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 January 30, 1921 *Hartford Courant*, 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 Cheneys 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.
Undated “Then & Now” article in *The Manchester Herald.*

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](http://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.

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 boards at Forest House, 140 Cooper St.
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.
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<thead>
<tr>
<th>Name</th>
<th>Last Name</th>
<th>Employed</th>
<th>Address</th>
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<tr>
<td>Mary</td>
<td>Molov</td>
<td>employed Cheney Bros.</td>
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<td>Lea</td>
<td>Oulet</td>
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<td>Elsie</td>
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<td>Margaret</td>
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<td>Dora</td>
<td>Rock</td>
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<td>Rose</td>
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<td>Tatro</td>
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