Located on a well-shaded lot along the south side of Mountain Road, the Samuel Deming Cottage is bordered by other historic dwellings erected in the nineteenth century. This portion of Mountain Road which lies in the center of Farmington village, is included in both the National Register district and state-enabled local districts.
This house was originally erected as a one-and-one-half-story cottage oriented gable-to-street. In 1885 a second story was added and an ornate Victorian porch was incorporated onto the facade. The house was turned 90° to the west to its present location in 1915. Today the house faces ridge-to-street and exhibits a two-story enclosed entry porch on the west elevation. The north elevation features a long, narrow quadripartite sash and a shed-roofed dormer. An exterior brick chimney and one-and-one-half-story ell are found on the east side. Both six-over-six and two-and-two sash are displayed throughout the house.

Although a definite date can not be assigned to this building, it may have been constructed as early as 1850 by Samuel Deming. It appears on the 1855 and 1869 maps attributed to S. Deming. The property on which the house was built was inherited by Samuel from his father's estate in 1810 (FPR 6:407). Born in Farmington, Samuel Deming (1798-1884) was the only son of John and Susanna (Cowles) Deming. He was a successful farmer and active abolitionist. In 1821 Samuel married Catherine Matilda Lewis and they resided with their family at 66 Main Street. This house may have been built as rental property or as a home for one of Samuel's newly married children. In 1873 the property was distributed to Chauncey Deming, the youngest son of Samuel (FPR 14:312). A farmer like his father, Chauncey also served as vice-president of the Farmington Savings Bank. Presumably, the property was rented during this period. In 1885 George Gallagher purchased the house and enlarged it by adding a second story, rear ell, and Victorian-period porch (FLR 68:214). Born in Ireland, Gallagher (1833-1907) was employed as a gardener by Miss Porter's School. His wife, the former Catherine Moore (1834-1910) was also a native of Ireland. In 1907 the property was distributed to the heirs of George Gallagher (FPR 28:251). Eventually his daughter Sarah and her husband Issac F. Miles acquired full title to the house (FLR 76:159, 76:464). The next owners, Lawrence and Edith Howard bought the lot and dwelling in 1915 (FLR 77:554). Howard, a lawyer was responsible for turning the house 90° so the gable faced away from the road and for the remodeling. The house remained in the Howard family until 1949. (see below)

OWNER'S NAME: (THOMPSON, GERTRUDE D)  

EST. TO HOUSE, ALLEN C.  

ADDITIONAL INFORMATION: The house originally stood nearer the street & was moved back & turned a quarter toward the west - the present west side being the original front. The work was done when the place was purchased by L. & Edith Howard.

ADDRESS: 16 Mountain Road  

DATE BUILT: ca. 1850  

FOR: Samuel Deming


ARCHITECT

MASTER-BUILDER

Small addition made to west side in 1950 by R.F. Jones, Margaret (Gallagher) Peters says when the house was purchased by George Gallagher, her uncle, it was a 1½ story cottage painted yellow. An ell was added, and a full story.
This house is pictured on page 170 of the Farmington Book as the residence of George Gallagher. To the right in the photo may be seen identifiable portions of the houses at 14 and 10 Mountain Road, which are pictured fully in page 172. Baker and Tilden's Atlas of 1869 shows the house as "S. Deming", and as the first house on the right, above School Street, which was correct at that time.

The library file shows that the house was built in 1850 for Samuel Deming, 1798-1871, son of John Deming, merchant, and Susannah Cowles. Samuel is supposed to have been living at this time in the house now known as 66 Main Street, so it is not known why he built this house on Mountain Road. It is possible that he built it for rental, but it is also possible that he built it for his son John, who was married in 1846 to Catherine Williams. We do not know where John Deming lived year by year, but he seemed to have lived in several different places. He had a son Edward Hooker Deming who was born in 1857 in Northampton, Massachusetts, and he later had a son John Mix Deming, who was born in Farmington in 1862, possibly in this house. The first mentioned son was later the well known and very well respected Judge E. H. Deming of 100 Main Street, who lived there until his death in 1927.

In 1886 this house was purchased by George Gallagher, 1833-1907, whose wife was Catherine Moore, 1834-1910. They were both born, and had been married, in Ireland. George Gallagher appears to have the sixth of nine brothers and sisters who had come from Ireland, perhaps together. A list of these nine is included in the account of the house at 18 High Street. Mr. Gallagher worked in the gardens of Miss Porter's School. He raised beautiful roses, both in the school's gardens and at home. He was reputedly very well liked by Miss Porter. A photo of a portrait of George Gallagher and his brother Henry of 14 Mountain Road is shown below. The portrait was painted by Robert Brandegee who had lived at 36 High Street, and was shown to the public in an exhibition in New Britain in March and April of 1971.
Mrs. Gallagher was the daughter of James and Margaret Gallagher. The George Gallagher children were:

Mary, 1858-1877, who married Frederick F. Hurlburt in 1877, no children.

Sarah, 1856-1944, married in 1880 to Isaac F. Miles, 1858-1921. It has been stated that they moved to New Britain and that Mr. Miles became State Senator. Their son Harry Edward became postmaster in New Britain, and their daughter Rita married one Harold Prentice.

William, married Jennie De Wolf. See account of 776 Farmington Avenue, where they lived.

Susan, 1865-1892, married Harold True, a daughter Susan having been born to the marriage.

Grace, 1868-1912, was married in 1903 to Edward Bennett, believed to have had no children, and

Catherine, who was married in 1890 to Thomas Hart. They are stated to have lived for a time next door to her parents, and later for a time in the Carrie Porter house on the site of the present house at 24 Mountain Road. They then lived in the house at 99 Main Street and in 1895 bought the house at 6 Pearl Street. See more regarding them in the account of that house.

George Gallagher is stated to have enlarged this house when he bought it, adding a second floor and also an ell, although the latter does not show in the 1906 photo.

Mr. Gallagher died in 1907, and his widow in 1910, after which the title passed to Sarah Miles, their daughter. It passed from her to her husband in 1914, and the Howards purchased the property in 1915.

Lawrence A. Howard and his wife Edith were the purchasers in 1915, probably moving here from Hartford. Mr. Howard was an attorney, of the Hartford firm of Day, Berry and Howard. He was a charter member of the American Legion in Farmington, the James Palache Post #53, the charter for which was granted on October 22, 1919. At some time during the Howards' residence here they had the house turned a one-quarter turn to the right, which placed the front entrance door on the west instead of the north. It was also moved a short distance farther from the street. Mrs. Hurlburt notes on page 303 of "Town Clerks" that Mrs. Lawrence A. Howard was one of five citizens named on August 8, 1925, to be on the High School Building Committee. It was that committee which chose the site of the present Farmington High School, which was dedicated on June 7, 1928. The Howards' daughter Elizabeth was on July 24, 1937, married to Henry Parker Jones, son of Frank Jones and Catherine Wyman. Dr. Jones took up the practice of medicine in Beaufort, North Carolina. A daughter was born to them but Mrs. Jones did not live many years afterward. Mrs. Howard went down there to care for the child, her husband remaining here until his retirement. Barbara Howard married Kleinschmidt.

Mr. Howard sold this house in 1949 and also moved to N. Carolina.

July 18, 1971
The purchaser in 1949 was Gertrude Dietrich Knox Thompson. She had been the wife of Herbert Knox Smith of Mountain Spring Road until his death in 1931, and ten years later she married John Henry Thompson, of 16 Main Street, long time friend of both her husband and herself. He died in 1946. In 1949 she sold the home on Mountain Spring Road where she had lived with both her husbands, and purchased this house.

It will be noted, if one walks on the south side of Mountain Road up past this house, that there are near the east side of the lot, some steps leading up from the street to the sidewalk, and a railing alongside the steps. These steps formerly led to the front entrance to the house, as will be seen in the photo on page 170. After the house had been moved by the Howards these steps did not provide access to the front entrance, but Mrs. Thompson wished to make them safer for use, so she had the railing built. She also had another addition built to the house, the work being done by the R. F. Jones Company.

Mrs. Thompson was killed in a KLM airline accident, a crash in Ireland on September 5, 1954. See more regarding Mrs. Thompson as Mrs. Herbert Knox Smith in the account of the house at 67 Mountain Spring Road.

Allen Clifton House and his wife, the former Elaine Mitchell, bought the house from the estate of Mrs. Thompson in January of 1955. In 1957 Mr. and Mrs. House separated and were divorced, and Mrs. House received title to this property. She sold it in May 1961 to Gerald R. Putnam, present owner and occupant. See more regarding Allen C. House and his family in the account of the house at 11 Mountain Road.

July 18, 1971

Purchaser of this house in 1961, having just previously owned and occupied the house at 90 Main Street, was Gerald Robinson Putnam.

Mr. Putnam, born in Cranford, New Jersey, is the son of Olin Still Putnam, born in Johnstown, New York, and Marcia Huntington Furman, born in Cranford, New Jersey. Olin Putnam was employed by Merck and Company in Rahway, New Jersey, at the time of his death in 1923. Mrs. Putnam was married two years later to Joseph N. Van Deventer.

The Van Deventers came to Farmington in 1934 after their having been appointed sales manager of Seth Thomas Clock Company in Thomaston. They lived in a small Cape Cod house on Mt. Spring Road until 1938, and then a year on the Merriam estate on Waterville Road. Seth Thomas was taken over by General Time in 1939 and Mr. Van Deventer later became Vice President and New York Sales Manager for Warren Woolen Mills of Stafford Springs, Connecticut. He died in 1951. Mrs. Van Deventer presently resides in Jamesburg, New Jersey.

Gerald Putnam was graduated from Loomis Institute in 1939. He served in World War II in what was then the Army Air Corps, and was a pilot with the 8th Air Force in England, attaining the rank of Captain and being decorated with the Air Medal with three clusters.

July 23, 1973
Captain Putnam's total service period was from December 1941 until November 1945, and he was a Prisoner of War from March 1944 until the end of the war. He was graduated from Princeton in 1947, as a member of the class of 1943.

Mrs. Gerald Putnam is the former Nancy Atkinson Darsie, born in Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania, the daughter of John A. Darsie of Pittsburgh, and Mary Wharton Bemis of Ft. Smith, Arkansas. Mr. Darsie, 1913 graduate of Yale (Scientific), was an engineer for Westinghouse and General Cable. He died in 1957, Mrs. Darsie in 1964. Nancy Darsie Putnam is a graduate of Masters School of Dobbs Ferry, New York.

Mr. and Mrs. Putnam were married in Plainfield, New Jersey, in 1946. Mr. Putnam became Vice President of Metropolitan Fire Insurance Company, a Hartford-based professional re-insurance company in 1958, and they moved to Farmington in 1959, living at 90 Main Street until purchasing this house in 1961. Mr. Putnam left the insurance business in 1965 and for several years was active in Paneloc Corporation until he sold his share in 1968. Since that time he has been engaged in consulting and marketing activities. They have five children, four born in Plainfield and one in Hartford.

Kimberly Holmes Putnam, Oxford School 1965 and Bennett College 1967, was two years in Madrid as bi-lingual secretary with General Electric and the U. S. Air Force, now is executive secretary with the Cabot Corporation in Boston, living in Marblehead, Mass.

Anne Darsie Putnam, Dana Hall School 1967 and Colby Junior College 1969, was married in 1969 to Hunter S. Townsend. He had completed South Kent School and one year at Union College when he was called to Coast Guard service. He is stationed at the Coast Guard Academy in New London. He is assistant crew coach, having rowed at South Kent, where he was graduated in 1968. They live on Mason's Island, Mystic, Connecticut, have one child, Thomas Brooks Townsend.

Nancy Atkinson Putnam, a 1970 graduate of Oxford School, is a student at Vassar.


John Darsie Putnam is a student at Kingswood School, West Hartford.

The Putnams are sports-oriented, Mr. Putnam having been Director, President and General Manager of the Farmington Field Club, and all of them members of the Adirondack Mountain Reserve, Ausable Club, St. Huberts, New York. Mrs. Putnam is active in the local Visiting Nurses' Association, Farmington Garden Club and the Red Cross.

July 23, 1973