

Fouracres or Forest House

Notes by Susan Barlow and Dick Jenkins.

Forgotten by most people: the old boarding house on Cooper Street, near the West Side Oval (a sports field that measured about four acres and had a cinder oval-shaped running track). It was once a pleasant boarding house, according to a *Hartford Courant*, January 30, 1921, article “Fouracres’ Departure in Working Girls’ Homes: Inn at South Manchester Solves Living Problem for Many Women Employees at Cheney Mills and Laughs Old High Cost of Living From the Door.” The article notes: “...the inn idea prevails. There is no latchstring on the door, yet in the evening the sound of music and laughter seem to assure a hearty welcome to guests even before one has crossed the threshold. The lights that twinkle through the dozens of windows lend a cheerful atmosphere that is not broken by passing into the living room, patterned a bit after the style of an old New England tavern. There is the traditional fireplace, the straight-backed chairs; only the polished hearth, the electric lighting and the modern decorating destroy the old fashioned touch. In appearance, it might be an inn, of any beautiful little town in the East, or by stretching the point, a college dormitory...”

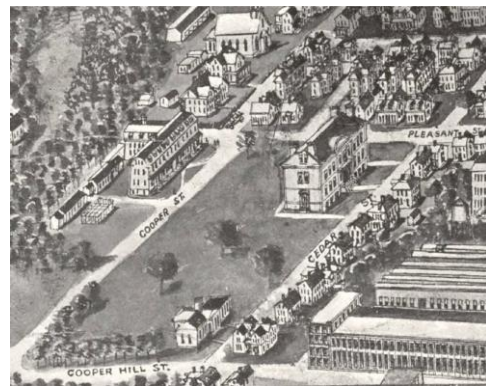
The Cheney family had other boarding houses for employees – Edgewood on the north side of Center Street, near Broad, and another on Chestnut Street. Fouracres was built before 1894, and it was expanded at least twice, in 1907 and 1916.



January 30, 1921 *Hartford Courant* article, quoted in text above; very hard to read.



Postcard of Forest House, before 1907.



1914 map. Forest House, center left, expanded from image in postcard, left.

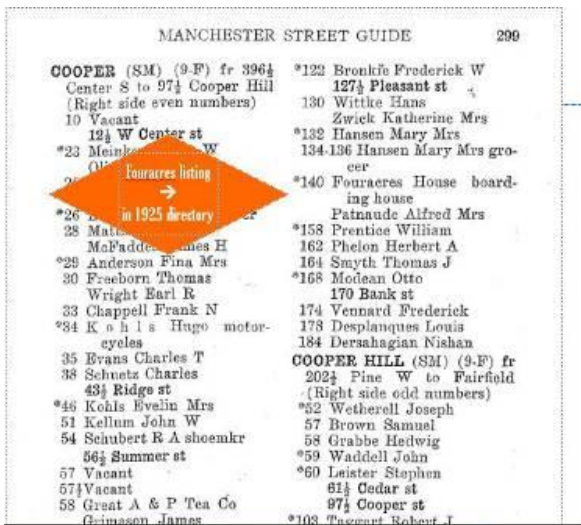


FOUR ACRES-Site of many early league and independent baseball games was the Four Acres. The field was later rechristened the West Side Oval. Building on the first base side was used to house school teachers, long since demolished. A track encircled the open playing field which was used regularly.

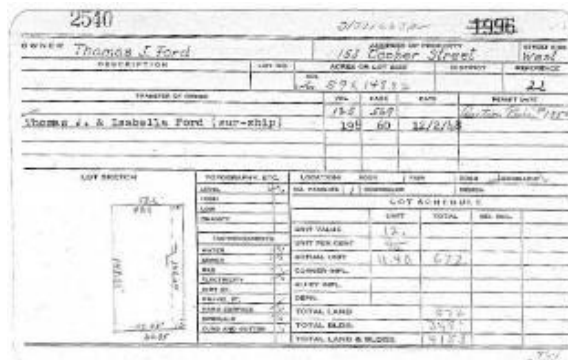
Undated "Then & Now" article in *The Manchester Herald*.

Table listing 55 residents of Forest House with columns for name, address, and occupation. The table includes names like Emma Apple, Mary Benson, and others, all listed as employees of Cheney Brothers.

1915 listing of the 55 residents of Forest House. The 1915 directory (along with directories from other years) is available on the Historical Society's website, www.manchesterhistory.org



1925 directory showing Fouracres boarding house owned by Mrs. Alfred (nee Collins) Patnaude.



Property card showing ownership by Thomas and Isabella Ford, who bought the property in 1938. After the 1948 sale of the old boarding house, it was demolished to make way for single-family houses. Boarding houses were not as popular as they had been in the early part of the 20th century, when many, many people "boarded." See listings in old directories.



Forest House, So. Manchester, Conn.

Forest House, on the west side of Cooper Street, a popular boarding house for working ladies, was a beehive of activity in the 1920's.

Will Add to Forest House.
Owing to the increased number of young women who are coming to Manchester to work and the lack of space in the Forest House, a boarding house owned by Cheney Brothers for girls, it is planned to increase the number of rooms. Plans are under way for the adding of forty more rooms to the house and it is hoped to have the work completed before late fall.

Newspaper article about the 1916 expansion, adding "forty more rooms."

**Forest House boarders, employees & proprietor,
1915 directory**

Emma	Apple	employed Cheney Bros.	boards at Forest House, 140 Cooper St.
Rose	Apple	employed Cheney Bros.	boards at Forest House, 140 Cooper St.
Mary	Bonn	employed Cheney Bros.	boards at Forest House, 140 Cooper St.
Alice	Bryant	employed Cheney Bros.	boards at Forest House, 140 Cooper St.
Catherine	Claughesy	employed Cheney Bros.	boards at Forest House, 140 Cooper St.
Bertha	Coddell	employed Cheney Bros.	boards at Forest House, 140 Cooper St.
Alice	Connors	employed Cheney Bros.	boards at Forest House, 140 Cooper St.
Mary	Connors	employed Cheney Bros.	boards at Forest House, 140 Cooper St.
Margaret	Conroy	employed Cheney Bros.	boards at Forest House, 140 Cooper St.
Mary	Crowley	employed Cheney Bros.	boards at Forest House, 140 Cooper St.
Catherine	Cruse	employed Cheney Bros.	boards at Forest House, 140 Cooper St.
Delia	Curran	employed Cheney Bros.	boards at Forest House, 140 Cooper St.
Mary	Donnelly	employed Cheney Bros.	boards at Forest House, 140 Cooper St.
Julia	Duggan	employed Cheney Bros.	boards at Forest House, 140 Cooper St.
Minnie	Everett	employed Cheney Bros.	boards at Forest House, 140 Cooper St.
Mary	Flannigan	employed Cheney Bros.	boards at Forest House, 140 Cooper St.
Sadie	Freeburn	employed Cheney Bros.	boards at Forest House, 140 Cooper St.
Agnes	Goodale	employed Cheney Bros.	boards at Forest House, 140 Cooper St.
Bessie	Graham	employed Cheney Bros.	boards at Forest House, 140 Cooper St.
Rose	Graham	employed Cheney Bros.	boards at Forest House, 140 Cooper St.
Mary	Gribbon	employed Cheney Bros.	boards at Forest House, 140 Cooper St.
Margaret	Griffin	employed Cheney Bros.	boards at Forest House, 140 Cooper St.
Miss	Griffin	employed Cheney Bros.	boards at Forest House, 140 Cooper St.
Hattie	Groves	employed Cheney Bros.	boards at Forest House, 140 Cooper St.
Ruby	Groves	employed Cheney Bros.	boards at Forest House, 140 Cooper St.
Bertha	Handchild	employed Cheney Bros.	boards at Forest House, 140 Cooper St.
Mary	Harrington	employed Cheney Bros.	boards at Forest House, 140 Cooper St.
Charles	Heath	Forest House Employee	boards at Forest House, 140 Cooper St.
Corrine	Hepburn	Forest House Employee	boards at Forest House, 140 Cooper St.
Lucy	Humiston	employed Cheney Bros.	boards at Forest House, 140 Cooper St.
Maggie	Humphrey	employed Cheney Bros.	boards at Forest House, 140 Cooper St.
Addie	Johnson	employed Cheney Bros.	boards at Forest House, 140 Cooper St.
Nora	Joyce	employed Cheney Bros.	boards at Forest House, 140 Cooper St.
Ernest	Judd	employed Cheney Bros.	boards at Forest House, 140 Cooper St.
Orrin L.	Judd	Forest House Proprietor	
Orrine	Judd	employed Cheney Bros.	boards at Forest House, 140 Cooper St.
Mrs. Thomas	Loyd	employed Cheney Bros.	boards at Forest House, 140 Cooper St.
Alice	Mansfield	employed Cheney Bros.	boards at Forest House, 140 Cooper St.
Lillian	Marquet	employed Cheney Bros.	boards at Forest House, 140 Cooper St.
Annie	McAdams	employed Cheney Bros.	boards at Forest House, 140 Cooper St.
Minne	McAlleer	employed Cheney Bros.	boards at Forest House, 140 Cooper St.
Mary	McGee	employed Cheney Bros.	boards at Forest House, 140 Cooper St.
Nellie	McGrath	employed Cheney Bros.	boards at Forest House, 140 Cooper St.
Lizzie	Molov	employed Cheney Bros.	boards at Forest House, 140 Cooper St.

Mary	Molov	employed Cheney Bros.	boards at Forest House, 140 Cooper St.
Lea	Oulet	employed Cheney Bros.	boards at Forest House, 140 Cooper St.
Elsie	Price	employed Cheney Bros.	boards at Forest House, 140 Cooper St.
Margaret	Robshaw	employed Cheney Bros.	boards at Forest House, 140 Cooper St.
Dora	Rock	employed Cheney Bros.	boards at Forest House, 140 Cooper St.
Margaret	Shea	employed Cheney Bros.	boards at Forest House, 140 Cooper St.
Rose	Snow	employed Cheney Bros.	boards at Forest House, 140 Cooper St.
Martha	Tatro	employed Cheney Bros.	boards at Forest House, 140 Cooper St.
Mary	Trebbly	employed Cheney Bros.	boards at Forest House, 140 Cooper St.
Edith	Westenburg	employed Cheney Bros.	boards at Forest House, 140 Cooper St.
Mary	Woods	employed Cheney Bros.	boards at Forest House, 140 Cooper St.