The Street-Winship House is located on the west side of Main Street. A picket fence separates its yard from the sidewalk. Large trees surround the house. It is surrounded by other historic residences that make up part of the National Register and local districts.
This house is of the Greek Revival-style although it originally had a completely different appearance. Its earlier construction date (ca. 1769) suggests it consisted of five bays, a center chimney, and a gable roof oriented ridge-to-street. Today it displays six-over-six sash, and a recessed entryway. The roof was raised to incorporate an entablature with eyebrow windows at the attic story. Two brick interior end chimneys extend from the roof.

In 1769 Nehemiah Street purchased a ½ acre from Roger Hooker being "the east corner of the lot on which I now dwell" for 40 pounds (FLR 17:30). His deed suggests that a house was not standing since he was buying only a corner lot of Hooker's homelot. Street married Thankful Moody in 1774 and according to his inventory was a tailor by trade having large quantities of velvet, silk, and buttons and notes for coats, shoes, suits, and trousers. He probably built this house shortly after 1769 and by 1785 was indebted to Peter Curtiss for 600 pounds (FLR 27:38). Street died in 1791, according to Historian Julius Gay, from an Indian scalping. Apparently the 600 pound mortgage and 200 pounds of uncollectable notes called for the sale of the homestead. In 1792 John Mix, administrator, sold the property to John Hart, a doctor, for 250 pounds reserving Thankful Street's dower rights (FLR 29:159). Hart was a descendant of Deacon Stephen Hart and a Yale graduate. Born in 1753 in Kensington, he married Hannah Williams in 1786 only to die at sea in 1798. In 1800 Hannah Hart and Thankful Street agreed to "swap houses" (FLR 32:538). Thankful lived in Hart's Colton Street house, but did not live there long as she died in Canada. Hannah married her second husband Johnathan S. Wrightman (1765-1816) and in 1812 quit claimed the Street homestead or "place where Dr. Hart lived" to Johnathan Cowles (FLR 36:550). Cowles (b. 1757) was the son of Elijah Cowles, owner of the successful mercantile business. He sold the property to his son Ira (b. 1786) for $1800 in 1813 after Jonathan's marriage to Laphlaria Hart (FLR 38:421). Norris Stanley purchased it in 1828 for $2044 (FLR 43:547) and by 1829 it returned into the hands of Peter Curtiss (FLR 44:194). Curtiss next sold it to Abner Bidwell, a real estate entrepreneur and merchant, for $600 (FLR 44:365). (see cont.)

He, in turn, sold it to Leonard Winship, a cabinet and coffin maker (FLR 44:366). It is Winship who is responsible for "updating" the appearance of this house. He married Catherine Boardman and kept a workshop in the rear of the building known as the "casino". Following his death and death of his wife in 1871, the property passed to his daughter, Sarah (Winship) Cowles, wife of Samuel S. Cowles (FLR 66:120). In 1889 it was quit-claimed to her nephew Lewis C. Root, the husband of her foster daughter Catherine (FLR 68:416). Root sold it to Katherine S. Thompson in 1919 (FLR 80:114) and it remained in that family until 1944.

The Street-Winship House is both architecturally and historically significant. It is exceptionally well-preserved and has an interesting architectural evolution associated with the Street and Winship families.
DATE BUILT: ca.1769 FOR: Nehemiah Street
ca.1831 FOR: Leonard Winship

ARCHITECT
MASTER-BUILDER

FORMER OWNERS: H.B. Carey, jr., & Anne from John H. Thompson, 3/11/1944, Vol. 97, p. 488; John H. Thompson from Est. of wife, Katherine S. by dist. of est. 8/20/1940, Vol. 140, p. 209; K.S. Thompson from Lewis C. Root 10/28/1919, Vol. 80, p. 111; L.C. Root from Sarah (Winship) Cowles, ½ acre & dwellinghouse, n. on Sneath, s. on R. Gay, by Quit Claim deed of all int. 10/4/1891, Vol. 69, p. 275; also L.C. Root from Sarah W. Cowles, for $1, and support to be furnished in consideration of this deed, same desc., 5/16/1889, Vol. 68, p. 416; Sarah W. Cowles from her brother & sister by Quit Claim deed of their int. in the est. of their father, Leonard Winship, the homestead and 1½ acres, n. on Abner Bidwell, s. on Wm. Gay, 8/25/1881, Vol. 66, p. 120 (Sarah Winship married Samuel Smith Cowles, their children died & they took & brought up Catherine Cross who married L.C. Root. Sarah W. Cowles later made her home with Catherine & L.C. Root); Leonard Winship from Abner Bidwell 5/7/1831, Vol. ll,

REFERENCES: "Farmington, Conn., 1906", pp. 12,13, house #17, also p. 81; for picture of Leonard Winship; "Baker & Tilden Atlas, 1869" p. 33, "L. Winship" with 2 houses; "Stephen Hart and His Descendants", p. 396, #1752; Est. Norris Stanley of Berlin, file #2582 at State Library.

(OWNER) (CAREY, H. BISSELL JR. & ANNE) 1950 SMITH AS OF 1960 16 Main St.
Former owners, cont.: p. 366, about 1 acre with dwellinghouse & other bldgs. "n. on my land" for $1450; Winship added land to the house lot; A. Bidwell from Peter Curtiss, ½ acre with bldgs. for $1600, dated 10/19/1830, recorded 5/9/1831, Vol. 44, p. 365; P. Curtiss from Wm. Stanley, Hiram & Adeline S. Ward, Elias & Jane S. Colborn, for the est. of Norris Stanley, for $1600, e. on Main St., s. on Roger Hooker, n. on Abner Bidwell, ½ acre & bldgs, 10/15/1829, Vol. 44, p. 194; Wm. Stanley et al from est. of Norris Stanley, by will, "the rest and residue of my estate both real and personal, to my brother William and his two daughters, Adeline L. & Jane A." 3/4/1829 - the inventory of said estate showing house and lot $1500 and the dist. of said est. to Wm. Stanley and his 2 daughters, 1/3 each. File at State Library #2582.

Norris Stanley from Ira Cowles, on Main St., same desc., 10/6/1828, Vol. 43, p. 547; I. Cowles from Jonathan Cowles on Main St., 2 roods, dwellinghouse, shop & other bldgs., for $1800, 11/16/1813, Vol. 38, p. 421 (mortgaged to Elijah Cowles for $1300); J. Cowles from Jonathan S. Wightman of Southington, who had been authorized by the Prob. Court to sell the real est. of Gideon W. Hart & Thomas T.Y. Hart, minors and sons of Dr. John Hart, late of Farmington, deceased, for $500, ½ acre, dwellinghouse & other bldgs., n. on S. Richards, s. & w. on R. Hooker and e. on Main St., being the place where the said John Hart last lived in said Farmington, 12/31/1812, Vol. 36, p. 550; Dr. John Hart from John Mix, Adm. of est. of Nehemiah Street, by adm. deed, Dwellinghouse, barn, shop & other bldgs., on Main St. 5/21/1792, Vol. 29, p. 159; Thankful Street, widow of Nehemiah Street, to Hannah Hart, widow of Dr. J. Hart, by agreement, her dower in the est. of N. Street in exchange for the life use of a house on Back Lane (Colton St.) owned by Hannah Hart 4/8/1800, Vol. 32, p. 538; Hannah Hart from Thankful Street, dower rights in the Main St. house which could not be conveyed by the Adm. of the est. of N. Street (see back) 4/8/1800, Vol. 32, p. 538; Hannah Hart married for her 2nd husband, Jonathan Stoddard Wightman of Southington, who later sold the rights of the 2 minor Hart sons; N. Street from Roger ½ acre at e. corner of lot where I (Hooker) now live, to begin at the e. corner & run s. by the Town St. so far as to include the well, & w. so far as to include the said half acre, e. on Town St., n. on land of heirs of Ezekiel Thomson,
OWNER'S NAME: CAREY, H. BISSELL JR. & ANNE

1950 - res.- rear

ADDRESS: 16 N. Main Street

DATE BUILT: ca. 1769

ARCHITECT

MASTER-BUILDER

FOR:

ADDITONAL INFORMATION

REFERENCES: "Farmington, Conn., 1906", pp. 12,13

"Baker & Tilden Atlas, 1869", p. 33 - 'L. Winship' with 2 houses

"north on my own land" for $1,50 (Winship evidently added land to the original house lot);
Former owners, cont.:
A. Bidwell from Peter Curtiss $\frac{1}{2}$ acre with bldgs. for $1600.$ dated 10/19/1830, Vol. 44, p 365, rec'd 5/9/1831; P. Curtiss from Nehemiah Street, by default of mortgage, transfer not dated; N. Street from Roger Hooker $\frac{1}{2}$ acre, no house mentioned, n. on heirs of Ezekiel Thompson 6/22/1769, Vol. 17, p. 30.

It would seem that the present Carey homestead stands where N. Street built "a small red house later modernized by L. Winship" according to J. Gay, on $\frac{1}{2}$ acre of land. When Abner Bidwell sold to L. Winship he sold over 1 acre, almost an acre more than he had bought from Peter Curtiss and this would have included this small house, now in the rear, but on the Baker & Tilden Atlas of 1869, p. 33, shown near the street. In that event, it would have been an old Ezekiel Thompson house - see B. Boyle card.
The death of Nehemiah Street occurred, according to Julius Gay, somewhere "west" by an Indian attacking & scalping. His inventory showed a total of 505-9-11, on 12/15/1791. Of this amount, 200 pounds was owing him by many Farmington men for coats, suits, trowsers, etc. in amounts varying from a few to 18 pounds. These apparently uncollectable debts, together with the mortgage of 600 to Peter Curtiss, may have been too much for Nehemiah. His inventory shows also his stock in trade of velvet, silk, buttons, thread, etc. 33 papers are in file #2647, State Library. His widow, Thankful Street, evidently did not live long in the house on Colton St. which Hannah Hart had given her, as Hannah Wightman sold the house to Selah Porter (subject to life use of Thankful) but Thankful Street was buried in Canada as mentioned in Edward Hooker's diary. The est. of Nehemiah Street should have been recorded in the Farmington Probate Records, but only mention is made of documents being received and accepted. The will of John Hart, Dr., gave to his wife, Hannah, the horse, a bridle & harness, with all household furniture, & to his 5 children. James E., (OVER)
Former owners, cont.:
John A., Elizabeth Lawrence, Gideon W. & Joseph Y., all real and personal est., and named a brother as executor, 2/13/1799, Prob. Rec. Vol. 4, p. 445. 3 of the children had died when the real estate on Main Street was conveyed by J.S. Wightman.
This house is pictured on page 13 of the Farmington Book as the Leonard Winship place, residence of Dr. J. B. Newton. It is shown in Baker and Tilden's Atlas of 1869 as "L. Winship", in fact two houses are shown there under his name. Although both are shown at street-side, it is possible that one was Mr. Winship's shop in the rear.

The house stands on the site of the early home of Thomas Judd, of whom Mrs. Hurlburt states the following in "Town Clerks" on page 365:

"Thomas Judd was one of the first settlers and an original proprietor of the Town of Farmington. He was one of the seven organizers of the Church of Christ, October 13, 1652. He married Sarah, a daughter of John Steele, Sr., and lived next door to Mr. Steele. His home was about where now stands the former home of Mr. and Mrs. John H. Thompsen. John Steele, Sr., lived next south and John Steele, Jr., lived next north of Thomas Judd. Judd later removed with his family to Northampton".

The library record shows that Nehemiah Street built this house in 1769, and the title transfer showing the purchase of one-half acre of land at this site on June 22, 1769 from Roger Hooker does not show any house on this property. This was three years before Mr. Street's marriage however, as he was married to Thankful Moody on April 16, 1772.

Julius Gay knew the house prior to its repair by Leonard Winship and remembers it as "an old red dilapidated structure, built by I known not whom. During the Revolution it was owned by Nehemiah Street". If built in 1769 it was sixty-two years old by the time Mr. Winship purchased it. It had had many owners and was perhaps vacant for several years too, which could account for its poor condition.

Mr. and Mrs. Street had three children: Anne, Cynthia and Samuel. Anne has her name on Hospital Rock, probably put there in the early 1790's, as the smallpox hospital was operating at that time. Mr. Street was a tailor by trade and his inventory showed an appreciable sum of money due him for coats, suits and trousers, and his stock consisted of velvet, silk, buttons, etc.

Mr. Street, as told by Mr. Gay, "was fined, along with many of the young people of the village, because, being assembled at his place, they refused to disperse until after nine o'clock at night".

This matter has been written up in more detail by Lydia B. Hewes and published in the Hartford Times of December 2, 1933. That article in turn was quoted on page 128 of the Tillotson family genealogy. The guests of Mr. Street on that night, the night of November 2, 1778, assembled as mentioned above, were the following:

November 15, 1971

623
Guests of Mr. Street

Ezekiel Cowles    Anne Little
Jonathan Cowles    Elijah Porter
Eleazar Curtin    Timothy Root
Almira Gay        Jabez Smith
Hannah Gridley    Mary Strong
Cynthia Hooker   Jonathan Thompson
Elizabeth Hurlburt    Gad Wadsworth
Sarah Lewis          Luke Wadsworth
Thomas Lewis        Solomon Whitman

The case came to court on November 18, sixteen days later, and according to Mr. Gay, both the guests and the host were fined. The list contains many prominent names and it is doubted that this little incident ever hurt their reputations very much.

Mr. Street however, was in trouble again two years later, when on February 29, 1780, he was accused by Timothy Root and by William Wadsworth of allowing two tons of flour to be shipped to Springfield. Such movement had been prohibited.

Mr. Gay goes on to tell further of Mr. Street:

"Mr. Street was frequently in similar trouble until, disgusted with Puritan ways, he converted his goods into money and sought the freedom of the Far West. Poor Nehemiah! He soon found something worse than New England justice. Having invested his money in a drove of cattle he sold them at Niagara Falls for 600 pounds and fell in with a certain James Gale of Goshen, New York, who during the war commanded a plundering party on Long Island. This treacherous companion followed him from Niagara, and watching his opportunity, struck him from behind with a tomahawk, and all the troubles of Nehemiah were ended."

Mr. Street had made several purchases of property in Farmington, in addition to this at the site of his home.

John Mix of 123 Main Street was administrator of the estate of Nehemiah Street, and sold this house on Main Street to Dr. John Hart in May of 1792. Nehemiah's widow exchanged her dower rights in this property with Dr. Hart's wife Hannah, in exchange for life use of Mrs. Hart's house at 7 Colton Street. This exchange was made in 1798. Mrs. Street is said to have died in Canada, and the house on Colton Street, which Dr. Hart had purchased from Joel Lankton in 1797, was sold to Selah Porter in 1807.

Dr. John Hart was descended from Deacon Stephen Hart, one of the settlers of Farmington, through Deacon Hart's son Thomas. A brief genealogy follows, starting with:

Capt. Thomas Hart, 1644-1726, married Ruth Hawkins, whose mother was the daughter of Governor Welles. She had been given the house on the site of the present Corner House, at her marriage to Thomas Thomson in 1646, but Mr. Thomson died in 1655 and she married Anthony Hawkins soon after.

November 15, 1971
Deacon Thomas Hart, 1680-1773, was married in 1702 to Mary Thompson, daughter of John Thompson and Mary Steele. Thomas Hart, a weaver by trade, moved to Kensington where he helped organize their church. He was a very influential citizen there. At the age of 84 he married the widow Elizabeth Norton, the former Elizabeth Galpin. All his children were by his first wife.

Deacon Ebenezer Hart, 1705-1773, born in Kensington, in 1741 married the widow Elizabeth Lawrence.

Dr. John Hart, born in Kensington in 1753, was graduated from Yale in 1776, entered the Army as a surgeon, was an ensign at the surrender of Cornwallis. In company with General Lyman and others he attempted to settle on the Mississippi River near Natchez, but they were compelled to flee through the forests to Florida. Dr. Hart later settled in Farmington, and practiced surgery. He was married in 1786 to Hannah Williams, daughter of Gideon Williams and Patience Graham of Kensington. He practiced in Farmington until early in 1798 when, his health impaired, he resolved upon a sea voyage, entered naval service as a surgeon on the armed schooner RETALIATION. He died at sea on October 3, 1798. He and his wife had six children.

For some years after his death his widow was a female physician and practiced obstetrics. It is said that she would ride out at any time of night to visit one of her patients. She later married Jonathan Stoddard Wightman of Southington, a farmer. She bore him one child, Hannah, in 1812.

The Wightman family had come to America early. Jonathan's lineage, briefly, was as follows:

George Wightman, #1, born in England in 1632, came to America and married in 1663 Elizabeth Updike. He died in North Kingston, Rhode Island in 1722.

Rev. Valentine Wightman, #8, 1681-1747, died in Groton, Conn.

Rev. John Wightman, #23, born 1726 in Groton, was farmer, carpenter and lay preacher. Purchased 2 parcels of land in South Farmington (Southington) in 1770. He was pastor of a Baptist church there, died in 1781.

Jonathan Stoddard Wightman, #72, 1765-1816, was married first to Mercy Gillett who bore him 9 children. He was a farmer on the paternal homestead in Southington. Married widow Hannah Hart. They had one child, Hannah.

The widow of Jonathan Wightman lived her later years with her daughter in Blendon, Ohio.

Two sisters, descendants of the Rev. John Wightman, #23, Eva Wightman and Dorothy Wightman Bounds, presently reside in West Hartford and were next door neighbors of the writer when he and his wife lived there.

November 15, 1971
On December 31, 1812, this property at 16 Main Street was sold by Jonathan Wightman for the sons of Dr. John Hart, Gideon W. Hart and Thomas T. Y. Hart, to Jonathan Cowles, son of Elijah, born in 1757.

For Jonathan Cowles this was probably just an interim investment as he had his own home at what is now 59 Main Street, just south of Mountain Road, which he had built in 1799. He was an active and wealthy merchant. See account of 59 Main Street for more on him.

Ira Cowles purchased the property from Jonathan Cowles on November 16, 1813. Ira Cowles was of the 7th generation of the Cowles family, starting with settler John Cowles, and his genealogy is given briefly as follows, starting with the son of John Cowles:

Samuel Cowles, 1639-1691, married Abigail Stanley,

Samuel Cowles, 1662-1748, moved to Kensington, married Rachel Porter,

Thomas Cowles, 1686-1751, married Martha Judd of Waterbury, was deputy to general court, ratemaker, captain of the train band,

Thomas Cowles, 1719-1804, married Ruth Newell who died in 1753, married Mary Williams, thought to have lived at what is now 7 Colton Street,

Eneas Cowles, 1741-1809, married Esther Bird who died in 1784, married Phoebe Dickinson, was a private in Capt. Bidwell's company in the Revolutionary War,

Ira Cowles, 1786- , married in 1812 to Laphleadia Hart, who died in St. Thomas in 1821, married in 1830 Nancy Jane Bunce, widow of a Mr. Smith. Ira Cowles was a shoemaker and a harness-maker, partner in business with his brother Anson Cowles until the latter's death in 1812. Became interested in the West Indies and made several trips there, finally not returning.

Norris Stanley, who appears to have been of Berlin, and another of those who has his name on Hospital Rock, purchased the property from Ira Cowles on October 6, 1828.

William Stanley, brother of Norris, and William's two daughters, Adeline L. and Jane A., inherited equal shares from Norris Stanley on March 4, 1829.

Peter Curtiss purchased from the above heirs: William Stanley, Adeline L. Stanley and her husband Hiram Ward, and Jane A. Stanley and her husband Elias Colborn, on October 15, 1829. Peter Curtiss may have been the son of Major Peter Curtiss, Revolutionary War veteran and former owner of the Whitman Tavern, who died in 1797.

Abner Bidwell purchased from Peter Curtiss on October 19, 1830.

November 16, 1971
Julius Gay, in the Farmington Magazine, in the issue of September 1901, in speaking of a school for small children held in 1838 in the Norton house across from the site of Farmington Savings Bank, makes the following statement:

"of somewhat earlier date was the school in the south chamber of the house long the residence of Mr. Leonard Winship. The floor still shows the circles and parabolas which represented the orbits of planets and comets, along which the children played astronomy". A Miss Hamilton was teacher. Commander Edward Hooker, born 1822, said: "I used to have a red cap on my head and was supposed to be Mars".

Leonard Winship purchased from Bidwell on May 7, 1831.

It appears from the short terms of several ownerships as recorded above, that the property perhaps stood vacant for a few years, which may have accounted for the "dilapidated" appearance which it presented prior to repairs made by Mr. Winship.

Mr. Gay, who stated that Mr. Winship "modernized" the house, and has the following to say about Mr. Winship, as quoted from his account on page 83 of the Farmington Book:

"Leonard Winship, a cabinet maker in Farmington for 44 years, was born in Hartford in 1793 and died here in 1872. All the mahogany work in the Congregational church was done by him. While he was working there a man from Macon, Georgia, so much admired the railing and pulpit work that he ordered a similar set for a church in Macon. This order was filled and the work done by Timothy Porter of Farmington. There are many houses in Farmington possessing pieces of furniture made by Mr. Winship, of which their owners are justly proud. The mahogany doors in the A. D. Vorce house (127 Main Street) were made by him". See Mr. Winship's photo on page 84 of the Farmington Book.

The Winships, when they first came to Farmington from Hartford, purchased the house at 5 Waterville Road from Abner Bidwell on October 2, 1817.

The Farmington Canal was put into operation while the Winships lived there, and Mr. Gay, in his library talk of September 13, 1899, says:

"A considerable source of water (for the canal) was from the numerous brooks which emptied into the canal, and, lest the supply should, during a protracted storm, be in excess, a contrivance called the waste gates was built on the line of Poke Brook. Hither, after every storm, Mr. Leonard Winship might have been seen hastening to raise the gates. In consideration for his services he was allowed to build a turning shop on the north bank of the brook adjoining the tow-path, and use the surplus water to turn his wheel"

Lewis C. Root (of 158 Main Street) said that his grandmother, Catherine Boardman Winship, rescued her son, probably Franklin, from drowning in the canal, by jumping in and pulling his out.
Thomas Catlin, born England 1612, came to Hartford in 1640, m. Mary ?. Was a constable, lived on Buckingham Street, died 1690.


Lt. Samuel Catlin, born Hartford 1672, m. Elizabeth Norton of Farmington, daughter of John Norton, m. Sarah Nichols after death of Elizabeth in 1724, Built home in Rocky Hill 1700, moved to Harwinton 1738

Ebenezer Catlin, born Rocky Hill 1724, m. Mary Holtum, lived in Rocky Hill, died 1766

Jennet Catlin, born Rocky hill 1765 m. William Boardman

Boardman


Daniel Boreman, born Wethersfield 1638 m. Hannah Wright A glazier, died 1725

Israel Boardman, born Wethersfield 1697, m. Elizabeth Gibbs First settled in Newington, moved to Stamford, returned to Wethersfield, died 1725, three small children.

Captain Israel Boardman, born Stamford 1724, m. Mary Blackman in 1746 who died m. Sybil Warriner in 1752 Was a sea captain sailing to European ports. When his 6th child was quite young the family moved to Pensacola, Florida, bought a plantation. He died shortly afterward, family returned to make home in Hartford and Wethersfield.

William Boardman, born Stamford 1763, 6th child, son of Sybil, m. Jennet Catlin, dau. of Ebenezer Catlin and Mary Holtum. Learned trade and was a master mason. Worked on Deaf and Dumb Asylum and the Courant Building, at Main and Pratt Streets. Served 6 months in Revolutionary war in Gen. David Waterbury's brigade. Bought a home at New Britain Avenue and Broad Street. He died in 1858. His wife, Jennet, was a woman of uncommon qualities. As a self-taught midwife she attended 1024 births between 1815 and 1849.

Catherine Boardman, born Hartford 1794, m. Leonard Winship in 1816, Moved to Farmington in 1817.

November 15, 1971
Mr. Winship bought the house at 16 Main Street from Abner Bidwell on May 7, 1831, borrowing money from Lemuel Whitman, and used his talents as woodworker and carpenter to later remodel extensively, producing the house which still stands here. Mrs. Winship was the former Catherine Boardman, daughter of William Boardman and Jennet Catlin of Hartford. Preceding this page is one showing the genealogies in brief of the Boardman and Catlin families, as far back as the first settlers of each family in America.

The wife of Joseph Washburn of 118 Main Street, Congregational minister here for ten years until 1805, was Sarah Boardman of Middletown, great-granddaughter of Daniel Boardman, and was of the same generation as Catherine Boardman's father.

The building which stands to the rear of the house was Mr. Winship's workshop. Miss Bessie Tillotson's mother, formerly Mary Lewis Root, wrote the following as part of her memories of early childhood, speaking at this time of her grandfather, Mr. Winship:

"The Casino, a building still standing back of the Mrs. John Thompson house, was his workshop for many years. As a little girl I was sometimes sent by my grandmother to call my grandfather. I was always scared to go and never loitered, for high on one wall was a small coffin. Apparently that was all I ever saw, except the glue pot, always in another pot of water on a small stove. The rooms was full of all sorts of furniture, either being made or repaired, but that little coffin always held my eyes until I could escape".

Leonard Winship, according to town records, was official coffin maker for the town, at least during the years 1845, 1847, 1848, 1849, 1852 and 1853.

Mr. Winship appears not to have entered into civic affairs to any great extent, as the only mention in Mrs. Hurlburt's book "Town Clerks" is of his appointment as a juror in January 1837. One William L. Winship is noted in a list of Civil War volunteers, but his identity is not known.

The Winships had five children.

Albert, born in West Hartford in 1816, died in 1820. All later children were born on Waterville Road.

Catherine Amelia, born 1823, was married in 1848 to Samuel H. Root of 158 Main Street, Farmington.

Sarah Jane, born 1825, married Samuel S. Cowles of 27 Main Street, but after his death came back to this house to live.

Albert Leonard Winship, born 1821, left Farmington for the New York area, and was married in 1847 to Harriet Wheeler of New York. He was a druggist, and also in other businesses, and lived in Flatbush. Two of their six children lived to adulthood. Mary Gray lived at home, Charles Albert, born 1850, became a jeweler in Chicago.
Franklin Henry Winship, born 1827, who fell in the canal, was married to Margaret Hardin, was a jeweler in Pulaski, Tennessee.

Mrs. Leonard Winship died on January 9, 1871, and Mr. Winship on December 23, 1872. Their children Sarah and Albert appear to have inherited the property, but Albert, then living in Flatbush, sold his interest to his sister Sarah, deeding to her his share by quit-claim deed on August 24, 1881.

Sarah Jane Winship had married, in 1863, Samuel S. Cowles, son of Horace Cowles, who lived across the street at what is now 27 Main Street. Sarah was his second wife and bore him no children. None of his children lived longer than 31 years. Mr. and Mrs. Cowles took into their home Catherine Cross, born in 1858 in West District, whose mother had died in Omaha, Nebraska, on a covered-wagon trip west with her husband and their elder children. Catherine was the daughter of William Cross and Elizabeth D'Oyly, and was twelve when she was taken in by Mr. and Mrs. Cowles. She had been considered too young to take with the family on the trip west, and had first been left with an aunt in West District.

Samuel Smith Cowles, son of Horace Cowles and Mary Anne Steele Smith, born in 1814, had had quite a varied life, of which more detail will be found in the account of his house at 27 Main Street. In his later years he was secretary and treasurer of the Farmington Savings Bank, founded in 1851. Until the bank's building on the present site was acquired, much of the bank's business was carried on in Samuel Cowles' home.

Samuel Cowles died in 1872, the same year that his wife's father died, so Sarah Winship Cowles moved back across the street with her foster daughter Catherine Cross. Mrs. Cowles now took in boarders and perhaps roomers, principally parents of girls of Miss Porter's School, but also others when occasion arose.

Catherine Cross was married, probably in this house, on October 18, 1886, to Lewis Catlin Root, who took her to his family homestead at 158 Main Street. It was at this time converted to a two-family house, a home for himself and family, also his brother Timothy and HIS family.

In 1889 Mrs. Sarah Cowles deeded the property at 16 Main Street to Lewis C. Root, her nephew, and the husband of her foster daughter Catherine. Part of the consideration for this transaction was "support, board, lodging, clothing and medical attendance", all of which Mr. Root was to furnish. At this time she vacated the main house and moved into the "casino", Mr. Winship's former shop, which was now converted to living quarters. In 1894 is recorded another deed, in which Mrs. Cowles released Mr. Root from any claims which might arise from the "support clause" in the former deed.

Mr. Root never occupied this house, but used it as rental property. It may be difficult to name all the tenants, as they are numerous and dates are vague, but an attempt is made, and results are in the following paragraphs.

November 16, 1971
The Clarence Browning Vorce family is said to have lived here from about 1899 to 1903. A daughter of the Vorce family is Mrs. W. Grant Gleason of Hatter's Lane. Mr. William Hooker of Mountain Spring Road and Mr. Birdseye, are among those who used to visit here evenings, often playing cards with the Vorces. See more regarding the Vorce family in the account of 127 Main Street.

Dr. John B. Newton and his wife, the former Martha G. Mansfield, perhaps followed the Vorces, as Dr. Newton was the resident in 1906 according to the Farmington Book and the caption under the photo of this house. He was reputedly a homeopath, made his calls by horse and buggy, which of course was usual then. It appears that he came to Farmington around 1894 and was here until 1907. His earlier residence is not known. Their daughter Doris was born in 1898. Dr. Newton practiced in Hartford after leaving Farmington, still treating some of his former Farmington patients.

Dr. Royal E. S. Hayes, also said to have been a homeopath, is stated to have lived here also, and appears to have practiced in Farmington from 1907 through 1911.

Some say that Herbert Knox Smith and his wife lived here in their early married years, but this is not confirmed. They were married in 1908, Mrs. Smith being the former Gertrude Dietrich.

Henry H. Steiner, insurance executive, moved here from Hartford with his wife, the former Lucile Barnes of Warrenton, Georgia. Mrs. Steiner, daughter of Robert Barnes and Frances Cody, was ill during most of her residence here, and died in December 1918. Mr. Steiner later re-married in Farmington, and lived on Waterville Road. The date of the move from here to Waterville Road is not known, but it appears that it was before 1918.

The next tenants were Mr. and Mrs. Harold Holderness and their daughter Elise, whose occupancy here must have been during 1918, as the building to the rear, which they knew as "The Cottage", was used as headquarters of the local Red Cross during the war. The Holderness family moved from here to 37 High Street, into the house which is now the Farmington Museum, but more is written of them in the account of the house at 36 High Street, which they owned later.

Katherine S. Thompson, wife of John H. Thompson, purchased the property from Lewis C. Root on October 28, 1919. The Thompsons, with a son of about seventeen, came here from Hartford. John Henry Thompson, an insurance executive, had been born in Pella, Iowa, in 1873, the son of Abraham Thompson of Reddington, New York, and Anna Westfall of Unionville, New York. Mrs. Thompson was the former Katherine Elmira Stone. Mr. Thompson was interested in local affairs and served as the first secretary of the Farmington Village Green and Library Association, succeeded later by Mrs. Truman Sanford, the former Helen Wadsworth. The Thompson's son, Hayward Stone Thompson, born in New Haven, was married in 1924 to Elizabeth Trumbull Robinson, daughter of Henry Seymour Robinson and Sarah Morgan Goodwin. THEIR daughter, Katherine Elizabeth Thompson, was born in Farmington.

November 16, 1971.
Omitted from the previous page is the name of Dr. Richard Blackmore, who is said to have lived in this house also. It appears that he practiced in Farmington during the years 1911 to 1913.

An interesting tenant was Eugene O. Peabody, but the date of his residence here is not known, although it appears to have been perhaps during some period between April 1916 and sometime after April 1917, from what he says regarding the war. He is known to have lived also on Waterville Road, and town records support this. A lease is recorded, from Noah Wallace to him, of the house at 9 Waterville Road, for the period of two years and nine months, from the date of August 1, 1913, until the date of May 1, 1916. It is the writer's belief that his tenancy at 16 Main Street was subsequent to the above. The Peabodys have been remembered by at least two present residents, as a young and lively couple with two children, John and Dorothy. Mr. Peabody was employed in Hartford.

As of December 1970 John was the Very Reverend John N. Peabody of the Cathedral Church of the Incarnation, in Baltimore, Maryland. Dorothy was the widow of a Mr. Hayman, and resided in Doyleston, Pennsylvania.

Some time during early October of 1969 the Rev. John Peabody took his parents, in celebration of their sixtieth wedding anniversary, on a trip through New England, viewing the fall foliage and visiting all the various towns in which they had lived during their sixty years of marriage. One of their stops was at 16 Main Street. Mr. and Mrs. Aspinwall were not at home but their daughter Susan was, and she brought them in to see the house. Not long after that a "thank you" letter was received, and part of it, relating to the house, is quoted below, following a mention of "Mr. Root, from whom we purchased the place":

"When we bought it, there were two small rooms each side of the main hall. We took out partitions, making one large room on each side. We put in fireplaces in each one, corner cupboards, a butler's pantry, lighting, new floors in living room and dining room. ... We just loved it and it was a terrible wrench to leave it all. You may not know that during World War I, the little cottage, we fixed it up as a meeting place for the Red Cross". Before closing the letter he said: "I have a very sweet and lovely wife, and just last Friday was my 86th birthday".

The writer does not think that Mr. Peabody ever owned this house, at least could find no record of it, although the lease of 9 Waterville Road was on record. He certainly spoke as if he owned it, especially in regard to alterations made.

Mr. Peabody and his wife and son had dinner that evening at the Farmington Country Club but could find no one who remembered them, although several people were here who do remember them. The last word from Mr. Peabody was a Christmas card dated December 7, 1970. He said his wife had been quite ill but was improving. They were living at that time with their daughter, whose husband had died in 1967.

July 7, 1972
Mr. John H. Thompson died in February 1940, and Mr. Thompson was married during the next year to the widow of Herbert Knox Smith, the former Gertrude Dietrich, whose husband had died in 1931. Mr. Thompson moved to his second wife's home on Mountain Spring Road, which stood on the site of "Westward", the former home of the Smiths, which had burned in 1924. See photo on page 6 of the Farmington Book.

In March 1944 Mr. Thompson sold this house at 16 Main Street to Hiram Bissell Carey, Jr., and his wife, the former Anne Holladay Shafer, daughter of Dallas D. Shafer and Nancy Holladay of Richmond, Virginia. Mr. Carey is the son of the late H. B. Carey and Mary Elizabeth Barney, who had lived at 729 Farmington Avenue. He is a graduate of Yale and Yale Law School. He was first associated with the law firm of Buck and McCook, then a member of the firm of Hoppin, Carey and Powell until 1951. He is general counsel for Hartford Electric Light Company and Northeast Utilities, is Senior Vice President of the latter, and holds various directorships. Mr. and Mrs. Carey and their family lived here until 1953 when they moved into a house which they built on Mountain Spring Road, on land formerly owned by Austin D. Barney.

The Careys have four children: Hiram Bissell III (Ted), Mary Holladay, Nancy Sheldon and Dallas Shafer. Ted has been in the Navy three years, taught school for one, and is now studying law. His wife is the former Sharon Fitzgerald, and they have two young daughters, Shannon and Rebecca. Mary Holladay is now Mrs. David Handlin. They live in Cambridge, Massachusetts, where she is teaching and he is an architect just starting his career. Nancy Sheldon is now Mrs. Leonard Atherton. They live in St. Catherine, Ontario, Canada. She works in a law office in Buffalo, N. Y., and he is conductor of the St. Catherine Symphony Orchestra. Dallas is a photographer for a newspaper in Morganton, North Carolina.

A photograph in the Miss Porter's School Bulletin of Winter, 1972, shows Ted Carey and his wife and their two daughters on Main Street, Farmington. They are the new house directors in "Brick", the dormitory at 48 Main Street. Sharon is a graduate of Skidmore College and has taught English in New Haven and Hartford schools. As stated above, Ted is a law student at U-Conn.

February 8, 1973

Mary Smith, wife of Stuart Smith, purchased this house from the Careys in May, 1953, to be the home of herself and her husband. Mrs. Smith is the former Mary Ellsworth of Simsbury. Mr. Smith had come to Farmington not long after his arrival in Hartford from Philadelphia, where he had been branch manager for Connecticut General Insurance Company. He first lived at 4 Waterville Road, was made Vice President of Connecticut General, and a Director, by 1950, and then later married Mary Ellsworth, his second wife. They sold this house in 1962. Mr. Smith is now retired. The first thing they did after retirement was to restore an old Vermont house which had been in the family since Colonial days, living half years in Vermont and Florida. The Smiths now alternate between three months here in Heritage Woods and nine months in Naples, Florida. An account of alterations and improvements of 16 Main Street by the Smiths is on the following page.

August 15, 1972  Note: H. B. Carey Jr died Feb 7, 1974
The Smiths had remodeled the house to some extent after they purchased it, and Mr. Smith tells of the changes in more or less the following words, placed in quotes, although not exactly verbatim.

"The center staircase we did not change. To the left is the living room. We left that as it was, except for the removal of a small door to the right of the fireplace and a "coffin door", or "funeral door", to its left. We removed the south porch and added a southwest porch, closed in, with access from the living room and den, which leads to the garden.

"As we started to look at the house closely, we could not understand what held it up in back, we could see no visible supports. It was a matter of some curiosity and after much examination we found a hand-hammered rod hanging from the ridge pole. It came down through the center of the house and is still there. We put a beam across the living room, just for safety's sake, I guess.

"For the study, or den, I was able to get from a man in New Hampshire some over-ripe, but none the less original pumpkin pine. In colonial days this was called 'king's arrow pine'. It was used extensively for ships' masts, and there was a death penalty for cutting it without royal permission. How did I happen to find it? I read of it in the Wall Street Journal, and the next day my wife and I and Norris Prentice were on the way up to see the owner, who was making antique furniture of it as a hobby. It took some convincing, but he finally agreed that our study would be an appropriate place for some of it. All the walls of the den, or library, are either paneled with this wood, or hidden by cabinets, cupboards or shelves made of it. It is very old wood and no finish has ever been applied to it. The color and texture are entirely natural. The floor of this room is of chestnut found in the attic.

"On the first floor we also put in a powder room. It is to the right as one passes from the den to the kitchen, and we had to move the basement stairs, which had gone down from that point. We modernized the kitchen and its appliances.

"Upstairs we redecorated the master bedroom and covered up a bit of old paneling which we could not use. A chimney ran through one of the two small guest rooms, so we put in a fireplace, removed the partition to make one large room, and put in a new ceiling. Removal of the old ceiling resulted in a foot and a half of corncobs on the floor, assumed to have been used as insulation. We put in a third bath, this to serve the guest room. We tried to do everything as carefully as we could. We had a fine colonial architect, and also a very fine workman, the 'Farmington House Doctor', Emmet Harris, who later did the Elm Tree Apartments. He never made much money but did wonderful work.

"As to the garden, it was planned with the help of Fletcher Steele, 'one of the Deans of American Landscape Architecture', of Boston. It is designed as a theater. The 'Tuffa' stone, of which the walls are made, was a whole carload from near Zanesville, Ohio, about the only place it is found. It is light of weight, and porous, and seems like petrified vegetable matter. It aids the growth of perennial rock plants. The die for the many fountains was made in Cambridge. It is a wonderful garden and took three years to complete, repairs after the 1955 flood having taken away the equipment for some time. Dominic Battista was the gardener who kept it up."

August 12, 1972
Mr. and Mrs. Robert Ashton Aspinwall purchased this house in June 1962. Mr. Aspinwall, born in Brooklyn, New York, is the son of John Ashton Aspinwall and Susan Boggs. The elder Mr. Aspinwall, born in England, came to the United States as a youth, via the wheatfields of Canada, and followed their product to Brooklyn where he engaged in the baking business, being with Wright's Baking Company for many years. Mrs. Aspinwall is the former Marguerite DuBois Abrew, born in Elizabeth, New Jersey. Her parents were Forrest William Abrew and Edith Rebecca DuBois, whose Huguenet ancestors settled New Paltz, New York, in the seventeenth century. Mr. Abrew, born in Fort Jefferson, New York, was in business with his father in masonry supplies.

Robert Aspinwall is an accounting graduate of Pace College, New York, and was in the public accounting business until 1945. In that year he entered the employ of Sikorsky Aircraft and in 1958, still staying with United Aircraft, he joined Pratt and Whitney in East Hartford, where he is now its treasurer. Mrs. Aspinwall is a graduate of business college and was occupied with secretarial work for a time. They have three children: Carol, John and Susan.

Carol Jane, a graduate of Connecticut College for Women of New London, Connecticut, is now Mrs. Martin C. Miller, her husband a graduate of New London's Coast Guard Academy. They are living in Old Saybrook while he teaches at the Academy. He will be entering Oregon State University in Corvallis, Oregon, this fall, where he will continue his work toward a Ph. D. in Science, for which he has already done some work at the University of Rhode Island. They have two children. Kathryn DuBois is four and Andrew Martin is two, the best ages for grandchildren.

John Forrest Aspinwall, a graduate of Mt. Hermon Academy and Ohio Wesleyan, was married in September 1971 to Gail Marie Perkins, daughter of Mr. and Mrs. James P. Brennan of Plainville, Connecticut. His wife is a graduate of Hartford Hospital's School of Nursing. At the time of their marriage he was a naval lieutenant stationed at San Diego, California, where his wife was employed at the University Hospital. He is out of the navy now and finishing his graduate studies at California Western University. They will be returning to Connecticut this fall.

Susan Edith is in her second year at Alfred University, Alfred, New York, majoring in nursing.

The Aspinwalls are interested in Farmington and active in local affairs. Mr. Aspinwall is a member of the Exchange Club and has served on the Scholarship Committee. He is a Corporator of the Farmington Savings Bank and a member of the Prudential Committee of the Congregational church. Mrs. Aspinwall has been for six years chairman of the Civic Committee of the Garden Club. She also represents that club on a committee headed by Mrs. John G. Lee, a Save-the-Trees and Civic Betterment Committee. This committee has aided greatly in the making of Farmington's Historic District a National Historic Site. She is also a member of the Ladies' Visiting Committee of Oak Hill School for the Blind.

June 6, 1972

The Aspinwalls have added a small porch at the rear door of the house, and put a closet in the kitchen, this being the extent of alterations that they felt were needed, the Smiths having done such a fine job of alteration and improvement nineteen years ago. They have however, changed the color of the outside of the house from white to gray -- it was continually turning gray from the dust anyway. The painting was done by Larry Rose.

June 6, 1972

Six Farmington homes were opened on May 19, 1973, to people who joined a tour sponsored by the Junior Women's Club of Farmington. Mrs. Henry Palm is President of the club, and Mrs. Norman Kemp, President-elect. The only historic house included in the tour was this of Mr. and Mrs. Robert Aspinwall at 16 Main Street.

May 28, 1973