Sited on the south side of Farmington Avenue just west of High Street is the Brickwalk Lane complex. Several buildings are not visible to the street and are reached via the lane entered from High Street or the driveway located between the liquor store and the dentist office. Together these buildings create the only commercial district on the south side of Farmington Avenue, before entering Farmington Village.
Represented in the Brickwalk Lane Complex are buildings from many architectural periods. There are gambrel-roofed, colonial-period, center-chimney colonial-period, Greek Revival- and Colonial Revival-style buildings. All are sheathed in clapboard, lie on concrete foundations and much of their original materials have been replaced. Two of the stores and the bank at the east end of the complex are modern buildings built since 1950.

The Brickwalk Lane Complex was established in 1955 and completed in 1958 under the direction and finances of Dr. Wall Willard Bunnell, general practitioner from Scranton, Pennsylvania. After graduating from Yale University in 1929, he moved to Farmington. In the 1950s several buildings located on the north side of Farmington Avenue were to be demolished so that Parsons Motors, a car dealership, could expand. Bunnell purchased several of the endangered buildings and moved them to the area he named Brickwalk Lane. The first building is around 1752. Bunnell also moved the Whitman Tavern to 8 High Street, south of the complex. Its woodshed he originally used as a playhouse for his children; however, it was later moved to its present site at the west end of Brickwalk Lane next to the modern bank. Its date of construction is unknown. Today it serves as a dental office. The last building moved by Bunnell is the Mark Root House which today houses Tweed 'N Tees. It originally stood on Meadow Road facing south, just west of New Britain Avenue. It is the only center-chimney colonial-period house in the complex. The two remaining buildings were built by Bunnell. They are 767 Farmington Avenue, today the Tweed 'N Tees annex and the Beauty Shop behind the annex. The building at 2 High Street (within the complex) was built by D.W. Barney around 1935. Today it houses offices. (see cont. pg.)


Ruth A. Bedrosian
2/86
Greater Middletown Preservation Trust
27 Washington Street, Middletown, CT

Direction: S
North District Schoolhouse

None known: Highways Vandalism Developers Other

Renewal Private Deterioration Zoning Exploration
Although the setting of Brickwalk Lane is non-historic, the complex contributes to the streetscape. Each building of historic origin has historical associations with Farmington's past.

S - Curtiss House/Tunxis Library

S - lean-to of the school

SW - Mark Root House
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th><strong>OWNER'S NAME</strong></th>
<th><strong>ADDITIONAL INFORMATION</strong></th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>BRICK WALK SHOPS - NORTH DISTRICT SCHOOL</td>
<td>Moved 1956</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>WRIGHT'S LIQUOR STORE 1960</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th><strong>ADDRESS</strong></th>
<th><strong>ADDITIONAL INFORMATION</strong></th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>77/Farmington Avenue - BRICKWALK LANE</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th><strong>DATE BUILT:</strong></th>
<th><strong>FOR:</strong></th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>ca 1798</td>
<td>North District School House</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th><strong>ARCHITECT</strong></th>
<th><strong>FORMER OWNERS:</strong></th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>- Moved by Dr. W. W. Bunnell 1956 for Remodeled by Norris Prentice</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>- the Brick Walk Village</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Frank Johnson, builder</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th><strong>MASTER-BUILDER</strong></th>
<th><strong>REFERENCES:</strong></th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>See W.W. Bunnell Brick Walk</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
BRICK WALK SHOPS - Old Residence
Store 1960 - part of residence - or

ADDRESS: 820 Farmington Ave Tunxis Library

DATE BUILT: 1752 ca FOR: Daniel Curtis
1900 ca for Ell

ARCHITECT: Remodeled by Norris Prentice
MASTER-BUILDER: moved 1956 for Dr. W. W. Bunnell and is
the ell part of the old Tunxis Library
or former residence and was added to
the old house ca 1900
work by Frank Johnson

FORMER OWNERS:

REFERENCES: References see (Farmington Realty Corporation)
W. W. Bunnell

Owner
Brick Walk Shops Ell of Residence 1960
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>OWNER'S NAME</th>
<th>BRICK WALK SHOPS - OLD STORE</th>
<th>ADDRESS:</th>
<th>No # Farmington Avenue - BRICKWALK LANE</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>DATE BUILT:</td>
<td>ca 1752 FOR: Daniel Curtis</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>ARCHITECT</td>
<td>Remodeled by Norris Prentice</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>MASTER-BUILDER</td>
<td>Moved 1956 by Frank Johnson</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>FORMER OWNERS:</td>
<td>See W.W. Bunnell (Farmington Realty Corporation)</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>REFERENCES:</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Owner's Name: Brick Walk Shops - Village Shop
Shop 1956
Address: No 7 Farmington Avenue - Brickwalk
Date Built: 1956 For: Dr. W. W. Bunnell

Architect: Dr. W. W. Bunnell designer - Norris Prentice

Master-Builder: Frank Johnson

Former Owners:

References:

Owner: Brick Walk Shops

As Of: 1960

Photo No. No # Brickwalk

Folder No. 17 18 19 20
OWNER'S NAME: BRICK WALK SHOPS - ELM TREE PHARMACY
Store 1960

ADDRESS: Farmington Avenue

DATE BUILT: 1956 FOR: Dr. W. W. Bunnell

ARCHITECT: Dr. W. W. Bunnell designer - Norris Prentice
MASTER-BUILDER: Frank Johnson

FORMER OWNERS:

REFERENCES:

OWNER AS OF: PHOTO NO. FOLDER NO.
BRICK WALK SHOPS ELM TREE PHARMACY 1960
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>FORMER OWNERS:</th>
<th>See Residence card for Bunnell, Walls &amp; Elsa -1950</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>This small building was the woodshed attached to the old house, and was moved to its present location and added to in order to make it into a dentist's office.</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
OWNER'S NAME: PARSONS, ROBERT E. TO BUNNELL, W. W.
1951-res.
FARMINGTON BRICK WALK SHOP

ADDRESS: 77 Farmington Avenue

DATE BUILT: ca. 1798 FOR: Center School District

ARCHITECT
MASTER-BUILDER

ADDITIONAL INFORMATION
Built for a schoolhouse when the North District was formed, with eleven other school districts, in 1799. Building given to W.W.B. who moved it to present site - now Wright's Package Store - restored and occupied 7 - 1956 ELL of schoolhouse now Beauty shop

FORMER OWNERS:

REFERENCES:
"Farmington, Conn., 1906", p. 33 - 'School Building in North District'
"Baker & Tilden Atlas, 1869", p. 33 - 'School'
"Farmington Town Clerks, 1943", p. 122
OWNER'S NAME: FARMINGTON REALTY CORPORATION


REFERENCES: "Farmington, Conn., 1906", pp 152, lower picture, page 9 'Interior of Old Tunxis Library' also showing the addition at rear: 

ADDRESS: 139 Farmington Ave.

DATE BUILT: ca 1752 FOR: Daniel Curtis

Addition at rear ca 1900 for F. P. Swanston

ARCHITECT

MASTER-BUILDER

BUNNELL BRICK WALK SHOPS - house given to W. W. Bunnell - now clock and apartment -- former TUNXIS LIBRARY

Restored: occupied December 1956

ACME 56483-8P
Andrews, Frederick from Erastus Porter, Rebecca Seymour, Samuel Dickinson and Sukey, his wife, John Sweet and Anna his wife, all of Farmington, on Town Street, 1/2 of the real estate of Cyrus Curtis decd., n. on said Andrews, E. on hy., and Elisha Lewis, s. on Main St and w. on John North Jr. and heirs of Adna North & said Andrews "which came to us from Cyrus Curtis 5/10/1828, Vol. 44, p 3: Curtis, Cyrus, from the Est. of his father Solomon "Cyrus eldest son to have the house and barn and half the homelot on the east side" 3/15/1788, Vol. 4, p 112 Prob. Rec.: Curtis, Solomon died 1776 in the Rev. War: Curtis, Solomon, Frederick and Gabriel from their father Daniel, the home lot "where I now dwell, 2 acres south on Town St., east on Capt John Newell, north & west on John Rew with d. h. malt house, & potash house and works," 1/8/1773, Vol. 19, p 194: Curtis, Solomon and Gabriel from Frederick his share 12/7/1774, Vol. 20, p 278: Frederic Andrus from Gabriel Curtis the east half of the home lot of Daniel Curtis decd., from the north side of the said lot south to the south end of the bark house - butted east on Elijah Lewis, north on Seth Lewis, west on heirs of Solomon Curtis in part & part on passway or barn yard, south on the dooryard of the dwellinghouse. 2/16/1816, Vol. 39, p 332. Curtis, Daniel from Zebulon Woodruff, "where I now dwell, two acres, dwellinghouse and barn, east on Capt. John Newell & part on hy., north & west on Lt. John Rew and south on hy." 2/10/1752, Vol. 8, p 222: This connects the two shares from Gabriel and Solomon. As the deed from Zebulon Woodruff mentions only the dwellinghouse and barn, it would seem that the small house was not then built. While in the possession of Gabriel Curtis, Judah Woodruff
771 Farmington Avenue

The "Old North District Schoolhouse"

This old schoolhouse, reputed to have been built in 1798, is pictured on page 33 of the Farmington Book. It stood on Farmington Avenue, east of the Tunxis Library building shown on page 8, and west of the John Reilly house shown on page 151, the latter house having stood just east of the present house at 738 Farmington Avenue.

It appears to have served as a schoolhouse for just about 100 years, although the writer does not know exactly when it was abandoned and its last pupils taken into the Center School.

Mr. Gay speaks of it on page 35 as follows:

"The school building in the North District still remains intact, and in good repair, but quiet reigns supreme where once children's voices had full sway. An old time photograph, showing the children playing Ring Around a Rosey in that school yard (see page 33) will doubtless recall happy childhood days to many".

Mrs. Hurlburt has told much of the growth of the schools of Farmington, and some of the points of interest concern the old north school.

Farmington was divided into twelve school districts in the late years of the 18th century, about the time of the building of this school, and the bounds of the twelve school districts were defined on February 18, 1799.

At the school meeting of October 25, 1875, the north, middle and south districts voted to merge under the name of Center School District, and perhaps the school pictured on page 33 was built at that time. A proviso was attached to the merger however, providing that younger scholars of the north and south districts would stay in their own district schools.

Miss Jessie Rice of what is now 37 Mountain Spring Road, daughter of Henry Case Rice and Jessie Jameson, was the teacher at the old north school for some time, and some say was the last teacher there. She and her parents had come to Farmington in 1882, but her grandmother, Caroline Case of Canton, had lived in that same house on Mountain Spring, reared by the Noadiah Woodruffs.

In 1902 it was voted to transport children from Waterville, Northeast and East Farms districts, to Center School, and on October 9, 1911, it was voted to dissolve entirely the Waterville and Northeast districts.

It seems quite certain that North District School had been closed prior to 1900, as Mrs. Hurlburt found the following article in the November 1900 Farmington Magazine.

January 6, 1974
The article was re-printed in the Farmington Valley Herald of November 9, 1972. It was written by Robert Bolling Brandegee, the artist of 36 High Street, and reads as follows:

"Our North District Schoolhouse does not seem to like to resign its position as a building for public instruction. Early in the summer, Mr. Walter Griffin occupied it as a school of drawing and painting. Now it has taken another turn and has evolved itself into a girls' club. That means lessons on dress-making, embroidery, singing, dramatics, sewing and drawing. Also talks on travel and other subjects, reading and a regular social evening. This is the feast prepared for the girls over fifteen years of age. No wonder there are fifty-five girls on the list. And the poor men still have to sit on the cracker barrels at the store and discuss crops and politics".

Mr. D. Newton Barney purchased the building in 1901, and it was tenanted for some years by various of his employees. The names of Tidmus and Grimes have been mentioned as two of such tenants.

It has been said that Otto Nelson and his daughter Bertha may have lived here somewhere in the 1913-1920 period.

The house was purchased by Robert E. Parsons in 1941, he having already bought other property in the vicinity, and built the store building between this and the Reilly house next north. Frederick Taft and his wife, the former Harriet Lodge of 117 Main Street, lived here for the first years of their marriage in the late 1940's. There had been a lean-to attached to the building, and in it were the dining room and living room.

When Parsons Motors indicated that they needed the space occupied by buildings in this area, and that they would raze them, Dr. Bunnell conceived the idea of Brickwalk Lane. He moved this building and the old library building from here to the south side of Farmington Avenue.

The school house became Wright's Liquor Store, 771 Farmington Avenue, and the library building became the "Yarn Winder" on Brickwalk Lane. The liquor store is owned and operated by the nephews of the late James B. Wright, the originator of the Corner House Restaurant.

The lean-to was detached from the schoolhouse, and remodeled in accordance with plans by Norris Prentice, was converted to the Wig Shop, listed in the phone book as on Farmington Avenue, but actually on Brickwalk Lane.

January 6, 1974