The Thomas Treadwell House is located on the west side of Main Street, north of Maiden Lane. To the south are several houses built in the nineteenth century.
According to a photograph (pre-1906) the house was originally built in the Italianate style. In 1924 it was drastically remodeled by the Ludorf family to appear of the Colonial Revival style. Of the changes made on the exterior and interior, the most noticeable were to the front facade. Its one-story open porch with Victorian-period details was removed and a piazza was added. The original door surround was removed and a pedimented door with transom and sidelights was added. The original sash and entablature (although hidden) still remain. Several additions of the rear existed by 1906 and were probably original to the house.

Around 1849 Chauncey Deming Cowles (1812-1881) inherited his father's estate, and shortly after, his mother's estate (FPR 13:56, 11:289). The son of Major Timothy (1784-1858) and Catherine (Deming) Cowles (1787-1859), Chauncey built several houses along Main Street as a business venture. In 1867 he sold this house to Thomas Treadwell for $1500 (FLR 60:549) which released his mortgage with the Farmington Savings Bank (FLR 59:422). Thomas Treadwell (1810-1883) was the grandson of Governor John Treadwell and before he returned to Farmington in 1867 he had lived in Albany, New York. He married Camille M. Bryan (1811-1895) and raised one son Robert, who married Major Timothy Cowles' granddaughter, Anna Maria Williams, in 1859. Thomas Treadwell served as the town clerk and later as librarian. After his death in 1895, Joseph W. Backus, a retired minister, purchased the property (FLR 70:535). His wife Martha inherited it after his death in 1905 and sold it to Jane E. Grant (FLR 77:2). Upon Grant's death it was purchased by Agnes K. Curing (FLR 74:355) and who in 1924 sold it to Henry F. and Norane Ludorf (FLR 80:495) who added the Colonial Revival alterations.

Although somewhat altered, the Thomas Treadwell House is historically significant due to it association with the nineteenth-century development of Main Street.

Sources:

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<tr>
<th><strong>OWNER'S NAME</strong></th>
<th><strong>ADDITIONAL INFORMATION</strong></th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>DAY, LUCIEN B.</td>
<td>Day Crocker 10/1/56 C</td>
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<tr>
<td>HOWE, Nathaniel S. &amp; Alison G. from Lois</td>
<td>Vol. 131, p 107</td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>ADDRESS:</strong></td>
<td>Crocker from Day 5/18/48</td>
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<tr>
<td>92 Main Street &amp; Maiden Lane</td>
<td>Vol. 102, p 83</td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>DATE BUILT:</strong></td>
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<td>ca. 1867</td>
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<td>FOR: Chauncey Deming Cowles</td>
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<td>addition 1924</td>
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<td><strong>ARCHITECT</strong></td>
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<td>Henry Ludorf for 1924 addition</td>
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<td><strong>MASTER-BUILDER</strong></td>
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**FORMER OWNERS:**
- L.B. Day from H. Warren & Elizabeth Lawrence, 5/18/1948, Vol. 102, p. 83; H.W. & E. Lawrence from Society for Savings 5/13/1913, Vol. 93, p. 210; Society for Savings from Michael A. O'Connor by foreclosure 1/8/1936, Vol. 91, p. 60; M.A. Connor from Norene Ludorf by foreclosure 1/7/1931, Vol. 86, p. 273; Norene & Henry Ludorf from Agnes K. Curtin, 5/7/1921, Vol. 80, p. 495; Agnes K. Curtin from Est. Jane E. Grant 10/29/1920, Vol. 74, p. 353; Jane E. Grant from Martha W. Backus 1/28/1905, Vol. 77, p. 2; Martha W. Backus from Thomas Treadwell Est. 1/30/1895, Vol. 70, p. 535; Thomas Treadwell from Chauncey D. Cowles 5/18/1867, Vol. 60, p. 519 "land and blgds." The house could only have been built a year or two as the former Timothy Pitkin house which stood here had been burned in the 1864 fire. When Thomas Treadwell bought this house he also bought 2 other houses on the land now Maiden Lane, - see "Maiden Lane".

**REFERENCES:**
- "Farmington, Conn., 1906", p. 91; (Note similarity in 1906 to house next north)
- "Farmington Town Clerks, 1943", p. 238
- "Baker & Tilden Atlas, 1869", p. 33 - 'T. Treadwell'
The house at this address is pictured on page 94 of the Farmington Book as the residence of Edward D. Grant. It is shown in Baker and Tilden's 1869 Atlas as "T. Treadwell". It was built for Thomas Treadwell in 1867.

It is the writer's belief that this house instead of the one at 90 Main Street is the one that is built on the site of the original residence of the Rev. Timothy Pitkin, the one which was destroyed by fire in 1864.

Julius Gay says on page 14 of the Farmington Book: "From this point southward to the road down to the new cemetery, all the houses were destroyed by the great fire of July 21, 1864, including the long yellow house just north of the present parsonage, which was the home of the Rev. Timothy Pitkin during his sixty year residence in our village". These 60 years were from 1752 until 1812.

Adrian Wadsworth, Sr., in his account of the great fire of 1864, says: "on the square southward from the farm buildings was a large tenement house of two stories......across Maiden Lane was the brown stone store of Chauncey Rowe". The old stone store stood on the site of the present parsonage at 96 Main Street.

Mrs. Hurlburt says on page 239 of "Town Clerks", speaking of Thomas Treadwell's acquisition of the land here, the following: "He purchased in 1867 the entire north side of Maiden Lane, with its two ancient houses (one of these was the present #4 Maiden Lane and the other about on the site of #12 Maiden Lane) and the still empty site at the corner of the lane and Main Street where the Pitkin house had stood before the fire in 1864". Note--- The two "ancient houses" are pictured on page 126, at left center and at the bottom of the page.

Regarding the construction of this house, which has sometimes been credited to Chauncey Deming Cowles, Mrs. Hurlburt goes on to say, speaking of Thomas Treadwell: "He built the house which still stands there, its tall pillars, high ceilings and exquisite stairway still one of Farmington's most beautiful homes...... and he lived across the street from his friend and political competitor, Chauncey Deming Cowles". Mr. Cowles lived at that time in the house at 87 Main Street, and had owned as his farm most of the land in the square bounded by Main Street, Mill Lane, Garden Street and Maiden Lane, across the street from his own residence.

To go back to the Rev. Mr. Timothy Pitkin, he purchased in 1753 four acres of land from Samuel and Elijah Porter and in 1754 some additional pieces from Elisha Lewis and Timothy Porter. Mrs. Hurlburt says: "he built the long yellow house on Main Street, which was his home". He was the fourth minister of the church in Farmington.

Julius Gay paints the following picture: "The village street, certainly not since broadened, ran as now, and along it passed the pedestrian, the horseback rider and the unwieldy cart of the farmer. When the minister of the day brought home his bride in the first chaise his parishioners had ever seen, they lined the streets to welcome him, and the first man who caught sight of the chaise shouted "The Cart is coming".

January 12, 1972.
Mrs. Hurlburt speaks, on page 64 of "Town Clerks" of his arrival in Farmington: "The next year, 1752, the Rev. Timothy Pitkin accepted the pastorate of the church, and introduced a new era of living. He brought his bride to Farmington in a fine new carriage --- something not before seen here. He brought fine furniture, silver and clothing, and an influence toward cultural living, which, tho inherent in families here, had, through necessity of the hard struggle for existence, lain dormant".

She tells of Mr. Pitkin in "Church and Town", somewhat as follows. The Rev. Timothy Pitkin was the second son of Gov. William Pitkin and his wife, the former Mary Woodbridge. Born into a family of wealth and of social and political prominence, he had lived in the old Pitkin homestead in East Hartford until he attended Yale College, from which he graduated in 1747. He tutored there in 1750 and 1751 and came to Farmington in 1752. On August 9, 1753, he was married to Temperance Clap, daughter of the Rev. Thomas Clap of Yale College, whose wife was the former Mary Whiting.

He was the first of the ministers of whom the church has a portrait --- "it shows great dignity, intelligence and confidence". Professor Olmsted of Yale, brother of Farmington's clockmaker Nathaniel Olmstead, says of Mr. Pitkin on page 14 of the Farmington Book: "Do you not all see him coming in at yonder door, habited in his flowing blue cloak, with his snow white wig and the tri-cornered hat of the older time! Do you not see him wending his way through the aisle to the pulpit, bowing on either side with the dignity and grace of the old nobility of Connecticut?"

Julius Gay speaks of him in his discourse of May 3, 1893 on "Farmington in the Revolution", as an ardent patriot. "His pulpit rang with fervid discourses on liberty. He visited his parishioners in their camp, and wrote them long letters of encouragement and sympathy". Part of one of these letters is quoted on page 93 of "Farmington Papers". It was he who after the war, took for the citizens of Farmington the Oath of Fidelity to the new State of Connecticut, administered by Town Clerk Solomon Whitman.

He was open minded however, and forgiving, and was one of those who joined in the efforts of Noadiah Hooker and other prominent townspeople, to have the General Assembly assist Matthias Leaming, perhaps Farmington's most noted Tory, or as he preferred to call himself, a Royalist.

Mr. Pitkin owned property along the canal, including the site of "Pitkin Basin", a spot for the loading and unloading of canal freight. Some of this land, belonging to his son or grandson later, was purchased in 1833 for the new cemetery.

He officiated at Captain Judah Woodruff's funeral in 1799, though he was then at Yale, and "bore testimony to his earnest piety", even tho Judah Woodruff had been censured by the church, and was critical of its stated beliefs.

January 12, 1972
It was during Mr. Pitkin's term as pastor here that the construction of the present meeting house was planned and begun in 1771, and finished and dedicated in 1772, a very noteworthy achievement, as evidenced by the fact that during this year will be celebrated its 200th anniversary.

The Pitkins had seven children:

Samuel Pitkin, 1754, died in 1777 in Revolutionary War,

Catherine Pitkin, 1757, married the Rev. Nathan Perkins of West Hartford's Congregational Church,

Charles Pitkin, 1759, married Cynthia Wells,

Elizabeth Pitkin, 1761, married Enoch Perkins, the ancestor of Miss Helen Perkins, presently of Waterville Road, who was the intermediary in the donation to the Village Library of a portrait of the Hon. Timothy Pitkin, the Rev. Timothy's son,

Timothy Pitkin, 1766, married Elizabeth Hubbard, was elected Representative to Congress in 1805, and is written up under 2 Colton Street,

Mary Clap Pitkin, 1769, who married the Rev. Asahel S. Norton, and

Temperance Pitkin, 1772, married Bissell Hinsdale.

Mr. Pitkin's wife died two weeks after the birth of her daughter Temperance, and Mr. Pitkin re-married, marrying Eunice Strong, daughter of Col. John Strong and Eunice Whitman, who lived on the present site of the house at 36 Main Street.

The Rev. Timothy Pitkin withdrew from the ministry of the Farmington church in 1785, much to the regret of his congregation. He was a Fellow of Yale College from 1777 until 1804, when he was dismissed at his own request. A Yale biographical sketch states that after retiring "he preached occasionally in neighboring places, and performed some pastoral services for his former flock, but for the most part lived a retired life".

Mr. Pitkin, a wealthy man who had sufficient inheritance to make him independent of his salary, built in 1788 the fine house which still stands at 2 Colton Street, giving it to his son Timothy for his home. It was in that house that the Rev. Timothy lived his last years, his second wife, niece of the Rev. Samuel Whitman, having died in 1778. See more regarding the Rev. Mr. Timothy Pitkin in Mrs. Hurlburt's book "Farmington, Church and Town", from which much of the foregoing information has been obtained, and which covers him in greater detail. He died in 1811.

January 12, 1972
Charles Pitkin inherited from his father "my mansion house and the whole of my home lot together with all other buildings thereon standing", on July 28, 1812.

Catherine Deming Cowles, wife of Major Timothy Cowles, acquired the property from Timothy Pitkin, Jr., described in part as "lately the property of my brother Charles Pitkin", on October 21, 1833.

Chauncey Deming Cowles inherited the property from his mother Catherine D. Cowles, after her death in 1859.

Regarding actual occupancy of this house between the time Mr. Pitkin vacated it to move into his son's home, and its destruction by fire in 1864, the writer has no information. It must have been a rental property at that time, and probably had been for several years before. Mr. Wadsworth, in describing the houses lost in the great fire of 1864, said that it was "a large tenement house of two stories". Mr. Wadsworth said that at the time of the fire "one part was occupied by the family of Capt. Waterman ... who had marched away ... to the Civil War, and the other part was occupied by two maiden ladies", doubtless the two for whom Maiden Lane was ultimately named.

The land on which the old house had stood was purchased from Chauncey Deming Cowles by Thomas Treadwell in 1867.

January 12, 1972
Thomas Treadwell, who purchased the property and built the present house on this site in 1867, was the grandson of Governor John Treadwell, being the son of the governor's son George. George Treadwell had been born and married while in Farmington and Thomas was born here in 1810, but a short time later George removed to Albany. He was very successful in business there, and his son Thomas prospered also.

Mrs. Hurlburt, on page 239 of "Town Clerks", tells of the return to Farmington of the son Thomas: "Mr. Treadwell returned to Farmington from Albany, New York, in 1867. He was 57 years old and prosperous and immediately became actively interested in the social and political affairs of his birthplace. He purchased in 1867 the entire north side of Maiden Lane. Here on the corner of Maiden Lane and Main Street he built the house now known as 92 Main Street.

He became in 1868 the 20th town clerk of Farmington. In 1871 he lost the post to Chauncey Deming Cowles, who had previously served from 1854 to 1859. Mr. Cowles now served two years and Mr. Treadwell was re-elected, to serve until 1879.

It appears possible that Mr. Treadwell may have spent some time here prior to 1867. On page 194 of "Town Clerks" a statement is made about the instruction being given in May 1857, regarding a road "commencing near the house of Thomas Treadwell", and on page 234 a Town Meeting of June 16, 1866, is mentioned "with Thomas Treadwell as Moderator". He was also moderator of the town meeting of October 7, 1867.

Mr. Treadwell served as librarian from January 4, 1869, until he was succeeded by Thomas L. Porter on January 2, 1882. This was during the period that the library was housed in the town clerk's office.

At the town meeting of December 31, 1870, "the Selectmen and A. F. Williams were appointed to ascertain if the road leading from Main Street to the new highway near Mr. Treadwell's could be made into a town highway". This was the road now called Maiden Lane, and this action was probably at the instigation of Mr. Treadwell. It apparently was not considered favorably, as Maiden Lane was not formally accepted as a town street until in 1900.

Mr. Treadwell's election to the office of Town Clerk on the date of October 7, 1872, was contested, and he was ousted in February 1873 by court order. He was re-elected on October 6, 1873, and was again placed in office.

Nine days after Mr. Treadwell's contested election in 1872, the 100th anniversary of the completion of the new meeting house was celebrated. President Noah Porter of Yale, who had at the age of 29 delivered the "Historical Address" at the 200th anniversary of Farmington's settlement in 1840, now returned to make the centenary address for the new anniversary. Records of these anniversaries and copies of speeches delivered at both these occasions are on file in the Village Library and make interesting reading.

January 17, 1972
Thomas Treadwell's wife was the former Camilla M. Bryan, and their children were born in Albany, New York.

Their son John lived from 1844 until 1884.

Their daughter Camella Treadwell married Edwin S. Taylor of New York.

Their son Robert was married in 1859 to Anna Maria Williams, daughter of Farmington's Austin F. Williams and Jennette Cowles. Mrs. Hurlburt states that "during part of the last year that Thomas Treadwell served as Town Clerk, the work was done by his son Robert, which leads one to believe that Thomas may not have been well".

"Robert Treadwell was a musician and in 1876 organized the cornet band of Farmington. According to their old minute book, they met at first in the schoolhouse back of the home of Mrs. Edward L. Hart". See photo on page 34 of the Farmington Book. There were twenty members, all well known to anyone familiar with Farmington's history. See page 251 of "Town Clerks". "For three years the organization worked with great industry, giving concerts.....and marching in local affairs". In June 1879 their activities ceased and instruments were placed in storage. Robert Treadwell was elected in 1879 to be one of the town auditors.

Robert Treadwell purchased in 1873 the house pictured on page 130 of the Farmington Book as the property of Lewis A. Storrs, but sold it in 1890 to Margaret V. Hamilton. Where they lived before or after this residence is not known. Mrs. Robert Treadwell died in January 1892.

Thomas Treadwell died September 3, 1883, aged 73, and his widow died in 1895, aged 84.

This property was sold by the Treadwell estate, in 1895, to Martha W. Backus, wife of the retired Rev. Joseph Backus. Mrs. Backus, born in 1826, was the daughter of Lucius Woodward and Lucia Burr, of Norwich, and was born in Watertown. She died August 30, 1905.

Jane E. Grant purchased in 1905 for herself and her husband Edward D. Grant, also a retired minister. They were apparently wealthy, kept up the place and beautified its gardens. Adrian Wadsworth remembers their unexpected generosity when he was soliciting funds for starting a drum corps. Mr. Grant died in 1915 at the age of 81, and his wife, daughter of John A. Porter and Anna Hogsboom of Ghent, New York, died in 1919 at the age of 85.

Agnes K. Curtin (see 174 Main Street) purchased in October 1920, from the Grant estate, perhaps as an investment.

It was rented to the Rev. Father Ernest Wilson, pastor of the Catholic Church, during parts of the years 1921 and 1922, while St. Patrick's Church and its rectory were being built.

January 17, 1972
Henry Ludorf of New Britain, a Columbia University graduate in architecture, and his wife, the former Norane McMahon, purchased the house in 1924. Mrs. Ludorf's father, Patrick Sarsfield McMahon, had been familiar with Farmington since childhood, having had relatives here whom he had many times walked from New Britain to visit, and he always loved the area. He was later the owner of several motion picture theaters in Connecticut, and he donated the organ for St. Patrick's Church here in Farmington. Some of his liking for Farmington had been inherited by his daughter, so when the recently married Mr. and Mrs. Ludorf were looking for a home, and she found the Treadwell house available, she asked her husband: "What can you do with this?". He replied: "I can do a lot -- it will be expensive, but should be worth it".

He tore it up, inside and out, and except for the square frame, he practically built it anew. The high columns of course are the most notable of the new features, but the stairway, upstairs boudoir, and south side solarium are also new. Inside were new moldings and trim, new wallpapers, and new floor coverings. The house ended up by being much changed and improved, and although some residents thought the high pillars merely ostentatious, the consensus seems to be that the house was given a very attractive appearance. Mrs. Ludorf was very pleased with the results.

The Ludorfs had a daughter Patricia, born in Hartford, a babe in arms when they came to Farmington, who also grew to love this house and her own room in it, and was one of the favorite pupils of Mrs. Jenner in the kindergarten on Garden Street.

Henry Ludorf put in the original confessional in St. Patrick's Church, but this was later changed, along with other alterations which were made.

The Ludorfs left Farmington in 1931 but have always maintained a warm regard for Farmington and their former neighbors here. Mrs. Ludorf died in 1969. Patricia Ludorf, an extensive traveler, is a journalist in New York. Mr. Ludorf lives and works in Hartford, to which they moved from Farmington.

Michael A. Connor took title to the house in April 1931. It is not known that he ever lived here. He has been said to have been a lawyer, a politician, and possibly the head of the state motor vehicle department.

The house was rented from 1933 to 1935 to the newly married couple, Dr. and Mrs. Walls W. Bunnell when they first came to Farmington, prior to the purchase of the house at 19 Main Street. See 8 High Street for more on the Bunnell family.

By a foreclosure of mortgage the Society for Savings of Hartford took title to the property in April 1936.

January 17, 1972
The writer is not clear as to who owned the property for the next seven years. He was of the impression that one Anna Brouillard was an interim owner, but Mrs. Lawrence states that she and her husband purchased directly from the Society for Savings. The house was probably rented during the seven years, but the tenants are not known.

Purchasers of the house in 1943 were H. Warren and Elizabeth H. Lawrence.

Howard Warren Lawrence, born in Greenfield, Massachusetts, was the son of George Warren Lawrence and Rita Aldrich. Mr. Lawrence was a graduate of Ohio State University, with a Master's degree in Business Administration from Harvard Business School. He was executive vice-president of Northeast Utilities and of Northeast Service Company, and is now deceased. Mrs. Lawrence is the former Elizabeth Lewis Hallett, born in Hackensack, New Jersey, the daughter of Dr. Frederick Spencer Hallett, M. D., general practitioner, and Alice Fleming Lewis. She is a graduate of Mt. Holyoke College.

In 1948 the Lawrences sold this house to Lucien B. Day, and moved to the house at 33 Waterville Road, which they purchased, buying from the estate of Harry C. Ney. In 1956 they sold that house to David Hall Faile, moving to West Hartford. There they planned the building of the house in which Mrs. Lawrence presently resides, farther north on Waterville Road. That was built in 1961 and it was then that they moved from West Hartford.

The Lawrence children are:

George Warren Lawrence, whose wife is the former Patricia Boss. They live in Los Alamitos, Calif. He is employed by MacDonald-Douglas, and she teaches school.

Alice Amy Lawrence, now Mrs. William C. Roehrig, lives in Seaford, Delaware, her husband self-employed.

Sally-Ann Lawrence, now Mrs. Gifford D. Hopkins, living in Cameron, New York, where both are teachers, Mr. Hopkins at Alfred University.

Purchaser of 92 Main Street in May 1948 was Lucien B. Day. Mr. and Mrs. Day were later divorced and Mrs. Lois E. Day married Courtenay Crocker, living for a time at 113 Garden Street. She took title to this house in February 1955, giving her address at that time as Marblehead, Massachusetts.

Nathaniel S. and Alison G. Howe purchased the house in 1956 from Lois Crocker.

June 5, 1973

The Hartford Foundation for Public Giving publishes each year a report on its trust assets. The report for the year ending September 30, 1973, included the H. Warren Lawrence Trust Fund in the amount of $23,928.00.

December 20, 1973
This house has been owned and occupied by Mr. and Mrs. Nathaniel S. Howe since they purchased it in 1956.

Nathaniel Sawyer Howe, born in New Britain, is the son of Ralph Sawyer Howe and Margaret Bigelow. Graduated from Pomfret School in 1940 and from Yale University in 1944, he served in the army from then until 1946 during World War II. Later in 1946 he joined New Britain Machine Company as an executive trainee.

In 1949 he was married in Cambridge, Massachusetts, to Alison Gilman, born in Providence, Rhode Island, the daughter of Roger Gilman and Jane Bowler.

Mr. Howe was the recipient in 1961 of a Sloane Fellowship, a year's postgraduate study at Massachusetts Institute of Technology. He and his family moved to Cambridge for the period of this study. During this interlude the house was rented to Professor and Mrs. John Luce of Trinity College, Dublin, Ireland, while the Professor was here at Trinity College, Hartford, on an exchange program.

In 1970 Mr. Howe was made president of the New Britain Machine Company, and in early 1972 he was appointed Group Executive for the Metal-Cutting Machines Group of Litton Industries, continuing however as president of the New Britain Machine division. The Metal-Cutting Machines Group includes:

- New Britain Machine Division,
- Lund Manufacturing Division, Saco, Maine,
- Lucas Machine Division, Cleveland, Ohio,
- Eldorado Tool and Manufacturing Division,
- Milford, Connecticut, and
- Amtec Division, with operations in Paris and Lyons, France.

Mr. Howe has served on the Republican Town Committee of Farmington for several years.

The Howe children are:

Susan Gilman Howe, a 1970 graduate of Ethel Walker School in Simsbury, now a student at the University of Pennsylvania,

Edith Sawyer Howe, a 1972 graduate of Miss Porter's School, Farmington,

Nathaniel Sawyer Howe, Jr., a student at Middlesex School, Concord, Massachusetts, Class of 1974, and

Robin Howe, a student at Renbrook School, West Hartford, Class of 1973.

Mr. and Mrs. Howe have not made many changes in their house. In 1957 they moved their driveway from Maiden Lane to Main Street. In 1961 they had the south porch removed, and it was replaced by a gravel terrace.

Mr. Howe was on the committee which presented the highly successful "Roaring 20's", the annual library Open House of April 28, 1974, in which Ms. Robin Howe aided also, making posters.