

CT Trust Resource ID: 3214

HISTORIC RESOURCE INVENTORY – BUILDING AND STRUCTURES

State Historic Preservation Office, DECD, One Constitution Plaza, 2nd Floor, Hartford, CT 06103

*Note: Please attach any additional or expanded information on a separate sheet.

Inventory form modified for the Creative Places - Arts & Letters Project

GENERAL INFORMATION

Building Name (Common): Cheney, Russell, StudioOther Name(s) (Historic): Cheney, Russell, StudioStreet Address or Location: 30 Forest Street, ManchesterTown/City: Manchester

Village:

County: HartfordDesignation(s): SRHD, NRHD, LHDOwner(s): REICHELT, JOHN & LAURAPublic/Private: PrivateLatitude: 41.7666 Longitude: -72.5218

PROPERTY INFORMATION

Present Use: Domestic: single dwellingHistoric Use: Domestic: single dwelling; Secondary outbuildingAccessibility to public: No Exterior visible from public road? YesInterior accessible? If yes, explain: NAStyle of building: Vernacular Date of Construction: 1835Material(s) (Indicate use or location when appropriate) Wood Shingle, Board & BattenStructural Systems(s): Wood FrameRoof(Type): Gable (Material): Asphalt ShingleNumber of Stories: 1 1/2 Approximate Dimensions: 20' x 57', 25' x 36'Structural Condition: GoodExterior Condition: GoodLocational Integrity: On original site Moved, When: NAAlterations?: Yes If yes, explain: Conversion to residenceRelated outbuildings or landscape features: BarnSurrounding Environment: Residential

Interrelationship of building and surroundings: The Cheney Studio building, 30 Forest Street, is located south of the Clifford D. Cheney House, 40 Forest Street, near the northeast corner of the Cheney complex surrounding the Great Lawn. The Studio building is a contributing resource in the Cheney Brothers Historic District, a National Register and National Historic Landmark District, and a Local Historic District.

Other notable features of building or site: The Cheney Studio building is a rambling wood-frame gable-roofed structure of 1 1/2 stories. The studio space, converted from a former carriage house, is at the west end and has as its dominant feature a multi-pane north-facing window which brings light to the workspace. Extending to the east is a lower block comprising residential space. The exterior is a mix of board-and-batten and some wood shingle siding. Roofing is asphalt shingles.

Architect: Unknown Builder/Maker: Unknown

Historical or Architectural importance:

Russell Cheney (1881-1945) was an artist and a member of the extended Cheney family of industrialists of Manchester, Connecticut. He painted in Manchester for a time, but traveled widely in the United States and Europe, creating canvases of the local landscapes, portraits, still lifes, and interiors. Russell was the youngest of eleven children born in Manchester to Knight Dexter (K.D.) and Ednah Dow Cheney. His grandfather, Charles Cheney, was one of the Cheney brothers who founded the world-famous silk mills. Russell graduated from Hartford Public High School and from Yale College, but was supported by his family while he made his way in the art world. After graduating from Yale in 1904, he studied at the Art Students League in New York until 1907, when he went to study in Paris.

In Manchester, part of an 1835 barn on family property was made into a studio for Russell, and he painted there from 1916 through the 1920s. The two-story studio had a large north-facing window. There was also a set of outbuildings along the side, with extra residential space, and nearby, a large carriage house and garage.

The studio at 30 Forest Street was later converted by Cheney family member Horace Learned and his family into a large residence, using the studio as a great hall (Barlow).

Later in life, Russell Cheney painted in Maine and in the southwest, as he suffered from depression and also tuberculosis. He had met his partner F. O. Mathiesson on a trans-Atlantic crossing in 1924. They later lived in Kittery, Maine; much of their extensive correspondence was published after Cheney's death. Cheney was allied with painters of "The Eight" or "Ash Can School" during the 1930s and exhibited in Chicago, New York, and Hartford.

Sources:

Adams, George R. 1977. Cheney Brothers National Register Historic District No. 78002885. National Park Service.

Barlow, Susan. Russell Cheney, Manchester Artist. Accessed at: http://www.manchesterhistory.org/reprints/MHS3_RussellCheney.html.

Cheney Brothers Local Historic District record accessed at: <http://lhdct.org/district/view/cheney-brothers-historic-district>.

Dunne, Mary. 2001. Russell Cheney, Manchester's Impressionist. Accessed at

<http://www.manchesterhistory.org/reprints/RCheneyCatlg6.8.2001.pdf>.

Heard, Patricia L. and Richard M. Candee. 1996. Russell Cheney: Artist of the Piscataqua. Portsmouth: Portsmouth Athenaeum. Accessed at: <http://www.russellcheney.com/heard.pdf>.

Cheney Brothers Local Historic District record accessed at: <http://lhdct.org/district/view/cheney-brothers-historic-district>.

Photographer: Vison Assessor photo **Date:**

View: North view

Form completed by: Charlotte Hitchcock **Printed On:** April 27, 2016

Organization: Connecticut Trust for Historic Preservation

Address: 940 Whitney Avenue, Hamden CT 06517-4002

Threats: None known

Subsequent field evaluations:



30 Forest Street, Manchester - Russell Cheney Studio (vsgi.com assessor photo)

FOR OFFICE USE:

Town # _____ **Site#** _____ **UTM** _____

District ☐ S ☐ NR **If NR, specify:** ☐ Actual ☐ Potential