**HISTORIC RESOURCES INVENTORY**
**BUILDING AND STRUCTURES**

**STATE OF CONNECTICUT**
**CONNECTICUT HISTORICAL COMMISSION**
**59 SOUTH PROSPECT STREET, HARTFORD, CONNECTICUT 06106**
**(203) 566-3005**

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**FOR OFFICE USE ONLY**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Town No.</th>
<th>Site No.</th>
<th>198</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>UTM</td>
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<tr>
<td>QUAD</td>
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<tr>
<td>DISTRICT</td>
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<td>IF NR SPECIFY</td>
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<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>1. BUILDING NAME (Common) (Historic)</th>
<th>Cowles, Major Timothy, House</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>2. TOWN CITY</td>
<td>Village</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3. STREET AND NUMBER (and or location)</td>
<td>Street</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>4. OWNER(S)</td>
<td>Miss Porter’s School, Inc.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>5. USE (Present)</td>
<td>Archive and apartments</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
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**ACCESSIBILITY TO PUBLIC**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>EXTERIOR VISIBLE FROM PUBLIC ROAD</th>
<th>Yes</th>
<th>No</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>INTERIOR ACCESSIBLE</td>
<td>Yes</td>
<td>X No</td>
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</tbody>
</table>

**IF YES EXPLAIN**

**DATE OF CONSTRUCTION**

| 1815 |

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**STYLE OF BUILDING**

| Federal |

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**MATERIALS** (Indicate use or location when appropriate)

- X Clapboard
- X Asbestos Siding
- X Brick
- X Other (Specify) |
- Wood Shingle
- X Asphalt Siding
- X Fieldstone
- Board & Batten
- X Stucco
- X Cobblestone
- Aluminum Siding
- X Concrete
- X Cut stone
- X Brownstone foundation

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**STRUCTURAL SYSTEM**

- X Wood frame
- X Post and beam
- X Balloon
- X Other (Specify) |
- Load bearing masonry
- X Structural iron or steel

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**ROOF (Type)**

- X Gable
- X Flat
- X Mansard
- X Monitor
- X Sawtooth
- Gambrel
- X Shed
- X Hip
- X Round
- X Other (Specify) |
- X Wood Shingle
- X Roll
- X Asphalt
- X Tin
- X Slate
- X Asphalt shingle
- X Built up
- X Tile
- X Other (Specify) |

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**NUMBER OF STORIES**

| 2½ |

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**APPROXIMATE DIMENSIONS**

| 28 x 18; 40 x 18; 30 x 63 |

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**CONDITION (Structural)**

- X Excellent
- X Good
- X Fair
- X Deteriorated

---

**INTEGRITY** (Location)

- X Excellent
- X Good
- X Fair
- X Deteriorated

---

**RELATED OUTBUILDINGS OR LANDSCAPE FEATURES**

- X Barn
- X Shed
- X Garage
- X Other landscape features or buildings (Specify) |
- Carriage house
- X Shop
- X Garden

---

**SURROUNDING ENVIRONMENT**

- X Open land
- X Woodland
- X Residential
- X Scattered buildings visible from site |
- Commercial
- X Industrial
- X Rural
- X High building density

---

**INTERRELATIONSHIP OF BUILDING AND SURROUNDINGS**

Located on the southeast corner of Main and Church streets, the Major Timothy Cowles House sits in the heart of Farmington’s historic village. Part of the Miss Porter’s School complex, the house is separated from the rest of the campus by the Farmington Congregational Church and Sarah Porter Memorial which lie to the north.

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**OVERI**
This grand Federal-period dwelling built in 1815 retains a wealth of detail. Oriented gable to-street, the two-and-one-half story, three-bay facade exhibits a full-height entry portico with four, fluted classical columns. The fully pedimented gable end is embellished with an elliptical fanlight with tracery and a modillioned cornice. The ornate side-hall entry exhibits an intricate door surround with sidelights and elliptical fanlight. Above the entry on the second floor is a Palladian window. Extending from both the north and south elevations are matching cross gables with similar decorative full-height porticos. Both wings exhibit three fluted columns, a pedimented gable, a delicate classical entry door on the west elevation, and first floor full-height sash. Twelve-over-twelve sash are featured throughout the rest of the house.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>ARCHITECT</th>
<th>Selah Porter</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>BUILDER</td>
<td>Selah Porter</td>
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</tbody>
</table>

This house was built in 1815 for Major Timothy Cowles on land owned by his wife, Catherine (Deming) Cowles. Captain Selah Porter was architect/builder. Famous clockmaker, Chauncey Jerome wrote in his autobiography, "In 1815, I moved to the town of Farmington and went to work for Capt. Selah Porter, for twenty dollars per month. We built a house for Maj. Timothy Cowles, which was then the best one in Farmington". Major Timothy Cowles (1784-1858) was the second son of Col. Isaac and Lucina (Hooker) Cowles. He was a wealthy merchant as well as successful farmer. Major Cowles and his brother, Horace were partners in a prosperous mercantile enterprise from 1803 to 1808. Later in 1830, Major Cowles erected the large Union Hotel (60 Main Street) to accommodate the many travelers passing through town on the Farmington Canal. He was an active member in the 14th Connecticut Militia and was elected to the State Legislature and Senate several times. The Major was also a director of the Hartford Bank and the first president of the Farmington Savings Bank. In 1809 he married Catherine Deming (1787-1859), the only child of Chauncey Deming, one of Farmington's wealthiest men. Upon the major's death the homestead was distributed to his son, Chauncey Deming Cowles (FPR 13:56). The younger Cowles received the homestead lot from his mother's estate in 1860 (FPR 13:88). Chauncey Deming Cowles (1812-1880) graduated from Yale in 1838 and later from the Yale Theological Seminary. From 1841 to 1843 he served as the pastor of the Plainville Congregational Church. Because of a weak voice, Cowles retired from the ministry in 1844 and moved to Buffalo, New York, where he manufactured starch. In 1853 he returned to Farmington to engage in farming. Cowles held many town offices including town clerk, town register, school visitor. (see cont. pg.)

Sources:

Photographer: Nathan Ainspan

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<thead>
<tr>
<th>VIEW</th>
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<td>E</td>
<td>16:11A</td>
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<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>NAME</th>
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</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Elizabeth R. Hart</td>
<td>2/86</td>
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<thead>
<tr>
<th>ORGANIZATION</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Greater Middletown Preservation Trust</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>ADDRESS</th>
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</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>27 Washington Street, Middletown, CT</td>
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</table>

justice of the peace, road commissioner, and treasurer. He and his wife, Jane Eliza (Bidwell) Cowles (1813-1889), had two sons: Walter and Samuel. Mrs. Cowles inherited the house in 1881 and remained here until her death in 1889 (FPR 17:24). The property was distributed to Samuel H. Cowles in late 1889 (FLR 70:153). Waldo K. Chase acquired the house in 1898 (FLR 71:388). A retired industrialist, Mr. Chase resided here with his wife, the former Ada F. Wood. The property remained in the Chase family until 1955 when it was purchased by Miss Porter's School (FLR 125:539). Today the building is used as an archive and faculty apartments.

One of Farmington's finest residences, the Major Timothy Cowles House stands as a well-preserved example of Federal-period architecture. The house is historically important for its association with the Cowles family, prominent nineteenth century merchants.
For: Major Timothy Cowles

Architect: Capt. Selah Porter

Master-Builder: 


This house is pictured on page 23 of the Farmington Book as "Byde-a-Whyle, built by Major Timothy Cowles, residence of Waldo K. Chase". It is shown on Baker and Tilden's Atlas of 1869 as "C. D. Cowles", and was written up in 1913 for the Colonial Dames Society as "The Waldo K. Chase House".

It was built by Major Timothy Cowles in 1815, and as stated by Mrs. Hurlburt on page 189 of Town Clerks: "The house was on the site of the former Amos Cowles Tavern".

It was in this tavern on December 12, 1774, that a committee of 52 men met after the Town of Farmington had approved of the Association of the Continental Congress, and set up the machinery for carrying out the provisions of that Congress. The Amos Cowles Tavern at that time was the house next south of the meeting house. The property on which it stood was part of that owned by Settler John Cowles, which extended from Church Street south, including the site of what is now 7 Colton Street.

Amos Cowles was of the fourth generation of the Cowles family and his father was Capt. Isaac Cowles whose home had been on High Street, and who perhaps had lived on the site of 56 Main Street, where his son Elijah later lived. Capt. Isaac's five sons lived on wide spread parts of Main Street, Elijah the farthest north, then Amos, then Solomon at 149, Ezekiel at 185, and James in the house farthest south, that now occupied by Mrs. Percy Cowles.

Julia Gay describes Major Timothy Cowles on page 81 of the Farmington Book as "a broad-minded, large hearted man. Many a poor family would witness to his large benevolence. He loved to see his fellow men prosper in life and gave employment to many laborers, allowing liberal wages to all".

Regarding the site of the house, Julius Gay says on page 19 of the same book "crossing the now vacant lot where once flourished the famous inn of Amos Cowles, we reach the house with Ionic columns built by the late Major Timothy Cowles". Mr. Gay apparently believed that the old tavern stood a little south of the present house, which would have made it stand between #87 and #93.

Marguerite Allis, in "Connecticut Trilogy", enlarges on a quotation which Mr. Gay had mentioned in his account of the house. She says: "South of the meeting house is a lordly mansion possessing not one pillared portico, but three! Concerning it Chauncey Jerome, the famous clockmaker, wrote under date of 1815 that he 'moved to Farmington and went to work for Captain Selah Porter for twenty dollars a month to build a house for Major Timothy Cowles, which was then the best one in town'. The question of 'best' is like all comparisons, odious, but among all the beautiful houses in the beautiful village, there is still no peer to Major Timothy's storybook mansion. It is a place for the housing of Chinese porcelains and peacock feather fans; for the drinking of China tea out of Lowestoft cups and sipping Madeira from gossamer glasses brought from the far shores of the Adriatic."

January 18, 1972
904.
Chauncey Jerome, who was quoted briefly on the previous page, also told some more about his stay in Farmington. In substance, it is the following:

Peace with England was declared in February 1815, and shortly after that he married Salome Smith of Plymouth, Connecticut. A short time later they came to Farmington. He hired a house from Chauncey Deming and went to work for Selah Porter. After this house at 87 Main Street had been built for Major Cowles, Jerome wished to return to Plymouth, but had not the money to pay his rent, which he said was not due anyway until next May. Mr. Deming tried to prevent him leaving until he had paid the rent, but upon a solemn promise he let him go. When the rent was due Jerome walked back to Farmington and paid it, and returned the same day "feeling happy".

January 15, 1974
Marguerite Allis goes on to say:

"Here within a stone's throw of the primitive Hart house is a mansion scarce a century and a half removed from the harsh days of pioneer austerity and, thus contrasted, the two present an unsurpassed example of Connecticut's progress. By reason of opportunity for rich comparison Farmington is especially suited for meditation on the colorful pageant of America's three centuries of history, on that upward flight from an Indian's wilderness to the world's greatest commonwealth".

Note: The Hart house which Miss Allis mentioned, is the house at 80 Main Street, which she also covered in the same book, and which she also admired, particularly the divided front stairway.

Mrs. Hurlburt speaks of Major Timothy Cowles on page 188 of "Town Clerks" in the following words: "He was the second son of Col. Isaac Cowles and was born in the old family homestead on Main Street facing Meadow Road. Col. Isaac Cowles owned much property and was a frugal and prosperous farmer, and his son Timothy learned to manage a farm, acquired an excellent education, taught school in the South School District at the age of eighteen, and soon learned to not only work hard himself, but to make money work for him. He built the famous stone store on Main Street, which was destroyed by Farmington's great fire July 21, 1864, leasing it when completed to Austin F. Williams and Henry Mygatt who sold dry goods, groceries and country store sundries there. Miss Sarah Porter had her first classes there in 1843..."In 1815, three years after the birth of his son Chauncey Deming Cowles, Major Timothy Cowles built the large and stately residence just south of the Congregational church. The work was done by Captain Selah Porter who lived in the ancient Cowles house on Colton Road". Note: Now #7 Colton Road.

The Cowles ancestry in America is as follows:

John Cowles, the Settler, born in England,
    m. Hannah
Samuel Cowles, 1639-1691, born in Hartford
    m. Abigail Stanley, dau. of Timothy Stanley, see 48 Main St.
Capt. Isaac Cowles, 1675-1756,
    m. Elizabeth Smith
Capt. Solomon Cowles, 1719-1793, lived at 149 Main St.,
    m. Martha Seymour
Col. Isaac Cowles, 1756-1837
    m. Lucina Hooker, dau. of Roger Hooker of 24 Main St.

Major Timothy Cowles, 1784-1858, was married in 1809 to Catherine Deming, daughter of Chauncey Deming, astute and wealthy business man and merchant of Farmington.

January 18, 1972

Major Cowles was Quartermaster of the 15th Connecticut Militia in 1808, and by 1815 had risen to Major, although by that time the regiment was known as the 14th. He was director of the Hartford Bank for several years, Representative to the General Assembly several terms, State Senator in 1835, and became a member of the Yale Corporation that same year.
Children of Major and Mrs. Timothy Cowles were:

Jennette Cowles, 1810-1887, who married Austin Franklin Williams. See account of 127 Main Street.

Chauncey Deming Cowles, 1812-1880, who married Jane Eliza Bidwell. Mentioned later in this account.

Catherine Lucina Cowles, 1817-1854, who was married in 1843 to the Rev. Raymond Hoyt Seeley, 1812-1885, of Bristol. They had four children born in Farmington, later moved to Springfield, where Mrs. Seeley died in 1854. Mr. Seeley later moved to Haverhill, Mass., and died in 1885. One of their children was Jennette Cowles Seeley, who inherited the hotel building at 60 Main Street, which was sold to Miss Sarah Porter.

In 1803 Major Cowles joined in a business partnership with his elder brother Horace Cowles, and they purchased the Deacon Samuel Richards' store, which stood north of the present Corner House, and where Horace had already been working for Deacon Richards. This partnership was terminated in 1808, when Major Cowles sold his interest to Horace.

In 1830 Major Cowles built the hotel building at 60 Main Street, which now is the main building of Miss Porter's School. Mr. Gay stated this as follows: "built by Major Cowles as a hotel to accommodate the vast concourse of travelers about to come to the Village by way of the Farmington Canal". The "concourse" did not materialize. In 1833 he and his wife mortgaged the hotel and also their home to secure a loan of $30,000.00 from the Treasurer of the State of Connecticut. The state's claim was satisfied in 1854 and the property was quit-claimed to Mrs. Cowles by the state treasurer. It was some time prior to this that Miss Porter had begun using it for her school. She purchased it from heirs of Major and Mrs. Cowles in 1866.

In 1842 Major Cowles was chosen to be a representative to the state legislature for Farmington, and in 1851 he became first president of the Farmington Savings Bank, holding this office until 1853.

Major Cowles was also interested financially in Unionville industries, and it was he who constructed the dam at the mouth of Roaring Brook, thus furnishing power for one of the earliest of Unionville's industries.

Major Cowles died in 1858, giving life use of his residence to his widow, but she survived him only one year and the property was divided among the three children, or their survivors, in the case of the daughter Catherine who had pre-deceased them. The son, Chauncey Deming Cowles, received title to this residence and its outbuildings.

Chauncey Deming Cowles had been married since 1835 to Jane Eliza Bidwell, daughter of Abner Bidwell and Sylvia Curtiss.

January 18, 1972
Chauncey D. Cowles became in 1854 the 16th Town Clerk of Farmington, and the first, in 1855, to occupy the new Town Records office on School Street. Mrs. Hurlburt speaks of him on page 188 of "Town Clerks" as follows: "The name Chauncey Deming Cowles, bestowed upon a son born June 27, 1812, to Major Timothy Cowles and his wife Catherine Deming, imposed life-long obligations upon both child and man. The name was at once a burden and a blessing, carrying as it did the hopes that all that was best in both the Cowles and Deming families would be blended in this man child, and at the same time holding up the examples of fore-fathers for two hundred years past, for the child to match in his future years."

Mrs. Hurlburt goes on to tell, on page 189, of his life, which she describes as follows: "Chauncey Deming Cowles was graduated from Yale College in 1834, M. A., and from Yale Theological Seminary, serving the Congregational Church in Plainville as its pastor from 1841 to 1843, but his voice failing, he retired from the ministry and in 1844 engaged in the manufacture of starch in Buffalo, New York. On January 31, 1835, the year after his graduation, he married Jane Eliza Bidwell, daughter of Abner Bidwell, also one of Farmington's leading business men and at various times, owner of many of the larger houses in Farmington and Unionville. Their life together was unusually harmonious and their home was always open to their large circle of family and friends."

Mr. Cowles' health not being of the best, he returned to Farmington from Buffalo in 1853. At the death of his father, Major Timothy Cowles, in 1858, he settled in his father's large and comfortable home to a life of ease and quiet comfort. In 1854, the year after his return, he was first chosen town clerk and registrar, serving until 1859. Among other offices which he held were those of quartermaster 14th Regiment Connecticut Militia Cavalry 1833-37, school visitor 1855-58, justice of the peace, member board of education, librarian of the Farmington Library during 1855, road commissioner, and was again elected town clerk 1871, serving one term.

He was assisted in his later years of service as town clerk by Edwin G. Sumner. On October 6, 1879 he was chosen Town Treasurer, but perhaps never served in this post.

To quote again from Mrs. Hurlburt: "He died January 12, 1880, after a long feebleness resulting from an infection of the lungs, leaving his entire estate to his wife. 'He was universally loved and respected for his exemplary life and Christian virtues'........ Thus for sixty-eight years lived Chauncey Deming Cowles, making every effort to live the life bequeathed to him by his pioneer forebears John Deming and John Cowles."

Mr. and Mrs. Chauncey Deming Cowles had two children, Walter and Samuel.

January 18, 1972
To show the distant relationship between Walter Curtiss Cowles and his wife, who will be mentioned in the first paragraph of the next page, the following chart is presented:

Captain Solomon Cowles 1719-1793
m. Martha Seymour

Col. Isaac Cowles 1756-
m. Lucina Hooker

Zenas Cowles 1762-1835
m. Mary Lewis

Timothy Cowles 1784-1858
m. Catherine Deming

Chauncey D. Cowles 1812-
m. Eliza Bidwell

Walter Curtiss Cowles married Helen Maria Cowles 1841-

Julia Ann Cowles, who married Thomas Cowles, shown in the above chart, was the daughter of Gad Cowles, 1768-1848, and Anna Deming.

Gad Cowles was the son of Isaac Cowles, 1727-1793, and Eunice Gould.

Isaac Cowles was the brother of the Capt. Solomon Cowles who heads the above list.

January 15, 1974
Walter Curtiss Cowles, their elder son, born in 1836, was first married to Helen Maria Cowles in 1860. Helen was a distant cousin, born in 1841, the daughter of Thomas Cowles of Oldgate and his first wife Julia Anna Cowles, who died while still quite young. Walter and Helen's nearest common ancestor was Capt. Solomon Cowles, Walter's great-grandfather and Helen's grandfather, of what is now 149 Main Street. Walter and his wife lived in Farmington until 1861, when they moved to Hastings, Minnesota, where Walter became a merchant. They had two children, William Deming Cowles, born in Farmington in 1861, eventually lived in Chicago. Katherine Hooker Cowles, born in Minnesota, was later a nurse in Greenfield, Massachusetts. Walter's wife Helen died sometime prior to 1893, and in that year Walter married Catherine Virginia Jenkins. In 1908 Walter was an accountant, he and his wife living in Buffalo.

Samuel Hooker Cowles, their younger son, born 1846, married Martha Keyes, daughter of David Keyes of Unionville. They had a daughter Julia Keyes Cowles, born 1875, and a son Chauncey Deming Cowles, born in 1877. They lived in Buffalo, where Samuel Cowles died in 1902.

Upon the death of Chauncey Deming Cowles in 1880, this house was inherited by his widow, and after her death in 1889, by their son Samuel Hooker Cowles.

It was sold by Samuel Cowles in 1898 to Waldo K. Chase.

Waldo K. Chase, born in Stillwater, New York in 1847, was the son of Luther Chase. He was a retired industrialist, who came here from Cambridge, Massachusetts. He was a Civil War veteran with a large scar on the side of his face, having been hit by a sniper's bullet. Lockjaw resulted from the wound, but the young soldier recovered. Mrs. Chase, the former Ada F. Wood, born in Troy, New York in 1851, was the daughter of Ephraim Wood and Elizabeth Styles.

Extensive alterations were made to the house after the purchase by Mr. Chase, and the work was done by Henry Hall Mason, who added the pillars to the east end and north side of the house. The house was written up in the July 1907 issue of American Homes and Gardens.

There were three children in the Chase family; Ralph, Grace and Marguerite. Part of the coach house in the rear was large enough for basketball practice, and the girls of the neighborhood formed two teams and played there frequently. Helen Wadsworth, now Mrs. Truman Sanford, was one who thoroughly enjoyed this sport.

Ralph Waldo Chase, the son, attended Brown & Nichols School in Cambridge, Massachusetts, and also St. Paul's, and later was a graduate of Yale. He was married twice. His first marriage was in Orange, New Jersey, in 1910. The second was in Farmington, when in 1922 he married Ruth Elizabeth Blanchard, daughter of Frederick Blanchard, one of the sons of the founder of Prudential Life Insurance Company.

January 15, 1974
Ralph Waldo Chase was a man active in many varied lines, apparently spending his middle life in Middlefield, Connecticut, and in Camden, South Carolina. See Burpee, Story of Connecticut.

Grace E. Chase, the elder daughter, was married first to Mr. Dobbins, and a son William was born to them. They lived for a time in the residence to the rear of this house, converted from the barn and carriage house. The family later called it "Box Stall", but officially it became 5 Church Street. Mr. and Mrs. Dobbins later lived for some time in the house at 143 Main Street, but then separated and were divorced. In 1915 Grace re-married, this time to Edward W. Beach, son of George W. Beach and Sarah Upson. Her son William, whose name was changed to William Waldo Chase, was married in Northfield, Massachusetts, in February 1926, to Constance Moody, daughter of William Nevill Moody and Mary Whittle, of Northfield.

Marguerite Chase, remembered by Farmington acquaintances as a very beautiful girl, was first married in 1910 to Herbert Allan Boas, son of Emil L. Boas and Harriet B. Stanfield. Herbert Boas was in the shipping business, employed by the Hamburg-American Steamship Company, of which his father was general manager in the United States. Their three children, in sequence of birth, were: Allan Chase Boas, Robert Waldo Boas and Herbert Allan Boas, Jr. Mr. Boas died of leukemia while in Army service stationed in Plattsburg, New York, in 1917.

Marguerite Chase's second marriage was in 1920, to John Marshall Holcombe, Jr., born in 1899, son of John Marshall Holcombe and Emily S. Goodwin. The elder Mr. Holcombe was the president of Phoenix Mutual Life Insurance Company.

Mr. and Mrs. John Holcombe, Jr., lived here in this house for a time after their marriage, then in 1921 moved into the house at 17 Main Street which Mrs. Holcombe had purchased on June 9, of that year. Three children were born to them while lived at 17 Main Street. They were Marguerite, John and Ada.

Marguerite's father, Waldo K. Chase, is recorded as having died in Coronado, California, on April 17, 1920, at the age of 73. His widow died here in Farmington on December 22, 1932.

Mrs. Holcombe inherited this house, and moved from 17 Main street to occupy it with her family.

Mr. and Mrs. Holcombe were active in Farmington and in its social and civic life. Mr. Holcombe was a leader in re-activating the Historical and Antiquarian Landmarks Society, and became its president. Their house was opened for exhibition by that society in May 1947. Particularly noted at that time was the Lowestoft china made originally for this house, and also the fine collection of Blue Staffordshire. Wilmarth Lewis has said that Mr. Holcombe had the capability to have done great things for Farmington relative to its many historic houses, but he had little time to accomplish much as he died in May 1951 of a heart attack. See Burpee's 1928 History, Volume 3.

March 17, 1974
Mrs. John Marshall Holcombe now resides in New Canaan, Connecticut, having left Farmington around 1955. Her six children are all married and located as noted in the following six paragraphs.

Allan Chase Boas, who served as army sergeant during World War II, was married in the early 1940's to Anne Gordan Belser of Columbia, South Carolina. Their two children are Robert and Caroline. Allan Chase Boas is in the insurance business in Springfield, Massachusetts, but is about to retire, and plans to live in South Carolina.

Robert Waldo Boas, who was born in Montreal, Canada, served with the infantry in World War II. He was married to Gail Ney of Cheshire, daughter of former Farmington residents Paul Ney and his wife, the former Bertha Beecher, niece of Harriet Beecher Stowe. They lived for a time in "Box Stall" on Church Street, and had one daughter, Gay. They were later divorced. Robert was later married to Jean Clark, daughter of Paul and Anna Clark of Brookline, Massachusetts, from whom he is now divorced. He and his present wife Elizabeth reside in Amherst, New Hampshire. He is in the insurance business in nearby Nashua.

Herbert A. Boas, Jr., born in 1917 in Pelham, New York, was married in 1941 to Mildred Coleman Lowry, daughter of John and Mildred Lowry of Mt. Vernon, New York, and Osterville, Massachusetts, born in Mt. Vernon. Herbert was a Lieutenant in the Air Force in World War II. He and his wife, as had Robert and Gail, lived their first married years in "Box Stall". Herbert presently is Management Consultant in New York, with Keating, Dumont, Inc. He and his family reside in New Canaan, Connecticut, and Terres Basses, St. Martin, in French West Indies. Their children are: Bonnie Chase, now Mrs. Barry G. Balmer, living at Peace and Plenty Farm, Honeybrook, Pennsylvania, and Deborah Mead, now Mrs. Richard B. Mitchell of Wilton, Connecticut.

Marguerite Emily (Gloria) Holcombe was married in 1943 to William Edward Barlow, son of Edward S. Barlow and Eva Langloth. William E. Barlow is a publisher in New York. They have three children, are now separated. Mrs. Barlow resides in New York City and Cold Spring, New York.

John Marshall Holcombe III served in the army in World War II. He married Lois Curry, daughter of Mr. and Mrs. John Curry of Phoenix, Arizona, where the Holcombes now reside with their four children. John Holcombe is now a real estate investor.

Ada Chase Holcombe married W. Cameron Caswell, son of Dr. and Mrs. Wilbur Caswell of Brockton, Massachusetts. They have four children and live in Darien, Connecticut. Mr. Caswell is an executive with the Dover Corporation in New York City.

The house at 87 Main Street was sold in 1955 by the Waldo K. Chase Estate, to Miss Porter's School.

March 17, 1974
The interior of the house, shown on the MPS chart as "Holcombe House", but sometimes called informally "Timco", for its first owner, has been altered materially since its purchase by the school.

The first change was to add a faculty apartment to the rear, occupied by Mr. and Mrs. Robert Brigham until June of 1968. The front portion was re-decorated to become a faculty lounge. Upstairs an apartment was fitted out for a house director to occupy and be responsible for the front section of the house. Mrs. Marion Hill lived there for a time. The lower floor was converted for use as alumnae quarters and entertaining. As of 1972 the rear apartment was occupied by Mr. and Mrs. William P. Stewart, the latter being the school registrar. Mrs. Vera W. Tukey occupied the upstairs apartment.

The 1973 occupants were: Mrs. Kathleen O'Donnell, staff, Mr. and Mrs. Bob Archibald, faculty, and Mrs. Evelyn Devine Stewart, Director of Admissions.

Something which should have been mentioned earlier in this account, is the fact that this house had been once offered to the Congregational Church as a parsonage, but that the church trustees thought it too large for their use, although its location was perfect. If this offer was actually made, it could have been during the later years of Chauncey Deming Cowles, himself a former minister of a Congregational Church, although not in Farmington. The property which is the site of the present parsonage was purchased for that purpose in 1875.

March 17, 1974

This house has been endowed, through a "70's Fund" gift, by Mr. and Mrs. W. Irving Osborne, Jr. (Elsa Armour '29) and family. This assures its maintenance and preservation.

September 7, 1974