Williams and his companions obtained permission from the Narragansetts to settle on land along the Great Salt Cove and near a fresh-water spring. The spring was on the west side of the Pawtucket Trail and part of land that the settlers, also called Proprietors, held as common land. Williams built his house across from the spring on the east side of the trail, which was named Towne Street (now North Main Street). The spring remained in community ownership until 1721 when the Proprietors sold it to Gabriel Bernon, who had built his house to the north of the spring. The Proprietors gave Bernon a deed that stipulated providing permanent public access to the spring.

The old town spring was referred to as Roger Williams Spring as early as 1785. In 1834, Providence resident T.M. Sumner located the cellar remains of Roger Williams's house and the location of the old town spring on a sketch map based on his recollections of the area in 1775-1777. Sumner labeled the spring as "Tripe's Spring," which appears to be contained within a circular well. When Sumner drew his map, a large three-story Federal-style brick house built by Nehemiah Dodge stood on the site of the old Tripe house. By this point, the spring was contained in the rear garden of the house and had probably fallen out of use as a primary public water supply. A map from 1860 depicted the spring at the rear side of the Dodge house, then owned by Philip Allen. Another map, entitled "Plan showing the approximate location of the Home Lots of the Early Settlers of Providence, R.I." by C.W. Hopkins in 1886, documented the location of the spring, which by this

time was in the basement of the Dodge-Allen house, then owned by Jacob Seagraves.

Despite the absence of firm documentation, there was apparently little disagreement that the well in the Dodge-Allen-Seagraves house contained the source of the Roger Williams Spring. The well's historic association became official when it appeared on a city map published in 1898. The water from the spring after this time drained underground to the sewer under Canal Street or to the Moshassuck River. With the disappearance of the spring's last public vestiges, the state placed a bronze plaque on the front of the Dodge-Allen-Seagraves house in 1906, which read: "Under This House Still Flows the Roger Williams Spring."

Interest in preserving the spring site began in the early 1920s when a local businessperson named Joseph Levye acquired the Dodge-Allen-Seagraves house. In 1923, Levye razed the house and erected a new four-story commercial building on the site. In his plans, Levye retained the old stone well that was believed to contain the source of old town spring. He sealed the well within a new concrete vault, and promised to affix the bronze plaque from the Dodge-Allen-Seagraves house to the new building. The plaque was apparently never installed.

In August 1928, the federal Secretary of War approved the design of a granite monument to mark the site as the landing place of Roger Williams. The monument was installed on the sidewalk near the curb at the intersection of North Main Street and Alamo Lane and featured two bronze tablets. The tablet facing away from the street read, "The spring of clear, cold water located 30 feet west of this point led Roger Williams to found Providence here in the year 1636, from which centre it has developed in four directions."

By 1929, Jerome Hahn, a retired Rhode Island Superior Court judge, had begun discussions with the City of Providence for building a park to reestablish the spring as a public resource as guaranteed in the 1721 deed to Gabriel Bernon. He soon reached a purchase agreement with Levye, and with the city's support purchased the spring lot in 1930. In 1931 he gave it to city in memory of his father, Isaac Hahn, the first person of Jewish faith elected to public office in Providence. The name chosen for the site was Roger Williams Spring Park.

As part of the initial planning, architect Norman M. Isham was contacted prior to May 1929 to develop an initial design for the small park that amounted to about one-tenth of an acre. In June 1929, Isham presented his plans for the park that included the adjoining lot to the north owned by M. Katz, then occupied by a three-story brick commercial building. The city acquired the Katz lot and demolished both the Levye and Katz buildings. This allowed Isham to investigate the features associated with the spring. These included the old stone-lined well assumed to be the source of the historic spring that was enclosed in a concrete box culvert built by Levye.

In April 1931, Isham completed his initial plans for the park showing a two-part landscape with formal, geometric lines that reflected the popular Colonial Revival style. Isham's design for the south half of the park (the spring lot) featured a central parterre surrounding the spring well capped by an ornamental iron fence, and a double flight of stairs leading down from North Main Street. Due to reduced funding from the city, the Katz lot was not built upon. By October 1931, Isham had revised his design for the parterre, calling for curved instead of angular corners and use of an octagonal stone wellcurb instead of an iron fence around the spring well. As in his original design, the wellcurb served as one of four symmetrical corner anchors to the parterre, to be surrounded by a wide bluestone path. The wellcurb surmounted the old stone-lined spring well was constructed of limestone and set on a circular granite plinth. Isham did not design a fountain or other feature to make the spring water visible in the landscape; the water was visible only by peering down into the well.

Work on the retaining walls and paths began in early 1932, and by the spring of 1933 the stairs to North Main Street and the perimeter fence and gates were completed. The fence featured a pair of monumental entrance gates on North Main Street, which were outfitted with bronze tablets. The north plaque commemorated the gift of the park by Judge Jerome Hahn in memory of his father. The south plaque recounted the history of the spring as the site where Providence was founded in 1636 and which was granted a public resource for the citizens of Providence in 1721. Today, the

stone-lined well and the wellcurb remain largely as they did in 1933. The water level is approximately five feet below the top of the wellcurb, and the old stone walls of the well are covered by ferns and moss (Figure 27).

Landscape Features:

Feature Name	CLI Feature ID	Feature Contribution	CRIS-HS Resource ID	Associated CRIS-AR ID	FMSS Record Type	FMSS Record Number	FMSS Exact Match
Roger Williams Spring Well	151419	Contributing	40380		Asset	1028955	No
Roger Williams Spring Wellcurb	151421	Contributing	40380		Asset	1028955	No

Landscape Characteristic Graphics:



Figure 27. The interior of the spring well showing the existing water level and lower fern-lined stone walls. The upper limestone section was added in c.1933. (Roger Williams National Memorial, 2009)

Landscape Characteristic: Views and Vistas

This characteristic describes a prospect, either natural or constructed. Views are generally broad prospects of a general area, while vistas are designed and directed views of a particular scene or feature. In 1636 and through the early years of Providence during Roger Williams's lifetime, the national memorial site had panoramic views across the Great Salt Cove. As urban development occurred on the site after Williams's death, these panoramic views disappeared. Construction of industrial buildings over the stone-lined Moshassuck River in the nineteenth century further obstructed views to the west. Architect Norman Isham did not design outward views or vistas for Roger Williams Spring Park, which was surrounded by buildings, at the time of its completion in 1933. Views to the west from the national memorial site were reopened in the mid twentieth century through the city's urban renewal program, which resulted in demolition of most development on the site and over the Moshassuck River. The national memorial landscape built in 1980-82 established sight lines to several adjoining historic buildings, including a vista of the Rhode Island capitol from an overlook along North Main Street, and a vista to the Old State House along a tree-lined allee (see Figure 25). The existing views and vistas do not reflect the character of the landscape during the historic period, 1636-1683, due to loss of the panorama across open water and the surrounding natural and rural landscape (CLR 2010:121).

Non-Contributing Features.

Two views and vistas features that do not contribute to the site's significance include the Rhode Island capitol (1982) and the Vista to Old State House (1982).

Landscape Features:

Feature Name	CLI Feature ID	Feature Contribution	CRIS-HS Resource ID	Associated CRIS-AR ID	FMSS Record Type	FMSS Record Number	FMSS Exact Match
View to Rhode Island Capitol	151423	Noncontributing – Compatible					No
Vista to Old State House	151425	Noncontributing – Compatible					No

Landscape Characteristic: Small Scale Features

This characteristic describes elements that provide detail and diversity in the landscape for utility or aesthetics, including such things as benches, monuments, signs, and monuments. There is no documentation on small-scale features in the landscape in 1636 and the early years of Providence during Roger Williams's lifetime. The landscape, then a natural shoreline reserved as common lands for the town, probably contained moveable objects such as boats and carts. As the site became urbanized after Williams's death in 1683, there was a variety of small-scale features introduced to the site, including fences, lights, pumps, hitching posts, and signs. In 1928, the War Department funded the placement of a granite monument along the curbside that marked the site of the old town spring as the place where Providence was founded in 1636 (outside of national memorial boundary). Construction of Roger Williams Spring Park in 1931-33 did not introduce small-scale features aside from the addition of a pipe-rail fence along North Main Street on the Katz Lot (undeveloped lot north of the Isham-designed courtyard). A plank fence was installed along the lot to the north cleared by the Bernon Realty Corporation in the late 1930s. In the city's development of this site as Bernon Park in c.1953, a small granite monument was installed to commemorate Gabriel Bernon, an early Providence settler and founder of King's Chapel (later St. John's Episcopal Cathedral). In the city's clearance of the national memorial site completed in 1975, all small-scale features were removed except for the Gabriel Bernon and Providence founding monuments, and the fences along North Main Street. Initial site work and rehabilitation of the Antram-Gray house into a visitor center between 1977 and 1979 included the addition of a flagpole. Construction of the national memorial landscape in 1980-82 introduced a wide variety of small-scale features, including benches, light standards, garbage receptacles, and signs. The national memorial did not include a monument to Roger Williams. By c.1984, the park also added picnic tables, interpretive waysides, and signs marking the entrances to the national memorial. In subsequent years, the park and its partners added additional small-scale features, including several monuments, interpretive signs, planters, and a dumpster. None of the existing small-scale features contributes to the historic character of the landscape during the historic period, 1636-1683, or to the Roger Williams Spring (Hahn Memorial) as it was completed in 1933. None of the existing monuments relate to the congressional intent of the national memorial (CLR 2010:121-122).

Non-Contributing Features.

There are several small-scale features that do not contribute to the site's significance including the Gabriel Bernon monument (built in c.1953), a Flagpole (installed in c.1979), a Tree of New Hope marker (1980) (Figure 28), benches (c.1982), garbage receptacles (c.1982), light standards (c.1982), interpretive waysides (c.1984), national memorial entrance signs (c.1984), picnic tables (c.1984), signs (c.1984-2006), a constitution bicentennial marker (1987), Roger Williams Spring entrance planter (c.2000), Antram-Gray house A/C unit (c.2000), Antram-Gray house A/C unit screening fence (c.2000), a bike rack (c.2000), a pet waste station (c.2000), planters (c.2000), brick terrace bistro chairs (c.2000), the Snowtown Riot monument (2002), the Liberty tree marker (2007), a dumpster (2008), and a dumpster screening fence (2008).

Landscape Features:

Feature Name	CLI Feature ID	Feature Contribution	CRIS-HS Resource ID	Associated CRIS-AR ID	FMSS Record Type	FMSS Record Number	FMSS Exact Match
Antram-Gray house A/C Unit	151427	Noncontributing – Compatible					No
Antram-Gray house A/C Unit Screening Fence	151429	Noncontributing – Compatible					No
Benches	151431	Noncontributing – Compatible					No
Bike Rack	151433	Noncontributing – Compatible					No
Brick Terrace Bistro Chairs	151435	Noncontributing – Compatible					No
Constitution Bicentennial Marker	151437	Noncontributing – Compatible					No
Dumpster	151439	Noncontributing – Compatible					No
Dumpster Screening Fence	151441	Noncontributing – Compatible					No
Flagpole	151443	Noncontributing – Compatible					No
Gabriel Bernon Monument	151445	Noncontributing – Compatible					No
Garbage Receptacles	151467	Noncontributing – Compatible					No
Roger Williams Spring Entrance Planter	151469	Noncontributing – Compatible					No
Interpretive Waysides	151471	Noncontributing – Compatible					No
Liberty Tree Marker	151473	Noncontributing – Compatible					No
Light Standards	151475	Noncontributing – Compatible					No
National Memorial Entrance Signs	151477	Noncontributing – Compatible					No
Pet Waste Station	151479	Noncontributing – Compatible					No
Picnic Tables	151481	Noncontributing – Compatible					No
Planters	151483	Noncontributing – Compatible					No
Signs	151485	Noncontributing – Compatible					No
Snowtown Riot Monument	151497	Noncontributing – Compatible					No
Tree of New Hope Marker	151499	Noncontributing – Compatible					No

Landscape Characteristic Graphics:

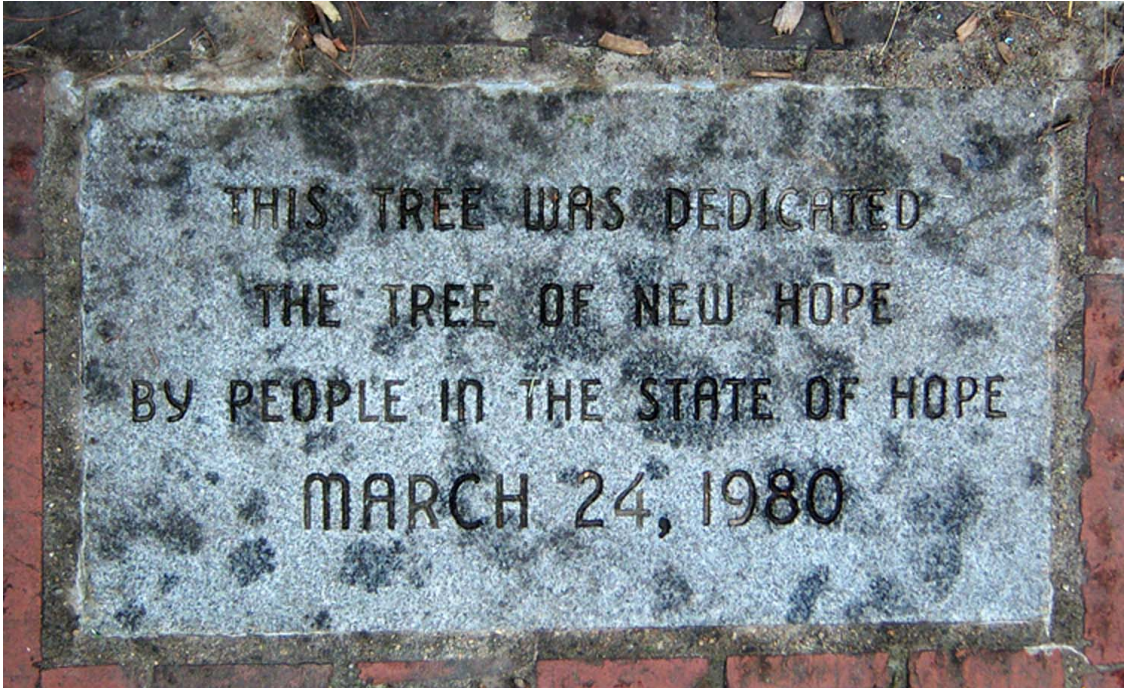


Figure 28. The Tree of New Hope marker in Walk B near the Hahn Memorial, 2008. It is one of several memorials in the park. (SUNY ESF)

Landscape Characteristic: Archeological Sites

This characteristic describes surface and subsurface remains related to historic or prehistoric land use. There are presently no significant archeological sites at the Roger Williams National Memorial. The only above-ground remnants of development predating the construction of the national memorial in 1980-82 are the stone foundation walls along North Main Street at Bernon Grove. The site was extensively disturbed during demolition and initial site grading that was completed in 1975. Further excavation and grading were undertaken during construction of the national memorial landscape in 1980-1982.

To date, the park has not undertaken archeological investigations to determine the presence of prehistoric or historic archeological resources on the site related to Native American use, to Roger Williams and founding of Providence in 1636, or to later urban development including underground resources related to the old town spring within or near the Roger Williams Spring (Hahn Memorial) (CLR 2010:123). As of the printing of this inventory, an Archeological Overview Assessment, which will contain recommendations for future archeological investigations, is underway and expected to be completed by the end of fiscal year 2011.

Condition

Assessment Interval (Years): 5

Next Assessment Due Date: 02/12/2030

Condition Assessment and Impacts

Condition Assessment: Good

Assessment Date: 02/12/2025

Condition Assessment Explanatory Narrative:

The site is in good condition and well maintained.

Condition Assessment: Good

Assessment Date: 09/21/2021

Condition Assessment Explanatory Narrative:

Provisional. The condition reassessment for this CLI has been delayed due to Covid-19 travel restrictions and staffing shortages. In the meantime, the most recent condition assessment will remain in place until it is reassessed as part of a comprehensive update of the entire CLI. Planning and scheduling this update will occur in FY 2022.

Condition Assessment: Good

Assessment Date: 07/28/2011

Condition Assessment Explanatory Narrative:

The Roger Williams National Memorial landscape is in good condition and shows no clear evidence of major negative disturbance and deterioration by natural and/or human forces. The site's cultural and natural values are as well preserved as can be expected under the given environmental conditions. No immediate corrective action is required to maintain its current condition.

Impacts

Type of Impact: Adjacent Lands

Other Impact:

External or Internal: External

Impact Narrative: The National Memorial lacks integration with its neighborhood. Roger Williams National Memorial was designed as a largely self-contained landscape bounded on all sides by roads.

Date Identified: 08/30/2011

Type of Impact: Planting Practices

Other Impact:

External or Internal: Internal

Impact Narrative: Existing plantings detract from the historic character of the Roger Williams Spring. During construction of the surrounding national memorial landscape in 1980-1982, new plantings were installed without the flowering borders and using a different species composition. Since then, some of the shrubs have become overgrown, the west bed is no longer symmetrical, and informal contemporary ornamental grasses and mixed annuals were added in the center and west bed.

Date Identified: 08/30/2011

Type of Impact: Vandalism/Theft/Arson

Other Impact:

External or Internal: Internal

Impact Narrative: Safety is a perceived concern especially in concealed areas that provide hiding spots, notably in the Roger Williams Spring (Hahn Memorial) and within dense vegetation along the memorial's perimeter.

Date Identified: 08/30/2011

Type of Impact: Erosion

Other Impact:

External or Internal: Internal

Impact Narrative: There are small instances of erosion around the park that have to be addressed as they come up.

Date Identified: 02/12/2025

Treatment

Stabilization Measures

Treatment Documents

Treatment Type: Rehabilitation

Treatment Completed: No

Document Type: Cultural Landscape Report

Document Date: 2010-01-01

Title: Cultural Landscape Report for Roger Williams National Memorial

IRMA Link: <https://irma.nps.gov/DataStore/Reference/Profile/2279791>

Narrative:

The “Cultural Landscape Report for Roger Williams National Memorial” included treatment tasks for the Roger Williams Spring (Hahn Memorial) and recommendations for future consideration of the contemporary landscape at the site (CLR 2010:131-132):

“As an historic landscape, the recommended treatment philosophy for the Roger Williams Spring is based on the Secretary of the Interior’s Standards for the Treatment of Historic Properties, which form the basis for management of historic resources within the National Park System. The recommended primary (overall) treatment for the Roger Williams Spring is Rehabilitation, which would preserve existing historic features, enhance the historic character of the landscape to reflect the original design intent as completed in 1933, and follow, along with the rest of the site, the commemorative purpose of the national memorial.”

“Because of the contemporary origin of the national memorial landscape outside of the Roger Williams Spring (Hahn Memorial), treatment and future management depend on numerous factors beyond standards for historic preservation. Treatment will require planning to revisit the original 1977 concept that resulted in design and construction of the landscape in 1980-1982, and to address concepts identified in the Draft Long Range Interpretive Plan and other treatment issues. The approach to future management of the contemporary landscape may range from minor alterations to the existing landscape, to substantial redesign outside of the Roger Williams Spring.”

Approved Treatment Costs

Cost Narrative:

Bibliography and Supplemental Information

Bibliography:

Citation Author	Citation Title	Year of Publication	Citation Publisher	Citation Type	Citation Location	Citation Number
John Auwaerter and Karen Cowperthwaite	Cultural Landscape Report for Roger Williams National Memorial	2010	Olmsted Center for Landscape Preservation			
National Register of Historic Places	Roger Williams National Memorial	1966	National Park Service			
National Register of Historic Places	College Hill Historic District	1970	National Park Service			
National Historic Landmarks Program	College Hill Historic District	1970	National Historic Landmarks Program			
National Register Program Federal Regulations	Code of Federal Regulations	1966	National Park Service			
National Park Service	National Register Bulletin 15, How to Apply the National Register Criteria for Evaluation	1990	National Park Service			
Unattributed paper	For Authentication of the Site of Roger Williams Spring, Summary of History of Roger Williams Spring Site	1940				
New York Times, Providence Journal	Williams Shaft Approved, Memorial at Providence, R. I., Will Mark Where Founder Landed	1928				
John Hutchins Cady	The Civil and Architectural Development of Providence	1957	The Book Shop			

Providence City Plan Commission in cooperation with the Providence Preservation Society and Department of Housing and Urban Renewal	College Hill: A Demonstration Study of Historic Area Renewal	1959	College Hill Press			
	The Town Spring and Roger Williams Memorial Common	1959	Providence Journal			
Clarence Pautzke, Deputy Assistant Secretary of the Interior	Letter to Hon. Wayne N. Aspinall, Chairman, Committee on Interior and Insular Affairs, House of Representatives	1965				
Allen T. Edmunds, Assistant Director, Northeast Region	To Provide For the Establishment of Roger Williams National Memorial in the City of Providence, Rhode Island, and for Other Purposes	1965	National Park Service			
National Park Service	A Place for Your Ideas/Environmental Assessment of Development Concept Alternatives/Roger Williams National Memorial	1977	Unpublished			

Landscape Documents:

File Name	Date	Attachment Type
CL-FMSS_crosswalk-ROWI.xlsx		Other Report
ROWI_Roger Williams NMem Landscape_CLI Update Notes_2025.pdf		

Source