Facing east on High Street the Keron Manion, Jr. House sits on a well-manicured lot. The surrounding neighborhood contains other historic dwellings of similar vintage. High Street is included within Farmington's local and National Register districts.
Built in 1878, the original block of this dwelling is oriented gable-to-street. Devoid of any architectural detail, the two-bay facade features replacement twelve-over-twelve sash and a small rectangular vent in the gable. The small one-and-one-half-story ell is a recent addition and was moved here from Stonington, Connecticut.

This house was built by Keron Manion, Jr. around 1878 on land he purchased for $25 from his father (FLR 65:313). Born in Farmington, Manion (1854-1916) was the son of Keron and Mary (Dillon) Manion, both natives of Ireland (see 26 High Street). The Manion family owned and operated a successful wood and coal dealership and for many years and supplied fuel to most Farmington residents. The younger Manion is also listed as a farmer and teamster and late he was involved in the trucking business. His wife, the former Elizabeth Gallagher (1857-1932) was born in Ireland. They raised seven children, although two daughters died of typhoid fever as young children. Douglas H. Thomson acquired the property in 1920 (FLR 80:172). His widow, Madora W. Thomson inherited the house in 1928 and resided here until 1937 (FLR 74:471 and FLR 91:474). It was renovated to its present appearance after 1951.

Historically notable for its association with the Manion family, this dwelling makes a significant contribution to the streetscape of High Street.

Sources:

Photographer: N. Ainspan
DATE: 4/86
VIEW: E
NEGATIVE ON FILE: 17:15

Compiled by: Elizabeth R. Hart
DATE: 4/86
ORGANIZATION: Greater Middletown Preservation Trust
ADDRESS: 27 Washington Street, Middletown, CT

Subsequent Field Evaluations:

Threats to Building or Site:
- None known
- Highways
- Vandalism
- Developers
- Other

- Renewal
- Private
- Deterioration
- Zoning
- Explanation
OWNER’S NAME COGAN, LILLIAN B.
res. - 1951
ADDRESS: 22 High Street

DATE BUILT: 1878 ca FOR: Keron Manion Jr.

ARCHITECT
MASTER-BUILDER

FORMER OWNERS:
Cogan, Lillian B. from George M. Williams 8/31/1951, Vol. 107, p. 143;
Williams, G.M. from Madora W. Thomson 7/10/1937, Vol. 91, p. 474;
Thomson, Madora W. from the estate of her husband, Douglas H. Thomson, 3/1/1928, Vol. 74,
by quit claim deed e. on High St., n. on land of H.C. Ney, s. on land of Loomis
and House; Skinner, W.C. from Estate of Keron Manion by Elizabeth Manion,
Admx., n. on Ney, 6/1/1920, Vol. 74, p. 350; Manion, Keron Jr. from his father Keron
Manion, 1/2 acre n. on land of Jane Gallagher, 175 ft. e. on highway, 114 1/2
ft. s. on land of grantor 167 ft. and w. on grantor, 105 1/2 ft., no house
mentioned, 4/11/1878, Vol. 66, p. 313; Keron Manion Jr. also received from the
estate of Mary Manion, one acre, 11/29/1895, Vol. 70, p. 593. John Flood stated
that the house was built for Keron Manion Jr.

see "Farmington, Conn., 1906" p. 157.
This house is pictured on page 157 of the Farmington Book as the residence of Keron Manion, and under the photo is mentioned his coal and wood yard. Baker and Tilden's 1869 Atlas shows two houses here, adjacent, both indicated as K. Manion. One was probably the house at 26 High Street, and the other may have been one of the two which were on his two properties when he purchased them, one in 1850 from Augustus Cowles, and one in 1864 from the Rices.

This house is stated to have been built for Keron Manion, probably Keron, Jr., in 1878. Keron, Jr's wife was Elizabeth Collins of New York, sister of Timothy Collins of Garden Street. Their children are believed to have been the following:

Margaret Agnes, 1879-1891
Mary 1881-1890
Elizabeth 1886-
Julia 1887-1918
Catherine
Keron III
Edward

Keron, Jr., continued in the fuel business, wood and coal, started by his father, having several outbuildings in the rear, stables for his horses, sheds for the wagons, and small houses for some of his employees. He served as constable at President "Teddy" Roosevelt's visit to Farmington on October 22, 1901. During his life he did a thriving business and supplied fuel for most of Farmington's needs, but after his death in 1916, and with no one to continue the business, it was terminated, and the Cadwells became the fuel dealers then.

Mrs. Manion died in Middletown on January 9, 1932.

The two sons went away to school, Keron later settling in New Jersey, and Edward became a lawyer in Pelham, New York. Catherine was married in 1922 to David Bennett, and Elizabeth died unmarried in 1928.

This house became the property of Douglas Thomson, date not known, and in 1937 it was sold by his widow, to George M. Williams, who purchased 31 Main Street. It was occupied a few years by the former Thomson gardener, who stayed on with Mr. Williams. During the war Mr. Williams rented it to "Griffith Jones' in-laws, who after the war moved to Florida". Later, until it was sold, it was rented to N. B. Morse, now vice president of Pratt and Whitney Aircraft.

Dr. and Mrs. Frank Cogan purchased the property in 1951. Dr. Cogan practiced dentistry at 775 Farmington Avenue until a few years ago, when he was succeeded by Dr. Bruce Anderson. Dr. Cogan's wife, Lillian Cogan, was named on August 8, 1971, as member of the Farmington Historic District Commission.

Appended is an article written by Mrs. Hurlburt regarding Dr. and Mrs. Cogan and their house.

August 23, 1973
Old Farmington

By Mabel Hurlburt
HEARTS AND CROWNS HOUSE
Home of Dr. and Mrs. Frank Cogan

A stranger or a friend passing a little house, not very old and not very new, with its intriguing ell, on High Street known officially as the Hearts and Crowns House, would be curious to see what could be inside, back of the old glass windows and strongly inclined to knock.

The ancient old strong door would be opened by a smiling-faced grandmotherly lady and one would find oneself suddenly and delightfully in a very ancient and suprably furnished home of the seventeenth and eighteenth centuries, but without any of the usual museum flavor - an atmosphere of home-living, as it indeed is for Dr. and Mrs. Frank Cogan.

How did it all come about? About 1934 a group of dedicated Connecticut people conceived the idea of a Connecticut Society for "saving" old houses, furniture, and traditions and formed The Antiquarian & Landmark Society, Inc., of Connecticut with the late Mrs. James Parkhill Andrews as its first president. Meetings held at the Town and County Club with a usual attendance of about fifty members were dignified and proper as a former president of The National Society of the Colonial Dames of America and who was also a former president of the Connecticut Society, would have it - proper with tea. If one were conscious that duty had been done, but woefully devoid of action. For fifteen years the life went on barely breathing until the late Marshall Holcombe came in as president but would take the post only if Lillian Cogan, would accept a position as executive secretary. Her long experience as a teacher of historic furnishings with the practical experience with antiques soon brought an avalanche of memberships. In October Ye 21 1950 the first Cogan affair took place in Farmington with an Open House tour. Well advertised, seeing Farmington houses proved an incentive beyond expectations. New members literally poured into Porter Memorial for tickets. It had started quietly enough. I had taken Mrs. Alfred Terry, to call on Mrs. Sage. At leaving Mrs. Terry, then Chairman of the Connecticut Colonial Dames Historic Houses committee, had asked Mrs. Sage if she belonged to the Antiquarian & Landmark Society and had the reply that she did not but would like to.

She also said she would be willing to open her house for that tour and serve tea. When told "about fifty" said she would serve tea. About 300 new members were added to the membership that day. When called from Porter Memorial by Mrs. Wilmarth Lewis to warn her of the impending rush and advising her to change the tea from her own house to the Porter Memorial her answer was courageous "I said I would serve tea here and I will." And so the Antiquarian & Landmarks Society was off to its continuing amazing and steady growth under the dedicated inspiration of Lillian Cogan.

Her house is like her, genuine, fascinating with the touch of realism found only in a special work of love.

The house, not very old nor very new, was built 1678 for Keron Manion, Jr., builder unknown. Keron Manion, Jr., had one-half acre from his father, Keron Senior with no house on it with Jane Gallagher living in the newly (1970) acquired Lovwood house, Hill Street now High Street on the east. On the fringe of this Cogan land when purchased was an apple tree described in a previous deed from Samual S. Cowles to Jane Gallagher "reserving to my own use a large apple tree and to my heirs and assigns its products forever without molestation" the price of the "1/2 acre" and apple tree being $87.50.

After the tree had lost its ability to "produce its products without molestation" Mrs. Cogan could have flowers growing from a still fertile old trunk.

An old fashioned garden with Sheakespearian plants, spices and flowers to support the ancient atmosphere is bordered by an old stone walk to an ancient building, interior construction exposed with such a bewildering collection of ancient tools AND the grand daddy of all chests, a high wide and handsome 166 by Dennis. Silver coin spoons with the appropriate initials, L.C. a gift from Mrs. Robert Porter Keep because the initials were those of Lillian Cogan, portraits of them and other equally famous early patriots and clergymen make something special to see at every turn.

It is a very special privilege for Farmington to have this family and its inspiration of the past for its goal for the future.

The close copy of an original seventeenth house with its curving roof, end chimney and end chimney, a recent addition to the two room house, and its early well-preserved heart and crown furnishings keeps one fascinated - and then we wish they could be here and walk into a small compartment, turn a switch and water would come out of the faucet, heat from somewhere for an oven all within a turn around reach, and all out of sight. Wouldn't it be fun to see their face.