Sited on the north side of Maiden Lane, the Amanda Stewart House is bordered by homes of similar age. There is a driveway west of the house.
This nineteenth-century vernacular building once appeared differently than it does today. Its original wraparound verandah has been removed and the house has been sheathed in asphalt siding. Today the three-bay facade displays an enclosed entry porch with a gable roof. The L-shaped design of the house still exists as does the center brick chimney. One-over-one sash are found throughout the house.

In 1897 blacksmith William D. Hurlburt (1841-1916) sold a 60' x 133' lot to Amanda Stewart, widow of Francis Stewart (FLR 71:326). During the next year, she hired F.F. Hurlburt of Farmington to build her this house. Shortly thereafter in 1899, she sold the land and house to William D. Hurlburt (FLR 71:411), the original land owner. He next sold it to Mary Irene (Porter) Merriman, the wife of Elwin F. Merriman of Litchfield (FLR 77:265) in 1909. Mary was born in 1861 and married in 1885. The house has changed owners since its 1909 sale.

This house is historically important due to its association with the early development of Maiden Lane.
OWNER'S NAME: WOLLENBERG, JULIUS E. & MARGARET H.
1950-res.

ADDRESS: 2 Maiden Lane

DATE BUILT: 1898 FOR: Amanda Stewart

ARCHITECT
MASTER-BUILDER: F.F. Hurlburt


REFERENCES: "Farmington, Conn., 1906", p. 126, ('residence of Magson').
This house is pictured in the Farmington Book on page 126 as the residence of Joseph H. Magson.

The land on which the house stands was part of the acreage which the Rev. Timothy Pitkin purchased when he first came to Farmington, four acres from Samuel and Elijah Porter in 1753, and some additional pieces from Elisha Lewis and Timothy Porter in 1754. Thomas Treadwell, three years after the great fire of 1864, purchased the property as stated on page 239 of "Town Clerks" by Mrs. Hurlburt:

"He purchased in 1867 the entire north side of Maiden Lane, with its two ancient houses and the still empty site at the corner of the lane and Main Street where the Pitkin house had stood before the fire in 1864".

One of the "ancient houses" mentioned above was the house still standing at 4 Maiden Lane, and the other stood somewhat below the site of 12 Maiden Lane. These two houses are also pictured on page 126 of the Farmington Book, the first at left center and the second at the bottom of the page.

By 1897 the lot on which this house stands was owned by William D. Hurlburt, the blacksmith of 774 Farmington Avenue. In November 1897 he sold this lot to Amanda Stewart, the widow of Francis Stewart, and she had this house built in 1898. She did not keep it long as she sold the house and lot to William D. Hurlburt on April 14, 1899.

Nothing is presently known of Joseph H. Magson, the tenant in 1906, when the Farmington Book was published.

The house was purchased in 1909 by Mary I. P. Merriman, Mrs. Elwin Franklin Merriman, for the Merriman family. Mr. Merriman had been born in Avon, the son of Joseph Merriman of Litchfield and Catherine Bradley of Plainville, who had been married in Farmington in 1856. Elwin Merriman was married in 1885 to Mary I. Porter. They had lived some years prior to 1909 in the house which formerly stood on the site of the present house at 15 Main Street. See photo No. 49 on page 27 of the Farmington Book. Mr. Merriman operated an express business, hauling freight and express to and from Hartford, and perhaps had driven the old stagecoach at one time.

The Merrimans had two children, Louis and Grace. Louis Porter Merriman, born in Avon, was married in 1925 to Harriet Alma Woodford, daughter of Ernest Woodford and Jennie Plumb. Louis Merriman was a bank clerk when married, later became a Vice-President of Hartford National Bank. Mr. and Mrs. Merriman lived in West Hartford, had no children. Mr. Merriman died in 1953. Grace Merriman was married in 1922 to a Boston man, Arthur Carrano, son of Anthony Carrano and Anna Sica. Their son Anthony was killed in World War II. Mrs. Carrano is believed to have died around 1969.

Mr. Merriman, Sr., had died in March 1920, and his widow left Farmington to live with the daughter. Date of her death not known.

August 17, 1972
Julius Wollenberg, son of Gustave Wollenberg, formerly of 180 Garden Street, and later of the Elisha Scott house on Main Street, south of the old South School, purchased the house for himself and his family in 1944. Mrs. Wollenberg is the former Margaret Catherine Rossval of 11 Maiden Lane, daughter of William Rossval and Gertrude C. Hartigan. Mr. and Mrs. Wollenberg were married in 1935 and rented this house at that time from the Merriman family. Around 1941 or so they moved to Waterville Road, to the house now owned by Norton L. Virgien, Jr. It was at that time owned by the Rice family and was occupied by Mr. and Mrs. John Frederick Rice, Mrs. Rice being the former Mary Caroline Wollenberg, sister of Julius. The house was large and could accommodate two families easily.

About three years later, with some small children, and with the desire to be closer to Farmington Center, the Wollenbergs left Waterville Road and moved back to Maiden Lane, living with the Rossvals at 11 Maiden Lane until they could purchase this house.

While the Wollenbergs had lived on Waterville Road this house had been rented to at least two different families. Mr. Richard Mansfield, former operator of the store now at Mill Road, and his daughter Lillian, lived here for a time. The other family who lived here was that of Mr. and Mrs. Elliott, Mrs. Elliot having been the sister of Mrs. Camp of 44 Colton Street.

Mr. and Mrs. Julius Wollenberg purchased on March 28, 1944, from Mary I. P. Merriman.

Julius Wollenberg worked at many different jobs. For as long as the Economy Grocery, later the First National Store, was operated on Farmington Avenue, Julius worked there with his brother Gustave, the manager of the store. He also worked evenings for many years for James Wright at Wright's Tavern in Plainville, also sometimes at the former Farmington House in the south part of town, and at the Corner House, which was opened by James Wright around 1947. During his later years Mr. Wollenberg worked at Pratt and Whitney's Southington plant. He died in 1967.

The Wollenbergs had five children: Margaret, Mary, Paul, Jean and Peter.

Margaret is now Mrs. John Douglas Broadley, her husband being the son of John and Anne Broadley. He works with his brother in the brother's restaurant in Cheshire. The Broadleys and their two children, Molly and John, presently live here with Mrs. Wollenberg.

Mary Judith was married in 1965 to Raymond Vincent O'Gara, son of Vincent Paul O'Gara and Harriet D. Brown. They lived in Riverside, Rhode Island, Mr. O'Gara being a salesman for New England Metal, of Providence. Their two children are Erin and Patricia.

Paul Alan was married in 1970 to Yvonne Labutis, daughter of Charles Labutis and Madeline F. Gaudet. Paul is an electrician employed by Olsen Electric Company. They live in Windsor, Connecticut, and have one child, Kristin.

November 10, 1972
Jean Frances is a Licensed Practical Nurse, lives in Farmington, and has been employed for several years by Dr. Robert Langmann of 1 Mill Road.

Peter James served a hitch in the Army and is now back in Farmington. His wife is the former Linda Jean Perkins, daughter of Ernest N. Perkins and Dorothy Grindle. They live on Hotchkiss Road, Farmington. Peter is a truck driver for Valley Concrete of Farmington, and they have two children, Margo and Darcy.

Mrs. Julius Wollenberg has been employed for some years at the doctor's clinic at 1 Mill Road by Dr. F. Taylor Mauck.

November 10, 1972