

CULTURAL RESOURCES INVENTORY – LANDSCAPES * OLMSTED PROJECT COVER SHEET

Please submit completed form to: Architectural Survey Coordinator
State Historic Preservation Office, Connecticut Department of Economic and Community Development
450 Columbus Boulevard, Suite 5, Hartford, CT 06103

I D E N T I F I C A T I O N	PROPERTY NAME (Current/Historic)		
	Hartford Road		
	COUNTY	TOWN/CITY	VILLAGE
	Hartford	Manchester	
	JOB NUMBER		
	Primary: 02248 Related Job Numbers: 00196		
	Landscape Type		
	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Park, Parkway, Recreation Area. Scenic Reservation <input type="checkbox"/> City/Regional Plan, Improvement Project <input type="checkbox"/> Subdivision, Suburban Community <input type="checkbox"/> College/School Campus <input type="checkbox"/> Grounds of Residential Institution <input type="checkbox"/> Grounds of Public Building <input type="checkbox"/> Private Estate / Homestead <input type="checkbox"/> Cemetery / Burial Lot / Memorial / Monument <input type="checkbox"/> Grounds of Commercial / Industrial Building <input type="checkbox"/> Country Club / Resort, Hotel, Club <input type="checkbox"/> Grounds of Church <input type="checkbox"/> Arboretum, Garden <input type="checkbox"/> Exhibition, Fair <input type="checkbox"/> Miscellaneous		
	DATE OF ORIGINAL PROJECT: 1898-1899		
	SUBSEQUENT PROJECTS:		

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DESIGNER(S) (primary)

- Frederick Law Olmsted, Sr.
- John Charles Olmsted
- Frederick Law Olmsted, Jr.
- Other firm member(s):
- Other notes: Olmsted Brothers Landscape Architects

Other Designers (prior to or following Olmsted project):

Repositories consulted with source materials

- Frederick Law Olmsted National Historic Site, Olmsted Archives (online albums)
- Library of Congress
- Olmsted Online (OlmstedOnline.org)
- National Archives and Record Administration
- Connecticut State Library
- Hartford History Center
- Other: Olmsted Legacy Trail Connecticut

Observations regarding features characteristic of Olmsted firm design

In 1898, Howell Cheney and John Davenport Cheney, members of the family operating the Cheney Brothers silk manufacturing company, the first of its kind in America, commissioned the Olmsted Brothers Landscape Architects to design road improvements for a section of the Hartford Road that included the area where several family members owned homes. The firm prepared designs in plan, profile, and cross-section that indicated improvements to the layout, alignment, and aesthetics of the road as it passed their homestead tract known as Great Lawn. The Olmsted Brothers proposed the roadway be reconfigured and surfaced with trap rock, fine screenings, and binding gravel. The surfacing type was a modern improvement that allowed for the use of natural turf slopes rather than curbs along the edge of the road, but very expensive. The plans prepared by the firm straightened the section of road from a crooked alignment to one with smooth curves edged by sloped turf edges protecting a pedestrian sidewalk. Grading plans were a key element of the plans, along with recommendations for removal of some trees and planting of others. The firm was later asked for conceptual drawings for a stone bridge.

Department of Economic and
Community Development

State Historic Preservation Office



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Today, the road extends through the Cheney Brothers National Historic District. It remains consistent in terms of layout as it passes the complex and extends toward South Main Street. The road has been resurfaced with asphalt and pedestrian circulation altered, but the short segment of road possesses sufficient integrity to the Olmsted design to convey its historic associations.

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I D E N T I F I C A T I O N	PROPERTY NAME (Current/Historic) Hartford Road (Job #02248)			
	COUNTY Hartford	TOWN/CITY Manchester	VILLAGE	
	STREET AND NUMBER (and/or location) Hartford Road – Between West Center Street and South Main Street			
	OWNER(S) <input type="checkbox"/> PRIVATE <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> MUNICIPAL <input type="checkbox"/> STATE <input type="checkbox"/> FEDERAL <input type="checkbox"/> TRIBAL <input type="checkbox"/> EASEMENT The road is owned and maintained by the state			
	LAT/LONG COORDINATES <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Center Point <input type="checkbox"/> Polygon 41.764393, -72.525499			
	PARCEL INFORMATION Acres: PID(s): N/A MBLU(s): N/A			
	USE (Present) Public road		(Historic) Public road	
	SURVEY TYPE <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Reconnaissance-Level <input type="checkbox"/> Intensive-Level			
	D E S C R I P T I O N	LANDSCAPE TYPE (Check all that apply) <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Designed <input type="checkbox"/> Vernacular <input type="checkbox"/> Cultural/Ethnographic <input type="checkbox"/> Agricultural <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Linear <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> System/Multi-Site <input type="checkbox"/> Residential <input type="checkbox"/> Commercial <input type="checkbox"/> Industrial <input type="checkbox"/> Institutional <input type="checkbox"/> Maritime <input type="checkbox"/> Green <input type="checkbox"/> Park- Active Recreation <input type="checkbox"/> Park-Passive Recreation or Commemorative <input type="checkbox"/> Other – specify:		
		DATE OR PERIOD (Include source of date) 1898-1899 (Olmsted Research Guide Online)		
DESIGNERS (Entities that created, designed, constructed, or shaped the landscape) Olmsted Brothers Landscape Architects				
DESIGN SCOPE (For designed landscapes, explain what work was commissioned.) Plans for the redesign of a ¼-mile section of Hartford Road, including designs for a stone bridge				
LOCATION OF DRAWINGS/IMAGES/SOURCE MATERIAL Frederick Law Olmsted National Historic Site; Library of Congress				
VISUAL ASSESSMENT SUMMARY (Check boxes for the qualities that are key features of this landscape. If attaching descriptive narrative, consider these categories.) <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Layout & Spatial Relationships (road, grades, walks, trees) <input type="checkbox"/> Water Features <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Circulation (road and walk alignments) <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Drainage (stormwater management) <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Topography (grading for road and to separate pedestrian) <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Buildings/Structures/Objects (bridge) <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Plantings/Vegetation (tree plantings) <input type="checkbox"/> Recreational Space <input type="checkbox"/> Views & Vistas <input type="checkbox"/> Other: <input type="checkbox"/> Boundaries <input type="checkbox"/> Design Style: The two-lane, two-way, asphalt-paved road winds through a mixed use area that includes Great Lawn, a property that contains several historic homes associated with the Cheney family. The section designed by the Olmsted firm extends from a stone bridge to the intersection with South Main Street.				

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C O N D I T I O N	EXISTING CONDITION <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Recognizable <input type="checkbox"/> Not Extant/Not Recognizable Changes: The road has been repaved and associated pedestrian circulation altered		
	POTENTIAL THREATS <input type="checkbox"/> None Known <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Infrastructure Improvements <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Onsite Development <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Adjacent Development <input type="checkbox"/> Vandalism <input type="checkbox"/> Overuse <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Deferred Maintenance <input type="checkbox"/> Invasive Vegetation <input type="checkbox"/> Environmental – specify: _____ <input type="checkbox"/> Other – specify: _____		
E N V I R O N M E N T	SETTING (One sentence description) The road passes through a mixed-use area of the town of Manchester		
	VEGETATION <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Maintained Open Land <input type="checkbox"/> Natural Open Land <input type="checkbox"/> Woodland/Forest <input type="checkbox"/> Wetland <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Specimen Plants <input type="checkbox"/> Other – specify: _____		
	SLOPE <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Level/Nearly Level <input type="checkbox"/> Moderate Slope <input type="checkbox"/> Steep Slope Elevation (ASML): 130'		
	CONNECTICUT PHYSIOGRAPHIC PROVINCE (Eco-Region) <input type="checkbox"/> Northwest Highlands <input type="checkbox"/> Western Uplands <input type="checkbox"/> Western Coastal Slope <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Central Valley <input type="checkbox"/> Eastern Coastal Slope <input type="checkbox"/> Eastern Uplands Soil Description: Varied, largely urban, soil types.		
H I S T O R Y	SUMMARY (Provide a brief overview in this space. More detailed narrative can be attached.) Olmsted Brothers Landscape Architects prepared plans for Howell and John Davenport Cheney in 1898-1899 to improve a short section of public road as it passed their homestead and mill complex. The firm prepared plans, profiles, and cross-sections for the new road to replace a crooked alignment with attractive curves and grading to establish commodious shoulders to accommodate drainage and pedestrian walks. Tree plantings and clearing of vegetation impeding the alignment were also proposed. The road remains similar to the designed layout today, although pedestrian elements have changed.		
	NATIONAL REGISTER RECOMMENDATION Entered by: Liz Sargent HLA <input type="checkbox"/> Recommended Eligible (Criterion <input type="checkbox"/> A <input type="checkbox"/> B <input type="checkbox"/> C <input type="checkbox"/> D) <input type="checkbox"/> Not Eligible <input type="checkbox"/> Not Evaluated Explanation: Manchester Historic District; Cheney Brothers National Historic Landmark District NR Listed: <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> District-Contributing <input type="checkbox"/> District-Non-Contributing <input type="checkbox"/> Individual <input type="checkbox"/> Insufficient Documentation		
R E P O R T E D B Y	NAME Liz Sargent and Maeve Corcoran	ORGANIZATION Red Bridge Group	DATE December 2021
	ADDRESS 2100 Green Street, San Francisco, California 94123		
	PHOTOGRAPHER Liz Sargent	DATE November 15, 2021	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Permission to use photographs (public domain)
	SURVEY METHOD <input type="checkbox"/> Site Visit/In-Person Walkover <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Drive-through/Windshield <input type="checkbox"/> Digital Review Only		

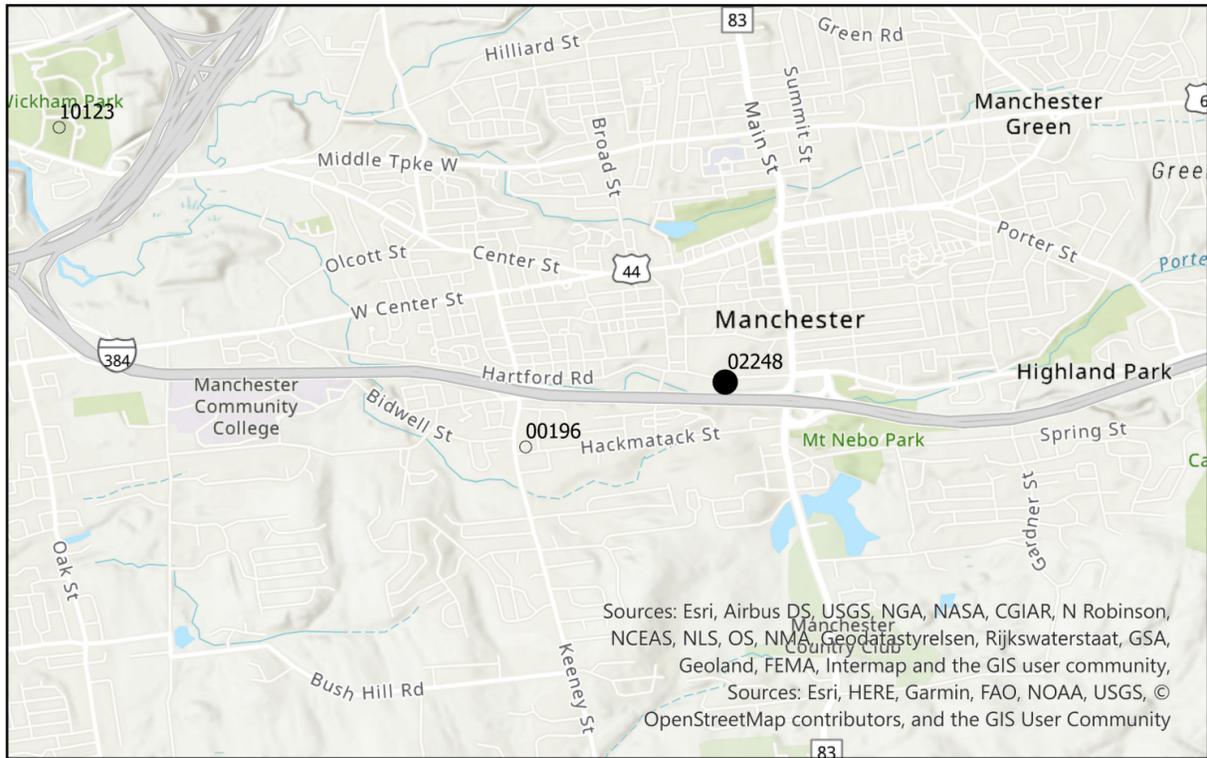
ATTACHMENTS (Include the following items in the PDF)

- Location Map Site Map Photographs with captions Historic Images (if applicable)
 Narrative Description of Property Historical Narrative of Property References

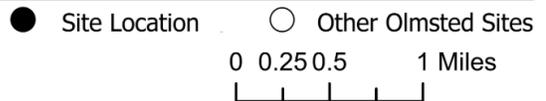
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CONTINUATION SHEET Hartford Road (#02248) / Hartford Road between West Center and South Main Streets

GRAPHICS



JOB: 02248 LOCATION: South Manchester

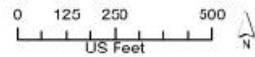


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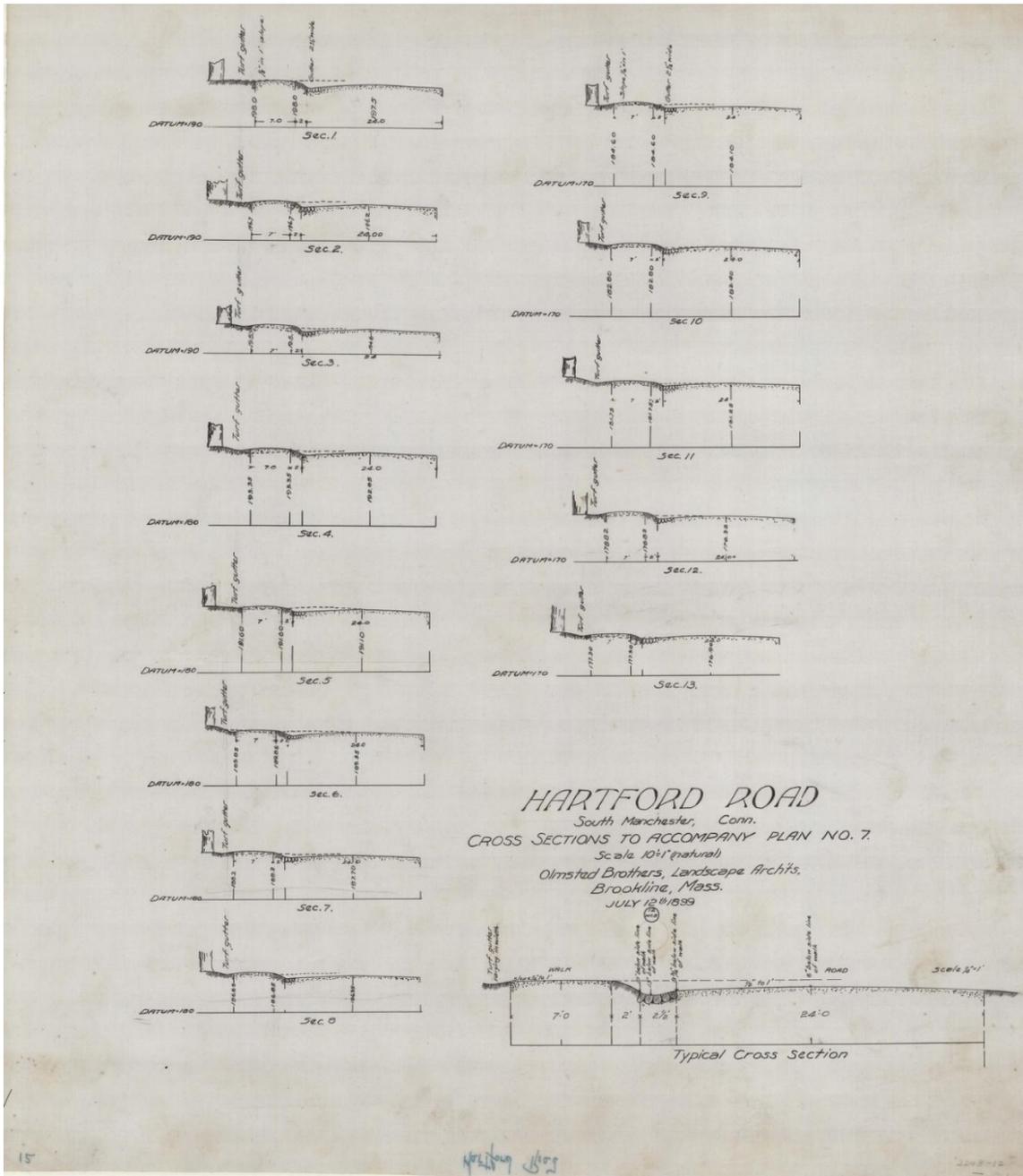


JOB: 02248 LOCATION: Manchester PROJECT: Hartford Road



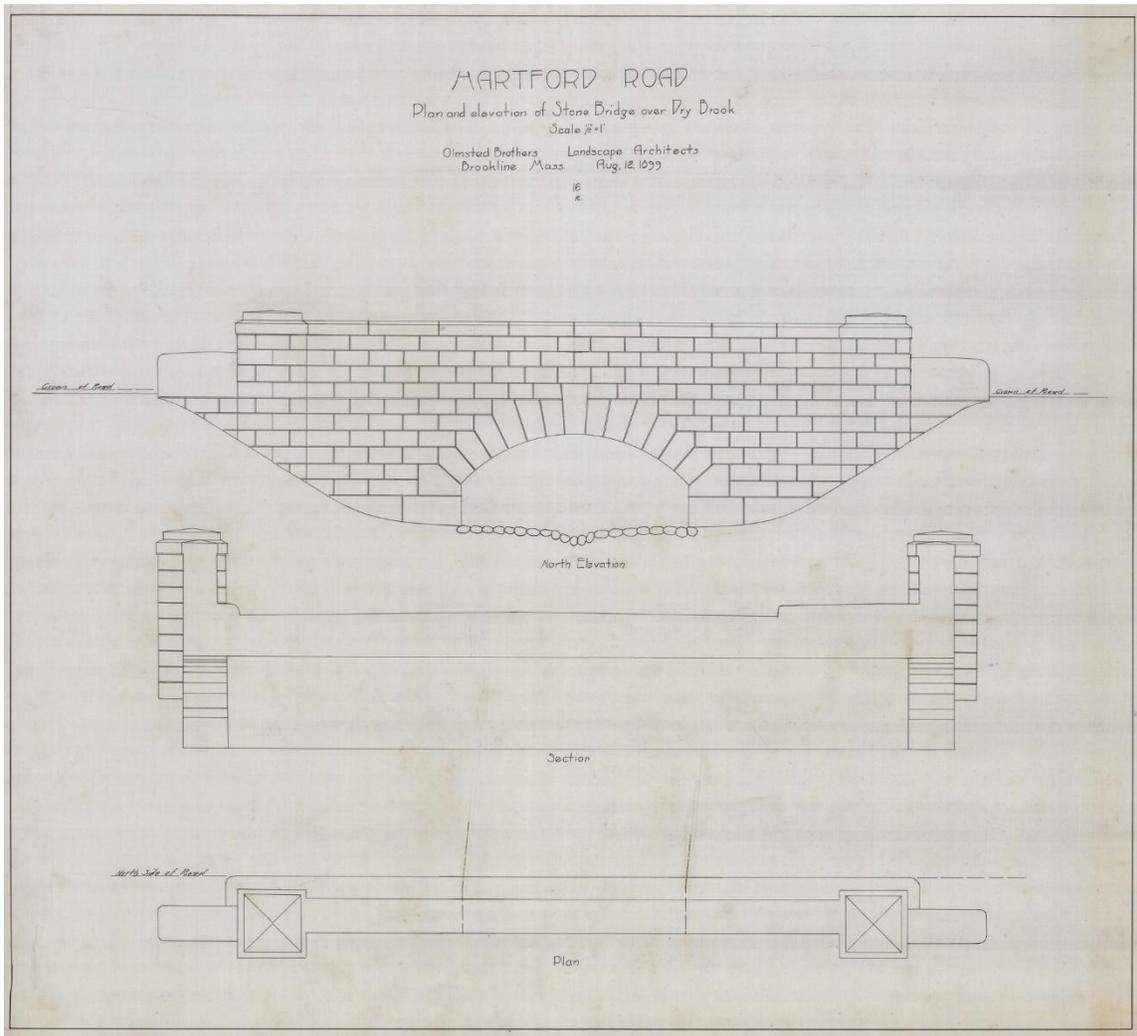
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Cross sections for Hartford Road prepared by Olmsted Brothers Landscape Architects, 1899. (Source: courtesy of Frederick Law Olmsted National Historic Site)

CONTINUATION SHEET Hartford Road (#02248) / Hartford Road between West Center and South Main Streets



Conceptual design for a bridge crossing of a dry creek along Hartford Road prepared by Olmsted Brothers Landscape Architects, 1899. (Source: courtesy of Frederick Law Olmsted National Historic Site)

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View west along Hartford Road as it spans the stone bridge conceptualized by Olmsted Brothers Landscape Architects. (All photographs taken by authors in 2021 unless otherwise noted)



View north of the stone bridge conceptualized by Olmsted Brothers Landscape Architects.

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CONTINUATION SHEET Hartford Road (#02248) / Hartford Road between West Center and South Main Streets



View west along Hartford Road as it follows the curvilinear alignment and grades proposed by Olmsted Brothers Landscape Architects.



View west along Hartford Road as it passes the Cheney Brothers National Historic Landmark District.