Located at the fork of Main and Colton streets, the Asa Andrews Tin Shop sits on a small triangular lot in the center of Farmington's Historic District. The surrounding neighborhood contains a number of high style Georgian- and Federal-period buildings dating from the late eighteenth and early nineteenth centuries.
Oriented gambrel-to-street, the entrance of this small 1½ story building is found on the south elevation facing away from the street. The four-bay facade exhibits a single-story, Victorian-period screened-in porch with turned columns and a balustrade. Note the three shed-roofed dormers and off-center brick chimney. Six-over-six sash are found on the first floor. A 1½ story addition extends from the east elevation.

While the early history of this building is uncertain, it was probably built by Asa Andrews in 1803 as a tin shop. The building was erected on the north end of the house lot Andrews purchased from heirs of Timothy Bulkley in January of 1803 (FLR 30:230, 238). He resided in the Bulkley house for a short period before his new home at 93 Main Street was completed in 1805. Born in Farmington to Timothy and Abigail (Root) Andrews, Asa (1769-1831) was a land surveyor as well as a tinsmith. He operated out of this shop until his death in 1831. Timothy inherited the property from his father's estate in 1832 (FPR 9:504). In 1837 Amos M. Collins acquired the shop and the house located to the south (FLR 46:443). The "brick building" passed through a number of owners in the mid-nineteenth century, including William Beach, Samuel Collins, and Giles Stillman (FLR 46:556, 48:146, 394-96). Stillman and his wife Sally resided here with their family from 1843 to 1850 (FLR 48:396, 49:145). The next owner was Clarissa Wadsworth, the widow of Sydney Wadsworth (FLR 52:71). In 1863 the widow of Harvey Whittlesey acquired the property for $950 (FLR 58:477). She later married Stephen Crane in 1868. The house was sold out of the family in 1881 (FLR 64:497). The property belonged to various members of the Scott family from 1896 to 1945 (FLR 71:190, 74:434, 83:267, 99:67).

Relatively unaltered since its construction, this small brick shop is historically significant as one of the few remaining commercial buildings in the village.

ADDITIONAL INFORMATION

DATE BUILT: ca. 1788 FOR: Thomas Buckley

ARCHITECT
MASTER-BUILDER


REFERENCES: "Farmington, Conn., 1906", p. 22
"Farmington Town Clerks, 1943", p. 172
Former owners, cont.:
of Harvey Whittlesey who died 1861; Mrs. Harvey Whittlesey from George Bodwell, 10 rods &
dwellinghouse, n. & e. by highways, w. by Main St., s. by E.E. Warren, formerly owned &
occupied by Mrs. Clarissa Wadsworth 5/9/1863, Vol. 58, p. 477; George Bodwell from Est. of
Clarissa Wadsworth for $700. same des. 3/10/1863, Vol. 57, p. 293; Clarissa Wadsworth from
Giles Stillman, same des. for $700. with privilege of aqueduct 1/5/1850, Vol. 52, p. 71;
Giles Stillman & E.E. Warren ½ interest same des. 6/2/1846, Vol. 49, p. 145; Giles
Stillman & E.E. Warren from Samuel Burgess, same des. 10 rods & bldgs., n. & e. by highways,
s. by land now or formerly of Cook or Munson, w. by the turnpike road or Main St. 5/1/1813,
Vol. 48, p. 396; Samuel Burgess from Amos Collins of Hartford for $500., n.e.w. same, s. on
a line 35 ft. 6 in. s. of the south wall of said brick bldg. 5/1/1843, Vol. 48, p. 394;
also S. Burgess from same for $500. received same day, Vol. 48, p. 395, dated 10/7/1842;
Amos M. Collins from William Beach, 10 rods, brick bldg., lately the property of Asa Andrews
10/31/1840, Vol. 48, p. 396; Wm. Beach from Amos M. Collins 1/9/1839, Vol. 46, p. 566, same;
Amos Collins from Timothy Andrews for $1022., 60 rods, s. on land of Thomas Wadsworth &
bldg., 4/5/1837, Vol. 46, p. 443 (this included present Moore & Latham houses); Timothy
N.E.W. on highways & s. on T. Wadsworth 10/14/1835, Vol. 45, p. 182; Simeon Hart & Abigail A.
from Asa Andrews, father of Abigail, "for love and affection and $700.," same des. 4/19/1826
Vol. 43, p. 54; Asa Andrews from Bathsheba Buckley, widow of Thomas Buckley, by quit claim
deed, 10 rods with bldgs. (not bounded) 1/3/1803, Vol. 33, p. 230; (Asa Andrews left this
piece to his son Timothy who sold to Simeon & Abigail Hart); Thomas Buckley from Asahel
Wadsworth "½ acre beginning at the northeast end of my home lott where the two roads part &
to extend on each road to make ½ acre", for 25 pounds, 3/3/1788, Vol. 27, p. 479 - no house
This house is pictured on page 22 of the Farmington Book as "The Old Andrews Tin Shop - Residence of Samuel Scott". It is also pictured on page 45 of "A Small House in the Sun", by Samuel Chamberlain, as "A Brick Example with Flat Dormers". It is shown in the Baker and Tilden 1869 Atlas as "Mrs. Crane".

It was built in 1788 by Thomas Buckley on land purchased from Asahel Wadsworth, who had only eight years prior to this, greatly enlarged his own house at 107 Main Street, pictured on page 21. It is not known by this writer whether this brick house was originally built for use as a tinsmith's shop, but it was used for that purpose by Asa Andrews, who purchased it in 1803. He used it probably until his death in 1826. Asa Andrews purchased from Bathsheba Buckley, widow.

Julius Gay, Farmington historian, in an article quoted on page 19 of the Farmington Book, says "In the brick shop next north, Mr. Andrews made japanned tinware. He was the maker of those chandeliers, compounds of wood and tin, that long hung from the meeting-house ceiling". See more regarding Asa Andrews in the account of the house that was built as his residence, the house at 93 Main St.

After the death of Mr. Andrews in 1826 it was inherited by his daughter Abigail and her husband, who was the Deacon Simeon Hart, noted educator of Farmington, who later had a private school, which was also conducted in the house at 93 Main Street. Title to this brick house was transferred to Abigail's brother Timothy in 1835.

From this time until the acquisition of the house in 1896 by Katherine A. Scott, the writer knows very little about the various owners of the house. The family names of some of them are familiar, but whether they lived here or not is also unknown. Following is given a list of these owners, dates of acquisition, and any little bits of information that is known of them.

1837 Amos M. Collins
1839 William Beach
1840 Amos Collins
1843 Samuel Burgess
1843 Giles Stillman and E. E. Warren. E. E. Warren lived in the house next door, 101 Main Street.
1846 Giles Stillman. He and his wife Sally Loveland, had been married in 1822. They had nine children, born during the period from 1823 to 1840. The eldest of these was Sarah, who was married in 1842 to Edward E. Warren, noted above.
1850 Clarissa Wadsworth, widow of Sydney Wadsworth
1863 George Bodwell
1863 Ruth (Mrs. Harvey) Whittlesey. Mr. Whittlesey had died in 1861. Their daughter Louise died in 1909.
1868 Dolly Whittlesey, who married Stephen Crane.
1878 Harriet Bennett, Dolly's sister, inherited upon Dolly's death.
1891 Henry Barbour, who owned and occupied the house at 144 Main Street at this time.
1896 Katherine A. Scott (wife of Samuel Scott).

October 8, 1970
Samuel Scott, whose photo appears on page 207 of the Farmington Book, held various town offices. He served as registrar of voters, constable, and borough and school tax collector. He was a painter by trade. During his later years he was night watchman at the Farmington Savings Bank. His mother was the former Johanna Murphy.

Mr. Scott was a descendant of Elisha Scott, also of Farmington, who was a veteran of the Revolutionary War, having served with the American forces as early as September of 1776. See photo on page 102 of the Farmington Book, showing the house built by Elisha in 1785. Samuel Scott, son of Walter Scott (who was Elisha Scott's grandson) was married to Katherine Ryan of West District, whose family home was near the Old Stone Chapel on Red Oak Hill Road.

Elijah Lewis, whose house stands at 738 Farmington Avenue, in speaking of his younger days, once told of the netting of pigeons in Farmington, and mentioned that Samuel Root and Walter Scott once netted 480 pigeons in one day. This was the second largest number ever netted at one time in Farmington.

Mr. and Mrs. Samuel Scott had four children. Eugene and Walter died at the ages of two and fourteen respectively. Frederick, who removed to Chicago and was in the insurance business there, died in 1953. He had never married. Mary was married in 1939 to Donald Crossman. He was a former state trooper who had come from Winsted to be Farmington's Chief of Police. He did not stay here long. He was interested in aviation, opened the Simsbury Airport, sold it later, and went into Military Air Transport. He and Mrs. Crossman were divorced in 1942.

Mary Scott had early in her life started working at the Farmington Savings Bank, first under Judge E. H. Deming, her across-the-street neighbor, later under Mr. Minikin. She was very interested in this work and rose through several posts in the bank to become its secretary in 1963. She was a member of the National Association of Savings Bank Women and Secretary of the Connecticut Association of the same group. She took an early retirement from active work in the bank but is still Treasurer of the Farmington Cemetery Association and Assistant Treasurer of the Village Green and Library Association.

She had inherited this house at 99 Main Street from her mother in 1925 and had occupied it until 1945 when she moved to her present residence on Knollwood Road. She altered the brick house in the thirties, adding the garage and an upstairs room on the east end at that time. The triangle north of the house, between Colton and Main Streets, was originally part of this property, but John Hart had driven out to Main Street from Carrington Lane, and others also used that exit, so that it was finally decided that it should be made a part of Carrington Lane. That cut off the remainder of the triangle from the rest of the property, leaving it now town property.

The purchasers of the property in 1945 were Robert and Judith Ostrander.

October 8, 1970

Samuel Scott, of the first paragraph on this page, Borough Sheriff in 1901, also served as Special Constable at President T. Roosevelt's visit to Farmington on October 22, 1901.
Robert Ostrander and his wife, the former Judith Sessions, purchased the property in 1945. Mr. Ostrander was of Dutch descent, the son of Henry Ostrander and Lucilla Loucks, of Schenectady, New York, where they operated a small grocery store. Judith Sessions is the daughter of Albert Sessions and Lela Beach of Bristol. Her grandfather was John Henry Sessions of the J. Sessions and Sons Hardware, and her great-uncle was of the Sessions Clock Company, both of Bristol.

While Judith Sessions was a student at Skidmore College in Saratoga Springs, New York, she met Robert Ostrander on a blind date, later married him and they lived in Schenectady where he was in the insurance business.

Two children, Janet Anne Ostrander and Donald Sessions Ostrander were born to them during their residence in Schenectady.

Upon the death of Judith's father in 1944 her brothers asked Robert if he would come to Bristol and enter the hardware business with them. The Ostranders came to Connecticut, purchasing this house in 1945, and Robert joined her brothers in the Bristol business establishment. They made several changes in the interior of the house, enlarging the living room, modernizing the kitchen and building some clothes closets. Unfortunately Mr. Ostrander was killed in an accident after a very few years and Judith was left a widower.

In 1950 she became the owner of the property after the death of her husband.

Mrs. Ostrander re-married, this time marrying Gales P. Moore, Jr., of Bristol, whom she had known for many years and who had never married. He was the son of Gales P. Moore and the former Catherine Donovan. The parents were both of Washington, D.C., coming to Bristol when he became patent attorney for New Departure of Bristol. Mr. Moore Jr. was associated with the real estate firm of Peck, Barnard and Olmsted, and maintained that association after his marriage to Mrs. Ostrander and his coming to Farmington to live.

Janet Anne Ostrander is now married to James Kapteyn, also of Dutch ancestry, an educator of varied experience in private schools and they now reside in Great Barrington, Mass. They have six children.

Donald Sessions Ostrander is married to Anne Walker and they and their three children live in Weston, Conn. He is with Stauffer & Company of Cleveland, Ohio, and is manager of the district which covers Boston and Metropolitan New York.

Gales P. Moore suffered from deteriorating health beginning in the early 1960's and he and his wife began spending longer and longer winters in Florida, and continued until he died in 1967.

Mrs. Moore is now the owner of two early American houses, as Mr. Moore left her a house in Stonington which had been in his mother's family for years, the Colonel Oliver Smith house on Main Street. It is a coincidence that it is pictured in the same book by Samuel Chamberlain, that is mentioned in the first paragraph of this account, on page 47 of that book. The Stonington house was built in 1761 by Col. Smith who was a ship builder and a ship owner, and carried on extensive trade with the West Indies.

Judith S. Moore sold the property late in October 1970 to Eileen H. Hall.
A photo and an account of the Stonington house left to Mrs. Moore by her husband as mentioned on the previous page, appears on page 124 of "Houses of our Ancestors", by Grace Denison Wheeler, Newcomb and Gauss, printers, Salem, Massachusetts, 1903.

Eileen H. Hall, who purchased this house on October 30, 1971, bought it for the use of herself and her husband.

Jay Vandergrift Hall, her husband, was born in Oil City, Pennsylvania, in 1884. He lived many years in Greenwich, Connecticut, before coming to Farmington. A graduate of Shadyside Academy of Pittsburgh in 1904, he later attended Carnegie Institute of Technology and the University of Florida.

He rose to general sales manager of Olds Motor Works, Lansing, Michigan, by 1917, and was a charter member of General Motors Corporation. In 1917 and 1918 he served under Bernard Baruch on the staff of the Central Bureau, U. S. War Industries Board.

After World War I he entered the investment banking business in New York City.

An ardent sportsman and conservationist, he was a director of Field and Stream Publishing Company.

He died on January 21, 1972, leaving his widow, Mrs. Eileen Haswell Hall, a son Charles Hall of South Salem, New York, and a daughter Mrs. Joan Fons of 44 Mountain Road, Farmington.

May 10, 1974