Standing high above the east side of Main Street, the Barnes-Mix House is bordered to the north by the historic Main Street cemetery. The surrounding neighborhood contains other historic dwellings of similar vintage.
This five-bay Georgian-style building has undergone several changes, although many of its original features still exist. The west elevation once featured an enclosed Colonial Revival-style porch (now removed); and the original door surround may have been likewise removed. Said to have been designed by architect Captain Judah Woodruff of Farmington, it would not have extended above the overhang between the first and second floors as the present doorway does. However old, it is interesting in its own right. It displays pilasters and a heavy entablature. The door consists of multi panes. Of note are the leader heads, used as part of the drainage/gutter system, located at the north and south top corners of the front facade. Two chimneys are visible at each end of the roof; however, they probably are not the originals because they are very small. Twelve-over-twelve sash are found throughout the house.

The main block of this house was built around 1785 by Squire John Mix, while a portion of the rear ell may date from 1685. The first house to stand on this lot was built by Joseph Barnes around 1685 shortly after his marriage to Abigail Gibbs. He received "the parcel on which his dwelling house now standeth" from his brother, Benjamin Barnes in 1687 (FLR 1:85). Joseph (1655-1741) was the second son of Thomas and Mary Barnes, original settlers of Farmington. In 1662 his mother Mary was accused of witchcraft, "convicted of entertaining familiarity with Satan" and executed. In 1710 Barnes sold the house and lot to Samuel Hooker Jr., the son of Reverend Samuel Hooker, the second pastor of the Farmington Congregational Church (FLR 2:229). Samuel Hooker, Jr. (1661-1730), a merchant, married Mehitable Hamlin in 1687 and raised eight children. This property was willed to Samuel's second son, Giles Hooker in 1730 (Manwaring 3:66). Giles (1690-1787) and his wife, the former Martha Cooke, had one daughter, Martha. Although it is not recorded, Martha Hooker (1733-1817) inherited the property from her father. In 1752 she married Ezekiel Cowles and lived farther south along Main Street. It appears that the Cowles' eldest daughter, Martha and her husband John Mix resided in this house after Giles Hooker's death in 1787. John Mix and his brother-in-law Ezekiel Cowles, Jr. were responsible for financing the construction of the large front block of the house around 1787. Capt. Judah Woodruff, Farmington's noted architect of the eighteenth century, is credited as the master-builder of this addition. Born in West Hartford to Ebenezer and Anna (Goodwin) Mix, John Mix (1755-1834) was a graduate of Yale and served as an officer in the Revolutionary War. For many years he was a representative to the General Assembly and served as Farmington's town clerk for 23 years. (see cont.)

A member of the Federalist party, Mix also was elected judge of probate and was active in the local library and school committees. In addition he was a member of the Society of the Cincinnatus and the area's first Masonic order. In 1807 Ezekiel Cowles Sr. willed his daughter, Martha Cowles Mix "L10 and my right in the dwelling house of John Mix Esq." (FPR 6:16). In 1818 Mrs. Mix received from her mother's estate "half of the homelott on the east side of the road that was my father Hookers and all right in house standing thereon, built by her husband and my son, Ezekiel Cowles, Jr." (FPR 7:413). Ezekiel Cowles, Jr., in 1819, sold Squire Mix his interest in the property on which was the "dwelling house erected by Mix" (FLR 40:26). In 1837 the property was distributed to John Mix's daughter, Catherine Williams and his grandson, Theodore Wadsworth (FPR 10:117). Asa Darrow acquired the property in 1840 (FLR 48:110). Ten years later, Charles Blair purchased the former "residence of Judge Mix" from Darrow's estate (FLR 51:210). Blair immediately sold the house to wealthy merchant Timothy Cowles, who in turn sold it to his daughter, Jennette C. Williams (FLR 50:259, 52:99). Mrs. Williams and her husband, Austin F. Williams, resided in the house at 127 Main Street, located just to the south of the "Mix Place" and probably rented out this house. Upon Mrs. Williams' death in 1871 the property was willed to her two daughters, Anna M. Treadwell and Catherine D. Vorce. A year later, the daughters quit-claimed the "Mix Place" to their father, Austin F. Williams (FLR 62:230). In 1874 Williams sold the "Judge Mix Place" back to his daughter, Anna M. Treadwell, the wife of Robert Treadwell, although he reserved life use and improvement of the property (FLR 65:38). In 1894 Catherine D. Vorce inherited the property from her sister's estate, with the stipulation that she support Robert B. Treadwell during his natural life (FLR 70:421). After Mr. Treadwell's death, the house was rented to faculty members of Miss Porter's School and later to the Rev. Charles E. Roberts, the minister of the Episcopal Church. In 1913 the building was sold by the estate of Catherine D. Vorce to Emma L. Pickett (FLR 78:434). The building has passed through several owners since that time.

Architecturally significant as a fine example of the Georgian style, this dwelling is one of a number of Farmington residences with a seventeenth-century ell. The house derives added significance as one of many village properties attributed to architect/builder Capt. Judah Woodruff. Historically the house is notable for its association with the Barnes, Hooker, Cowles, and Mix families.
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>OWNER’S NAME</th>
<th>(COTTER, DANIEL F. &amp; WILLIAM L.)</th>
<th>TUCKERMAN, Betty</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>ADDRESS</td>
<td>123 Main Street</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>DATE BUILT</td>
<td>ca. 1680</td>
<td>FOR: Thomas or Joseph Barnes</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>ca. 1785</td>
<td>&quot; John Mix &amp; his brother-in-law Ezekiel Cowles</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>1914 &quot; Mrs. Andrew Pickett (sister of S.B. Lawrence)</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>ARCHITECT</td>
<td>1785 Capt. Judah Woodruff, front part; 1914 S.B. Lawrence</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>MASTER-BUILDER</td>
<td>1914 - carpenters under Henry O. Wilcox</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**Former Owners:**
- D.F. & W.L. Cotter from Est. Stephen B. Lawrence

**References:**
- "Farmington, Conn., 1906, p. 20"
- "Gay Papers", p. 120
- "Hooker Genealogy - "Cowles Genealogy", p. 70

Colonial Dames pamphlet at State Library, a ms.
Darrow, decd., for $251.50 (and 2 mtgs) known as the Judge Mix Residence, 1 acre n. on the old burying ground, s. on A. F. Williams, w. on the Main St., 2/28/1850, Vol. 51, p. 210; Ass Darrow from Catherine Williams & Theodore H. Wadsworth 4/2/1840, Vol. 48, p. 110; Catherine (Mix) Williams a ½ int. from est. of her father John Mix, & Theodore H. Wadsworth a ½ int. from est. of his grandfather, John Mix, by dist. of est. of J. Mix 10/6/1837, Vol. 10, Prob. Rec., p. 117; John Mix from Ezekiel Cowles 2/22/1819, Vol. 40, p. 26; Ezekiel Cowles from his father, Ezekiel, by will 11/3/1806, Vol. 6, Prob. Rec. p. 16, ALSO Martha Cowles Mix from her father, Ezekiel Cowles, "a part of my right in the dwellinghouse of John Mix; (Ezekiel was b. 1721 & marr. Martha, daughter of Giles Hooker: Ezekiel d. leaving will dated 1792. Giles Hooker d. 1787 aged 97, leaving no real est. & no record appears of his having disposed of it in his life time. The Cowles Genealogy states that "Ezekiel Cowles purchased his place 1763". There is no indexed record of such purchase. Martha (Hooker) Cowles will 5/1/1807; (a gap appears in the title in that no indication is found of the property passing from Giles Hooker to his daughter, Martha, who marr. Ezekiel Cowles 1752, but as the place went from her to her daughter, Martha Cowles Mix, title cannot be questioned.) Martha Cowles Mix from her mother, Martha (Hooker) Cowles "½ of the home lott east side of road that was my father Hooker's", also all my right to the houses standing thereon built by her husband (John Mix) and my son (Ezekiel Cowles)" will dated 5/1/1807, prob. 3/26/1816, Vol. 8, Prob. Rec., p. 413; Giles Hooker, by will from his father Samuel Hooker, see Man-waring, Vol. 3, p. 66 - the homelott & dwellinghouse & barn; Samuel Hooker from Joseph Barnes for 30 pounds, 2 acres & dwellinghouse & barn n. on the burying yard 1/4/1710, Vol. 2, p. 226; Joseph Barnes, his land recorded 2 acres & dwellinghouse next to the burying yard 1/24/1687, Vol. 1, p. 85; Joseph Barnes' father, Thomas, had his first homestead here in 1650, it being 15 acres from the e. line to the river, with the town path running through it. The oldest part of the house, now the rear, was probably the Thomas, or Joseph Barnes House & it stood on the street. It was moved back, losing its central Chimney when John Mix & his brother-in-law had the front part built, probably after the Rev. War. It was then used as kitchen & dining rm., or keeping rm. When Mrs. Pickett bought the house, the old Barnes house was moved back again & the connecting addition built, windows changed & the end chimneys built.
This house is pictured on page 20 of the Farmington Book as "The Squire Mix place -- property of Mrs. A. D. Vorse". Baker and Tilden's Atlas of 1869 shows it as the property of Austin P. Williams. Mrs. Hurlburt wrote it up in 1946 for the Colonial Dames Society as the "Barnes-Mix-Lawrence House".

First settler on this property was Thomas Barnes, of whom Mrs. Hurlburt has written the following in "Town Clerks" on pages 356-57-58:

"Thomas Barnes was an original proprietor and settler of Farmington, coming here from Hartford where he had settled and received land by the town's courtesy. He served in the Pequot War and after his removal to Farmington was sergeant of the train band in 1651. He joined the Farmington church January 1652-3, three months after its organization. He lived on the Town Path south of the Old Burying Ground, owning both sides of the road as far as the river on the west. In 1661 he gave land to the town for a burying ground, adding more land on the street in 1687, which was used until no further ground remained and Riverside Cemetery was opened. Thomas Barnes' first wife, Mary, was one of the unfortunate victims of the witchcraft fear. She was tried and convicted January 1663, and probably executed, as the keeper of the Hartford jail, Daniel Garret, was allowed 21 shillings to be paid for her keep by Goodman Barnes. This represented about three weeks' lodging. On March 23, less than two months after the probable execution of his first wife, Thomas Barnes and John Andrews drew up a pre-nuptial agreement concerning the coming marriage of Mary Andrews to Thomas Barnes. Mary was about twenty years of age, the daughter of John Andrews."

The agreement, which Mrs. Hurlburt quoted in full, is quite lengthy, and omitted from this account. Mr. Barnes did marry Mary Andrews, and the marriage lasted 18 years until the death of Thomas Barnes.

Mrs. Hurlburt continues: "Two sons and two daughters were born of this marriage. Thomas Barnes died 1681, leaving his homestead on Town Path to his son Joseph, who sold it in 1710 to Samuel Hooker, Jr. The earliest land record we find for Thomas Barnes is in 1650, when he had 10 acres on which his dwelling house with out-houses, barns, yards and gardens stood, on Town Path "through which a highway lyeth, with the river on the west, Richard Brownson's land on the east, John Tayllicots land south and Moses Ventrus land north".

"When Joseph Barnes sold the family homestead to Samuel Hooker, Jr., in 1710 it was bounded on the north by the burying ground, showing that Thomas Barnes lived on the east side of the street, about where Mrs. Stephen Lawrence now lives".

Regarding the Pequot War, Mr. Gay says "Capt. John Mason was ordered in May 1637 to wage an offensive war against the Pequots. On the 10th of May 1637 he and 70 men guided by Uncas sailed down the river in three vessels and burned the Pequot fort and killed the Pequots to the number of 600 or 7000. Thomas Barnes was in this war with three others who also later moved to Farmington. He and John Warner were granted 50 acres each for their services in this engagement."
Although library records indicate that Thomas Barnes built the house on this property around 1680, records quoted on the previous page show that a house was already standing on this land in 1650. What happened to the earlier house is not known.

Although Thomas Barnes died in 1681, records indicate that title was not officially passed to his son Joseph until in 1687.

An elder son of Thomas Barnes was Ebenezer, perhaps a son by the first wife of Thomas, settled with his wife and fifteen children in Bristol in 1727, and founded the Bristol branch of the Barnes family of which Wallace Barnes of 50 High Street is a member.

Samuel Hooker, Jr., the son of the Rev. Samuel Hooker and Mary Willet, purchased this property from Joseph Barnes in 1710. (See more regarding the Rev. Samuel Hooker in the account of 145 Main Street).

Samuel Hooker, Jr., was born in Plymouth, Massachusetts, in 1661 just before his father left there to come to Farmington to become the second pastor of the Farmington Church. In 1687 he was married to Mehitable Hamlin, daughter of Capt. Giles Hamlin and Esther Crowe of Middletown. Capt. Hamlin was a noted and wealthy sea captain and a merchant of Middletown, while Mrs. Hamlin’s father, John Crow, was a merchant of Hartford. Samuel Hooker also was engaged in the mercantile business in Hartford for some time.

The children of Samuel Hooker, Jr., and his wife Mehitable Hamlin, were the following, with their dates of birth:

- Samuel 1688
- Giles 1690
- Thomas 1692
- William 1695
- Roger 1698
- Richard 1700
- Esther 1702
- Mehitable 1706

They are discussed in more detail in the following eight paragraphs.

Samuel Hooker, 1688-1787, was married first, in 1711, to Mercy (or perhaps Mary) Leete, 1688-1751, of Guilford. She was the mother of all of Samuel’s nine children. After her death he married the former Mary Elliott, 1688-1771, the widow of Abraham Pierson of Killingworth. Samuel Hooker lived his married life in Kensington. Upon hearing of the death of his younger brother Giles, aged 97, on March 1, 1787, Samuel fell back in his chair and expired.
Giles Hooker, 1690-1787, married Martha Cooke, 1693-1760, of Hartford. They lived on the property now known as 130 Main Street. Their only child was Martha, who married Ezekiel Cowles of the house now known as 185 Main Street, formerly "The Lodge". The Hooker Genealogy, published in 1909, makes the following statement: "They lived on the General George Cowles place, and for a long time, and perhaps still, a flat stone in the sidewalk just below the brow of the hill, covered the old well of the Giles Hooker place". That would probably be under the present sidewalk in front of 130 Main Street.

Thomas Hooker, 1692-1756, was married in 1749 to the widow Hannah Wells. No other information given.

William Hooker, 1695-1782, was married four times, is stated to have lived in Farmington, but where he lived, or what he did, are unknown. His first wife was Lydia Woodward, 1702-1723, whom he married in 1721. One child, Roger, 1723-1750, was born by her. His second wife was Anna Steele, 1702-1727, of Wethersfield, by whom two children were born. They were Lydia, 1725-1736, and Richard, 1727-1728. Abigail Phelps of Hartford was his third wife and she had two children, Anna, 1732-1735, and William, 1734-1735. Only one of the five children lived past the age of eleven. He was the first child, Roger, who attained the age of 27. William's fourth wife, who bore him no children, was Esther, 1705-1780, who preceeded him in death by two years, leaving him after four wives, to die a widower, and probably without descendants.

Roger Hooker, born in 1698, died in 1703 at the age of 5.

Richard Hooker, born in 1700, perhaps died in infancy.

Esther Hooker, 1702-1779, became the second wife of the Reverend Mr. Isaac Stiles of Windsor, Connecticut. They lived in North Haven, are said to have had five children. Mr. Stiles, born in 1697, died in 1760.

Mehitable Hooker, 1706-1763, later signed her name as Mabel. She was married in 1742 to Daniel Coit, Esq., 1698-1773, of New London. Quoted from the Hooker Genealogy, he was a "Prominent and estimable man of New London, where he lived a long life of usefulness and honor". He was Town Clerk of New London, serving, except for one year, for the entire period from 1736 until his death in 1773. He was married three times but all of his children were by his second wife Mehitable. Unfortunately the writer did not take the data on his children.
Samuel Hooker, Jr., died in 1730 in Hartford, and his widow also died in Hartford, in 1749. Title to this property passed to their son Giles Hooker in 1752. Giles Hooker was married to Martha Cooke.

A daughter of Giles Hooker, Martha Hooker, who was married to Ezekiel Cowles, 1721-1806, and who lived at what is now 185 Main Street, inherited this property and left it to her son Ezekiel Cowles, and to her daughter Martha Cowles, who married John Mix. John Mix and his brother-in-law Ezekiel Cowles had the old Barnes house moved a little to the rear, and a new house was built as an addition to the front. This is the house presently standing, which still includes the section to the rear, although numerous alterations have been made since then, especially to the interior. It appears that Ezekiel Cowles never occupied this house, or if he did it was probably not for long, as he lived at 185 Main Street.

John Mix was a man of strong character and exerted a very good influence over Farmington. Egbert Cowles, in his book "Sketches of the Early Settlements", introduces him as follows:

"I have found no one who so fully presented the leading trait of character exhibited by the early settlers of the town, namely energy in the pursuit of life, as did Mr. John Mix. Educated at Yale, returned to Farmington, married, entered army, very active in Commissary department through the war, returned to civil life. Citizens gave him the reward of being "Town Clerk of the Corporation", which he kept twenty years. Also was a magistrate, representative to the state general assembly".

Julius Gay speaks of him on page 17 of the Farmington Book in these words:

"Crossing the road formerly known as 'the highway leading to the old mill place', and a century later as Hatter's Lane, we come to the house next south of the old cemetery, owned and probably built by John Mix. He was commonly known as Squire Mix, a graduate of Yale, an officer in the Revolution, ten years Judge of Probate, thirty-two years Town Clerk, and twenty-six years a representative to the General Assembly. He was, I am told by those who knew him, tall in stature, dressed as a gentleman of the time, with silver knee-buckles, formal in manner, of quick temper, punctilious, very hospitable, a good neighbor, a member of no church and bound by no creed, and in politics a Federalist. In his later years, when old age and total blindness shut him out from the busy world, when the political party of his active days had passed away, and new men who hated the names of Washington and Hamilton filled all the old familiar places in the town, the state and the nation, he is said to have sometimes longed for a judicious use of the thunderbolts of the Almighty".

Mrs. Hurlburt gives the following information on John Mix:

"He was the son of Ebenezer Mix and Anna Goodwin and was born in West Hartford in 1755......He was 21 years of age and a graduate from Yale when stirring calls came from the newly-built meeting house for men who could defend their homes. Hurriedly persuading Martha Cowles to marry, he enlisted in the colonial army."

March 2, 1972
1090.
"In 1778 he was appointed adjutant of the 2nd Regiment, the commission being dated June 1, 1778, as a transfer from Ensign of the Third Regiment. He served as an officer on the staff of General Washington, later was a member of the Society of the Cincinnati and served as Secretary of the Connecticut branch.

"Year after year he was sent by Farmington to the Legislature. Every committee whether for church, town or state had him as a member.

John Mix was elected tenth Town Clerk on December 12, 1791, with Col. Noad'iah Hooker as Town Treasurer, and kept the post until 1823.

Again quoting Mrs. Hurlburt: "In these years from 1791 to 1823, Farmington had its day, exceeding in both population and wealth that of Hartford... John Mix aided in administering this wealth and the many duties that came with it".

Elisha Mix has been mentioned, probably a brother of John. Elisha was a seaman and later was a sea captain. On April 1, 1803, he was one of a crew signing up with Thomas Atwater for a two-year sealing expedition, with the crew to receive 45 skins out of every hundred sold. Later he sailed on November 1, 1814, as Commodore on the Decatur. In April 1815 he brought in the armed brig Warrior laden with 320 bales, cases and packages of dry goods and a quantity of specie -- having made six captures. On February 16, 1816, he sailed for Smyrna and other Mediterranean ports. (Information from page 108 of "Town Clerks").

John Mix served as an officer in the Revolutionary War, first as Ensign, along the Hudson, and afterward as Lieutenant and quartermaster in the Highlands until the close of the war. After the surrender of Burgoyne the captured cannon were ordered by Gen. Gates to be sent to Connecticut for safety, and Col. Ichabod Norton was ordered to bring them from Albany to Farmington. According to Julius Gay "the men were a fortnight dragging the heavy pieces through the mud. They were finally stored in the orchard of John Mix, where they remained a considerable time".

John Mix and his wife Martha, daughter of Ezekiel Cowles of what is now 185 Main Street, had eight children: Eben, Ann Goodwin, Betsey, Ann Goodwin, William, Catherine, John William and Martha.

Eben Hooker Mix, born in 1776, was in his younger days supercargo of ships in the East India trade, and subsequently he commanded ships of that trade, and was one of the quaint sailor characters of Farmington. He was described by Julius Gay as:

"Universally known as Capt. Eb, who made voyages to China and brought back to the merchant princes of the town, tea, spices, silks, china tea sets, and all the luxuries of the Orient".

March 2, 1972

Eben was on the high seas during all of the period of the War of 1812, but apparently avoided capture, or losing his sailors by impressment, a situation which was made the apparent, if not the actual, cause of the conflict. This copied from pages 118 and 119 of Mrs. Hurlburt's "Town Clerks".
Mrs. Hurlburt writes further of Captain Eb on page 108 of "Town Clerks":

"Captain Eb returned but to sail again November 4, 1816". A few words from letters of his wife Sally indicate her fears:

- Jan. 25, 1817 "No information of Eb"
- Apr. 19, 1817 "Anxious about Eb"
- Jun. 24, 1817 "If I could only hear from my dear husband and know that he is in health it would make me almost well".
- Jul. 10, 1817 "No word yet".
- Jul. 30, 1817 "I rejoice very much to hear of Eb's health and that the vessel was spoken with that he sailed in".

An interesting story of Captain Eb is told on page 75 of the Farmington Book, most of it also quoted on pages 107 and 108 of "Town Clerks". Captain Eb died in 1839.

The following, regarding other of their children, is taken from Page 109 of "Town Clerks", although not in the same sequence.

- Ann Goodwin Mix, born 1780, died 1783.
- Betsey Mix, born 1781, died 1809.
- Ann Goodwin Mix (the 2nd), born 1784, married Dr. Harry Wadsworth, son of Dr. Theodore and Betsy Wadsworth of Southington. Dr. Harry was a practicing physician in Farmington, where he died in 1813. She died in 1824.
  (Note -- Dr. Harry and his wife lived in the house that is now 122 Main Street, purchasing it in 1805).
- William Mix, born 1785, died 1789.
- Catherine Mix, born 1787. She married the Rev. Joshua L. Williams on November 30, 1813. They had a daughter Catherine Hooker Williams, born 1826, who married John Deming, and they became the parents of Edward Hooker Deming, for 50 years the town's foremost citizen, judge of probate, treasurer of the Farmington Savings Bank, and member of committees for all public good. (Note: E. H. Deming's home was what is now 100 Main Street).
- John William Mix, born 1793, died 1837.
- Martha Hooker Mix, born 1794, died 1837.

It was Squair John Mix who planted the large elm tree in the yard in front of his house in 1783, calling it the Peace Tree, in commemoration of the Treaty of Paris drawn up that year between England and the new nation, the United States of America. This may be the same tree which appears in the photo on page 20, hiding the center of the house, but only a stump appears there now.

March 2, 1972
Squire Mix was a member of the Canal Commission when the Farmington Canal was built, and he was one of the first to join the Masonic order when Frederick Lodge #14 was founded in this house in 1787, two years before the Connecticut Grand Lodge was formed. Frederick Lodge was later disbanded and Plainville took that number. John Treadwell and John Mix organized the "Library of the First Society of Farmington" in 1795, with Deacon Elijah Porter as first librarian and Martin Bull, John Mix and Isaac Cowles as the first library committee. In March 1796 John Mix was on the School Committee with John Treadwell, Noadiah Hooker and Martin Bull, which instituted great changes in Farmington's school system.

Julius Gay says "One favorite meeting place on a summer evening was the long flight of stone steps which led from the street to the ever hospitable door of Squire Mix". Squire Mix lost his eyesight in his later years. His wife died in 1826 and he in 1834, after a long and useful life of seventy-nine years.

Title to his property was willed by him, one-half to his daughter Catherine Mix Williams, and one-half to his grandson Theodore H. Wadsworth. The latter must have been the son of his daughter Ann Goodwin Mix.

Six years after the death of Squire Mix his heirs sold the house to Asa Darrow. Catherine Williams gave her address as Farmington, but Theodore H. Wadsworth's address was stated as Eagleville, Ashtabula County, Ohio.

Asa Darrow died on December 31, 1847, and Giles Stillman, executor of his will, sold the property in 1850 to Charles Blair.

Charles Blair quit-claimed it to Major Timothy Cowles in that same year.

Major Timothy Cowles did not keep it long but deeded it "for affection I entertain for my daughter", to his daughter Jennette Cowles Williams, the wife of Austin F. Williams, who lived just next door, to the south. It was at that time subject to the small debt of $475 owed to the Ecclesiastical Society.

In 1854 it was put up as security for a loan from Winthrop W. Wadsworth, but released in 1855 on payment.

In 1874, for "love and affection and one dollar", it was deeded by Austin F. Williams to his daughter Anna, married by that time to Robert Treadwell, reserving "use and improvement of the property during my natural life". Mr. Williams lived eleven more years, probably in this house with the Treadwells.

Robert Treadwell and Anna Marie Williams had been married in 1859. He was the son of Thomas Treadwell of 92 Main Street. During the last year of his father's term as Town Clerk Robert appears to have done most of the work. Robert was a musician and in 1876 organized the Cornet Band of Farmington. He was elected in 1879 to be one of the town auditors. Robert Treadwell owned from 1873 until 1890 the Colton house on the hill above 23 Colton Street.

March 3, 1972
Mrs. Robert Treadwell died in January 1892. On January 18, 1894, title was awarded by the Probate Court, to Catherine Deming Vorce, Mrs. Treadwell's sister, who was by now the wife of Allen Dunning Vorce. It appears that the Vorces lived in the house next south of here, at 127 Main Street, and rented out this house at 123 Main Street.

Mr. and Miss Dunning and Mrs. Mary E. Dow, a brother and his two sisters, lived here for a time, known to have been living here in the year 1901. Mrs. Dow was co-principal of Miss Porter's School during Sarah Porter's later years, but left that position, and also left Farmington, in 1903.

A coincidence is noted here, and someone may know whether it was entirely coincidence. This is the fact noted above, that Allen Vorce's middle name is Dunning, and that Mr. Dunning and two Dunning sisters lived next door to his own house. The writer, who is typing this on February 12, 1973, in Florida, is working from information gathered in Farmington in 1972 and earlier, is now too far away from Farmington to check on this coincidence.

A Mrs. Cahill is said to have rented this house after the Dunning and Mrs. Dow left here, and took in summer boarders for a time, and later becoming house mother for the "Ancients" of Miss Porter's School while they rented for a short period the house at 40 High Street, now the residence of Mrs. J. Ellicott Hewes.

Mr. Robert Porter Keep, who became Headmaster of Miss Porter's School in 1903, hired a Miss Blauvelt around that time, and she is said to have lived here. About 4 feet ten inches tall, she was a distinguished historian who had studied under Monson, the great German historian, who lived from 1817 to 1903. Miss Blauvelt is said to have written a very definitive history of the British Cabinet system while she lived here. She also wrote "Tragedy of the Dictator", a dissertation on Oliver Cromwell, a very determined character.

The Rev. Charles Edward Roberts, Episcopal minister, came to Farmington in 1907, and this house was rented from the Vorce family as his residence. The Rev. Mr. Roberts had been born in England in 1861, the son of Charles and Louisa Roberts. He had been married in Wisconsin to Lula Dill, later moved to Seattle, Washington, where he was Rector of Trinity Episcopal Church on Cherry Street. Their daughter Gladys; Elizabeth Doris Roberts was born there in 1892, in their residence on Yesler Way. Mrs. Roberts died, and she and another daughter are said to have been buried in Wisconsin.

Mr. Roberts took as his second wife, Louise Elliott Shriver. She had been born in Felicity, Ohio, daughter of Franklin L. Shriver and Mary Elliott, and she was Mr. Roberts' wife when they came to Farmington.

September 30, 1972
Ancestry of Charles Edward Roberts

John Roberts, born ca 1580, Drybridge Estates, England
  m. Ann

William Roberts, baptized 1608, died 1667
  m. Mary

Richard Roberts, baptized 1648
  m. Mary

John Roberts, baptized 1681
  m. 1710 Jane Osland, who died 1732

William Roberts, 1727-1814
  m. Ann Gee, who died 1829
  Was president of Magdalen College, Cambridge, in 1766

William Roberts, 1767-1808
  m. 1795 Margaret Jones

Charles Roberts, 1803-
  m. 1853 Louisa Harriett Leeson

Charles Edward Roberts, 1861-1938, born at Hampton Court, England, died in Farmington, Connecticut

Charles Edward Roberts was first married to Lula Bill, and their daughter Gladys Elizabeth Roberts was born in Seattle, Washington in 1892. After the death of his first wife he married Louie Elliott Shriver, and their son Edward Charles Massey Roberts was born in Hartford, Connecticut, in 1908, while the Roberts' residence was in Farmington, Conn.

May 16, 1974
While living in this house in Farmington a son was born to Mrs. Roberts, born in Hartford however, in February 1908. This son was Edward Charles Massy Roberts, but always called Ted. He attended Kingswood School in Hartford and was later graduated from Bard College, then called St. Stephens, at Annandale-on-Hudson. Mrs. John Wallace Riddle had provided his tuition at Kingswood School.

Ted left Farmington around 1934, and was married in 1937 to Wilhelmina Deschner of St. Louis, Missouri. Ted's work experience has been quite varied, his employers having included Standard Oil Company, U. S. Tobacco, May Department Stores, U. S. Employment Service, U. S. Army Corps of Engineers, and finally the Social Security Administration with whom he serves in their district office in Clayton, Missouri. He and she have lived near Webster Groves, Missouri, since 1944. They made a trip East in late September of this year, and the writer had a very pleasant, although much too short, visit with them.

Gladys Roberts was married on June 17, 1913, to Dr. Stuart Ezra Phelps, Farmington's physician, becoming his second wife. They lived for a time at 4 Main Street, which Dr. Phelps rented, then moved to 9 Waterville Road, which they purchased. See more regarding the Phelps family in the account of that house.

Christopher Carson worked for St. James Parish as ground man, caretaker and furnace tender. On September 10, 1913, he was married in this house to Miss Nellie Petts. Miss Theodate Pope, for whom Miss Petts had worked as maid, sent her liveried coachman to take the newly married couple to the railroad station when they left on their honeymoon.

In late December of 1913 the property was sold by the estate of Catherine D. Vorce, and the Roberts family had to move. They lived for a time in the house at 4 Porter Road, rented by the parish from Julius Gay. Later they moved to 13 Mountain Road, to the former Fessenden house, which St. James Parish purchased in 1915 to be used as the Rectory.

Mrs. Pickett, widow of J. Andrew Pickett, mayor of New Britain from 1883 to 1886, was the purchaser of the Vorce house on December 18, 1913. Mrs. Pickett had been born in Swanton, Vermont, in 1851, the daughter of Stephen R. Lawrence of St. Albans, Vermont, and Harriet S. Spalding of Morrisville, Vermont. Her father appears to have lived in Farmington at one time, as he died here in December 1908, at the age of 80, a retired merchant who had been born in St. Albans. Mrs. Pickett, the former Emma C. Lawrence, was Mr. Pickett's second wife, the first having been Caroline E. Stanley whom he had married in 1857, but who later died.

September 30, 1972
Mrs. Pickett's brother was Stephen Brainerd Lawrence, an architect, and she had him plan extensive alterations to the house, which were carried out by Henry O. Wilcox of 157 Main Street. The principal change was that an addition was built between the old and new sections of the house, effected by moving the older section still farther to the rear. Stephen Lawrence lived here also.

Mr. Lawrence aided in other projects in Farmington also. He planned Mr. Palache's 1917 alterations to the house at 149 Main Street, planned the building of the Village Library, and aided Miss Anna Barbour in compiling the records of all who are buried in the old Main Street cemetery. Mrs. Pickett died on February 17, 1922, and her brother Stephen inherited the property.

Soon after Mrs. Pickett's death Stephen married. It has been thought that he had been dominated to a great extent by his sister, but now that he was free he married Margaret Dubois Barrow. She had been born in New York in 1864, the daughter of John Wylie Barrow of London and Harriet Woodward of Ithaca, New York. Mrs. Stephen Lawrence died on November 11, 1949, her husband having died sometime prior to that.

David F. Cotter and his son William purchased the property from the estate of Stephen B. Lawrence in 1950. David Cotter had operated a livery stable on Hartford's Farmington Avenue near the Cathedral in the 1890's, supplying hacks, cabs, hearses and other passenger vehicles. He converted his stable to a garage and his equipage to cars, and then took a Yellow Cab franchise. He was practically retired from business when he came to Farmington. He kept a stable of riding and show horses in the rear of this property, where once had been kept captured cannon. His granddaughter was said to have been a very good rider. Mr. Cotter's son lived here for a while after his father's death, and is said to have lost most of the family fortune.

A photo of the house taken in 1952 shows two porches at that time. A front porch sheltered the front door, covering about a third of the front of the house, and a porch on the south side covered most of that side, of the front section that is. These have been removed.

September 30, 1972
Betty Tuckerman purchased this house in 1959 as a retirement home for her husband and herself, and they moved into it in 1960 upon his retirement. Roger Tuckerman, born in 1898 in New York City, was the son of Paul Tuckerman and Susan Minturn. He was a partner in the brokerage firm of Wood-Walker of 63 Wall Street. Mrs. Tuckerman, the former Betty Thompson, was also born in New York City, the daughter of Phillips Blagden Thompson and Marion McKeever.

The Tuckermans did not alter or remodel the newer part of this house to any great extent. In 1961 they did remodel the old, rear section of the house, the 1680 section, making a apartment of it. This required the addition of a kitchen, and some alterations, all planned by Farmington architect John K. Sinclair, and carried out by the "house doctor" Emmett Harris, who lived his later years in Avon. Mrs. Tuckerman's mother, Mrs. Thompson, lived in this apartment from 1961 until her death in 1970.

Mr. Tuckerman died in August of 1967 in Southampton, Long Island, where he and his wife and family had summered for many years. The Tuckermans had three children.

Cynthia is now Mrs. John Gay of New York and Southampton. Mr. Gay is with the brokerage firm of Wood-Walker and Company, in its office in Riverhead, Long Island.

Nancy, unmarried, was graduated from Miss Porter's School, class of 1947, classmate and roommate of Jacqueline Bouvier. She later was White House secretary for Mrs. John F. Kennedy during her husband's presidency. Nancy is presently employed in New York City by Olympic Airways.

Roger Wolcott Tuckerman is a partner in the real estate firm of Douglas, Gibbons, Holiday and Ives in New York City. His wife is the former Edith Fenton, daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Martin Fenton of Wilmington, Delaware. He has a daughter Natalie by a former marriage.

March 17, 1973