This two-family house faces east onto Garden Street and is sited near the intersection of Garden Street with Farmington Avenue.
This ridge-to-street, Colonial Revival-style house features a three-bay street facade with a second-story, shed-roofed dormer. Windows are six-over-one sash throughout. The main entrance exhibits a Colonial Revival-styledoorway. The main house displays a bellcast gambrel roof with a central interior-placed chimney. The south elevation reveals a shed-roofed enclosed porch with side entrance and a semi-circular attic vent in the gable end. A gable-roofed two story ell exists towards the rear with an additional entrance; a rear one-story shed-roofed entry ell jets out at its corner.

This altered Colonial Revival-style house was built on a once larger lot at the corner of Bridge and Canal Streets in Farmington's center. George N. Whiting sold this land for $200 to Thomas J. Miller in 1897 (FLR 71:309). In 1907 Miller mortgaged this land "with buildings now thereon and to be built" to Lucius Bishop (FLR 72:331). By that date Miller already owned one house on the property and was to build a second. He planned to sell off the northern section of this land, probably with the older home. In February 1912 Miller mortgaged his smaller lot with buildings to Michael Brogard, probably to help pay for work being done on his property at the time (FLR 72:459). In June, Sanford & Hawley, a large construction and building materials company located in Unionville, placed a lien on Miller's one-half acre lot "for services rendered & materials furnished in the construction; erection, raising & removal of said buildings and for repairs done thereon." (FLR 72:350). In September Fred Staples placed a second lien on the same property for similar described services (FLR 78:358). The exact nature of the work done on Miller's property between January and July is unknown; however, it probably included the erection of a blacksmith's shop which appears in a property description from January 1913 when Miller took a second mortgage on his property with Michael Brogard (FLR 72:477). Miller mortgaged the same property in May to Joseph McCormick for $1100 (FLR 72:491). The following year this mortgage came into dispute but was apparently settled when Miller sold the property in January of 1915 to Amberto Lauretti (FLR 78:454, 77:556).

Although quite modest, this house contributes to the streetscape.


Alex Paredes 5/85

Gilbert Ramos 8/85

27 Washington Street, Middletown, CT

None known. Highways Vandalism Developers Other

Renewal Private Deterioration Zoning Explanation
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>OWNER'S NAME</th>
<th>LAURETTI, UMBERTO</th>
</tr>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>ADDRESS</td>
<td>8 Garden Street</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>DATE BUILT</td>
<td>1907</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>FOR</td>
<td>Thomas J. Miller</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**ADDITIONAL INFORMATION**

When Thomas J. Miller sold his first house on corner of Bridge and Canal Sts., in 1907, to John Walker, he built this house where he lived until 1915.

**ARCHITECT**

**MASTER-BUILDER**

**FORMER OWNERS:** Lauretti from Thomas J. Miller, ½ acre, dwelling-house and blacksmith shop, 1/20/1915, Vol. 77, p. 556.

**REFERENCES:**
This house does not appear in the Farmington Book, but is written up because of its connection with the house at 4 Garden Street.

Thomas J. Miller, who built that house in 1897, built the blacksmith shop on the site of 10 Garden Street at that same time. In 1907 he sold 4 Garden Street to John Walker and built this house at #8 to accommodate the operator of the blacksmith shop. Whether he himself lived here or not, is perhaps a moot question. Someone says "Yes, he lived here, but moved into #40 Garden Street with his daughter Molly after selling the blacksmith shop."

Umberto Lauretti purchased this house at #8 on January 20, 1915, but did not occupy it until in 1918. During the interim he and his family lived in the Barney house at 28 Garden Street, renting it while they improved this poorly-built original house.

This house is now the residence of William Orvis, whose wife is the former Margaret Lauretti, whom he married in the late 1940's. Mr. Orvis, presently Farmington's Postmaster, is thought by the writer to be of the Orvis family which was here in Farmington prior to 1664. Mrs. Hurlburt tells of that family on page 369 of the Farmington Book:

"George Orvis was an original proprietor and settler of Farmington. He died here 1664 and his widow Elizabeth married Richard Brownson as his second wife, it being her third marriage. She was first the wife of David Carpenter. In 1677 Orvis's land and homestead were sold by his widow Elizabeth as executrix of his estate, to Elizabeth (Upson) Scott, as executrix of the estate of Thomas Upson. The Orvis homestead so sold was on the east side of Main Street about opposite the present Tunxis Street."

For more on the present Orvis family, see the account of the Nordstrom house on Town Farm Road.

November 30, 1973

It should be mentioned here also, that Julius Gay has told of several members of the Orvis family in his collection of "Farmington Papers", usually in connection with the various wars in which Farmington men took part.

He tells of George's son Roger, who lived at "ye southerly end of the town plat", near where Mrs. Percy Cowles now lives, who was in the party which marched from Hadley for the relief of Hatfield.

Then he tells of Ebenezer, who served as Ensign in the Colonial Wars in 1755, and by 1776 was Lieutenant. David and Roger and Gershon were also in the Colonial Wars, Gershon being in the 1757 campaign at Ft. William Henry. Samuel helped settle Vermont.

March 3, 1974