

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) | | |
| | Tracy S. Lewis House | | |
| | COUNTY | TOWN/CITY | VILLAGE |
| | New Haven | Beacon Falls | |
| | JOB NUMBER | | |
| Primary: 06371 Related Job Numbers: 06222 | | | |
| Landscape Type | | | |
| <input 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 checked="" 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: 1916 | | | |
| SUBSEQUENT PROJECTS: 1919 | | | |

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DESIGNER(S) (primary)

- Frederick Law Olmsted, Sr.
- John Charles Olmsted
- Frederick Law Olmsted, Jr.
- Other firm member(s): Percival Gallagher
- Other notes:

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:

Observations regarding features characteristic of Olmsted firm design

No Olmsted-designed elements were implemented.

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|---|--|--|---|---|--|--|---|---|---|---|---|--|--|---|
| I D E N T I F I C A T I O N | PROPERTY NAME (Current/Historic) Tracy S. Lewis House (Job #06371) | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| | COUNTY New Haven | TOWN/CITY Beacon Falls | VILLAGE | | | | | | | | | | | |
| | STREET AND NUMBER (and/or location) 37 Wolfe Avenue | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| | 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 | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| | LAT/LONG COORDINATES <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Center Point <input type="checkbox"/> Polygon 41.445246, -73.062395 | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| | PARCEL INFORMATION Acres: 1.46 PID(s): MBLU(s): A00-003-0026 | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| | USE (Present) Community garden / vacant | | (Historic) Private residence | | | | | | | | | | | |
| | 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 type="checkbox"/> Linear <input type="checkbox"/> System/Multi-Site <input checked="" 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) 1916/1919 (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.) Proposed Plantings and circulation associated with residential structure and outbuildings | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| 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.) <table border="0"> <tr> <td><input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Layout & Spatial Relationships</td> <td><input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Water Features</td> </tr> <tr> <td><input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Circulation</td> <td><input type="checkbox"/> Drainage</td> </tr> <tr> <td><input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Topography</td> <td><input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Buildings/Structures/Objects</td> </tr> <tr> <td><input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Plantings/Vegetation</td> <td><input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Recreational Space</td> </tr> <tr> <td><input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Views & Vistas</td> <td><input type="checkbox"/> Other:</td> </tr> <tr> <td><input type="checkbox"/> Boundaries</td> <td><input type="checkbox"/> Design Style:</td> </tr> </table> | | | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Layout & Spatial Relationships | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Water Features | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Circulation | <input type="checkbox"/> Drainage | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Topography | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Buildings/Structures/Objects | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Plantings/Vegetation | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Recreational Space | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Views & Vistas | <input type="checkbox"/> Other: | <input type="checkbox"/> Boundaries | <input type="checkbox"/> Design Style: |
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Layout & Spatial Relationships | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Water Features | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Circulation | <input type="checkbox"/> Drainage | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Topography | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Buildings/Structures/Objects | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Plantings/Vegetation | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Recreational Space | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Views & Vistas | <input type="checkbox"/> Other: | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Boundaries | <input type="checkbox"/> Design Style: | | | | | | | | | | | | | |

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| | | | |
|--|---|---|---|
| C O N D I T I O N | EXISTING CONDITION <input type="checkbox"/> Recognizable <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Not Extant/Not Recognizable Changes: As of early 2022, the Lewis house was slated for demolition. | | |
| | POTENTIAL THREATS <input type="checkbox"/> None Known <input type="checkbox"/> Infrastructure Improvements <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Onsite Development <input type="checkbox"/> Adjacent Development <input type="checkbox"/> Vandalism <input type="checkbox"/> Overuse <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Deferred Maintenance <input checked="" 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) This historic home is located in a residential neighborhood opposite a small park. | | |
| | VEGETATION <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Maintained Open Land <input type="checkbox"/> Natural Open Land <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Woodland/Forest <input type="checkbox"/> Wetland <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Plantings <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): 200' | | |
| | CONNECTICUT PHYSIOGRAPHIC PROVINCE (Eco-Region) <input type="checkbox"/> Northwest Highlands <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Western Uplands <input type="checkbox"/> Western Coastal Slope <input type="checkbox"/> Central Valley <input type="checkbox"/> Eastern Coastal Slope <input type="checkbox"/> Eastern Uplands Soil Description: Site composed of well-drained fine sandy loam Agawam-Urban land complex soils. | | |
| H I S T O R Y | SUMMARY (Provide a brief overview in this space. More detailed narrative can be attached.) Percival Gallagher of the Olmsted firm provided advice on landscape improvements associated with renovations to Tracy Lewis in 1916. These plans were never implemented, however. | | |
| | NATIONAL REGISTER RECOMMENDATION Entered by: <input type="checkbox"/> Recommended Eligible (Criterion <input type="checkbox"/> A <input type="checkbox"/> B <input type="checkbox"/> C <input type="checkbox"/> D) <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Not Eligible <input type="checkbox"/> Not Evaluated Explanation: House is state register listed NR Listed: <input 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 Kevan Klosterwill and Carolyn Brackett | ORGANIZATION Red Bridge Group | |
| | ADDRESS 2100 Green Street, San Francisco, California 94123 | | |
| | PHOTOGRAPHER Kevan Klosterwill | DATE 9/16/21 | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Permission to use photographs |
| | SURVEY METHOD <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Site Visit/In-Person Walkover <input 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

DESCRIPTION (Visual Assessment Summary)

Layout & Spatial Relationships: The house is sited in the middle of the lot, with service areas to the rear and a driveway looping through the site.

Circulation: A sidewalk runs across the front of the lot. An asphalt driveway makes a loop through the lot.

Topography: The lot is flat.

Plantings/Vegetation: A line of trees is located along the western edge of the lot. The house and backyard are currently overgrown.

Views & Vistas: A view west to the river valley is currently overgrown. The house is visible from the adjacent park.

Water Features: A swimming pool added to the site is currently filled in and overgrown.

Buildings/Structures/Objects: A house and garage are the only structures. A sign, fencing, and other elements are associated with a community garden along the southern edge of the lot.

Recreational Space: A community garden is the only active use on the site. The house was purchased by the town for the purpose of turning it into a library in the future.

HISTORICAL NARRATIVE

Tracy Samuel Lewis (1876-1921) graduated from Yale's Sheffield Scientific School in 1894. In 1898, Lewis and his father moved their boot-making business from Naugatuck to Beacon Falls and opened the Beacon Falls Rubber Shoe Company. Lewis moved into a home at 35 Wolfe Avenue, and in 1916 he hired an architect to update the home in the era's popular Colonial Revival style. During this time, Lewis hired the Olmsted Brothers firm to prepare plans for the shoe company factory, the town of Beacon Falls and his home. Plans approved by Percival Gallagher included curving planting areas framed by extensive lawns, gated paths and a driveway curving from the house's porte cochere to sheds and a garage in back. The extensive planting design included over 100 plants. Correspondence between the architect and Olmsted Brothers firm in 1916 indicates the landscape design was not implemented.

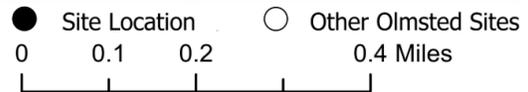
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CONTINUATION SHEET Tracey S. Lewis House (#06371) / 37 Wolfe Avenue, Beacon Falls

GRAPHICS

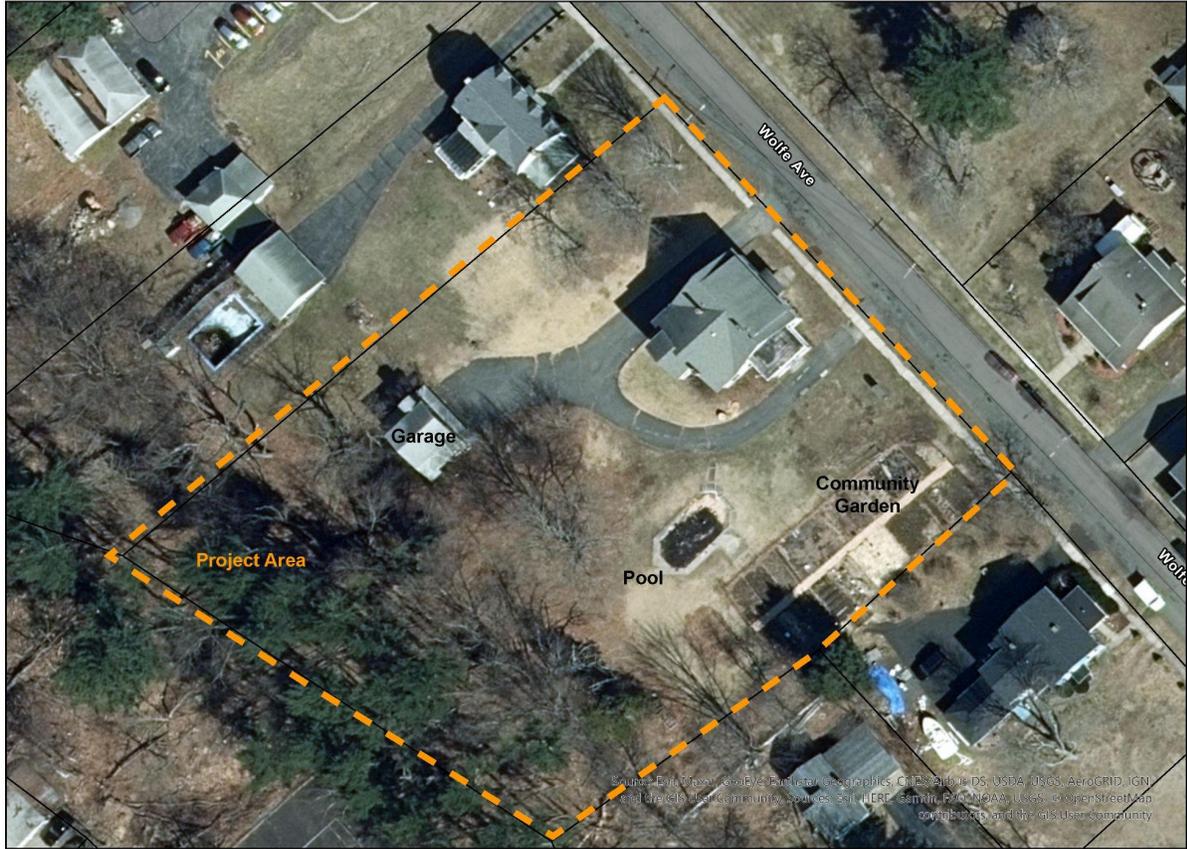


JOB: 06371 LOCATION: Beacon Falls

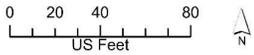


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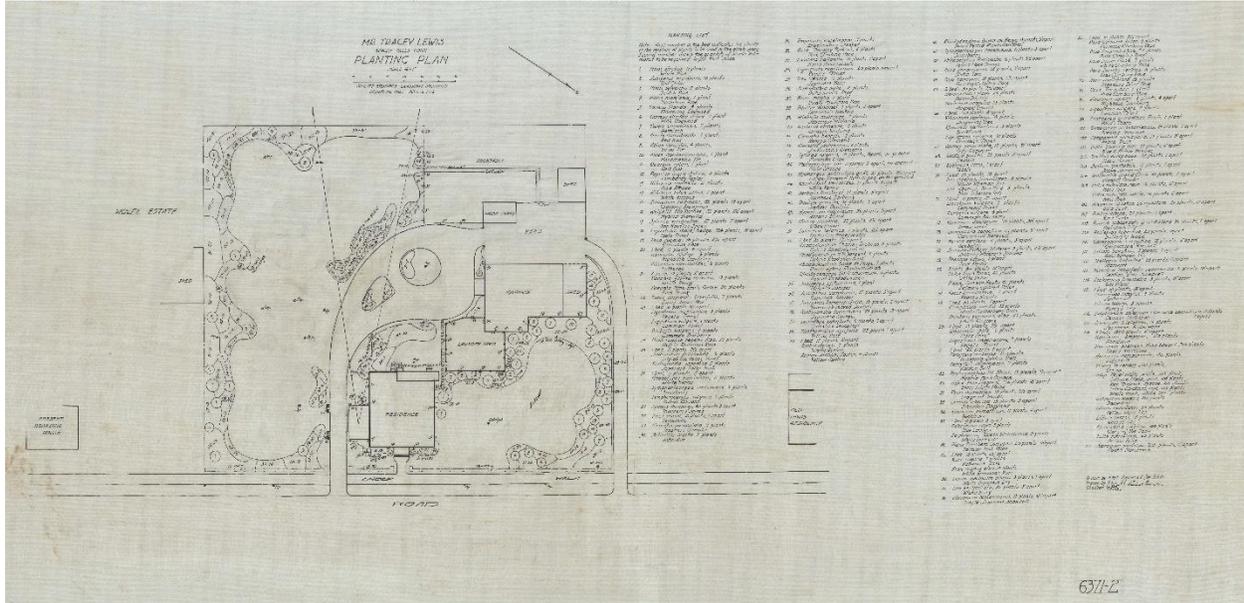


JOB: 06371 LOCATION: Beacon Falls PROJECT: Tracy S. Lewis House



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Mr. Tracey Lewis Planting Plan, 1916, Olmsted Brothers Landscape Architects. (Source: courtesy Frederick Law Olmsted National Historic Site)



View west to house from Wolfe Avenue. (All photographs taken by authors in 2021 unless otherwise noted)

CONTINUATION SHEET Tracey S. Lewis House (#06371) / 37 Wolfe Avenue, Beacon Falls



View west to rear garage.



View east from rear of lot toward overgrown swimming pool.



View northwest along rear driveway toward garage.



View east along driveway.