HISTORIC RESOURCES INVENTORY
BUILDING AND STRUCTURES

STATE OF CONNECTICUT
CONNECTICUT HISTORICAL COMMISSION
59 SOUTH PROSPECT STREET, HARTFORD, CONNECTICUT 06106
(203) 566-3005

FOR OFFICE USE ONLY
Town No.: Site No. 177
UTM: QUAD:
DISTRICT IF NR SPECIFY: S □ NR □ Actual □ Potential

1. BUILDING NAME (Common) (Historic)
   Lund House (Chesney, Hugh, House)

2. TOWN CITY VILLAGE COUNTY
   Farmington
   Hartford

3. STREET AND NUMBER (and or location)
   28 Main Street

4. OWNER
   Farmington Savings Bank

5. USE (Present)
   Offices (Historic)
   Residence

6. ACCESSIBILITY TO PUBLIC
   EXTERIOR VISILE FROM PUBLIC ROAD
   INTERIOR ACCESSIBLE
   IF YES EXPLAIN during hours

7. STYLE OF BUILDING
   Queen Anne

8. MATERIALS (Indicate use or location when appropriate)
   □ Clapboard □ Asbestos Siding □ Brick (Foundation)
   □ Wood Shingle □ Asphalt Siding □ Fieldstone
   □ Board & Batten □ Stucco □ Cobblestone
   □ Aluminum Siding □ Concrete Type:
   □ Cut stone Type:

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) conical on tower

11. NUMBER OF STORIES APPROXIMATE DIMENSIONS
    □ 2

12. CONDITION Structural (Exterior)
    □ Excellent □ Good □ Fair □ Deteriorated □ Excellent □ Good □ Fair □ Deteriorated

13. INTEGRITY - Location WHEN ALTERED IF YES EXPLAIN
    □ On original □ Moved
    □ Yes □ No

14. RELATED OUTBUILDINGS OR LANDSCAPE FEATURES
    □ Barn □ Shed □ Garage □ Other landscape features or buildings (Specify)
    □ Carriage house □ Shop □ Garden

15. SURROUNDING ENVIRONMENT
    □ Open land □ Woodland □ Residential □ Scattered buildings visible from site
    □ Commercial □ Industrial □ Rural □ High building density

16. INTERRELATIONSHIP OF BUILDING AND SURROUNDINGS
    The Hugh Chesney House sits on the west side of Main Street. To the south lies the
    Farmington Savings Bank. Although set back from the street, it is visible from the
    surrounding historic residences.
This building is of the Queen Anne style. Its asymmetrical form, open porch, and round tower with a conical roof are enhanced by unusually broad, double-hung windows. Note the hip roof and brick chimneys.

Architecturally significant, this house is one of a few Queen Anne-style houses on Main Street in Farmington.
Hugh Chesney was a florist & and first lived in the small
cottage on Garden St. near the
greenhouses. Mrs. Chesney sold
the greenhouses & cottage to
A.J. Haworth in 1907.

FORMER OWNERS:
Farmington Savings Bank from James D. Morrell
2/2/1950, Vol. 101, p. 190; J.D. Morrell from Lillian Chesney
7/27/1920, Vol. 80, p. 183; L. Chesney from Est. of Hugh
Chesney 12/11/1908, Vol. 74, p. 186; (see Haworth card - Gar-
den St.)

REFERENCES: "Farmington, Conn., 1906", p. 88 - 'Residence Hugh Chesney'
This house, pictured on page 88 of the Farmington Book, seems to stand on the site of the old store of Samuel Smith, as is noted by Julius Gay in his discourse on "Old Houses", a talk given on May 1, 1895: "Passing over the site where once stood the store of Samuel Smith, we come to the brick building erected by Zeuben S. Norton". Mr. Gay was at this time traveling south, and had already passed the house at 24 Main Street. The brick building he mentioned was in front of the site of the present Farmington Savings Bank. This would put "the store of Samuel Smith" right on the site of 28 Main Street. Baker and Tilden however, in their 1869 Atlas, show nothing between William Gay (24 Main Street) and the Savings Bank, so we may assume that Samuel Smith's store had long since disappeared. Samuel Smith had in 1769 built the house across the street, later known as 27 Main Street, which at first stood close to the sidewalk.

According to an article in the Farmington Book on page 91, the present site of the house at 28 Main Street might have been the site of the early home of John Steele. Julius Gay says in that article: "The earlier and more active part of his life was in Hartford, though he owned a house and lot here a little north of the site of the Savings Bank, from January 1655 until his death".

Mrs. Hurlburt states a different opinion, although the difference hinges on one's interpretation of what is meant by the term "a little north". Mrs. Hurlburt believes that it was as far north as the house which now stands at 22 Main Street. The writer cannot dispute either statement.

The present house was built in 1902 by Richard F. Jones for Hugh Chesney, on land which had been purchased from D. N. Barney in 1889.

Hugh Chesney, the son of Hugh Chesney and Mary Fitzsimmons, had come to the United States from his native Scotland around 1865 at the age of seven, tagged as baggage, and was met in New York by an aunt with whom he lived as a youth. He grew up in New York State and one of his first employers when he started his working life, was Peter Henderson, a grower of seeds, who later suggested that Hugh take advantage of an aptitude for this work, seek a place as grounds man on some large estate, then perhaps try the greenhouse business. His first work on an estate was on that of Mr. Paton at Dobbs Ferry, New York. There he married Lillian Conkling.

Danford N. Barney owned the greenhouse in Farmington in the mid-1880's, and it was being leased and operated by a Mr. Hardy who was unable to make it profitable. Mr. Barney advertised in a florists' journal for some one who would like to take it. Mr. Chesney responded and was invited to Farmington.

Mr. Chesney came to Farmington and liked the situation and in 1889 purchased the greenhouse and the residence presently known as 47 Garden Street. The property also included land extending east to Main Street. He was successful in the operation of the greenhouse and in 1902 had the house built for himself and his family at 28 Main Street.

February 21, 1972.
Mr. Chesney, an advertiser in the Farmington Magazine during its short life, became very proficient as a florist, especially in the growing of violets, becoming known in the trade as the "violet king", and shipping them as far as Ohio. He and fellow florist Mr. Whiting of West Hartford became good friends and aided each other. Together they initiated a system of treating the greenhouses with a gaseous insecticide which was very successful in killing aphids and other enemies of the greenhouse plants. He also aided homeowners and landscapers in the layout of their plantings, but did none of this work himself.

The Chesneys had four children, Janet born in New York State and Lillian, Hugh and Dorothy born here. Mr. Chesney died in 1907 but Mrs. Chesney and her son and daughters continued their residence here, in fact Mrs. Chesney continued the operation of the greenhouse, but not very long.

Janet Richardson Chesney, the eldest child, was named for the minister in Mr. Chesney's home town in Scotland. She attended Farmington grade school and West Hartford High School, commuting on the trolley with her friend and classmate Ruth Crandall, of what is now 785 Farmington Avenue. She became an accomplished musician, studying voice in the Hartford School of Music, and piano with a private teacher. Later she attended Emerson College of Beacon Street in Boston, training her speaking voice with studies in elocution. Her very good friend and school mate there was Hildegarde Brandegee of 22 Mountain Road, with whom she had played in the Brandegee treehouse in the rear of their home. This friendship continued for many years. Two other good friends were Gertrude and Marguerite Cowles, who lived at 47 Main Street, earlier at 22 Main Street.

After finishing at Emerson College Janet stayed in Boston for three years, being booked out of there on tours, sometimes as a reader with the Schubert Quartette, sometimes as the featured pianist with a six-piece young ladies' orchestra. She enjoyed both ensembles and soloes. Sometimes they were booked with Chatauqua Tours and sometimes independently. Competition was strong of course, consisting of other traveling companies playing drama and musical comedy, and also the various vaudeville circuits. Movies were just gaining a foothold then, had not yet become the monopolists of the entertainment world that they later became.

Miss Chesney's travels took her to many states, the New England area, New York, and the central states, in cities, smaller towns and even the mining towns of West Virginia and Kentucky. Janet was under pressure however, from two sources. One was her mother who thought the work too hard on her health, the other being Harold Colt who wished her to stay home and marry him. She forsook the tours after a few years and married him on October 25, 1916. Harold Colt was the grandson of the Samuel C. Colt of Colt Firearms fame, and had lived in the Colt home on the old Samuel North homestead on South Road, presently known as 219 South Road. Mr. and Mrs. Harold Colt built a home across the road. See more regarding them in an account of the Colt home on South Road.

February 21, 1972

Hugh Conkling Chesney grew up in Farmington and remembers in his boyhood driving cows all the way from pasture on Town Farm Road up to the barns on the Elijah Lewis place, now known as 738 Farmington Avenue. The roads were dusty and it was a long hot walk in the summertime. Hugh served in World War I, M Company, 38th Infantry, 3rd Division, and was in the trenches of three separate fronts. Jumping into one trench, wounded, he encountered there a German soldier, also wounded. He spoke English, and was from Meriden, Connecticut. Having gone to Germany on a visit in 1914 he had been forced to join their army. See 10 Maiden Lane.

Dorothy Chesney married Kendall Martin Buskey and lived in Swanton, Vermont, having a summer home at Tabor Point on Lake Champlain.

All three daughters having been married by 1920, Mrs. Chesney sold this house in July of that year, and she and her son moved to 10 Maiden Lane, which she bought on July 29, 1920, from Mary T. Byington, who moved to Porter Road.

Purchaser of the house in July 1920 was James DeWitt Morrell of Hartford. He and his wife, the former Emily W. Dorrance, born in Andover, Connecticut, in 1891, daughter of Henry Dorrance and Elizabeth Thompson, lived here for fifteen years. A son, John Dorrance Morrell, was born during their residence here. After the death of Mrs. Morrell on December 25, 1935, Mr. Morrell moved to an apartment in West Hartford. He rented the house until he sold it in 1950.

Tenants here at one time were Mr. and Mrs. H. Burr Anthony and their family of three boys. Mr. Anthony is said to have been either in securities or insurance. Their sons were H. Burr, Jr., Raymond, and Stephen (or was it Graham?). After Mr. Anthony’s death his widow and the boys lived at 143 Main Street, followed by the Hales.

Raymond Anthony, married and with two daughters, is said to live in Cincinnati, Ohio. H. Burr Anthony, Jr., died sometime in the 1960’s, not in Farmington however. The other boy had died in Farmington in his teens.

The last tenants in this house prior to the 1950 sale, were Mr. and Mrs. Warren Cook, who moved from here to 116 Main Street, purchased from Miss Porter’s School.

February 21, 1972
Purchaser of this house in 1950 was the Farmington Savings Bank. Possible expansion of the bank building by an addition to the north prompted the purchase, but the addition was built to the west, so this house was leased.

Occupants of the house from 1950 until 1969 were Mr. and Mrs. Clarence B. Lund. Mr. Lund had formerly been employed as Mortgage Loan Officer by the Savings Bank of New London, where they had lived for some years. Prior to that Mr. Lund had been associated with Connecticut General Life Insurance as salesman, and he had also worked with a collection agency. He came here as Loan Officer for the Farmington Savings Bank. He took charge of the management of the bank upon Mr. Minikin's illness, and took his place as treasurer and executive officer in 1957.

Mrs. Lund is the former Marceline R. Jones. Mr. and Mrs. Lund have three children, Sandra and Marcia born in New London, and Sharon born in Hartford.

Sandra Rawson Lund was married on August 5, 1961, to John William Grouten, born in Bristol, son of Webster W. Grouten and Alice L. Morse. After a period of residence as tenants at 185 Garden Street they purchased the house at 28 Farmstead Lane where they now live. Mr. Grouten is Assistant Vice President of the Farmington Savings Bank.

Marcia Benson Lund was married in 1966 to Wayne Partiss Fleming, born in Waterbury, the son of C. Parker Fleming and Eleanor W. Partiss. Mr. Fleming is an Assistant Foreman employed by Scoville Manufacturing Company in Waterbury. In late 1970 they moved into what is called the Gridley-Staples House, the property of the Farmington Historical Society and the Town of Farmington, on Farmington Avenue at Monteith Road. Their two children are Christopher Wayne and Susan Michelle.

Sharon Freeman Lund was married in June 1972 to Paul Patrick Mallia, son of Mr. and Mrs. Michael Mallia of Plainville, and lives in New Britain. Mr. Mallia is a teacher in Newington High School.

Mr. Lund served as Treasurer and Executive Officer of the Farmington Savings Bank until 1960, when his title was changed to President and Treasurer. He continued in this office until stricken with a stroke in 1969. In 1971, not having recovered, he resigned from the bank. The Lunds had moved in 1969 to the Lakeview Apartments in Farmington, which is still their residence.

April 23, 1973
It is believed by the writer that this house has not been occupied since the Lunds moved out in 1969 or 1970.

The Farmington Savings Bank attempted in early 1973 to obtain a zone change which would allow them to tear down the house, expand the bank building to provide a drive-in window, and permit parking space for 20 additional cars, on the present site of this house.

The request for the zone change brought much opposition from neighboring residents, more than 60 of them being at the meeting of the zoning board to express their opposition.

According to the Hartford Times of February 13, 1973, Francis Cady, owner of the Major Hooker house next north of this house, gave a brief history of the John Hooker House, "lauding its tradition, and the need to preserve it as a monument".

Mrs. Russell Hunter, co-owner with her husband of the next house north of the Cady's, said: "We are trying to preserve the village".

The Zoning Board denied the request for the zoning change.

April 23, 1973