Set close to the south side of Hatters Lane, this building is well shaded by pines. The surrounding neighborhood contains primarily residential architecture dating from the eighteenth, nineteenth, and twentieth centuries. This area is included in both the Farmington Historic District and National Register District.
This small nineteenth-century building is devoid of any architectural embellishments. The original portion of the shop features an exposed brownstone foundation with entry door and six-over-six sash. Note the small window to the left of the entrance. The ridge-to-street roof exhibits a large overhanging eave supported by three slender braces. A slender brick chimney rises from the center of the roof. The single story enclosed porch is a later addition.

### Historical or Architectural Importance

While its date of construction cannot be exactly determined through the land records, this building may have been erected around 1850 by Solomon Cowles as a soap and candle shop or tenement cottage. Cowles (1796-1866), the son of Isaac and Lucina (Hooker) Cowles, received his father's homestead at 149 Main Street in 1834 (FLR 45:127). Solomon, like his father, was a farmer, but also manufactured soap and candles. In 1858 he sold the homestead with "dwelling house, barns, soap factory shop and tenements" to his son-in-law, Charles H. Oley (FLR 57:35). Cowles took title again in 1860 (FLR 57:153). The firm of Warren and Company foreclosed on a mortgage given by Cowles to the New Haven Savings Bank and took title to the property in February of 1863 (FLR 57:290). Ira Hadsell purchased the homestead, surrounding acreage and other buildings shortly thereafter (FLR 57:295). In 1870 Amasa Holcomb of Bloomfield bought the "Solomon Cowles Homestead", which included this small building along the south side of Hatters Lane (FLR 61:274). The next owner was carriage maker, Anson Porter who acquired the property in 1862 (FLR 61:412). In 1893 Porter sold Mrs. Louise Lyon Moore this small building and the surrounding 1 1/8 acre for $1100 (FLR 68:640). Mrs. Moore and her husband Jesse, erected a new dwelling on the front portion of the lot (141 Main) and may have resided in this cottage before the new house was completed. The Moores, who lived part of the year in Hartford, later rented out both the new house and the small cottage. Artist Walter Griffin lived here for a number of years, as well as the Moore's son, David, shortly after his marriage. He was an avid radio enthusiast, and had the first radio in Farmington which is believed to have been set up in this cottage. The property was sold out of the Moore family in 1952. (see cont. pg.)

### Sources


### Photograph

Nathan Ainspan

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>View</th>
<th>Negative on File</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>SW</td>
<td>15:21A</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

### Compiled By

Greater Middletown Preservation Trust

27 Washington Street, Middletown, CT

### Threats to Building or Site

- None known
- Highways
- Vandalism
- Developers
- Other
- Renewal
- Private
- Deterioration
- Zoning
- Explanation
Although architecturally undistinguished, this building is notable as an early shop and/or tenement. It is significant as one of the few survivors of the period when Farmington village contained a number of eighteenth-century cottage industries including a hat shop, fulling mill, and callender shop.
Owner's Name: Moore, Louise Lyon
Dickinson, Roger H.

Address: 2 Hatters Lane

Date Built: ca 1870

FOR: Solomon Cowles

Additional Information:

Photo No.: 1960

Former Owners: Moore, Louise Lyon from Anson H. Porter 3/31/1893
Vol. 68, p. 640; Porter from Amasa Holcomb 2/26/1872
Vol. 61, p. 412, 60 acres and all buildings, t is included the Cowles homestead, now the Wzrner house, and the old shop in the rear, now the Moore house: and possibly this small house which was on the 1 & 1/8 acres when purchased by Louise L. Moore in 1893: Holcomb from Ira Hadsell 6/10/1870, Vol. 61, p. 274, same: Hadsell from Warren et al. the homestead of Solomon Cowles, 8 acres & all bldgs by foreclosure for a debt of $700., 3/14/1863, Vol. 57, p. 295 over.

References:
"Farmington, Conn., 1906" p 131.

This small house is not shown on the Baker & Tilden Atlas 1869, and as all buildings are shown that were erected at that date, this may have
been built by Solomon Cowles as a farmer's house and considered insignificant or as a shop in connection with his soap and candle business, or may not have been built then. Mrs Moore said it was on the property when she bought it and she and Mr Moore lived there until their house was built. The house shown on p. 33 of the Baker & Tilden Atlas as on the property of the then owner, Ira Hadsell, may have been the very old house which stood east of the present rear driveway and which the Moores bought and had rebuilt into their present house and this old house, may in turn have been the house where Roger Newton and Samuel Hooker lived and been moved back by one of the Cowles to be used as a shop.
This small house is pictured on page 131 of the Farmington Book as the residence of Jesse Moore. Although Jesse Moore's usual residence was the house at 141 Main Street, just west of this, it was being occupied in 1906 by Harold W. Douglas, as indicated by the caption under its photograph on page 98 of the same book.

The house is not shown on Baker and Tilden's 1869 Atlas, so it was either built later, or considered too small to be worth entering in the atlas. It is thought that it may have been built by Solomon Cowles as a farmer's house, or possibly as a shop in connection with his soap and candle business. Mrs. Jesse Moore has stated that it was on the property when she purchased it, as Louise Lyons Moore, from Anson H. Porter.

Prior ownership of this property was the same as that at 149 Main Street, since all the land north of that house, to Hatter's Lane, was included with the house.

Ira Hadsell had acquired it on March 14, 1863.

Amasa Holcomb had purchased from Ira Hadsell June 10, 1870

Anson House Porter from Amasa Holcomb of Bloomfield, on February 19, 1872.

This particular piece of property, which included this house and the land on which stand 141 and 143 Main Street, and extended east to the passway in the rear, was purchased by Louise Lyon Moore, wife of Jesse Moore, on March 31, 1891, while Mr. and Mrs. Moore were still living with Mrs. Moore's mother, Georgiana Van-Kleeck Lyon, in Oldgate, which she was renting at that time from the Cowles family.

More regarding the Moore family will be found in the sketch of 141 Main Street.

It will be noted by anyone entering Hatter's Lane from the north on Main Street, that there is a sign in the vacant lot just north of Hatter's Lane, regarding the encampment of the troops of General Rochambeau in June 1781, enroute to Yorktown, Virginia. Their camp was actually a little to the southwest of this point, around Tunxis Street and a little beyond, and back toward the Pequabuck River. The sign was placed where it is in order to be in a more visible spot. Robert Brandegee owned land on Tunxis Street, land which he called "Rochambeau" in honor of the general who had led the march and aided in the victory at Yorktown. They later camped here again on their return trip and both visits were gala occasions, celebrated by dances in which local belles were courted by the French officers.

Details of the occupancy of this small house have been difficult for the writer to obtain.

January 23, 1974
William Sheffield Cowles stated regarding the Moores:

"I spent a lot of my early life over at the Moores with David, who was about five years my elder. Mrs. Moore was a very charming lady and keen about kids. They lived in both the houses you mention, but I remember them most as living in the little red house on Hatter's Lane".

Someone has said that Jesse Moore had two monkeys while living here, "Ignatz and Katinka, very mischievous".

The late David Moore, who was born in Oldgate, remembered the Zachary Taylors and the Rices, in connection with the Zachary Taylor house to the rear, but was not able to pinpoint the date when they moved away.

David Moore was an early radio fan and enthusiast, and had perhaps the first radio in Farmington, and it was set up in this house which he used as a "radio shack". Again, see 141 Main Street. He also lived here as a bachelor for some little time after World War I. The writer has a note which reads: "Mr. and Mrs. David Moore lived here for a while when first married. She hated it!"

Prior to that however, Walter Griffin spent some years in Farmington as an artist, and is said to have lived here, at least part of the time. He advertised in the Farmington Magazine at the turn of the century, his ad reading: "Souvenir Sketch Book of Farmington, 12 x 15", 8 reproductions of Pen and Ink illustrations of interesting features of the old village. Walter Griffin. $5.00".

The late Mrs. Shelton, the former Gertrude Cowles of 47 Main Street, remembered studying floral design "with the artist Mr. Griffin who lived for a while in the little red house on Hatter's Lane, his wife a writer".

Mr. and Mrs. Winthrop Wadsworth rented this house the first year of their married life, 1950-1951, from Mrs. Jesse Moore.

Ownership of this little red house, not so red any more, has coincided with that of 141 Main Street for many years. The owners for a few years from July 9, 1952, were Roger H. and Cornelia W. Dickinson, and Francis E. Jr., and Patricia Barry Baker purchased on May 31, 1961, both of these couples being owners also of 141 Main Street.

Occupants 1961 to 1964 were Mrs. Janet Wilson and daughters Wendy and Jennie, followed by Mr. and Mrs. Clarence L. Harrell from 1964 to 1968 and Mr. and Mrs. Henry L. Daignault, Jr., and son Eric until 1969.

Present occupants are Maurice and Susan Hoelting.

March 16, 1974