Standing on a slightly elevated site above a brownstone retaining wall, the Dorchester-Porter House is bordered to the west by Main Street and to the south by Farmington's historic Main Street cemetery. The surrounding neighborhood comprises similar historic residences dating from the eighteenth, nineteenth, and twentieth centuries.
This house is made up of the rectangular main block and a gambrel-roofed ell with a lean to. The main block facade of the Dorchester-Porter House features four bays and a hewn overhang between the first and second floors. Referred to as a three-quarter because of its asymmetrical facade, this configuration is very rare in Farmington. The main entrance is simple in design and exhibits a four-paned transom. A single brick chimney rises from the center of the roof. The ell features four bays also; however, the windows are much smaller in scale than those found on the main block. Two gable-roofed dormers extend from the gambrel roof as well as a square brick chimney. Two-over-two sash appear throughout the house.

On March 20, 1784 Stephen Dorchester, Jr. bought an empty half-acre plot of land from Asahel Wadsworth for $18 (FLR 25:294), a parcel bordered to the west by Main Street, south by the burying ground, and north and east by Asahel Wadsworth. A month later, on April 21, Dorchester sold the same with a dwelling house to Elijah Porter, Jr. for $80 (FLR 25:312). Little is known about Dorchester except that he lived further south along the east side of Main Street (163 Main Street). Deacon Elijah Porter, Jr. (1761-1845) was the son of Elijah and Thankful (Bull) Porter. In 1812 he married Mrs. Sarah Washburn (1770-1847), the widow of the Rev. Joseph Washburn. Deacon Porter is locally renowned as one of the town's first librarians. First organized in 1785 as the Monthly Library, this subscription library reorganized and changed its name to the "Library in the First Society of Farmington." Porter served as librarian from 1795 to 1813. The books were kept at the Deacon's home under his close supervision. Members paid dues and checked out books on the first Sunday of each month. Fines were imposed for "turning down a leaf", grease spots, and late returns. In 1801 the library changed its name back to the "Monthly Library of Farmington." The organization disbanded in 1813 and reorganized a year later under the name of "Phoenix Library." Deacon Porter again served as librarian and was paid $7 a year. He was employed as librarian until 1826 when the library merged with the newly formed Village Library. This house was purchased by Ira Stanley, Jr. (1795-1857) in 1829 (FLR 44:233). Born in New Britain, Stanley was the eldest son of Ira and Abi (Langdon) Stanley; his wife was (SEE CONT. PG.)

the former Elizabeth Lincoln. According to the Stanley genealogy, Ira, Jr. and his family resided in Farmington for a few years, but eventually returned to New Britain. It is not recorded in the Farmington Land Records when Stanley sold the house to Thomas Wadsworth or his wife Elizabeth. The building is attributed to the Wadsworths on the 1855 map. Thomas and Elizabeth, who lived in the family homestead just to the north at 107 Main Street, probably rented the property. In 1872 the estate of Elizabeth Wadsworth sold the house, known as the "Stanley Place" to Conrad Sparmer for $1,000 (FLR 61:451). Sparmer, a native of Germany, was employed as a farmhand by the Wadsworth family. Miss Sarah Porter, headmistress of the well-known girls' boarding school, acquired the "Stanley Place" in 1882 (FLR 65:654). In 1886 Miss Porter sold the property to her sister, Rebecca Porter Keep (FLR 68:231). Mrs. Keep was the widow of John Robinson Keep, former pastor of the First Church of Christ, Congregational, Unionville, and teacher at the American School for the Deaf in Hartford. In 1895 Mrs. Keep's estate sold the house to her daughter Elizabeth K. Avery (FLR 70:534). Mrs. Avery, the widow of Dr. George Avery, only resided here for a very short time due to illness. After she was confined to a hospital, the house was used by Miss Porter's School as a faculty/employee residence. Mr. and Mrs. Edwarderritt were the first tenants. In 1896 Ami S. Janes, the coachman at the school, and his family took up residence in the house. Mr. Janes was later promoted to manager of the school's farm and eventually head groundskeeper. In 1911 the house was willed to Mrs. Avery's three daughters: Mary, Alice, and Melanie (FLR 74:249). Miss Porter's School received full title in 1970 (FLR 198:567).

This house is historically significant for its long association with Elijah Porter, Jr. and Farmington's first lending library. Reminiscent of earlier Colonial-period dwellings, the Dorchester-Porter House makes a significant contribution to the village's historic Main Street.
OWNER'S NAME: ROBERT P. & DOROTHEA KEEP HALE
ADDRESS: 117 Main Street
DATE BUILT: ca 1760 FOR: Captain William Wadsworth

ARCHITECT: MASTER-BUILDER:


REFERENCES:
Porter, Sarah from Conrad Sparmer, house & other bldgs and one acre, known as the Stanley Place, 11/4/1882, Vol. 65, p 654: (Sparmer, Conrad from W.M. Wadsworth, 1-2 acre of land only east of 'Stanley Place' 11/3/1882, Vol. 65, p 656): Sparmer, Conrad from Est. of Elizabeth R. Wadsworth by W.M. Wadsworth, Executor, the property called the Stanley Place 5/22/1872, Vol. 61, p 457, being one acre, for $1000. with passway rights, a Warrantee deed: ALSO note the estate of Elizabeth R. Wadsworth showed in the inventory how house, barn and land appraised at $750., 10/22/1870, Vol. 13, p 546 Prob. Rec. (at the moment the records present no clue to ownership from here back until-)


The passway rights in the deed from Est. of Elizabeth R. (Rowe) Wadsworth by W.M. Wadsworth, Executor, are still in existence and carried through each subsequent conveyance. They refer to the driveway from Main Street to the Wadsworth land in the rear of the house lot.

The north part of the house is older than the south part, as it has interior exposed framing, gambrel roof and had a central chimney. The south part, either an addition or another house moved there, has a hewn overhang frame, and paneling. The central chimney has been left but has been rebuilt. There are three vertical end windows and old wrought iron fixtures. It was repaired and restored (?) in the summer of 1950. The first Farmington Library was started in this house while Elijah Porter was living there. He was appointed the first librarian in 1795 and maintained the library until he married Mrs. Sarah Washburn, widow of the Rev. Joseph Washburn August 23, 1812 and moved across the street to live in her house. He later again had the library in this house.
The house at this address, sometimes having been known as Dorchester Cottage, is pictured on page 20 of the Farmington Book as the Deacon Elijah Porter place, residence of Ami S. James, but incorrectly spelled "James". It is shown in the Baker and Tilden Atlas of 1869 as W M W, meaning Winthrop M. Wadsworth.

The north half of the house was built in 1760 for Capt. William Wadsworth on land which had belonged to his grandfather John Wadsworth, and left to his son William by will of 1689. Capt. William inherited from his father William, at the latter's death in 1751.

Asahel and Gad inherited from their father Capt. William the home lot and all buildings, according to probate records of 1769.

Stephen Dorchester purchased the property from Asahel Wadsworth on April 17, 1784. Not much is regarded regarding Stephen Dorchester. He was chosen in 1762 to assist the choristers in reading the psalms at church services, and it appears that he and his wife, whose name is not known, had five children, born between 1758 and 1771.

It certainly does not appear that they lived in this house very long, unless they had rented it, as Mr. Dorchester sold it on May 3, 1784, after an ownership of only seventeen days, to Deacon Elijah Porter. Some say that Deacon Porter was an uncle of Miss Sarah Porter, although this has not been confirmed.

Mrs. Hurlburt says: "The first Farmington Library was started in this house while Deacon Elijah Porter was living there. He was appointed the first librarian in 1795 and maintained the library until he married on August 13, 1812, Mrs. Sarah Washburn, widow of the Rev. Joseph Washburn. He then moved across the street to her house (118 Main Street) and lived there until his death in 1845. He had previously been married, and had two sons, Shubael and Amzi". He did again serve as librarian, from 1814 until 1826, in the house across the street.

Shubael Porter became the father of Susan Porter who married Major Samuel Dickinson of Farmington Canal fame. See 401 High Street.

Julius Gay says on page 6 of "Farmington Papers" that "The first librarian was Elijah Porter, a soldier of the Revolution, who served three years with the Connecticut troops on the Hudson and was for many years a deacon of the Congregational Church". He also said of him, on page 97: "Every man in the army dressed as seemed good unto himself. There were no uniforms. Deacon Elijah Porter, Farmington's first librarian, is said, on the authority of another deacon, to have worn his wedding suit to the war".

The library was first known as "The Library of the First Society in Farmington". In January 1801 the name was changed to "The Monthly Library in Farmington".

January 5, 1971
Deacons Samuel Richards and Elijah Porter were both with troops stationed for much of the latter part of the war in the "highlands above New York". Both wrote in their journals about their first occupancy of West Point, while they were under the command of General Putnam. Mr. Gay says that much of our knowledge of Farmington men's participation in the war would not have been known had it not been for their journals.

Mr. Gay speaks at length of Deacon Elijah's care of the library, when on page 12 of Farmington Papers he says: "Deacon Porter kept the library in excellent order. Every volume, though originally bound, as books then were, in full leather, had a stout cover of sheepskin sewed around it. The reader who turned down a leaf to keep his place while reading was fined a penny, and a strict record was kept of every grease spot or other blemish, giving the volume and page where it occurred, so that any new damage could be charged upon the offender with unerring certainty. Two pence a day was the cost of forgetting to return books on time. It made no sort of difference who the unlucky offender was, he he of high degree or otherwise, he had to pay. Major Hooker pays his sixpence, and Col. Noadiah his shilling, and even Governor Treadwell is reminded that it has cost him five shillings and sixpence for forgetting his books a whole month".

Mr. Porter sold this house at 117 Main Street on December 20, 1829, to Ira Stanley, Jr., and Mrs. Hurlburt says of the buyer:

"Ira Stanley, Jr., was born in New Britain July 7, 1795, and married Elizabeth, daughter of John R. Lincoln, on October 6, 1819. They lived several years in Farmington then returned to New Britain and built there where the Center Church now stands. He was prominent in the church, a leader of singing and prayer in the social meetings, one of the standing committee, greatly interested in temperance and anti-slavery, and active in all Christian work. He died September 23, 1857, aged 62. His wife died 1872", quoting from the Stanley Genealogy. She further says:

"He left no estate and there is no indexed record of his disposal of this property".

At some unknown date, perhaps around the 1840's, this house may have been sold to the Wadsworths. It will be noted that the Stanleys returned to New Britain and "built there", so he probably would have built by around that time at least. The 1869 Atlas shows the ownership by Winthrop M. Wadsworth, and when purchased by Conrad Sparmer in 1872 it was from the widow Elizabeth Wadsworth. She was the former Elizabeth Rowe, who brought the Rowe family and name into the Wadsworth family.

Thomas Wadsworth was the son of Asahel, who left two children, Thomas and Ruth. The latter married Nathaniel Washburn, brother of the Rev. Joseph Washburn of the house across the street at Number 118. Nathaniel died in 1816, probably in Vermont, and Ruth was later admitted to membership in a church in Kentucky.

January 5, 1971
The deed given by the estate of Elizabeth Wadsworth to Conrad Sparmer included a clause retaining passway rights through the property from Main Street east to the Wadsworth land in the rear, and in 1952 Mrs. Hurlburt stated that all deeds written for the property after 1872 included the same or a similar clause regarding the passway rights.

Mrs. Lodge, who lived in this house for many years, says that "Grandpa Wadsworth", as she called Adrian R. Wadsworth, Sr., told her that he remembers: that the addition to this house was built in his youth, perhaps 1865 or so, as he was born in 1855. That would be the south half of the house, much larger than the older part. The fireplace which must have been in the older part, was perhaps removed at the time of the addition, as she says that she never knew the house to have a fireplace there in her day. The photo on page 20 of the Farmington Book gives the impression of two houses joined, since the older and newer sections are so obviously different in style.

Conrad Sparmer, purchaser in 1872, and his wife Ann Mahon, had several children born between 1862 and 1880. He was of Germany, a farmer in the employ of Winthrop Wadsworth. Where he lived before or after owning this house is not known by the writer.

On November 3, 1882, just one day before he sold this property, Conrad Sparmer purchased an additional half acre of land, east of the house lot, from W. M. Wadsworth. The sale to Miss Sarah Porter, on November 4, 1882, probably included this half acre, and subsequent transfers probably include it also.

Occupancy of the house from this point on has varied considerably from the ownership, so that they will be considered separately. First will be listed the changes in ownership. These are quoted from the title search notes written up by Mrs. Hurlburt in 1952, in preparation for the file written up for the library by Mrs. Wilmarth Lewis. The notes themselves are now on file in the library also. They read, in part, as follows:

"Keep, Rebecca Porter, from sister Sarah Porter, 1½ acres more or less and all buildings, bounded north and east on land of W. M. Wadsworth, south on old cemetery, and west on Main Street, with passway rights from Main Street to Wadsworth land in the rear. 5/18/1886, Vol. 68, page 231;"

"Avery, Alice, Mary and Melanie from estate of their mother, Elizabeth Porter Avery, same, 4/2/1911, Vol. 74, page 249;"

"Avery, E. P. from estate of Rebecca Porter Keep, 3/28/1895, Vol. 70, page 534;"

"Marsh, Arthur M., Trustee, from Alice, Mary and Melanie Avery, Porter School property including the 'Janea Cottage', 1/14/1922, Vol. 79, page 396;"


January 5, 1971
Occupancy of the house during Miss Porter's ownership between 1882 and the sale in 1886 is not known, but one couple who did live here sometime during that period was that of the newly married Mr. and Mrs. Lewis C. Root, his bride being Catherine Cross, born in West District, later to live at 158 Main Street.

Rebecca Porter Keep, purchaser in 1886, the sister of Miss Sarah Porter, was the widow of John Robinson Keep, who had died in 1884. He had been the first Congregational minister in Unionville, later was pastor at Franklin, New York, and Warren, Connecticut. In 1854 he was invited to teach at the American School for the Deaf in Hartford. He accepted that post, and was there until his death. The Keeps had four children, most noted of whom was the first Robert Porter Keep, who later, in 1903, was to become the head of Miss Porter's School.

Mrs. Keep's purchase of this property in 1886 was just prior to the installation of the new water system that year, and her house was the first to be connected after its installation.

Mrs. Keep lived only until 1892, and the property was inherited by her daughter Elizabeth P. Keep Avery, who had in 1884 married Dr. George Whitfield Avery of Hartford. Dr. Avery died in 1893, just one year after his wife had inherited this house. The widowed Mrs. Avery moved from Garden Street, Hartford, to this house, with her three daughters, Mary, Alice and Melanie. She soon however was stricken with an illness too severe to permit her care of the children, so the girls all went to Norwich to live with Mrs. Avery's brother, Robert Porter Keep, and his wife. The girls attended Norwich Academy, of which he was the principal.

All three of the Avery girls later attended Miss Porter's School, their uncle's widow Elizabeth Hale Keep, being headmistress of the school during their attendance. They spent vacations with their mother and aunts across the street at 116 Main Street, their mother never having become well enough to assume their full care.

Mary Elizabeth Avery was married in 1915 to Houston Lowe Gaddis of Cleveland, Ohio, and Grosse Ile, Michigan. Alice Porter Avery was married in 1911 to Jerome Clarke Hunsaker. Melanie Avery never married. After studying at Vassar and the Sorbonne, she taught Rhythmic Expression in Chicago and Cleveland, and returned to Farmington in 1938. Here she served MPS as Alumnae Secretary and housemother, until her death in 1955. See plaque at the front door of "Main", at 60 Main Street, honoring her.

After the Avery family had vacated this house, Mrs. Avery went into a hospital for care. The house being then available, it was assigned as the residence for Mr. and Mrs. Porritt.

Note: For more on the Porter and Avery families, plus others related to the Porters, see the account of 116 Main Street, home of the Porter family from 1808 until 1918.

January 5, 1971

1057.
Mr. and Mrs. Edward Porritt occupied this house as tenants during the period from about 1894 until 1896, when they purchased and moved to the house at 40 High Street.

The following account of their coming to America and to Farmington was given to the writer by their son L. K. Porritt of Canton, Connecticut, given as closely as possible to his own words.

Mrs. Porritt, while she was still Annie G. Webb, came from England in the 1880's to teach in a private school in New York City. By the time she arrived in New York the school had failed, so she was directed by a teachers' agency to apply to Norwich Free Academy. Upon sending an application there, she was told by Robert Porter Keep that their vacancy had been filled, but that he would recommend her to his aunt, Miss Sarah Porter, in Farmington. She applied and was accepted. Miss Porter was specific in her instructions as to how to get to Farmington --- "Take the train from New York to New Haven. Do not wait in the station there, the air is foul, but board the Canal Line train immediately. It will be waiting. At Farmington station you will be met with a carriage".

Miss Webb, enroute to England on a vacation a summer or so later, met on the ship a young man from England, Edward Porritt. He was a journalist, heading for home after having worked for a time with a St. Louis newspaper. He had apprenticed himself to a newspaper publisher in England at the age of 14, and continued to work there after his apprenticeship was finished. One of his assignments had been to cover the House of Commons. There, full of intellectual curiosity, he had absorbed a great deal of knowledge, finding out all he could about this great body of legislators. After his return from the United States he resumed this study. He and Annie were married and he confided in her his desire to write a history of the House of Commons, assembling his hard-won knowledge and making it available to the world. She said "Let's go back to Farmington. It will be an ideal place for you to write. I can resume teaching at Miss Porter's and can also help you with the mechanics of writing your book". The work of assembling and clarifying the notes, and writing the text, was started in this house.

A son Philip had been born in England, and their son Longshaw Kraus Porritt was born here in October 1895. The latter makes the claim to longer attendance at Miss Porter's School than any other male. Miss Porter insisted that his mother should continue teaching as long as possible, saying "This is one of the facts of life of which the girls must be kept aware". She did in fact teach so long that she barely made it across the street to the doctor's office before her son's birth!

The family name of Porritt probably originated as the English equivalent of Poirette, the family name of the first member of the family to come to England, a French Hugenot who fled from France at the time of the St. Bartholomew's Eve massacres. The given names of Longshaw and Kraus are the surnames of his paternal and maternal grandmothers. Longshaw perhaps was the British rendition of Longchamps.

In 1896 the Porritts purchased from Robert Brandegee the old Selah Westcott house at 40 High Street, and moved to that residence.

August 29, 1971
This house having been vacated by the Porritts in 1896, it was now again available, and Miss Porter now assigned it to be the residence of Mr. and Mrs. Ami Janes, although it is not known exactly when they moved in.

Ami Squire Janes, 1862-1920, of Richford, Vermont, right at the Canadian border, had been born in Sutton, Quebec, the son of Albert Janes and Betsie Mack. Ami had come to Farmington around 1880, accompanied by William McKenney and Samuel Dodge, bringing a shipment of horses to this area. Upon delivering some of the horses to Miss Porter's School, Miss Porter offered him the job of coachman for her. He accepted and stayed on the job for a few years, then was given charge of her farm, and later of the school grounds and buildings. Ami's brother Charles succeeded him as coachman for Miss Porter, but during her last years it was Ami who lifted her into her carriage to take her to school.

In 1889 Mr. Janes was married by Farmington minister, Mr. George Clark, to Harriet Celesta Covello of Warehouse Point. The ceremony took place at the home of Mr. Janes' sister-in-law in New Britain. Miss Covello had been working for Mr. Janes' brother Charles, then living in the Dart district of Vernon, where Ami met her while visiting at his brother's home. Ami Janes, a Canadian citizen by birth, became a naturalized United States citizen in 1894. They moved into this house probably some time prior to 1900.

Ami Janes served as special constable at the visit of President Teddy Roosevelt to Farmington on October 22, 1901.

Soon after this they took into their home a grandniece of Mr. Janes, the granddaughter of Mr. Janes' eldest brother Daniel, whose wife was the former Celesta Noyes. Daniel had been the eldest of six children, Ami being the youngest. The child was Hazel May Richard, daughter of Don Carlos Richard and Ethel May Janes, of Vernon, Connecticut. Hazel May's mother having died, Mr. and Mrs. Janes took her into their home. She was very young, and they reared her as their own, having no other children.

Mr. Janes was often questioned about his unusual given name, and his reply would usually be: "If I am not Ami, who am I?". This usually settled the matter.

The two traveling companions of Mr. Janes also stayed in this area. Samuel Dodge settled in Hartford, and William McKenney in Farmington. The latter worked at what was later known as Lake View Farm, on South Road, and later purchased it. His son Fred married and lived on Garden Street.

Mr. Janes continued with his job of maintenance of Miss Porter's school buildings and grounds until his death. He was succeeded by Mr. Derby, whose place was later taken by Fred McKenney, mentioned above.

Hazel May grew up with the companionship of Elizabeth Scott, next door, although Elizabeth was a little older. She knew well the Porter sisters across the street, and especially liked Miss Maria, the friendliest of the three.

September 20, 1971
Mr. Janes, born in 1862, died in 1920.

Mary Twitchell Blakely, widow of the Reverend Quincy Blakely who had been the Congregational minister in Farmington from 1905 until 1937, published a little pamphlet in 1954, which she titled "Thirty-two Years of Farmington from the Parsonage". In it she mentioned Ami Janes as follows:

"One of Farmington's most valued citizens was Ami Janes, a Vermont farmer, brought to Farmington by Miss Porter to be the manager of the school. He was recognized by everyone as a man of not only good Yankee sense, but wise with the kind of wisdom the Bible talks about --- "Wise as a serpent, harmless as a dove".

"His ironic spirit settled many a situation. His judgement was sought in every town problem that might have developed into heated discussions. We often felt, as we read the morning Courant those war days, if Ami only were in Washington, what a help he would be in solving the world problems. When Ami died the village echoed these words of one of the town fathers --- 'We will never see the likes of Ami again'."

Mr. Janes had died just a short time prior to the marriage of Hazel May Richard to James G. Lodge. Mr. Lodge's family was originally of Canada, but had come to Unionville in 1905.

It was the wish of the Porter family that Mr. and Mrs. Janes occupy this house as long as they wished, so Mrs. Janes continued her residence here after her husband's death, accompanied by her widowed sister Emma, Mrs. Henry Abbey. Mr. and Mrs. Lodge also lived here until 1950, and reared their own two children here. In May of 1950 they moved to Unionville, taking bedridden Mrs. Janes with them. Mrs. Abbey had died in 1945, and Mrs. Janes, born in 1859, lived until 1952.

James Garnet Lodge worked for Charles C. House Company in Unionville for 49 years, retiring in 1967. Two children, Robert James and Harriet Jane, had been born to Mr. and Mrs. Lodge, both delivered in this house by Dr. Stuart Phelps.

Robert J. Lodge married Elinor Day of Farmington, the daughter of Russell Day of 4 Garden Street, an employee of the telephone company. They had one child, Brian Robert. Robert Lodge was killed in military service in World War II, and his widow and son, the latter now in college, reside in Bethesda, Maryland.

Harriet Lodge married Frederick Taft of Farmington Avenue, Farmington, son of Orvis Griggs Taft and Frances Gertrude Swanston. The newly married couple lived for a time in the old north district schoolhouse (see photo on page 33 of the Farmington Book), then moved to Unionville, where they now live on Lovely Street. Mr. Taft, as was his father, is in the plumbing business.

September 20, 1971
It has been mentioned by some Farmington residents that this house, the upper floor, was used for troop training in colonial days. It does not seem that large, but of course the upper floor was probably unpartitioned for many years.

It has also said that it was used as a dormitory for Miss Porter's students at one time, and that the girls played in the Wadsworth's hay barn. It was soon found that this house was too far from the school's supervision, and the dormitory idea was abandoned.

Mrs. Hurlburt states that:

"The north part of the house is older than the south part, as it has interior exposed framing, gambrel roof, and had a central chimney. The south part, either an addition or an other house moved there, has a hewn overhang frame, and paneling. The central chimney has been left, but has been re-built. There are three vertical windows at the south end, and old wrought iron fixtures. It was repaired and restored in the summer of 1950."

The above mentioned renovation took place right after it had been vacated by Mrs. James and the Lodges. The alteration was certainly extensive, as one will see by comparing the 1906 photo with its present appearance. Take your Farmington Book and stand across the street from the house in making this comparison, which will turn out to be quite a contrast.

The house next became the residence of Mr. and Mrs. Hollis French, Mr. French being at that time the business manager of Miss Porter's School. After becoming Headmaster of the school in 1954 he and his family moved to the official headmaster's house at 60 Main Street. See more regarding the Frenches in the account of that house.

The next occupants of this house were Mr. and Mrs. Bartram Cadbury. They became acquainted with Farmington driving back and forth between Pennsylvania and the northern New England states, and were intrigued with what they saw here. It is not known how long they have been here but one indication is that they became "train chaperones in the early 1950's". They took the girls to Hartford by bus to catch the 8 AM "Nathan Hale" to New York. The only people allowed to walk through MPS cars were candy and sandwich men. Coming back in the fall they would look for the big sign in Grand Central, "The Nathan Hale, Carrying Miss Porter's School". Mr. Cadbury was science teacher, is now head of the science department. Mrs. Cadbury is "Academic assistant". They and their children lived in this house from 1954 until the summer of 1968, when a new house was built for them at 121 Garden Street. Margaret S. Cadbury, their daughter, MPS 1966, was married on June 21, 1969, to David B. Perry.

September 20, 1971
Present occupants of this house are Mrs. Alfred E. Gavert and her family.

Mr. and Mrs. Gavert had formerly lived in Newington. Alfred Emanuel Gavert was the son of Walfred Gavert and Augusta Johnson, the elder Mr. Gavert having been a foreman in the plant of Royal-McBee in West Hartford. Alfred E. Gavert, graduate of Trinity College, and with post-graduate studies at University of Hartford, was a Certified Public Accountant and Treasurer of the C. R. Burr Company in Manchester, Conn. He died in 1964.

Mrs. Gavert is the former Gloria Hansli Cerrato, born in Greenfield, Massachusetts, daughter of Felia Cerrato and Albertine Hansli. Mr. Cerrato was in the grocery business. Mrs. Gavert is a graduate of the American International College of Springfield, Mass., and has a Master's from Mt. Holyoke College. She has done doctoral work at Northwestern University, Evanston, Illinois, and other graduate study at Trinity College, University of Hartford, and Central Connecticut State College.

She has been Acting Chairman of the Department of Speech and Drama at Christian College, Columbia, Missouri, and Assistant Professor and Chairman of an equivalent department at Milwaukee-Downer College, Milwaukee, Wisconsin.

While she and her husband and family were living in Newington Mrs. Gavert taught part-time at Oxford School in West Hartford. She joined the staff of Miss Porter's School in 1965, and is now Chairman of the English Department there. Her children are Leslie Lynn Gavert, entering Wheelock College this fall, and Graham Hansli Gavert, entering Watkinson School at about the same time. Graham was interested in the history of this house, and did quite a bit of research on its background.

Mrs. Gavert makes the very sensible suggestion that we portray the present surroundings of this house, so that future occupants, and future residents of Farmington, can perhaps take better note of the changes that will have been made. She suggested this statement:

"Until 1972 this house was fronted by busy and noisy Route 10, with the old graveyard (stones dating from 1660 to 1860) on the south and the Wadsworth's farm practically in the back yard, the farm having been a fully operating dairy farm until sold in the fall of 1972".

This is true, and also with the old Wadsworth Homestead, the core of which probably dates back to 1660, sitting just the second house to the north, with the silo and barn and corncrib practically overhanging the rear of the house. With the farm operation ceasing, and most of the land probably being sold, the future surroundings of this house may change considerably, and perhaps very soon.

April 8, 1973