**Surrounded by woodlands, the Helen F. Andrews Studio faces on Aqueduct Road near its intersection with Talcott Notch Road. The surrounding area, which was once actively farmed, has experienced little residential development.**
The facade of this small gambrel-roofed building displays a large multi-paned window, commonly found on many studios of the early twentieth century. A modern gambrel-roofed garage extends from the east elevation. The studio was converted to a residence in 1953.

Erected around 1900 this small dwelling was originally built as a painting studio for Miss Helen F. Andrews, a well-known, local landscape artist. The studio was built on land owned by her uncle, James H. Andrews, and replaced an older dwelling which stood on the site (FLR 68:405). Born in Farmington, Miss Andrews was the daughter of Franklin A. and Jennie (Bulky) Andrews and a descendant of John Andrews, one of Farmington's original proprietors. She taught art classes at St. Margaret's School in Waterbury and later was the art instructor at the Westover School in Middlebury. In the mid-1940's Miss Andrews moved to Amherst, Massachusetts to live with her younger sister, Annie (Andrews) Hawley.

Although the building has been somewhat modified over the years, it remains historically significant for its association with the Andrews family.
ANDREW, HAROLD F.

1951 - res.

ADDRESS: 19 Aqueduct Lane

DATE BUILT: ca 1900 FOR: Helen Andrews studio. It was converted to a building in 1948 by adding a kitchen.

ARCHITECT

MASTER-BUILDER

James H. & Frederick H. Andrews

FORMER OWNERS: None - the land was in the Andrews family for about 300 years.

REFERENCES:
Aqueduct Lane
Helen F. Andrews Studio

Of the two houses on Aqueduct Lane in 1970, only one had been built prior to the publication of the Farmington Book. This was the Helen F. Andrews Studio, pictured on page 63, now the house farthest east, and situated on the south side of the lane nearly at the top.

It was built in 1900 for the use of Miss Andrews as a studio, on land belonging to the Fred B. Andrews family who lived just above, on Talcott Notch Road, in a house pictured on this same page. An old house said to have been owned by Henry Olden and his wife had previously stood on approximately this same site. Harold Andrews remembers his father telling him of Mr. Olden making the trip to Hartford with his yoke of oxen, starting before daylight and returning after dark. Mr. Condron, the present owner, has found stones of the old foundation and parts of the old well used by the Oldens.

The writer has found nothing about Mr. Olden except an incidental mention in Mrs. Hurlburt's "Town Clerks", in which he is named as Mr. Olin. It is in regard to a new road which is being authorized on March 24, 1876 "commencing near the house recently occupied by Henry Olin and crossing the Mountain by the 'rout' recently examined by the selectmen, and terminating near the house of Mr. Nott". This would have been the first authorization of the building of Talcott Notch Road.

Helen Andrews was the daughter of Franklin A. Andrews and Jennie Bulkly of the house pictured on page 63 as that of James H. Andrews, her uncle, with whose family she grew up as her own mother died at the birth of a younger daughter Annie. She continued living in that same house until 1923, when she and two cousins and her sister Annie moved to Garden Street.

This studio was never used for any purposes other than her painting, until after she moved from Farmington. Miss Andrews was quite a prolific artist, largely devoting her talents to landscapes, pastoral and otherwise, and her paintings are to be found in the homes of many long-time Farmington residents. One donated by Harold Andrews to the Village Library, depicts the aqueduct piers as they appeared early in this century. They were torn down after the 1955 flood. Another which is in the home of her nephew Raymond Andrews shows a cornfield north of her studio, across the lane, the field covered with shocks of cornstocks just harvested. The field is now overgrown with brush and small trees. The Courant on October 4, 1924, mentions Miss Andrews as "a talented portrait-painter of rare ability".

Miss Andrews taught art at St. Margaret's School in Waterbury, and later at Westover in Middlebury, where Miss Hillard had gone from St. Margaret's as Headmistress, the school having been built for her by Miss Pope. Miss Andrews left Farmington around the middle 1940's, going to Amherst to live with her sister Annie, who had married the Rev. John Hawley after the death of his first wife (Annie's sister) in 1937. Miss Helen Andrews died in Amherst in her 80's.
The studio and about four acres of land were purchased in 1948 by George B. Condron of Hartford, and later of West Hartford. The Andrews family had been using it for a poolroom for some time after their cousin had left. Mr. Condron converted it to a residence by a large addition to the east and some changes in the interior, but the original shape of the studio was retained, and the huge north window which Miss Andrews had used for uniform light. Here Mr. Condron brought his recent bride, the former Lois Gorman, also of Hartford and West Hartford, and as of 1970 they still live here. Mr. Condron, a sheet metal worker himself, has secured some metal sculptures which adorn the bridge over the little brook between their house and Aqueduct Lane. They have two of Miss Andrews' paintings hanging in the former studio.

October 3, 1971