Set a distance from the west side of Waterville Road, "Meadow View" sits on a slightly elevated site surrounded by a large, open lawn trimmed with both shade and fruit trees. The Farmington Country Club golf course borders the lot to the north and west. The Farmington River lies to the west. The yard is enhanced by a small pond and brook. The surrounding neighborhood contains similar turn-of-the-century dwellings, many of which were erected by Noah Wallace.
This house displays little in the way of architectural embellishments. The facade, which faces north away from the road, is capped by a ridge-to-street gable roof with a central gable-roofed dormer. The building once exhibited a full-length, Colonial Revival-style porch, which has since been removed. The off-center entry door is flanked by multi-paned sidelights. The gable ends feature large overhanging eaves and numerous additions extend from the rear elevation. One interesting feature is the underground tunnel which extends from the main house to a nearby outbuilding.

Architecturally similar to other dwellings erected along Waterville Road, "Meadow View" combines the broad massing of the Shingle style and classical detail of the Colonial Revival style. Historically the house derives importance for its ties with Noah Wallace and later the Harry Ney family.


OWNER'S NAME: Lawrence, H. Warren to Faile, David Hall

ADDRESS: 33 Waterville Road

DATE BUILT: ca 1901 FOR: Noah Wallace

ARCHITECT: Theodore Peck of Waterbury
MASTER-BUILDER: Parsons Brothers of Unionville


REFERENCES: "Farmington, Conn., 1906" p. 61, "Meadowview".
This house is pictured on page 61 of the Farmington Book as "Meadowview, property of Noah Wallace, Residence of Mrs. C. L. Munn".

On page 6 of the Farmington Book is pictured a view "Site of old Indian fort, Fort Lot", and that photo may have been taken from this house, which had an excellent view to the north over the golf course. Fort Lot is described on page 60 of the Farmington Book as follows:

"In the year 1711 and perhaps earlier, a certain piece of land was known in the record as Fort Lot, and it retained the name until it was absorbed into the grounds of the country club golf course. It is the part bounded west by the bed of the old canal and north by land recently of Mr. Henry C. Rice. Here were formerly ploughed up in great numbers two kinds of Indian arrowheads, the broad black kind used by the Tunxis Indians, and a lesser number of a kind narrower, more pointed, and of a lighter color. These latter we were told were the weapons of a hostile tribe left here after a great battle".

This house now known as 33 Waterville Road was built in 1901 for Noah Wallace, probably as a speculative venture, as he himself never lived here.

Mrs. Munn is remembered as having been a widow from New York with about three or four teenage children, and with no special interest in Farmington, who did not live here very long.

Archibald G. McIlwaine and his family lived here for a time following Mrs. Munn, having lived for a year or so in the Whittlesey house (now Humphrey) at 63 Main Street. Their daughter Elsie Graham McIlwaine was born in that house, said to have been the first in Farmington to have had a black "Hammy". Mr. McIlwaine was from Petersburg, Virginia, and it was a coincidence that on the capitol grounds, almost across from his Hartford office, he found the "Petersburg Express", an old mortar which had shelled his home when he was a child. Mrs. McIlwaine was the former Elsie Bliss Rose of Short Hills, New Jersey.

The McIlwaines, Mr. McIlwaine being president of the Orient Insurance Company and later on the General Manager of London and Lancashire Insurance Company, moved to Hartford, living on Prospect Avenue, almost opposite Oxford School. After her husband's death Mrs. McIlwaine lived many years on Lorraine Street. Her son David, born in Hartford, lived in Farmington on Old Mountain Road, in the house now occupied by the Gordons, later moved into Hartford. Elsie Graham McIlwaine studied at Miss Porter's School, 1921-1925, later married Howard Gibb of 49 High Street, and in 1945 was President of the MPS Alumnae Association.

July 20, 1973
Harry C. Ney purchased from Noah Wallace in 1908, moving here from 18 High Street. Harry Ney, born in 1869, was the son of John M. Ney and Sarah Beckwith, John M. Ney being the head of the J. M. Ney Company. That company was a dealer in precious metals, especially gold, sometimes called the "Gold Beaters", and situated on Elm Street, Hartford. Another son of J. M. Ney, Paul Ney, purchased in 1912 the property on Town Farm Road, called the Hannon place.

Harry Ney's wife, whom he married on December 5, 1906, was the former Florine Schenherr, daughter of Henry Schenherr.

This house was a "very elegant house" at one time, and very beautiful, with a rose-lined path all the way out to Waterville Road, which is quite a distance.

Harry Ney gave to Dr. Maurice Root of West Hartford, a son of Farmington, a huge roll-top, many-pigeonholed desk, which he had salvaged from the old Hartford National Bank building in the 1930's, which Dr. Root still uses and treasures immensely.

The Neys took young Duncan Hooker of Cedar Street on hunting and fishing trips with them, and perhaps helped make him the great nature lover that he was, although he was undoubtedly born with some of that instinct in his nature.

Mrs. Ney died on February 3, 1942, and Harry Ney on January 17, 1947. Whether or not they had children is not known by the writer.

The Neys are said to have been descendants of Marshall Michel Ney of France, under Napoleon Bonaparte. Although the lineage of such a descendancy is not known by the writer, a few lines are written, made up from short accounts of Marshall Ney in two separate encyclopedias.

The house was purchased from Mr. Ney's estate in 1948 by H. Warren Lawrence, who moved here with his family, from 92 Main Street. In 1956 the house was sold to David Hall Faile and the Lawrences built another home on Waterville Road, living in West Hartford until that new home was completed in 1961.

David H. and Lucia L. Faile sold this house on September 30, 1960, to Burges Smith.

On July 15, 1965, the Waterville Road Realty Company became the owner, a company believed to be closely linked with the Farmington Country Club.

In 1970 and through 1972, according to phone and city directories, the occupant of this house with its fantastically large tree to the rear, has been Nancy Gustad, systems engineer for IBM.

May 24, 1974
Marshall Michel Ney

Marshall Michel Ney was born at Saarlouis (now in Prussia) on January 10, 1769, the son of a cooper, and he received only a rudimentary education. He entered the army in 1787, rose from humble origins during the wars of the French Revolution. He became a brigade general in 1796, obtained a command on the Rhine in 1799, and won a victory at Elchingen on October 14, 1805, for which he was created Duke of Elchingen. His intrepid conduct and daring tactics, even when greatly outnumbered, earned him the accolade given him by Napoleon, "The Bravest of the Brave".

In May 1802 he was married to Mademoiselle Auguié whom Josephine had chosen for him at Napoleon's request. He was named Marshall of France after the establishment of the empire, and received the Grand Eagle of the Legion of Honour.

Marshall Ney commanded the rear guard in the retreat from Russia in 1812, and managed to keep up the morale of his soldiers despite extreme hardships. After Napoleon's first abdication he swore allegiance to Louis XVIII, who made him a Peer in 1814.

Upon Napoleon's escape from Elba, Marshall Ney was sent with a large detachment of troops to arrest him, but was unable to resist the appeals of his old chief, and rallied to Napoleon's support instead, making possible the "100 Days" episode.

Defeated by Wellington at Quatre-Bras on June 16, 1815, he commanded the old guard at Waterloo June 18. He and the Old Imperial Guard fought loyally to the end.

He was arrested on August 5, was tried and found guilty of treason to Louis XVIII by the House of Peers. Shot to death in Luxembourg Gardens in December 1815, he met death quietly and with perfect soldierly discipline.

Sources from which the above information was obtained are Encyclopedia Brittanica 1953, Encyclopedia International, Grolier, editions of 1964 and 1972.

July 20, 1973