Set a distance back off the north side of Mountain Road, the Miss Porter's School Studio shares this small open lot with the Farmington Female Seminary. St. James Episcopal Church borders the lot to the south, while other Miss Porter's School buildings are visible. The surrounding neighborhood is included within Farmington's National Register district.
Erected in 1885, this building combines the Richardsonian Romanesque and Shingle styles. The first story, which is constructed of brownstone, is clearly Richardsonian in detail. Notable characteristics include the rough-faced stonework, prominent arched entrance with keystone, and the "ribbon-like" group of small windows. The broad roof plane is another feature of Richardsonian influence. The second floor, which has recently been re-shingled, is devoid of any architectural embellishments. The building has recently been restored to its original appearance.

The Miss Porter's School Studio was erected in 1885 by alumnae of the school as a tribute to Miss Sarah Porter. At the building's entrance a plaque inscribed in Latin reads "in honor of their most faithful and much loved mistress, Sarah Porter, her scholars have, in grateful spirit, erected this building." Funds of $6,000 were collected from subscriptions sent by former students and the building was erected in 1885. The land was purchased from the Farmington Seminary Association (FLR 68:125). Walter H. Bliss was the contractor. The studio contained rooms for drawing, painting, and music. At the dedication on May 29, 1885, Miss Porter in her address said "the studio is, I may say, a realized dream. It will always be a delight to me and a permanent benefit to the school" (Ferry: 240). Over two hundred former pupils attended the ceremony and every class from 1850 to 1885 was represented. In 1900 the property was passed on to the heirs of Miss Porter's (FPR 26:173). Miss Porter's School, Inc. purchased the studio and surrounding land in 1943 (FLR 97:321). The building today remains a significant and important part of Miss Porter's School campus.

Architecturally notable for its state of preservation, this building is the only building in Farmington influenced by the Richardsonian movement.

**Sources**
OWNER'S NAME: PORTER'S SCHOOL, MISS, INC.
"Studio" 1951

ADDRESS: 5 Mountain Road

DATE BUILT: 1885 FOR: Miss Porter's School

ARCHITECT
MASTER-BUILDER


REFERENCES: "Alumnae Bulletin of Miss Porter's School, Spring, 1949" p. 9
Farmington, Conn., 1906, p. 192