

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)		
	Seymour Cunningham Cemetery Lot / East Cemetery, Litchfield Cemetery Association		
	COUNTY	TOWN/CITY	VILLAGE
	Litchfield	Litchfield	
	JOB NUMBER		
Primary: 05275 Related Job Numbers:			
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 type="checkbox"/> Private Estate / Homestead <input checked="" 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: 1911			
SUBSEQUENT PROJECTS:			

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

DESIGNER(S) (primary)

- Frederick Law Olmsted, Sr.
- John Charles Olmsted
- Frederick Law Olmsted, Jr.
- Other firm member(s): M. H. E.
- 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

The monument is set in a naturalistic environment, subordinate to the surrounding scenery. The lot takes advantage of prominent views of the landscape.

Surviving features resulting from the Olmsted firm's design work include:

- Engraving on rock face
- Metal monument

CULTURAL RESOURCES INVENTORY – LANDSCAPES

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) Seymour Cunningham Cemetery Lot, East Cemetery, Litchfield Cemetery Association (Job #05275)													
	COUNTY Litchfield	TOWN/CITY Litchfield	VILLAGE											
	STREET AND NUMBER (and/or location) East Street													
	OWNER(S) <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> PRIVATE <input 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 41.748487, -73.182845													
	PARCEL INFORMATION Acres: Less than 1 PID(s): MBLU(s): 219-037-041													
	USE (Present) Cemetery		(Historic) Cemetery											
	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 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 checked="" type="checkbox"/> Other – specify: Burial ground												
		DATE OR PERIOD (Include source of date) 1911 (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.) Design of a family burial plot														
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 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 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 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 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 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 type="checkbox"/> Recreational Space													
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Views & Vistas	<input type="checkbox"/> Other:													
<input type="checkbox"/> Boundaries	<input type="checkbox"/> Design Style:													

CULTURAL RESOURCES INVENTORY – LANDSCAPES

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

C O N D I T I O N	EXISTING CONDITION <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Recognizable <input type="checkbox"/> Not Extant/Not Recognizable Changes: Plantings no longer present		
	POTENTIAL THREATS <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> None Known <input type="checkbox"/> Infrastructure Improvements <input type="checkbox"/> Onsite Development <input type="checkbox"/> Adjacent Development <input type="checkbox"/> Vandalism <input type="checkbox"/> Overuse <input 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) A burial plot on a rise overlooking the remainder of the cemetery		
	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 type="checkbox"/> Plantings <input type="checkbox"/> Other – specify: _____		
	SLOPE <input type="checkbox"/> Level/Nearly Level <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Moderate Slope <input type="checkbox"/> Steep Slope Elevation (ASML): 980'		
	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 Merrimac fine sandy loam, excessively drained.		
H I S T O R Y	SUMMARY (Provide a brief overview in this space. More detailed narrative can be attached.) In 1911, Seymour Cunningham commissioned the Olmsted firm to design a burial plot for his family. Cunningham was interred at the site in 1944, and his wife in 1949.		
	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: A minor project 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 9/14/21	<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

CONTINUATION SHEET Seymour Cunningham Cemetery Lot (#05275) / East Cemetery, 445 Humphrey Street

DESCRIPTION (Visual Assessment Summary)

Layout & Spatial Relationships: This plot incorporates a stone outcropping sited along the main drive into the cemetery.

Circulation: A gravel drive passes in front of the outcropping. The monument is approached by walking through the surrounding landscape.

Topography: The plot is a level area atop a stone outcrop with vertical face.

Plantings/Vegetation: Maples and ferns frame the outcrop, and the area behind is partially wooded.

Views & Vistas: View from the table monument overlooks the cemetery and pond.

Buildings/Structures/Objects: A metal table monument is set on the stone outcrop. A small alcove is carved into the stone below the table.

HISTORICAL NARRATIVE

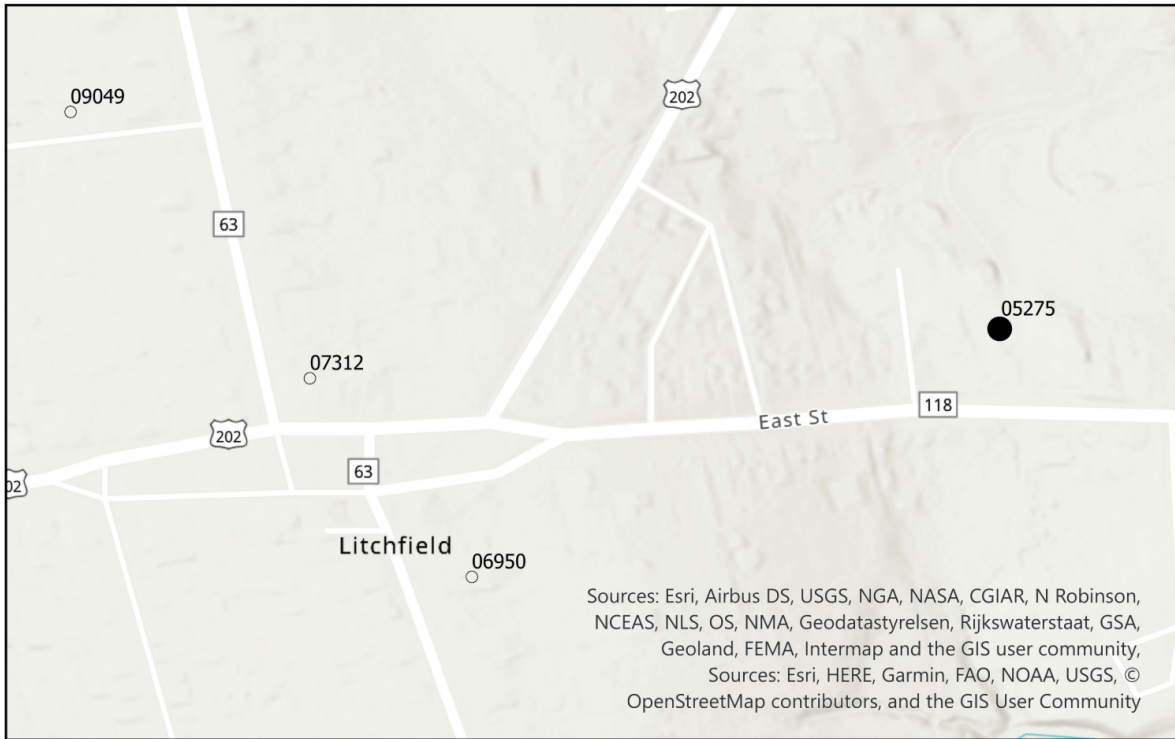
Correspondence between the Olmsted Brothers firm and Seymour Cunningham (1863-1944) began in the spring of 1911. Cunningham was a civil engineer whose Colonial Revival home on South Street in Litchfield reflected his wealth. W.B. Hatch's April 1911 letter explains Cunningham's request that they first make a planting plan for Cunningham's cemetery lot. In May, a member of the firm (the letter is not signed) followed up to inform Cunningham that Hatch had provided them with information about existing conditions and "his understanding of your ideas as to the development of the lot." The letter informs Cunningham that another member of the firm will visit the site and that they will "need time to prepare a plan to decide exactly the location of the graves and proper mode of expressing their existence with tables or markers."

On May 23, Cunningham weighed in on the process with specific instructions: "In my talk with Mr. Hatch, my idea was to have him look over the exposure, general situation, &c, and then give me a list of trees, shrubs, plants, &c. that would thrive without expert care - in such a spot to produce the effect and charm of wild nature. I want no beds or plantings." Cunningham described the marker he wanted: "A large bronze tablet with just the name 'CUNNINGHAM,' will be set in the perpendicular face of the ledge plateau, having flat slate slabs lying on the surface as the only markers. I wish no paths, steps, or other formal entrance." Cunningham's letter concluded "With your suggestions as to suitable planting, I will have the work done under my personal supervision next spring." In June, the firm sent a four-page letter (it is unsigned) to Cunningham which accompanied plans "in accordance with the conditions which you describe in your letter of May 23rd." The remainder of the letter includes extensive lists of trees, bushes and flowering plants with proposed locations. The letter concludes by noting "All of the plants named in this letter are not only native plants of sturdy character but are also plants that are very attractive in themselves." Seymour Cunningham was buried in this plot when he died in 1944. His wife, Stephanie Whitney Cunningham, was also buried here when she died in 1949.

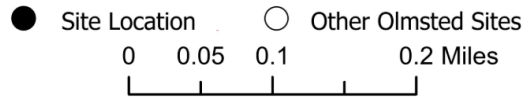
CULTURAL RESOURCES INVENTORY – LANDSCAPES * OLMSTED PROJECT

CONTINUATION SHEET Seymour Cunningham Cemetery Lot (#05275) / East Cemetery, 445 Humphrey Street

GRAPHICS



JOB: 5275 LOCATION: Litchfield

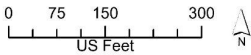


CULTURAL RESOURCES INVENTORY – LANDSCAPES * OLMSTED PROJECT

CONTINUATION SHEET Seymour Cunningham Cemetery Lot (#05275) / East Cemetery, 445 Humphrey Street

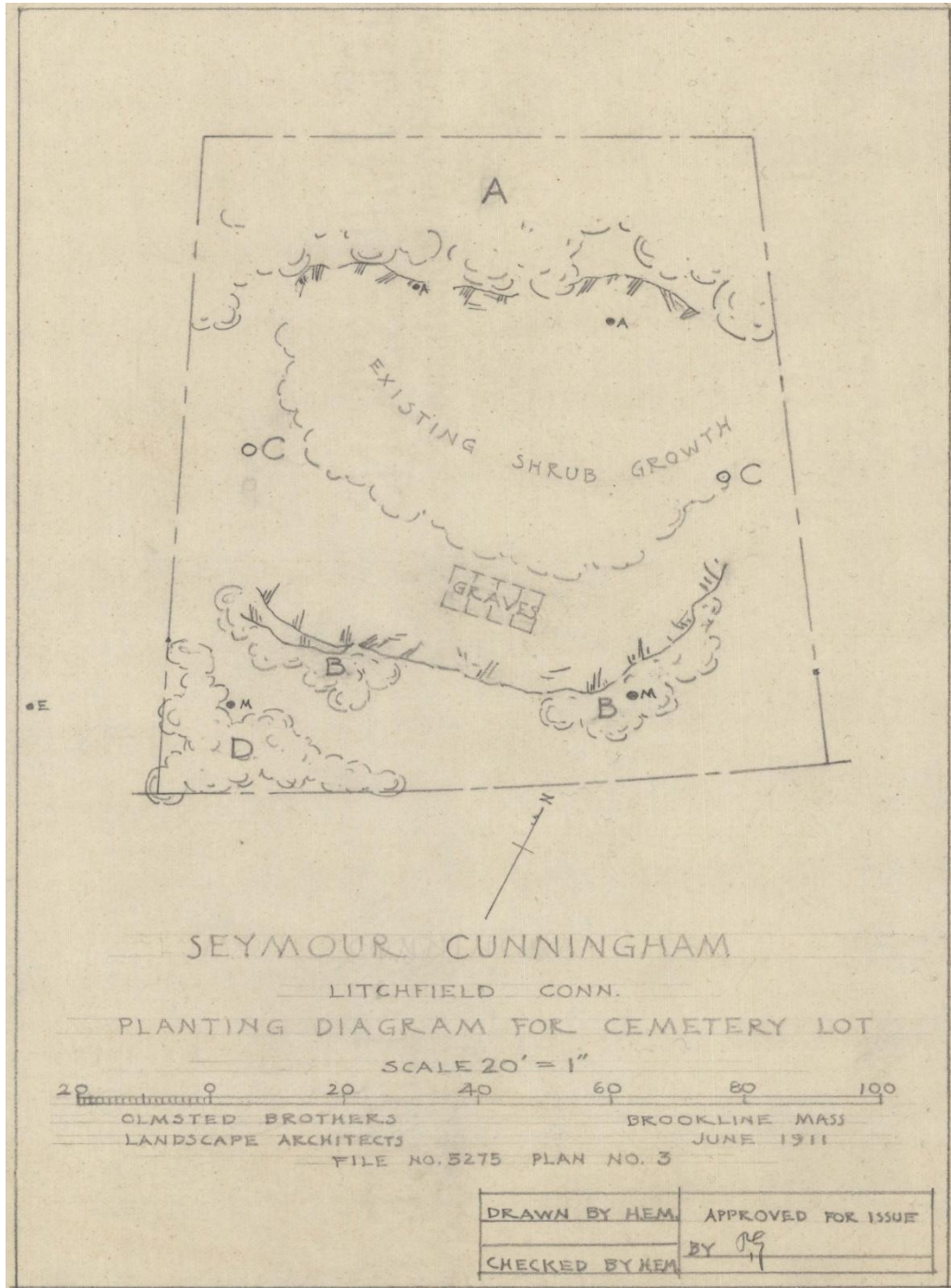


JOB: 05275 LOCATION: Litchfield PROJECT: Cunningham Cemetery Plot



CULTURAL RESOURCES INVENTORY – LANDSCAPES * OLMSTED PROJECT

CONTINUATION SHEET Seymour Cunningham Cemetery Lot (#05275) / East Cemetery, 445 Humphrey Street



Seymour Cunningham Planting Diagram for Cemetery Lot, Olmsted Brothers Landscape Architects, 1911. (Source: courtesy Frederick Law Olmsted National Historic Site)

CULTURAL RESOURCES INVENTORY – LANDSCAPES * OLMSTED PROJECT

CONTINUATION SHEET Seymour Cunningham Cemetery Lot (#05275) / East Cemetery, 445 Humphrey Street



View from drive to outcropping. (All photographs taken by authors in 2021 unless otherwise noted)



Detail of carving on outcropping and view up to monument table.

CULTURAL RESOURCES INVENTORY – LANDSCAPES * OLMSTED PROJECT

CONTINUATION SHEET Seymour Cunningham Cemetery Lot (#05275) / East Cemetery, 445 Humphrey Street



View south from outcropping.



View east with monument in the foreground.

CONTINUATION SHEET Seymour Cunningham Cemetery Lot (#05275) / East Cemetery, 445 Humphrey Street



Detail of table surface.