Standing on a small lot at the southwest corner of Mountain Road and School Street, this house is bordered to the rear by the Noah Wallace School and to the east and west by similar historic residences. A number of Miss Porter's School buildings are visible.
This simple Colonial Revival-style dwelling is typical of many single-family homes erected in the United States in the early twentieth century. The two-bay facade is enhanced by a full-length, open porch with classical columns, modest balustrade, and lattice base. The one-over-one sash exhibit louvered shutters, and hip-roofed dormers with paired windows provide light to the attic story.

This house was erected for Delinda Woodford in 1907 on land she inherited from her cousin, Dr. Franklin Wheeler (FLR 74:576). The daughter of Evelin and Emma (Wheeler) Woodford, Delinda (1842-1931) had previously resided with her cousin in the Jonathan Cowles House at 60 Main Street. Upon Dr. Wheeler's death in 1907, Miss Woodford built this small house on the rear portion of the house lot. The larger dwelling was sold to Miss Porter's School (FLR 74:171) in 1908. Delinda resided here with her niece, Minnie L. Cowles (1869-1949), the daughter of William Z. and Nancy (Woodward) Cowles. In 1932 Minnie inherited the property from her aunt's estate (FLR 74:576). Miss Porter's School acquired the dwelling in 1949 to house employees. It is still used for that purpose today.

Although relatively modest in design, the Delinda Woodford House contributes to the historic streetscape of Mountain Road.

Sources:
OWNER'S NAME: KEEP, ROBERT PORTER

ADDRESS: 1 Mountain Road & School Street

DATE BUILT: 1907

FOR: Delinda Woodford

ADDITIONAL INFORMATION

Delinda Woodford was the daughter of Eveline and Emma (Wheeler) Woodford.


Dr. Wheeler, son of Seth and Harriet (Woodford) Wheeler, lived in the house now known as "Colony", owned the land to present School St. He died in 1907.

REFERENCES:
This house is not pictured in the Farmington Book, having been built one year too late, but having housed some members of old Farmington families, it is included in this collection. It was built in 1907 by Parsons, Builders, friends of the Wadsworth's cousin Nellie of Unionville.

The large building to the rear of this house, with entrance to one floor from School Street on the east, and another entrance from School Street on the south, was the former Whittlesey barn, later the Porter School stable and carriage house.

The library card states that this house was built in 1907 for Delinda Woodford, daughter of Eveline Woodford and Emma Wheeler. Eveline Woodford, 1803-1891, was married on January 18, 1827, to Emma Wheeler, whom the writer had thought could have been the aunt of Dr. Franklin Wheeler, who was married about a generation later, on October 25, 1854, although old-timers cannot be found to vouch for this. Dr. Wheeler lived just below here at 59 Main Street.

One daughter of Eveline Woodford was Nancy, who married William Zene Cowles, 1841-1917, a Civil War veteran. Their daughter was Minnie I. Cowles, born in Avon in 1869. She later lived here in Farmington with her Aunt Delinda.

Minnie Cowles made hot chocolate and served it to school children who brought their lunches to school. By the time a child was in the seventh grade the school principal might send one over for HIS cup of chocolate. Miss Cowles was very hard of hearing, and when Bill Deming, Tucky's son, brought the milk each morning, he would stamp very hard on the porch floor, so that the vibrations would tell her to pick up the milk.

Eveline's daughter Delinda died on May 26, 1931.

Minnie I. Cowles took title in 1932 from the estate of Dr. Franklin Wheeler. Miss Cowles died on April 18, 1949, at the age of eighty.

Robert Porter Keep purchased from her estate later that same year, for use of this house by Miss Porter's School.

First to live here after that purchase were Mr. and Mrs. Bartram Cadbury, who lived here until 1954 when they moved to Dorchester Cottage at 117 Main Street.

George Miller, the crossing guard for Miss Porter's School, then moved here from Maple Street, living here until he built his own house on Waterville Road.

Alan R. Morrell, Bursar of Miss Porter's School, and his family, have lived here for some years.

February 19, 1974