The Ezekiel Thompson House sits on the west side of Main Street, just south of Farmington Avenue. Its driveway lies on the south side of the property and leads to a Carpenter Gothic-style carriage house.
This house is of the Georgian style due to its pedimented portico and twin interior chimneys. Other outstanding features are its retention of original details. Note the Colonial Revival-style porch on the south elevation. To the west lies a carriage house of the Carpenter Gothic style. Decorated bargeboards on a cross gable highlight the tile roof and tent-roofed cupola.

In 1736 Timothy Hawley (1704-1785), son of Captain Joseph Hawley, sold a piece of land and a small dwelling house "with new frame of a house" to Ezekiel Thompson (FLR 5:691). The reference to a new house could mean the house presently standing, although altered within the next 30 to 40 years to appear as it does. By 1783 Ezekiel had passed the property to his son Isaiah, as he next sold it for 20 pounds to Samuel Richards during that year (FLR 25:102). Deacon Samuel Richards was born in 1754 and married Sarah Wells of Glastonbury. He was postmaster for many years before his death in 1841. He sold the "mansion house", an indication he may have made alterations on the house, to Abner Bidwell, a merchant and real estate entrepreneur involved with building of the Farmington Canal. Upon his death, the estate passed to Lucius S. Bishop (FLR 66:106) who soon sold it for $2200 to Frank H. Sneth (FLR 55:538) in 1881. Sneth lived in the house until his death in 1943 and the house was sold out of the family.

This house derives both architectural and historical significance due to its good state of preservation and association with the Hawley, Thompson, and Bidwell families.
Owner's Name: Boyle, Brigid & Ann McBrein

Address: 10 Main Street

Date Built: ca. 1792

FOR: Deacon Samuel Richards

Former Owners: Boyle et al from Est. Alice Sneath, 3/29/1943, Vol. 97, p. 146 (also by Quit Claim deed from John Sneath Vol. 97, p. 151); A. Sneath from mother, Rebecca Sneath, her right in Dist. of her share in est. of her husband, Frank H. Sneath, then in settlement in Prob. Court dated 8/30/1918, recorded 4/15/1937, Vol. 91, p. 410, also from Frank H. Sneath of Hfd. to his mother, Rebecca Sneath, dated 1/26/1916, recorded 4/16/1937, Vol. 91, p. 411; F.H. Sneath left no will - left widow, sons John & Frank H., and daughter Alice; F.H. Sneath from L.S. Bishop 10/1/1881, 1 1/2 acres with all bldgs., s. by heirs of L. Winship, n. on John Thomson 10/1/1881, Vol. 65, p. 536; L.S. Bishop from Abner Bidwell, same des. by F. Wheeler, Adm., 6/13/1881, Vol. 66, p. 106-7; A. Bidwell from Samuel Richards, same des., with reservation of life use to himself & wife, 1 1/2 acres with Mansion House & other bldgs., for $5,000. 4/8/1829, Vol. 44, p. 141; S. Richards from Isaiah Thompson, 1/2 acres and dwellinghouse

References: "Farmington, Conn., 1906", p. 13
"Farmington Town Clerks, 1943", pp. 125-137
"Colonial Damns Pamphlet" at State Library
"Baker & Tilden Atlas, 1869", p. 33 - 'A. Bidwell' with 2 houses

(Over)
Former owners, cont.:

n. on Daniel Curtiss, s. on N. Stree~&Roger Hooker, 11/7/1783, Vol. 26, p. 102; also
S. Richards from Anne Judd, 3 roods at the n.w. corner of the Judd lot, no house, 3/25/1788,
Vol. 27, p. 493; Isaiah Thomson or Thompson, by inheritance from his father, Ezekiel
Thomson; E. Thomson from Timothy Hawley "1 acre, 5 roods, with a certain new frame of a
house & a small dwellinghouse & barn, it being the homestid where I now live" 5/5/1736,
Vol. 5, p. 691; (Ezekiel was b. 1713, son of John, married 1746); T. Hawley from father,
Joseph, ½ of a house & barn & home lot, n. on John Thomson (now Corner House) 4/27/1733,
Vol. 5, p. 376; (T. Hawley married Sarah Thomson, a daughter of Thomas).

This house was built probably on the site of the first home of John Steele, 1645. Samuel
Richards built the first store on the hghy., later known as the Red Store, buying the land
from Daniel Curtiss, who then lived in what is now Corner House. Horace Cowles, who was
the next owner of the Red Store, was also helper for Samuel Richards after his appointment
as the first postmaster in Farmington, July 22, 1799. For many years, while the Sneath
family owned the house, the old cross pieces which had held letters in the front hall, were
still in place. Frank Sneath replaced the south front room fireplace mantel with one of
marble; also the fireplace in the south rear room, formerly the kitchen, was replaced with
a marble facing. Samuel Richards told Edward Hooker, when Hooker was planning to build
his new house in 1811, that "his own house had been standing 18 years".
This house, pictured on page 13 of the Farmington Book as the residence of Frank H. Sneath, was built by Deacon Samuel Richards in 1792. It is shown in Baker and Tilden's Atlas of 1869 as one of two houses of A. Bidwell, one of which may have been the Steele "Still House". The house was written up by Mrs. Hurlburt in 1949 for the Colonial Dames Society as the "Samuel Richards House".

Mrs. Hurlburt states in "Town Clerks" on page 5 that "John Steele, Jr., lived about where Miss Alice Sneath recently lived, and on the land also stood 'Father Steele still house'". John Steele, Jr., died in 1653, also leaving a son John.

The title record on the library card for this house shows Timothy Hawley acquiring title to this property in 1733 from his father, Joseph Hawley. It does not say when Joseph Hawley acquired it, but we do know that he had owned the property next north, as he was the grandson of Thomas Thomson, and recorded the property under the name of Joseph Hawley in January 1714. Mrs. Hurlburt confirms this when she says in her report to the Colonial Dames Society, that "Most of the north half of the land belonged to Governor Thomas Welles, who owned the present corner to the river". It was given by Governor Welles to his daughter upon her marriage to Thomas Thomson, grandfather of Joseph Hawley.

Timothy Hawley, 1704-1785, was the son of Captain Joseph Hawley, who was the first of this branch of the Hawleys to come to Farmington. It was Captain Joseph who built what was later called the "Hawley-Benstead House" on Scott Swamp Road, razed in the 1960's to provide a site for the Robert Hall store on Route 177 at Route 6. Timothy Hawley first married Sarah Thompson in 1730. She had two children, Thomas in 1731 and Abigail in 1732. She died shortly after Abigail was born, and in 1736 Timothy married Rachel Forward, daughter of Samuel Forward and Anne Phelps. They had four children: Jesse, Abigail, Rufus and Deborah. The earlier daughter Abigail had died as a child. Rufus, born in 1741, became the first minister of the West Avon church and served many years, married to Deborah Kent. Their son Rufus Forward Hawley, born in 1770, lived one mile south of Route 44, on what is now called Old Farms Road. His old home, still standing but restored, on the west side of the road, is mentioned in the second column, toward the bottom of page 138 of the Farmington Book. A bridge formerly crossed the river there, was ordered discontinued in 1828.

Timothy Hawley sold the house at 10 Main Street in 1736 to Ezekiel Thompson, Timothy and his family moving to Granby where they resided thereafter. Ezekiel Thompson later left the property to his son Isaiah, who sold it to Samuel Richards in 1783. There was probably a house on it, in which the Richards family perhaps lived for a while. Mrs. Hurlburt says "It was in 1792 that Deacon Samuel Richards built his new home on Main Street, on land which had first been the site of the home of John Steele. Perhaps he had demolished the old house in order to erect this new one".

Deacon Samuel Richards, 1754-1841, was born in Canaan, in Connecticut, the son of Dr. Samuel Richards and Lydia Buck.

November 5, 1971
Samuel Richards left more records regarding himself than most people did, as he kept a journal, especially a diary of his days in service in the Revolutionary War. He was an early participant in that war and states that he "had the gratification of being selected to carry the American flag at the head of the column which entered from the Roxbury side". This was the entrance into Boston shortly after the British had abandoned its occupation on March 17, 1776.

After the surrender of Burgoyne later on, the American forces occupied the Highlands along the Hudson and the Farmington soldiers were with that contingent. Samuel Richards was Captain and states regarding the occupation of West Point: "I being at that time senior officer of the regiment present, of course led the regiment crossing the river on the ice". Captain Richards was stationed at West Point for some time and was an eyewitness to the execution of the spy Andre. He was also present when Kosiusko was directing the fortification of West Point. Dr. Dwight was there at that time also, later was the president of Yale College.

After Captain Richards returned to Farmington he served as deacon in the church, was postmaster for the first twenty years after the establishment of that office in 1799, and was the 11th Town Clerk, serving from 1823 to 1828.

The postoffice, whose business was carried on in this house, was advertised in the Courant of July 22, 1799, as being opened. Mr. Gay says "It was in the front hall of this house, and the half dozen letters that sometimes accumulated were fastened against the wall by tapes crossing each other in a diamond pattern". Proceeds of the postoffice were $40.00 (presumably per year), half of which he gave to Horace Cowles for assisting him. Quincy Blakeley in his History of Farmington, makes the following statement regarding postal service: "At this time a stage drawn by two horses began bringing mail and passengers from Hartford. The stage lines ran through here:

- Boston to New York,
- Hartford to New Haven, thrice weekly, and
- New Haven to Northampton, first thrice weekly, then daily".

Horace Cowles, mentioned above, was the son of Col. Isaac Cowles of 149 Main Street. He spent two years at Yale but lost most of the 3rd year due to illness, so he returned home in the spring of 1801 and did not graduate. In September of that year he entered the employ of Deacon Richards in his store, and also resided in his home. By February 20, 1802, he and Deacon Richards had gotten on so well that he was able to write: "I am so well pleased with the man and his occupation that I have accepted his offer to become a partner in trade, and on the 15th of March business will be commenced at this place, by Samuel Richards & Co".

Mrs. Hurlburt describes the beginnings of the store on page 127 of her "Town Clerks" as follows: "It was Samuel Richards who saw, in 1785, the strategy of having a little store in the highway at the north end of town. He bought of Daniel Curtiss a strip of land which had been sold to Curtiss by the highway committee. It was 26 feet wide at the east end and had a cooper's shop, well and 'aqueduct' at the west end.

May 18, 1972
Pomroy Strong purchased in 1803 the cooper's shop which had stood on the property, moving it to his own land across the road. He had just been married the previous year, to Susan North. Richards built a store on this strip of land in 1786 and here he did a thriving business. He sold it in 1803 to Horace and Timothy Cowles. It was later owned by James K. Camp, William Gay, and his son Erastus Gay, bringing the ownership up to this century. Mrs. Hurlburt goes on to say: "It has withstood the crowding demands of the twentieth century for its removal in the interests of speeding traffic. Judge Edward H. Deming used to say 'it is so dangerous there, it is safe'". Mrs. Hurlburt wrote the preceeding in 1943. The store stood its ground seven more years but was torn down in March of 1950, in order to make the highway wider and safer.

Samuel Richards' wife was the former Sarah Welles, daughter of Jonathan Welles and Katherine Saltonstall of Glastonbury. Their daughter Cornelia married John Lord Butler, son of Deacon Richards' comrade-in-arms, Col. Zebulon Butler, and lived thereafter in Wilkes-barre, Pennsylvania.

A son of Deacon Richards was John Richards, born in 1797, a Yale graduate in 1821 and of Andover Theological School in 1824. He was married in 1828 to Emily Cowles, born 1796, the daughter of Zenas Cowles of Oldgate. He was minister at Woodstock, Vermont and later at Hanover, New Hampshire. The Rev. John Richards died in 1859 and his widow moved to Pottstown, Pennsylvania where her son practiced law. Her daughter Julia Ann Richards, born in 1834, married David Belden Booth of Danbury, son of Reuben Booth and Jane Belden. He had studied in Hartford at Trinity College, later studied law and practiced in Danbury, Connecticut, where he died in 1889. Their son Walter Cowles Booth, born in 1884, was a graduate of Princeton in 1900, and of Nebraska University Law School in 1903. Later that year he took up the practice of law in New York City, his mother living with him. In 1907 he married Carolyn Bement Gay of Farmington. A daughter Ann was born in 1909 and Carolyn died shortly afterward. Mr. Cowles later married Lily Frazer and they had a daughter Julia. It appears that he married a third time also, as he died in West Hartford in December 1971 and left a widow Catherine Fox Booth.

Mr. and Mrs. Samuel Richards may have had two other children also, James and Sarah, born in the 1780's, but nothing is known of them.

Deacon Richards was civic-minded, serving on committees as needed. In 1799 he was a member of the committee to review the plans for the new Litchfield Road, and in 1812 on the committee to see to the survey and marking of the meeting-house green.

It was during his term of duty as Town Clerk, 1823 to 1828, that the Farmington Canal, chartered in May 1822, was built and put into operation. It was formally opened on June 20, 1828, during his last year in office, and he did not live to see its untimely end in 1845. Mrs. Hurlburt states of his term: "In these five years some of the outstanding events, showing the ever-growing concern of the town fathers for those in their keeping; the general betterment of the town; and the sharp increase in taxes, were a part of Samuel Richards' concern".

May 19, 1972
Julius Gay speaks of Deacon Richards on page 12 of the Farmington Book as follows:

"He was a Puritan of the Puritans, of the strictest integrity, kindly of heart, precise in manner, and with a countenance grave, not to say solemn, as became a deacon of the olden times".

Mrs. Hurlburt wrote:

"Deacon Samuel Richards was tall, slim and very straight. He wore the knee-breeches, silver buckles and stock of the style that still lingered from the past. He was precise in manner and punctilious in the discharge of his official, religious and social duties. He was a member of the Society of the Cincinnati".

Deacon Richards sold this house to Abner Bidwell in 1829, the year following the end of his term as Town Clerk, and he removed to Wilkes-Barre, Pennsylvania to be with his daughter.

In the year 1786 he had been appointed clerk of the company of ancient proprietors of the town, and in the line of this duty had made many notes relating to the history of the town. After moving to Pennsylvania, and apparently at the request of John Hooker, he compiled what he called a "Manuscript History of Farmington" and sent it to Mr. Hooker. Extracts from this history, which appears to be in the possession of the Connecticut Historical Society, are to be seen on pages 202-3-4 of the Farmington Book.

Deacon, and Captain, Richards died on December 31, 1841, and is buried in the Hollenbach Cemetery near Col. Zebulon Butler.

May 19, 1972
It will be noted regarding this house, that Deacon Richards left here in 1830 to join his daughter's family in Wilkes-Barre, Pa. The writer had not expected to hear of his family again, but it came to his attention in May of 1972 that one of his descendants was a student at MPS at that time. A letter to that girl's grandmother in Wilkes-Barre brought a hearty response, and a promise of further information. Part of her letter of May 22, 1972, is quoted below:

"I will be happy to give you further information regarding Captain (and Deacon) Samuel Richards, my great-great-grandfather, whose daughter Cornelia is the first of the six generations that have lived in this house, in which I still live, on the one remaining piece of land that was once (1770) part of Col. Zebulon Butler's (my great-great-great-grandfather's) farm. It occupied what was 1/3 of one of the original city blocks, when Wilkes-Barre was first laid out. Our grandchildren are the eighth generation to live on the property, and before us -- the Indians. It is on a corner, facing the River Common, in full view of the Susquehanna River, in the heart of the original town. I haven't time to write much more now, but wanted to let you know your letter had been received, and that I am pleased that you have this interest in my ancestors". Mrs. Bruce Payne.

Then came Hurricane Agnes, the very next month, with its winds and its rains and its horrifying damage to so many communities that were in its path!

The next communication was a letter from Mrs. Payne's daughter, written from Nantucket Island, postmarked July 10, 1972:

"I am happy to say that mother is fine but very tired after so much heart-ache and unhappiness over her home and possessions. Since Friday June 23, she has been at her country house at Glen Summit, ten miles outside of Wilkes-Barre on the edge of the Pocono Mountains. Her parents built that cottage 77 summers ago. I went to Glen Summit on June 25 to help her and on Tuesday June 27 we were allowed back in Wilkes-Barre to see our homes. It was a heart-breaker to walk into her 104-year old family home. The water was five feet deep on her first floor, three inches of mud settled on the floor, furniture was turned over, even an upright 100 year old Steinway piano lay on its back. Many of the antiques are warped, cracked, veneer peeling off and her many books are now covered with mold. We hosed, scraped and cleaned, for six days. We had only cold, polluted water, no utilities in the entire area. You have to see the devastation to believe it!..... Mother's 77th birthday will be July 26th.... She can stay in Glen Summit until fall when we hope to have her house fit to live in again...."

A postcard from Mrs. Payne, written July 29, 1972, reads, in part, as follows:

"I hope to write you a letter in the not too distant future. With best wishes to you".

August 5, 1972

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Mrs. Payne died on October 24, 1972, her death perhaps hastened in part by her distressing experiences during and after the June flood. Mrs. Payne's daughter however, Mrs. William R. Tubbs, took over from her mother and carried out her mother's promise of more information regarding Deacon Richards' descendants in Pennsylvania, including data on the four generations who have attended Miss Porter's School. To show the full genealogy of the Pennsylvania descendants we shall start with the Butler family, beginning with Capt. Richards' army friend, Col. Zebulon Butler:

Zebulon Butler, 1731-1795, born Ipswich, Mass.  
m. 1760 Anne Lord 1736-1773, born Lyme, Conn.

Lord Butler, 1761-1824, born Lyme, Conn.  
m. Mary Pierce, born Plainfield, Conn.

John Lord Butler, 1796-1858, b. Wilkes-Barre, Pa.  
m. 1826 Cornelia Richards, 1801-1887, b. Farmington, Conn.

m. 1857 Stanley Trott Woodward, 1833-1906 b. " "

m. 1888 Marion Hillard, 1864-1943, b. " "


Marion Woodward Payne, born Wilkes-Barre, Pa., 1920-  
m. 1939 William Ralph Tubbs, b. Nanticote, Pa.

Mrs. Payne, the former Marion Hillard Woodward, is the "grandmother" mentioned previously, of the present student at Miss Porter's School. The following information was sent to the writer by her daughter, Mrs. Tubbs, sometimes quoted directly.

She says: "Yes, our mother was a lovely person, and a very unusual person in many ways. I have heard people say in recent years that she was the most loved and admired person in Wilkes-Barre.... She had a great interest in and a great facility for establishing good rapport with young people. She befriended any number of Wilkes College students, invited many for dinner, and corresponded with them after they left college. I have found their letters among all the things she kept".

She goes on to say: "Mother's house is restored and somewhat updated for the use of Wilkes College, who bought the house and moved in in March, 1973.... It is in good hands now and I pray will remain standing for as long as I live".

We may be sure that her mother would be glad to know that the college has it, and that her friends the students will be using it.

October 26, 1973
Regarding the four generations at Miss Porter's School, they are as follows:

Marion Hillard, 1864-1943, who attended MPS beginning in 1882, living at "Ward" during her residence here. She was not a Richards nor a Butler descendant however. Marion's father, Oliver Hillard, had a very prosperous business, the Miner-Hillard Milling Company, in Wilkes-Barre.

Marion Hillard Woodward, 1895-1972, was the next, and she was both a Richards and a Butler descendant, as were the two following. She attended MPS 1911-1913, living her first year in "Lathrop". Her father, John B. Woodward, was a judge in Wilkes-Barre for many years, her grandfather and her great-grandfather having been members of the Pennsylvania Supreme Court.

Marion Woodward Payne is of the third generation at MPS, attending 1936-1938, living first in "Lathrop", then in "Colony". Her father, Bruce Payne, was a Princeton graduate, an anthracite coal mine operator, and president of Payne Coal Company of Wilkes-Barre. Marion Payne was married in 1939 to William R. Tubbs, who retired in 1970 after thirty years with Atlantic Refining, and is now interested in apartments and the construction of 250 townhouses in Wynnewood, Pennsylvania. Their daughter Anne died at the age of 18 as a result of a car accident. Their son Bruce was married in January 1973.

Marion Woodward Payne Atchley, presently a student at Miss Porter's School, has lived two years in "New Place" and is now at "Colony". She is of the fourth generation to be at MPS. Her mother is the former Barbara Standish Payne, sister of the Marion Woodward Payne, of the preceding paragraph. Her father is Dana Winslow Atchley, Jr., a graduate of Loomis Institute, Harvard, and the U. S. Navy, and a "ham radio" enthusiast all his life. He is former president and now Chairman of the Board of Microwave Associates, just outside of Boston. Marion Atchley, the MPS student, always known as "Quita", will finish at MPS in June 1974.

October 26, 1973
Abner Bidwell, next owner of this house, was a merchant and also a financier and investor in real estate. Mrs. Hurlburt mentions that "the feeder canal and dam were built by Thomas and Joshua Youngs, Abner Bidwell and James and Augustus Cowles. This furnished power in Unionville.... Their company was known as the Farmington River Power Company...." She also says: ".... Abner Bidwell.... one of Farmington's leading business men and at various times owner of many of the larger houses of Farmington and Unionville". In 1840 he built the stone house on Main Street in Unionville which was later the home of Heman Orton, clockmaker, of the firm of Williams, Orton and Preston.

Note: The path of this canal can be seen when entering Unionville from the west, an open space between residences, just a few degrees to the right, as one drives over and leaves the bridge across the Farmington River at that point.

On January 7, 1835, Abner Bidwell's daughter Jane Eliza was married to Chauncey Deming Cowles, son of Major Timothy Cowles and the former Catherine Deming, of 87 Main Street. Chauncey D. Cowles was at that time a recent graduate of Yale, served as minister in Plainville, was a manufacturer in Buffalo, and returned to Farmington in 1853.

Mr. Bidwell was librarian here from 1840 to 1853. Mr. Gay states that the library "was re-organized on the 18th of February, 1839, under the name of the Farmington Library Company. The library was given a room in the northeast corner of the lower floor of what was then the old Academy building. The Rev. William S. Porter was installed as the librarian, which office he filled until March 1, 1840, when he was succeeded by Abner Bidwell. Mr. Bidwell was sometimes criticised for purchasing too many books on travel. Deacon Simeon Hart was appointed on February 7, 1853, to succeed him.

May 19, 1972
The sketch below is copied from page 67 of "Farmington Papers" by Julius Gay. It shows the academy building as it stood from 1851 to 1902, when it was moved to make way for the Sarah Porter Memorial. The Town Records Office, built in 1856, shows at its right. School Street at that time passed between these two buildings and the Meeting House, part of which shows in the sketch, at the extreme right.

Mr. Bidwell perhaps lived much of his life in Unionville, and Bidwell Square in that town is named for him, but the writer believes that he probably lived in this house for some time during its ownership by him. Abner Bidwell, son of Jacob and Mary Bidwell, died on August 30, 1880. The house was sold by his estate on June 11, 1881, to Lucius S. Bishop.

It was purchased on October 1 of that same year by Frank H. Sneath. Frank Huntington Sneath was born in England in 1854, the son of John Sneath and Ann Shields. His wife, born in Farmington as was her father, was the daughter of John Thompson and Anne McClintock, the latter having been born in Ireland. The Thompsons lived in the next house north, which they had purchased from the estate of William L. Cowles in 1868. Mrs. Sneath was the former Rebecca Thompson.

Mr. Sneath developed an extensive business in roofing, contracting for the laying of roofs, principally of slate or tile, all over the state and in fact over the New England states. Two of the larger local jobs were the State Capitol and the Hueblein Tower. None were too large or too small for him to handle. John Rourke, his neighbor just to the north on Farmington Avenue, was one of his foremen who traveled with the jobs. Mr. Sneath once sat on the State House lawn and figured the roofing job from there, while many others were inside poring over the blueprints. When the figures were all in and the areas calculated, he was within inches almost of the others' figures, and his bid was lowest so he was given the job.

Mr. Sneath served as Farmington's state representative at one time, being a member of the Democratic party.

May 19, 1972
An elaborate example of Mr. Sneath's work is the building to the rear of this house, once a stable and now a garage, which was a very good advertisement of the workmanship which went into his jobs. Especially interesting it is to his grandson, as a bullet hole in a rooster on the weathervane atop the cupola was put there by Mr. Sneath's son Frank, and his son still cherishes the Quackenbush rifle which put it there.

The Sneaths had property just across the Farmington River to the west, where they cut firewood. They also had a farm which was called "The Bishop Farm", where Mr. Sneath had installed tracks and kept one of the old Hartford horse cars for the children to ride when they were out there. This was 12 acres purchased from Henry Bishop in 1902, between the river and Waterville Road, just at the Avon Town line.

The Sneaths had three children; Alice, Frank and John, listed in the order of their birth.

Alice never married. She lived in this house all her life, as an adult giving piano lessons in the north front room. She died in September 1940, aged 58.

Frank, who was Frank Huntington Sneath II, worked with his father in the roofing business. He married Wilhelmine Gabb of Naugatuck in 1907, and moved to Mortson Street in Hartford, near Trinity College. The partnership of father and son was terminated by the father's death in August 1915, but the business was continued by the son.

The first child of Frank Sneath II was Arlene Rebecca, who died while very young. Their second child was Frank Huntington Sneath III, and on the day of his birth his father purchased the property on which the family now resides, on Lincoln Terrace in Bloomfield. Frank III remembers visiting his grandmother in Farmington, especially remembers the stable to the rear and the old carriage in it, and the stalls where the last horse, Betsy, was kept. Frank II died in 1940, at the age of fifty-six.

Frank III married Faith Wendy Monroe, of Lakeside, Bantam, Connecticut, of a Monroe family which goes all the way back to the Mayflower days. His father insisted that his son never go into the roofing business, so he is in gages, thread gages, having been with Johnson Gage Company of Cottage Grove Road since it was formed. He is still proud of his family's roofing business however, treasures several photographs of the crew in action, and can show many roofs in Hartford, Farmington and Unionville which they installed. The Sneaths have two children. Frank IV (Skipper) is a teenager and Lisa Arlene a kindergartner, another child Linda Alice, having died in infancy. Frank III is an avid hunter, and a charter member of the local game club.

May 19, 1972
John Sneath, third child of Frank I, was married in 1915 to Ethel Maude Hemingway, daughter of Louis Hemingway and Sophia Daniels, of Plainville. They lived in Hartford and had one child, Dorothy May. They were soon separated and divorced and John returned to the family home in Farmington, where he cared for the home and garden and the horses. His former wife and their daughter moved west and now reside in California. The former Mrs. Sneath is now Mrs. Nicholson, wife of a former British army officer. John continued living at home. His father died in 1915, his mother in 1938, and his sister Alice in 1940. Shortly after this he auctioned the furnishings of his family home, rented the house and moved to Hartford.

Tenants in the house for a time were Warren L. Cook and his wife, the former Elizabeth W. Diefendorf, and their first child, Robert Lowe Cook, was born during their residence here.

John Sneath sold this house in 1943 and continued living in Hartford until his death in 1958, at the age of seventy-one.

Purchasers of the house in 1943 were the sisters Mrs. Ann McBrien and Brigid Boyle. Mrs. McBrien and Miss Boyle were at that time the operators of the "Gundy", the tearoom at 13 High Street which was owned by Mrs. John Wallace Riddle of Hillstead. The tearoom had originally been opened to serve the girls attending Miss Porter's School. After the death of Mrs. McBrien in 1964 the tearoom was operated directly by the school for a time, and then closed.

Part of this house was set off by Mrs. McBrien and her sister, as an apartment to house single tenants occasionally.

One of these was Mr. Swan who had lived on Talcott Notch Road in the former Henry J. Bishop house. Mrs. Swan had died, and after Mr. Swan sold that house to a Mr. Walker, he lived here at 10 Main Street for a couple of years until shortly before his death.

Mrs. Wright, mother of Wellesley Wright, also lived here in the apartment for a time.

The last tenant was Colonel Flynn, a retired cavalry officer. He had roomed at the Elm Tree Inn, then with the Tingleys of Waterville Road, finally coming here after the Tingleys had sold their house. He was a very reserved man, not easy to know. He took long daily walks however, and he did become acquainted with some of the people along his route, residents of Waterville and Mountain Spring Roads.

Present owners of this house are Miss Brigid Boyle and her niece Elizabeth McBrien.

January 15, 1973