**Connecting Records Inventory**

**Building and Structures**

**State of Connecticut**

**Connecticut Historical Commission**

59 South Prospect Street, Hartford, Connecticut 06106

(203) 566-3005

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**1. Building Name (Common)**

Sanford, Truman, House

**2. Town City**

Farmington

**3. Street and Number (and or, location)**

103 Main Street

**4. Owner(s)**

Jestin, Loftus H.D. and Charbra A.

**5. Use (Present)**

Residence, Residence

**6. Accessibility**

- Exterior visible from public road: Yes
- Interior accessible: No

**7. Style of Building**

Colonial Revival

**8. Materials**

- Clapboard • Asbestos siding • Other (Specify)
- Wood shingle • Asphalt siding • Fieldstone
- Board & batten • Stucco • Cobblestone
- Aluminum siding • Concrete Type: Other (Specify)
- Wood frame • Balloon

**9. Structural System**

- Wood frame • Past and beam
- Load-bearing masonry • Structural iron or steel
- Gable • Flat • Mansard • Monitor • Sawtooth
- Gambrel • Shed • Hip • Round • Other (Specify)
- Wood shingle • Roll asphalt • Tin • Slate
- Asphalt shingle • Built up • Tile • Other (Specify)

**10. Number of Stories**

1 1/2

**11. Approximate Dimensions**

32 x 28

**12. Condition**

- Structural: Excellent (Specify)
- Exterior: Excellent (Specify)

**13. Integrity (landmark)**

- On original site: Yes
- Moved: No

**14. Related Outbuildings or Landscape Features**

- Barn • Shed • Garage • Other landscape features or buildings (Specify)
- Carriage house • Shop • Garden

**15. Surrounding Environment**

- Open land • Woodland • Residential • Scattered buildings visible from site
- Commercial • Industrial • Rural • High building density

**16. Interrelationship of Building and Surroundings**

Facing west onto Main Street, the Truman Sanford House sits in the heart of Farmington's historic district. The surrounding residential neighborhood contains buildings erected primarily in the eighteenth and nineteenth centuries.

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(Over)
The facade of this small gambrel-roofed, Colonial Revival-style dwelling features a full-length, open porch with classical columns and lattice work. Note the continuous shed-roofed dormer and brick end chimney. The gambrel peaks feature a small semi-circular window.

This house was built by Truman Sanford in 1915 at the time of his marriage to Helen Wadsworth. Sanford erected the dwelling on land he purchased from his father-in-law, Adrian Rowe Wadsworth (FLR 77:565). Born in Unionville in 1888, Truman was the son of Frank and Marion (Hawley) Sanford. He graduated from Yale in 1911 and was employed as an engineer in Meriden and Thompsonville before buying into a Farmington Ice, Coal, and Wood business operated by the Wadsworth family. Sanford managed the company for a few years before joining the Travelers Insurance Company. In 1922 he joined his father as a partner in the Sanford & Hawley Lumber Company, located in Unionville. In 1934 he inherited the entire business and remained there until his retirement in 1970. Mrs. Sanford sold this house to the present owners in 1977 (FLR 252:351).

This house is typical of the "Dutch Colonial", a principle subtype of the Colonial Revival style, the dominant building mode in the United States during the early twentieth century.
OWNER'S NAME: SANFORD, TRUMAN F.

ADDRESS: 103 Main St.

DATE BUILT: 1914

DATE BUILT: FOR Truman F. Sanford & Helen Wadsworth on land given them by Adrian R. Wadsworth which had been in the Wadsworth family since 1650.

ARCHITECT: Plans were by Sanford & H. Wadsworth

MASTER-BUILDER: J.E. Knibbs

FORMER OWNERS: None

ADDITIONAL INFORMATION: Truman F. Sanford & Helen Wadsworth were married in 1915.
This house is not pictured in the Farmington Book as it was not built until nine years after that book was published. The account which follows could have been included in the account of the house at 107 Main Street, the original Wadsworth Homestead, but instead of that the houses at 103 and 105 Main Street, both built by Wadsworth family members and on Wadsworth property, will be written up separately.

This house was built for Mr. and Mrs. Truman F. Sanford at the time of their marriage in 1915. Mrs. Sanford is the former Helen Wadsworth, daughter of Adrian Rowe Wadsworth, Sr., and his wife Charlotte Bishop Steele. Helen Wadsworth attended Farmington's public schools until she was twelve, when she entered Miss Porter's School as a day student. She then attended Bradford Academy, near Haverhill, Massachusetts, and was later graduated, in 1914, from Mount Holyoke College.

Miss Wadsworth was married in 1915 to Truman Frank Sanford, who was born in Unionville, the son of Frank Sanford and Marion Hawley, and in that same year they built this house in which they presently reside.

The first Sanford known to have come to this area was Jesse, son of Jesse Sanford of Kensington, who came to Unionville to work for Elijah North, 1768-1808, of the North homestead on Lovely Street. This homestead is in Avon, 1.2 miles north of Route 4, and 7/10 mile north of the Farmington town line. Jesse Sanford married Almira North, 1796-1862, daughter of Elijah North.

Jesse Sanford's son Edmund married Mary E. Tillotson, 1823-1900, the daughter of Ira Tillotson. Edmund's son was Frank Sanford, 1853-1923, who married Marion Hawley in 1883, and they were the parents of Truman F. Sanford.

The farmhouse which housed the Norths and later the Sanfords is now the property of Robert H. Philips, who has owned it since about 1953, having purchased only some two acres however, with the house. He states that the farm was once owned by the Jensen Dairy. The huge barn, built by the Sanfords in 1876, is now under separate ownership, owned by the people who live in what was formerly the milkhouse, between the house and barn, now converted to a residence.

Marion Hawley, who married Frank Sanford, was of the Hawley family of which one branch had been in Farmington beginning with Captain Joseph Hawley who settled on Scott Swamp Road about 1700. Marion's grandfather Zerah Hawley, 1781-1856, son of the Rev. Rufus Hawley, was a physician in New Haven. His son Robert and Robert's wife Maria Hamlin, came to Avon to farm the old homestead of Rufus F. Hawley on Old Farms Road, 1.3 miles south of Route 44. Robert, at the age of 42 and with six small children, joined the Union Army and was killed in the Battle of Antietam. Truman Sanford, 1830-1896, a brother of Edmund who has been mentioned above, and his wife the former Emily Woodford, 1834-1926, daughter of Henry Woodford and Hulda Andrews, asked that they be allowed to take Marion Hawley, one of the six children of the deceased Robert Hawley.

July 11, 1972
Truman Sanford and his wife reared Marion as their own, in Unionville, where Mr. Sanford was a partner in the grocery firm of Tryon and Sanford. It was Marion who later married Frank Sanford and became the mother of the present Truman F. Sanford.

Frank Sanford, with his brother-in-law Robert Hawley, operated the Sanford and Hawley lumber yard on West Avon Road, just off Farmington Avenue, where it is still located. As a boy of ten Truman would sometimes be allowed to drive the wagon with a load of lumber, to Farmington, where his father, leaving later on the trolley, would meet him in Farmington and help unload the lumber. Truman was graduated from Yale in 1911, after one year of absence from college while he worked making surveys for the construction division of the New Haven Railroad. After getting his degree in engineering he worked as engineer for the H. Wales Lines Company of Meriden.

In July 1913, while on a job in Thompsonville, building a factory for the Hartford Carpet Company, Truman was stricken with typhoid fever and it was almost fatal. After his recovery he worked about a year doing surveying on his own. He then bought an interest in the Farmington Ice, Coal and Wood business, started by Adrian Wadsworth, Sr., and being somewhat older than the Wadsworth boys, he managed this business for a few years, and it was during this period that he married Helen Sanford. Their marriage was in 1915, the year that they built this house, which they still occupy. Shortly after this Mr. Sanford joined the Travelers Insurance Company, and after taking their training course for cashiers, was assigned to their Minneapolis office. He was there until 1920, accompanied only one year by his wife, who was in Farmington keeping house for her father, as her mother died in 1918. In 1920 Mr. Sanford returned to the Hartford area to be on the Travelers home office auditing staff.

Robert Hawley, Frank Sanford's partner and Truman's uncle, died in 1920, and in 1922 Truman Sanford joined his father in the Sanford Hawley lumber business, taking the place of his uncle. Frank Sanford himself died in 1923 and Truman managed the business for his mother until her death in 1934. At this time he inherited the business and he remained with it and managed it until his own retirement in 1970, although his own involvement with the details had begun tapering off some years prior to that, as his son Robert began taking over its management, having been associated with the business since in the 1930s.

The Truman Sanfords have two children, Elizabeth Wadsworth Sanford and Robert Wadsworth Sanford. Elizabeth is a graduate of Salem College, Winston-Salem, North Carolina, and worked for a while with Mrs. Jenner at the Garden Street kindergarten. She was married in 1942 to Henry Jacob Chapin, born in Scranton, Pennsylvania, the son of David Raymond Chapin and Mary Louise Klaer. He is a graduate of Haverford College, Haverford, Pennsylvania, and later studied metallurgy at Massachusetts Institute of Technology. When they were married he was employed in Southington, later joined the American Brakeshoe Company and is still with them. They presently reside in Mahwah, New Jersey. Their son Robert died in September 1971 at the age of 25. Their daughter Jane Elizabeth is now Mrs. Robert Bryson, and lives with her husband in Hawthorne, New Jersey, where he is a commercial artist.

July 12, 1972
Robert W. Sanford married Clara Victoria Eyers, always known as June, who grew up on Mountain Road, the daughter of Walter Eyers and Clara Victoria Preston. See more regarding Robert and his own family in the sketch of 18 Mountain Road, where they now reside.

July 12, 1972

Mrs. Truman Sanford, as noted in the Hartford Courant of June 15, 1973, was honored at a "Recognition Luncheon" by the Greater Hartford Chapter of the American Red Cross, and awarded a 55-year service pin, for her long continuous volunteer service to the organization.

May 25, 1974
Genealogy of the North family as related to Truman Sanford.

John North 1615-1692, born in England
m. Hannah Bird, probably in Ipswich, Mass.
   John North came to America in the SUSAN AND ELLEN,
   April 1635, settled in Ipswich, sold out there in
   1652, purchased in Farmington in 1653 land from John
   Steele where now stand Nos. 15 and 17 Main Street.

Samuel North 1643-1682, born in Ipswich,
m. Hannah Norton 1649- born in Branford, dau. of John
   and Elizabeth Norton. Lived in Farmington on north
   side of Hartford Road, a little east of Edward Norton's
   farm buildings.

Thomas North 1673-1755, born in Farmington,
m. 1699 Hannah Woodford, -1757, dau. of Joseph Woodford
   and Rebecca Newell. Probably built the house where his
   grandson Seth lived, south side of Hartford Road, now
   it would be just west of the entrance to Hillstead Est.

Timothy North 1714-1788, born in Farmington,
m. 1739 his cousin Hannah North
   Their six sons served in Revolutionary War, after which
   three of them settled in Kentucky and Ohio. One of the
   sons who stayed here was Seth, later known as "Sinner
   North". Timothy's house was burned to ashes in April
   1763. He evidently rebuilt on same site, as his son
   Seth also lived there.

Eli North 1743-1813, born in Farmington, died in Avon,
m. 1765 in Avon, Eunice Hart, 1746-1824, dau. of James Hart
   and Thankful North. Unofficial records show that he
   was in the Revolutionary War, one of the brothers men- 
   tioned above. Moved to Avon and lived on Lovely Street.

Elijah North 1768-1808, born in Avon,
m. 1791 Mercy Horsford 1768-1813, lived on Lovely Street, Avon.
   Of their seven children, three died as children, one son
   died at the age of 34, one son married a Vicksburg girl
   and was killed in Mississippi, and a daughter Naomi married
   William Peck of Salisbury.

Almira North 1796-1862, born in Avon, daughter of the above
   Elijah, married Jesse Sanford of Kensington, a veteran of
   the war of 1812. They were married in 1819. The only
   adult son of Elijah who stayed on the farm was Elijah Jr.,
   and he died in 1838, so the farm was probably inherited
   by Almira, her father having died at the age of 40, in 1808.

Edmund Sanford
m. Mary Tillotson, dau. of Ira, 1823-1900, born Ithaca, New York

Frank Sanford, 1853-1923,
m. Marion Hawley, -1934,
   Their child was Truman Frank Sanford
Genealogy of the Tillotson family as related to Truman Sanford.

John Tillotson, 1618-1670, born in Yorkshire, England; m. in 1648 to Dorcas Coleman, also of England. They lived in Newbury, Mass., and later in Saybrook, Conn.

John Tillotson, 1650-1719, born in Newbury, Mass., m. in 1680 to Mary Horrice of Hartford. They lived in Saybrook.


Ira Tillotson, 1783-1858, born in Avon, had some schooling and at age of 16 or 18 was with a surveying party in Buffalo, New York. After his marriage in Genoa, N. Y., in 1809 to Harriet Southworth, they settled in Ithaca, where he was architect, builder and surveyor, and all their children were born there. His health began to fail in 1836 and they moved to Marshall, Michigan. Their children were:

Harriet 1809
William 1812-1831
Mary E. 1823-1900, who married Edmund Sanford and became the mother of Frank Sanford
Henry 1827-
Edward 1831-1839

John Tillotson of the fifth generation, 1756-1826, had a brother Elias, 1758-1812, who had married Experience Hosford, 1764-1845, of Avon, daughter of Ezekiel Hosford and Mercy Miller. Elias Tillotson and his wife and ten children lived on Lovely Street, Avon, at about what is now Helena Road, 3.4 miles north of Route 4 in Unionville.

Two of the sons of Elias, Shubael, 1796-1854, and Romanta, 1805-1868, had sugar plantation which they operated in New River, Ascension Parish, in Louisiana. Romanta married Almira Many of Acadia, Louisiana, and their three children were born in New River.

July 11, 1972
Genealogy of the Hawley family as related to Truman Sanford.

Joseph Hawley 1603-1690
m. 1640 Katherine Birdsey 1692
Yeoman and town recorder, Stratford, Conn

Samuel Hawley 1648-1734
m. 1673 Mary Thompson 1653-1691 of Farmington, 1st wife
Farmer and tanner

Capt. Joseph Hawley 1676-1752
m. 1697 Elizabeth Wilcockson 1673-1762
Cordwainer and farmer, to Farmington ca 1700

Timothy Hawley 1704-1785
m. (1) 1730 Sarah Thompson 1732
(2) Rachel Forward in 1736
Lived at 10 Main Street, Farmington

Rufus Hawley 1741-
m. Deborah Kent
Became minister of the Northington Church
In 1798 built what is now the Robt. August house
on Old Farms Road, see R. F. Hawley house, 2nd
column, p. 138, Farmington Book.

Dr. Zerah Hawley, M. D., 1781-1856
m. Harriett Sherman of New Haven
Lived and practiced in New Haven

Robert Augustus Hawley 1819-1862
m. Maria L. Hamlin 1832-1922
Came to Farmington, lived in R. F. Hawley house,
entered Civil War, died at Antietem

Marion Hawley -1934
m. Frank Sanford 1853-1923
Lived in Unionville, in partnership with Marion's
brother Robert Hawley, operated Sanford Hawley Lbr Co.

Truman Frank Sanford

Note: This varies a little, in regard to wife of
Timothy Hawley, from the genealogy shown on a page
in the possession of Truman F. Sanford, but the
writer thinks this is correct.

July 12, 1972
Edmund Sanford, son of Jesse Sanford and Almira North, also lived on Lovely Street, 2.2 miles south of the Tillotson family, but near enough at that time to be called neighbors, and he knew the Tillotson sons, Shubael and Romanta. He left his father's farm in his youth and went to Louisiana to work for the two Tillotson brothers, becoming superintendent on their sugar plantation. It was while he was there that Mary E. Tillotson, mentioned above as the daughter of Ira, went to Louisiana to visit her cousins, and met Edmund. They were mutually attracted and were married in the South. It was not long afterward however that Edmund decided to come north again and join in the lumber business with his family, so they returned to Avon.

The present Truman Sanford remembers his great-uncle Henry, brother of Mary, who came from Michigan to visit his sister and her family when Truman was a small boy.

The old Elias Tillotson house on Lovely Street, where Shubael and Romanta and their brothers and sisters were born, burned down in February 1907, and the barn in February 1918. The writer does not know how long the Tillotson family had lived there, nor whom were the last to leave.

July 11, 1972

The Elias Tillotson children were the following:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Name</th>
<th>Year</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Shubael</td>
<td>1786-1789</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Diana</td>
<td>1787</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Giles</td>
<td>1789-1841</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Betsy</td>
<td>1791</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Chauncey</td>
<td>1793</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Shubael</td>
<td>1796</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Oliver</td>
<td>1798</td>
</tr>
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<td>Sophia</td>
<td>1799</td>
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<tr>
<td>Ruth</td>
<td>1803</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Lucy</td>
<td>1805</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Romanta</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

The former Elias Tillotson home on Lovely Street was about 3.4 miles north of Route 4, and near the present Helena Road. The barn stood across Lovely Street, a little to the south of the house.
Sanford and Hawley has been a well known business name since 1883, and has aided many people in the construction of their homes. Its background may be of interest. Around the 1860's and 1870's, two sons of Jesse Sanford, Edmund and Sherman, 1835-1927, were in the logging and lumber business. They bought tracts of standing timber, moved a steam operated sawmill to the site, cut the trees, sawed the logs into lumber. It was then hauled to the nearest railroad siding for shipment by rail, most of it being purchased by the railroad itself, for use as ties and bridge timbers.

Edmund and Sherman took Edmund's son Frank, 1853-1923, into business with them and they operated in many and various parts of the state. The last site on which Frank Sanford worked with them was in Lebanon, Connecticut, after which he, backed by a silent partner, his Uncle Sherman, started a retail lumber business in Unionville under the name of S. and F. Sanford. Frank soon needed an active partner however, to help him. This was in 1883 and Frank and his wife Marion, who lived at what is now 71 Lovely Street, were just recently married. He needed someone to do the office work, to save him from the need to do it in the evenings, after hard days of the work of handling the lumber. Marion's brother Robert had gone west, to the Seattle area, "to seek his fortune", but he did not really care for the shipyard in which he was working and wrote of his wish to return home. Frank and his wife suggested that he do so, and that he come into the lumber business with Frank. He did return, bought out Sherman Sanford's share of the business and became the office partner. They then adopted the name of Sanford and Hawley.

The business has had a steady growth over the years, and especially during the last decade. The redevelopment agency of Unionville took over part of their property on Cottage Road, off Farmington Avenue, so they have opened a much larger storage yard on a railroad siding off Old Farms Road in Avon.

Robert Hawley died in 1920, his place was eventually taken by Truman Sanford, and it has been wholly owned by the Sanfords since that time. The name of Sanford and Hawley, made up of both of Truman's parents' names, has been retained and is still used, a symbol of a responsible and lasting business. It is now under the management of Robert Sanford, son of Truman, who has been in the business all his working life.

July 12, 1972

On page 326 of "Town Clerks!", Mrs. Hurlburt says, speaking of the Albany Turnpike, Route 44, says:

"Sherman Sanford (mentioned above) whose father Jesse Sanford, Jr., was a soldier in the War of 1812, and whose grandfather Jesse Sanford, Sr., was in Capt. Wright's Company, Col. Enos' Regiment, during the Revolutionary War, tells us that his ancestors often spoke of soldiers and cannon passing over this King's Highway during the struggle with the mother country for our independence. Jesse Sanford, Sr., died May 28, 1840, aged 80 and was buried in Greenwood Cemetery. His uncle Ebenezer, also a Revolutionary soldier, was drowned while Washington's army was trying to lay a chain across the Hudson River to prevent the boats of the British from ascending the river".
Further history of this house on Old Farms Road, mentioned on the first page of this account as the homestead of Rufus F. Hawley, might be interesting.

Timothy Hawley, 1704-1785, was the son of Capt. Joseph Hawley, the first of that family in Farmington, who settled on Scott Swamp Road, on the site of the present Robert Hall store at Route 177, around the year 1700.

Timothy Hawley and his second wife, Rachel Forward, lived at what is now known as 10 Main Street, Farmington. Their son Rufus, born in 1741, became minister of the Northington Church. He married Deborah Kent and in 1798 built the house on Old Farms Road in Avon, at the junction with Country Club Road, 1.3 miles south of Route 44. At that time there was a bridge across the river just about east of this house.

The Northington Church burned in 1817 and the congregation voted on the location of a new church to replace it. The vote was close, something like 44 voted for a site in West Avon, and 37 for a site in Avon proper. It was such a divisive vote that two churches were built. The Rev. Rufus Hawley bowed to the majority and built the present West Avon Congregational Church which stands on Country Club Road, and ministered to it. The minority built and supported the church at Avon Center, at Routes 44 and 10, and had to get a new minister for it.

Deacon Edward Hooker, of what is now known as 50 High Street, mentioned this house in his diary of Friday, November 28, 1828, "a damp and uncomfortable day. Rode to Northington to attend an adjourned Town Meeting. A number of people went down thither in a canal boat as far as R. F. Hawley's, and then walked about a mile to the place of the meeting." Mrs. Hurlburt in her book "Town Clerks" on page 144, mentions that same meeting. She says: "and at a later Town Meeting held November 28, 1828...... it was voted to discontinue the bridge over the Farmington River near the house of Rufus F. Hawley".

The names of at least six of the Rev. Rufus Hawley's children are known. These were:

- Timothy Magella Hawley, born 1771
- Rufus Forward Hawley, " 1773
- Jesse Dudley Hawley, " 1774
- George Washington Hawley, " 1777
- Orestes Kent Hawley, " 1778
- Zerah Hawley. " 1781

It appears from the quotations from Edward Hooker and Mrs. Hurlburt, given above, that Rufus F. Hawley had inherited this property. Zerah Hawley had studied medicine and was a physician practicing in New Haven, living until 1856. His wife was Harriet Sherman of New Haven.

September 2, 1972
It appears that Dr. Zerah Hawley received title to the property, and that at some time probably in the 1850's his son Robert Augustus Hawley, born in 1819, came to Avon with his wife, the former Maria Hamlin, and took possession and operated the farm. Robert had six children but joined the Union Army in the Civil War and was killed at Antietam. After this his brother Edward moved up from New Haven and took over the property. Mrs. Robert Hawley had a sister Lucy in Guilford, married to one Henry Gillette. They took her in temporarily, but she soon found a place as housekeeper for the widower Henry Starr of Church Street, Guilford. He provided quarters for her and her five children. The sixth child, Marion, had stayed in Unionville, as previously noted.

Edward Hawley, who took over the farm, and whose wife was Mary Fowler, had five daughters and one son. Four of the daughters were Eva, Florence, Genevieve and Christine. Names of the other two children are not presently known.

Christine Hawley married a Mr. Birney. Their son Reginald Birney, whose wife was Grace Johnson, eventually became the owner of this property but never lived there. When Reginald Birney died in 1936 his widow inherited. She also did not occupy the house, but utilized it as rental property.


Mrs. Birney's daughter Barbara, now Mrs. William Pratt of Plymouth, and Tax Collector for her town, states that an earlier house was on a knoll south of Mr. August's house, and that she has seen the cellar foundation there. She also states that "according to family lore, church was held in the parlor until a new church was built. Large stone slabs were drawn over from the old church by oxen, and became the doorsteps of the Hawley Homestead".

Mr. August has enlarged his house with an addition to the rear, which is the frame of a house from West Hartland, now covered, on this site, with barn siding. All the stone walls forming the patio in front of the house, and the edging along the driveway and the parking area, have been put in by Mr. August, using stone from the foundation of the old barn which has been removed, which stood to the rear of his house. The interior of the house has not been changed materially, although the old parlor is now his dining room, and he has provided for water, heat and plumbing in the house. Mr. August says he was aware that there had been a canal landing nearby, but he did not know of the old bridge, but says a ford can be seen at low water, east of his house.

Clarence B. Curtiss, who with his wife, the former Miss Annie Thompson, has lived on Waterville Road since 1921, has heard the oldtimers describe the bridge as a wooden bridge, hitched at one end with a pin. High water would float the bridge and pull up the pin which held one end. That end would then swing downriver, and the bridge would rest parallel to the river. When the water subsided a yoke of oxen would be hooked by cable to the lower end, and it would be hauled into place again.

September 2, 1972
The site of the old Northington Church has been located by the same Clarence Curtis, who lives just north of Philip Hewes, through talks with earlier residents. One of these was his great-uncle Naaman Curtis, and one was a neighbor, William Thompson. In 1958 Clarence Curtis headed a committee of five, including Fred Woodford, Ed Prowe, and Charles and Austin Hunter, who decided the site of the old church should be marked. Mr. Curtis carved the lettering on the stone, reading: "Site of First Meeting House in Avon, 1750-1817", and the marker was set up in April 1958. It is located to the left of Reverknolls, and not far from its foot, directly across from the Graziano residence at 194 Reverknolls. It sits on a stone which was part of the church's original foundation.

Dedication of the marker was held on October 5, 1958. Present were the committee members named previously, and the unveiling was by Mr. Curtis, who spoke a few words.

Thirty or thirty-five people were present, as were the Rev. Frederick Bradley of the West Avon Church, direct successor of the one which burned, the Rev. E. Jerome Johansen of the Avon Church, which was built for the minority, and the Rev. Harland G. Lewis, then newly appointed pastor of the Farmington Church, all these churches represented being Congregational. The site of the old Northington Church is on property which was at the time of the dedication owned by Mr. and Mrs. Ames Dewing, now owned by Edward C. Berg, who lives on Reverknolls, and is the developer of the area.

Ebenezer Booge was the first minister to serve the Northington Church. Born in East Haddam in 1716, a graduate of Yale in 1748, he took up his duties as pastor of the Northington Church in 1751, and died in Avon in 1767. He is buried in the Cider Brook Cemetery.

It seems possible that Rufus Hawley may have followed him as pastor, since Rufus would have been 26 years of age at the time of the death of Ebenezer Booge.

September 2, 1972.

Mrs. William Pratt, the former Barbara Birney, mentioned of the previous page, died on August 30, 1973, after twenty-seven years of marriage, leaving her husband and four sons, the elder son married and in Boston.

May 25, 1974