Facing north on Pearl Street, the Frederick C. Gilbert House sits fairly close to the road. A garage lies at the rear of the property. Shrubs encircle the house and other houses similar in age are visible from the site.
This ridge-to-street late nineteenth-century residence features an enclosed one-story front porch which covers the original appearance of the front facade. Three windows exist on the second story and a small brick chimney extends from the roof. Little architectural embellishments are found on the house. It is truly a modest building.

In 1897 Frederick C. Gilbert (1860-1910) purchased a plot of land measuring 25' x 219' from James L. Cowles, one of Farmington's well-known enterprisers (FLR 71:310). A condition in the deed stated that Gilbert "remove the barns and other buildings on the said land" for Cowles. By 1898 the house was constructed by Nelson O. Keyes, a contractor, according to the Farmington House File. Gilbert and his wife Jane M. Warren (b. 1856) and their four children: Abbie (b. 1885), Grace (b. 1886), Chauncey L. (b. 1896), and Nettie lived here until Frederick died. The house remained in the family until it was sold to widower Charles Blinn, Grace's husband, in 1926 (FLR 85:219). Charles was the son of Porter and Sarah (Griswold) Blinn of Newington. His wife Grace had died a year earlier and he married Laura Jane Petts during the time he purchased this house. In June of the same year, he quit-claimed ½ interest of the property to Laura (FLR 82:400). It remains in the family today.

This house contributes to the historical significance of Pearl Street due to its association with the Gilbert-Blinn family.

Sources:
OWNER'S NAME: BLINN, CHARLES & LAURA

ADDRESS: 9 Pearl St

DATE BUILT: 1897

FOR: Frederick C. Gilbert

ARCHITECT: Nelson O. Keyes

REFERENCE: "Farmington, Conn., 1906", p. 112. (inf. checked with C. Blinn)
This house is pictured on page 112 of the Farmington Book as the residence of Fred C. Gilbert, and library records show it to have been built by him in 1897 on land purchased from James L. Cowles of 130 Main Street.

Frederick Charles Gilbert was born in Farmington in 1859, the son of James Gilbert and Sarah Griswold. He was married in 1880 to Jane Marinda Warren. It has been said that Fred Gilbert -- or perhaps his father -- ran the Town Farm at one time. This is not confirmed. Another report is that Fred Gilbert was a policeman or constable in Farmington. He did act as special constable on the day of President Teddy Roosevelt's visit here on October 22, 1901.

The Gilbert daughters and son were Abigail, Grace, Chauncey and Nettie.

Abigail Mandine Gilbert, born in 1885, became a registered nurse and was a public health nurse in Middletown for many years.

Grace Irene Gilbert, born in 1877, married Charles Blinn, born in Newington, the son of Porter Blinn and Sarah Griswold. They had a son Charles F. Blinn, born in 1912, called "Pete" to distinguish him from his father. See more regarding Pete in the account of 6 Pearl Street which he purchased in 1944.

The Blinns had a daughter Virginia. She married Carlton Hayward. She lives at Calais, Maine, now widowed.

Chauncey Lee Gilbert, born in 1890, was married in 1911 to Agnes Sanderson. They had one child. Chauncey is said to have worked for A. J. Parker in his plumbing shop on Farmington Avenue. He died in 1934, and his widow lived thereafter with Chauncey's sister Abigail in Middletown. They had lived in Unionville.

Nettie B. Gilbert married a Mr. Saegaert of Hartford.

Fred Gilbert is said to have died of a heart attack on the school lawn in 1910.

Charles Blinn, Fred Gilbert's son-in-law lived here with his wife Grace, as Mr. Gilbert had died just shortly before they were married. After the death of Mr. Blinn's wife in 1925, Mr. Blinn remarried in 1926, this time marrying Miss Laura Jane Petts, born in England, the daughter of William Petts and Mary Higbid.

In 1928 Mr. Blinn purchased this house from his former wife's one brothers and 2 sisters, namely Chauncey Gilbert of Farmington, Abigail Gilbert of Middletown and Nettie Saegaert of Hartford. At this time the property he purchased ran all the way from that of George Andrews at 173 Garden Street, to that of Kenneth Ruic at 126 Main Street, and bounded on the south by the line of the Riddle property at 130 Main Street.

The date of Mr. Blinn's death is not presently known, but he was survived by his wife Laura, and she died on November 28, 1972.

July 20, 1973