Facing west towards Main Street, the Samuel Smith House stands on a spacious, manicured lawn adorned with trees. Extensive gardens enhance the lot. The surrounding neighborhood contains a variety of other historic dwellings which constitute part of Farmington's National Register district and local historic district.
This five-bay Georgian-style house is capped with a ridge-to-street gable roof and twin interior brick chimneys. Similar to other Georgian-style houses in Farmington, the Samuel Smith House exhibits a hewn overhang between the first and second floors and the second and attic floors. Various sash combinations are displayed throughout the house. The facade's central entry door exhibits a small Colonial Revival entry portico with gable roof and slender classical columns. Other later additions include the large gable-roofed dormer and the two-story rectangular bay window on the south elevation. The 2½ story rear ell also displays a Colonial Revival-style entry portico. Part of the original door surround survives.

Capt. Judah Woodruff

Samuel Smith erected this house around 1770 on land he and Issac Gleason purchased from his brother, Steel Smith (FLR 14: 26–26). In 1773 Gleason released to Smith "all right I have in a certain mansion or dwelling house situated in Farmington and is the new dwelling house on the east side of Main Street, built by sd. Gleason and Smith" (FLR 19:417). It is believed that Judah Woodruff, architect of the First Congregational Church, designed the house for Smith. Little is known about Samuel Smith (1733-1809) except that he was the son of Thomas and Mary (Steele) Smith and was married to the former Huldah Bull (1744-1822). The house was inherited by Smith's daughter, Mary Ann Steele (Smith) Cowles (1784-1837), the wife of Horace Cowles. The son of Col. Issac Cowles, Horace (1782-1841) was a prominent and successful Farmington merchant. He served as a selectman, justice of the peace, and state representative. From 1833 to 1841 Cowles was town clerk. He was also prominent in the anti-slavery movement is said to have been active in the underground railroad. Mrs. Mary (Smith) Cowles died in 1837 and the property was left to her three children, Samuel, Charlotte, and Mary, although it was subject to the life use and improvement of their father (FPR 10:242–244). After Horace's death in 1841, Samuel Smith Cowles (1814-1872) returned to Farmington and took up residence in his grandfather's homestead. Trained as a printer, Cowles had previously worked in Boston as a journeyman printer and later as editor of the "Charter Oak" an anti-slavery paper in Hartford. In Farmington he engaged in farming as well as serving as secretary and treasurer of the Farmington Savings Bank. Like his father, Samuel Cowles was also active in local civic organizations and politics. In 1872 he willed his portion of the homestead to his son Horace Cowles [II] (see cont. pg.


Elizabeth R. Hart

Greater Middletown Preservation Trust

27 Washington Street, Middletown, CT

None known. 

° Renewal 

° Highways

° Vandalism

° Developers

° Other

° Private

° Deterioration

° Zoning

° Explanation

HIST A NEWS TIP TRACK
(1844-1875) (FPR 14:294). The property was subject to life use and improvement of Sarah (Winship) Cowles, widow of Samuel. Little is known about the younger Horace, except that upon his death three years later, he willed the homestead to his Aunt Mary (Cowles) Hardy, the wife of Aaron Hardy (FPR 26:163). The house passed on to her son Horace Cowles Hardy in 1891 and sold out of the family in 1902 (FPR 26:163, FLR 71:560).

Architecturally significant for its state of preservation and its association to architect/builder Capt. Judah Woodruff, the Samuel Smith House is historically notable for its ties to the Smith and Cowles families.
The house originally stood near the st. & had a central chimney. It was remodeled while still near the st. (see photo) with central chimney removed & the 2 end chimneys built. The work probably done about 1820 when other similar houses in Farmington were remodeled in similar fashion.

FORMER OWNERS:

REFERENCES: "Farmington, Conn., 1906", p. 26
"Colonial Dames" pamphlet at State Library for description of first location, etc., & remodeling.
Former Owners, cont.
Cowles, after life use by Samuel Cowles, his widow and quit claim deeds from other descendants of Horace Cowles, by distribution 9/25/1876, Prob. Rec. Vol. 11h, p. 526; Cowles, Horace and wife, Mary Ann (Smith) Cowles by will to each other - see her will admitted 2/25/1841, Vol. 10, p. willing this house. Mary Ann (Smith) Cowles was the daughter of Samuel Smith who had this house built ca. 1769. No record appears of the house going to her. For further details of the dist., see large binder.
This house is pictured on page 26 of the Farmington Book as "The Horace Cowles place -- Residence of Mrs. Catherine W. Griswold". Please note that this same photo also appears on page 92, but there it is incorrectly identified as the residence of Charles N. Lee. The house at 27 Main Street is shown on Baker and Tilden's 1869 Atlas as "S. S. Cowles".

Julius Gay introduces this house on page 20 of the Farmington Book in the following manner: "The next house, long the residence of Horace Cowles, Esq., was built by Samuel Smith, brother of the Deacon, in 1769, and is a good specimen of the style of houses erected by Capt. Judah Woodruff".

It is believed that an early owner of the land at this site was Samuel Steele, who is mentioned by Mrs. Hurlburt on page 372 of "Town Clerks" in the following words:

"Samuel Steele who removed to Wethersfield in 1685 was the only living son of John Steele at the time of his father's death in 1665, another son John having died in 1653. Under the terms of his father's will, Samuel Steel had confirmed to him the house and tenement given him at the time of his marriage to Mary Boosey".

Mrs. Hurlburt wrote up the history of this house for the Colonial Dames Society in 1950, calling it at that time the Smith-Stedman House. In this account she gives the succession of title to the property as follows, through five generations:

Samuel Steele,
 Ebenezer Steele, son,
 Mary Steele, daughter,
 Thomas Smith, husband,
 Joseph Smith, son, and
 Samuel Smith, son.

The Smith family is discussed on page 374 of "Town Clerks", from which the following information was obtained. The Smith family in Farmington started with William Smith, an early settler who on or before 1655 bought the homestead of Thomas Dymon at the corner of Main Street and Farmington Avenue where the Village Green, the memorial park, is now located. He died in 1689 leaving a large family and a widow. One of his sons, Jobama, was killed in the engagement at Turner's Falls, Massachusetts, on May 19, 1677. Another son Samuel, a weaver, was married on March 24, 1687, to Ruth Porter. It was their son Thomas Smith, mentioned in the listing above, who on January 14, 1725, married Mary, daughter of Ebenezer Steele.

Mrs. Hurlburt states on page 374 of "Town Clerks", that the Gleason House, now standing at 23 Main Street, is probably the original Smith house, and that after Samuel Smith acquired the property and built the new house in 1769, he converted the old Gleason, or Smith, house into a barn. "The new place he gave to his daughter Mary Ann Steele Smith, who married Horace Cowles".

February 4, 1972.
Horace Cowles was quite a notable citizen of Farmington. He was the son of Col. Isaac Cowles of the house presently known as 149 Main Street, and of Col. Cowles' wife, the former Lucina Hooker, daughter of Roger Hooker of 24 Main Street. Horace Cowles was two years older than his brother Major Timothy Cowles, later of 87 Main Street. He was born in 1782 of parents considered to be in affluent circumstances. In his 13th year he himself stated that he had a tolerable knowledge of essentials as taught in New England schools. He was sent to the Rev. W. Strong of Chatham (near Middle-town) to be prepared for admission to college. Mr. Strong died so he spent a winter and a spring reviewing his studies with the local minister, the Rev. Joseph Washburn. In the autumn of 1797, not yet 15, he entered Yale.

Except for an absence in August 1799 due to the death of a friend, Julia Deming, and another due to the illness of his brother, he spent all the time up to December 1800 at Yale. He had not done too well scholastically however, apparently due to lack of application. Finally starting a rigorous plan of study to make up for his deficiency, he became ill from overwork and had to leave school. Ill most of the time, and sometimes quite depressed, he spent his time at home until September 1801.

He had been a very thoughtful youth, but introspective, and probably now would have been considered a "loner". He did carry on a voluminous correspondence with his cousin Julia Cowles, three years his junior, during the years when he was at Chatham and at Yale. His cousin's letters were chatty and full of local doings and innocent gossip; his were thoughtful and philosophical and usually reflected his often low spirits. Julia Cowles, daughter of Zenas Cowles, lived at Oldgate, just across the street, but the correspondence did not entirely cease even after he returned to Farmington, as he seemed to need a confidante.

In September 1801 he went into the employ and residence of Deacon Samuel Richards "to try the effect of business and change of place, on body and mind". On February 20, 1802, he wrote "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 & Company".

Some of his early philosophy was stated in a letter of three days prior to the above, when he said "Adversity operates, not only to heighten pleasure in time, but to continue in us suitable ideas of our relation to our fellow men, and our dependence on our Creator". He further says "Adversity is the sheet anchor by which we are preserved from destruction, from the vortex of corruption, and the quicksands of folly and vice".

Julia Cowles had been in poor health for some time, and knew that she had not long to live, but accepted the knowledge with fortitude. On April 21, 1803, exactly one month before she died, he wrote to her, extremely ill at the time, and said "May the Lord your God support you in sickness, and at death receive you with joy into the mansions of peace and blessedness, prepared for the righteous before the foundation of the world".
Horace Cowles was married later that same year to Mary Ann Steele Smith, daughter of Samuel Smith, who gave her this house. It became the residence of herself and her husband.

The partnership of Deacon Richards and Horace Cowles lasted only a short time and on November 8, 1803, Horace and his brother Timothy, as partners, purchased the store. In June of 1808 this second partnership apparently terminated, and Timothy Cowles gave Horace a quit-claim deed for his share in the land and store. Horace continued to operate it until 1814, when on May 14 he sold it to James K. Camp, who lived on the site of what is now known as 15 Main Street.

Horace Cowles had helped Deacon Richards with operation of the postoffice, and the Deacon had given him $20.00 per year for his assistance. Horace's first appearance in public office appears to have been as selectman, for which he was chosen in 1823, but it is noted in the Farmington Book that it was he who in 1824, in justice court, fined Henry Mossuck, an Indian, for stealing chickens. In 1830 he helped draw new boundary lines between Farmington and Avon, was member of Board of Relief in 1832, helped settle waterpower difficulty in Unionville in 1832, was moderator of town meeting in 1833, on a committee that same year regarding construction of Methodist Church, on committee regarding conduct of taverns in 1836, agent of town in 1837 to receive surplus government funds, and in 1840 on the 200th anniversary committee and on the advisory committee regarding plans for a fireproof office for town records.

He served as Town Clerk from 1833 until his death on the sixth of February 1841. Mrs. Hurlburt says of these years: "The Town was almost drowsy with good living, good homes and good people". Unionville however, was growing and expanding and becoming industrialized at that time, the canals and waterpower having helped them immensely. She says that Mr. Cowles' service as town clerk "climaxed the many duties he had assumed and discharged so ably during his mature years".

On page 156 of "Town Clerks" Mrs. Hurlburt quotes from the Cowles Genealogy regarding Horace Cowles, and says "He was justice of the peace, selectman, town clerk, representative of the town in the legislature, teacher of the church choir, member of the Missionary, Temperance, Anti-Masonic, Anti-Slavery societies and 2nd vice president of the Hartford County Agricultural Society. He was a man distinguished for his public spirit, of singular benevolence, great practical wisdom and consistent and steadfast piety".

His anti-slavery beliefs led him to use his house as one of the stations of the underground railroad aiding escaped slaves, and Horatio Strother in his book "Underground Railroad in Connecticut", published in 1962, speaks of this as follows, perhaps taken from page 122 of the Farmington Book:

"His daughter Mary Ann Cowles, later Mrs. Aaron Atwood Hardy, said that her father once told her not to answer any questions while he was away. All the long summer day she sat on the doorstep and in common with the rest of the village she saw a horse covered with lather driven frantically through the street by a stranger. Only later did she learn that the driver was a slaveholder seeking his vanished property -- and that the slave had been hidden all day in the southwest bedroom of her own house".

February 4, 1972
Of the ten children born to Mr. and Mrs. Cowles seven died in childhood. The remaining three children were:

- Samuel Smith Cowles, born 1814, died 1872
- Charlotte Lucina Cowles, born 1820, died 1866
- Mary Ann Cowles, born 1826, died 1899

Samuel Smith Cowles will be discussed later in this report. Charlotte Cowles was married in 1843 to Rev. Joseph Darling Hull of New Haven. A graduate of Yale in 1837 he served as a clergyman until the age of forty and afterward had a boys' school in New York. They traveled a good deal while he was in the ministry, as will be seen from the birthplaces of their six children:

- Richard Cowles Hull, born 1845, Essex
- Mary Hawes Hull, born 1845, "
- Edward Hooker Hull, born 1849, Thomaston
- Charlotte Elizabeth Hull, born 1853, Farmington
- Albert Thomas Hull, born 1855, Brattleboro, Vt.
- Joseph Darling Hull, born 1859, Hartford

Mary Ann Cowles was married in 1848 to Aaron Atwood Hardy, born 1811-1889, of Haverhill, Massachusetts. Mr. Hardy was a graduate of Amherst and of Yale's School of Theology. He started a business career in New York, then they moved to Pittsburgh, and their final home was in California. Their children were:

- Horace Cowles Hardy, born 1849
- William Lyman Hardy, born 1851
- Alfred Hardy, born 1852
- Edward Willis Hardy, born 1854
- Theodore Hardy, born 1857-59
- James Atwood Hardy, born 1858-59
- Mary Cowles Hardy, born 1860-63

The first wife of Horace Cowles died on April 8, 1837, leaving three children, the youngest being at the age of eleven. Mr. Cowles re-married on November 8, 1838, this time to Elizabeth Hurlburt of West Hartford, who lived until 1879.

After the death of Horace Cowles in 1841, his son Samuel Cowles is said to have returned to Farmington in 1843 and to have lived in this house. The widow of Horace Cowles may have stayed here until after the marriages of the two girls, in 1843 and 1848, or she may have stayed here even longer. It was stated in the Cowles Genealogy that she inherited the house, but other records indicate differently. There seems to be no question however, of the belief that Samuel Smith Cowles lived here for his lifetime.

Julius Gay says this of Samuel Cowles on page 81 of the Farmington Book: "At the age of 17 he began learning the business of a printer in a book publishing concern at Windsor, Vermont. In 1837 he was a journeyman printer in Boston. A year later he began to edit and print the "Charter Oak", an anti-slavery paper in Hartford. He returned to his native village in 1843 and after the death of Deacon Simeon Hart became the treasurer of the Farmington Savings Bank which prospered greatly under his management. In all public affairs he was a firm and unwavering defender of what he deemed the right".

February 4, 1972
Samuel Smith Cowles was married in 1840 to Clarissa Law Brooks of Cheshire, born in 1816. Their four children, none of whom had long lives or were married, were:

- Louisa Brooks Cowles 1841-1846
- Horace Cowles 1844-1875
- Austin Cowles 1846-1851
- Samuel Smith Cowles 1848-1861

Samuel Cowles was very active in Farmington affairs. It is not known whether he kept up any of his printing work in Hartford after having returned to Farmington, but he held many posts here, both in business and in public life, and must have been kept very busy. He is stated to have been justice of the peace, notary public, commissioner of the supreme court, treasurer of the school fund from 1857, judge of probate from 1860, secretary-treasurer of the Farmington Valley Life Insurance Company, and a farmer.

He took over the post of treasurer of the Farmington Savings Bank in 1853, succeeding its first treasurer Deacon Simeon Hart. For the first few years, before the bank had its own building, he kept most of the bank records and did much of the business in his own house. He continued at this post until his death in 1872.

Specific services in the public interest have been mentioned in Mrs. Hurlburt's "Town Clerks", and include the following:

- 1847 Committee regarding new town house on site of Academy,
- 1850 Moderator of town meeting,
- 1853 Clerk pro-tem of town meeting,
- 1854 Committee to contract for fireproof records office,
- 1862 Moderator of town meeting,
- 1862 Chairman of assemblage at town hall regarding draft of men for Civil War,
- 1863 Committee on claims regarding substitutes for service in Civil War,
- 1869 Aid in financial settlement with new town of Plainville,
- 1872 Committee on 100th anniversary of dedication of new meeting house.

Clarissa Cowles, Samuel's first wife, died in 1861, leaving one surviving son out of four children. In 1863 Mr. Cowles took as his second wife Sarah Jane Winship, born 1825, daughter of his neighbors across the street, Mr. and Mrs. Leonard Winship of 16 Main Street. Mr. Cowles died on December 5, 1872. Sometime later Mrs. Cowles moved to the little house, her father's old shop, which the family called the Casino, in the rear of her parents' home.

Samuel's step-mother, Elizabeth Hurlburt Cowles, lived until 1879, and his widow Sarah Jane Cowles, until 1918. How long either of them lived in this house after his death is not known. One of his children survived him by three years.

February 5, 1972
Mary Anne Cowles Hardy, Samuel's sister, living in California at the time, inherited title to the property in 1876, from her brother Samuel. After the death of her brother in 1889 she returned to Farmington and lived the last ten years of her life in this house. Upon her death in 1899 title passed to her elder son Horace Cowles Hardy. He apparently, having been born in Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania, had not gone to California with his parents and the younger children. Born in 1849, he married Jessie Ford, seven years his junior. He was a successful diamond importer with offices in New York and London. In 1903 he was living in Brooklyn, New York. Two of their four children were born in New York City, the third in New Jersey, and the fourth in England in 1893. He never actually lived here on the property which he had inherited, but he did come up from New York to inspect it periodically. Timothy McCarthy was in charge for a time of the beautiful estate, and kept it up well. There was a fine barn, horse stables and carriage house. Unusually lovely trees and shrubs it is said. One large Maple is remembered as having been moved from here to High Street.

Alfred Hardy, a brother of Horace Cowles Hardy, appears to have lived here some time. He is said to have been a craftsman, worked in the West for a time, with Indians. He may also have been connected with the Barney greenhouses across the street before Mr. Chesney's time.

Noah Wallace purchased the house in 1902 from Horace Hardy and in accordance with his practices regarding other houses, moved this house some distance to the east, away from the street. An addition to the house, to the rear, which shows in the 1906 photo, was perhaps made at this time.

The front porch was removed sometime later, and at another unknown time bay windows were added to the south side of the house, both upstairs and down, replacing the normal center windows in the south side, which appear in the 1906 photo.

Mr. Wallace sold in 1904 to Catherine W. Griswold, widow of George Griswold. She was the former Catherine Murphy, daughter of Timothy Murphy and Honora McGraw. She was the 1906 occupant of this and kept up the good appearance of the house and grounds, hiring Martin Salmenson among others, to care for the place. She lived until May 17, 1917, but did not live her last three years here.

In 1914 the property was purchased from her by William A. Hitchcock, formerly of what is now known as 79 Lovely Street, Unionville.

August 8, 1972
William Arthur Hitchcock, who purchased the property, was a highly successful business man of Unionville, and perhaps semi-retired when they came to Farmington. He had been born in 1859 in Cornwall, Connecticut, the son of Elmer Hitchcock of Cornwall and Mary Van Deusen of New York.

Mrs. Hitchcock was the former Emily Boyle of New Brunswick, Canada, whom he married in September 1890, was probably the moving spirit who suggested coming from Unionville to Farmington. She was a friend of Mrs. Charles Northam Lee of the house next door south.

Mr. Hitchcock had been with the Upsen Nut Company, Unionville, and moved into its presidency shortly before that company was sold to Bourne-Fuller of Cleveland, and he did well financially. Water rights were retained and these were used to start the Unionville Electric Light and Power Company of which Mr. Hitchcock was an officer. He was quite well liked in Farmington, "Uncle Billy" to all his friends. When Thomas Childs was to be married, Mr. Hitchcock and Lydia Hewes took the prospective bride to a neighboring furniture store to pick out a wedding gift from Prescott Childs, Thomas's brother. One of Mr. Hitchcock's former employees has said "He was an outspoken man, but a good man to work for". Mr. Hitchcock was one of the first directors of the West End Library Association when it was incorporated in 1914. He had been on a town committee of August 1900 to prepare plans for the new Unionville Town Hall. He was president of the Farmington Savings Bank from 1931 to 1941.

The Hitchcocks' daughter, Ada Taylor Hitchcock, was born in the house at 79 Lovely Street, Unionville, which is now the home of Mr. and Mrs. H. K. Simonds, formerly of Farmington. Ada is remembered as "pink cheeked and plump". She studied voice, was a good singer and had attended Westover School.

Ada was "beaued" while she was living in Farmington, by Archibald MacLeish, a nephew of Miss Mary Hillard who was the head of Westover. He is the son of Andrew MacLeish and Martha Hillard, of Glencoe, Illinois. Born in 1892 he was a 1915 Yale graduate and was married to Ada Hitchcock on June 21, 1916. Poet, author and playwright, he was Assistant Secretary of State 1944-1945. Former Librarian of Congress and Boylston Professor at Harvard University in 1955, he preached at the First Church of Christ Congregational in Farmington in May 1955. On December 27, 1968, he was on television with a poem on the moon flight which had terminated that day. In January 1969 his son William was named special assistant to Pres. Kingman Brewster of Yale, with primary responsibility in the area of external affairs.

While Mr. and Mrs. MacLeish were in Washington in the 1930's they were often invited to the White House, where she sometimes sang for the President and his guests. Mrs. Hitchcock's sister Hilde Boyle, was a secretary at Bourne and Fuller, and very well liked.

Mr. and Mrs. MacLeish settled in Conway, Massachusetts, and were living there as of March 1969, just returned from Antigua. Mrs. Hitchcock's father visited them there but preferred living in Farmington, where he died in 1943. Mrs. Hitchcock inherited his old home and sold it in 1943 to R. B. Coburn.

August 8, 1972
Robert B. Coburn, purchaser on November 16, 1943, was born in Manchester, Connecticut, and was a classmate of Thomas Childs of 41 Main Street, at Hotchkiss School. He was a stockbroker in Hartford, of Coburn and Middlebrook, living on Highland Street, West Hartford, which became quite noisy. Mr. Coburn bought property on Juniper Road in Bloomfield in 1935, but there was no house on the property and he rented for a time from his cousin Syvia Dunham Birge, a house on Prospect Avenue. Victor Poindexter showed the Coburns the Palache house, 149 Main Street, which they purchased and occupied from 1937 to 1943, having some thought of moving it back from the street. In 1943 they sold the Palache house and bought this, the Hitchcock house, and lived here. By 1946, having plans to build a house on the Bloomfield property, and wishing to be nearer to it during construction, they sold 27 Main Street and bought a house on Oxford Street in Hartford. They did not move into the Bloomfield house until in 1949. Mr. Coburn's wife is the former Elizabeth Mehun of Washington, D. C. They are quite pleasantly situated on a hill on Juniper Road, and they like their home and its site very much.

July 10, 1972

Purchaser on June 27, 1946, from Robert B. Coburn, was Edward B. Price. He and his wife and family moved here from Bronxville, New York, but only stayed eleven months and had to move to Boston for business reasons. They returned later however, purchasing 4 Maiden Lane in 1960, the house where they still reside. They sold 27 Main Street in 1947 to Mr. and Mrs. Stedman.

September 3, 1972
Owners and occupants of this house since its purchase on
May 12, 1947, are Mr. and Mrs. Theodore Stedman, Mrs. Stedman being
the former Patricia Hallowell.

Theodore Winthrop Stedman, the third of his name, was born
in Shanghai, China, the son of Theodore Winthrop Stedman and Mary
Idella Lunt, the latter of whom was also born in Shanghai. Theodore
W. Stedman II had gone to China with Standard Oil Company, and later
joined United States Steel. His wife's father was Captain William
Henry Lunt, who had first gone to China in 1872, leaving Salem,
Massachusetts, on Christmas Eve of 1871 on the clipper ship CASHMERE.
He returned after a few years to marry Jessie Burnham, and they spent
many years in China. Mr. Lunt had been second officer of the clipper
ship, but went on to become Marine Superintendent, the foreign head
of the China Merchants Steam Navigation Company, the only Chinese
merchant fleet. He aided the Chinese Republican government in the
1911 revolution, and some of the decorations he received as tributes
are on display in the Peabody Museum of Salem, Massachusetts.

Theodore W. Stedman III, born in Shanghai, continued living in
China until he was fifteen years of age, in Peking, Shanghai and other
cities, receiving most of his schooling in Chefoo. He later attended
Phillips Exeter, and is a graduate of Harvard University, 1933. He
worked in Boston for a time and then in Springfield, before coming to
the Hartford area for Aetna Life Insurance Company, investment depart-
ment. He has now been with Hartford National Bank since 1947 and is
Vice President, serving in the Trust Administration Department.

Mr. Stedman's family is descended from Ensign Experience Mit-
chell, who came to Plymouth in the third ship, ANN, in 1623, and also
from Isaac Stedman. The latter was born in London in 1605, came to
America on the ELIZABETH, with his wife Elizabeth, in 1635, settled
first in Scituate and removed to Brookline in 1650. The first of his
known ancestors to come to Connecticut was Thomas who came to Brooklyn
in 1731, from whom was descended Griffin Alexander Stedman, a Trinity
College graduate, Brigadier General with the 11th Connecticut Infantry,
who was wounded at Antietam and killed near Petersburg; and Edmund
Clarence Stedman, Yale University, a Victorian poet.

Another of Mr. Stedman's ancestors was born the same year that
this house was built, in 1769. This was Nahum Mitchell, Harvard 1789,
historian, lawyer, congressman and judge, who was born in Bridgewater,
Massachusetts. Judge Nahum Mitchell was appointed with Edward H. Rob-
bins of Milton and George Bliss of Springfield, in 1823, to the special
commission to settle the disputed boundary line between Massachusetts
and Connecticut.

Mrs. Stedman, of the Hallowell family from Bucks County, Penn-
sylvania, attended Miss Porter's School with the Class of 1937, and was
in charge of its twenty-fifth reunion in 1962. She is the daughter
of John Wallace Hallowell and Emma Walton, both of Philadelphia. She
was married prior to World War II to Alexander Angus McDonell of St.
Paul, Minnesota, who was a Lieutenant in the U. S. 8th Air Force, and
killed in a raid over Germany. Mrs. McDonell lived in New York City
for seven years.

July 6, 1972.
Mr. Stedman's first acquaintance with Farmington was when he boarded and roomed with the Franklin Kearneys in the Red House on Mountain Road, but he moved back to Hartford during the war when commuting was difficult. Mr. Stedman and Mrs. McDonell were married in 1947 at about the same time as they purchased this house.

They have four children, two by each of Mrs. Stedman's marriages.

Alexander Angus McDonell III, graduate of Andover and of Harvard 1963, was a naval ensign two years and then was graduated from Harvard Law School. He later decided on teaching and is on his way to a career in that field. His wife is the former Diana Murray of Southport, Connecticut.

Heath McDonell, a graduate of Westover and Wellesley, is now Mrs. Richard H. Missner. Her husband is from Chicago, a graduate of Princeton and of Harvard Business School, has a newspaper in Boston.

Theodore W. Stedman IV, one of twins, is a graduate of the University of Denver, as is his wife Robyn MacTavish of Pasadena, and is now in social work in Massachusetts.

John Hallowell Stedman, the other twin, is presently an undergraduate at the University of Denver.

Theodore Stedman III was made a member of the Board of Trustees of Miss Porter's School in 1953, was treasurer of the board, and president from 1963 until 1970, when his term as trustee ended. He has also been president of the board of Renbrook School, West Hartford. He is a member of the Historic District Commission of Farmington. He has been active in various public services, including chairman of the American Red Cross in Farmington.

The Stedmans take a great interest in their house. They have added a two-story wing to the north side of the house, replacing a small porch which was there, thus providing a library downstairs and more space upstairs. A large patio was created east of this wing, with a covered veranda adjacent to the south, in case of rain. In 1964 they purchased an acre to their south, providing a larger front yard and assuring their view to the street. They have made a graveled parking space to the south of the house, enclosed by a low wall of fieldstone.

July 6, 1972

As a tribute to the man who was Headmaster of Miss Porter's School for so many challenging years, Mr. Stedman wrote the booklet, "In Memory of Robert Porter Keep, 1882-1967".

April 18, 1973