Facing south onto Porter Road, this small Colonial Revival-style cottage sits on a small landscaped lot bordered by other twentieth-century domestic architecture. Lying to the south are the Miss Porter's school tennis courts and gymnasium. The immediate neighborhood is contained within Farmington's local and National Register historic districts.
Erected in 1931, the Byington-Fenn House features a three-bay facade capped with a ridge-to-street gable roof. The modest door surround exhibits pilasters supporting a simple entablature. Both the main block and eastern ell display a multi-sash shed dormer. Original six-over-six sash with louvered shutters are found throughout. Note the wide overhanging eaves.

This dwelling was built in 1931 by Mary T. Byington on land she previously purchased from Florence T. Gay (FLR 80:261). In January of 1931 Miss Byington enlarged the lot with a purchase from Thomas Thomson (FLR 87:13). Previous owners of the house claim that Mary Byington erected the present dwelling around an old carriage house that once belonged to Miss Sarah Porter. Historians Lewis and Hurlburt state that this building was originally constructed as a garage in 1926 and later converted to a residence in 1931. But a mortgage for $5,000, dated in June of 1931 to the Hartford Building and Loan Association stipulated that Miss Byington "agrees to erect upon said premises a single-family dwelling containing five rooms and two bathrooms and built in accordance with plans and specifications of F.A. Jones" (FLR 86:303). Little is known about Byington, except that she was a music teacher and gave piano lessons in her home. She later moved to New Jersey and sold this house to Mary E.F. Fenn in 1936 (FLR 87:315). The property has passed through a number of owners since that time.

Although relatively simple in design, the Byington-Fenn House makes a significant contribution to the streetscape of Porter Road.
BRAZEL, THEODORE W. & KATHERINE G.

ADDRESS: 12 Porter Road

DATE BUILT: ca 1926 FOR: Mary T. Byington as a garage
by F. F. Hurlburt

ARCHITECT
Plans by Mary T. Byington when converted into a dwelling-house

MASTER-BUILDER

FORMER OWNERS: Brazel from William B. Claflin, 10/15/1947,
Vol. 95, p. 311; Claflin from Mary E. F. Fenn, 6/2/1942
Vol. 96, p. 429; Fenn from Mary T. Byington, 9/18/1936
Vol. 87, p. 315. The house was converted from a garage to a dwelling-house in 1930 for Mary T. Byington.

REFERENCES:

OWNER: BRAZEL, THEODORE W. & K.G.

AS OF: 1951

PHOTO NO.

FOLDER NO. 12 Porter Rd.