






Charles Adams Platt

Cheney Mansions and Gardens in Manchester, Connecticut

Architect and artist Charles Adams Platt (1861-1933) was the grandson of George Wells Cheney (1799-1840), brother of the founders of the silk mills. Among Platt's work:

1. 151 Hartford Road was built in 1905 for John Davenport Cheney, whom the family called Dave. At 4,000 square feet, it is one of the smallest mansions. The Shelter for Women now uses the mansion for the Alison Gill group home.
2. 139 Hartford Road – Platt designed the 1910 addition. The house started out as a cottage in 1840 and was expanded and remodeled over the years. Among the Cheney's who lived here was Lovisa Rich, a cousin who came at the age of 12 to help Electa Woodbridge Cheney care for her family. The Hamstra family, former owners, ran it as the "Mansion Inn" bed and breakfast
3. 50 Forest Street – the brick Italian-Renaissance-Revival-style Philip Cheney mansion, the extensive renovation of which was designed in the 1920s by Platt. He designed the garden and the interior décor, selecting the furniture and wall coverings. Family tradition says that this house, formerly the Knight Dexter (K.D.) Cheney house, didn't suit Philip Cheney's bride, Helen, and that the only part that remains of the previous (1878) structure is the living room. This is one of the largest extant mansions.
4. The 1904 pink stucco Clifford Cheney Mansion, east of the Philip Cheney mansion, also a Charles Adams Platt design.
5. (No longer in existence) Mary Cheney's large garden – kept as if it were a public park, was designed by Charles Adams Platt, and maintained by a staff of gardeners.
6. 20 Hartford Road – Frank Cheney, Jr. Mansion, now converted to office space. Built in 1901 with a third floor added in 1921, it is one of five mansions along Hartford Road or Forest Street designed or extensively remodeled by Charles Adams Platt.

Additional genealogical information about Charles Adams Platt: Charles was the second of three sons of Mary Cheney Platt and John Henry Platt. More local history info at www.manchesterhistory.org

<p>1. John Davenport Cheney mansion, 151 Hartford Rd.</p> 	<p>2. Seth Leslie Cheney mansion, formerly "Mansion Inn," 139 Hartford Rd.</p> 	<p>3. Philip Cheney mansion, 50 Forest St.</p> 
<p>4. Clifford Cheney mansion, 40 Forest St.</p> 	<p>5. Frank Cheney, Jr. house, 20 Hartford Rd., now used as offices</p> 	<p>6. Mary Cheney's Garden</p> 