1. **Building Name (Common)**
   - Mix, Esther H., House

2. **Town**
   - Farmington

3. **Street and Number**
   - 42 Mountain Road

4. **Owner(s)**
   - Andersen, Martha G.

5. **Use (Present)**
   - Residence

6. **Accessibility to Public**
   - Exterior visible from public road ☑
   - Interior accessible ☑

7. **Style of Building**
   - Colonial Revival

8. **Materials**
   - Wood Shingle ☑
   - Asbestos Siding ☑
   - Brick ☑
   - Fieldstone ☑
   - Stucco ☑
   - Cobblestone ☑
   - Concrete ☑
   - Cut stone ☑

9. **Structural System**
   - Wood frame ☑
   - Load bearing masonry ☑
   - Structural iron or steel ☑
   - Post and beam ☑
   - Balloon ☑

10. **Rooftop**
    - Gambrel ☑
    - Flat ☑
    - Mansard ☑
    - Monitor ☑
    - Gable ☑
    - Shed ☑
    - Hip ☑
    - Round ☑
    - Other (Specify)

11. **Number of Stories**
    - 2

12. **Condition**
    - Excellent ☒

13. **Integrity**
    - On original site ☐

14. **Related Outbuildings or Landscape Features**
    - Barn ☐
    - Shed ☐
    - Garage ☑
    - Other landscape features or buildings (Specify)

15. **Surrounding Environment**
    - Open land ☐
    - Woodland ☑
    - Residential ☑
    - Scattered buildings visible from site ☑
    - Commercial ☐
    - Industrial ☐
    - Rural ☐
    - High building density ☐

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This dwelling stands on the south side of Mountain Road. It is bounded by other historic buildings similar in size and age and lies within both the local and National Register districts. Large trees border the property to the south.
This modest Colonial Revival-style house is oriented ridge-to-street. Its front facade displays three bays and an open porch supported by an enclosed base and small round posts. Two gable-roofed dormers extend from the north side of the gambrel roof. One-over-one sash are found on the first story and are not original to the house. On the second story are single-hung windows with four decorative panes across the top. Note the small brick chimney and large overhang of the gambrel roof.

In 1900 Mrs. Esther H. Mix purchased the small dwelling house at #44 Mountain Road with its 3/4 acre parcel (FLR 74:62). Tradition holds that Mrs. Mix moved the small house a short distance to the east and built the larger dwelling in 1901 in its place. Lewis and Hurlburt list Henry H. Mason as the architect and Stanley Mason as the builder. Esther Hart (Hawley) Mix (1847-1921) was the widow of Newell P. Mix of Columbus, Ohio. Born in Farmington to Asa and Mary (Green) Hawley, Esther presumably returned here after her husband's death. She lived here until her death in 1921. The house was willed to Adaline F. Hawley, Esther's sister (FLR 74:379). James Harris Minikin (b. 1887) acquired the property in May, 1922 (FLR 80:326). Born in Fall River, Massachusetts, Minikin was employed as the manager and treasurer of the Farmington Savings Bank from 1928 to 1957. He and his wife, the former Adelaide Robertson had two children: John and Hortense. The house remained in the Minikin family until 1978.

The Esther H. Mix House is architecturally significant to the streetscape and historic character of Farmington due to its good state of preservation and representation of the Colonial Revival style.

Sources:
OWNER'S NAME: MINIKIN, JAMES HARRIS

ADDRESS: 42 Mountain Road

DATE BUILT: 1901 FOR: Esther (Hawley) Mix

ARCHITECT: Henry H. Mason

MASTER-BUILDER: Stanley Mason

ADDITIONAL INFORMATION: The house next east where Mrs. Frank Hawley now lives was on the site of this present house. It was moved to its present location in 1901. This (Minikin) house was built in 1901. The barn was razed. The present chiken house in the rear of this house is the former studio of Charles Foster, artist.


REFERENCES: "Farmington, Conn., 1906", p. 169
"Baker & Tilden Atlas, 1869", p. 33
This house is pictured on page 169 of the Farmington Book as the residence of Mrs. Esther H. Mix.

On April 23, 1900, Mrs. Mix had purchased from Miss Sarah Porter the house which is now known as 44 Mountain Road, plus the land to the east, reaching to the foot of the hill up which climbs Mountain Road. Mrs. Mix is said to have had that house, the former John Hooker house, moved to its present site nearer the foot of the hill.

On its former site, in 1901, she had this house built for her, the house known as 42 Mountain Road.

Mrs. Mix was the former Esther Hart Hawley, born in 1847, the daughter of Ara Hawley and Mary Green. Her Hawley ancestors were descendants of the Capt. Joseph Hawley of Scott Swamp Road, whose home stood on the site of the Robert Hall Store just east of Route 177.

Miss Hawley had been married in 1871 to Newell P. Mix, the son of Noble Mix and Eunice Aylesworth, of Columbus, Ohio. The writer has no information as to where they lived while married, nor who their children were, if any, nor the date of her husband’s death, although she presumably purchased this house after having been widowed.

Mrs. Mix’s brother, David Peck Hawley, born in 1855, who married Margaret Cummings of Hartford, lived for many years in the house at 126 Main Street, which was built for him by Henry Hall Mason in 1896.

Another brother, Francis McLeod Hawley (known as Frank), born in 1864, who married Bertha Burwell of New Hartford, later lived next door at 44 Mountain Road. These two brothers worked together as house painters.

Alice Hawley, a sister who lived with her, worked as a housemaid and died in July 1916, at the age of sixty-six.

Mrs. Mix died in 1921 and this house was inherited by her younger sister Adeline Fort Hawley. Adeline sold the house in 1922 and perhaps moved next door to live with her brother. She lived until 1932.

The purchaser of this house in 1922 was James Harris Minikin, employed by the Farmington Savings Bank, who became its treasurer and manager, and served in that capacity from 1928 until his illness in 1957, which was fatal, but not immediately. Mr. Minikin’s wife was the former Adelaide Robertson and they had two children. Hortense Minikin was born in 1916. John R. Minikin may have been born in Farmington, in 1920, as the family had rented and occupied the house at 24 Main Street for a time before purchasing this house.

January 22, 1974
Hortense Minikin was married in April 1940 to Albert Martin Dexter, an engineer born in Hartford in 1914, the son of A. Morton Dexter and Kate A. Carter.

John R. Minikin never married. He worked in New York and later in Chicago. He came home during his father's illness, and stayed after his father's death, to care for his mother.

January 22, 1974
42 Mountain Road, Rear

Studio of Mr. Charles Foster

Captioned as above, this building is pictured on page 189 of the Farmington Book. It stands to the rear of the house at 42 Mountain Road. Its ownership is unknown by the writer. Two new houses have been built to the south of it within the past three years, one of them adjoining it quite closely.

Charles Foster was mentioned in an article published in the Hartford Courant of October 4, 1914, reading as follows:

"Charles Foster, whose studio is on the side of the mountain beneath Hooker's Grove, is one of the most individual landscape painters in New England. His work is owned in a number of Farmington and Hartford collections, as well as in New York and other parts of the country. Charles Foster has also assayed fiction with interesting results".

Mr. Foster lived here, as well as using this house as his studio. Charles and his brother Benjamin are said to have been of a Maine family. Benjamin was an artist of wider range of recognition than Charles, having a large studio in New York City, where he made his home. Neither brother ever married.

One Farmington native, now deceased, speaks of the Farmington brother as follows:

"Charles Foster was a very good artist, principally a landscape artist. He walked down Mountain Road almost every day of the year, and he always leaned back, as if he was putting on his brakes. He had a brother Benjamin who had made the Metropolitan Museum, but many people thought that the work of Charles equaled, if not excelled, that of his brother. Charles was shy and reticent and would never push his work. He was a great friend of fellow artist Robert Brandegee. His landscapes reminded one of Manet, portrayed rather hazily".

Charles in his later life lived a few years at the Elm Tree Inn, then in a Hartford convalescent hospital, dying around 1932.

The late Dr. John Griggs, who knew him quite well and was a great friend of his, had a Charles Foster painting hanging over his fireplace in Satan's Kingdom.

January 22, 1974

The writer has been told that a showing of Charles Foster's paintings was held for thirty days at the Morgan Memorial in Hartford, perhaps after his death, which some say was as late as 1937. The paintings were sold rather quickly, and one resident especially has always regretted not purchasing companion views of upper and Dower Cedar Street, now Mountain Spring Road.

January 22, 1974