

## NASSAU HALL

*Cultural Landscape Report*  
County of Nassau, Department of  
Parks, Recreation & Museums,  
East Meadow, New York

### Project Data

Date: 2009-2010  
Context: North shore of Long  
Island, Syosset, NY



*South façade from Sunken Garden, 1914.*



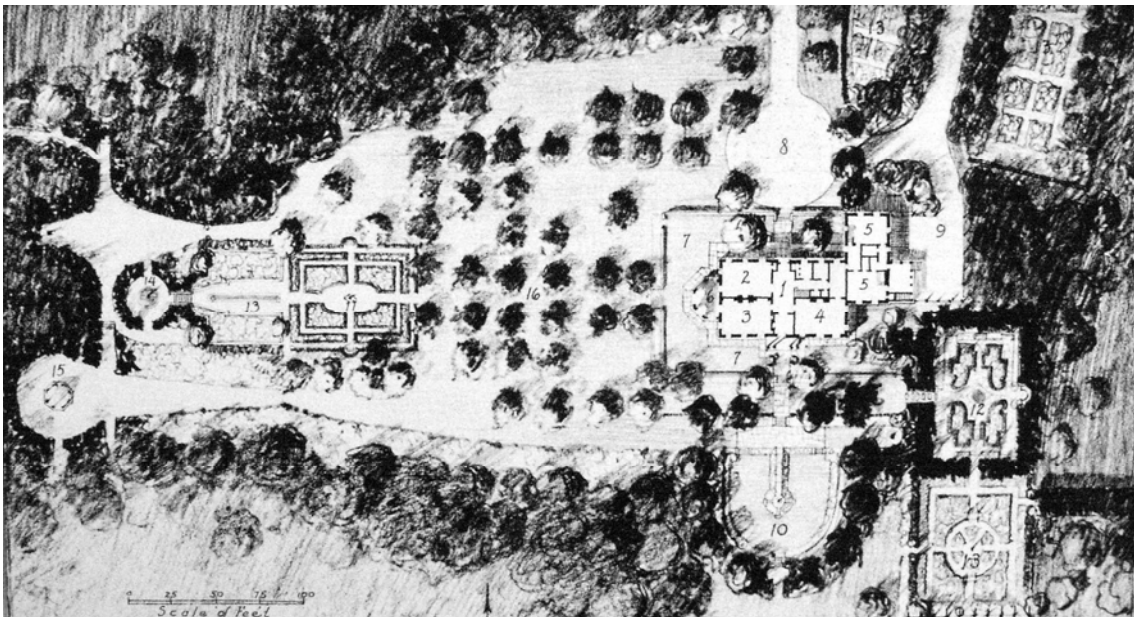
*South façade from Sunken Garden, 2009*

### Project Description:

The architecture firm of Delano and Aldrich of New York City designed Muttontown Meadows, known today as Nassau Hall, for Egerton Winthrop, Jr. between 1903 and 1912. These architects were known for their Neo-Classical tradition of designing with balance and symmetry of both the house and landscape for their clients. This was one of many Country Place Era estates that was developed on Long Island's north shore, known as the Gold Coast.

Elmore Design Collaborative, Inc. was hired by Nassau County to prepare a Cultural Landscape Report on the historic core landscape around Nassau Hall. This property is part of the 400-acre Muttontown Preserve. Our goal was to establish an understanding of the history, development, and the changes that have occurred to the landscape and assess the natural and manmade features that exist. Our archival research of primary sources was the first time anyone had established a sequential chronology of the property's history and development that included its changes and its designers. We conducted a detailed landscape assessment, documented the extant features, and then prepared a list of treatment recommendations for the landscape's character-defining features.

This historic designed landscape survives today because Nassau County purchased it in 1969 and has maintained ownership since then. However, deferred maintenance is slowly taking its toll. Many smaller features are deteriorating and some are missing. The vegetation is mature and overgrown and has changed the sense of place and restricted many historic site lines. Fortunately, the "bones" of the original design survive. All of our work followed the guidelines established by *The Secretary of the Interior*.



*Landscape Master Plan, ca. 1924*