**State of Connecticut**  
**Connecticut Historical Commission**  
59 South Prospect Street, Hartford, Connecticut 06106  
(203) 566-3005

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**1. Building Name (Common) (Historic)**  
Horsford, John, House

**2. Town City**  
Farmington

**3. Street and Number (and or, location)**  
20 Burlington Road

**4. Owner(s)**  
Dorman, George E. and Mabel L.

**5. Use (Present) (Historic)**  
Residence  
Residence

**6. Accessibility**  
Exterior Visible from Public Road: Yes  
Interior Accessible: Yes  
If Yes, Explain:  
- Removal chimney, porch additions

**7. Style of Building**  
Colonial

**8. Material(s) (Indicate use or location when appropriate)**  
- X Wood Shingle
- Asbestos Siding
- Fieldstone
- Board & Batten
- Stucco
- Cobblestone
- Aluminum Siding
- Concrete Siding Type: Cut stone  
- Brownstone foundation

**9. Structural System**  
- X Wood frame  
- Post and beam  
- Balloon  
- Other (Specify)
- Other (Specify)

**10. Roof (Type)**  
- X Gambrel
- Shed  
- Hip  
- Round  
- Other (Specify)
- Other (Specify)

**11. Number of Stories**  
2½

**12. Approximate Dimensions**  
36 x 30

**13. Date of Construction**  
ca. 1750

**14. Condition (Structural)**  
- Excellent  
- Good  
- Fair  
- Deteriorated
- Excellent  
- Good  
- Fair  
- Deteriorated

**15. Integrity, Location**  
- On original site  
- Moved  
- X Yes  
- No

**16. Related Outbuildings or Landscape Features**  
- Barn  
- X Shed  
- X Garage  
- Other landscape features or buildings (Specify)
- X Scattered buildings visible from site

**17. Surrounding Environment**  
- Open land  
- Residential  
- X Scattered buildings visible from site

**18. Interrelationship of Building and Surroundings**  
Facing south onto Burlington Road, the John Horsford House stands on a large open lot bordered to the north by woodland. The surrounding neighborhood contains primarily modern twentieth century dwellings. This is the oldest remaining dwelling in Farmington's West District.
This three-over-five bay, Colonial period farmhouse is capped by a ridge-to-street gable roof. The central, Federal-period entry door exhibits delicate fluted pilasters supporting a molded entablature with projecting cornice. All the original sash have been replaced with six-over-six windows, except the small, central, second-story twelve-over-eight sash. The west elevation (not visible in photo) features a lean-to rear projection which gives the roof line the typical "saltbox" appearance. The east elevation also exhibits a lean-to addition, but the angle of the rear roof line extends at a much shallower pitch and does not extend to the first floor. The original center chimney has been replaced with a small brick one.

John Horsford (Hosford) built this house about 1750 on a large tract of land he purchased between 1747 and 1754 in "The 8th Lott of the 1st Division, West of the reserved land." There is little historical information available concerning Horsford except that he had a son, Elisha, born in 1752 and a daughter, Martha, born in 1754. In 1755 Joseph Hinman of Woodbury, Connecticut, bought the eighty acres with dwelling house and barn (FLR 10:30). Hinman (1721-1787), a farmer, acquired the house at the time of his marriage to Esther Woodruff (1722-1787), the daughter of Captain Joseph and Esther Woodruff of Farmington. They had one son, Amos, in 1757. In 1780, "The 8th Lott of The 1st Division, West of the reserved land" was legally divided and set off to individual land owners (FLR 23:52). Joseph Hinman received 232 acres, the largest portion of this land division. Amos Hinman (1757-1829) presumably inherited the farm upon his father's death, although it is not recorded in the Farmington Town Hall. A farmer, like his father, Amos also operated a tavern along the old turnpike to Litchfield. "A. Hinman's Rising Sun Inn" was located farther west along the old turnpike and is no longer extant. Hinman and his wife Esther had three children: Levi (1795-1867), Amos (1798-1801), and David (1800-1801). Feeling dissatisfied with Connecticut's strict religious and political beliefs Hinman in 1815 placed an advertisement in the Courant advertising his farm in the West District of Farmington for a reasonable price "for the subscriber is determined to sell and move out of the holystate" (Bickford, p. 257). It was not until 1826 that he sold his six-hundred acre farm to Harvey Whittlesey (FLR 43:76). (see cont)


Photographer: K.J. Istok

View: NW

Date: 9/85

Negative on file: 8:26

Name: Elizabeth R. Hart

Date: 8/85

Compiled by: Greater Middletown Preservation Trust

Address: 27 Washington Street, Middletown, CT

Subsequent field evaluations:

Threats to building or site:

- None known
- Highways
- Vandalism
- Developers
- Other

- Renewal
- Private
- Deterioration
- Zoning
- Explanation
Hinman remained in Farmington and is buried in Greenwood Cemetery in Avon. The next owner of the house was Isaac Moses of Burlington who acquired "part of the Hinman Farm" in 1826 (FLR 43:62). In 1828 Adana Rowe, of Augusta, Georgia, received the property as "a recovered judgement against Isaac Moses" (FLR 44:470). Although it is not recorded, Rowe transferred the property to a relative, Isaiah Rowe, whose family resided farther east along the Old Litchfield Turnpike. In 1837 Isaiah Rowe's heirs sold their father's farm to William G. Rowe (FLR 47:230-234). This included a 117 acre piece "with buildings" known as the Hinman Farm. William Rowe shortly thereafter sold the house to David S. Porter of Berlin, Connecticut (FLR 46:500). Porter, a farmer, had married Olive Hadsell in 1824. They had three sons: Bryan C., Ira A., and Royal A. Upon David's death in 1866, the property was equally divided among his heirs (FPR 12:640). Bryan C. Porter and his heirs acquired full title of the property between 1868 and 1892 (FLR 62:11 and 64:121; 69:229). In 1897 the house was sold out of the family. In 1936 George Dorman acquired the property (FLR 91:304) and it remains in that family today.

This interesting Colonial-period farmhouse is one of the oldest dwellings in Farmington's West District and is historically significant for its association with the Horsford, Hinman, and Porter families.