State of Connecticut
Connecticut Historical Commission
59 South Prospect Street, Hartford, Connecticut 06106
(203) 566-3005

1. Building Name (Common) (Historic)
   Porter-Wadsworth Cottage

2. Town City
   Farmington

3. Street and Number (and or, location)
   12 Colton Street

4. Owner(s)
   Chapin, John C., Jr. and Elizabeth L.

5. Use (Present)
   Residence

6. Accessibility to Public
   Exterior visible from public road
   Yes
   Yes

7. Style of Building
   Eighteenth-century vernacular

   Date of Construction
   ca. 1797

8. Material(s) (indicate use or location when appropriate)
   - Clapboard
   - Asbestos Siding
   - Brick
   - Other (Specify)
   - Wood Shingle
   - Asphalt Siding
   - Fieldstone
   - Board & Batten
   - Stucco
   - Cobblestone
   - Aluminum
   - Concrete
   - Stone

9. Structural System
   - Wood frame
   - Post and beam
   - Balloon
   - Other (Specify)
   - Load bearing masonry
   - Structural iron or steel

10. Roof Type
    - Gable
    - Flat
    - Mansard
    - Monitor
    - Sawtooth
    - Gambrel
    - Shed
    - Hip
    - Round
    - Other (Specify)

11. Number of Stories
    2

12. Condition (Structural)
    - Excellent
    - Good
    - Fair
    - Deteriorated
    - Excellent
    - Good
    - Fair
    - Deteriorated

13. Integrity
    - On original site
    - Moved
    - Yes
    - No

14. Related Outbuildings or Landscape Features
    - Barn
    - Shed
    - Garage
    - Other landscape features or buildings (Specify)

15. Surrounding Environment
    - Open land
    - Woodland
    - Residential
    - Scattered buildings visible from site
    - Commercial
    - Industrial
    - Rural

16. Interrelationship of Building and Surroundings
    This property is bordered on all sides by other historic residences. It faces east onto Colton Street and includes a gravel driveway in its front yard.
This house appears to be made up of two small buildings joined in the center by an addition. The U-shaped house features recessed doorway sheltered by a shed roof, although an earlier door exists on the north part of the building. Although the building is quite plain, it features eaves with cornice. A small brick chimney extends from the north side of the building. The north section of the building is the original house.

Although the title search reveals that this building was erected around 1797, the exterior appearance of the house indicates it was either replaced or significantly remodeled in the mid-nineteenth century. In 1798 Shubael Porter sold Asahel Wadsworth a new dwelling house along the southwest side of Back Lane (FLR 32:117). Colton Street for many years was called Back Lane, as well as Mountain Road. Wadsworth, who resided in the large house at 107 Main Street, was a wealthy farmer and presumably used this dwelling to house farm employees. In 1809 Asahel sold a number of parcels including the two houses east of my dwelling to his only son, Thomas for "$1000 or ten years in my service" (FLR 40:109). The other house mentioned (no longer extant) was the "old" dwelling house Asahel acquired from Amzi Porter in 1808 (FLR 36:67). Thomas, who inherited the family homestead along Main Street, continued to use the building as a tenement. Winthrop M. Wadsworth, inherited the property from his father's estate in 1843 (FPR 11:169). In 1885 Adrian R. Wadsworth, Winthrop's son, took title by inheritance (FPR 20:540). During the early twentieth century the house was rented out to local families. The house had also been occupied by a number of newly married Wadsworths. Adrian R. sold the house to his two sons, Adrian, Jr. and William Wadsworth in 1934 (FLR 87:206). In 1977 the property was finally sold out of the Wadsworth family (FLR 253:340).

Although the building has undergone a number of modifications, it derives historical significance for its long association with the Wadsworth family and as an early example of a single-family tenement.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th><strong>OWNER'S NAME</strong></th>
<th>WADSWORTH &amp; WADSWORTH, WILLIAM S. &amp; ADRIAN R., Jr.</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td><strong>ADDRESS</strong></td>
<td>2 Colton Street</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>DATE BUILT</strong></td>
<td>ca. 1797</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>FOR</strong></td>
<td>Shubael Porter</td>
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**ADDITIONAL INFORMATION**

This house at present is the home of Mr. and Mrs. Jeremiah Wadsworth.

**REFERENCES**

"Farmington, Conn., 1906", p. 130 - 'Residence of Edward A. Tingley'

"Baker & Tilden Atlas, 1869", p. 33 - 'W.M. Wadsworth, Back Lane'

**FORMER OWNERS**

This is the house pictured on page 130 of the Farmington Book as the residence of Edward A. Tingley. Baker and Tilden's 1869 Atlas shows it on page 33 as the property of W. M. Wadsworth. Library records show it to have been built around 1797 by Shubael Porter.

Shubael Porter, 1763-1825, was the son of Elijah Porter and his first wife. More regarding Deacon Elijah Porter, who later married the widow of the Rev. Joseph Washburn, will be found in the accounts of the houses at 117 and 118 Main Street, he having lived in both of those houses.

Shubael's wife was Rosy Curtis, and the writer believes that he was the Shubael mentioned by Julia Cowles of Oldgate as having played for dances, at Oldgate and in other Farmington houses. It was Shubael Porter's daughter Susan, 1787-1877, who married Samuel Dickinson, of whom much has been written in the account of the house at 40 High Street, which was Major Samuel Dickinson's home.

Shubael Porter seems not to have occupied this house very long, as it 1798 it was purchased by Asahel Wadsworth. From that time until the present its ownership has been the same as that of the Wadsworth homestead at 107 Main Street.

Its occupancy however has been quite varied. At times it has been occupied by newly married Wadsworths themselves. Adrian Wadsworth and his wife were here in the early 1920's, Mr. and Mrs. William Wadsworth in the later 1920's, the Jeremiah Wadsworths in the early 1950's, and Mr. and Mrs. Winthrop Wadsworth at the present time.

At other times it was occupied by tenants with no connection with the Wadsworths, but perhaps most often it was tenanted by those who worked for the Wadsworth family on the farm.

The latter of the above was the case in 1906 when the Farmington Book was published. Tenants at that time were Edward C. Tingley, who was of Canada, and his wife, the former Helen C. (once stated as Ellen B.) Markham, daughter of Thomas and Charlotte Markham, of Manchester, England. The Tingleys had lived in Newington, but probably came to Farmington in 1891, Mr. Tingley being employed by the Wadsworth farm.

It has been said that the porch on the southeast side of this house was added by the Wadsworths in the early 1900's for a family who had a tubercular son.

The Tingleys lived in this house until in 1907, when Mr. Tingley was then employed by Joseph J. Bailey to supervise farm work at Edgewood, on the Unionville Road. See photo on page 143 of the Farmington Book. The Tingley family lived in the farm cottage, pictured at left center on that same page 143.

September 15, 1972
Mrs. Edward Tingley died the same year that they moved to Edgewood, on November 7, 1907, at the age of thirty-eight, three months after the birth of their son Robert Tingley. She left several small children to be cared for by their elder sisters.

The Tingley children appear to have been the following:

George Markham Tingley, born in Newington, who married Alice E. Damp of the Isle of Wight. See account of 7 Waterville Road.

Howard Tingley, deceased, who lived in Manchester, Conn.,

Maude Bertha Tingley, who married Ferdinand Zitina, had three children including a daughter Charlotte,

Ruth Tingley, born in Farmington, who was married in 1914 to Frederick Irving Jones, son of Hiram Jones and Matilda Johnson of West District. It appears that Ruth, who probably cared for the younger children after her own mother's death, may have continued living at Edgewood Farm for a few years after her marriage. Her own children were Frederick William Jones who in 1940 married Rita Pearl Francoeur, and Muriel June Jones who in 1940 married Leo Karl Hein, now lives in Burlington. Ruth Tingley Jones died in , and Mr. Jones in 1925 married Edna S. Rosette. Sometime between 1915 and 1922 the Jones family had moved from Edgewood to Westfield, Massachusetts, and it was there that Mrs. Jones died. After the death of Frederick Jones's parents, he purchased the shares of his brothers and sisters and moved into their old home in West District, across the tracks from the Talbot house. Frederick Jones had remarried and the three children of the second marriage were George, Allen and Roberta. His return to Farmington with his second wife was around 1938 and the Jones home burned in 1949. Edna Rosette Jones, his second wife, died in Farmington on December 11, 1970.

Ethel M. Tingley was married in 1920 to Ensworth M. Godard, son of Aren Godard and Lena White. They lived in Granby,

Dorothy married a Mr. Zeek and lived in Hamden, Conn.,

Howard McKinley Tingley,

Roderick Tingley,

Grace Harriet Tingley who married a Mr. Charlefour and lived in New Haven,

Adelaide Tingley,

Elizabeth Tingley, died in infancy,

Robert Tingley.

To return to 12 Colton Street, some say that the next tenant after the Tingleys may have been Leo Papalette, bartender at the Elm Tree Inn, who manufactured "September Morn" cigarettes as a side line.

John Russell and his family lived here while the house at 19 Main Street was being rebuilt by Noah Wallace.

September 15, 1972
The tenants who followed the William Wadsworths in the late 1920's may have been Mrs. Stuart Phelps and her three children. Mrs. Phelps was the widow of Dr. Stuart Phelps, and prior to his death in 1927 they had lived at 9 Waterville Road. Mrs. Phelps and her children did not take up residence here until in late 1931.

Dr. and Mrs. Stuart E. Phelps had lived at 9 Waterville Road during most of their married life. Mrs. Phelps, the former Gladys Elizabeth Doris Roberts, born in Seattle, Washington, on June 24, 1892, was the daughter of the Rev. Charles Edward Roberts of the Episcopal Church, and was the second wife of Dr. Phelps.

The doctor's death in 1927 had left his widow with her three children, ranging in age from 7 to 13 years. She moved into her father's home at 13 Mountain Road, the Episcopal Rectory at that time. Her father was a widower, his wife having died in 1920.

Mrs. Phelps and the children lived with her father until his death in September 1931, after which they came to this house at 12 Colton Street. The children were Stuart Edward Phelps, Clare Roberts Phelps and Bruce Roberts Phelps.

Stuart E. Phelps, who was married in 1938 to Alice Mitchell of Hartford, is salesman of alloys for Whitehead Metals of Windsor, and now lives in Canton Center. As a boy Mr. Phelps had become a great friend of Duncan Hooker of Mountain Spring Road, and had learned hunting and fishing and natural history from him. He still loves the outdoors, as do his wife and children, and on September 23 he and his wife had just returned from the village of Steuben, Maine, where they had dug clams, eaten lobster, picked cranberries, and thoroughly enjoyed themselves. They have two sons, Stuart E. Phelps, Jr., and Bruce Robert Phelps II. They have in their living room a crystal glass lamp with a tall spiral stem, originally an oil lamp, which was given to Mr. Phelps' parents as a wedding present, by President Teddy Roosevelt who had become acquainted with Dr. Phelps during his visits to Farmington.

Stuart E. Phelps, Jr., married to Anne Jenkins of New Jersey after serving with the U. S. Army Engineers out of Baumholder, Germany, presently resides with his wife and their daughter Misty, in North Truro, Massachusetts. He operates his own fishing boat "Misty Ann", a tub trawler, and "long lines" (a verb) out of Provincetown. He is treasurer of a fishermen's co-op formed in January 1970, which has its own refrigerated truck and delivers to New York markets.

Bruce Robert Phelps II, named in memory of his uncle who had died at the age of twenty-three, is a veteran of three years in Viet Nam, now employed by a construction company. He and his wife, the former Marie Malentacchi, live in Canton, Connecticut.

October 1, 1970
Clare Roberts Phelps, during her high school years, worked part time for Miss Helen Scarth at her book store in the Gate House at 23 Colton Street, and later worked for her in the shop when it was at 11 Main Street, opposite the present Corner House.

Clare Phelps was married in 1937 to Louis Bradeen Metzger, formerly of Port Jervis, New York, presently of Daytona Beach, Florida. He was a professional photographer, who during their residence in Farmington did some fine photo-portraits of the dormitories and other buildings of Miss Porter's School. The Metzgers lived for some five years in the Clarence Spinney house, 36 Colton Street, across from Homer Wallyer's, moving from Farmington after that. Four children were born of this marriage, which ended in divorce. Mrs. Metzger and her children lived in Newington. In 1957 she started working for Connecticut Light and Power Company in their Berlin office, where she was secretary-receptionist for twelve and one-half years. In 1962 she married Arthur R. Bray, wage and salary administrator for the same company. He was originally of New York City, and had lived in Milford and Waterbury, a widower with a son and daughter. Both Mr. and Mrs. Bray retired in November 1969, and they presently reside in Stonington, Connecticut, where both are very active. They are students in adult education classes, volunteers at Mystic Seaport, travel each year, and Mrs. Bray produces art work which is exhibited and sold at local fairs. Mrs. Bray's four children are listed below.

Susan Bradeen Metzger was first married to Fred Rieger of Stamford, Connecticut, and they had three children: Frederick Ernest, James Stewart and David Phelps. Susan and Fred were divorced and Susan is now the wife of Donald Baruch Iseman, grand-nephew of Bernard Baruch. They reside in New York City, where Donald is a partner in the New York stock exchange firm of Newberg and Berman.

Beresford Phelps Metzger is management consultant for United Research of Undercliff Lake of New Jersey. His wife is the former Edith Winnebald of Kettenbach, Germany. They reside in New Britain, Connecticut, and have a son Brett Roberts Metzger.

Bonnie Stewart Metzger is account executive for Baker and Shadorf, and advertising firm of San Francisco, where she lives.

Kevin Bruce Metzger also lives in San Francisco, part time student of the nursery business, and part time employee of the Emporium Department Store.

Correspondence with the Brays has aroused Mr. Bray's interest in genealogy, and for the special benefit of his son and daughter and their families, he has obtained as much information as he can regarding his parents and grandparents, which includes what is given on the following page.

March 23, 1974
Arthur Rudolph Bray was born in New York City, the son of Henry Simon Frederick Brei, who had been born on February 21, 1869, in Leutzplatz (or is it Leutzpleth?) Freiberg, Germany. Henry Brei's father had been Heinrich Brei, officer on a ship based in Hamburg, and he was washed overboard in a severe storm on the English Channel and lost his life. Henry Brei, at the age of 15, on July 13, 1884, with his name spelled as Bray, was issued a release from military service. He then came to America and lived with a New York family named Sturkey. He moved up in life fairly fast, and by the time of the "Blizzard of 1888" he owned a grocery store at 68th Street near Second Avenue. In later life he was employed as a salesman for a bakery which was eventually taken over by Continental Baking Company. The Brei name, later written as Bray, at the time of his marriage was recorded as Brey, and later it was changed to Bray.

Arthur Bray's mother was the widowed Madeline Flech, the former Hadeline Dettmar, daughter of Thomas Dettmar of Germany. Thomas Dettmar had been coachman for the wealthy Zauner family of Pleitersheim, Germany, and he eloped with his employer's daughter Magdalena. The newlyweds sailed from Havre, France, on the ship MALABAR on the 27th of August 1863, for New York City, where they took up residence. Their daughter Madeline married one Mr. Flech, a noted architect, and two daughters were born of the marriage. After the early death of Mr. Flech his widow was married on August 27, 1893, the Henry S. F. Bray, the ceremony taking place at 181 East 79th Street. The young married couple lived at 1764 Second Avenue.

Mrs. Bray had told the writer in a letter dated February 25, 1974, that on "March 30 we sail on the Queen Elizabeth 2 to the Virgin Islands". On Monday, April 1 the news broadcasts on radio and television reported that the QE2 had developed boiler trouble and become stranded 250 miles southwest of Bermuda. The repairs could not be made and a rescue and transfer of the passengers began "soon after daybreak during a calm and muggy Wednesday and ended at 4:10 PM". A photo in the Hartford Courant of Friday April 5 showed Mr. and Mrs. Arthur Bray as the first persons to have boarded the Norwegian rescue vessel SEA VENTURE.

The writer has had no direct word from the Brays about their adventure, or perhaps it should be called mis-adventure, but they did arrive home safely. Mr. Bray took photo slides of the rescue operations and has shown them to various groups, as the state of Connecticut was represented in the passenger list by people from Elmwood, Bloomfield and Rocky Hill, in addition to shoreline residents. The writer is wondering how the June trip of the Brays turned out. They were to fly to San Francisco for the International Lions Convention, Mr. Bray having been a delegate from the Mystic chapter.

Bruce Roberts Phelps, the youngest child of Dr. Phelps' second marriage, contracted leukemia which was discovered when he was 18, but for which treatment was not effective at that time, and he died in 1941 at the age of twenty-three.

September 3, 1974
Mrs. Gladys Phelps had always been a worker for the Episcopal Church and was its organist, and this she continued to be for her lifetime. Her father's portrait hangs in the church, and also a plaque in commemoration of her long service on behalf of the church. She died in April 1955.

Just who has lived in this house all the time from 1955 until the present is not known at the moment. Occupants as of September 1972 were Mr. and Mrs. Winthrop Wadsworth and their children. See more of them in the account of the Wadsworth homestead at 107 Main Street, sketch No. 197, pages 18 and 19.

September 3, 1974