This house faces east onto Garden Street. It is situated on a large lot with a picket fence along the street. Miss Porter's School lies to the east and the Farmington River lies at the rear of the house.
This building has undergone several alterations as a photograph from 1950 reveals. It originally boasted an interior chimney, a Victorian-period porch with scroll-sawn detail, and brackets under its overhanging eaves. An exterior chimney exists along the north elevation and decorative iron posts support the shed-roofed porch. Its two-bay facade is topped by a decorative-paned gable end window. One-over-one sash is found throughout this nineteenth-century vernacular house.

Bridget Shanley purchased this 3/4 acre tract in Farmington from the estate of Elizabeth Connell in 1893 (FLR 70:390). At that time the deeds located the property between the Farmington River and a "new road" later to be called Canal and finally Garden Street. In 1898 Bridget mortgaged this property "with buildings" to Lucius Bishop (FLR 72:44). The house was therefore built between 1893 and 1898. It is said to have been the first construction job of Richard F. Jones who later built other homes in Farmington. Bridget (Dunne) Shanley (1839-1914, b. Ireland) was wife of William Shanley. Before she died she deeded this property to two of her daughters, Catherine Madelaine (a.k.a. Kate, 1886-1928) and Mary Elizabeth Shanley, both employees of Miss Porter's girl's school (FLR 77:529). Upon her death, Catherine's one-half interest passed on to her sister, Mary (FLR 74:497). Mary died in 1930 and the property was sold to Nathaniel Slocombe (FLR 74:522).

Although the house has undergone a number of modifications, it contributes to the historic character of Garden Street. The house derives historic significance for its association with the Shanley family.
Owner's Name: PRATT, CATHERINE G.
Address: 68 Garden Street

Date Built: 1897  For: Bridget Shanley

Additional Information: Richard F. Jones built this house, the first one he built when he started in business. The house was mortgaged to Bishop 6/10/1898 and probably built 1897. R.F. Jones asked Mrs. Shanley for the job.

Architect: R.F. Jones
Master-Builder: R.F. Jones

Former Owners:
- C.G. Pratt from Est. Mary P. Slocombe 5/1/1941; Vol. 94, p. 467; Slocombe from husband, Nathaniel Slocombe
- Nathaniel Slocombe from Est. Mary Shanley, 4/25/1930; Vol. 74, p. 522; Mary Shanley from Est. Bridget Shanley
- Bridget Shanley bought the land from Frank Corbin 7/31/1903; Vol. 71, p. 622; also land from Est. Elizabeth O'Connell 8/16/1893; Vol. 70, p. 390;


Owner: PRATT, CATHERINE G.
68 Garden Street

This house is pictured on page 110 of the Farmington Book as the residence of Mrs. William Shanley. Library records show it to have been built in 1897 on land which had been purchased from the estate of Elizabeth O'Connell in 1893.

The house was built for Bridget Shanley by Richard F. Jones, said to have been Mr. Jones' first construction job. He built other houses in Farmington later, and by the 1940's and 50's the R. F. Jones Construction Company, with headquarters in West Hartford, was very well known in the Hartford area.

It is said that Carlson's studio, pictured also on page 110, formerly stood where the driveway at #68 is now located, and a look at the photo confirms that, showing it standing right at the sidewalk.

The Shanleys had previously lived in the house pictured on Page 136 of the Farmington Book. That house stood just off Prattling Pond Road, on a site which was on or very near the present driveway of the H. Douglas Thomson house on Prattling Pond Road.

The Shanleys had six daughters and one son: Cecelia, Mary, Jennie, Annie, Kate, Dora and John. Cecelia married someone in Hartford, Mary and Kate never married, always worked for MPS, Jennie married John Rhodes, father of Joseph and Samuel, Annie became the second wife of William Chidsey of 1 High Street, Dora married George Ryan. John married and lived in New Haven.

Mary Shanley inherited this house, date unknown.

In 1930 the house was purchased from the estate of Mary Shanley by Nathaniel Slocombe, former grounds foreman, or farm manager at the Barney estate. See photo of his former residence, "cottage at D. N. Barney's", on page 117 of the Farmington Book.

The name of a Dr. Moreney has been mentioned as associated with this house, but when or how he was related is not known.

In 1941 it was purchased by Catherine G. Pratt, who bought it for her husband and herself and family. She was Mrs. Winfred W. Pratt. They had rented it since 1939.

Winfred Wallace Pratt was born in Canton, Connecticut, in 1886, and lived most of his early life in Unionville. He started full time work when he was quite young. He worked in the shop, and soon became a machinist, in the Case Company factory in Unionville. It was not long before Raymond S. Case had taken note of his mechanical aptitude, and assigned him to drive Mr. Case's car. A photograph in the possession of Mr. Pratt's daughter Dorothy shows him at the wheel of Mr. Case's 1905 Stevens-Duryea, a very sturdy looking touring car, with the top down and Winfred Pratt at the wheel. He states on the reverse of the photo, that "This car was the first to go over Three-mile Hill, from Littleton, New Hampshire to Profile House".

April 15, 1973

AS
His next employment, commencing around 1908, was as chauffeur for the Pope family, in fact principally for Miss Theodate Pope. He was recommended to her by his good friend Dr. Michael Morrissey, who was Miss Pope’s personal physician. It was a wonderful job for Winfred, especially in that it involved travel. Some of this was in the British Isles, often to small villages where a motor car had never been seen. Miss Pope loved these “firsts”.

Mr. Pratt worked for the Popes for seven or eight years, but after the death of Mr. Pope and the marriage of his daughter Theodate, Winfred took employment as car salesman for the Packard Motor Car Company. He had been an automobile enthusiast for many years, and probably was the one who induced the Popes to purchase their noted one. Dorothy Pratt says: “It was yellow in color, and referred to by the Pope family’s friends and acquaintances, among them Teddy Roosevelt, as ‘The Yellow Peril’”.

Winfred Pratt was married in 1913 to Catherine Genevieve Long, born in 1887, formerly of New Haven, who was brought up in the household of Farther Redding in Unionville. She attended Mount St. Joseph Academy in West Hartford, and then was graduated from New Britain Normal School.

Their first residence after their marriage was for some years in what the Farmington Book calls “Sunny Bank”, earlier the residence of Arthur Brandegee, co-publisher of that book. At that time it was owned by Miss Pope, whose father had purchased it in 1911 for her use as a dormitory to house her architects, and perhaps Win Pratt lived here for a time during his employment with the Popes prior to his marriage.

In 1916, when Mr. Pratt terminated his employment with Miss Pope, he took a position as salesman for Packard Motor Company of Hartford. They then moved from “Sunny Bank” to Adams Street in Hartford, where their daughter Ann Louise was born, their first child, Dorothy, having been born on Mountain Road.

In 1920 they moved back to Farmington and rented the Hansen house on Main Street, which was not pictured in the Farmington Book, but was built by Fred Hotchkiss in 1910. It is now known as 248 Main Street. The Pratts lived there only two years.

Their next residence was in the Edward Ryan house, which faced Farmington Avenue next east of Wolf Pit Road, pictured on page 136 of the Farmington Book. Later it was moved back from the road and a porch was added to the side facing Wolf Pit Road. This house they purchased in the name of Catherine G. Pratt, in 1922, buying from the estate of Arthur J. Birseye.

The Hatheways, who had purchased Birdseyeview in 1923, had established a stable of fine thoroughbred horses and built a track on the side over near what is now Elizabeth Road. They needed a house for the man in charge of their stable, probably James Enfield Haskell, and offered the Pratts an attractive sum for the Ryan house.

April 27, 1974

409.
The Pratts accepted the offer, and sold the house in 1929 to Elizabeth M. Hatheway. That house was later owned and occupied several years by the Patrick Sheas, but it is no longer in existence, it having been razed, as was Birdseyeview, in 1971 to make way for the exit ramp from I-84 to Farmington Avenue, Route 4.

For the Pratts this was intended to be just an interim residence in the James H. Andrews house into which they moved as tenants in 1929, while they looked for a suitable place to purchase. The Andrews house was the one pictured on page 63 of the Farmington Book, but owned in 1929 by Frederick Andrews and his son Harold. The "interim" lasted twelve years!

When the Depression came in the 1930's of course Packard sales fell off, as did sales of all non-necessities. Mr. Pratt left the Packard sales force and went into other ventures. One was "Pratt's Express", which he carried on for several years. Another was selling cars for Mr. Judatz, who had only recently started his garage, which is now the Farmington Garage, at 781 Farmington Avenue, presently operated by his son-in-law.

In 1941 the Pratts purchased and moved into this house at 68 Garden Street. Here Mr. and Mrs. Pratt lived out their lives. Mr. Pratt in that same year, 1941, yielded to Bill Wadsworth's suggestion and took over as head custodian at Noah Wallace School, the position he held until his retirement in 1961 at the age of 75.

Mr. Pratt had spent at least 60 of his years in Farmington and Unionville, and was full of reminiscences and tales of the old times and the oldtimers of the community. It is the writer's great regret that he waited too long to contact Win Pratt, as his memories should certainly have been recorded. Perhaps his son and daughters will sometime put them together, and into print!

Mrs. Pratt died on July 2, 1970, and Mr. Pratt on the 17th of August, 1971, a couple whose loss was deeply felt in the village.

The Pratts left three children. Dorothy Geraldine Pratt, delivered by Dr. Stuart Phelps at 18 Mountain Road, Ann Louise Pratt, born in Hartford, and Winfred W. Pratt, Jr., born in the Ryan house on Farmington Avenue.

Dorothy is a graduate of Regis College, Weston, Massachusetts, who earned her Master's at Trinity College, Hartford. She taught for three years in public schools in Hartford and Hamden, and worked about another three years in the auditing department of Aetna Life. Since that time she has been teaching at Mt. St. Joseph Academy in West Hartford. She is Chairman of the Social Studies Department and Director of Public Relations, having taken special courses at U-Conn, Yale, Central Connecticut and St. Joseph's College. Her special outside interests, besides golf and antiques, are the Red Cross and a Kennedy Memorial Scholarship Fund. In 1972 she was named a director of the Farmington Historical Society.

April 27, 1974
Winfred W. Pratt, Jr., is custodian at Noah Wallace School in Farmington, a job he has held for thirty years, and is in his 24th year of membership in the Farmington Volunteer Fire Department.

Ann Louise was married in 1946 to Russell Slater, born in New Britain, the son of Charles H. Slater and Anna Holmquist. He was a tool and die maker at that time. After a short residence in an apartment on Diamond Glen they moved to Kensington. They have no children. Mr. Slater is part owner of the Berlin Auto Sales, and Louise teaches knitting part time. She is especially skilled in several crafts.

Dorothy and Winfred live in the family home, at 68 Garden Street.

April 27, 1974