The Mary Barney Carey House is sited prominently on top of a hill of the south side of Route 4 (Farmington Avenue); the Hill-Stead Museum lies to the east and Farmington Village to the west and south. Other residences of similar size are partially visible to the north on Mountain Spring Road.
Although relatively devoid of any decorative detail, this large Tudor-style, L-shaped building, designed by Heathcote Woolsey, exhibits asymmetry and large massing. Its front facade, which faces west towards Farmington village, displays windows of varying combinations such as single, paired, tripartite, and quadropartite. A Colonial Revival-style entry porch extends from the north end of the building. Also displayed are three gable-roofed dormers. Towards the southern part of the facade is a projecting gable-roofed section. Here lies a bay window. Two brick chimneys extend from the roof of the house. Modern additions do not exist; however, the southernmost, two-story addition may not have been an original part of the house.

In 1926 D. Newton Barney of 11 Mountain Spring Road sold his daughter Mary Dunham (Barney) Carey six acres and the homestead of Henry Lewis (763 Farmington Avenue). Barney, one of Farmington's most prestigious and wealthiest citizens, owned a large amount of land in the northeast portion of town. His daughter Mary was born in 1891 and attended Miss Porter's School and Yale College. In 1914 she married Hiram Bissell Carey (1886-1967), president of the Collins Company in Collinsville and later the Automatic Refrigeration Company in Hartford. He was the son of Frank S. Carey, secretary of the Hartford Courant, and Ella Bissell. During 1926 Mary and Hiram commissioned architect Heathcote Woolsey of New York to design this house and R.G. Bent to build it. At Mary B. Carey's death in 1962, her will stipulated that the house pass to her husband, and if deceased to her son, H. Bissell Carey, Jr. (FPR 63:456). In 1968 Carey, Jr. quit-claimed it to Miss Porter's School (FLR 188:297) which later in 1968 sold it out of their corporation (FLR 188:302).

The Mary Barney Carey House is architecturally important to the area as a fine representation of the Tudor style. Its association with the Barney family makes it also historically important.
OWNER'S NAME: CAREY, MARY BARNEY

ADDRESS: 729 Farmington Ave.

DATE BUILT: 1926 FOR: Mary Barney Carey

ARCHITECT: Heskett Woolsey of New York

MASTER-BUILDER: R.G. Bent

FORMER OWNERS: None - land deeded to Mary B. Carey by her father, D.N. Barney "six acres and all bldgs.", the building being the old house at corner of High Street, 7/15/1926, Vol. 80, p. 701.

REFERENCES: None