**Washburn, Rev. Joseph, House**

- **Building Name:** Washburn, Rev. Joseph, House
- **Owner:** Reed, Ann H.
- **Style of Building:** Georgian after 1796
- **Material:** Clapboard, Wood Shingle
- **Roof Type:** Gable
- **Condition:** Excellent
- **Integrity:** Excellent
- **Construction Date:** after 1796
- **Related Buildings:** Garage
- **Surrounding Environment:** Residential

**Description:**

On the west side of Main Street between Maple and Perry Streets lies the Rev. Joseph Washburn House. Bordering its sidewalk and main walk are clipped hedges. Large trees surround the building on the west, north, and south sides.
This Georgian-style building features a five-bay facade and twin interior end chimneys. It lacks any architectural embellishments except for the transom above the main door. Note the twelve-over-twelve sash are found throughout most of the building. A modern bay window exists on the south elevation and a lean-to of an uncertain date lies on its west elevation.

### In May of 1796 merchants Solomon and Zenas Cowles sold a one-acre plot of land to Rev. Joseph Washburn, who served as the sixth pastor of Farmington's Congregational Church. Washburn erected this house shortly thereafter. He was the son of Joseph and Ruth (Wetmore) Washburn and graduated from Yale College in 1793. In 1795 he married Sarah Boardman of Middletown, daughter of Deacon Timothy and Jemima (Johnson) Boardman. The Washburns had three children while living in Farmington: Maria (b. 1798), Joseph (1799-1808), and Horace (b. 1801). After moving south due to bad health, Washburn died in Charleston, South Carolina. His wife and children returned to Farmington and Sarah married her second husband, Deacon Elijah Porter (d. 1845). Sarah inherited Washburn's estate in 1806 (FPR 6:199). After Porter's death in 1845, she and her son Horace gained title to the property (FPR 10:431). In 1846 they sold the house to Chauncey Rowe for $2000 (FLR 49:181). Rowe (1815-1900) operated a store with Chauncey Deming Cowles on Main Street. In 1839 he married Susan Dickinson (1816-1883) and raised two children: Charles (b. 1841) and George (b. 1843). In 1897 Rowe gave the "1 acre with buildings" to Cornelius S. Dickinson (FLR 71:285). Little is known about him except that he may have been a nephew. In 1910 after Dickinson's death, the estate passed to Ottilie Dickinson Mason (FLR 74:236), who then sold it to Sara T. Crawford in 1938 (FLR 87:459).

The Rev. Joseph Washburn House is architecturally significant due to its good state of preservation. It has historical importance due to its association with the Washburn and Rowe families.

### Sources

### Photographer
- K.J. Istok

### Date
- 11/85

### View
- NW

### Negative On File
- 13:10A

### Name
- Ruth B. Matteson

### Date
- 2/86

### Organization
- Greater Middletown Preservation Trust

### Address
- 27 Washington Street, Middletown, CT
OWNER'S NAME  (CRAWFORD, SARA T.) to SMITH, Ann H. T.


ADDRESS:  118 Main Street

DATE BUILT:  1796  FOR: Rev. Joseph Washburn

ARCHITECT

MASTER-BUILDER

ADDITIONAL INFORMATION  Rev. Joseph Washburn was pastor of the Congregational Church & while on a sea trip for his health, died. He was succeeded by young Noah Porter, whom he had taught & prepared for Yale.


REFERENCES: "Farmington, Conn., 1906", p. 10-16, 83, 156, 159; also p. 150 for "Opening of the Village Library", a paper read 2/30/1890 by Julius Gay

"Baker & Tilden Atlas, 1869", p. 33 - 'C. Rowe'
118 Main Street

This house, pictured in the Farmington Book on page 16 as the residence of Henry H. Mason, was built in 1796 for the Rev. Joseph Washburn, on land from Solomon and Zenas Cowles. The house is captioned "C. Rowe" in the Baker and Tilden Atlas of 1869.

Regarding earlier settlers on this land, Mrs. Hurlburt on page 375 of "Town Clerks" says: "Mr. Simon Wrothum (Rothum) lived on Main Street about where the H. H. Mason house, now the home of John Crawford, stands. He had a twenty acre tract of land given him by the town November 18, 1673....... Simon Wrothum was made a freeman of the colony in May 1654. In 1676 he served as a soldier in the Indian War....... After difficulties with the church and council....... the church excommunicated him. He died 1689. His wife died Nov. 30, 1684. His daughter Elizabeth married Thomas Newell Nov. 5, 1679, and on Nov. 25, 1679, his daughter Susana married Samuel Hough".

The Rev. Joseph Washburn was the sixth pastor of the First Congregational Church of Farmington. He was the son of Joseph Washburn and Ruth Wetmore and was born in Middletown, Connecticut, May 13, 1766. He taught school before entering Yale, having been prepared for entry at Yale by his pastor the Rev. Enoch Huntington, Yale 1759. After graduation from Yale in 1793 he studied for the ministry with Mr. Huntington, and was licensed to preach by the Hartford South Association of Ministers in June 1794. Four months later he began to supply the vacant church in Farmington, which had had no officially designated pastor since the dismissal of the Rev. Mr. Allen Olcott on August 12, 1791. Mr. Washburn gave such satisfaction that on May 7, 1795, he was ordained and installed as pastor. He was married on August 16, 1795, to Sarah Boardman of Middletown, daughter of Deacon Timothy Boardman and Jemima Johnson, in a ceremony performed by his mentor the Rev. Enoch Huntington.

Children of the Reverend and Mrs. Washburn were:

- A child who died in infancy in 1797,
- Maria Sally, 1798, who married Samuel Tinker of Hartford, later married the Rev. Dr. Horatio N. Brinsmade of Hartford,
- Joseph Ebenezer, 1799-1808, and
- Horace Boardman, 1801, who married Caroline Munger of Hartford, and moved to New York.

The Rev. Joseph Washburn had a brother Nathaniel who married Ruth Wadsworth, daughter of Asahel Wadsworth. Nathaniel died in 1816, probably in Vermont, and Ruth was later admitted to a church in Kentucky.

Mr. Washburn loved his work here and was successful in it, adding about 200 members during his ministry. "Once again the people of the First Church were at rest and content with a spiritual leader, and a friend they trusted and loved".

He contracted pulmonary consumption here however, and in October of 1805 he left home with his wife and children to spend the winter in a southern climate. He died at sea on Christmas Day and was buried there. His widow and children were taken in by the Rev. Dr. Keith of Charleston, South Carolina, and the people there supplied her with support and the whole expense of her journey home the next summer.

The Boardman Ancestors of Mrs. Joseph Washburn.

Christopher Boreman
m. Julien Carter
Remained in England

Samuel Boreman, born Banbury, England, 1615, moved to Claydon 1619
m. Mary Betts of Claydon
A cooper in Ipswich, Massachusetts in 1639, came to Wethersfield, Conn., in 1641, worked as cooper there also

Daniel Boreman, 1658-1725, born Wethersfield
m. Hannah Wright 1664-1746 dau. of Samuel Wright and Mary Butler
Fence viewer 1684 sheeppmaster 1694 Collector 1696
House fortified 1704, was selectman, school committeeman, surveyor. A daughter married Simon Judd of Farmington
After Daniel's death his widow married James Treat

Timothy Boardman, 1700-1753, born Wethersfield
m. 1721 Hannah Crane 1700-1780 dau. of Israel Crane and Lydia Wright.
A farmer in Wethersfield. His widow died in Pittsfield, Mass.
One daughter married Simon Judd of Farmington.

Deacon Timothy Boardman, 1727-1792 born Wethersfield
m. 1751 Jemima Johnson 1732-1798 dau of Joseph Johnson and Elizabeth Hamlin.
Settled in Middletown. Carpenter, shipbuilder, cabinet maker

Sarah Boardman, 1770-1847, born Middletown
m. 1795 Joseph Washburn, minister of Farmington
Built house and lived at 118 Main Street

Horace Boardman Washburn, son of Joseph and Sarah, died in 1881 at Madison, Connecticut, eulogized by Dr. Noah Porter of Yale. Horace Washburn started a mercantile career but soon joined Phelps Dodge Company and was with them forty years. He became "prominently known as one of their most valued and useful assistants and pillars". He bought a place in Madison, Conn., and spent as much time there as possible, finally retiring to there. He contributed generously to the Congregational churches of Madison and Guilford.

Another Boardman of Farmington was Catherine, of the next generation later than Mrs. Washburn, who was married in 1816 to Leonard Winship and lived at 16 Main Street, Farmington, having been born in Hartford. Their nearest mutual ancestor was Daniel, born 1658.
Mr. Washburn was succeeded in his pastorate by the young Mr. Noah Porter, whom he had taught, and whom he had prepared for entrance to Yale.

Mrs. Washburn returned to Farmington in the summer of 1806 and she and her children continued living in their home on Main Street. On August 23, 1812, Mrs. Washburn married her neighbor from across the street, Deacon Elijah Porter, who then moved into this house. He died in 1845.

The house was purchased from the widow and her son Horace Washburn in 1846 by Chauncey Rowe.

Note: Starting with the third paragraph on the preceding page, practically all information regarding the Rev. Joseph Washburn and his family has been taken from Mrs. Hurlburt's "Farmington, Church and Town", which should be read by anyone seeking more regarding Mr. Washburn's ministry.

Julius Gay called him "Healer of dissensions and much-loved pastor".

Trumbull, in his "History of Connecticut", says that Mr. Washburn was "A man of quiet dignity and winning ways, who united all hearts, exorcised the spirit of bitterness and dissention, and brought peace to the parish".

Egbert Cowles said that "Against all his wife's wishes the captain insisted on burial at sea".

More information regarding Deacon Elijah Porter will be found in the account of the house at 117 Main Street, from which he moved to this house in 1812.

Chauncey Rowe, purchaser of this house in 1846, was born in 1815, son of Chauncey Rowe and Diadema Woodford. He attended school in West District and later in the Farmington Academy. He engaged in business in the Old Stone Store on Main Street in 1836, together with Chauncey D. Cowles, taking over the business previously carried on by Austin F. Williams and Henry Mygatt. Chauncey D. Cowles later entered the ministry, and his place as partner was taken by his father, Major Timothy Cowles of 87 Main Street. This partnership was perhaps terminated in July 1864 by the great fire. This fire destroyed all houses and other buildings between Mill Lane and the north property line of Miss Porter's pasture, just south of what is now 100 Main Street. Later in this same year Mr. Rowe took over the store pictured on page 93 as the F. L. Scott Store, which then stood on Main Street adjoining Mill Lane.

Mr. Rowe had been married in 1839 to Susan Dickinson, born 1816, daughter of Major Samuel Dickinson (see 40 High Street) and Susan Porter. Two children were born of this marriage, Charles H. Rowe in 1841 and George D. Rowe in 1843.

Adrian Wadsworth, Sr., speaks at great length of Mr. Rowe in an account in the Farmington Magazine, reprinted on page 85 of the Farmington Book.

October 16, 1971
That "Mr. Rowe was attentive and sympathetic and a good listener to all of the village" as Mr. Wadsworth stated, was evidenced by the fact that Foone, one of the Mendi Negroes, chose him as confidante the day before he drowned, believed to have been due to suicide, and said "Foone going to see his mother, he very homesick". See page 171 of Mrs. Hurlburt's "Town Clerks".

A partial calendar of Mr. Rowe's civic and political posts and activities is made up from information from Mrs. Hurlburt's "Town Clerks" and Mr. Wadsworth's article in the Farmington Magazine, and contains the following:

1847 Representative to General Assembly
1848 "
1848 Clerk of the School Society
1853 Representative to General Assembly
1854 State Senator, Chairman of Education Committee
1857 Assistant Town Clerk
1859 Grand Juror and Measurer of Wood
1860 Representative to General Assembly
1861 Moderator of Town Meeting
1864 Assistant Town Clerk
1869 Representative to General Assembly
1870 On committee to "procure a suitable hearse"
1870 The estate of his son Charles was awarded bounty of $400 for noteworthy service in Civil War
1871 Chairman of meeting to oppose annexation of part of Farmington by Town of West Hartford
1876 Moderator of Town Meeting
   Officer high in command of Grenadier Guards
   Voter in 16 Presidential elections

Mr. Rowe had owned a store in Unionville also, perhaps operated by his brother-in-law Samuel P. Dickinson, since Mr. Rowe also owned the Farmington store at the same time. Mrs. Hurlburt in "Town Clerks" says: Samuel Dickinson and William Smith (father of Winchell Smith) were employed at this time (1849) in the old canal warehouse at Unionville, which after the abandonment of the canal had been turned into a store, owned and operated by Chauncey Rowe, it being the first grocery store to be established in the village".

Mrs. Rowe suffered a broken hip sometime probably in the early 1880's, and spent the rest of her life as a semi-invalid, in a wheel chair. She died in 1883, having been bedridden for some time.

Upon the marriage of Ottilie M. Dickinson to Henry Hall Mason in 1889, Mr. Rowe gave her, "for affection and ten dollars", title to the house in which she and her parents had lived, at 122 Main Street, next door south. After this marriage Mr. and Mrs. Samuel P. Dickinson and Mrs. Dickinson's sister Mary Scott, all moved from next door to this house, and cared for Mr. Rowe's needs. Mr. Rowe gave Mrs. Dickinson title to this property on March 29, 1897. Mrs. Dickinson died very suddenly in 1899, survived by her husband Samuel, her brother-in-law Chauncey Rowe and her sister Mary Scott.

October 16, 1971
On the fly leaves of a book of poems by Henry Wadsworth Longfellow, presented to Mr. Rowe's son Charles by Deacon Edward Lucas Hart in 1857 as "First prize for Composition" Mr. Rowe wrote the following:

"Charles H. Rowe, who died of Yellow Fever at Galveston, Texas, Sept. 4, 1867, age 26½ years, was a graduate of Yale College Class 1862, and also a graduate of the Medical Department of Yale. Was for a time house physician Hartford Hospital. Was assistant surgeon in 18th Regt. Conn. Volunteers stationed at Harper's Ferry, Virginia, afterward surgeon in 17th U. S. Infantry, Gen. Abrm. Doubleday Cmdr. A part of his medical course was pursued at Long Island College Hospital, Brooklyn, New York. He had a thorough medical education and was a young man of great promise in his chosen profession. His officers in the U. S. Army with one accord speak of his faithful service and of his untiring efforts to save such of the soldiers as were stricken with yellow fever. The mortality then was very great and hundreds perished of this epidemic. His birthday was March 3, 1841. The death of his mother occurred on the 18th of Febly 1883 at the age of 67 years. Her other son George D. died Oct 24, 1862 age 18½ years. All were true and faithful. Now in life's evening after struggles many and severe, my lot is to be childless and a widower, but let me not repine.

"In other days much respect has been paid me. A retail merchant expects criticism and faces difficulties peculiar to the calling. My purpose in all my business and social life has been to render unto all their due. At the age of 79 of course my ambitions are over, my purpose is to calmly wait for the event to which all living men must come, Looking for that blessed hope, the glorious appearing of the Great God of our Saviour Jesus Christ the Lord". This was written on his 79th birthday, in 1894.

Mr. Rowe appears to have written for publication too, at least there is one column on page 52 of the Farmington Book which is signed "C. Rowe" and tells of Morehead Ledge and Diamond Glen. He is quoted on page 122 of the same book, speaking of the underground railway and the escaped slaves.

Austin Williams believed that Mr. Rowe was slow to adopt new customs, as indicated in a letter from Mr. Williams dated July 5, 1884. In it he states that Mr. Rowe had had water supplied to his "old cow house" since 1882, but had never put it into his residence. Perhaps Mr. Rowe was influenced by this, as his house was connected in 1886, at the time of the expansion of 4" mains.

Mr. Rowe, as stated by Mr. Wadsworth "was regarded by all his townsmen with deep and sincere affection.... His mind was clear and his steps were active until a week or so before his death on Dec. 1, 1901, at the ripe age of 86 years". The fiancee of his son Charles, later Mrs. Nellie Bradley, often called on Mr. Rowe during his last years.

After Mr. Rowe's death, leaving only the very elderly Mr. Dickinson and his sister-in-law Mary Scott, already 71, residing in this house, the Mason family of five moved in with them, Mrs. Mason now being heir to the property, although final settlement was not made in her name until October 12, 1910.

October 16, 1971

1067,
It was fitting that the Mason children should have lived in this house, as they appear to have been descendants of Deacon Elijah Porter, the veteran of the Revolutionary War and the first official librarian of Farmington, the lineage being this:

Deacon Elijah Porter
Shubael Porter
  m. Rosy Curtis
Susan Porter 1787-1877
  m. Samuel Dickinson 1789-1838
Samuel Porter Dickinson 1820-1906
  m. 1849 Cornelia Scott 1825-1899
Ottilia Dickinson 1861-1953
  m. 1889 Henry Hall Mason 1856-1922

Chauncey Rowe's ancestry is given in the Woodruff family history as follows, although some have said that his mother was Diadema Woodford:

Matthew Woodruff #1
  m. Hannah
Matthew Woodruff #3 1646-1691
  m. Mary Plumb 1645-
Samuel Woodruff #9 1677-1732
  m. Mary Judd 1682-
Ezekiel Woodruff #33 1706-1777
  m. Ann Cowles
Reuben Woodruff #96 1753-1831
  m. Asenath 1756-1825
Celestia Woodruff 1794-1829
  m. Chauncey Rowe Sr 1791-1837
Chauncey Rowe 1815-1901

Chauncey Rowe Sr was the son of Isaiah (or Josiah?) Rowe, 1755-1830, of Bristol, who had in 1780 married Mary Gridley, 1762-also of Bristol. They were the parents of 10 children born over a period of 28 years. The eldest was Elizabeth, born in 1782, who became Thomas Hart Wadsworth's second wife and bore him three children, one of whom was Winthrop Manna Wadsworth, ancestor of the Wadsworth's presently living in Farmington. The fifth child was Chauncey Rowe Sr, born in 1791, who was to become the father of the Chauncey Rowe who lived here, who was storekeeper in the old stone store, and was so well known in Farmington.

May 20, 1974
The Mason family, for the benefit of those who have not yet read the account of 122 Main Street, consisted of Henry Hall Mason, his wife Ottilie Dickinson Mason, and their three children; Eleanor, Mabel and Thomas. Mr. Mason here continued his work as carpenter, cabinet maker, designer and builder of houses, but did not work as hard as previously. He suffered from bronchitis, and his doctor suggested that the shop and saw dust was probably detrimental to his health. Following this advice he tapered off his mill work and built up his farm operations, hiring Otto Christensen however to take most of this latter burden.

One of his projects during his later life was the improvement of the house now known as 18 Diamond Glen, which he purchased in 1908 from Rose Pentalow Eno and her sister and brother, Catherine and William Pentalow. This house is pictured on page 131 of the Farmington Book as "The Pentalow Place, residence of Thomas Eno". This work perhaps spread over several years, as Mr. Irving Robbins remembers that Mr. Mason was working on it in 1914, while interviewing Mr. Robbins for the post of principal of the local school. Mr. Mason was laying the floor, and listened to Mr. Robbins between hammer strokes. Mrs. Hurlburt tells of this conversion in "Town Clerks" on page 358.

Another of his projects was the making of cellos. He made one for Mrs. Brandegee, and then Mr. Pope of Hillstead wanted one, so his was next. A third one stayed in the family and is now in possession of his grandson Thomas D. Wells. He started a violin, but it was never finished, as his time was too short when it was begun.

Mrs. Mason's father, Mr. Dickinson (Grandpa Dick) was quite a heavy man in his later years, and his legs gave out. He spent much of his time in a wheel chair which he could propel, as walking gave him great difficulty. He had not worked for many years when he died in 1906.

This house, with its three young people, saw many parties during their youth, and often the music for dancing would be furnished by some of the Lewis family who lived at that time in the Old South School house, about a half mile south of the Masons. The Lewises are scattered now but the friendship developed at that time still endures, and they return occasionally to visit members of the Mason family.

Mr. Mason's father, the florist of 88 Garden Street, had come from England, and he brought with him a strain of Lily of the Valley, larger and stronger than usually seen here. They grew well around this house, were given to many of the Mason's friends, and Mabel, just out of high school, took some to Hartford for sale through florists. Although they were much harder than the hothouse variety, the Hartford florists preferred their regular suppliers.

Miss Mabel Mason was married in 1912 to Harold Wells, and at this time her mother gave her as a wedding present, the title to the property next door at 122 Main Street, and the young Mr. and Mrs. Wells moved into that house.

October 17, 1971
The Hartford Courant, in an article on Farmington published on October 14, 1914, pays tribute to Henry H. Mason in the following statement: "The Farmington tradition, which the architect and builder Henry H. Mason takes such concern in preserving, is an historic and artistic tradition inherited from the earliest settlers. The beautiful village they built is the pride of their descendants and it is natural and commendable that the present generation should defend the heritage and hold to the place its rare reputation as The Village of Beautiful Homes."

It is interesting to note that Mr. Mason's own pride in the "Village of Beautiful Homes" forbade his purchase of the book by that name, published in 1906, because all the photos were taken in the drab days of winter and gave the beautiful homes a very dreary appearance. He considered the photos so disrespectful of their subjects that he would not allow the book in his house! He thought it a great slur on their beauty.

"Aunt Mary" Scott, sister of Mrs. Dickinson, died here in 1916, having survived her sister by 17 years, and happy because she had lived to see her great-grandnephew Henry Mason Wells, first child of her sister's granddaughter Mabel Mason, and have her photo taken with him.

Miss Eleanor Mason was married to John L. Ingram. She had met him in France while she was there with a YMCA unit and he was in the army. They were married soon after the war, but before he was out of service and they lived for some time in South Carolina.

In addition to the re-modeling of the house at 18 Diamond Glen, Henry Mason also started the conversion of 16 Diamond Glen from a barn to a residence. This barn is believed to have been the one built for the Pentalows by Nelson Keyes in 1890, and which can be partially seen to the west of 18 Diamond Glen in the photo on page 131. Mr. Mason died before this conversion was much past the planning stage, and it was finished by Hiram Jones of West District aided by Mr. Mason's son Thomas.

After Mr. Mason's death in 1922, his widow sold his shop in the rear to Otto Christensen, who had worked with Mr. Mason for several years, in charge of the farming operation. Mr. Christensen then bought a piece of the property west of 122 Main Street and moved the shop to it and converted it to a residence. He and his wife and two sons lived there from then on, and now it is the property of his son John, who lives there with his wife the former Beatrice Rogers.

Thomas Mason was married in Thomaston to Flora Langenberger. He was working as salesman at that time, for the grain and feed store of Winchell Smith on Farmington Avenue near the railroad overpass. When the conversion of 16 Diamond Glen was completed, and after their first son, Henry Hall Mason, was born, they moved to Diamond Glen, taking Thomas's mother with them. She lived upstairs, as the house had been remodeled as a two-family house.

The house at 118 Main Street was now rented out to Mr. and Mrs. Victor Malmbreg, he a local mechanic. The Malmbreges opened a tea shop here, called the Copper Kettle, and also took in roomers.

October 17, 1971
Meanwhile the Ingrams had moved up from South Carolina to East Springfield, Massachusetts, where Mr. Ingram was employed by radio station WBZ, one of the very early stations. The Ingrams had three children: John L. Jr., Josephine and Paul Mason Ingram. Times were hard, it was the beginning of the depression, WBZ cut down on its staff and Mr. Ingram was out of work. He finally found work with Pratt and Whitney, and when the Malmbergs vacated 118 Main Street the Ingrams came here to live. Mrs. Mason returned here from Diamond Glen also, and she and her daughter continued operation of the tea room but re-named it, calling it Old Town Tavern.

Mrs. Mason sold the house in 1938 to Sarah T. Crawford, and she and her daughter and grandchildren moved to 16 Diamond Glen.

Mr. and Mrs. John Crawford were rather elderly but continued the operation of the tea room for a while, calling it The Green Door. When the tea room operation became too much for them they gave it up but they still took in transient guests. A photo probably taken during the early 1950's shows a sign in the front "Tourist Rooms", a popular means of making a little extra money from the steadily increasing travel by automobile.

The Crawfords moved from Farmington in 1956 and sold to the Graeme Smiths, in the name of Ann H. T. Smith.

October 17, 1971

This house was written up by Mrs. Hurlburt in 1951 as the "Washburn-Crawford house", for the Colonial Dames Society.
Occupants of this house since Mrs. Smith purchased it in 1956 are Mr. and Mrs. R. Graeme Smith and their family.

Mr. Smith is the son of Stuart Smith and Marjorie Walters and was born in Akron, Ohio. They moved to Pittsburgh seven or eight years later, and after about a year moved to Philadelphia, where Mr. Smith was branch manager for Connecticut General Life Insurance Company.

At the outbreak of World War II Graeme was attending Franklin and Marshall College in Lancaster, Pennsylvania. When he was half way through he joined the Marine Corps and ended up with two years of intensive study of the Japanese language at Boulder, Colorado, then became an interpreter. When the war was over he returned to Franklin and Marshall for his BA, did some graduate work in Philosophy at Columbia, then took his Law Degree at Yale. While he was there he met his future wife, Ann Colebeck, as a week-end dance date.

Ann Colebeck, daughter of Edward Lawton Colebeck and Mary Winn Withers, was born in Greensboro, Alabama. Her father’s family had come from Retford, England, the Robin Hood area, about 1880, part of a small wave of English immigrants who came about that time. They settled in Wisconsin, where they already had relatives. Edward attended prep school and also college, at Northwestern University. He married and became a professor of Greek and Latin. His wife died not long after their marriage, and he later taught at Southern University in Greensboro, Alabama, later called Birmingham Southern. His second wife was a student, Mary Winn Withers, and they were married shortly after her graduation. He had been acting president of the school for a time, but when he did not receive a permanent appointment to the post he switched from the educational field to the life of a planter, but kept his contact with education by serving as the county superintendent of schools.

Mary Winn’s grandfather had emigrated from Virginia in 1828, when Alabama was a very young community. He was the younger son of a Virginia planter and was given slaves from his father’s plantation when he went on his own. He started a plantation called Millwood, of several thousand acres near Eutah, on the Warrior River, a tributary of the Alabama. This section of the state was largely settled by Virginians and some South Carolinians, who wished to move west and expand their activities.

Ann Colebeck, as mentioned previously, met Graeme Smith while she was attending Radcliffe and he was a Yale Law School. She occasionally stayed week ends at the Elm Tree Inn while Graeme was with his father at 16 Main Street, and she remembers Mrs. Fitzgerald dining each evening at her specially reserved table, presiding graciously over the dinner hour. Most of the dinner guests at the Inn were permanent residents.

Graeme Smith’s father, Stuart Smith, had come to Hartford for Connecticut General Life Insurance Company in 1947, and had lived in Farmington, taking an apartment at 4 Waterville Road, with several other single men.

June 23, 1970
Mr. Smith met and married Mary Ellsworth of Simsbury, and they took over the apartment at 4 Waterville Road, later purchasing and occupying the house at 16 Main Street, three years after he was made Vice President of Connecticut General. They sold the Main Street house in 1962, Mr. Smith is now retired, and he and his wife shuttle between four months a year in Vermont and eight months in Florida.

After Graeme and Ann were married, they lived first in an apartment at 774 Farmington Avenue, and later in the one at 4 Waterville Road.

When they purchased this house at 118 Main Street, it had had very few structural changes during its 160 years. The former kitchen however, with its huge fireplace, was being used as the living room, and the room to its rear was being used as the kitchen. The smoke pipe of the oil-burning cookstove was carried through the wall into the living room near the ceiling, and vented into the fireplace chimney. The rear stairway thus curved into the living room. The room just north of this, which the Smiths converted to a kitchen, was being used as a bedroom. Plumbing had been added of course, and there was a furnace which heated the lower floor, but no heat had been provided for the second floor. The Smiths, with the help of Mr. and Mrs. Frederick Jones, from whom they had rented the apartment at 774 Farmington Avenue, have added more windows, especially the large bow window in the south wall of the living room. They also straightened the rear stairs so that they now lead up from the present family room. The family room has been paneled with chestnut floor boards formerly in the attic. They also added a window to the room they have converted to a kitchen, added a bath, and changed what was the kitchen to a family room. They also added a platform patio to the rear, which is an ideal place for outdoor entertaining. The room to the left of the front door of the house is now Graeme's office, where he does homework when necessary.

Graeme Smith is the Smith in the legal firm of Alcorn, Bakewell and Smith, a firm with which he has been associated since around 1950. He is a trustee of his alma mater, Franklin and Marshall College.

Ann Smith teaches part time at Miss Porter's School, and is very interested also in the public schools of Farmington.

Their children are Stuart, who attends Kingswood School in West Hartford, and Julia, a student at Irving Robbins Junior High in Farmington.

Two other members of the family are Jack, a mastiff, and Maggie, a Scottish sheep dog.

June 23, 1970
Some random observations of the Smiths regarding this house are given below, arranged in paragraphs, but not necessarily cohesive paragraphs.

As stated in the beginning of the account, the house was built for the Rev. Joseph Washburn in 1796. It is Mrs. Smith's firm belief that his congregation loved him, as there are lots of indications that although this was not a luxurious house, that "they built solidly for him, and as well as they knew how". The house was built with no pretentions to luxury, although the front rooms had nicely detailed trim, and more elaborate window shutters, while in the rear rooms both of those two features were much more plain. This applies to upper as well as lower floor rooms.

The present living room may originally have been two rooms, the kitchen and the "borning room", as the walls indicate that a partition may once have crossed the room. The huge attic has two chimneys up through it, one of which has a chamber for the smoking of meats. Fireplace bases are huge and square, and the larger one has an access aperture similar to that in the house at 738 Farmington Avenue. Foundation walls of Portland stone are extremely thick, but it has been necessary to re-point the mortared joints in several places.

The plaster in every room is still the original. The house had not been very well insulated, insulation having been added by the Smiths. Hearths are supported by huge cantilevered beams, and the chimneys draw wonderfully well. There is a working oven in the large living room fireplace.

The front porch which shows in the 1906 photo had been removed by the 1950's. Latticed rose arbors later appeared on each side of the front door, and a screened porch on the south side of the house. A cistern is in the basement, in addition to the well which is said never to have run dry. It was capped with a millstone washed down from the Collins Company in the 1955 flood, obtained by Mr. Smith's father and brought in here by Dominic Battista of Carrington Lane.

Lilies of the Valley abounded around the house and in earlier days, when occupied by Mabel Wells' mother Ottilie Mason, they were taken to the railroad station in Berlin and sent down to New York to be sold. A ground cover of myrtle in front had to be sacrificed to excavation for the sewer connection. The foundation of a small cow barn remains in the rear, and the site provides an excellent vegetable garden which the Smiths enjoy.

June 23, 1970

As of late 1972 it has been noted that a former storehouse to the rear of the rear door has been converted to what appears to be a small apartment.

May 20, 1974