The Theodate Pope Rental House #1 faces west onto Garden Street. It sits on a small lot close to the street. Two other buildings, designed by Theodate Pope, lie to north and south.
This artistically-designed building combines two styles: the Colonial Revival and the Colonial-period saltbox. Its four-bay facade is made up of two double-hung windows flanked by open entry porches. The roof is somewhat unusual because it slopes with a slight break, similar to a gambrel roof, however, the roof on the rear is a straight pitch resembling a saltbox configuration. A modest chimney extends from each end of the roof. Six-over-six sash are found throughout the house.

In 1907 Theodate Pope purchased a house lot bounded by Main Street and the "New Road" or Garden Street, which measured 400' in width from James Cowles. Pope (1868-1946), an educator and philanthropist, is widely reputed to be the first woman architect in the country although she had an informal training. She attended Miss Porter's School and married John Wallace Riddle, U.S. ambassador to Russia and Argentina. She also designed the buildings at Avon Old Farms School and assisted Sanford White in building her home "Hill-Stead", which at her death was left to the town as a museum. According to historians Lewis and Hurlbert, Pope designed this rental house between 1914-15 when it was erected by R.F. Jones, Inc. for her chauffeur, Charles Clifford and his family. Upon Mrs. Riddle's death in 1946, her executor sold the house to Fritz and Elfriede K. Pasler (FLR 101:350-1). It has remained in that family since that time.

The house is architecturally significant because it was designed by architect, Theodate Pope Riddle.

Sources:
OWNER'S NAME  PASLER, FRITZ & ELFRIDE K.  1950-res.
ADDRESS:  179 Garden Street

DATE BUILT:  1914-15  FOR:  Theodate Pope

ARCHITECT  Theodate Pope
MASTER-BUILDER  R.F. Jones, Inc.

FORMER OWNERS:  F.P. & E.K. Pasler from Est. Theodate Pope Riddle,

REFERENCES: