

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)		
	Charlotte Hungerford Hospital / Torrington Hospital (PI)		
	COUNTY	TOWN/CITY	VILLAGE
	Litchfield	Torrington	
	JOB NUMBER		
	Primary: 06060 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 checked="" type="checkbox"/> Grounds of Residential Institution <input type="checkbox"/> Grounds of Public Building <input 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: 1914		
	SUBSEQUENT PROJECTS: 1930		

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DESIGNER(S) (primary)

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

As originally conceived, the entry drive proceeds through a pair of entry walls along a winding course up the hill. The drive terminates in a curving turnaround that affords distant views from the hilltop hospital. The sequence creates a sense of retreat that remains largely intact, though additional parking at the upper loop and new plantings and pedestrian elements have cluttered the area somewhat.

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

- Approach road and arrival loop alignment
- Stone entry walls

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I D E N T I F I C A T I O N	PROPERTY NAME (Current/Historic) Hungerford, Charlotte Hospital / Torrington Hospital (P/I) (Job #06060)													
	COUNTY Litchfield	TOWN/CITY Torrington	VILLAGE											
	STREET AND NUMBER (and/or location) 540 Litchfield 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 41.792251, -73.133384													
	PARCEL INFORMATION Acres: 120.23 PID(s): 15134 MBLU(s): 112/4/15													
	USE (Present) Hospital		(Historic) Hospital											
	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 checked="" 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) 1914/1930 (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.) Siting of hospital, Design of entry drive and surrounding landscape														
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:
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DESCRIPTION (Visual Assessment Summary)

Layout & Spatial Relationships: The hospital is located on a hill and accessed by a long drive through a wooded landscape. Two historic structures face an entry loop at the top. Service drives, parking areas, and other structures branch off from the main entry drive.

Circulation: A curving asphalt drive leads to a looping turn-around and parking area. Secondary drives lead to other parking areas. Some stone curbing in the entry parking area appears to date to the original design though other bays have been added. A brick path runs through the center island. A path once connected the entrance to the upper hospital but is no longer intact.

Topography: Hospital is sited on a knoll.

Plantings/Vegetation: White oaks are planted in the central island. Wooded areas border the entry drive.

Views & Vistas: Shifting views are afforded along the entry drive, where vegetation effectively screens service areas, parking, and surrounding areas. Distant views are afforded to the south from the hilltop.

Buildings/Structures/Objects: Both historic and newer hospital buildings are located on the hill top. A historic building used for laundry is located near the entry, along with a small well house, and stone entry walls. A new sign obscures one of the walls. Benches, bollard, and other furnishings have been installed in the island and around the parking area.

HISTORICAL NARRATIVE

Charlotte Hungerford Hospital was founded in 1916 as a gift by industrialist Uri T. Hungerford in memory of his mother Charlotte, who died in 1895. Hungerford's brass and copper company was one of the largest of its kind in the U.S. He was assisted in planning for the hospital by James Doughty who became the hospital's first president, Dr. Elias Pratt, the first president of the medical staff, and Robert Swayze, president of Torrington Manufacturing Company.

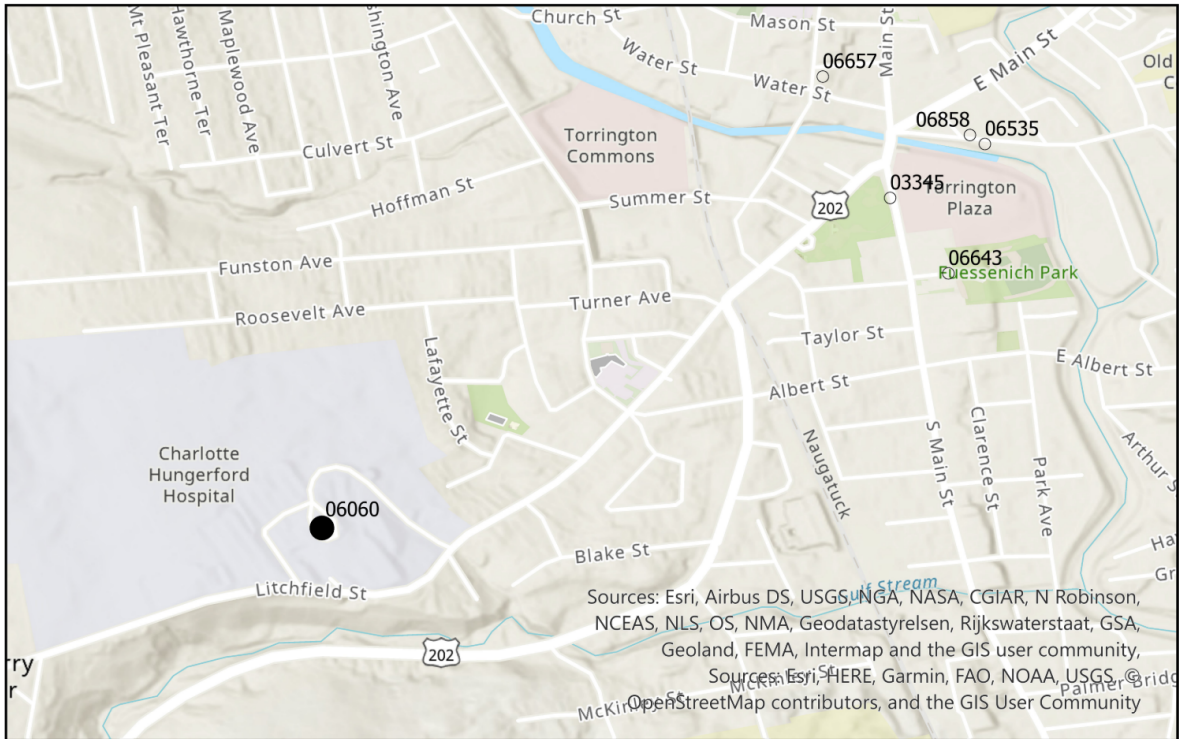
In June of 1914, Swayze wrote to Percival Gallagher asking for the Olmsted firm's assistance in choosing from among three possible locations for the hospital. Four Story Hill near the Litchfield town line was selected, and construction began later that summer. The hospital opened in 1916 in what today is known as the Memorial Building.

In 1930, E.C. Whiting was contacted for the Olmsted firm's assistance in landscaping around a new, larger hospital building. The Olmsted firm planned and oversaw everything from driveway grading to seeding and cultivating the lawn and selecting a variety of flowers and trees. They also issued a call for proposals for a contractor and selected James Driscoll and Sons. The seven-story building was included in the Encyclopedia Britannica to illustrate the acme of a modern American hospital.

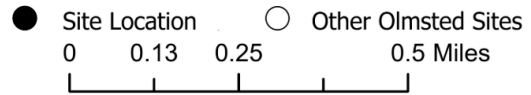
CULTURAL RESOURCES INVENTORY – LANDSCAPES * OLMSTED PROJECT

CONTINUATION SHEET Charlotte Hungerford Hospital (#06060) / 540 Litchfield Street, Torrington

GRAPHICS



JOB: 06060 LOCATION: Torrington

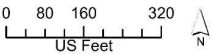


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CONTINUATION SHEET Charlotte Hungerford Hospital (#06060) / 540 Litchfield Street, Torrington

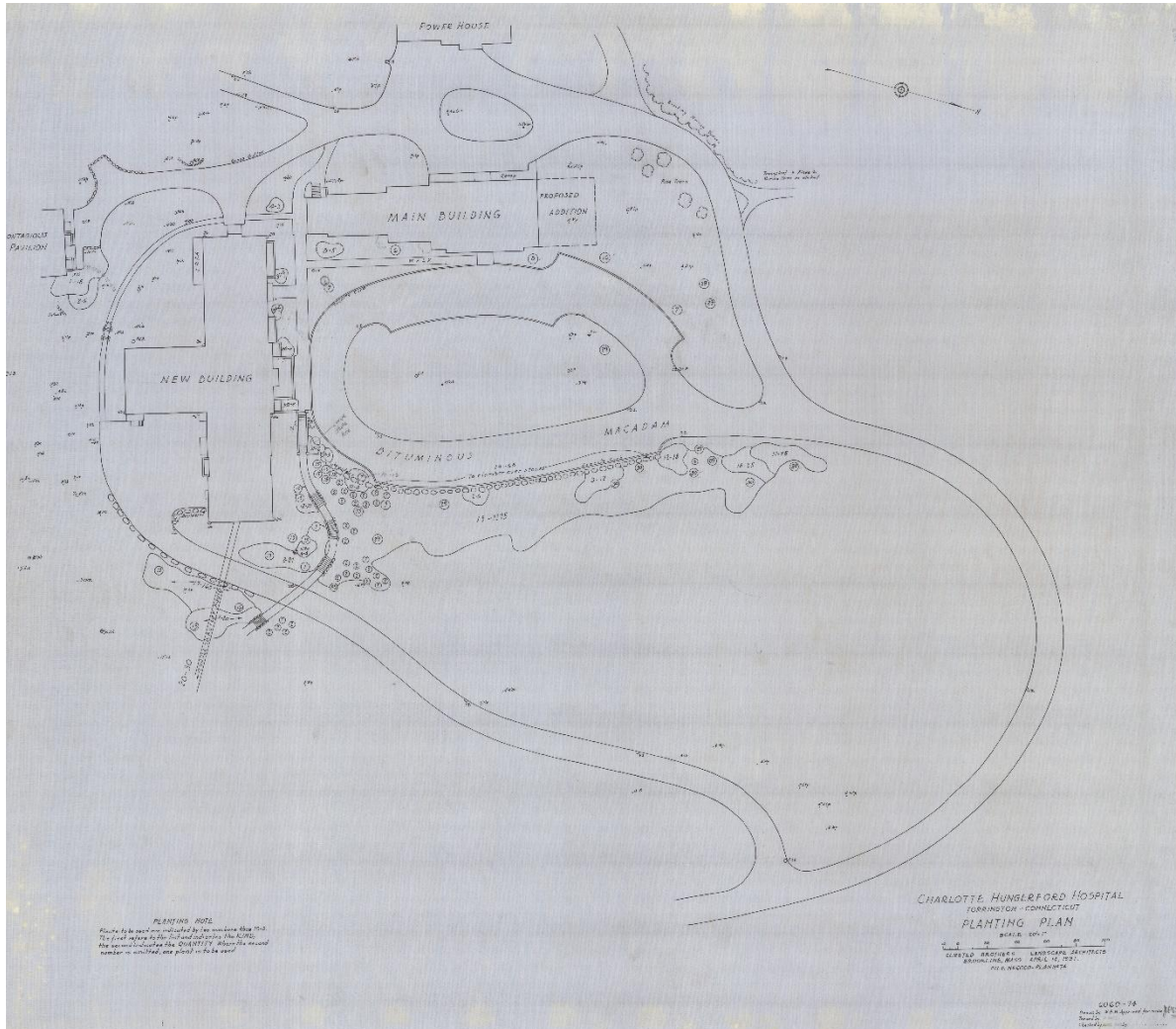


JOB: 06060 LOCATION: Torrington PROJECT: Hungerford Hospital



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Charlotte Hungerford Hospital Planting Plan, 1931, Olmsted Brothers Landscape Architects. (Source: courtesy Frederick Law Olmsted National Historic Site)



View north along Litchfield Street to hospital entrance. (All photographs taken by authors in 2021 unless otherwise noted)



View east along approach road.

CONTINUATION SHEET Charlotte Hungerford Hospital (#06060) / 540 Litchfield Street, Torrington



View northwest to parking loop.



View east along parking area loop.



View south along stairs to service area.