The Charles H. Hills House faces east onto Main Street at the intersection of Cooke Street. The dwelling sits on a small rectangular lot trimmed with oak trees. The surrounding neighborhood, which lies at the southern end of Farmington village is sparsely populated and contains primarily twentieth century architecture. The Pequabuck River lies not far to the west.
Oriented gable-to-street, this three-bay Greek Revival-style house was built around 1845. The side-hall entry way exhibits pilasters supporting a wide entablature with projecting cornice. Other Greek Revival-style characteristics include the wide entablature beneath the eaves and fully pedimented, flushboarded gable. The original six-over-six sash remain. An enclosed, single-story porch has been added on the south elevation and a single-story, shed-roof ell extends from the southwest corner.

This house was built around 1845 by Charles Hills on land owned by his father, Sylvester Hills. In 1825 Sylvester Hills purchased this twenty acre parcel of land from Jeremiah Cowles for $1000 (FLR 43:70). It was bordered on the east by the highway leading from Farmington to Southington and on the west by the Pequabuck River. Sylvester (1786-1858), who lived in the old family homestead (no longer extant) located "in the angle of the Berlin and Southington roads", presumably left this twenty acre parcel empty until the marriage of his son around 1845. In 1859 Charles received from his father's estate this piece of land with "his homestead, where he now dwells" (FPR 13:80). Born in 1821, Charles Hills was the eldest son of Sylvester and Emily (Dickinson) Hills. It is not recorded in Farmington exactly when Charles was married, but his wife Lydia (1819-1850) died giving birth to their first child in 1850. Hills continued to live in the house with his daughter Ellen until 1866, when they moved to New Britain, where he died in 1893. The next owners were Newton and Henry Smith (FLR 60:349). They sold the house two years later, in 1868 to Samuel L. Smith (FLR 61:16). A native of Burlington, Smith (b. 1842) married Susan A. Brown (b. 1842) of Bloomfield in 1875. There is little other historical information available concerning the Smiths. Franklin M. Jerome owned the house between 1889 and 1900 (FLR 70:93 and 71:459). The next owner was E.J. Forest of New Britain, who rented the house to Oscar and Pauline Litke. In December of 1906 Adolph and Caroline Popple acquired the property (FLR 77:88). They sold it three years later to Catherine and George Paszkiewicz of New Britain, who later shortened their

last name to Pascus. Mr. Pascus, a native of Lithuania and his wife, a native of Austria, operated a dairy farm on the property and sold fruit and vegetables. In 1940 they sold the farm to their son, Benjamin (FLR 94: 354). A graduate of the Juilliard School of Music and an accomplished violinist, Benjamin Pascus owned the house for eleven years before selling it back to his mother in 1951 (FLR 107: 78). Mrs. Pascus then sold the house to her daughter, Helen Bavitscus and it remained in that family until 1975.

The Charles H. Hills House is architecturally significant as a well-preserved example of Greek Revival-style architecture in Farmington. The house also derives significance for its association with the Hills family.
OWNER'S NAME: PASCUS, CATHERINE & GEORGE

DATE BUILT: ca. 1813 FOR: Sylvester Hills

ADDITIONAL INFORMATION: As this house is of the period of 1820, it would seem Sylvester built it for his son, Charles H., when he married, but did not give it to him until his death in 1859.

ARCHITECT

MASTER-BUILDER


REFERENCES: "Farmington, Conn., 1906", p. 105 - 'The Charles Hill Place'
Former Owners, cont.:

old house and 21 acres of land to his sons, Sylvester & Salmon, 11/15/1811, Salmon quit claiming his share or moiety to Sylvester in 1818; Chauncey Hills bought of the Est. of Abner Curtis 3 acres on the west side of the highway opposite the 21 acres & house, 7/9/1800, Vol. 33, p. 293, bounded e. and s. on highways, w. on Pequabuck River & n. on C. Hills.
This house is pictured on page 105 of the Farmington Book as the Charles Hills place, residence of Oscar Litke. Nothing shows at this exact site in the Baker and Tilden 1869 Atlas, but a house does show across the road as Samuel Smith, who was the owner of this house in 1868 and 1869, so it appears that Baker and Tilden may have been in error as to the location on their map.

This house is stated in library records to have been built in 1813 for Sylvester Hills. A brief genealogy of the Hills family is appended to this account. Sylvester Hills had been born in 1786, son of Chauncey and Eleanor Hills, Chauncey having been the first of the Hills family to locate on the Broad Plains. Sylvester Hills' wife was Emily Dickinson, sister of Major Samuel Dickinson of 40 High Street, and of Farmington Canal fame. Sylvester's daughter Amelia married James W. Cowles of "The Maples", the house next north of here at that time.

One of the sons of Sylvester was John D. Hills, who in 1906 owned the house in the V between Main Street and Cook Street, pictured also on page 105.

Charles H. Hills, born in 1821, the son of Sylvester, inherited this property after his father's death. Charles' wife was Lydia, and they had one daughter, Ellen, born in 1850, who married Clarence McNary. Charles sold this property in 1866, and is said to have died in New Britain.

Newton and Henry Smith were purchasers of the property on April 5, 1866. Nothing is known of them.

Samuel L. Smith purchased on May 16, 1868.

Franklin M. Jerome purchased from S. L. Smith on April 6, 1889.

E. J. Forrest of New Britain purchased May 7, 1900.

Oscar and Pauline Litke, who are shown as residents in 1906, came into the picture in September 1905, purchasing from George and Anna Runke and Fred and Anna Echert, but this was perhaps a separate piece of property.

Adolph and Caroline Popple of New Britain, man and wife, were given a deed in September 1906 by Oscar and Pauline Litke, and in November 1906, by E. J. Forrest.

On May 13, 1909, the property was purchased from Adolph and Carrie Popple by George and Katherine Paszkiswicz, later to be known by the shortened name of Pascus.

February 27, 1973
George Pascu was born in Lithuania in 1857. Katherine Zulkowsky was born in Austria in 1871, daughter of Jacob Zulkowsky of Krakow, Poland. They came to America separately. They met in New Britain, Connecticut, and were married there in 1889. They lived on Rhodes Street in New Britain, which was about a mile from the center of town. Mr. Pascu was employed by Russell and Irwin, prominent in the manufacturing of fine locks and hardware. Mr. Pascu also farmed a small property.

When they wished a larger farm, as their family was growing, they looked at farms in Berlin, Farmington, Avon, Bloomfield and other towns, before finally deciding to settle here in Farmington. This farm was comprised of 207 acres at one time. They had a dairy farm, which had 40 milking cows, a couple of bulls, two hundred chickens, some ducks and pigs. They delivered fresh milk, TB tested, and fresh eggs throughout Farmington, Plainville and New Britain. They also raised fruits and vegetables. From their fruit stand they sold corn and strawberries. Mr. Pascu farmed the property for many years but it became more and more difficult for him to make a living, and the hurricane of 1938 took many of the fruit trees. Most of the property has now been sold.

The Pascu children were: Helen Julia, Anthony, Walter, Michael, Marcella and Benjamin.

Mr. George Pascu died in 1950, and his widow on September 9, 1959.

Helen Julia Pascu worked for a time at Trumbull Electric in Plainville, now General Electric, later married Dominic Savitscus, and they took up residence in New Britain. Mr. Savitscus was a master machinist, and was employed as foreman at Russell and Irwin. Their two children were Clarence, now deceased, and George Walter, who studied medicine at Long Island Medical College. He now practices in New York City, a prominent psychiatrist. He married the former Maria C. Navarro. Their two children, Joseph John, who is employed by the Johnson and Johnson Company, and Charles Clarence, who is employed by the Grumman Corporation, live in Queens, New York. After the death of Dominic Savitscus in August 1948, Mrs. Savitscus returned to Farmington and lives on the old homestead.

Anthony Andrew Pascu has always worked at farming, but after farming was abandoned at home he worked for farmers of the area, such as the Roots and Wadsworths and perhaps others. He is now retired and he and his sister Helen live on the old homestead.

Walter Pascu moved back to New Britain when he grew up and married. His wife was the former Selma Yazinsky. He was employed as foreman by United Aircraft in East Hartford from 1926 until 1960, when he retired. At his death in 1971 he left his widow and one daughter, Sally.

February 27, 1973
Michael George Pascus worked with his parents on the farm for several years, then left and became carpenter foreman for a major oil company. It was based in California, but his work took him all over the East and the Far East, wherever construction was in progress. He never married, is now retired and living in California.

Marcella Pascus, who worked as operator in the Farmington telephone exchange, was married in the early 1930's to William Kegley, formerly of Enfield, employed since 1924 at Avon Old Farms School. They lived at 181 Garden Street during their early married life, moving to 1 High Street in the early 1940's. They had two children, Catherine and William, both now married and living in western states. Mrs. Kegley died in 1956 and Mr. Kegley later married Anne Rourke, still living at 1 High Street.

Benjamin John Pascus, musically inclined from childhood, made his first violin himself, strung with horsehair, and was later given one by Robert Brandegee. He was graduated from the Juilliard School of Music in New York, played with the Philharmonic and later taught violin and some piano. During the late thirties, with not much demand for music teachers, he took a job with Fisher Body in Tarrytown, finding that he had had an undeveloped talent for mechanics. He was soon teaching welding to fellow workers.

Benjamin had been married in 1931 to Helen Mills Gilmore, daughter of Alfred Cookman Gilmour and Ella Hinkleson, a Scotch and English combination. Mr. Gilmour was of a Mount Vernon family of importers of silks and damasks, exotic foods, dates etc.

In 1942 they came to Farmington and built the house on the family property, the house which stands just south of the old homestead, where they presently live. Mr. Pascus is sales engineer for General Dynamics. Mrs. Pascus is an active worker in women's clubs in Farmington, and is at present the president of the Dr. Dunne Scholarship Fund, set up about 1967.

Mr. and Mrs. Pascus have three children, all girls. One is the wife of a Lake Tahoe builder, having two sons. One is the wife of a colonel in the U.S. Airforce, stationed in Hawaii, where they have three children. Patricia is now Mrs. Stephen Slifko. She and her husband and three children live in Arlington, Virginia.

February 27, 1973
Some members of the first seven generations
of the
Hills Family

William Hills, born England, came to America in the
ship LION in 1632, died in Hartford 1683

m (1) Phyllis Lyman, daughter of Richard, who had
come in 1631. See Lyman family, 18 Diamond Glen.

(2) Widow of Richard Risley, who had died prior to 1648.

(3) Mary, widow of John Steele of Farmington who had
died here in 1654. She was the daughter of
Andrew Warner of Hadley, Mass.

William Hills, 1646-1693, first child of William,
born and died in Hartford

m. Sarah Elson
First three children born in Hartford, next
five born in East Hartford

Joseph Hills, 1683-1751, sixth child of William,
born in East Hartford, died in Farmington

m. Abigail Noyes who died in Farmington 1751
Thirteen children all born in Farmington

Capt. Moses Hills, 1723-1773, tenth child of Joseph,
born and died in Farmington,
Captain in 15th Company, 15th Regiment

m. in 1748 Mercy Lankton
Six children, all born in Farmington

Chauncey Hills, 1761-1831, fifth child of Moses,
born and died in Farmington

m. in 1782 to Eleanor
Said to have been the first man to locate on
the broad plains. In time became owner of 1000
acres, nearly all in the eastern plain in the
part of Farmington which became Plainville.
Elias the elder son married Sally Curtis,
son Chauncey married Jemima Bradley of Bristol,
son Sylvester married Emily Dickinson.

Sylvester Hills, 1786-1859, third child of Chauncey
m. Emily Dickinson, born 1786.
They built this house in 1813. Children were:
Amelia, 1815, married James Woodruff Cowles,
Charles, 1821, died in New Britain 1893,
John D., lived in next house south, across Main St.,
Emily B.

Charles H. Hills, 1821-1893, 2nd child of Sylvester,
born in Farmington

m. Lydia
Their daughter, Ellen L. Hills, born 1850,
married Clarence McNary.

February 27, 1973