Placed along the east side of Waterville Road, the Lewis N. Long House sits on a small, rectangular lot bordered to the east by a steep incline. The Farmington Country Club and golf course borders the property to the east. Other historic dwellings erected in the nineteenth and twentieth centuries are visible in all other directions. This densely populated residential neighborhood lies to the north of Farmington's historic center and the village's commercial district.
Erected in 1901 and L-shaped in plan, the Lewis N. Long House features classical details commonly displayed on Colonial Revival-style architecture erected in the early twentieth century. The south elevation exhibits a full-length enclosed porch and numerous other small ells and entry porches extend from the west and north elevations. The six-over-six sash are enhanced by louvered shutters and gable-roof dormers provide additional light to the attic story.

**Lewis Napoleon Long (b. 1868) built this house in 1901 on land acquired from Edward Brooks (FLR 71:482). Born in Detroit, Michigan, he was employed as a steward for the Farmington Country Club. His wife, the former Katherine Humphrey (b. 1868), was a native of Pontiac, Michigan. In 1907 Catherine Duggan took title to the house through a foreclosure on a previous mortgage (FLR 78:62). She sold the property to wealthy entrepreneur Noah Wallace in 1910 (FLR 77:304). Wallace, who built and owned a number of other residences along this portion of Waterville Road, rented this dwelling. Notable occupants included the famous playwright and producer Winchell Smith and his wife, prior to the completion of their house. "Millstream" (see 188 Garden Street). The James L.D. Kearny family lived here for a short time between 1915 and 1917. Alden G. Stevens, a stockbroker, bought the house in 1920 (FLR 79:230) and Mabelle Stevens took title to the property in 1921 (FLR 79:311). Members of the McMahon family owned the house between 1927 and 1936 (FLR 84:264 and 91:119). In 1943 Marie B. Ericson, Virginia Mercer, and Gladys O. Nelson acquired the property (FLR 97:436). Mrs. Ericson's daughter, Virginia was a popular Wagnerian alto with the Metropolitan Opera Company. Virginia Mercer later married Frederick Schorr, also a noted Wagnerian singer with the Metropolitan Opera Company. After settling in Farmington, Mr. Schorr taught at the Hartt School of Music.

Although the house has undergone a number of modifications since its construction in 1901, the Lewis N. Long House makes a significant contribution to the streetscape of Waterville Road.

**Sources**

**Photographer**
- N. Ainspan 4/86

**View**
- SE

**Negative on file**
- 19:8A

**Compiled by**
- Elizabeth R. Hart 4/86

**Organizaion**
- Greater Middletown Preservation Trust

**Address**
- 27 Washington Street, Middletown, CT

**Threats to building or site**
- [ ] None known
- [ ] Highways
- [ ] Vandalism
- [ ] Developers
- [ ] Other
- [ ] Renewal
- [ ] Private
- [ ] Deterioration
- [ ] Zoning
- [ ] Explanation
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<tr>
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<td>FOR</td>
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<td>&quot;Farmington, Conn., 1906 page 61.&quot;</td>
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<td>FOLDER NO.</td>
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<td>1951-1960</td>
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<tr>
<td>FROM</td>
<td>Ericson, Nelson, Mercer and from Frederick Schorr</td>
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<td>PHOTO NO.</td>
<td>10/23/58 V 140 p 395</td>
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This house is pictured on page 61 of the Farmington Book as "The Cottage of Louis N. Long".

It is stated on the library card that it was built in 1901 by Mr. Long, and that it was known for some time as "Green Gables". It is stated by some to have been the former creamery ice house, very extensively re-modeled by Mr. Long.

Mr. Long was employed for several years at the Farmington Country Club, and it is said that the fireplace mantel here is the one from the prior country club building, the former homestead of Col. Fisher Gay.

It appears that Mr. Long may have gotten into financial difficulties, because in 1907 the title to this house is noted to have passed to Catherine Duggan after foreclosure of a mortgage.

The house was purchased in 1910 by Noah Wallace, owner and builder of several other houses on Waterville Road. He did some remodeling of this house, some of it perhaps prior to and in anticipation of its occupancy by Mr. and Mrs. Winchell Smith after they had lived for a time at the Elm Tree Inn. Mr. Smith, well known playwright, had many visitors who were in the theater world. He is said to have written and directed several prize winning plays while living in this very house, plays for which some parts were read here and were produced in New York by John M. Golden. Some of these were "Brewster's Million", "The Boomerang" and "Turn to the Right". The Smiths later built and occupied "Millstream", the large and impressive house south of the Grist Mill, facing a recognizable section of the old Farmington Canal.

The next tenants probably were Mr. and Mrs. James L. D. Kearney after having lived for a time at 32 High Street in the Shafter house. They occupied this house on Waterville Road from 1915 to 1917 approximately, and then moved to 93 Main Street.

Alden Stevens purchased the house in 1920 from Mr. Wallace, and Mr. and Mrs. Stevens only lived here one year before they were divorced. Mrs. Mabelle R. Stevens was awarded title to the house.

Madeline MacAllister, a cousin of Mrs. Stevens, whose parents had recently died, moved in with Mrs. Stevens. Madeline recalls a stone wall around this house, and many roses in the garden.

Dr. Stuart Phelps and his family were living across the street at this time, at 9 Waterville Road, and a romance developed between Paul Phelps and Madeline. They were married in 1925.

1851. Dr. Paul Stetson Phelps, graduate of McGill University and its Medical College, started a practice in New Milford, Connecticut and Dr. and Mrs. Phelps moved there to live, but Dr. Phelps became seriously ill after a few years. While recuperating, and not yet having resumed his practice, he was asked by a California classmate to take the practice of the classmate's father for a while, as the classmate's father was the newly elected President of the California Medical Association.

July 11, 1974
Dr. and Mrs. Paul Phelps went to California, and spent two and one-half years in Colfax, Placer County, over toward Lake Tahoe. They couldn't wait to get back to Connecticut! A visitor from California to Connecticut had the same feeling, but in reverse. She had said to Mr. and Mrs. Phelps -- "How do you stand all that green?"

Upon their return to Connecticut Dr. Phelps never returned to private practice. He first became Director of the Hartford Tuberculosis Association, and later was appointed as Connecticut State Health Commissioner, a post which he held until his death in 1961.

From the time that they had returned from California until 1942, they lived in Hartford. In 1942 they purchased the home in which Mrs. Phelps now lives, in Canton Center, and it was from here that Dr. Phelps commuted daily to Hartford for nineteen years.

One child was born to Dr. and Mrs. Phelps, Kaye-Ruth Phelps, baptized in Farmington by the Rev. Quincy Blakely, and God-mothered by Mrs. Herbert Knox Smith. Kaye-Ruth is now the wife of Robert Storrs Riddle, a banker of Enfield, where they now reside.

Mrs. Phelps is certainly active in community work as the following listing will show.

Charter member of the Hartford County Medical Auxiliary, she is now its oldest living past President, and was honored as such at their 25th anniversary meeting in 1969.

In 1948 she joined the Canton Public Health Nursing Association and was recently awarded the association's first Honorary Life Membership. She now serves on a second six year term on the Board of Directors.

She has been and still is an active member, and has held offices in the Canton Red Cross, the Women's Society of Christian Service in the North Canton Community United Methodist Church, and Friends of the Canton Library. An article in the Hartford Courant of June 1, 1972, tells of her installation as First Vice President of the Cedarcrest Hospital Auxiliary.

These good works have earned for her the respect and gratitude of the whole community, and her daily prayer is "Dear Lord, help me this day to keep my damned nose out of other people's business".

After Miss MacAllister had married Dr. Paul Phelps in 1925, and had left Farmington, Mrs. Stevens sold this house in that same year to Roger W. and Louella F. Wight.

They sold it in 1927 to John McMahon, and it was inherited later by Margaret McMahon.

July 11, 1973

1852.
In 1936 this property was taken over through foreclosure, by HOLC, thought to have been an agency set up for emergency financing during the depression which was current during this period.

In 1944 it was purchased by a group comprised by Marie B. Ericson, E. Mercer and Gladys Nelson.

The only one of this group whose identity is known is Marie B. Ericson, whose daughter was Virginia Ericson, noted Wagnerian alto of the Metropolitan Opera Company. Virginia, now Mrs. Friedrich Schorr of Avon, took title to this property in 1958.

Friedrich Schorr, one of a surprisingly large number of fine singers born in the bountiful year of 1888, among them his regular colleagues Frida Leider, Lotte Lehmann and Elizabeth Schumann, was born on September 2 in Nagyvarad, Hungary. Taught by Adolph Robinson, a distinguished Metropolitan Opera baritone of the 1880's who had settled in Vienna, heard Schorr sing at a party and persuaded him to study seriously.

Friedrich Schorr took small roles with the Chicago opera while on holiday in America in 1912. Shortly after that he made his true debut at Graz in Austria, June 20, 1912, in the role of Wotan in Die Walküre, an enormously taxing assignment for a youth of 23. He was at Graz until 1916, at Prague until 1918, and in Cologne until 1923. His repertory was largely but not wholly Wagnerian. He took roles in Berlin in 1923, and made his New York Metropolitan Opera debut in 1924 as Wolfram, in which he sang, according to Olin Downes of the New York Times: "With unforced lyric beauty not often surpassed". He returned to the New York Metropolitan every year for the next 19 years.

In 1931 Schorr terminated his Berlin contract and moved to the United States. His last role at the Metropolitan in New York was as Wanderer in the Siegfried of March 2, 1943. After that he devoted himself to teaching at the Hartt School of Music in Hartford, where he established an operatic workshop. His wife was Anna Scheffler.

Desmond Shawe-Taylor, in writing of him, says: "Few would deny that Friedrich Schorr was the outstanding bass-baritone of his day, and in every way was a worthy successor to Anton Van Rooy... His voice was of splendid power, richness and beauty of timbre".

July 23, 1974
After the death of his wife Mr. Schorr married Virginia Ericson, who had been born in Ridgway, county seat of Elk County, Pennsylvania. Miss Ericson's career includes radio, concert singing and oratorio, and she and Mr. Schorr had taught together for several years at the Manhattan School of Music, having sent forth a goodly number of well trained singers. Mr. and Mrs. Schorr took up permanent residence here in this house on Waterville Road, making minor alterations. The house again took up its role as a haven for the artists, this time of the musical field.

Mr. Schorr died on August 14, 1953.

Mrs. Schorr maintained her residence here for some years, later moving to Carriage Drive, Avon. She continues her musical life, teaching at both the Hart College of Music and the Julius Hartt School of Music.

This house at 22 Waterville Road is now the property of Norman F. Toffolon and the residence of himself and his family. He is of the Toffolon family whose members are principal owners of White Oak Construction Company, Connecticut Sand and Stone, Atlantic Pipe, and various other companies. His high school daughter Myra was awarded special honors in 1971 by the National Merit Corporation.

September 5, 1974