HISTORIC RESOURCES INVENTORY
BUILDING AND STRUCTURES

STATE OF CONNECTICUT
CONNECTICUT HISTORICAL COMMISSION
59 SOUTH PROSPECT STREET, HARTFORD, CONNECTICUT 06106
(203) 566-3005

1. BUILDING NAME (Common) Scott, Captain Elisha, House

2. TOWN CITY Farmington
   STREET AND NUMBER (and or location) 240 Main Street

3. COUNTY Hartford

4. OWNER(S) MacDonald, Anna W.

5. USE (Present) Residence

6. ACCESSIBILITY EXTERIOR VISIBLE FROM PUBLIC ROAD INTERIOR ACCESSIBLE IF YES EXPLAIN
   TO PUBLIC: Yes No Yes No

7. STYLE OF BUILDING Center-chimney Colonial with Greek Revival influence

8. MATERIALS (Indicate use or location when appropriate)

   - Clapboard
   - Wood Shingle
   - Board & Batten
   - Aluminum Siding
   - Load bearing masonry
   - Wood frame
   - Wood Shingle
   - Gable
   - Gambrel
   - Asbestos Siding
   - Asphalt Shingling
   - Roll Asphalt
   - Hip
   - Roll
   - Brick
   - Stucco
   - Cut stone
   - Concrete
   - Test stone
   - Foundation
   - Slate
   - Other (Specify)

9. STRUCTURAL SYSTEM

   - Wood frame
   - Post and beam
   - Load bearing masonry
   - Structural iron or steel
   - Post and beam
   - Other (Specify)

10. ROOF (Type)

    - Gable
    - Flat
    - Mansard
    - Monitor
    - Sawtooth
    - Gambrel
    - Shed
    - Hip
    - Round
    - Other (Specify)

11. NUMBER OF STORIES APPROXIMATE DIMENSIONS

    - 2½
    - 39 x 29; 16 x 34 rear ell

12. CONDITION (Structural

13. INTEGRITY (Location

14. RELATED OUTBUILDINGS OR LANDSCAPE FEATURES

    - Barn
    - Shed
    - Garage
    - Carriage House
    - Open
    - Woodland
    - Commercial
    - Industrial
    - Rural
    - High building density

15. SURROUNDING ENVIRONMENT

16. INTERRELATIONSHIP OF BUILDING AND SURROUNDINGS

The Captain Elisha Scott House sits at the southern end of Main Street facing east towards Rattlesnake Mountain. Encroaching modern development dominates the surrounding neighborhood and has significantly altered the area's rural and agricultural character. Modern dwellings abut the property to the north and south.
This five-bay, ridge-to-street, center-chimney, colonial-period dwelling erected about 1785 features a number of Greek Revival-style characteristics. The central facade door exhibits simple pilasters supporting a heavy entablature with projecting cornice. The fully pedimented gable ends display double hung sash. Six-over-six windows are featured throughout the house. They replace the original sash and were probably installed at the time the Greek Revival-style details were added. An early twentieth-century, two-tier porch has been added to the south elevation and a 1½ story ell extends from the rear elevation. Except for the aluminum siding and minor additions, the house has changed little since its construction.

This dwelling was built around 1785 by Captain Elisha Scott on land he inherited from his father, Hezekiah Scott (FLR 18:227). This house replaced an earlier building which stood on the lot. A direct descendant of Edmund Scott, one of Farmington's original proprietors, Elisha Scott (1732–1821) was the son of Hezekiah and Mercy (Harris) Scott. During the Revolutionary War he served in Captain Stoddard's Company and Colonel Hooker's Regiment and eventually was commissioned a captain. In 1766 Elisha married Mercy North (1743–1828), the daughter of Josiah and Temperance (Baldwin) North of Farmington. The Scotts raised six children. In 1821 Elisha's two sons, Erastus and Hezekiah, inherited the homestead (FPR 8:180). Hezekiah eventually sold his younger brother his portion of the estate. Captain Erastus Scott (1787–1873) married Nancy Whiting in 1818 and they had eight children. Active in local political affairs, Captain Scott served as first selectman (1854), constable (1859), assessor, and tax collector. Like his forefathers, Erastus was most likely engaged in farming. Upon his death in 1873 the house was inherited by his two daughters, Charlotte and Nancy. Both women never married and lived here with their elder brother Thomas. In 1907 the house was sold to Elsa Patterson Campbell (FLR 77:94). Upon Miss Campbell's death five years later, the house and farmland was distributed to her mother, Mary Campbell (FLR 74:262). Gustave Wollenberg (see #180 Garden Street) acquired the property in 1915 and continued to farm the surrounding land with the help of his sons (FLR 78:569). Mr. Wollenberg remained here until his death in 1942 and the property was willed to his wife Jetty and son William. Today, the house is occupied by Gustave's daughter Anna W. MacDonald and her family. (see cont. Pg.)


Subsequent Field Evaluations

Threats to Building or Site

X None known □ Highways □ Vandalism □ Developers □ Other

□ Renewal □ Private □ Deterioration □ Zoning □ Explanation

Greater Middletown Preservation Trust

27 Washington Street, Middletown, CT
The house is historically significant due to its association with the Scott family. Architecturally significant, the house is a good example of a modest Colonial-period farmhouse.
This house is pictured on page 102 of the Farmington Book as the residence of C. and N. Scott, meaning Charlotte and Nancy. It is designated in Baker and Tilden's 1869 Atlas as "Capt. Erastus Scott".

Mrs. Hurlburt on page 372 of "Town Clerks" states that this house was built in 1785 for Elisha Scott, and it stands on property which was owned by original proprietor Edmund Scott, one of those listed on page 30 of that same book. Edmund Scott's wife was the widow of Thomas Upson, the former Elizabeth Fuller, Mr. Upson's second wife, who had married him in Hartford in 1647. Mr. Upson, whose home was just south of the main building of Miss Porter's School, died in 1655. He sold to Daniel Porter the property on which now stands Post Office Square.

The library records regarding this house state that the property was in 1691 deeded to Samuel Scott by his brother Jonathan by way of a quit-claim deed, and received from Samuel's father, Jonathan, by inheritance. Samuel, 1669-1745, was married in 1686 to Mary Orvis, 1663-1748. Jonathan was the son of Edmund, original proprietor.

One John Scott, relationship not known, but of this period, has been recorded as having been the only Farmington soldier to have taken part in the unsuccessful 1711 expedition against Quebec, the expedition having been under the command of Col. Whiting.

The library record goes on to show title transfers as follows:

1719, Samuel Scott, Jr., inherited,
1745, Hezekiah Scott inherited,
1771, Elisha Scott (who built this house) inherited,
1785, This house built, using for its chimney, bricks brought over from Berlin, Conn.,
1821, Erastus and Hezekiah inherited.

Hezekiah Scott, 1703-1765, who inherited in 1745, was married in 1728 to Mercy Harris, 1704-1799, both born in Farmington.

Elisha Scott, 1732-1821, was married in 1766 to Mercy North, 1743-1828, both born in Farmington. Elisha Scott served in the Revolution in 1777, in Captain Stoddard's company. It appears that he also served in 1776, as his brother Samuel wrote to Samuel's wife, the former Lois North, on Sept 8, 1776, from camp, saying that Elisha was well. He also said that they expected to be released from duty in a very short while, as new troops were coming in every day from Virginia. Descendants of both Elisha and Samuel are in Farmington at present, living about a quarter mile apart.

August 12, 1972

1321.
The following letters, that is the originals of these letters, were found by descendants of the Woodruff family, some members of whom are descendants of Samuel Scott, whose daughter Martha, 1775-1843, married Ozem Woodruff, 1773-1849, of East Farms, who died in Baton Rouge, Louisiana. The spelling in these letters is as near as possible to exactly what was used.

Lois Scott to her husband Aug 26th 1776

"Dear Husbunn These com to inform you that I & your children are in good helth as I hope these may finde you & brother Elisha and James, I hope that I shall alwayes hear good nues from you until your return, that I must leve to God. Take good care of yourself. I hope we shall live to see one another again. things go very well att home, all frends are in good helth in our neburhood except Capt Gridley what eales him I dont know So being in haste I must subscribe my self your deutifull & obegent wife until Death

Lois Scott"

Samuel Scott to his wife September 8, 1776

"loving freind and wife: these lions are to inform you that I thru the goodness of God am well as I hope they will find you and my children and all my freinds We are going to move our invampment today about two miels to the northward and we do expect to liv in tents our provision is mainly fresh beaf and sour bred wich makes us have a purgin. Isaac Post is dead and Solomon Gillet is dead Ruben is better Aron is well jeme Scott is well Elisha Scott is well We do expect an ingagement evry day our troops are very unisy but I am content in as muc as all our lies are at stake & I hope and trust in the God of Armeyes for our deliverance and sucsec I hope you wont forgit me in your prair to God so that if we should never see one another's face anamor in this world we may meet in the heavens above I shall depend upon Mr Cark to take care of my bisnes I wold have you send down my hors for we do think that we shall be released before a great wile the troops come in from Virginia every day Give my lov to all inquiring friends no more at presant

Samuel Scott"

The following was on the reverse:

"I wold have you send me a letter as son as you can pleas to send the sadel bags & send a letter by the man you send the hors by & git him shod if he wants I shold be very glad if you wrote den and tel me if you hav had any letter from me or no I have sent 5 or 6 leters."

Descendants of both Samuel and Elisha Scott reside in Farmington at the present time. It was the Elisha Scott mentioned above who built this house.

August 31, 1973
Erastus Scott has been noted as one of the very few persons who had been inoculated with smallpox as a preventive measure, who had later caught the disease. He did so while later caring for a patient, but his own case was not fatal. Samuel Scott and Abigail Scott also were inoculated in 1794, as shown by Hospital Rock.

Captain Scott was first noted in public service as a member appointed in 1848 to a committee formed for the purpose of either building a new town hall for the village, or repairing the Academy building, which was then being used as town hall. They apparently resorted to repair of the Academy, as the new town hall was not built until 40 years later, in 1888. His first term as selectman started in 1854, and as constable, in 1859.

The following appears on page 79 of the Farmington Book:

"Erastus Scott, the grandson of the grandson of Edmund Scott, one of the settlers of the town, was born November 6, 1787. His house still stands on land belonging to his ancestor Edmund. He was unusually prominent in the public life of the village, filling the offices of First Selectman, First Assessor, Collector of Taxes, and Constable for a long term of years, indeed his patriarchal sway embraced pretty much all matters of public utility. His popularity was unbounded and needed no help from the ways of modern politicians. He was universally known and addressed as Capt. Scott, a title more valued in the olden time than that of any doctorate, whether of laws, theology or philosophy. He died on June 28, 1873".

Erastus Scott had several children, among them those noted as follows:

Walter, 1821-1876, married Joanna Murphy of Ireland, and was father of Samuel Scott of 99 Main Street,

Cornelia, 1825-1899, married Samuel Porter Dickinson of 122 Main Street,

Mary, 1830-1916, who never married but lived with her sister Cornelia,

Thomas, 1819-1900, who lived on this homestead, unmarried, was named assessor and grand juror in 1884,

Nancy, who died prior to 1912, willing the property to Charlotte, and

Charlotte, the last of the family.

The latter two daughters were those who had inherited the homestead, after the death of their father, and of brother Thomas. They still resided here in 1906, as noted in the Farmington Book, but they sold the property during the next year. In the deed which they signed at that time they gave their address as Plainville, where they probably died.

August 13, 1972
The purchaser of the property in 1907 was Elsa Patterson Campbell, who gave her residence as Farmington at the time of her purchase. Perhaps she had rented this property for a time, or perhaps had lived somewhere else in Farmington. She was unmarried and her mother lived with her. Miss Campbell wished to try farming, and she did, doing much of it herself, although she did hire help when it was needed. She was soon to develop tuberculosis. It was she who added the two-story porch to the south side of the house, and it was there that she spent much of her time as her condition grew steadily worse.

After Elsa Campbell's death the property was inherited on April 20, 1912, by her mother, Mary Campbell. At the time of this title transfer it was stated that twenty-nine acres of the property was a piece known as "Falling Springs Farm". This was probably the portion on the other side of Main Street, extending up the hill to the Root Orchard. These springs furnished water for the Wollenbergs, Hansens, and Hotchkiss, the latter two families living a little to the south. This house itself, Elisha's homestead, used this water for all purposes until just a few years ago, when it was considered unsafe for drinking. The house farthest south across the street, one of three built in 1971, still has this spring water piped to the basement for washing and watering the lawn. An old cider mill stood on the site of the middle house of those three new ones.

August 13, 1972
On April 3, 1914, the property was again inherited, this time by Marion C. Bridgeman of Stamford, from Mary Campbell, whose last residence was stated to have been Kansas City, Missouri.

On October 16, 1915, it was purchased by Gustave Adolph Wollenberg, who had sold his property at 180 Garden Street to Winchell Smith. Gustave had eight children.

Gustave Wollenberg farmed the property for many years, aided by his sons John Albert, William Lewis and Paul Irving. The farm operation was taken over upon his death by his sons John and William, who had built houses adjacent to this one.

In 1930 William had built the house just south of this one, numbered 244, and lived there with his wife, the former Irene Minor, and their children.

In 1932 John had built the house just north of here, numbered 234, and lived there with his wife, the former Anne Foster, and their children.

Since Gustave Wollenberg's death in 1942, this house has been occupied by Mr. and Mrs. Wallace A. MacDonald (Mrs. MacDonald being the former Anna Wollenberg), and by their children, and by Dorothy Wollenberg, Mrs. MacDonald's sister.

Gustave Wollenberg, the eldest son, married Alice Benjamin and lived in Hartford.

The other children, Mary, Paul and Julius, were married and lived in other parts of Farmington.

June 26, 1973

The MacDonalds have lived all their married life in this house, having purchased it from the other heirs after the deaths of Mrs. MacDonald's parents. There is a very large chimney base in this house, and four fireplaces, although at the present time only two of them are operative. The huge kitchen fireplace with its oven, is in what is now the dining room. A smaller one, but also with a crane, is in the living room. In a smaller living room and in an upstairs bedroom, are the two smaller fireplaces which have been closed over.