Shaded by large old maples, the Thomas Youngs House stands on a large, open lot along the west side of West District Road. The surrounding open land, which was once actively farmed, has been developed for modern residential use. The West District School lies to the east.
Oriented gable-to-street, this four-bay dwelling is fully Greek Revival in character. The facade exhibits a pedimented gable featuring a large, rectangular, grid-patterned window with projecting cornice. The modest, facade door surround may be original. Six-over-six sash are featured throughout the house and a single-story, bay window highlights the south elevation. A single-story ell with partially open porch is found on the north elevation and a one-and-a-half-story, concrete-block garage has been incorporated on the rear elevation. Note the two interior brick chimneys.

While the early history of this house is obscure, it was probably built by Thomas Youngs around 1840 judging by its architectural mode. Historian Samuel Pepper states that this house replaced an earlier building known as the Youngs Hotel, which very well may be true. He also claims that this dwelling was erected by Joseph Lewis in 1844, but intensive title research indicates otherwise. Lewis may have been the builder, but was not the first owner. In the first half of the nineteenth century Thomas Youngs and his brother, Joshua purchased or inherited a large amount of land in Farmington's West District. In 1822 Thomas inherited a fifty four acre lot "with buildings" from his father, Joshua Youngs. This piece was bordered on the east by the old road and had a turnpike running east to west, bisecting the piece (FPR 8:163). This may be the parcel that the present building was later erected on. In 1845 Joshua Youngs, Jr. quit-claimed to Thomas "375 acres with two dwelling houses, two barns, and other buildings being the farm on which Thomas and Joshua now reside" (FLR 54:137). The 1855 Woodford Map attributes the house to T & J. Youngs. Both men were the sons of Joshua and Hannah Youngs. Thomas (1787-1865) was married to Elizabeth Miller (1805-1855), the daughter of Reverend J. Miller. Joshua Youngs, Jr. (1793-1871) remained a bachelor. Both were farmers, although in the early nineteenth century they operated a grist mill along the Farmington River in Unionville (see the Solomon Richards Grist Mill). Along with James and Augustus Cowles, they were instrumental in the early development of water power in Unionville. Joshua was a charter member of the Farmington River Water Power Company (see cont. pg).

which greatly promoted industrial activity in Unionville. Upon Thomas's death in 1865 this house was distributed to his five surviving children: Thomas J. Youngs, Abbie Ayer, Caroline Youngs, Martha L. Ayer, and Sophia C. Porter (FPR 13:328). A year later, Martha, the wife of Ezra Ayer and Sophia, the wife of A. Gordon Porter acquired full title to the property (FLR 64:14). In 1869 Martha's husband, Ezra C. Ayer took title to "the homestead of the late Thomas Youngs" (FLR 59:576). Born in Saybrook, Ayer (1829-1901) was the son of William Travis and Louisa (Clark) Ayer. As a young man he learned the mason's trade and worked in the Boston area for a time. In 1856 he married Martha Youngs (1833-1874) and settled in Farmington. During the Civil War, he enlisted in Company K, 25th Volunteer Infantry. He was wounded during battle, which left him almost deaf and was discharged in 1863. After working as a mason in Boston for a few more years, Ayer and his family returned to Farmington in 1869. Ayer purchased his father-in-law's farm. After his wife died in 1874, Ayer married Miss Eugenia Barnes Crampton, daughter of Richard and Sarah (Barnes) Crampton of Farmington. Ezra Ayer was active in local civic affairs serving as selectman, assessor, and justice of the peace. The Ayers were members of the Unionville Methodist Church. In 1903 Ezra's son by his second marriage, Robert Ayer (b. 1880), purchased his father's estate, which was known as "Locust Farm" (FLR 74:176). The house is owned by his daughter, Dorothy F. Ayer today.

Although the house has undergone some minor alterations since its construction, it remains a good example of a rural, Greek Revival-style farmhouse.