Located close to the west side of Waterville Road, the Andrews Homestead sits on a level, open lot surrounding by land once actively farmed. Situated just south of the Avon town line, the surrounding neighborhood is primarily rural in character and contains few other dwellings. The Farmington River borders the property to the west.
This Colonial-period dwelling exhibits a five-bay facade capped with a ridge-to-street, gable roof and twin interior brick chimneys. The central door surround is fully Greek Revival in character and features pilasters supporting a wide entablature with a projecting cornice. The door is flanked by four-paned sidelights. The fully pedimented gable ends on the north and south elevations display a geometrically-designed rectangular sash, another common feature of the Greek Revival style. The south elevation exhibits a modest central entry door. The two-story ell with a Victorian-period porch was added in the late nineteenth century. The porch is embellished with a lattice skirt, turned columns, and cut-out work brackets. Six-over-six sash with louvered shutters are featured throughout. It should be noted that local historians Hurlburt and Lewis state this house originally had a central chimney and the facade was located on the west elevation facing the Farmington.

There is some confusion concerning the early history of this house and its construction date is somewhat uncertain. Local historians Hurlburt and Lewis claim that Elijah Andrews erected this house around 1795. Extensive research indicates that the house may have been constructed earlier. In 1732 James Andrews (1700-1761) sold the family homestead along Main Street and moved to the Waterville District of Farmington (FLR 5:312). Andrews and his wife, the former Elizabeth Gillet, had two sons, Elijah (1731-1803) and Benjamin (1734-1778). After their father's death in 1761, it appears that both Elijah, a goldsmith, and Benjamin, a wood carver and joiner, occupied their father's house and may have enlarged the homestead to its present size. In 1778, 17 years after James Andrews' death, Elijah and the heirs of Benjamin divided his real estate (FPR 2:4). The south half of the dwelling house was willed to the heirs of Benjamin; Elijah received the north half of the house. Benjamin's heirs included his children: Libbeus, Daniel, and Anne. Libbeus inherited the south half of the house and Daniel received a portion of the homelot (FPR 2:35, 132). In 1787 Libbeus, who had removed to Cannan, Connecticut, with his mother, sold his uncle Elijah "all right I have in the house and barn that Elijah now occupies" (FLR 27:443). In 1795 Elijah purchased Daniel Andrews' interest in the homelot "which is near Elijah's dwelling house" (FLR 31:278). This evidence and data collected from the grand lists of Farmington indicate that in 1795 Elijah Andrews was residing in the house he inherited from his father's estate. Elijah and his wife, Sarah (Thompson), had five children, two sons and three daughters. In 1808 Elijah's estate was distributed. James (1762-?), the eldest son, received the north part of the house and Samuel (see cont. PR) received the south part of the house. Elizabeth R. Hart, author of "History of Farmington Houses," and various local historians have provided additional information about the house and its occupants.

River. When the "Simsbury highway" was moved to the east side of the house (date unknown), the central chimney was removed and the entry door was moved to the east elevation.

19 cont. (1768-?) inherited the south half (FPR 6:113). James married Eunice Gillette in 1791 and raised nine children. Samuel married Alice Hart in 1796 and had three children. Both men were farmers. In 1823 Samuel's half of the property passed to his three children, Hiram, Huldah, and Emily (FPR 8:284). Huldah sold her share to her brother Hiram shortly thereafter (FLR 42:515). In 1836 Emily sold her portion of the homestead to her brother for $450 (FLR 46:338). James' half of the house was willed to his two sons, Amon and George, in 1823 (FPR 10:142). In 1839 they sold the "north half of the dwelling lately belonging to James Andrews" to their cousin, Hiram (FLR 48:23). Engaged in farming, Hiram (1799-1860) married Lucy F. Bishop (1802-1884), the daughter of Fitch and Lucy (Foot) Bishop, in 1823. The Andrews raised four daughters Charlotte, Lucy, Ann, and Sarah. It was probably during Hiram's ownership that the central chimney was removed and replaced with the central hall. Upon his death in 1860, the homestead was distributed to daughters: Charlotte and Lucy, subject to life use of their mother (FPR 12:270). Lucy (1832-1917), a schoolteacher, never married. Charlotte (1825-1918) married farmer Justus F. Thompson of West Avon in 1846. Mr. Thompson died in 1851 and Charlotte returned to Farmington with her son, Charles to reside in the family homestead. Later Charles (b. 1847) inherited the property from his aunt and mother (FPR 31:350; 34:228). He continued to farm the land and erected the north ell between 1880 and 1889. In 1911 electricity was installed for $55.05. Charles married his distant cousin Nellie Colvin of Illinois and they had three daughters: Maude (1881-1970), Elsie (1884-1970), and Bertha (1895-1909). In 1936 he willed the homestead to his wife and two surviving daughters (FLR 74:694). Maude and Elsie, neither of whom married, received full title in 1953 (FLR 113:381). The Thompson sisters remained here until their deaths in 1970. It appears that the present dwelling may incorporate part of James Andrews' homestead (ca. 1732) which was probably enlarged around 1761 to accommodate both the families of Elijah and Benjamin Andrews.

This building is one of the few remaining historic dwellings in the Waterville District. Historically the house derives significance for its long association with the Andrews family and for its tie with the area's agricultural development.