1. BUILDING NAME (Common) (Historic)
   Village Cooperative Nursery School | Elizabeth V. Hale Keep Memorial Kindergarten

2. TOWN CITY VILLAGE COUNTY
   Farmington | | Hartford

3. STREET AND NUMBER (and or locations)
   117 Garden Street

4. OWNER(S)
   Miss Porter's School, Inc.

5. USE (Present)
   Village Cooperative Nursery School | Residence

6. ACCESSIBILITY TO PUBLIC
   EXTERIOR VISIBLE FROM PUBLIC ROAD | INTERIOR ACCESSIBLE |
   Yes | No | Yes | No

7. STYLE OF BUILDING
   Colonial Revival
   DATE OF CONSTRUCTION ca. 1913

8. MATERIALS (Indicate use or location when appropriate)
   | Clapboard | Asbestos Siding | Brick | Other (Specify) |
   | Wood Shingle | Asphalt Siding | Fieldstone |
   | Board & Batten | Stucco | Cobblestone foundation |
   | Aluminum | Concrete | Cut stone |

9. STRUCTURAL SYSTEM
   | Wood frame | Post and beam | Balloon | Other (Specify) |
   | Load bearing masonry | Structural iron or steel |

10. ROOF (Type)
    | Gable | Flat | Mansard | Monitor | Sawtooth |
    | Gambrel | Shed | Hip | Round | Other (Specify) jerkinhead - gable |

11. NUMBER OF STORIES APPROXIMATE DIMENSIONS
    2 | 30 x 12; 32 x 49

12. CONDITION (Structural)
    | Excellent | X Good | Fair | Deteriorated | Excellent | X Good | Fair | Deteriorated |

13. INTEGRITY (Historic)
    On original | Moved |

14. RELATED OUTBUILDINGS OR LANDSCAPE FEATURES
    Barn | Shed | Garage | Other landscape features or buildings (Specify) |

15. SURROUNDING ENVIRONMENT
    Open land | Woodland | Residential |
    | Commercial | Industrial | Rural |

16. INTERRELATIONSHIP OF BUILDING AND SURROUNDINGS

Located on Garden Street just northeast of the historic Phoenix Manufacturing Company is the Elizabeth V. Hale Keep Memorial Kindergarten. To the south lies a large play yard. A driveway exists on the north side of the house.
This Colonial Revival-style house features a full-length open porch supported by grouped columns set on square bases. Its three-bay facade is topped by a jerkinhead roof. A small porch exists on both the south and north elevations. The south elevation features a shed-roofed and gable-roofed dormer above the entablature of the eave line. Note the six-over-six sash and brick corbeled chimney.

In 1913 Henry Iserman sold a one-and-one-quarter acre of land to Elizabeth V. Keep, headmistress of Miss Porter's School (FLR 77:474). In 1912 Keep hired R.F. Jones to construct this house which was completed by 1913 and served as a kindergarten. After Mrs. Keep's death in 1917, a group of students met in New York to endow the kindergarten as a memorial to the headmistress. In 1928 a corporation, known as the Elizabeth V. Hale Keep Memorial Kindergarten, Inc., was formed. It was run for faculty children of Miss Porter's School and children from the community.

This building is historically significant due to its association with pre-elementary education in Farmington and at Miss Porter's School.

**Sources**

**Photographer**
- Alex Paredes

**Date**
- 5/85

**View**
- NE

**Negative on File**
- 1:14

**Name**
- Ruth B. Matteson

**Date**
- 2/86

**Organization**
- Greater Middletown Preservation Trust

**Address**
- 27 Washington Street, Middletown, CT

**Compiled by**
-

**Subsequent Field Evaluations**
- 

**Threats to Building or Site**
- None known

**Highways**

**Vandalism**

**Developers**

**Other**

**Renewal**

**Private**

**Deterioration**

**Zoning**

**Explanation**

OWNER'S NAME: THE ELIZABETH V. HALE KEEP MEMORIAL KINDERGARTEN, INC.
school - 1951

ADDRESS: 17 Garden Street

DATE BUILT: ca. 1913-14 FOR: Elizabeth V. Keep

ARCHITECT
MASTER-BUILDER: R.F. Jones

ADDITIONAL INFORMATION

REFERENCES:
The Elizabeth V. Hale Keep Memorial Kindergarten (Incorporated Oct. 25, 1928, Vol. 84, p. 497) TRUST, held in trust by Security Trust Co., from Mary B. Carey by quit claim deed, 1/8/1921, Vol. 79, p. 265; Mary B. Carey from Mary Eddy Hale & Marcia Ellen Hale of Elizabethtown, N.Y., by warrantee deed, for $5,000, to be paid to Robert P. Keep, Adm. c.t.a. on the Est. of Elizabeth V. Keep, the house and land on Garden St., 12/1/1918, Vol. 80, p. 36; Mary Eddy Hale & Marcia Ellen Hale from the Est. of Elizabeth V. Keep by will, the life use, the remainder to Robert P. Keep and Dorothea K. Hale, 4/10/1917, Prob. Rec., Vol. 31, p. 53; Elizabeth V. Keep from Henry Iserman, 1 1/4 acres on Garden St. 6/7/1913, Vol. 77, p. 474. The Kindergarten was endowed by about 100 former pupils of Elizabeth V. Keep as a Memorial to her in 1918. Mary B. Carey has been Chairman of the Kindergarten Comm. since 1920. Katherine D. Barney is Treas, & Sarah C. Smith, Sec'y.
This house is not pictured in the Farmington Book, having been built much too late. It seems however, an integral part of Farmington's history, due to the many of its people for whom its kindergarten was a cherished remembrance of their preschool days.

The kindergarten was started by Mrs. Elizabeth V. Hale Keep, while she was Headmistress of Miss Porter's School after the death of her husband. It was started in 1912, and was first housed at 108 Garden Street in the former Music Cottage. That building had formerly stood on Main Street just north of #66, the headmaster's home, and is pictured on that site on page 193 of the Farmington Book, having been moved to Garden Street sometime after 1906. Mrs. Keep's original intent was to provide pre-school training for the children of the employee's of Miss Porter's School.

On June 7, 1913, Mrs. Keep purchased from Henry Isserman a plot of 1½ acres of land at this site, bounded on the north by Chase property (now 113 Garden Street) and on the south by Wollenberg (125 Garden Street), and on it this house was built, by R. F. Jones. The new building was opened for use in September 1914.

According to notes kept by Mrs. Keith Smith, the first teacher was Miss Alice Morrison, followed by Miss Lucile Thompson, who left after her marriage to Arthur Hackney of Unionville.

Mrs. Elizabeth Keep died in 1917, but the kindergarten was firmly rooted by then and continued in operation, perhaps largely due however, to the fact that Mrs. Jenner had been brought into it prior to that time.

Mrs. Ethel F. Jenner had come to Farmington some years earlier with her parents, Mr. and Mrs. Edward Fletcher, they having thought that the move here would aid her recovery from the shock of the sudden loss of her young husband, victim of a fatal attack of appendicitus. Her husband, Edward David Jenner, had been a young lawyer of Philadelphia, a brilliant man and apparently headed for a successful career in international law when suddenly stricken. The Fletchers and their daughter lived in the former Lewis Curtis clock shop which had been moved to Waterville Road, just across from what is now 17 Waterville Road. See photo on page 11 of the Farmington Book. Mrs. Jenner taught a Sunday School class of young girls at the Congregational Church, and was very successful. When Mr. Fletcher found it necessary to go to California and took his wife and daughter, the Sunday School class was disconsolate, and in tears over the loss of their teacher.

Mrs. Keep, having become aware, through Mrs. Quincy Blakely, of the notable success of Mrs. Jenner with small girls, wrote for her to return and take charge of the kindergarten, anticipating the departure of Miss Thompson who was to be married.

August 28, 1974
When Mrs. Jenner demurred and said that she knew nothing of kindergarten, Mrs. Keep replied: "Never mind, you are the young lady I would like to have as the head of my kindergarten". Mrs. Jenner did return, and with the help of professionally trained Miss Thompson, she learned the basics needed for the operation of this type of learning center. After Miss Thompson's marriage Mrs. Jenner succeeded her. Mary Bissell Carey helped out, as did Malbro Howard, Elsie Deming and others -- many Farmington people helped her, but Mrs. Jenner was the leading force and she made the kindergarten into a huge success, very well known and very popular.

Mr. and Mrs. Fletcher returned to Farmington also, and they all lived in the kindergarten home. Mr. Fletcher also became very much interested and taught classes of Italian youngsters, teaching them pre-school English, something similar to what has in the recent past been known as Headstart. The kindergarten first took in only children of employees of Miss Porter's School, but its services were so much in demand that they took in others also, as room permitted.

Helen D. Perkins, in an article written for an MPS alumnae bulletin of 1962, states the following:

"Upon Mrs. Keep's sudden death in 1917, a group of girls met in New York and decided to endow the kindergarten as a memorial to their beloved principal. A company, known as the Elizabeth V. Hale Keep Memorial Fund, was formed to receive donations and to administer the kindergarten. The original committee consisted of:

Mrs. Albert Harkness (Hope Hodgman, 1906-1908),
Mrs. H. Bissell Carey (Mary Barney, 1906-1910),
Mrs. Archibald Cox (Fanny Perkins, 1908-1910),
Mrs. J. Horton Ijams (Margaret Porter, 1909-1912),
Mrs. Richard B. Hobart (Janet Elliott, 1910-1913),
Mrs. Leon F. Foss (Mary Parker, 1909-1913), and
Mrs. William Herman (Sue Evarts, 1908-1912).

Miss Perkins also stated, but not in the bulletin, that "in 1918 Miss Maud Hoyt, a classmate of Mrs. Keep's, bought the house and only the land on which it stood. She presented it to the group of girls who raised the money to endow the running of the school. The large lawn to the south of the house belonged to MPS but was used by the kindergarten children. Miss Sherrill's memorials, bird fountain and bench were placed on it. This south lawn went up to Miss Barbour's house (90 Bain Street), and asparagus was raised on it and was canned for the girls at MPS".

Miss Perkins' article in the bulletin continues: "In 1928 a corporation was formed, known as the Elizabeth V. Hale Keep Memorial Kindergarten, Inc. Mrs. H. Bissell Carey became chairman, which position she held until 1960. Mrs. David Daggett (Frances Gamble, 1907-08) has been vice-chairman since 1935. The Hartford National Bank and Trust Company was appointed treasurer with Mrs. Austin D. Barney (Katharine Derr, 1915-18) as assistant treasurer in 1927."

August 28, 1974
Continuing the Bulletin article:

"Close ties have always existed between the kindergarten and Miss Porter's School. On Mondays the kindergarten committee of about 20 MPS girls went to the kindergarten to play with the children and help Mrs. Jenner. On Hallowe'en and Valentine's Day they provided entertainment and parties. The competition for places on this committee was very keen; candidates were expected to make children's toys, stuffed animals, scrapbooks or the like, which were then submitted as part of the credentials for election. The girls of the committee were invited to the three yearly luncheon meetings of the executive committee.

"The school was composed of 36 four- and five-year-old pupils divided into classes "A" and "B". Children of employees of Miss Porter's School were chosen first. If there was room, the children of other village people were accepted. Mrs. Carey's children and some of her grandchildren have attended as well as Mrs. Barney's children. In later years many were children of parents who themselves had attended.

"In 1917 Mrs. Jenner started a club at the kindergarten for young girls, called the Victory Girls Club. The requisite for membership was: 'Can we do her any good and can she help us?'. The aim was to make good citizens, to promote good fellowship, and to follow high ideals. The club, still thriving, meets once a week for sewing or making scrapbooks and prepares each year a layette and bassinet to be presented to a needy mother through the Visiting Nurses Association in Farmington. Through the courtesy of Mrs. Robert Porter Keep, Miss Adele Kaufman, while teaching at MPS, conducted a weekly dancing class at the kindergarten for the Victory Girls, to which boys were invited. Miss Ruth Sherrill, the science teacher, taught the girls to identify and love birds. After her death the club bought and erected a bird fountain in Miss Sherrill's memory. Miss Anna Y. Barbour (1883-86) attended many meetings and talked about astronomy.

"In 1956 the Exchange Club of Farmington honored Mrs. Jenner at a dinner and enrolled her name as the first in its "Book of Golden Deeds", saying 'Mrs. Jenner was unanimously selected because of her great love of others; her desire for neither fame nor influence; her devotion to young people, being a real power in their lives, and seeking no disciples she has taught many the golden qualities of good character'."

"In recognition of Mrs. Jenner's long years of inspired leadership at the kindergarten, she has been given life use of the building as well as other considerations. Mrs. Keep no doubt would have approved the action of the committee". End of quote.

In 1961, after Mrs. Jenner was no longer able to operate the school, the association was dissolved and remaining funds were turned over to Miss Porter's School. Another organization operates it now but MPS still owns it, and a school employee, Rene M. Martineau, occupies the apartment in which the Jenners previously lived.

August 29, 1974
Mrs. Keith Smith has compiled a lot of those who had
served a long time as officers and directors of the Elizabeth V.
Hale Keep Memorial Kindergarten, Inc., including earlier service,
prior to incorporation. It contains the following names:

President 1918-1928 Hope Hodgman, Mrs Albert Harkness, (1906-08)
1928-1960 Mary Barney, Mrs. Hiram B. Carey, (1906-10)
Vice president
1918-1928 Mary Barney, see above
Secretary 1939-1961 Sarah Conklin, Mrs. Keith Smith, (1921-24)
Asst. Treasurer, the Treasurer was Htfd. National Bank)
1927-1961 Katharine Derr, Mrs Austin D. Barney (1915-18)
Committee members and directors
1918-1961 Robert Porter Keep
1927-1961 Helen D. Perkins (1913-1917)
1930-1961 Mildred Chase, Mrs. R. C. Ely, (1907-09)
1930-1947 Josephine Evarts, Mrs. C. Demarest (1916-20)
1931-1941 Eliza Conklin, Mrs. Robert G. Hess (1926-29)
1935-1961 Frances Gamble, Mrs. D. Daggett (1907-08)
1950-1961 Anna P. Chase, Mrs. C. E. Elwell Jr (1911-1912)

Mrs. Smith's list of assistant teachers at the kindergarten
has the following names:

Miss Millicent Sallis, 1929-1930,
Miss Frances Dorman, 1930-1940, Mrs. H. K. Simonds,
Miss Elizabeth Sanford, 1940-1942, Mrs. Henry J. Chapin,
Miss Mary Rogers, 1942-1946,
Miss Betty Jean Hammink, 1946-1948, Mrs. Frank Carey,
Miss Suzanne Skinner, 1948-1950, Mrs. John Mix Deming,
Miss Ann MacDonald, 1950-1951,
Mrs. Russell Hunter, 1951-1952,

August 29, 1974