1. BUILDING NAME (Common) "Brookside" (Historic) "Brookside"

2. TOWN CITY VILLAGE COUNTY
   Farmington
   Hartford

3. STREET AND NUMBER (and or, location)
   9 Waterville Road

4. OWNER(S)
   Malpa, Alfred P. and Bette A.

5. USE (Present) (Historic) USE
   Residence

6. ACCESSIBILITY TO PUBLIC
   Residence
   EXTERIOR VISIBLE FROM PUBLIC ROAD
   YES [X] NO
   INTERIOR ACCESSIBLE
   YES [X] NO
   IF YES EXPLAIN

7. STYLE OF BUILDING
   Colonial Revival
   DATE OF CONSTRUCTION 1898

8. MATERIALS (Indicate use or location when appropriate)
   [X] Wood Shingle
   [ ] Asbestos Siding
   [ ] Brick foundation
   [ ] Other (Specify)

9. STRUCTURAL SYSTEM
   [X] Wood frame
   [ ] Load bearing masonry
   [ ] Post and beam
   [ ] Post and beam balloon
   [ ] Other (Specify)

10. ROOF (Type)
    [X] Gable
    [ ] Flat
    [ ] Mansard
    [ ] Monitor
    [ ] Round
    [ ] Other (Specify)

11. NUMBER OF STORIES
    APPROXIMATE DIMENSIONS
    2½
    32 x 40

12. CONDITION (Structural) (Exterior)
    [ ] Excellent
    [ ] Good [X] Fair
    [ ] Deteriorated

13. INTEGRITY
    On original [X] Moved [ ]
    WHEN?
    X Yes [ ] No
    IF YES EXPLAIN

14. RELATED OUTBUILDINGS OR LANDSCAPE FEATURES
    [X] Barn
    [ ] Shed
    [ ] Garage
    [ ] Other landscape features or buildings (Specify)

15. SURROUNDING ENVIRONMENT
    [ ] Commercial
    [ ] Industrial
    [ ] Residential [X]
    [ ] Scattered buildings visible from site
    [ ] Open land
    [ ] Woodland
    [ ] Commercial
    [ ] High building density

16. INTERRELATIONSHIP OF BUILDING AND SURROUNDINGS
    Standing a distance from the west side of Waterville Road, "Brookside" faces away from the road towards the Farmington Country Club golf course. The surrounding residential neighborhood, which lies north of Farmington's historic village, contains other architecturally significant dwellings dating from the nineteenth and early twentieth centuries.
Originally this house was capped with a low-pitched, hip roof with an eyelid dormer. Today it exhibits an intersecting gable roof with wide overhanging eaves. The facade, which faces north, displays a full-length, enclosed porch on the first floor and three sets of paired one-over-one windows on the second story. Facing onto the street, the east elevation features a modern, bracketed bay window. Note the open gable roof porch with decorative stickwork on the south and the interior brick chimneys.

Noah Wallace, a local wealthy entrepreneur, erected this house in 1898 as an income-producing property. He built a number of similar investment dwellings along the southern portion of Waterville Road at the turn of the nineteenth century. Little is known about the early occupants of the house, although it is known that Mrs. Harriet B. Wilmerdin lived here in 1906. Mr. and Mrs. Eugene O. Peabody and their family rented the house for $50 per month from 1913 to 1916. Wallace sold the house in 1917 to Gladys Elizabeth Doris Phelps, the wife of Dr. Stewart Ezra Phelps (FLR 78:645). A native of Canada, Dr. Phelps (1872-1927) came to Farmington from West Sullivan, Maine in 1911. His first wife, Ruth, died shortly after their arrival in town. In 1913 Dr. Phelps married Gladys E.D. Roberts, the daughter of the Reverend Edward C. Roberts, minister of the Episcopal Church. Upon arriving in Farmington, Dr. Phelps took over the practice of Dr. Morrissey and quickly gained the respect of residents as the "village doctor." In 1927 on passage to San Francisco aboard the steamer "Venezuela", the doctor mysteriously disappeared in the middle of the night. To this day it is not known whether his disappearance was an accident or suicide. It was the doctor's first vacation in seventeen years. Mrs. Phelps sold the house to Helen L. Linsley in 1929 (FLR 84:585). Mrs. Linsley was the wife of Reverend George T. Linsley, a retired pastor. After her husband's death in 1937, Helen married Edwin M. Blake, a math professor at Trinity College. The house has passed through several owners since that time. (see below)

Sources:

Photographer: N. Ainspan
Date: 4/86
View: W
Negative on File: 19:4A

Compiled by: Greater Middletown Preservation Trust
Address: 27 Washington Street, Middletown, CT

Subsequent Field Evaluations
19 cont. Although devoid of applied decorative detail, "Brookside" is architecturally significant as a well-preserved early twentieth-century single-family house reminiscent of the shingle style popular in the country during the late nineteenth century.
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>OWNER'S NAME</th>
<th>BLAKE, HELEN L. LINSLEY</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>ADDRESS</td>
<td>9 Waterville Road</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>DATE BUILT</td>
<td>ca 1898</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>FOR</td>
<td>Noah Wallace</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>ARCHITECT</td>
<td>Theodore Peck of Waterbury</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>MASTER-.builder</td>
<td>John Parsons of Unionville</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>FORMER OWNERS</td>
<td>Helen L. L. Blake from Gladys E. D. Phelps</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>4/22/1922, Vol. 84, p. 585: Phelps from Noah Wallace</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>5/21/1917, Vol. 78, p. 645</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>REFERENCES</td>
<td>&quot;Farmington, Conn. 1906&quot; p. 59, &quot;Brookside&quot;</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
This house is pictured in the Farmington Book on page 59 as "Brookside, property of N. Wallace, residence of Mrs. Harriet B. Wilmerding". It had been built by Noah Wallace in 1898 and was a rental property until it was sold to the Dr. Phelps family, which was in 1917.

The tenant in 1906, as stated above, was Mrs. Harriet B. Wilmerding, known by some Farmington residents as "The late Mrs. Wilmerding", due to her customary tardiness in her arrivals at social affairs. She was said to have been impoverished but generous and extravagant "grand dame", for whom a conservator had been appointed to conserve her capital, as its earnings constituted her only income.

After Brookside Mrs. Wilmerding lived a few years in the house at 4 Maiden Lane which she rented prior to its sale to George D. Mason. She may later have lived at the Elm Tree Inn for a time.

One local resident, who was married in 1912, was asked by Mrs. Wilmerding what she would like for a wedding present. Knowing that Mrs. Wilmerding should not spend a large sum, the bride-to-be suggested that a personal gift, for example a pair of elbow length white gloves, would be very much appreciated. Two days before the wedding a large package containing a satin covered box arrived. This box contained several pounds of Huyler's chocolates, and with the box were seven pairs of long white gloves. Mrs. Wilmerding arrived at the wedding just as the guests were leaving the church.

When the bride to whom she had given the white gloves had her first child, Mrs. Wilmerding gave him a silver cup which she said had belonged to HER first child. It was now engraved with the letters HHMW from HBW. The conservator of her property wrote to have it returned, as he said it should never have been given away, but sold to conserve her assets. To save Mrs. Wilmerding's pride however, the gift was not returned, and the bride still keeps it with her mementos.

Tenants from 1913 until 1916 were Mr. and Mrs. Eugene O. Peabody and their two small children. Mr. Peabody, of Hartford at that time, leased this from Noah Wallace, at $50.00 per month and with an option to buy. The lease was from August 1, 1913 to May 1, 1916, a period of two years and nine months. One of the witnesses to the signing of the lease was Judge William J. Hammersley, whose sister was living at 3 Waterville Road in 1906. Mr. and Mrs. Peabody later lived for a time at 16 Main Street. As part of their Sixtieth wedding anniversary celebration their son took Mr. and Mrs. Peabody on an automobile trip, visiting all the places they had lived during their married life. That trip was in October of 1969, and unfortunately during their over-night stay they did not find one person whom they knew, although there were people here who did remember them. As last known they were living in Doylestown, Pennsylvania.

Since this house was vacated by the Peabody family in the spring of 1916, it is possible that the Phelps family rented it for a time before purchase, the purchase being made sometime in 1917, and in the name of Gladys E. D. Phelps, the wife of Dr. Stuart E. Phelps.

July 8, 1973

1842.
A book entitled "Sullivan and Sorrento since 1760" was written by Lelia A. Clark Johnson, postmistress of Sullivan, Maine, and was published in 1953, telling of the histories of the two towns and of their inhabitants. She spoke of the doctors in Sullivan, in part, as follows:

"Dr. Stewart Phelps came next, around 1900. His wife, Ruth, was Bradbury Smith's youngest sister. He occupied the same house of Dr. Haskell. Dr. Phelps had the first automobile in town; it was a fiery-red Maxwell, with no dashboard and no windshield. Togged out in goggles and a linen duster, he entered it from the back. It could be heard for a mile or two away and every one rushed to the windows or went outside to watch its approach. Those who were in teams or had horses, had to hold them, they reared so frantically in their fright. After this chunking horseless carriage had passed huge dust clouds were left in the wake. Dr. Spiro Bridgham, son of Dr. Fred Bridgham, came in 1906. He and Dr. Phelps were the best of friends. They were seen frequently riding together, sometimes even calling on the same patients together. They were both exceptionally good doctors, and the town was well off to have their professional services. Dr. Spiro Bridgham saw better fields and went to Washington State. . . . Dr. Phelps also found better fields and went to Pomfret, Conn., to do hospital work."

Dr. Stuart Ezra Phelps, of West Sullivan, Maine, had been born in 1872 in Fulford, Canada, the son of Ezra Robert Phelps and Martha Naughton. He came to Farmington with his family in 1911. His wife was the former Ruth Hall Card Smith of Steuben, Maine. He had been encouraged by his brother-in-law Dr. S. B. Overlock of Pomfret, president of the Connecticut State Medical Society, to come to the state of Connecticut. His decision to come was a difficult one to make. Dr. Morrissey had signified his intention to leave Farmington and go to Germany to study and specialize in skin diseases. The town of Sullivan had offered Dr. Phelps a hospital if he would stay, but his decision was firm and he came to Farmington.

The family who came was comprised of Dr. and Mrs. Phelps and their four children; Donald, Maxwell, Paul and Eleanor. They were followed by a freight car load of furniture and horses and a cow, accompanied by Mr. Stevens, who came to care for Dr. Phelps' stable. Mr. Stevens later became head gardener for Miss Porter's School. He lived on Garden Street with his son Hollis and daughter Mary. Hollis was badly injured when his bicycle and a car collided, but he recovered.

Dr. Phelps appropriately chose a doctor's house when he arrived, and they occupied as a home and his office, the Carrington house at 2 Colton Street, which he leased for two years from April 1911 to April 1913. Although Dr. Phelps had been owner of the first car in Sullivan, Maine, he did not bring it with him to Farmington. He used a buggy and team of horses for his house calls.

Mrs. Phelps, daughter of Melzer S. Smith and Pauline S. Watts, lived less than a year after their arrival here, dying on January 28, 1912. Her sister Becky Guptil stayed with the family for a time to care for the children.

July 9, 1973
After two years of leasing and occupying the Carrington house Dr. Phelps rented the Thompson house, which is now the "Corner House", on Main Street, and moved their residence and his office to that house. He was married on June 17, 1913 to Gladys Roberts, daughter of the Rev. Edward C. Roberts, pastor of the Episcopal Church, who lived at that time in the Squire Mix house at 123 Main Street. Stuart Phelps, first child of the second marriage, was born in the Thompson house.

This house was separated only by the trolley tracks from the old Gay Store next north. After the fire, which damaged it extensively, the store was rebuilt by Harry Ney, with offices on the second floor. Dr. Phelps found an office here adequate for his needs, so moved his practice to that building. Shortly thereafter he moved with his family to this house at 9 Waterville Road, where two more children, Claire and Bruce, were born. They bought this house in 1917 after having rented it from Noah Wallace for a time.

Dr. Phelps was well liked and some of his patients and friends who had moved from Farmington still returned to consult him when a doctor was needed. One of these was Richard Hooker, who had lived as a boy at Pilgrim Path, Mountain Spring Road, later lived in Bristol. Richard and his wife called upon Dr. Phelps to deliver both their children, and he did. Dr. Phelps' daughter-in-law Mrs. Paul Phelps, says: "Dr. Phelps was such a great man -- I just loved him".

Mary Twitchell Blakely, widow of the Rev. Quincy Blakely, pastor of the Congregational Church from 1905 to 1937, speaks of Dr. Phelps as follows:

"Dr. Stuart Phelps came from a practice in Maine to be the village doctor soon after we came to Farmington, and immediately won the affection and confidence of everyone. The day of the doctor's proverbial "bag of pills", a cure for all ailments, was fast disappearing and it took some diplomacy to bridge the gap between the old and new in the understanding of the medical profession".

"The relationship between the parsonage and the doctor's office in a village was very close, and that relationship was warm and intimate between Dr. Phelps and the Parson. They solved many village problems together and had many valuable and interesting experiences".

"Dr. Phelps gave himself untiringly to the village and almost literally gave his life. Vacations he would never take and those of us who knew him will never cease to be grateful for his devoted service. The mantle of the old time village doctor fell very worthily upon his shoulders. Farmington has always taken to its heart the village doctors even unto the present day".

July 9, 1973
Donald Stuart Phelps was born in Steuben, Maine, on June 26, 1900, the eldest son of Dr. Stuart Ezra Phelps and Ruth Ball Card Smith, her second and third names being family names. He was ten years of age when his family came to Farmington in the spring of 1911. He did not really spend so many years in Farmington but he does remember "playing Hare and Hounds through its streets and down the old canal bed, which ran along the river bank for quite a ways".

Donald speaks of his father's second marriage, and of his stepmother. He says:

"She was eight years older than myself. She was a wise woman, or perhaps she had a wise counselor in my father. At any rate she took me as her ally and liaison to connect with the other children. My father had always told me that I was the oldest and had to take the lead, and that I must be right about all sorts of things. As a leader I must not get into trouble, and I must not let the others get into trouble. So I guess I grew up too early and missed some of the fun, but I did learn how to set an example".

In his youth he recalls the three Anthony boys, Burr and Stephen and Raymond, as his special friends, along with Bill Wadsworth, and for an older boy there was Tom Mason. Another boy comes to his mind too, and that was Bill Salmonsen, "a good ball player".

After a few years in grammar school in Farmington and high school in West Hartford (one year), he attended Choate School in Wallingford until February 1918.

In the fall of 1918, having then been of an age in which enlistment in the armed forces was not possible, he joined the SATC, the Student Army Training Corps. That was a branch of the military set up to accommodate youths and give them a combination of education and training, so that they might become officer material. The war did not last long enough however. He served on the campus of The Massachusetts Institute of Technology from October 12 to December 12, 1918, the armistice having been signed at the mid-point of his military career. The writer enjoys telling of this, as he served in the same outfit, some 3000 miles west however, of Massachusetts. An explanation of the statement "enlistment was not possible", might be in order. The fact was that such a fervor of patriotism (and search for adventure) had arisen after the 1917 declaration of war, that the military forces could not handle all the enlistees, and for that reason enlistment was closed. The ones who had not entered immediately after the war was declared, had to wait for the draft.

Donald Phelps continued at MIT, and was graduated in 1922 with a B. S. in mining, and a familiarity also with metallurgy. After a year as an assistant instructor at MIT he was employed by New Jersey Zinc. He worked for them in Franklin, New Jersey, in Hanover, New Mexico, and in Austinville, Virginia.

He was married in 1922 to Doris Houghton, who had been born in Harvard, Massachusetts, in 1899.

October 20, 1970
Donald's work with New Jersey Zinc was followed by almost five years with American Smelting and Refining. This included work in Santa Barbara, Chihuahua and other parts of Mexico. This was followed by a year of teaching at the University of Wisconsin and twenty years as consulting engineer, for the most part along the Atlantic Seaboard. From 1951 until his retirement with full disability due to health reasons in 1958, he was first with the U. S. National Production Authority and then the Central Intelligence Agency.

Mrs. Phelps died in 1958 and is buried in her family's lot in Harvard's Belleview Cemetery.

Since that time Mr. Phelps has traveled extensively, visiting his children in various parts of the country, Montana, California, Washington State and Alaska. He once operated a rock shop (geological, not musical), in Mountain Home, Idaho. He has built some machines which might have been worth patenting. He has written some memoirs, and family history, which may or may not catch the eye of a publisher. If one writes to him in California --- the answer may come from Alaska, but that can be understood when one sees where his children are. The four children are well scattered as can be seen.

Jean's husband, James Gilbert Lehnen, born in Billings, Montana, has been with the Army Corps of Engineers for several years. They were in Anchorage, Alaska, for five years, are now in Walla Walla, Washington. Their two adopted children are Martha Jane and Ruth.

Ruth Audrey, who died in 1972, was married to Arnold Wesley Martin, also of the Army Corps of Engineers. They lived in Syracuse, New York, then in South Korea. He is now in Tennessee. Their six children are: Wesley, Nancy, Kenneth, Lee, Steven and Renee.

Donna Houghton's husband is David House of Portland, Oregon, now of Corcoran, California, where he is salesman for a sporting goods firm. Their daughter Alondra Jane, was born in May, 1970, and a son is now about one and one-half years old.

David Stephen's wife is the former Jeanette Howard of Walla Walla, Washington, where they now reside, as he is mechanical engineer with Birdseye Division of General Foods. They have an adopted son Robert, age five, and a natural son Steven, age two.

It is easy to see why Donald Phelps' traveling is so extensive. It has to be, if he is to keep in touch with his family!

August 10, 1973
Maxwell Overlock Phelps left Farmington in the early 1920's for McGill University in Toronto where he obtained his bachelor's degree and later his degree as a doctor of medicine. Soon after finishing his medical studies he married Frances Lewis of West District, Farmington, daughter of a pioneer of that area. Her parents were George Lewis and Harriet Page. Dr. Phelps practiced in Hartford, specializing as an internist. He was closely associated with Hartford Hospital and up to 1966 was president of its staff. He was also Chief of Medicine there until a few years ago when they put in a full-time Director of the Department of Medicine. In 1969 Dr. Phelps attended the 40th re-union of his class at McGill University. Dr. and Mrs. Phelps have three children: Gordon Stuart Phelps, George Lewis Phelps, and Page Phelps.

Gordon Stuart Phelps, whose wife is the former Anne Stewart Pollock, is in the brokerage business, lives in Farmington where they own and occupy Millstreams, the former home of Winche1l Smith. Their four daughters are Page, Elizabeth, Kimberly and Cummings, the latter two being twins.

George Lewis Phelps and his family live at Renbrook school where he teaches. His wife is the former Frances Russell and their children are Laura, William, Elizabeth and Jennifer.

Page Phelps is now Mrs. Robert Coulter of Guilford, Connecticut. Mr. Coulter is an insurance broker, and they also have four children, Susan, Page, Emily and Roger.

Dr. Paul Stetson Phelps, third son of Stuart E. Phelps, was schooled at Worcester Preparatory School, graduated from McGill University and its Medical College. He married Madeline Mac Allister in 1925. He became ill after practicing for a time in New Milford, and while recuperating took over the practice of a classmate's father in California while the father served as president of the California Medical Association. Dr. and Mrs. Phelps spent over two years in Placer County, California, not far from Lake Tahoe, but were glad to return to Connecticut. Dr. Phelps never returned to private practice, but became the director of the Hartford Tuberculosis Association and later was Connecticut State Health Commissioner until his death in 1961. Their daughter is Kaye-Ruth Phelps, now Mrs. Robert Storrs Riddle, her husband a banker of Enfield, where they live. Mrs. Phelps, living in Canton Center, is very active in the Canton Public Health Nursing Association and other community activities.

Eleanor Phelps, now Mrs. Robert McPherson, resides with her husband in Barkhamsted, Pleasant Valley, Connecticut.

July 9, 1973
Dr. Phelps died suddenly at sea in 1927 while on a vacation cruise to Hawaii. Mrs. Phelps and the three children moved in with her father at 13 Mountain Road, and lived there until her father's death in 1931. They then rented the house at 12 Colton Street from the Wadsworths, living there until the children's marriages and Mrs. Phelps' death. See 12 Colton Street.

Mrs. Phelps had sold this house at 9 Waterville Road in 1929 to Helen S. Linsley. Mr. and Mrs. Linsley, her husband being the Rev. George T. Linsley, retired minister, lived here until his death in 1937. Mrs. Linsley later married Edwin M. Blake, a Trinity College mathematics instructor. In 1939 Mrs. Blake purchased the Henry B. Reardon house on Talcott Notch Road, and they moved to that residence. Mr. Blake died in 1955, Mrs. Blake living until October 1969, very active in community affairs, historical and political. See Talcott Notch Road for more on Mrs. Blake.

This house on Waterville Road was deeded to Mrs. Bernard Valukas after the Blakes moved to Talcott Notch, and Mr. and Mrs. Valukas have occupied the house since that time.

July 9, 1973