The Timothy Wadsworth House sits at the southwest corner of Main Street and Scott Swamp Road. A picket fence surrounds the well-shaded lot. The bordering neighborhood contains primarily twentieth-century residential and commercial dwellings.
This 2½ story, three-bay, side-hall plan building is a fine example of the Greek Revival style. The recessed, facade entry door exhibits pilasters supporting a heavy entablature with projecting cornice. The fully pedimented gable end is flushboarded and a wide entablature extends around the house beneath the eaves. The original six-over-six sash feature louvered blinds throughout. A small brick chimney rises from the center of the roof and a two-story ell has been incorporated on the west elevation.

This house was erected around 1830 by Timothy Wadsworth, replacing an earlier structure which stood on the site. In 1823 Eliphalet Wadsworth (1747-1823) willed his "confidential friend and relative, Timothy Wadsworth, all my estate both real and personal" which included his home lot on the corner of Main Street and Scott Swamp Road (FPR 8:25). The will stipulated that Eliphalet's widow Mary was to have life use of the estate and that Timothy was to keep for the widow, a good horse, two good cows and six good sheep and furnish her with the "necessary quantities of fuel". When Mary (Hart) Wadsworth (1769-1847) married Aaron Roberts of New Britain in 1829, Timothy Wadsworth gained full control of the property and tore down the old dwelling house, replacing it with the present building. Born in Farmington, Timothy Wadsworth (1794-1841) was the son of Seth and Mary (Strong) Wadsworth. He married in 1820 Mary Gillette (1800-1862) of Farmington and they raised seven children. In 1865 the heirs of Timothy Wadsworth sold the homestead to Richard Case of Barkhamstead, Connecticut, (FLR 57:473). Seven years later it was sold to John Stewart of New York City (FLR 61:416). Engaged in farming, Stewart (1842-1903) was a native of New York and the son of John Stewart and Susan Eriekson. His wife was the former Fanny Reynolds. In 1891 Stewart sold the property to Mary Ann and John Budd of New York City (FLR 68:548) who four years later sold it back to Stewart (FLR 71:88). The property passed through a number of owners after 1895. They included Morris Hanson, a native of Denmark. Harold W. Steck, Rupert G. Bent of West Hartford, and members of the Slater family (1941-1971). (see cont. pg.)

Sources
Architecturally notable as a well-preserved example of the Greek Revival style, this dwelling is historically significant for its association with the Wadsworths, one of Farmington's founding families.
SLATER, ANDREW E., JR.

1950-res.

ADDRESS: 340 Main Street & Scott Swamp Road

DATE BUILT: ca. 1820 FOR: Timothy Wadsworth, who owned the property when he died in 1841 (ARD)

ARCHITECT

MASTER-BUILDER


REFERENCES: "Farmington, Conn., 1906", p. 104

(OVER)
Former Owners, Cont.:

& Jane Wadsworth Veits, Gilbert & Mary Wadsworth Fyler, John G. & Ruth S. & George E. & Seth Wadsworth & John O. Hills (overseer) for $2600., 11 acres & Homestead of the late Timothy Wadsworth 4/2/1866, Vol. 57, p. 473. Timothy Wadsworth married Mary Gillet. He had a son Timothy who was a doctor & lived in Southington. Timothy, Seth, Hezekiah, Nathaniel, John. As Timothy's daughter, Jane, married J.J. Viets in 1851 & his daughter, Mary, married G.A. Filer in 1860, the house was probably built by Timothy when he married, about 1820.
This house is pictured on page 104 of the Farmington Book as the residence of Morris Hansen. It is stated on library records that it was built in 1820 for Timothy Wadsworth. It is shown on the Baker and Tilden 1869 Atlas as "Case".

Timothy Wadsworth was of the sixth generation of Wadsworths in America, fifth generation of those in Farmington. His Wadsworth ancestors were:

William Wadsworth, born in England in 1600, m. Wife's name unknown, Came to Boston on ship LION in 1632, settled in Hartford,

John Wadsworth, born in England ca 1622, died 1689, m. Mary Stanley, -1718, One of the first settlers in Farmington,

Nathaniel Wadsworth, 1674-1761, born in Farmington, m. Dorothy Ball of New Haven,

Hezekiah Wadsworth, 1723-1810, born in Farmington, m. Lois Judd, A soldier for a short time, responding to the "Alarm of 1757".

Seth Wadsworth, 1747-1830, born in Farmington, m. Mary Strong, -1804, He was a hotel keeper in Hartford.

Timothy Wadsworth himself, 1794-1841, was probably born in Hartford. In 1820 he married Mary Gillette, and it was he for whom this house is said to have been built in the year of their marriage. Knowledge of their children is not complete, but the following has been noted:

Jane, married in 1851 to John J. Viets of East Granby,
John G., married Ruth S. _______,
Seth, born 1831,
Ruth,
George Edwin, born 1836,
Timothy, born 1838, see below,
Mary Strong, married in 1860 to Gilbert Filer of Warehouse Point.

Timothy Wadsworth, Jr., born in 1838, married Caroline A. Peck the same year that he was graduated from New York Homopathic Medical College. He practiced for a short time in Southington, then in St. Louis, and moved to Chicago in 1871. There he practiced until 1879, then took employment with the railroad. In 1882 he was in Boscobel, Wisconsin, agent for the Chicago, Milwaukee and St. Paul Railroad Company.

June 4, 1972
The elder Timothy Wadsworth died in 1841 and all his children except his son Timothy and his daughter Ruth were on the list of heirs. Ruth may perhaps have not survived infancy. The list of heirs also included John O. Hills, overseer. He was of the Hills family, most of whom lived farther south in Farmington, and some in Plainville, but one of which lived on Colton Street.

Just who lived on the property and operated the farm until 1866 is not known, but in that year it was sold by the estate to one Richard Case, of Barkhamsted. Nothing is known of Mr. Case, nor of the next owner, John Stewart, who purchased the property in 1872 and held it until 1895. It seems possible that he could have been the son of the John Stewart mentioned in the account of the house at 154 Main Street.

John Stewart appears to have been the son of John Stewart and Susan Erickson, and his wife was Fanny Reynolds.

On May 16, 1895, a William Allderidge of Plainville took title to the property from John Stewart, and on the same day he transferred it to Fanny Stewart. John Stewart died on May 27, 1903.

On October 24, 1905, the property was sold by the widow Fanny Stewart, to Marius Hansen. Mr. Hansen was from Denmark, as was his wife, the former Meta Koldenborg. They had come to Farmington in 1901, and had lived for a time in the house at 19 Main Street, where they rented a portion of it. They had a small son Lawrence Hansen at that time.

After moving into this house Mr. Hansen went into farming. He did some truck gardening and also dairy farming, at one time having over forty head of cattle. Mr. Hansen's brother Theodor lived here for a time also, and in 1914 married Adeline Simonsen. He moved farther north on Main Street to a house at Hotchkiss Road, where he still operates a little corn and vegetable stand in the summer time.

The Marius Hansens lived here until 1923, when they sold this place and moved away. Their son Lawrence accompanied them.

They first rented a farm on North Main Street in West Hartford, and after six or seven years left that and moved to one in Bloomfield. Mr. Hansen died in June 1938, and his widow and son moved to Hartford, where Mrs. Hansen died in October of that same year. Lawrence moved back to Farmington and was married in 1939 to Sylvia Mason, daughter of Warren Mason and Amy Davis, also of South Main Street, Farmington. See more regarding the Hansen family in the account of 320 Main Street.

June 4, 1972
Purchaser of this property in 1923 was George R. Ford of Windsor, Connecticut. Nothing is known of him, and on September 1, 1925, he sold it to Harold W. Steck of Bethel, Connecticut. Mr. Steck went into the nursery business here, dealing mostly with shrubs and trees. It was he who made many of the plantings which have provided the Farmstead Lane area with trees, although this street was not actually laid out until later. Mr. Steck's wife was the former Leah Mae Gottlieb of Bridgeport. Two sons were born while they were here, Roger Banning Steck in 1928 and another son three years later.

Mr. Steck appeared to have had financial difficulties as on August 5, 1932, a mortgage held by Mr. Ford was foreclosed and Mr. Ford repossessed the property.

Clyde M. Ellingwood, former superintendent of parks in New Britain, leased this property from Mr. Ford with option to buy, after Mr. Ford had repossessed it. Mr. Ellingwood operated the nursery for about three and one half years and then wished to purchase, but Mr. Ford had by then increased his asking price so Mr. Ellingwood moved out. He and his wife presently reside in Plainville.

On January 9, 1941, the house and property were sold to Rupert G. Bent of West Hartford. George R. Ford and Bertha D. Ford gave their address at that time as Winter Park, Florida.

It was probably Mr. Bent who laid out and developed and sold the part of the property now known as Farmstead Lane, and on June 10, 1941, he sold the house and house-lot to Andrew E. Slater.

Mr. Slater had perhaps already lived here for a time on a rental basis. Mr. Slater's father was of Unionville and had been a stonemason, having built the piers for the trolley bridge over the Farmington River on Farmington Avenue. Mr. Slater's wife is the former Irene Cecilia Chidsey, daughter of William Chidsey and Margaret M. Rourke, of the house pictured on page 112 of the Farmington Book, later torn down to make way for the Farmington Motor Inn.

The younger Andrew began his working career in Stamford, Connecticut, with Yale and Towne, and later worked for Winchester Arms in Bridgeport. He had grown up in Unionville, and always kept in touch with the Farmington area, courting and marrying Irene Chidsey of Farmington Avenue.

Somewhat prior to our entrance into World War I, when the factories were very busy gearing up for defense work, it appeared to Andrew to be the time to come back to this area to work, and to be able to have his children born and reared here, in the community in which he and his wife had spent their childhood and youth. He had learned much regarding factory work during his employment in the factory towns of Stamford and Bridgeport, so when he approached Veeder-Root and told them what he could do, they hired him immediately. This was very early in 1917, and their first child was born just two months after war was declared.

June 4, 1972
Mr. and Mrs. Slater lived in various rented houses, in the Hial Chidsey house and in the Thomas Collins house, both on Garden Street here in Farmington, and for a time in Hartford, while their children were being born, finally settling in Unionville, which had been Andrew's boyhood home. In the late 1930's Mr. Slater took advantage of an opportunity and purchased this house, perhaps having lived in it for a time prior to its purchase, which was formally consummated on June 10, 1941, not long prior to another world war.

Andrew Slater, one-time shortstop for a professional Waterbury baseball team, lived an active life in Farmington. He was town court judge for some years, and Democratic registrar of voters for the first district, for many years. He had been twenty years secretary-treasurer of the Farmington Volunteer fire department also.

Mr. and Mrs. Slater had four children, listed in the order of their birth:

Andrew Edward Slater, Jr.,
Walter W Slater,
Irene Mary Slater and
John Keefe Slater.

All the young Slaters took part in World War II. Andrew Jr., for some reason called Peter, was in the Army Corps of Engineers, and in the Army of Occupation of Japan. Walter and John were in the Marine Corps, and participated in all the major landings and invasions. Irene was a volunteer worker at the Rehabilitation Center for the Blind Veterans at Avon Old Farms School, often escorting them on their first trip home after their courses at Valley Forge and Avon were completed.

Young Andrew Slater returned to United Aircraft after the war, and has been with them, except for that war service, since 1939. He lives on Mill Road, Farmington.

Walter Slater has been with Pepsi-Cola many years, living for some time in New Jersey, and presently in Fairport, New York.

John Slater has been in his own painting and decorating business for some time, and presently resides at 40 Garden Street. He was married in 1944 to Helen Dorothy Murphy. His present wife is the former Olive Faye.

Irene was married in the 1940's to George Bent, head of Bent and Bent, now incorporated, prominent Hartford Insurance Agency. They lived for several years on South Road in Farmington, moving to Orchard Road after fire severely damaged their South Road home in 1968.

June 4, 1972
Bent and Bent, Inc., the insurance agency mentioned, is now in its 41st year of service to the Hartford Area. It was formed as a partnership in 1932 by George C. Bent, graduate of Wesleyan of Middletown, and James E. Bent, graduate of Trinity of Hartford. Their office was set up at 125 Trumbull Street, moved to 154 Pearl Street, and then became incorporated. Some time probably while they were at Pearl Street they formed the Hartford Federal Savings and Loan Association. James Bent and his wife concentrated on that enterprise and George Bent managed the insurance business. In 1951 after they had been incorporated they moved to 50 State Street, which was the main office of the savings and loan association. In 1954 Bent and Bent Inc purchased the former Groton home at 436 Farmington Avenue, and remodeled it, converting it to an office building, where they made it their headquarters. In 1964 James Bent retired entirely from the insurance agency. James F. Bent, George's son, is now Secretary of Bent and Bent, Inc.

Andrew Edward Slater, Sr., and his wife presently live at 1006 Farmington Avenue, which they purchased after leaving this larger house at Main Street and Scott Swamp Road. Mr. Slater has been retired since 1960, after 43 years with VeederRoot, ending up as chief inspector.

Regarding the ownership of this house since 1941, the writer is somewhat confused. A deed was given to Andrew E. Slater, Jr., on October 28, 1946, and a warranty deed was given him on September 4, 1957. Whether he has lived there during his married life is not known.

The John Keefe Slaters lived in this house for some years, and during their residence here they designated this house as #1 Farmstead Lane. On August 10, 1971, a warranty deed to the property was given by John K. Slater and Olive Fay Slater, to Bruce E. Burnham. The Town of Farmington now designates this house as 432 Main Street.

Dr. Bruce E. Burnham and his family have lived in Farmington for some years at 38 Dorset Lane. Dr. Burnham has for some years taken quite an interest in the preservation of Farmington's appearance as a colonial village, and one activity in which he has taken a special interest was the preservation of the former Holmes home on South Road. He has been Chairman of the Committee of Concerned Citizens regarding the Old Farms Total Community Project, and supported the stand of Russell Hunter in the matter of the widening of Route 4 through the village.

September 25, 1973

Andrew E. Slater, Sr., died on February 6, 1974.

The Burnham house, which they have now restored, was opened by the Burnhams to the Junior Woman's Club Tour of May 4, 1974. Co-Chairwomen of the tour were Mrs. Joseph Cusano, Jr., and Mrs. Cornelius Lynch.

May 24, 1974