**Building and Structures**

**State of Connecticut**
**Connecticut Historical Commission**
59 South Prospect Street, Hartford, Connecticut 06106
(203) 566-3005

**Identification**

1. **Building Name (Common):** Root, George Henry, House
2. **Town City:** Farmington
3. **Street and Number (end or location):** 170 Garden Street
4. **Owner(s):** Dubey, Gerald B. and Paul B.
5. **Use (Present):** Residence
6. **Accessibility:**
   - **Exterior Visible from Public Road:** Yes
   - **Interior Accessible:** No
   - **If Yes Explain:**
7. **Style of Building:** Nineteenth-century vernacular
8. **Material(s):**
   - [X] Brick
   - [ ] Other (Specify)
   - [ ] Foundation
9. **Structural System:**
   - [X] Wood frame
   - [ ] Post and beam
   - [X] Balloon
   - [ ] Other (Specify)
10. **Roof:**
    - [X] Gable
    - [ ] Flat
    - [ ] Mansard
    - [ ] Monitor
    - [ ] Sawtooth
    - [ ] Other (Specify)
11. **NumberOfStories:** 1 1/2
12. **Approximate Dimensions:** 34 x 21; porch 30 x 6; 6 x 21; 13 x 6
13. **Condition:** Excellent
14. **Integrity:**
    - **On Original Site:** Yes
    - **Moved:** No
15. **Related Outbuildings or Landscape Features:**
    - [X] Barn
    - [X] Shed
    - [ ] Garage
    - [ ] Other landscape features or buildings (Specify)
16. **Surrounding Environment:**
    - [X] Open land
    - [ ] Woodland
    - [ ] Residential
    - [ ] Scattered buildings visible from site
17. **Interrelationship of Building and Surroundings:**
    - Bordered to the north by Riverside Cemetery, the George Henry Root House faces east onto Garden Street. The surrounding residential neighborhood comprises primarily late nineteenth and early twentieth-century dwellings erected when Farmington was establishing itself as a "suburban" community. The house itself is set on a small lot surrounded by an ornate picket fence. Open fields lie across the street to the east.
Built around 1850, this three-bay, vernacular-style dwelling is capped with a ridge-to-street gable roof. The facade exhibits a Victorian-period, wraparound, open veranda with turned columns, and shed roof. Note the lattice work which trims the base of the veranda. The central entryway features a late nineteenth-century wooden door with paired arched glass panes. Two-over-two sash are found throughout and small square windows all displayed below the eaves on the facade. The second-story sash resemble the small, rectangular "eyebrow" windows commonly found on Greek Revival-style architecture. One of two original brick chimneys has been removed.

In July of 1850, George Henry Root of Farmington purchased from John Hooker "a parcel of land on the New Street, a little west of the Main Street, which contains an acre more or less" (FLR 52:144). This small tract of land was bordered to the rear by the "Old Canal". When Root mortgaged the property in January of 1851, buildings were standing on the lot (FLR 52:205). George Henry Root (1825-1906) was born in Farmington to Amzi and Anna (Jones) Root. Engaged in farming, he was married to Jane Andrew. The 1855 Map of Farmington Center attributes this house to A. Root, who was probably Amzi Root, George Henry's father. In 1867 James L. Cowles purchased the property (FLR 60:507) and presumably rented it. Three years later, in 1870, Robert Lamb Gallagher bought the house for $350 (FLR 61:288). Born in Ireland, Gallagher (1822-1899) was the son of William and Jane (Lamb) Gallagher, who came to Farmington in the early 1850s. A laborer by trade he married Anna Creighton (1830-1913) in 1860. Also a native of Ireland, she was the daughter of James and Margaret (Carroll) Creighton. At the time of Gallagher's death in 1899, he is recorded as being employed as a farmer. Anna Gallagher received the house in 1901 (FLR 74:73) and shortly thereafter sold it to her daughter, Catherine (Gallagher) Wadsworth (FLR 69:597). In 1904 Catherine married Reuben W. Howard, shortly after her first husband's death. Ami S. James owned the house between 1914 and 1915 (FLR 77:511). Miss Porter's School purchased the dwelling in 1915 (FLR 77:553) and used it to house employees. Ulric Goodfield, who worked for the school's maintenance department, lived here for many years. Miss Porter's School sold the house in 1974 (FLR 234:256).

OWNER'S NAME  PORTER SCHOOL, INC.

ADDRESS: 70 Garden Street

DATE BUILT: ca. 1868 FOR: James L. Gowles

ARCHITECT

MASTER-BUILDER

REFERENCES:

"Farmington, Conn., 1906", p. 107 - 'residence of R.L. Howard

"Baker & Tilden Atlas, 1869", p. 33 - 'R. Gallagher'

This house is pictured on page 107 of the Farmington Book as the Robert Gallagher place, residence of Mr. R. W. Howard. It shows in Baker and Tilden's 1869 Atlas as R. Gallagher. The house also shows in a second photo in the Farmington Book, on page 78, as the background for "Bingo" Gay and his delivery wagon, with his young friend Jack Rourke accompanying him.

Library records show the house to have been built in 1868 for James Lewis Cowles of 130 Main Street, and purchased from him in 1870 by Robert Gallagher.

Robert Gallagher, 1822-1899, son of William Gallagher and Jane Lamb, was the second eldest of five brothers and four sisters who came to Farmington in the very early 1850's. See 18 High Street for more on them. Mrs. Robert Gallagher was the former Anna Creighton. Their three children were James, Jennie, born 1864, and Catherine.

James Lewis Gallagher married Margaret English and lived at 36 Garden Street. See account of that house.

Jennie Gallagher married Fred Elliot Cook and they lived in Unionville. Mrs. Cook died on February 13, 1952. Their son, Frederick B. Cook, was living on Lovely Street, Unionville, in the early 1970's.

Title to this house passed to Robert Gallagher's widow in 1901, and in that same year to their daughter Catherine, who had married Wadsworth. Mr. Wadsworth died and on October 11, 1904, Catherine married Reuben W. Howard, son of Francis Howard and Ann (or was it Amanda?) Winter. Reuben Howard was coachman for Mrs. Heydock of 13 Mountain Road. He would hitch up the horse and buggy and pick up Mrs. Heydock and her sister each afternoon for a ride.

George Leopard, blacksmith, who had his own shop up about on the site of the library parking lot, also came down here when needed, and did smithing for Miss Porter's School in the little shop to the rear of this house. The old forge was still there in the early 1970's.

The Howards moved to Unionville, where they operated a kennel, and on April 13, 1914, this house was purchased by Ami Squire Janes of 117 Main Street.

Mr. Janes may have been acting for the Porter School when he purchased this, as on January 4, 1915, he passed this title to Elizabeth V. Hale Keep, its headmistress.

The Ulric Goodfield family occupied the house for many years, Mr. Goodfield being in the maintenance department of the school.

In 1919 the title was passed from the Estate of Elizabeth Keep to Robert Porter Keep and Dorothea K. Hale. After the death of Mr. Goodfield this was used as the school farm cottage for transient workers. Carl Munn of the maintenance department lived here for a few years. In early 1973 the school listed this as vacant, however Mr. Wilson Faude is listed as a Director of the Farmington Historical Society, with this as his address.

July 29, 1973

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