The Roger Hooker House is located on the west side of Main Street. A driveway sits on the south side of the house. Residences of similar age and style are visible from the site.
This Georgian-style residence features twin interior end chimneys and a double overhang. Its front facade is enhanced by a columned portico which has been enclosed during the twentieth century. A Victorian-period porch lies on the west elevation. Note the nine-over-nine sash.

This house probably incorporates an earlier building built by John Hooker, son of the Rev. Samuel Hooker, around 1688 as deeds mention a dwelling house (FLR 6:240, 1:15, 3:305). Some sources say that Capt. Judah Woodruff made the Georgian-style alterations, however, this is impossible to determine. In 1773 John's son Roger Hooker quit-claimed the "homelot where I now dwell" to sons Elnathan and Roger, Jr. (FLR 19:225). Roger, Jr. was an army major and married Mary Treadwell (1755-1826) in 1782. She was the sister of the Governor John Treadwell. By 1790 Roger received his brother's interest in the homelot (FLR 28:459). He only lived in the house for eleven years, then sold it to Colonel Isaac Cowles for $1500 (FLR 33:450). It soon passed to sons Horace and Timothy Cowles (FLR 45:38) and in 1831 Horace quit-claimed his interest in the property to Timothy (FLR 45:39). Timothy was a merchant and farmer, who later became a state senator and president of the Farmington Savings Bank. In 1834 Cowles sold the property for $4000 to William Gay, the owner of the store which once stood north of the Corner House Restaurant (FLR 46:231). Gay soon divided the property's nine acres and his sons Richard and Erastus received the house and its remaining three-and-one-half acres (FLR 70:664). Richard's wife Gertrude received the property upon his death (FPR 26:312) and their daughter Gertrude (Gay) Kimball inherited it in 1924 (FPR 31:540).

The Roger Hooker House is a significant component of the streetscape due to its state of preservation and association with the Hooker, Cowles, and Gay families.


OWNER'S NAME: Cady, Ruth Holmes
ADDRESS: 24 Main Street
DATE BUILT: ca. 1688 for: John Hooker
1769 " Roger Hooker
ARCHITECT: ) For 1769 addition and remodelling, Capt. Judah Woodruff
MASTER-BUILDER: ) Woodruff

ADDITIONAL INFORMATION: The south part of the house & the chimney are the older part of the house, which was all rebuilt by J. Woodruff for Roger Hooker in 1769, according to a diary in the possession of Ruth H. Cady, which was kept by her aunt, Caroline B. Gay.


OVER
Former owners, cont.: Mary (Treadwell) Hooker life use"; R. Hooker from his father Roger Hooker "for love and affection to my sons Roger and Elnathan, 10 acres & homestead where I now dwell", n. on Ezekial Thompson, D. Thomson & N. Street, s. on widow, Anna Lewis, w. on river and e. on street, 1/11/1773, Vol. 19, p. 225; Roger Hooker from his brother Elnathan quit claim of his int. 8/27/1790, Vol. 28, p. 459; Roger Major from father John Hooker "for the love and affection which I do bear unto my youngest son Roger Hooker" parcel of 5 acres which is the lott on which I now dwell with all bldgs., e. on Street, n. on land of Sarah & Rachel Steel s. on Anna Moody 3/11/1739-40, Vol. 6, p. 240; John Hooker from his father, Rev. Samuel Hooker recorded 12/5/1705, Vol. 1, p. 115, also Rev. Samuel Hooker from John and Philip Judd 5 acres with ye housing, barns, orchards, and trees, and all appurtenances 3/13/1717, Vol. 3 p. 305, dated 3/2/1688; John and Philip Judd had this property recorded to them Vol. 1, p. 90, 1686.
24 Main Street

This house is pictured on page 14 of the Farmington Book as the Major Hooker place, residence of William A. Kimball. It is shown on the Baker and Tilden Atlas of 1869 as "Wm. Gay".

Information regarding the earliest settlement on this property is given by Mrs. Hurlburt on page 367 of "Town Clerks" in the following account:

"John Lomas (Loomis) sold his dwellinghouse, with its barns, out-houses, orchards and gardens in 1655 to Samuel Lomas. This had been purchased from John Andrews. In 1659 Samuel Lomas or Loomis as it is now spelled, sold to William Judd and both John and Samuel removed to Windsor. The property so transferred had land of both Samuel and John Steele on the north and the homestead of John Andrews on the south, and stood about where the E. H. Cady house now (1943) stands".

According to the record on the library card for this house, the land on which it stood was bought in 1688 from John and Philip Judd, by the Rev. Samuel Hooker for his son John, who had the previous year been married to Abigail Standley. John Hooker built his house here this same year, 1688.

John Hooker was of the third generation of Hookers in America, being the grandson of The Rev. Thomas Hooker who had come to America on the ship GRIFFIN in 1633, and had come to Hartford in 1636. It was the son of Thomas Hooker and the father of John, the Rev. Samuel Hooker, who had come to Farmington in 1661, becoming the second minister here.

Mr. Gay has the following to say of this house at 24 Main Street and of some of the Hookers, on page 13 of the Farmington Book:

"Here stands the house where Major Hooker lived and died, and where, under a great elm tree in front, most genial of story tellers, he was wont to sit of a summer evening and entertain his youthful friends. On this locality lived his father Roger and his grandfather John. The latter as an assistant, a judge of the Superior Court and a man of note in the colony. Deacon Edward Hooker states that John Hooker and the Rev. Samuel Whitman were the only men in town that were saluted with the title of Mr. Others were known as Goodman or Gaffer. Mr. Whitman the minister, he says, would always wait on the meeting-house steps for Mr. Hooker to come up and enter the house with him on Sabbath morning, and share with him the respectful salutation of the people."

John Hooker is fifth on the list of Town Clerks of Farmington and Mrs. Hurlburt speaks of him on page 48 of "Town Clerks" as follows:

"John Hooker was elected Town Clerk of Farmington in 1704 and served without interruption until 1740. Previous to 1700 he had served eight years at various times, making a total of forty-four years, longest in point of service of any of the twenty-three town clerks in three hundred years. The exquisite and letter-perfect handwriting of those forty-four years never varied in slant or shading. John Hooker must have been a man of great poise, perception and intelligence."

November 19, 1971

The earlier years served by John Hooker as town clerk, mentioned above, were served as aide, together with Ens. John Hart, during Thomas Bull's term of office during the years from 1690 to 1704.
The following is taken from the 
Hooker Genealogy entitled 
"Thomas Hooker and his Descendants".

John Hooker

"When he married, his father purchased and gave him a site on 
the west side of the main street, some distance north of the meeting house 
at Farmington, and here he built his house under the branches of a beautiful 
elm tree, where it soon became a center of generous hospitality, and a 
familiar gathering place for the sages of the town, who in the pleasant 
summer evenings seated under the leafy canopy of the Hooker Elm, discussed 
the passing events, while their long pipes gave forth clouds of fragrant 
incense, which, curling upwards, dispersed itself among the leaves of the 
beautiful tree.

"The Hooker Elm was a widely known feature of the pleasant street, 
famous through all the region round for its great beauty and the pleasant 
company which gathered under its canopy in the soft summer evenings".

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"A chronicler of those days left this account of Mr. Hooker. On 
Sunday the bell rang a while for service and then commenced tolling. At 
the first stroke of the tolling Mr. Hooker issued from his house and pro-
ceeded to the meeting house, and the minister in like manner started from 
his house. Whichever arrived first at the Meeting House door awaited the 
arrival of the other; and together they entered the building, as they en-
tered the door the bell stopped tolling, and all the congregation arose to 
their feet and remained standing while the two walked the aisle together. 
Mr. Hooker stopped at his pew door - the first pew - and waited until the 
minister ascended the pulpit stairs, then entering his pew, they both sat 
down at the same time and the congregation then seated itself. When the 
service was over, Mr. Hooker stepped outside his pew door, and this was 
the signal for the congregation to arise and remain standing; at the 
pew door Mr. Hooker remained until joined by the minister, then they 
walked down the aisle together to the door, where they took their stand, 
outside in good weather and inside in bad weather.

"When they were in place, this was the signal to the congre-
gation, who until that time had remained standing in the pews. The 
pew doors were thrown open and the people passed out, all bowing as 
they passed the minister and Mr. Hooker, many speaking, and a few 
exchanging a handshake. When they were all out the minister and Mr. 
Hooker, bowing to each other, shook hands and proceeded to their homes.

"The holiness of the day was supposed to end at sunset, but not a child in 
the town dared to stir until the signal came from Mr. 
Hooker that the day was ended. When the sun had sunk below the hor-
zon, Mr. Hooker, coming to the door with his pipe in his hand, walked 
down the path to the gate and leaning over it rested his arms upon the 
top. The moment his arms touched the gate, open flew the doors and 
out came the children with a wild rush and a shout -- Mr. Hooker was 
at his gate and Sunday was over. The shout was taken up and spread to 
the fartherest ends of the town with a rapidity that would almost put 
the telegram of the present day to the blush. Mr. Hooker with his 
pipe was at the gate and the Sunday was ended".

November 19, 1971

665.
John Hooker was married to Abigail Stanley, daughter of John Stanley of what is now 37 High Street (the Farmington Museum) and his second wife, Sarah Fletcher of Milford. Mrs. Hurlburt describes the wedding of John Hooker to "Abagall Standley, daughter of John Standley" on November 24, 1687, on page 47 of "Town Clerks", as follows:

"The union of these two foremost families was an important social event. The new home of John Standley on High Street was open even to the parlor for that occasion, with the bridegroom's father performing the ceremony and the Judds, Roots, Lees, Steeles, Wadsworths, Porters, Hookers, Moores, Lewises all invited and dancing and dining. The great Standley homestead and barns must have been taxed to capacity with the guests and their servants and their horses."

Note: It should be remembered here that "the bridegroom's father", mentioned by Mrs. Hurlburt, was the Rev. Samuel Hooker, son of the Rev. Thomas Hooker of Hartford.

John Hooker was chosen a Townsman in 1702, just two years prior to becoming town clerk, and two years after his service as town clerk ended (in 1740) he was appointed a constable. His daughter Ruth held a unique distinction regarding town clerks, noted by Mrs. Hurlburt. She was (1) daughter of the town clerk John Hooker, (2) sister of the town clerk Joseph Hooker, (3) mother of the town clerk Cyperion Strong, and (4) wife of the town clerk Solomon Whitman, who was her second husband.

Mr. Hooker was one of a committee of three men commissioned to reply to South Division (Southington) settlers in 1722, in regard to their request for abatement of tax, as they had hired their own preacher. This request was turned down but two years later a similar one was granted, although they remained a part of the Town of Farmington for 61 more years, until 1785.

Indians were still a minor problem in the area during John Hooker's lifetime, and Julius Gay states that around 1726 he was selected, with William Wadsworth and Isaac Cowles "to inspect the Indians of Farmington....every day about sunset" and get "an account of their rambles and business of the preceding day".

John and Abigail inherited from her father the house formerly standing on Mountain Road just west of what is now 50 High Street. They gave this to their son Joseph, where he lived all his married life. That house later became known as Edward Hooker's "Old Red College". See account of 50 High Street.

John and Abigail Hooker had ten children, two of whom did not survive infancy. These were Abigail, born in 1691 and died the next year, and John, who was born and who died in 1693. Their next two children were given these same names. Children who grew to adulthood are listed on the following page.

November 22, 1971
The eight surviving children were:

Hezekiah b. 1688 m. Abigail Curtiss, moved to Woodbury,
John b. 1695 m. Mercy Hart, moved to Kensington, died 1766,
Abigail b. 1698 m. Nathaniel Hart, moved to Kensington, died 1761,
Mary b. 1700 m. Lt. Samuel Hart, moved to Kensington, died 1780,
Sarah b. 1702 m. (1) Matthew Hart, moved to Kensington, m. (2) Huit Strong, moved to Durham, New York,
Joseph b. 1705 m. Sarah Lewis, see account of 50 High Street,
Ruth b. 1708 m. (1) Asahel Strong, (2) Solomon Whitman, see account of 36 Main Street,
Roger b. 1710 m. (1) Mercy Hart, (2) Anna Kellogg, see following page.

Mrs. John Hooker died in 1743 and John Hooker died in 1746. Title to this property had already passed in 1739 to their son Roger, the youngest of their children.

November 2, 1971
The Hooker Genealogy mentions Roger Hooker and his inheritance as follows:

"In the course of events the estate passed on to Roger Hooker, a thorough gentleman of the old school, who prized the wide spreading 'Hooker Elm' as his father had done, while he continued the far-famed hospitality of the house, and greeting his friends under the beautiful tree, sped the time away with tale and jest, and merry quip".

Roger Hooker has not been mentioned as holding civic posts except that in 1741 he was chosen to be a grand juror. The Hooker genealogy states that he was the favorite son of his father and accompanied him upon his official journeyings about the colony. He brought his wife to his father's house when he was first married. His father was the best informed of all the grandsons of the Rev. Thomas Hooker regarding family history, and he passed this information along to his son. Roger's first wife was Mercy Hart, daughter of Capt. Josiah Hart and Sarah Bull, and there were three children of this marriage:

Sarah b. 1740, died 1741,
Sarah b. 1742, m. the Rev. Jonathan Leavitt, lived in Walpole N. H. and then Charlemont, Massachusetts,
Thomas Hart b. 1745, m. Sarah Whitman, see 66 Main St., which was built by him.

Mercy Hart Hooker died and Roger married Anna Kellogg, the daughter of Capt. Martin Kellogg and Dorothy Chester, and they had seven children:

Martin b. 1748, died 1751,
Elnathan b. 1749, m. (1) Amy Newell
(2) Nancy Payne,
Roger b. 1751, m. Mary Treadwell. No children were born of the marriage. Roger inherited this house, in which they lived,
Mercy b. 1753, m. Simeon Newell, Captain in the army during Revolutionary War, died in 1817 in Wolcott, N. Y.,
John b. 1754, died 1758,
Lucina Cowles b. 1758, m. Isaac Cowles, see 149 Main St.,
Cynthia b. 1760, m. the Rev. Allen Olcott, Yale 1768, who settled in Farmington in 1787 and was minister from then until 1791, his preaching "quaint and erratic". They had five children, born after they left here to return to his home town of Manchester. He suffered a paralytic shock in 1806, died in 1811. Cynthia then married Captain Samuel Alvord, lived in East Hartford, died in 1827.

December 1, 1971
The first Roger Hooker, that is, the one born in 1710, probably died around 1772 or 1773, as his son (born 1751 and later known as Major Roger Hooker) took title in 1773. According to library records the present house was built, or at least extensively RE-BUILT, in 1769, for Roger Hooker.

Mrs. Hurlburt makes the following statement in her notes concerning this house, filed in the library: "According to a diary in the possession of Ruth Holmes Cady (occupant from 1928 until her death in 1966) which was kept by her aunt, Caroline B. Gay, the new addition and remodeling of the house was done in 1769 by Capt. Judah Woodruff for Roger Hooker. The south part of the house and the chimney were the original part and have been partly rebuilt".

In 1759 the town officials took cognizance of the fact that the mill on the Farmington River belonged to Roger Hooker and was an asset to the town, as mentioned by Mrs. Hurlburt on page 65 of "Town Clerks", where she quotes from town records:

"a littel west of the meeting house where for time out of mind there has peacably been kept up and maintained ye principal grist mill in said Farmington by virtue of an ancient grant, and the town approve the said Hooker repairing the dam and approve to Hooker his heirs and assigns full power and liberty to keep up and maintain forever said dam".

It may be mentioned here that the mill did not stay under Hooker ownership much longer. Included in Roger Hooker's present repair of the dam he included the building of a "mill house" in 1760, the house that partly shows in the center of the mill photo on page 53 of the Farmington Book. In 1770 the mill and the mill house were inherited by Roger's son Thomas Hart Hooker, born 1745. In that same year he sold both to Samuel Deming, thus ending the Hooker ownership. The old mill house presently stands at 36 Mill Lane, much altered in appearance.

Major Roger Hooker (although not a major at the time) took title to this house at 24 Main Street in 1773. Born in 1751, his military service began in 1775 when he served as orderly-sergeant in the 6th company of General Joseph Spencer's Regiment. Before December 11th of that year he had been promoted to Second Lieutenant under Ebenezer Sumner, Captain of the Fifth Company in the 22nd Regiment. His military service is recounted in the Hooker Genealogy as follows:

"He made eleven voyages to the West Indies before the Revolutionary War. At the first call for troops upon the Lexington Alarm he joined the company of one hundred seven men raised by his cousin Captain Neadiah Hooker, the first men from Farmington for the war, and the first from Connecticut to reach the army collecting before Boston".

November 22, 1971
From the Yankee Flier  Farmington Oct. 16, 1968

One of the first fires to be recorded in Farmington was noted in a diary account of Mary Treadwell Hooker. She was the daughter of Governor Treadwell and the wife of Major Roger Hooker. She was born in 1755 and died in 1826.

Mrs. Hooker described the event as taking place on January 18, 1806 while church was in progress. "We were alarmed with the cry of fire. It was Mr. Curtiss' shop occupied by Mr. Strong and contained the greater part of his property. The bell sounded the alarm. There was a great collection of people but they could not extinguish the flames." Mrs. Hooker concluded, "There we see our times are in God's hands, that is our lives and all our enjoyments."
Quotation from the genealogy continues: "He was made a sergeant of that company when formed, but was soon afterward appointed an ensign, and when Washington took command of the army Roger Hooker was commissioned second lieutenant of the Regular Continental Line, and he eventually became a major of the Line.

"In 1776 he fitted out the fire ships at New York, with which General Washington endeavored to destroy the British ships. As brigade major he had charge of the correspondence of the generals upon whose staff he served.

"He was sent with the flag of truce to communicate to the British general commanding New York, information of the surrender of General Burgoyne, and throughout the war was held in high esteem by General Washington, and was frequently trusted with responsible and important duties. After the war he was for a number of years Sheriff of the County and was an active Justice of the Peace until he was 70 years old".

Mr. Gay speaks of him often in his discourse "Farmington and the Revolution" and says that his orderly-book gives much information which would otherwise be unknown regarding the war.

He was a member of the Society of Cincinnati. He was chosen on December 12, 1791, to serve as selectman, with Asahel Wadsworth and William Ford, and also to help as constable, to collect taxes in Northington. In December of the following year he was put on a committee to check and mark road limits, to prevent encroachments. In 1797 his unpleasant task was the reading to Capt. Judah Woodruff the citation of April 19, 1797, by the Rev. Joseph Washburn, asking him to appear "to receive public admonition for the sin aforesaid", the sin of non-repentance and of abstaining from the sacraments. He was moderator of the school meeting of February 11, 1799, and appointed to a committee in April of that year to attend to the viewing of the new Litchfield Road.

Major Hooker was married in 1782 to Mary Treadwell, sister of Governor John Treadwell of Farmington, but no children resulted from the marriage. In 1801 he passed title to his home property to his brother-in-law Isaac Cowles, husband of his sister Lucina, retaining life-time possession. His wife died in 1826, and he in 1830.

Isaac Cowles, son of Captain Solomon Cowles of 149 Main Street, held the property during the later years of the life of Major Roger Hooker, the Major living there until his death. In 1831 the title was passed to Isaac's sons Timothy and Horace Cowles, who at that time, or perhaps a little earlier, were owners of the store north of what is now the Corner House. Horace quit-claimed his share of this house to Timothy, who held it three years, and then sold to William Gay in 1834.

The deed issued on October 6, 1834, confirming the above transfer of title, states that the property was lately the residence of Roger Hooker, comprised about nine acres and "having the Farmington Canal passing through the same".

November 22, 1971
William Gay, who purchased in 1834, was the grandson of Col. Fisher Gay, born 1733, whose homestead is pictured on page 12 of the Farmington Book. It had been converted from the appearance portrayed on page 209, when it became the home of the Farmington Country Club. William Gay was the son of Erastus Gay, born 1772, and Eunice Treadwell, and was the brother of Fisher Gay, born 1795, who was the father of Julius Gay, born 1834. See the account of 806 Farmington Avenue for more detail regarding his ancestry.

William Gay was born in Farmington but at the age of sixteen removed to Lansingburg, New York. Later he engaged in the mercantile business in Albany, where in 1830 he married Ruth Marilda Holmes of Shodack, New York. He returned to Farmington in 1834 and purchased this house. Nine years later on January 2, 1843, he purchased from James K. Camp the store north of the present Corner House. Known from then until 1910 as "Gay's Store", it also is pictured on page 12 of the Farmington Book. See William Gay's photo on page 84.

Children of the Gays, except for a baby boy who died in infancy, were:

- Richard Holmes Gay, born 1832 in Albany
- Erastus Gay 1843 in Farmington
- Caroline Bement Gay 1846 "
- William Treadwell Gay 1850 " , died in 1855.

The Gay Store, although only a country store, and with a weighing scales outside near the front door, did a thriving business despite the competition of other stores farther south on Main Street. The Gays probably did not depend entirely on this store however, they were shrewd traders and probably also traded in real estate and other investments as well.

William Gay, primarily the merchant, was also interested in civic and church affairs. His first public office appears to have been Town Treasurer, to which post he was elected on October 2, 1854.

Mrs. Hurlburt, on page 239 of her book Town Clerks, speaks of him as follows: "William Gay, called affectionately by all 'Deacon' as indeed he was. He was the father of Erastus Gay and had his store in the road at the end of Main Street. He was deacon of the church for twenty-five years, president of Farmington Savings Bank, Treasurer of the town through the trying war years, as well as later, Moderator of town meetings and elections, and generally considered one of Farmington's most capable business men through all his active years". His presidency of the Savings Bank covered the years from 1866 through 1889, the year of his death on February 27 at the age of eighty-four.

His son Richard attended the school of Edward Lucas Hart on High Street, worked in his father's store for a while, then removed to Hartford. There he engaged also in the merchandising business, and returned to Farmington in 1870. He then built and occupied the house at 22 Main Street, built on land from his father.

Erastus Gay worked with his father in the store and liked it well enough to stay. In 1869, finding himself busy with other affairs and his son well qualified to handle the store, William Gay transferred its title to him on September 8, 1869. William Gay had already been for three years president of the savings bank, and found it satisfying.

On October 3, 1871, he purchased from J. H. and Margaret McCorkle the

November 23, 1971
On October 3, 1871, Erastus Gay purchased from Margaret and J. H. McCorkle two acres of land on the west side of Main Street just south of Porter Road, with a house thereon, and it became the home for himself and his wife Grace Cowles, daughter of Francis Cowles of the house next south, 48 Main Street. Margaret McCorkle was the former Margaret Whitman, daughter of Edward Whitman, former owner of that property by inheritance.

See more regarding the Erastus Gay family in the account of 44 Main Street, which they built to replace the house purchased as mentioned above.

Caroline Bement Gay never married. She lived in New York City for some time, then returned and made her home at the Elm Tree Inn.

This house was deeded by William Gay to his son Richard in 1896, and title was transferred to Richard's widow Gertrude Gay in 1903. She in turn passed the title in 1924 to her daughter Gertrude Gay Kimball, who had resided here prior to 1906 with her husband William A. Kimball. Mr. Kimball is said to have been from New Britain, a buyer in the employ of New Departure in Bristol. They had a daughter Mary, and presumable moved in 1906 or very soon after, to Bristol.

The house was then rented for an unknown number of years.

The first tenants were perhaps the members of the Royal Barter family, spoken of on the following page.

After an interim of some seven years of unknown tenants came Mr. and Mrs. Irving Robbins, to whom the second page following is dedicated.

J. Harris Minikin and his family probably followed the Robbins family, but will be covered in the account of the house at 42 Mountain Road, which they later owned. James Harris Minikin became treasurer and manager of the Farmington Savings Bank. His wife was the former Adelaide Robertson. They moved to Mountain Road in 1922, and their son John R. Minikin still resides there with his widowed mother.

Another family mentioned as having lived here was that of Pembroke, but the writer has no information on that family.

The house was purchased in 1928 from Gertrude Gay Kimball by Ruth Gay Cady, to be the residence of herself and her husband Ernest Hyde Cady, and their family.

The first tenants to occupy this house after Mr. and Mrs. Kimball moved to Bristol in 1906, were Royal J. Barter and his wife and their daughter Enid. They moved here from the Thomas N. Collins house on Garden Street, where they had lived a year or so. Enid remembers coming home from school in the fall afternoons, picking up chestnuts under the big trees down in the rear of that house.

Mr. Barter had been born in De Peyster, New York, in 1873. He had been a florist in Ogdensburg, New York, for a few years, having his own business. Upon coming to Farmington he was employed by Noah Wallace putting up lightning conductors for quite some time. He also did extensive landscaping work for Mr. Ney and also Mr. Charles N. Lee, of what is now 31 Main Street.

Enid Barter, now Mrs. Howard Dowen, says: "I have so many pleasant memories, and loved that place on Main Street with its old fashioned flower garden in the back yard, also a dear little summer house in the side yard, with couch, hammocks etc, where I spent many happy hours on long summer days".

"Bill" Gay, whose father had been reared in this house, was a good friend of the Barters and spent many an hour at their house, sometimes taking Enid along to drive the horse while he delivered groceries, a great thrill for a small girl at that time.

The Barters moved to Hartford in the spring of 1911 and to West Hartford a little later on. Mr. Barter was employed by the J. M. Ney Company, first on Elm Street in Hartford, and later in Bloomfield, to which that company moved. Royal J. Barter died on January 21, 1971, at the age of 98, at the Masonic Home and Hospital in Wallingford, where he had been for some years. He remained very bright and alert, with a great sense of humor, until a short time before his death. He had been the oldest living member of Evening Star Lodge #101, AF&AM, of Unionville.

Enid Barter attended Center School in Farmington, Northeast School in Hartford, and was graduated from Hartford Public High School. She worked for four years for the Phoenix Mutual Life Insurance Company, then went to work for Connecticut General, where she met her husband-to-be, Howard Dowen. She worked about a year more and then they were married and she became a house-wife in West Hartford.

Howard F. Dowen, born in East Hartford, is the son of Ralph S. Dowen and Gertrude Frye. Educated in East Hartford, entered naval service for World War I, and afterward entered upon a life insurance career with Connecticut General, being with them until his retirement.

Their son, Paul Graham Dowen, graduate of Norwich University in Vermont, served in the U. S. Naval Air Corps in the mid-1940's. He married Nancy McGoff of Montpelier, and their children are Bradford, Jeffrey and Kendall. Paul resides in Clinton, Connecticut, an insurance salesman.

September 30, 1973
Irving S. Robbins, who with his wife occupied this house for a few years in the early 1920's, came here from Massachusetts as school principal in 1914. He was born in Hyannis, Massachusetts, and first served as school principal at West Newbury on the Merrimac River in northern Massachusetts.

Through an East Hartford employment service for teachers, he was told of an opening in Farmington for a three hundred dollar advance in annual salary over what he was getting in West Newbury. He was invited to Farmington for an interview, and was met at the Plainville railroad station by Lewis S. Mills with a red Maxwell car with an outside gearshift lever, and was offered Mrs. Mills' linen duster to keep his clothes clean during the trip to Farmington.

Mr. Mills was serving at that time as the District Superintendent for a group of the local towns. Mr. Mills gave him instructions as to his approach to each of the members of the local school board, and these instructions paid off. The local board, or committee, was made up of Lewis C. Root, active farmer and orchardist, Henry Mason, semi-retired cabinet maker and house builder, and Paul Ney, gentleman farmer and landowner. He found Mr. Mason laying floor at the house at 18 Diamond Glen, which he was remodeling, and Mr. Mason asked his questions between hammer strokes. Mr. Mills' coaching was successful, and he was offered the position by letter after his return to West Newbury. He accepted the offer with the mental reservation that it would probably be for one year only.

For a while it appeared to him that he had not made a very wise move in accepting, as his higher expenses here more than offset his increase in salary, but he stayed and has never regretted it.

When World War I was declared he enlisted and was sent to Officer's Training School and was commissioned. His first post was at Fort Lee in Petersburg, Virginia, and it was there that he met Marie Leibert, his future wife, whom he married in 1919, after the war.

He returned to Farmington with his new bride. They first lived in one of the houses on Garden Street built by Mrs. Riddle for employees of Hillstead. After a year they moved to 24 Main Street where they lived in the John Hooker house for about six years. From here they moved to the house on Mountain Road where they lived another six years. They then built their own house at 187 Garden Street.

Mr. Robbins, as principal of Center School and later Noah Wallace School, introduced basketball into the activities and also started supervised playground activities. Being athletically inclined himself he inspired the students' enthusiasm and was very successful with the programs. His tenure started with a school of 90 pupils and ended with 750 at his retirement in 1960. He was liked and respected by pupils and staff, and the naming of the junior high school for him was no empty honor, it carried with it the love and respect of the town's people. Mr. and Mrs. Robbins had one living child, Arline, now Mrs. James S. Minges. Mrs. Robbins died some years ago, and he now lives on Garden Street across from the James S. Minges family, so he is near his three grandsons.

September 15, 1969
Mrs. Cady, purchaser in 1928, was the former Ruth Holmes Gay, daughter of Erastus Gay and Grace Cowles, previously mentioned in this same account, who lived their married life at 44 Main Street. Mrs. Cady's husband was Ernest Hyde Cady of Norwich, born in 1873, in Stafford Springs, the son of Ernest Cady and Ellen Hyde. Ernest Hyde Cady was an 1895 graduate of Yale's Sheffield Scientific School. He was associated with Hartford Foundry Company, served as Hartford's Police Commissioner, and later was with Travelers Insurance Company in an executive position in the auditing department. He lived until 1962. Mrs. Cady was a former student at Miss Porter's School, one of her teachers having been the mother of L. K. (Lonnie) Forritt, now of Canton. The Cady children were: Beatrice, Ernest Hyde, Jr., Richard Gay, Charles Washburn and Francis Cowles Cady.

Beatrice Cady married John W. Clark of Hartford, lived later in Stamford and then Darien, summering in Weekapaug, Rhode Island. See next page.

Richard Gay Cady, married to Elizabeth Snyder, lived for a time in rented houses at 26 Mountain Road and 23 Colton Street, presently resides on Lovely Street in Avon. Their children are: Edward Carver, Nancy Cowles, Richard Gay, Jr., and Susanne.

Charles Washburn Cady lived here at 24 Main Street, single, until the death of his mother in 1966, now resides in Falls Village, Connecticut. As noted in the Hartford Courant of September 15, 1970, he is now retired after many years of active service as Vice-president, Assistant Secretary, and a Director, of Allen, Russell and Allen Insurance Agency of Hartford.

Francis Cowles Cady lived here until his marriage, lived 15 years in Kent, Connecticut, and returned here with his family in 1966, having purchased this house from the other heirs after his mother's death. See second page following.

November 23, 1971

Ernest Hyde Cady, Jr., omitted from the proper sequence above, whose wife is the former Elizabeth Wheeler of Stratford, lived the first three years of married life on Waterville Road and since November 11, 1938 have owned and occupied "The Old Red Cottage" at 2 Mountain Spring Road.
Beatrice Cady, after two years at the Master's School and one at Smith College, was married in 1922 to John Wallace Clark. He had been born in 1893 in Schenectady, New York, the son of Wallace S. Clark and Louise Macomber. He attending Pawling School and was graduated from Yale's Sheffield Scientific School in 1914. He served in Europe in World War I as First Lieutenant in the 56th Regiment of Engineers.

Mr. Clark was in the employ of Hartford Electric Light Company when they were married, and they lived in Hartford until 1926, when he took up employment with Stamford Gas and Electric Company, where by 1929 he was sales manager. The Clarks lived in Stamford until 1929, when they built a house in Darien in which they lived for 43 years.

Through various mergers and consolidations Mr. Clark was with Connecticut Power Company later, becoming manager of that company in 1943. On January 1, 1958, he was back into the fold of the Hartford Electric Light Company, still in the Stamford office however, as vice president, director and member of the executive committee. These positions he held until his retirement on December 1, 1958.

Mr. Clark had engaged in many community activities, including membership in the Darien Police Commission and a directorship in the Darien Public Health Nursing Association, and Mrs. Clark was a member of various volunteer groups.

Having had a summer home for many years in Weekapaug, Rhode Island, the Clarks finally moved to that state, taking an apartment in Westerly, Rhode Island in 1972. Mr. Clark died in December of that same year.

The Clarks had four children: Louise, Ruth, John & Ellen.

Louise Clark, born in Hartford, was married to James Wesley Gillard on the day of his graduation from West Point in 1945. James Gillard stayed in military service, is now Colonel Gillard of the Corps of Engineers, Washington, D. C. Louise died in 1959 leaving no children.

Ruth Gay Clark, born in Stamford, a graduate of Wheaton College and with a Master's degree in Education, was married to Richard C. Stern, has four children, but is now divorced. She is now a director of a Children's Day Care Center in Chicago, Illinois.

John Wallace Clark, Jr., born in Stamford, a graduate of South Kent School and of Yale, entered the army upon graduation, but served only an enlistment. His wife is the former Ann Sharren Fox of Winnipeg, Canada. John teaches at Northfield-Mt. Hermon School in Massachusetts, and the couple have three children.

Ellen Cady Clark, born in Stamford, also a graduate of Wheaton College, is the wife of George William Fiero, Jr., a Professor of Geology and the University of Nevada in Las Vegas. They have three children.

May 11, 1973
Francis Cowles Cady is a 1938 graduate of Yale, and was graduated from Harvard Law School in 1941. He was in military service from 1941 until 1946, serving in the United States Navy and seeing action in both the Atlantic and Pacific. He was discharged with the rank of Commander.

He was married in 1942 to Elizabeth C. Grayson.

The Cadys lived for fifteen years in Kent, Connecticut, where Mr. Cady practiced law. He represented Kent in the General Assembly for three terms starting 1953, 1955, and 1957, and represented the 31st District in the State Senate for two terms starting 1959 and 1961, serving as Assistant Minority Leader.

They moved to Farmington in 1966 after the death of Mr. Cady's mother, he having purchased from the other heirs their interests in the house and lot at 24 Main Street.

Mr. Cady and his first wife were divorced and she now resides in Sarasota, Florida. Mr. Cady later married Barbara Lynn of Larchmont, New York.

Francis Cady joined the teaching staff of the University of Connecticut Law School in West Hartford in 1963. An article in the Hartford Courant of September 16, 1972, reads in part as follows:

"Professor Francis C. Cady has been named acting dean of the University of Connecticut School of Law, and assumed the duties of the office vacated this summer by former dean Howard R. Sacks. As a professor at the law school, Cady has been known as a specialist on mediation and arbitration."

The Cady children are:

Frances Cowles Cady (Mrs. Richard P. Tisdel) an RN, living with husband in Australia (U. S. Navy),

Robert H. Cady, married and attending graduate school at the University of Maine,

Paul A. Cady, married and working in Rhode Island,

Margaret Gay Cady twins, attending Farmington High,

Elizabeth Gay Cady

Peter J. Cady, attending Farmington High,

Audrey L. Cady, attending Farmington High,

Courtney S. Cady, Attending Farmington Junior High,

Anne Holmes Cady, attending Village Co-operative Nursery School.

February 20, 1973