**HISTORIC RESOURCES INVENTORY**
**BUILDING AND STRUCTURES**

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**STATE OF CONNECTICUT**
**CONNECTICUT HISTORICAL COMMISSION**
59 SOUTH PROSPECT STREET, HARTFORD, CONNECTICUT 06106
(203) 566-3005

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**FOR OFFICE USE ONLY**

- **Town No**: 219
- **Site No**: 219
- **UTM**: 
- **QUAD**: 
- **DISTRICT**: S
- **NR**: 
- **Specify**: 
- **Actual**: 
- **Potential**: 

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**1. BUILDING NAME (Common)**
Case, Coral, House

**2. TOWN/CITY**
Farmington

**3. STREET AND NUMBER (and or location)**
144 Main Street

**4. OWNER(S)**
Hube, Richard W. and Elizabeth H.

**5. USE (Present)**
Residence

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**6. ACCESSIBILITY TO PUBLIC**
- **Exterior Visible From Public Road**: Yes
- **Interior Accessible**: Yes
- **If Yes Explain**: 

**7. STYLE OF BUILDING**
Center-chimney Colonial

**8. MATERIAL(LIST (Indicate use or location when appropriate))**
- **Clapboard**: Yes
- **Asbestos Siding**: No
- **Brick**: No
- **Other (Specify)**: 
- **Wood Shingle**: No
- **Asphalt Siding**: No
- **Fieldstone**: No
- **Concrete Siding**: No
- **Cut stone**: Yes
- **Brownstone foundation**: 

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**9. STRUCTURAL SYSTEM**
- **Wood frame**: Yes
- **Post and beam**: No
- **Balloon**: No
- **Other (Specify)**: 
- **Post and beam**: No
- **Load bearing masonry**: No
- **Structural iron or steel**: No

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**10. ROOF (Type)**
- **Gable**: Yes
- **Flat**: No
- **Mansard**: No
- **Monitor**: No
- **Sawtooth**: No
- **Gambrel**: No
- **Shed**: No
- **Hip**: No
- **Round**: No
- **Other (Specify)**: 
- **Asphalt shingle**: 
- **Built up**: No
- **Tile**: No
- **Other (Specify)**: 

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**11. NUMBER OF STORIES**
2½

**APPROXIMATE DIMENSIONS**
36 28, 21 x 24, 18 x 24, 18 x 7, 12 x 21

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**12. CONDITION (Structural)**
- **Excellent**: Yes
- **Good**: No
- **Fair**: No
- **Deteriorated**: No

**13. INTEGRITY LOCATION (Indicate when restored, moved, etc.)**
- **On original site**: Yes
- **Moved**: No

**14. RELATED OUTBUILDINGS OR LANDSCAPE FEATURES**
- **Barn**: No
- **Shed**: No
- **Garage**: No
- **Other landscape features or buildings (Specify)**: 
- **Carriage house**: No
- **Shop**: No
- **Garden**: No

**15. SURROUNDING ENVIRONMENT**
- **Open land**: No
- **Woodland**: Yes
- **Residential**: No
- **Scattered buildings visible from site**: No
- **Commercial**: No
- **Industrial**: No
- **Rural**: Yes
- **High building density**: 

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**16. INTERRELATIONSHIP OF BUILDING AND SURROUNDINGS**
This house sits on the west side of Main Street just south of Winchell Smith Drive. It is surrounded by large trees on the south and west sides. From the site, other historic residences are visible and contribute to the historic character of Farmington's historic district.
This center-chimney colonial-period house, built between 1771 and 1797, features a five-bay facade and a small entry porch decorated with a gable roof and classical columns. The entry door is flanked by sidelights. The sash are six-over-six throughout and not original to the house. Note the single overhang between the first and second stories and modest cornice.

In 1771 Samuel Deming sold a 7 acre piece of land "near the dwelling house of said John Case" to John Case for L214 (FLR 18:232). Little is known about Case except that he was originally from Simsbury and manufactured hats with his son Coral. Before the sale of this property the land once contained the dwelling house of Joseph Langdon (FLR 16: 228, Manwaring 3:174; 1:478). However, it is believed that by 1771 the Langdon house was removed. Perhaps John Case bought the land for his son Coral, although he is listed as an abutter in 1787 to the property to the north (130 Main Street). John Case died intestate around 1791 and his estate was never distributed in the probate records. His son Coral also died within the next year and Coral's son, John M. Case, received the property on the east side of the highway (FPR 6:401). His widow Polly and daughter Betsey Case Beach inherited the property on the west side of the Main Street, including this house (FPR 6:401). It is most likely that the house stood after 1771 and before 1791; however, it cannot be proven that architect Judah Woodruff built the house. By 1809 Coral and Polly Case's son Chester had also died. In the Farmington Probate Record (6:294) Coral and Chester Cases' estates were distributed together to Polly, John M., and Betsey Case. Polly received use of the north side of the house and the 2 acres on which it stood. John M. (son) received the hatter's shop and 5 acres on the east side of Main Street. Betsey (Case) Beach received the dwelling house except her mother's dower rights and 4 acres on the northerly side of the lot. In 1810 Polly Case quit-claimed her rights in the estate to Betsey Beach (FLR 37:444). Betsey, a minor yet married to Platt (see cont. pg.)

Sources:
S. Beach, was assigned a guardian, John Mix, who sold the "6 acres and 2 roads with houses, barn, and other buildings" to Richard Cowles in 1810 (FLR 36:517). Widow Polly Case was reserved the "use of the house and barn which she now occupies until May 1, 1811". Cowles (1786-1845) was the son of Isaac and Lucinda (Hooker) Cowles. In 1811 he married Fanny Deming, the daughter of John and Susannah Deming. Serving in the military from 1815 to 1824, as town treasurer from 1832-1839, and as a representative to the state legislature in 1834, Cowles was a prominent figure in Farmington. Upon Cowles' death in 1845, his nephew Edward Cowles, son of his brother Solomon, received the house (FPR 10:484). He retained the property until 1859 when it passed to the estate of Timothy Cowles, then deceased, due to a foreclosure (FLR 57:88). The estate of Timothy Cowles sold the homestead to Henry W. Barbour for $6075 (FLR 60:342). Barbour was born in 1840 to Augustus and Ann (Thompson) Barbour. He married Harriet W. Youngs in 1868 and died in 1914. Harriet sold the property to Winchell Smith (1871-1933), a noted playwright, who lived at 188 Garden Street (FLR 77:571). Upon Smith's death it was sold to Oliver Harrison Smith in 1937 (FLR 91:475).

The Coral Case House is architecturally and historically significant due to its good state of preservation and association with the Case and Cowles families.
OWNER'S NAME (SMITH, O. HARRISON) HUBE, Richard & Elizabeth

ADDRESS: 144 Main Street, through to Garden Street.

DATE BUILT: ca. 1768 FOR: John Case

ARCHITECT
MASTER-BUILDER

FORMER OWNERS: O.H. Smith from Est. Winchell Smith 7/13/1937, Vol. 91, p. 475; Winchell Smith from Est. Henry W. Barbour by deeds from Harriet W. Barbour, widow, and Anna Y. Barbour, daughter, 6/18/1915, Vol. 77, p. 571; Henry W. Barbour from Robert H. Seeley, trustee u/w/Timothy Cowles, for $6,075, 3/31/1866, Vol. 60, p. 312; T. Cowles from Edward Cowles 1/14/1860, Vol. 57, p. 88, by certificate of foreclosure; E. Cowles, nephew of Richard and son of Solomon Cowles 2nd, "the dwellinghouse in which I now live with the homestead adjoining except the n.e. corner of same on which are 2 small houses with the gardens annexed to each & now fenced off from the rest of the whole", from the will of Richard Cowles 4/25/1815, Vol. 10, p. 481 Prob. Rec.; R. Cowles from Betsy Case Beach, a minor, by John Mix, Guardian, for $3500. "6 acres, houses, barns etc., reserving to the widow(Polly Case) use to next May 1, of the house in which she now resides" 12/29/1810, Vol. 36, p. 17; Betsy C. Beach

REFERENCES: "Farmington, Conn. 1906", p. 19
"Cowles Genealogy", p. 260;
"Colonial Dames Pamphlet" at State Library

(OVER)
Former Owners, cont.:
was the daughter of John Case; John Case from Samuel Deming, 7 acres, no houses mentioned, "near the house of John Case" 4/26/1771, Vol. 18, p. 232; (John and Coral Case lived across the street at the corner of present Main Street & Hatters Lane, having bought the Gridley property there); Sm. Deming from Joseph & Ebenezer Lankton, 7 acres, dwelling house, barns & all other bldgs., "where Joseph Lankton now dwells" 3/28/1768, Vol. 16, p. 228, for 250 pounds. Extensive changes were made in the house by Henry W. Barbour, who built a new kitchen in what had been a shed & altered a partition in the original kitchen. The house still has its central chimney, with paneled walls & turned front stairs.

Ebenezer from his father, the residence Joseph's will to son Ebenezer now living with me and on whose help the comfort of my present life much depends" I give the residence and remainder of my estate" 1733.

Joseph from his father, Deacon John inherited one half of the house and lands and the remainder at the death of John's wife 1689. The small, gambrel-roofed frame at the rear of the house is probably the original of the Langdon home.
This house is pictured on page 19 of the Farmington Book as "The Richard Cowles place - Residence of Henry W. Barbour", and is shown in Baker and Tilden's 1869 Atlas as "H. W. Barbour". It was written up in 1948 for the Colonial Dames Society by Mabel S. Hurlburt as the "Barbour-Smith House".

Mrs. Hurlburt says on page 366 of "Town Clerks" that:

"Joseph Lankton and his wife Susannah Root had a son Joseph, born 1688, married December 24, 1713, to Rachel Cowles. On December 25, 1713, Joseph, Sr., gave his son as a wedding and Christmas present, three acres of land with a new house... about where the former Barbour house now stands. One acre had been his own and two acres he bought January 1713 from Thomas Barnes".

This would indicate that a Lankton house had been built here at least by 1713.

The land along here had been owned by Deacon John Lankton (or Langdon, as later known), most of it purchased from the Rev. Roger Newton. Joseph had inherited it from John, Joseph Jr. from Joseph Sr., and Ebenezer, born 1701, from Joseph.

The Hooker Genealogy makes mention of the fact that Ruth Hooker married Joseph Langdon, had 13 children, and lived on the Richard Cowles place. Ruth Hooker was of the fifth generation of her family in America. She was the daughter of Joseph of Mountain Road (see 50 High Street), and granddaughter of John of 24 Main Street. She had been born in 1744, so her husband was perhaps the grandson of the 1713 wedding mentioned in the third paragraph on this page, the wedding of Joseph to Rachel Cowles.

Samuel Deming purchased this place in 1768, then John Case bought it from him in 1771. It is believed that the present house was built around 1773 by Judah Woodruff, for John Case or possibly for his son Coral Case, utilizing possibly some of the old Langdon house as the rear portion of the new one.

John Case was an early merchant, his son Coral was an active hat manufacturer, employing several persons, perhaps on Hatter's Lane. Coral Case died in 1791, at the age of 37, survived by his father. See 138-140 Main Street.

Richard Cowles purchased from Betsy Case Beach, John Case's daughter, in 1810. Captain Richard Cowles, 1786-1845, was the son of Col. Isaac Cowles and Lucinda Hooker, and was married in 1811 to Fanny Deming, daughter of John Deming and Susannah Cowles. Edward Hooker, whose "Old Red College" on Mountain Road was well known as a college preparatory school in the early 1800's, was a guest at the wedding mentioned above, and describes it as told on the following page.

February 10, 1971
Deacon Edward Hooker said that he "attended the wedding of R. Cowles and Fanny Deming at Mrs. Deming's. (Mr. Deming had died a year previous to this). Large concourse of relations and friends present - perhaps sixty -. Not much ceremony. The parties were seated in the room when the company arrived. None stood up with them - but Mr. Camp and Caroline sat near them, and after the ceremony handed round two courses of cake, three of wine, and one of apples. The company in the different rooms then conversed half an hour - then those who could sing collected and half an hour after had quite a merry cushion dance. I came away about nine leaving still a large number capering round the cushion".

The Rev. Noah Porter conducted this ceremony, and it took place either in 66 or 80 Main Street, a debatable point.

Capt. Richard Cowles served in the Connecticut Militia, 1815-1824, was Town Treasurer 1832-39 and 1841-44, and in the state legislature in 1834. He was a farmer, a "warm friend of human rights", and was active in aiding the Mendi Negroes while they were here in Farmington. Mr. and Mrs. Cowles had no children but they adopted a girl known as Mary Louisa Cowles, who later married Silas Ward.

Edward Cowles, Richard's nephew, the son of Solomon Cowles, inherited the property at his uncle's death in 1845, and sold to Timothy Cowles in 1860. Henry W. Barbour purchased from him in 1866.

Henry Whitman Barbour was the son of Augustus Lewis Barbour and Ann Thompson. What is known of his ancestry is the following.

Asahel Thompson, farmer, son of Abel Thompson and Ruth Gridley, was married in 1809 to Ruth Whitman (#7764), born 1784.

Their daughter, Ann Thompson, born 1815, was married in 1836 to Augustus Lewis Barbour, son of Lewis Barbour and Polly Frisbie.

THEIR son, Henry Whitman Barbour, born 1840, was married in 1868 to Harriet W. Youngs, of the Youngs family of Unionville. Their only child was Anna Youngs Barbour, who never married, born 1869.

Augustus L. Barbour died in the early 1850's and his widow, Henry's mother, was married in 1855 to William Sedgewick, outliving him also. She purchased in 1869 the property just north of here, including the two little houses now known as 138-140 Main Street. Mrs. Sedgewick died in 1880.

Harriet W. Youngs had been born in Pleasant Valley in 1842, the daughter of Daniel Youngs and Ann Whittlesey, who had been married in 1840.

February 10, 1971
Henry Barbour was a deacon in the Congregational Church, wore a long beard, was a Civil War veteran and liked to talk of the war. In spite of the fact that children never cared for Mr. Barbour, he was reputed to have been very interested in the schools and the first vote for public transportation of school children was on his motion, at the town meeting of September 1901. He also surprised young Adrian Wadsworth in the early 1900's by giving $25.00 toward outfitting a new drum corps, when solicited.

Mr. Barbour's land extended west to the Pequabuck River and a favorite swimming hole was at "Barbour's Point", frequented by at least three generations of swimmers, but no longer fit for such use.

In spite of Mr. Barbour's hesitancy to spend money, he had one of the first, if not the first automobile in Farmington, but it was said of him that "you could walk faster than he drove". Children were anxious for rides however, and often met him at the postoffice to ask if they could ride home with him. A story told of him, possibly apocryphal, is that he always, after driving into the garage, had difficulty shifting to neutral. He usually hit reverse, and backed right out again. One day his hired man, "Mittens", thought to circumvent this, and closed the door immediately after his entrance into the garage. After that there was no longer a door to close --- Mr. Barbour took it off when he immediately backed out!

Mary Twitchell Blakely, widow of the Rev. Quincy Blakely who was minister here from 1905 to 1937, published in 1954 a pamphlet entitled "32 Years of Farmington from the Parsonage". In it she told of Mr. Barbour as follows:

**First Auto Ride**

My mother was spending the winter with us the first year the electric came to town and one mild day Deacon Barbour invited her to take an automobile ride. The invitation caused much excitement in the Parsonage. We dressed her up as if she were going to the North Pole. Mother had a feeling that there was great warmth in newspaper, so instead of using the Hartford Courant, we suddenly decided there would be more warmth in a religious paper and padded her well, both back and front, with the "Congregationalist," walked with her to the street, kissed her goodbye, packed her into the car with many blankets, and waived her off for the long and perilous trip.

Mr. Barbour died on November 4, 1914, and it is said that his death was the result of injuries received in an accident with his car on Diamond Glen hill, when the car could not make the grade and he tried to block the wheels, but it ran over him.

February 10, 1971
Deacon Barbour's thrift proved fortunate for his widow and daughter, as they were left in good financial circumstances. They sold his property to Winchell Smith, including the two little houses next north, and were able to purchase from Otto Nelson the house at 90 Main Street, and to live comfortably in that house thereafter.

Winchell Smith, 1871-1933, was a self-educated man of great drive, the son of William B. Smith of Bloomfield, breeder of trotting horses, and Virginia T. Thrall, public spirited organizer of charities. Mr. Smith was primarily and playwright and producer of plays, but he was a business man also. This was evidence by his operation of the successful feed and grain business on Farmington Avenue (now the warehouse of McCallum Motors), and his successful restoration and operation of the grist mill at the foot of Mill Lane. In addition to this he owned and farmed practically all of the land between the W. S. Cowles and the present James McA. Thomson properties on Main Street, and all the way west to the rivers.

We do not know all of the people who occupied this house during Mr. Smith's ownership, he himself having built and occupied "Millstreams", but we do know who occupied it from 1922 until 1927. These two were the newly married Mr. and Mrs. William Sheffield Cowles. William Sheffield is the son of the late Admiral Cowles, of the same name, and his wife is the former Margaret Kreck of East Hampton, New York. Their son, also William Sheffield, was born during their residence here.

Just prior to the above occupancy, probably from 1920 until 1922, the house was rented by Mr. and Mrs. Richard M. Bissell. The Bissells were tenants at that time in the house at 130 Main Street, owned then by Mrs. Riddle. This second house at 144 Main Street was used by the Bissells as a guest house, when needed, and also to house some of their personal staff. They moved into their new house on Colton Street later, in 1922, into the house which has now been enlarged and is the Retreat House of the Sisters of Our Lady of Calvary.

After the death of Mr. Smith in 1933 most of the property was sold, but this particular house stayed under the ownership of Mr. Smith's nephew, Oliver Harrison Smith, until 1950. Oliver H. Smith was the son of Winchell Smith's brother, Dr. Oliver Cotton Smith, who had been a Hartford physician and a surgeon at Hartford Hospital, and died rather early in life. It is believed possible that Oliver Smith lived here for a time, but if so it probably was not for long. He resided most of his life in New York City, and was in the literary field for all of his life, starting as a reporter for the New York Tribune in 1915, and assigned to Russia in 1917. He later was editor for Harcourt, Brace & Company, and was associated with many other publishers. He became vice president and associate editor of the Saturday Review. His wife was the former Claire Spencer. His son, Harrison V. Smith, is a vice president of Morgan Guaranty Company. His daughter Patricia is married and in New Mexico. He died in New York on January 8, 1971, at 83, and was buried in Riverside Cemetery, Farmington.

February 10, 1971
Various tenants have occupied this house during the ownership of Winchell Smith and of Oliver H. Smith, but the writer has not been able to find out who all of them were, and when.

During the early 1940's, while the heavy air raids were carried out against England, some guests of Mrs. Wilmarth Lewis lived here. One was Mrs. Edward Hamilton Johnson, wife of the Professor of Sanskrit, and Keeper of the Indian Institute at Oxford, and her five children. Another was Mrs. Haslam-Jones, wife of Praelection of Mathematics, of Oxford, and one daughter.

Mr. and Mrs. Colman O'Shaughnessy are said to have been here in 1948.

Others whose names have been suggested as possible tenants during the long Smith ownership, 1915 through 1950, are: Mrs. Jenner and her mother, a family by the name of Becker, the Blackler family, and one Harold Walker.

February 10, 1971
Mr. and Mrs. Richard W. Hube purchased this house from Oliver H. Smith in 1950, and are the present owner occupants.

Richard Wood Hube, born in Hartford, is the son of John A. Hube, Standard Oil Salesman, and Florence Wood. He is a graduate of Dartmouth, with some post-graduate work. As early as 1946 he was production engineer for North and Judd of New Britain, was later vice president, and is now a business consultant.

Mrs. Hube is the former Elizabeth Hanavan, born in East Aurora, New York, the daughter of William F. Hanavan, insurance man, and Grace M. Young. Mrs. Hube is a graduate of Vassar, has worked in sales and public relations, and is presently executive secretary of the Miss Porter's School Alumnae Association.

Prior to their residence in this house they had lived in two other Farmington houses. From August 1941 until May 1949 they had rented the McCahill house on South Road, the house shown on page 142 of the Farmington Book as the Newton Hart place. It had been well known in the mid-1800's as the home of Adna Hart who made and sold tallow candles there. In May 1949 they moved to Mrs. Bayard Carter's house on Mountain Spring Road which they rented until June 1950, when they took possession of this house in which they presently reside.

Mr. Hube served six years on the Farmington Board of Education, during the last two years of which he was its chairman. He then served as a member of the Farmington Town Council.

The Hube children are: Jane, Richard and Elizabeth.

Jane Hanavan Hube, born in Hartford, is a graduate of Wells College, and a one time employee of Hartford National Bank. She was married in September 1969 to James William Loutitt, the son of Episcopal Bishop and Mrs. Henry J. Loutitt of Winter Park, Florida. Her husband is a graduate of Hobart and of the University of Tennessee Medical School, and as Dr. J. W. Loutitt is now practicing medicine.

Richard Wood Hube, Jr., graduate of Colgate, is now on the supervisory staff of McDonald's Fast Food Service.

Elizabeth Monroe Hube, a Fine Arts graduate of Pratt Institute, is working with TEXFI on merchandise design.

August 21, 1973