The Julius Gay House sits prominently on Main Street just north of the intersection of Main Street and Porter Road. Its expansive grounds are dotted with large trees. To the north lies the Farmington Savings Bank and other historic residences.
This Gothic Revival-style house features a three-bay facade with a projecting center section capped with a gable roof, it exhibits the main entry partially enclosed by a Victorian-pec porch. Above the porch lies a paired window with a window hood, a feature found also above the two windows on the front facade's first level and throughout the exterior. Decorative bargeboards and finials enhance the gable end and the projecting dormers in the attic story. The ridge-to-street roof displays a weathervane. Several additions exist on the south, north, and west elevations, yet they match in materials and details.

<table>
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<th>SIGNIFICANCE</th>
<th>ARCHITECT</th>
<th>BUILDER</th>
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<td>19 HISTORICAL OR ARCHITECTURAL IMPORTANCE</td>
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<td>Nelson O. Keys</td>
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<td>In 1872 Julius Gay (1834-1918) purchased a four-and-three-quarters acre piece of land with buildings from Elizabeth W. Morton (FLR 61:436) for $1800. Gay was the son of Fisher and Lucy (Thompson) Gay and a graduate of Yale's Scientific School. Trained as an engineer, he later served as town clerk (1860-1861) and town surveyor (1858-1873). In 1862 he married Maria Clark (b. 1841), a student of Miss Porter's. Gay hired Nelson O. Keys who tore down the older house on the land purchased and erected this house around 1873. Julius Gay served as treasurer (1873-1911) and president (1914-1918) of the Farmington Savings Bank as well as the town's historian. Upon his death his wife inherited the property (FPR 31:360). She, in turn, claimed it to her daughter Florence in 1919 (FLR 76:652), the only one of their four children who survived to adulthood. Florence owned the property until her death when it was willed to Miss Porter's School, Inc. (FLR 127:534). It remains part of the school's campus today and is used as a faculty/guest house.</td>
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The Julius Gay House has both architectural and historical significance. It remains one of the finest Gothic Revival-style buildings in Farmington and is associated with the prominent Gay family.


PHOTOGRAPHER: Alex Paredes DATE: 5/85
VIEW: W NEGATIVE ON FILE: 13:28A
NAME: Ruth B. Matteson DATE: 3/86
ORGANIZATION: Greater Middletown Preservation Trust
ADDRESS: 27 Washington Street, Middletown, CT

THREATS TO BUILDING OR SITE
None known. 

RENEWAL
Private
Deterioration
Zoning
Explanation

EXPLANATION

## Other Notable Features of Building or Site

- Capped with a gable roof, it exhibits the main entry partially enclosed by a Victorian-peric porch.
- Above the porch lies a paired window with a window hood, a feature found also above the two windows on the front facade's first level and throughout the exterior. Decorative bargeboards and finials enhance the gable end and the projecting dormers in the attic story. The ridge-to-street roof displays a weathervane. Several additions exist on the south, north, and west elevations, yet they match in materials and details.
The old Whitman house, owned by Solomon Whitman and before him, the Strong family, formerly stood here. It was razed to build the Gay house.

Florence Gay died in the summer of 1952, and left her house to Miss Porter's School.


References: "Farmington Town Clerks, 1943", p. 207
"Farmington, Conn., 1906", p. 15
36 Main Street

This house is pictured on page 15 of the Farmington Book as the residence of Julius Gay, and is shown on Baker and Tilden's 1869 Atlas as "Mrs. Dr. Morton". It was built in 1878 by Nelson O. Keyes for Julius Gay. The latter had purchased the land with an older house on it, and after razing the older house, built on its site the one shown in the photo.

John Andrews had probably built and lived in the first house on this site. Mrs. Hurlburt says on page 356 of "Town Clerks" that "John Andrews, an original proprietor and settler, lived about where the Farmington Savings Bank and the house of Florence Gay now stand. He had purchased the land from Thomas Upson, the original owner. . . . Benjamin Andrews, son of John, inherited the homestead under the will of his father". John Andrews later purchased property two miles up Waterville Road. His second son Abraham, removed to Waterbury and was the ancestor of Dr. Sophie Andrews, the wife of Dr. Maurice Root formerly of 158 Main Street.

Although the sequence of ownership is not known at the moment, it appears that Howkins Hart may have built the next house on the site. Quoting from page 211 of "Town Clerks" ---- "In 1878 Mr. Gay purchased the Howkins Hart house, and ancient landmark on Main Street next to the Farmington Savings Bank, similar in construction to the Farmington Museum, built around 1706, and after razing the old house, built the present lofty and commodious house". In fact, Howkins Hart's house must have been built somewhat earlier than 1706, since on page 36 it is stated that his house was one of the seven which were ordered in 1704 to be fortified against Indian attack. This was just after the Deerfield Massacre in Massachusetts.

Howkins Hart --- spelled Hawkins in the Hart Genealogy --- was the grandson of Deacon Stephen Hart the Settler, and the son of Capt. Thomas Hart and Ruth Hawkins. Ruth, born in Windsor, was the daughter of Anthony Hawkins and his first wife, whose name is unknown to us. Anthony Hawkins had lived on Farmington Avenue across the street from the Old North School, on a site perhaps about 200 feet north of the house at 763 Farmington Avenue. He was listed as an original proprietor of Farmington, was a member of the court in Hartford in 1669, and listed by Julius Gay as a soldier in Colonial Wars.

Captains Thomas Hart, son of Deacon Stephen the Settler, lived on the site of what is now 66 Main Street, residence of the Headmaster of Miss Porter's School, Mr. Richard Davis.

Hawkins Hart was born in 1677 and on 1701 was married to Sarah Roys of Wallingford. Their first two children were said to have been born in Farmington, after which they moved to Wallingford, where seven more children were born. Mr. Hart died in 1735. His descendants lived in Wallingford, Southington and Barkhamsted, but none of them appeared to have returned to Farmington. Four more of them bore this same name, all descendants of Hawkins Hart of Farmington.

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The next owner of whom we read was Asahel Strong, of Northampton, whose wife was Margaret Hart, the daughter of Thomas Hart of Farmington. Asahel's son is mentioned in "Town Clerks" on page 68 as follows:

"Captain Asahel and Ruth (Hooker) Strong, had eight children and lived in the house given to them by his father, Asahel Strong, Sr., which stood on the site of the home of Miss Florence Gay. It was built early in the settlement of the town by Howkins Hart, where John Andrews had originally lived. Captain Strong was a lawyer and prominent in public and military affairs."

The Strong's seventh child, Cyperion, born 1743, was graduated from Yale in 1763, and at the death of his uncle Joseph Hooker in 1764, was elected eighth town clerk, being then twenty-one years of age. He was re-elected the following year, but served only until 1766. He was interested in the ministry and in August 1767, removed to Chatham, Connecticut, where he spent the rest of his life as minister of the Gospel in the Congregational church there. He married Sarah Bull, of Farmington, daughter of Jonathan and Abigail Bull. Eight children were born of this marriage. Sarah Strong died suddenly in Chatham, September 14, 1785.

December 10, 1971
Cyperion Strong then married Abigail White, daughter of Ebenezer White and Ruth Wells, of Hartford. Five children were born to them. In 1795 Abigail died and on March 4, 1797 he married Mrs. Abigail Hart (nee Riley), widow of Jonathan Hart of Berlin who was killed at St. Clair's defeat in 1791. Cyperion Strong was present as one of the assisting clergymen at the ordination of Noah Porter in 1806, opening the prayer of consecration. He died at Chatham on November 17, 1811.

Captain Asahel Strong died March 30, 1751, and twenty-one years later his widow Ruth married Solomon Whitman. Mr. Whitman, who had lived next south of here on his father's estate, now purchased from the Strong children their interest in their father's house and moved into it with their mother whom he had married.

Solomon Whitman had become the ninth town clerk of Farmington in 1766, and Mrs Hurlburt tells of him on page 71 of "Town Clerks" as follows: "Solomon Whitman who was the son of the beloved Samuel Whitman, third minister here, was born in Farmington April 20, 1710. He married Susannah Cole on December 17, 1736.... She died in March 1772, and following this he married Ruth Strong, widow of Captain Asahel Strong, and daughter of John Hooker, and went to live in her house, formerly the Hawkins Hart house, at the north corner of the present Porter Road and Main Street. Following the death of Ruth, Mr. Whitman married Mrs. Ruth Wadsworth, the former Ruth Thompson, July 30, 1778. Solomon Whitman was one of the chief figures in the political, social and religious life of the town. He and Col. Noahiah Hooker, son of Joseph Hooker, were on every town committee, whether for social, civic or religious matters. He was first to administer the Oath of Fidelity to the new State of Connecticut to the citizens, led by their pastors, Timothy Pitkin of Farmington and Samuel Newell of Bristol".

The Whitman Genealogy speaks of Mr. Whitman, who had learned the trade of shoemaker, but did not follow it, as follows: "A man remarkable for the native strength of his mind, the amenity of manners and his inflexible integrity; though not a college graduate he was well educated and deeply interested in all literary manners; was appointed in early life a magistrate by the colonial government, and was honored by the inhabitants of his native town with offices of every grade in their power to bestow. Inheriting from his father large landed possessions, he improved them by careful management and accumulated a handsome property." He served as Justice of the Peace 1751-1767, Deputy to General Assembly for 16 terms, first Judge of Probate Court 1769-78, and Town Clerk 1766-1790.

The Whitman children, all by his first wife, were the following:

Chloe (Chlorinda) 1737-1779, married John Porter, son of William Porter and Mary Smith, had nine children,
Lemuel 1739, died young in Havana,
Solomon 1743-1801, see 44 Main Street,
Elnathan 1746-1813, see 37 High Street,
Mary 1751, died in infancy,
Samuel 1752, entered sea service during Revolution, was never heard from afterward.

December 10, 1971
It was during Solomon Whitman's term of office as town clerk that the present meeting house was suggested in 1767, authorized in 1769, cornerstone laid in 1771 and completed in 1772. It was during his term that the Revolutionary War was planned and fought and won, and many were the town meetings held to resolve the town's responsibilities and involvement in this, from the meeting to authorize the support of Boston during its blockade, held June 15, 1774, to the approval of the Articles of Federation in 1778, and finally the ending of the war in 1781. It was then that the era of prosperity began, with better homes, education, clothing and general ease of living, made possible by increased foreign trade, increased manufacture of goods, and increased freedom of action.

One of Mr. Whitman's last public responsibilities assumed might have been his membership in the school committee of 1795, with Isaac Cowles and Reuben S. Norton. He was 85 then and at an age when he could unashamedly step aside and let others take responsibilities in town government. He died in 1803, leaving the homestead, which previously had been the Strongs', to his three grandchildren, Samuel, Solomon and Edward, his own son Solomon having pre-deceased him by two years.

Of the three grandson's, Samuel had left the area and Edward was already established on his own father's homestead next south of here (44 Main Street), so it was Solomon, although he never married, who was the one to inherit this place.

The Whitman Genealogy states that Solomon inherited much of his father's hard common sense, and although peculiar in manner, was a man of more than ordinary education. He was postmaster, used his own home as postoffice, and died in 1861. The girl who handled his postoffice duties was Nancy Whitman, his sister, and mentioned by Julius Gay on page 14 of the Farmington Book as follows:

"Where my house (photo #20, page 15) stands, there stood until I removed it in 1872, the very old house of Solomon Whitman. At the northeast corner was a square addition in which Miss Nancy Whitman presided over the postoffice. I remember calling on the way from school and seeing through the small delivery window a huge dining table covered with methodically arranged letters and papers, and Miss Nancy, with gold-rimmed spectacles, bending over them. By this little window, on a high shelf to be out of reach of mischievous boys, stood a big dinner bell to summon the postmistresses, when necessary, from remote regions. Sometimes an adventurous youth, by climbing on the back of a comrade, succeeded in getting hold of the bell, but I never knew the same boy to repeat the offense".

Miss Bessie Tillotson, a grandniece of Miss Nancy Whitman, had in her possession two dance invitations directed to Miss Nancy. The first one read "The company of Miss Nancy Whitman is requested at W. Wadsworth's Ballroom, Wednesday evening, half past seven. Dated June 4, 1804. Geo. Cowles - H. Wadsworth - T. H. Root - F. Cowles". The second was for the Masonic Ball, at the same Ballroom, December 27, 1814. Geo. Cowles, L. Whitman, A. Cowles, E. Cowles. The Wadsworth ballroom was the upper floor of the house at 107 Main Street, which had been rebuilt and enlarged in 1780, and was considered at that time as a possible site for convening the general assembly. Miss Nancy Whitman died in 1860.

December 10, 1971

723.
The following two pages, covering some of the genealogy of the Whitman family, are inserted here, but they could have been inserted in the accounts of several other houses as well, since the Whitman family occupied several of Farmington's fairly early houses.

The information on these two pages was largely taken from the published Whitman genealogy.

The writer is of the opinion that the third paragraph on the next page is slightly in error regarding the residence of the Reverend Samuel Whitman. He believes that Mr. Whitman's early residence was nearer the site of 44 Main Street, or on it, and that he lived later on the site of "New Place", at 53 Main Street.

The house purchased by Adney Curtis (see 6th line on page 2 of the Whitman family) is the house pictured on page 28 of the Farmington Book as the Peter Curtiss place, but it is now situated at 8 High Street, moved there by Dr. Walls W. Bunnell.

The George Washington Hawley, mentioned in the 4th paragraph on page 2, was the son of Rufus Forward Hawley, who lived in what is now the Robert B. August house on Old Farms Road, Avon.

Edward, born 1792, also mentioned on page 2, is thought by the writer to have lived in the house which earlier stood at or very near to the site of the present house at 44 Main Street.

February 20, 1973
Whitman Family
as related to Farmington


Rev. Samuel Whitman, 1676-1751, born in Hull, Harvard 1696, taught grammar school in Salem, ordained 1706, called to preach in Farmington, which at that time was one of the largest and wealthiest towns of this state. Remained here as minister until his death. Of high repute as clergyman, ranked among first literary men of New England and was interested in all matters of education and culture. Appointed in 1726 as one of the Fellows of Yale. Second meeting house built here during his ministry. His home stood on the Main Street just in rear of site of Savings Bank and property remained in family until after 1863. He married Sarah Stoddard, daughter of the Rev. Solomon Stoddard and Esther Warham of Northampton. His son John married Abigail Pantry of W. Htfd., who sired Sarah Whitman who married Thomas Hart Hooker. His daughter Sarah was born March 12, 1718.

Solomon Whitman, 1710-1803, born in Farmington, settled on portion of homestead, believed to be on site of 36 Main Street, learned trade of shoemaker but did not follow it. Well educated and interested in literary matters, served as Justice of the peace, Deputy to general assembly, Probate judge, Town clerk. Three marriages:

- In 1736 to Susannah Cole who died 1772,
- in 1773 to Ruth Hooker, dau of John Hooker and Abigail Stanley, widow of Asahel Strong. She died 1777,
- in 1778 to Ruth Hart, dau of Thomas Hart and Mary Thompson, widow of William Wadsworth. She died 1779.

Until the death of his third wife he lived in his own home, after that resided alternately with sons Solomon and Elnathan.

Elnathan Whitman, 1746-1813, Born in Farmington, settled here as a farmer and lived in the family homestead at High Street, purchased in 1735 for his father, by the Rev. Samuel Whitman. He was married in 1782 to Lois Dickerman, daughter of Joseph Dickerman and Lois Perkins of Hamden, Conn. She died in 1833.

Solomon Whitman, 1743-1801, brother of Elnathan, was married in 1772 to Mary Thompson, daughter of Abel Thompson and Ruth Gridley. Mary Thompson was born in 1751, died in 1817.

Both the above brothers were of the 5th generation of Whitmans.

August 27, 1971
William Whitman, 6th generation, son of Elnathan, was born in Farmington in 1783. He passed his boyhood in the family of his grandfather on the old family estate until 1799, when he lived with his father and managed the farm. After his father's death in 1813 he remained with his mother until 1823 when he purchased the estate of Adney Curtis at the upper end of Main Street, actually on Farmington Avenue, on the site of what is presently 767 Farmington Avenue, Farmington Valley Travel Agency. See photo on page 28 of Farmington Book, the Peter Curtiss place. This house had already been established as a hotel and Mr. Whitman and his wife continued it. He had been wed in 1812 to Elizabeth Whiting, born in Beverly, Mass., the daughter of Zenas Whiting and Leah Loring. Their hotel became widely known for its good cheer, comfort and cleanliness. Mr. Whitman was known for his great shrewdness and acuteness of observation. Their daughter Ann Sophia Whitman, 7th generation, born in 1816, inherited from her father the Whitman house on High Street, now the Farmington Museum, and she, married to Henry Farnam of New Haven in 1839, was the one who passed its title to the Farnam family. Mrs. William Whitman died in 1866, Mr. Whitman in 1876. Their son Charles Loring Whitman, also seventh generation, carried on the hotel business.

Solomon Whitman, 6th generation, son of Solomon, was born in Farmington in 1789. He occupied his father's homestead on the site of the Julius Gay house at 36 Main Street. He was judge of probate 1842-43, postmaster for many years, with the office in his house, never married, died in 1861. He was one of a large family of brothers and sister, who are mentioned as follows:

Susannah Whitman, born 1775, married Seth Cowles, their daughter Sarah Cowles married Dr. Edwin Carrington of Colton Street.

Polly Whitman, born 1777, married George Washington Hawley.

Lemuel Whitman, born 1780, married Emily Case of Canton, was a Member of Congress, and noted in legal work, lived at the north end of Main St in the house later moved to 7 Waterville Road.

Nancy Whitman, never married, did most of the clerical work of handling the postoffice in their house.

Edward, born 1792, married Almira Olmstead, resided adjoining his brother Solomon, perhaps in the old house of the Rev. Samuel Whitman, on the site of 44 Main Street.

Fanny Whitman, born 1794, married Seth Tillotson of Town Farm Road, living out there adjacent to the Farmington Canal which was built during her early married life.

Edward Whitman, born 1792 as noted above, was the father of Elizabeth Whitman who married Dr. William T. G. Morton, best known as discoverer of anesthesia, although Dr. Wells of Hartford is also a contender for that honor. He practiced in Boston.

Omitted from previous page regarding Solomon Whitman of 5th generation. He was civil engineer, managed large property with great judgement, highly esteemed and a leading man of the village.
Another member of the Whitman family worthy of note, was brought to mind by Donald Phelps, former resident of Farmington, whose son and daughter reside in Walla Walla, Washington, where he visits them.

A college there bears the name of Whitman College in honor of Dr. Marcus Whitman. Donald Phelps states that the following appears in the Collier Encyclopedia regarding him:

"Marcus Whitman, 1802-1847, American missionary to the Cayuse Indians, was born in Rushville, New York, on September 4, 1802. He entered the medical profession and was appointed medical missionary to the Indians by the American Board of Commissioners for Foreign Missions. In 1836, after a brief trip to the West in the preceding year, he married Narcissa Prentiss (spelled Prentice in the Whitman Genealogy), and left for the Oregon Country, where he made a settlement among the Cayuse Indians. Here Whitman converted the neighboring Indians to Christianity and taught them to farm and to engage in other useful occupations. In 1842-43 he made his famous ride to Washington, D. C. to urge the government to a strong stand against the British ambitions in the Oregon Territory, and to Boston to continue the mission. Certain Indians, suspicious because of Whitman's inability to cope with disease among the Indians, massacred Whitman, his wife, and twelve others near Walla Walla, Washington, on November 29, 1847."

Mr. Phelps states further:

"Fort Walla Walla is now a museum dedicated to the history of Marcus Whitman and his followers, and the Indians for whom he gave his life. .... This place is the stamping ground for a lot of tourists who are interested in Indian history as well as those who are interested in the shape and locations of the various buildings within the fort's walls."

It may be noted that the action of sending Dr. Whitman to Walla Walla in 1836 was only 26 years after the formation of the Missionary Board in Farmington in 1810. Dr. Whitman's lineage is as follows, beginning with the same John Whitman who headed the Farmington Whitmans:

John Whitman, born in England around 1602, settled in Weymouth, Massachusetts, living until 1692.

Thomas Whitman 1629?-1712, m. Abigail Byram
Nicholas Whitman 1675-1746, m. 1700 Sarah Vining, d. 1713
John Whitman 1704-1792, m. 1729 Elizabeth Cary, d. 1742
Samuel Whitman 1730-1824, m. 1757 Elizabeth Bonney, d. 1776
Beza Whitman 1773-1797, m. Alice Green
Marcus Whitman 1802-1847 m. Narcissa Prentice

August 24, 1973
The succession of ownership for the next few years is not clear to the writer, but there is on record a deed dated November 21, 1864, passing title from Fanny Tillotson, Solomon and Nancy's sister, married to Seth Tillotson of Town Farm Road, as heir to the estate, to Elizabeth Morton, wife of William T. G. Morton.

That Mrs. Morton was then the owner is confirmed by the caption "Mrs. Dr. Morton" in the Baker and Tilden 1869 Atlas, and by the following item on page 242 of "Town Clerks", which reads: "Voted that the Selectmen open and make a road from Main Street to the New Road (Canal Street, now Garden Street) at or near the south line of Mrs. Morton's land (Mrs. Morton lived in the old Howk's Hart house, where now stands the home of Florence Gay) at a cost not to exceed $300.00. This street was named Charpentier Avenue, renamed Porter Road". The Town Meeting at which the above action was taken was held in May 1870.

Mrs. Morton was Elizabeth, the daughter of Edward Whitman who had lived on the site of the house presently standing at 44 Main Street. She had been married in 1844 to Dr. William T. G. Morton, discoverer of anaesthesia (see account of 44 Main Street). Dr. and Mrs. Morton are said to have lived at one time at 37 High Street. Dr. Morton died in New York City in 1868.

Dr. Morton was said to have been of the Boston and Charleston, Massachusetts, area. The name of Morton has appeared rarely in the history of Farmington, but it is noted by Ellen Strong Bartlett in her story on page 145 of the Farmington Book, that in 1827 there was a Squire Morton here, a man of some authority, in fact she says that he "was deputy sheriff for the county for forty years", and it may be possible of course that he was a forebear of Dr. Morton.

All this guessing is beside the point however. Our interest for the moment is in the fact that it was from the widow Morton that Mr. Gay purchased this property. The deed was dated April 12, 1872, signed by Elizabeth W. Morton "of Wellesley, Massachusetts", and the property extended at that time all the way west to Garden Street, or New Road, as it was designated at that time.

Julius Gay was born on February 15, 1834, the son of Fisher Gay and his second wife Lucy Thompson. On his father's side his ancestors go back to John Gay, who was a Massachusetts settler in the 1630's, and include Col. Fisher Gay who came from Litchfield, built the homestead on Farmington Avenue, pictured on pages 12 and 210 of the Farmington Book, and who died in New York early in the Revolutionary War. Also on his paternal side was Governor Treadwell of Farmington. On his maternal side the ancestors included Capt. John Mason who fought the Peqots in 1637, Thomas Thomson who married the daughter of Governor Welles, and John Steele, the first town clerk of Farmington. Julius Gay had a deep love for Farmington and its history and devoted much of his adult life to the village, its history and its preservation.

December 10, 1971
Mr. Gay was, as a boy, prepared for Yale by Simeon Hart's School, and after Yale and Yale's Scientific School, where he studied engineering, he had earned a Ph. D. by 1858. He was county surveyor from 1858 to 1873. One of the projects during that time was the surveying of Walnut Hill Park in New Britain, the planning for which began in 1857, the layout being designed in 1869 by Olmstead & Vaux, authorities among park and landscape architects.

He served as the 18th Town Clerk, for one year only, 1860-61, and began at the same time an eight-year term of service as librarian, until 1868, succeeded by William E. Hart. The library was then housed in the newly-built records office, since torn down, on the site of the parish offices of the Congregational Church. At a meeting of the Ecclesiastical Society on May 5, 1871, he was appointed to a committee to "devise ways and means to have a proper celebration of the 100th anniversary of the building of our church". This was held Oct. 16, 1872.

Mr. Gay, described once as "a peppery little thing", is said to have first courted Grace Cowles, who later married his cousin Erastus. As Mr. and Mrs. Erastus Gay, they lived just south of him at 44 Main St.

Julius was married in 1862 to Maria Clarke, born in Cleveland in 1841, the daughter of Mervin Clarke and Carolyn Guptil. She had come to Farmington in 1847 to make her home with the mother of Henry Martin Cowles, Margaret Stanley, formerly of New Britain, the wife of John E. Cowles of 47 Main Street. Miss Clarke was a student at Miss Porter's School, especially proficient in music, which she also studied in New York, and later in Farmington with Karl Klauser. She kept up her music, greatly advanced her proficiency and was one of the original directors of Hartford School of Music. The Gays had four daughters, one of whom died in infancy. Lucy Carolyn died in 1869, aged three, Mabel Warner in 1880, aged five. Florence Thompson Gay lived to 85, died in 1952.

The Gays lived for a few years when first married, in the old Fisher Gay Homestead, which stood on the site of the present Farmington Country Club building. The rooms in that house "were paneled, furnished with the modish black walnut furniture of the period, covered with red Rep".

Their new house, the one presently standing at 36 Main Street, is described by Mrs. Hurlburt in "Town Clerks" on page 211 in these words: "The house is the opposite in every way from the low ceilinged house which stood there. It is high ceilinged, with marble mantels, wide halls and terraced gardens, and was furnished with Sheraton furniture, family silver and always books and music. Julius Gay enjoyed good music, and as a young man, finding himself with no musical instrument, he made his own organ and taught himself to play". For an open-house exhibition put on by the Antiquarian and Landmarks Society in 1947, special mention was made of "the old carpet which was ordered from Wilton, England".

Mr. Gay was Treasurer of the Farmington Savings Bank for the longest term ever served, from 1873 to 1911, and then served as its President from 1914 until his death in 1918.

December 10, 1971
As Mrs. Hurlburt says on page 210 of "Town Clerks":

"All his life Julius Gay was closely associated with the very center of intellectual achievements in Farmington and Hartford. He was not only a leader in thought and achievement in Farmington, but was one of the famous literary circle in Hartford, when it was made up of such nationally known names as Charles Dudley Warner, Col. Francis Gillette and his son William Hooker Gillette, John Hooker, Harriet Beecher Stowe, the Rev. Joseph Twitchell and Samuel Clemens. At these gatherings Mrs. Gay took her own place as an accomplished musician."

All of the above-named Hartford people, with the exception of the Rev. Joseph Twitchell, were of the "Nook Farm Group", formed around the residence of John Hooker. (See 44 Mountain Road). Members of this group often visited at the Julius Gay house, as recalled by Miss Florence Gay ("Flossie", or "Fluffy", to her intimates) in her later years. Mrs. Julius Gay was one of the favorites of Henry Martin Cowles, and on his list for orchids whenever they were available at his greenhouses at 47 Main Street.

Mr. Gay himself disliked publicity, was a member of no clubs, enjoyed the company of small groups of friends. He was a good friend of Miss Julia Brandegee, and they were fond of arranging tableaux for entertainment by local talent. His greatest enjoyment was his study of history and genealogy, and for this Farmington can be thankful.

Mrs. Hurlburt tells more of Mr. Gay's love for Farmington and its history on page 207 of "Town Clerks", quoted in part as follows: "The deep love that Julius Gay had for his native town was not content with the usual life of toil, recreation and comfortable living...... His greatest interest was in the history of the town of Farmington in all its phases, and his adult life was devoted in every spare hour to preserving, classifying and giving of his knowledge, all the traditions, stories, letters, family and town matters which came to his attention .... No detail was too small for his careful and watchful eye to see and his scholarly hand to record". His addresses before the Village Library, at the invitation of Miss Sarah Porter, later published as "Farmington Papers" by D. Newton Barney, told much of the history of Farmington, and should be read by everyone at all interested in this subject.

Julius Gay's writings have been quoted extensively also, in the text of "Farmington, Connecticut, Village of Beautiful Homes", (which the writer always calls the Farmington Book) published in 1906 by Arthur L. Brandeegee and Eddy H. Smith. Much of his work is preserved in the form of notes, in the files of the Connecticut Historical Society's headquarters at 1 Elizabeth Street, Hartford. Mrs. Hurlburt has covered Mr. Gay quite thoroughly on pages 207 to 214, inclusive, of "Town Clerks", and no one should fail to read it.

In 1900 Mr. Gay built for his sister-in-law, Mrs. Brittain, the house now known as 4 Porter Road, on land to which he retained title. After she moved away it was rented to various people, including Russell Lee Jones who lived there in his early married life. See photo on page 146 of the Farmington Book. Another house which shows in this photo, at the left, is the house which stands at 53 Garden Street, built also by Mr. Gay in 1900, as a home for the Timothy McCarthy family, Mr. McCarthy having been employed by Mr. Gay at this time.
Mr. Gay died on May 2, 1918, and his funeral drew many friends from Hartford. Mrs. Gay survived him, living until 1926.

Their daughter, Miss Florence Gay, inherited. She also had been a student at Miss Porter's School, was musically inclined, and had also studied art. Miss Gay continued living in the family home, accompanied by the housekeeper, keeping up the social customs and traditions of her parents.

Various people have described Miss Gay, and three of these are quoted in the following three paragraphs:

"She was a very interesting conversationalist, well read, and had traveled extensively. She could entertain the whole room while her teas were in progress".

"A tiny little lady, with the bearing of a little queen, a fascinating person, did quite a lot of painting. She did not get out much, but entertained in her library almost every Sunday, and an invitation was a command".

"A charming little lady, very tiny, only about THIS high, a real Victorian lady, a very remarkable person, who started painting at seventy. She would spend each winter away from here, usually Santa Barbara or St. Augustine, but sometimes Europe, and always studied while she was away. She was a close friend of Rose Churchill, and sometimes they painted together. Three of her very good friends were Mrs. Riddle, about her age and a Miss Porter's schoolmate, Catherine Day of the Stowe House in Hartford, and Mrs. Auerbach of G. Fox".

Miss Gay had planned at one time to leave her house as a nursing home, but friends showed her that a large endowment would be necessary, so she was very happy to will it to Miss Porter's School. She and her mother had both attended and also she was a very good friend of Mr. and Mrs. Robert Porter Keep of "Next Door", the beautiful house at 47 Main Street.

Florence Gay died in August 1952 at the age of 85.

June 26, 1972
Since we have spoken of Mr. Julius Gay as one of the historians of Farmington, it may be well at this point to list the various others, and put them into proper perspective.

Mrs. Hurlburt says on page 208 of "Town Clerks":

"The first historian of whom we find any mention, was Deacon Martin Bull, close friend and business associate of Governor John Treadwell.... He had gathered material for both the statistical as well as the social and political history of the town up to the years just subsequent to the War of the Revolution. This material was used by Governor Treadwell.

Mrs. Hurlburt goes on to say:

"Governor Treadwell evidently wrote at least a fragmentary history of Farmington, together with most eloquent views on the progress of the town.... Only a few pages, often quoted, and published in the Trumbull Memorial History of Hartford County, are now extant."

One of the pages often quoted is his warning concerning the trend from work and frugality, toward extravagance and ease. See page 74 of "Town Clerks".

The third historian is discussed on page 208 of "Town Clerks" by Mrs. Hurlburt in the following words:

"The first carefully prepared history of the town, based on a scholarly search of the records for the first 200 years, was the address delivered by Noah Porter Jr., at the 200th anniversary of the settlement of the town, on November 4, 1840. Mr. Porter's address was painstakingly exact as to historical data, with much detail in the appendix, and was combined with the philosophy and true Christianity which not only made him a great man in his generation, and one of Yale's great presidents, but made excerpts from his address particularly applicable one hundred years later, at the 300th anniversary service."

Dr. Noah Porter, Jr., president of Yale, delivered the historical discourse thirty-two years later, at this same meeting-house, at a celebration of the 100th anniversary of the dedication of the meeting house. This gave a very complete history of the building, and also of many of its ministers and of the members of the church, who had influenced it over the years. This latter was reprinted 100 years later, at the 200th anniversary in 1972, and should be required reading for all interested in Farmington history, and the secondary addresses, appended, should not be overlooked, as they too are full of history.

Next would come the Rev. Noah Porter, father of the above-mentioned, who himself, at his own 50th anniversary as pastor, preached an anniversary sermon of a historical nature, which brought up to date the previous address by his son.

August 27, 1973
Fifth in the sequence would be Julius Gay, six years of age in 1840, who probably heard and remembered President Porter's famous discourse. His own discourses over the 1890's principally, constitute much of his written history. His great quantity of genealogical notes however, now on file in the cabinets of the State Historical Society, constitute the results of much of his patient research regarding Farmington families, and have aided many Farmington residents in obtaining pensions for military service, and memberships in historical societies such as the Sons or Daughters of the American Revolution.

Arthur Brandegee followed him, not in the writing of history, of which he did none, but in his compilation of historical writings as appear in the Farmington Book, which he, together with Eddy H. Smith, published in 1906. This book, now a collector's item, is still very popular, certainly very treasured by its owners, and a stimulation toward the study of Farmington history by its many references to early Farmington residents.

Richard M. Bissell, Jr., an orderly thinker even in his youth, took the rather disorganized Farmington Book in hand in 1927, and wrote a shorter but much more logically arranged history. While his work contains perhaps nothing not contained in the Farmington Book, it is much better arranged, and with no pictures for diversion, is valuable for a serious reader of factual material.

The Rev. Quincy Blakely, pastor of the Congregational Church from 1905 until 1937, wrote for the Connecticut State Tercentenary Commission a 29-page pamphlet entitled "Farmington, One of the Mother Towns of Connecticut", using a designation first suggested by Elihu Burritt in 1872, covering the highlights of Farmington's history.

A few years later Mrs. J. Ellicott Hewes, the former Lydia Brandegee, wrote a history for the tricentennial of the first settlement in Farmington in 1940. It is longer and more comprehensive than that of Mr. Blakely, but not long enough to become boring. It is very popular, was updated a few years ago, is now in its third printing, and depicts the basic history of the village in her always interesting and lucid manner.

Mrs. Frederick F. Hurlburt, Mabel Spencer Hurlburt, born in Bristol and a Farmington resident since about 1911, has written in great volume and in great detail. Her two published volumes are "Farmington Town Clerks and Their Times", published in 1943, and "Farmington, Church and Town", published in 1967. Both are required reading for any serious student of Farmington history, and are very interesting and very comprehensive, up to the dates of their publication.

The writer would certainly never have gotten very far without them in his biographical history of Farmington's houses. This will be noticed through his multitude of quotations from her works, especially from "Town Clerks", the writer's term for her first book.

August 27, 1973
The first occupants of this house after it became the property of Miss Porter’s School were Mr. and Mrs. Wellesley Wright and their daughter Phyllis. Mr. Wright is the son of Percy Ernest Alexander Wright of Ancaster, Ontario, Canada, not far from Hamilton on the west end of Lake Ontario. Mr. Wright’s mother was the former Ethelynde Reed Lee of Taunton, Massachusetts. The elder Mr. Wright had come to the United States in his teens. After serving his apprenticeship with a New York dyestuffs and chemicals manufacturer, he went into business for himself selling their products. For several years he and one of his brothers owned and operated a silk mill in Riverpoint, Rhode Island. When hard times hit the New England textile industry he sold the mill and returned to the selling of chemicals. For the first thirty years of his life Wellesley’s home was a large stone house in Peace Dale, Rhode Island, which had been purchased by his father because it reminded him so much of his former Ontario home. This house had been built about the time of the Civil War out of massive granite blocks quarried nearby.

Wellesley was a graduate of the then twenty-five year old St. George’s School in Newport, where he formed a life-long friendship with his school-mate Ogden Nash. He taught three years at St. George’s after graduation from Brown, then entered the business world in the foreign department of Union Carbide. After a year and a half in the New York office he was sent to China to help establish manufacturing and distributing facilities for their Eveready flashlights and batteries. Headquarters were in Shanghai, but as he was responsible for the operation of several branch offices, Wellesley lived for varying lengths of time in Hankow, Tientsin, Hong Kong, and traveled in fourteen of the then seventeen provinces of China.

It was in Shanghai, in a night club (despite the unbelief of his MPS girls) that he met his future wife, Ardeane Henningsen. Miss Henningsen is the daughter of Anker Paulsen Henningsen of Denmark and the former Phyliss Bailye of England, both of whom had come to the United States at about the age of sixteen. Mr. Henningsen’s parents had first settled in Nebraska and then moved to Butte, Montana. Early in life Anker Henningsen built up a thriving network of companies processing and distributing dairy and poultry products throughout the Northwest. He was the first to ship refrigerated cargo to the Far East on the old Empress liners out of Vancouver, British Columbia.

When Ardeane was four, Mr. Henningsen moved his family and his business headquarters to Portland, Oregon. When the family had grown to four boys and four girls they moved to a lovely garden-surrounded home which had been the Massachusetts Building at the Lewis and Clark Exposition, which had been held in 1926. He then went to the Orient and in Shanghai purchased a company engaged in the freezing and drying of eggs, most of which were exported to European countries. By the time he died at the early age of 53, three sons, one daughter and a son-in-law were living in China, where the family business had been expanded to include the manufacture and distribution of ice cream and candy. Shortly thereafter a model dairy was established just outside Shanghai with the ultimate in equipment, and thoroughbred cattle imported from the United States.

May 14, 1972
In 1928 Mrs. Henningsen took the youngest son and three daughters with her and joined the rest of her family in China so that Ardeane and Wellesley could keep their appointment with destiny -- and each other -- in a Shanghai night club. Life in Shanghai at that time was fascinating, with people of many nationalities working and playing together, living in comfortable "foreign style" homes with many servants, enjoying every conceivable form of outdoor activity by day and plenty of variety in "after-dark" entertainment.

All this halcyon life was not to last however. 1937 came, and with it came trouble with Japan. It was foreseen, and Mrs. Wright and her baby daughter Phyllis returned to the States that spring, and to her mother's summer place in Gearhart, Oregon. Wellesley returned in the fall, but one of her brothers, after the dairy and its stock had been strafed and destroyed, was interned there for over a year.

Mr. Wright found new employment with Masonite. They found a home in Pelham, New York, but Wellesley's first assignment was to Latin America. There he was to make a survey of all that area, studying the distribution and marketing possibilities for masonite, at that time a comparatively new product. The five month assignment turned into thirteen, while his wife and daughter waited for him in Pelham. All of Central America, all of South America except Paraguay, and many of the Caribbean Islands were surveyed. The impending war however, slowed down this promotion, and after a short time in the paint department of United States Gypsum, Wellesley found himself in Washington, D. C., with the Board of Economic Welfare.

An opening came for him in 1942, in Phillips-Exeter Academy in Exeter, New Hampshire, and he was back with what he loved --- the teaching of youngsters. After four years with Exeter came an opportunity to teach at Miss Porter's School. Here he began in 1946 an employment which was to please him and his family and the school for twenty-five years.

Mr. Wright served MPS as mathematics teacher, college advisor, athletic coach and assistant headmaster, under the administrations of Ward Johnson, Hollis French and Richard W. Davis. College guidance was finally taken from him in 1965, when Mrs. Stirling Thomas was given this post on a full-time basis. Mr. Wright coached volley ball, baseball, bowling and tennis, and he certainly did not have much idle time.

Mr. Wright said "I guess my wife and I were the first house parents at MPS. We lived on one floor of 'The Cottage' (to the rear of Ward), all of us, with four ninth grade girls". This suited Mrs. Wright too. She was familiar with this type of school, having attended St. Helen's Hall in Portland, Oregon.

When the Wrights took over the former home of Miss Florence Gay, all of her downstairs furniture remained in place, and all the same wallpaper stayed on. They even found some matching wallpaper in the attic to cover a bare space where a knick-knack cupboard was removed from a hallway. The third floor was re-modeled to accommodate three teachers, the second floor was for the Wrights, and the main floor was for everybody.

May 14, 1972
Mr. Wright's parents lived with them for a while after his father's retirement, but his father died in the 1940's. His mother later lived some time in West Hartford, and at the Elm Tree Inn, and in the apartment of the McBrien-Boyle house at 10 Main Street. She also is deceased.

Mr. Wright retired in June 1971, and his retirement party was well attended by faculty, pupils and parents. His old schoolmate Ogden Nash, who had been speaker at the 1970 MPS graduation, wrote one of his last poems, "A Song of Wellesley Wright", for the occasion. The wrights are staying in Farmington --- "We have lived here 25 years and like it, our friends are here, our daughter is nearby, in Massachusetts --- so why not?" And there is no reason at all to the contrary, Farmington likes them too! They are not idle by any means, Mr. Wright is constable, registrar of voters, and treasurer of the Republican town committee, and both are interested in other civic and social affairs.

Their only child is their daughter Phyllis. She and her husband, Donelson Caffrey Glassie, Jr., and their two children, Elizabeth, 10, and Thomas, 6, live in Uxbridge, Massachusetts. Mr. and Mrs. Glassie are both in the business of importing clothing from Spain, Austria and Hong Kong, and distributing it to the U. S. markets. They operate out of their own home. Phyllis has also written three cookbooks: "How to Cook my Deer", "Ski Fare" and "How to Cook a Fowl Meal".

The Wellesley Wrights presently reside in the garden apartments on Garden Street.

May 14, 1972

Wellesley Wright's father died in Farmington in October, 1948. He had been born in Dundas, Ontario, the son of Matthew Wright of England and Jemima Leith of Scotland.
36 Main Street

Occupants of this house since September 1971 have been Mr. and Mrs. Warren S. Hance and their children.

Mr. Hance, son of Winfield W. Hance and Janette Smock, was born in Red Bank, New Jersey. The Hance family had come earlier from England. The Smock family were migrants from Holland, coming to New Jersey from the Dutch settlements along the upper Hudson River valley. Winfield Hance, a car salesman, presently resides in Little River, New Jersey.

Warren S. Hance is a graduate of Dartmouth, with an MA from Columbia University 1965. He met his future wife through her brother, a fraternity brother of Warren's at Dartmouth. Mr. Hance was a commissioned officer in the U. S. Airforce, serving a year each in New Mexico and Korea, and later was in the construction business seven years. All this was prior to his entry into the educational field, that entry bringing him into Buffalo Seminary, a girls' school in Buffalo, New York. Mr. Hance came to Farmington in 1967 as instructor in American History, later succeeding Wellesley Wright as Assistant Headmaster. He still conducts some classes in American History.

Mrs. Hance is the former Alice Kerwood Fridlund, born in Englewood, New Jersey, while her parents, H. Maurice Fridlund and the former Edith St. John, were living in Tenafly, New Jersey.

In Sweden Mr. Fridlund's father was Gustaf Olson, but upon coming to America he changed his family name to Fridlund (literally Peaceful Glen) the name of a beautiful estate near his home in Sweden. Gustaf Fridlund had come to the United States in the 1860's and was a business man in Sioux City, Iowa. The mother of H. Maurice Fridlund was Hilmar Bergman, who died in Sioux City in 1971 at the age of 101. Maurice Fridlund's first name is Hilmer, which he does not use, except for the initial H. He is a graduate of the former Iowa College at Grinnell, now known simply as Grinnell College. He was later graduated from Harvard Law School and also spent two years studying in Paris and Berlin. Upon his return to the U. S. he was immediately hired by Kirklin, Campbell and Keating, a law firm at 120 Broadway, New York, from which he retired as its head in 1970. He has since taught, principally for the fun of it, at Grinnell College, and presently at Kansas Wesleyan University.

Mr. Fridlund's wife, Edith St. John, had been born in Cedar Rapids, Iowa. The St. John family had left Boston early in Colonial times as dissenters and had settled in Ridgefield, Connecticut, where the first pew in the Congregational Church was theirs. A branch of the family moved west to Iowa. Edith St. John Fridlund died in 1965.

Alice Fridlund, now Mrs. Warren Hance, attended Mt. Holyoke College in Massachusetts, leaving there after two years, for marriage. She attended the University of New Mexico while Mr. Hance was stationed there, and Monmouth College while they later lived in New Jersey. She will soon earn the few more credits she needs for graduation. She has worked in the office of Miss Porter's School and now teaches at the newly opened MPS nursery school.

January 21, 1973
The Hances recently purchased an old farm and seventy acres of woodland in Dover-Foxcroft, Maine, thirty miles south-east of Moosehead Lake, where they spent a delightful Christmas in 1972, and where the family will spend their future vacations from Miss Porter's School.

The Hance family is pleased to live in the former home of Miss "Flossie Gay", and treasure the mementos of her time which are still in the house. Two paintings which were done by Miss Gay are on display, one a still life, and the other entitled "Birds of Paradise". A small framed photograph of Mark Twain, who visited here, autographed by him for Miss Gay's mother, carries advice in his own handwriting which reads: "Always do right - this will gratify some people and astonish the rest".

There are two fireplaces in the house and three grills --- no built-in cabinets in the kitchen, but two large pantries ad-joining the kitchen. The fireplace in the living room is uniquely framed with a mantel of wood which is superbly inlaid and carved.

A list of guests who attended Miss Gay's Sunday afternoon teas is also in the house. Her teas were rather in the nature of "command performances", and invited guests would not easily be excused for failure to attend.

Mr. and Mrs. Hance lived at 90 Main Street when they first came to Farmington in 1967, and lived there until they came to occupy the Miss Florence Gay house in 1971. Their two children are Allen St. John Hance, now in Renbrook School in West Hartford, and Lindsay Elaine Hance, who attends Farmington's Noah Wallace School.

January 21, 1973