# Historic Resources Inventory

## Building and Structures

**State of Connecticut**

**Connecticut Historical Commission**

59 South Prospect Street, Hartford, Connecticut 06106

(203) 566-3005

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### Identification

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Field</th>
<th>Value</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Building Name (Common)</td>
<td>Gallagher, Henry, House</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Town/City</td>
<td>Farmington</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Street and Number</td>
<td>Mountain Road 14</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Owner(s)</td>
<td>Dowd, Frances S.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Use (Present)</td>
<td>Residence</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Accessibility To Public</td>
<td>Yes</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Exterior Visible from Public Road</td>
<td>Yes</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Interior Accessible</td>
<td>Yes</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Style of Building</td>
<td>Queen Anne</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Date of Construction</td>
<td>1892</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

### Description

- **Material**: Exterior walls are made of clapboard, with brick on the interior. The roof is made of asphalt shingles.
- **Structural System**: The building is a balloon frame with wood frame construction.
- **Roof**: The roof is a gable with asphalt shingles.
- **Number of Stories**: The building has 2½ stories.
- **Approximate Dimensions**: 21 x 31

### Condition

- **Condition**: Excellent
- **Integrity**: On original site
- **Integrity, Lien Status**: From original owner

### Relationship of Building and Surrounndings

Facing north onto Mountain Road, the Henry Gallagher House sits on a small, rectangular lot trimmed with a wooden, picket fence. Abutting the house on either side are similar nineteenth-century, single-family dwellings. The Noah Wallace School lies to the southwest.
Oriented gable-to-street, the Henry Gallagher House exhibits a number of Queen Anne-style embellishments. The three-bay facade features an ornate, wraparound veranda with beveled posts, and decorative cut-out work in the brackets and projecting gable. Imbricated shingles and intricate window surround are featured in the gable end. Also of note is a vergeboard with stylized relief decoration. A single-story ell has been incorporated onto the east elevation and a two-and-a-half story cross-gable extends from the west elevation.

This house was erected by Henry Gallagher in 1892 on land he purchased from Chauncey Deming (FLR 68:343). The first mention of buildings on the lot is in an 1893 mortgage from Gallagher to Lucius Bishop (FLR 68:690). Henry (1839-1922) was born in Ireland to William and Jane (Lamb) Gallagher. His parents brought their young family to Farmington in the 1850s and resided along High Street. In 1875 Gallagher married Caroline Miles (b. 1854), who was born in India to English parents. They raised six children, one boy and five girls. Gallagher was employed as the janitor at the Center School and Farmington Town Hall. In 1915 Henry quit-claimed the house to his daughter Margaret with the stipulation that she "furnish her father with proper food and clothing when he is unable to work" (FLR 76:493). Margaret, a school teacher, married John Dietrich Peters in 1915 and they resided here for many years. In 1957 the property was willed to Emily Gallagher, Margaret's sister, and shortly thereafter sold out of the family (FLR 133:384 and 136:417).

Historically notable for its close association with nineteenth-century Irish immigrants, this house derives further significance as one of the few Queen Anne-style dwellings in Farmington village.
OWNER'S NAME: (PETERS, MARGARET G.) to Emily Gallagher to TOURISON, Eugene J. III

ADDRESS: 14 Mountain Road

DATE BUILT: 1892

FOR: Henry Gallagher

ARCHITECT

MASTER-BUILDER: John Parsons

ADDITIONAL INFORMATION: Where this house stands there was formerly a Hart homestead owned by Stephen Hart, who owned all the land to and including 'Century Cottage' (John P. King). When the cellar for this house was dug, old coins were found and the old well is at the east side of the house, which stood nearer the street.

FORMER OWNERS: Margaret Gallagher Peters from father and mother by inheritance.

This house is pictured on page 172 of the Farmington Book as the residence of Henry Gallagher. Library records show that it was built for him in 1892. Mrs. Hurlburt, on page xix of the book "Town Clerks", shows this land as having originally been the property of William Ventrus, later the pasture land of John Hart. William Ventrus, according to a note on page 375 of that same book, appears to have lived here at least from May 1654, when he was made a freeman, through 1657, when his third child, John, was born. Mr. Ventrus later moved to Haddam.

Henry Gallagher was next to the youngest of nine brothers and sisters of the Gallagher family who came to Farmington in or around the early 1950's. See more regarding them in the account of the house at 18 High Street.

Henry Gallagher, 1839-1922, married Carolyn Miles, the daughter of John Miles, he having been the brother of Isaac Miles who had lived in the Eli Todd house on High Street, which was later moved to its present site at 37 Main Street. Jack Miles, Isaac's brother, was in India at the time of the Mutiny of 1857, and for some reason his wife was in a howdah atop an elephant (probably fleeing the mutiny), when she gave birth to Carolyn.

Mr. Gallagher was janitor in the old Center School, also took care of the old town hall. He is said to have worn a high hat, a Prince Albert coat, and a fancy beard. A photo of his portrait, with his brother George, appears in the account of the house at 16 Mountain Road, where George Gallagher lived. The portrait was painted by the artist Robert Brandegee of 36 High Street. Henry Gallagher served as constable at Pres. Teddy Roosevelt's visit to Farmington on Oct. 22, 1901. The Henry Gallaghers appear to have had six children: Charles, Maude, Emily, Helen, Carolyn and Margaret.

Of Charles, born perhaps 1880, we have no knowledge.

Maude and Emily, no dates or other information, appear never to have married.

Helen Marion, born 1883, married Harry S. Loomis in 1907, the son of Edmund Loomis and Susan Camp. Her husband was not the Harry Loomis whose houses are pictured page 112 of the Farmington Book.

Carolyn was married in 1914 to Edward Avery, son of Ebenezer Avery and Kate Hoben.

Margaret Jane, born 1876, was married in 1915 to John Dietrich Peters, born in Germany in 1885. John appears to have served in World War I, as he was a charter member of James Palache Post #53 of the American Legion. He had come to Farmington as chauffeur for Waldo K. Chase, and later for Mr. Chase's widow. They lived their early married life at what is now 5 Church Street. At the time of his death in 1940 he was salesman for Orkil, Inc. Mrs. Peters, as a young woman, as a wife, and as a widow, always taught school in New Britain.

Mrs. Peters and Emily appear to have been the last of the family to live here, and a neighbor says: "I used to visit Emily almost every day when my first son was a young child. We would go to see the catbirds on her porch, for which she always put out raisins".

July 26, 1973
The writer does not know which of the two sisters survived the other, but Emily took title to the property in 1957, and in that same year sold it to Eugene J. Tourison III.

Whether Mr. Tourison lived here or not, is not presently known but in 1968, and also according to the 1969 telephone directory, the resident here was Henry S. Rogers, Jr.

In February 1973 it was noted that a sold sign appeared at this house.

July 26, 1973