Located along the west side of Waterville Road near its intersection with Farmington Avenue, the William F. Hill House sits on a small rectangular lot trimmed with shrubs. Visible from the lot are other historic buildings, both commercial and residential dating from nineteenth and twentieth centuries.
This exquisite Federal-style building features a three-bay facade oriented gable-to-street. The side-hall entrance is embellished with an ornate gable-roofed entry portico with slender classical columns and pilasters. Note the intricate leaded fanlight above the paneled entry door. The six-over-six sash display decorative surrounds with corner blocks and the fully pedimented gable end exhibits a delicate fanlight. The original central brick chimney has been stuccoed. Additions include the ells on the south and west elevations and an enclosed porch has been incorporated onto the rear of the house.

On April 6, 1807, Pomeroy Strong, Noah Phelps, and William F. Hill purchased a four-acre parcel of land "with old dwelling house" from members of the Cowles family (FLR 35:301). Five days later the three men equally divided the property which was bordered on the south by "Town Street running east and west" (Farmington Avenue) and bound on the east "by the highway not yet opened" (Waterville Road) (FLR 35:528). Strong received the "old dwelling house" (see #1 Waterville Road) and Hill received the plot on which this house was built (FLR 35:528). In March of 1808, when Hill mortgaged this parcel to Jacob Sargent, a dwelling house is mentioned (FLR 36:104). Little is known about William F. Hill, the first occupant of the house. Augustus Bodwell acquired this house and a quarter acre for $900 in 1809 (FLR 36:155). The next owner was Rebecca Porter, wife of Amzi Porter. She bought the property in 1819 (FLR 40:384). Dr. Zephaniah Swift owned the house between 1824 and 1834 (FLR 42:169 and 45:130). Harvey Whittlesey owned the land for a short three months in 1834 before selling it to Cephas Skinner (FLR 46:191). Born in Harwinton, Skinner (1803-1886) was a carpenter by trade. His wife was the former Paulina Hill (1808-1897). Thomas Mygatt bought the house in 1853 (FLR 53:26). A native of Wethersfield, he (1797-1875) married in 1823 Phebe Gay (1799-1869), the daughter of merchant, Erastus Gay. In 1875 Mygatt died of "opium poisoning" and the house was willed to Catherine M. Mygatt of Jasper, Georgia. Salome Gilbert (1803-1887), a housekeeper, purchased the house in October of 1875 (FLR 65:141). The next owners Rollin J. Smith and his wife Eliza (Warren) bought the land in 1887 (FLR 66:667). The Smiths lived here until 1902 (FLR 71:538). In the early twentieth century, the house passed through a number of owners, many of whom...

Sources:
rented the premises to tenants. The Farmington Country Club acquired the property in 1923 and was lived in by the club's steward and greenskeeper (FLR 80:408). The Country Club sold the house in 1943 (FLR 97:442) and today it is used for commercial purposes.

Relatively unaltered since its construction, the William F. Hill House stands as a fine example of Federal-period architecture in Farmington village.
OWNER'S NAME: COUNTRY CLUB OF FARMINGTON (owner)  
1951-res.  
ADDRESS: 3 Waterville Road - west side  
DATE BUILT: ca 1807? FOR: William F. Hill  

ARCHITECT  
MASTER-BUILDER  

ADDITIONAL INFORMATION  


See sketch of map, made by Merton Hodge of the property of Eleanor Bartlett Sjkinne, filed with that page.
This house is pictured on page 59 of the Farmington Book as the residence of Miss Sophia Hammersley, and shown on Baker and Tilden's 1869 Atlas as T. Mygatt.

For the pre-1807 ownership of this property, see the account of 1 Waterville Road. The following records of ownership have been taken from the library card on this house.

Around 1807 this house was built for William F. Hill on land which he had purchased from the partnership of himself, Pomeroy Strong and Noah Phelps. William F. Hill is unknown to the writer. See 1 Waterville Road for more regarding Pomeroy Strong, and 122 Main Street for more regarding Noah Phelps.

In 1808 the house was sold to Augustus Bodwell. He was an investor in houses and real estate, but he may have occupied this house during the period of his ownership.

In 1819 Mr. Bodwell sold to Rebecca Porter, who appears to have been the wife of Amzi Porter.

In 1826 it was purchased by Zephaniah Swift from Amzi and Rebecca Porter.

Zephaniah Swift sold to Harvey Whittlesey in 1834, who in the same year sold to Cephas Skinner. The latter lived from 1864 until 1886 in the house now known as 785 Farmington Avenue, the house pictured in the Farmington Book as the home of Hervey Crandall.

In 1853 this house was sold to Thomas Mygatt, who was of the sixth generation of the Mygatts of Wethersfield. His lineage, starting with the first one of that family, is given below.

Joseph Mygatt, 1651-1698, was the first. He married Sarah Webster in 1677. Miss Webster's mother had been the sister of Governor Robert Treat. Joseph Mygatt once owned the land in Hartford occupied in 1848 by Imlay's Mill, perhaps in what was later called the Nook Farm area.

#12 Zebulon Mygatt, 1693-1780. According to published genealogy Zebulon only married Dorothy Waters, but according to a note penciled in of the State Library copy of that genealogy, he had first married Rachel Merrill, and LATER married Dorothy Waters, who bore his children.

#301, Webster Mygatt, 1676-1760, no further information.

#312, John Mygatt, 1754-1776, married Elizabeth Bulkeley of Hartford. He was a sergeant in the Revolutionary War, in Captain Hart's company, Fisher Gay's regiment. He died while in the army, in Roxbury, Massachusetts.

#313, Thomas Mygatt, 1775-1824, born in Wethersfield, married Lucy Oakes of Hartford in 1791. He died in Wethersfield.

September 14, 1973
\#314, Thomas Mygatt, 1797-1857, was \#313's first child. He had been married in Farmington in 1823 to Phebe Gay, daughter of Erastus Gay. See more regarding this Erastus Gay in an account of the Gay family which is part of the story of the first home of the Farmington Country Club. Thomas and Phebe Mygatt had one child, William Gay Mygatt, born in 1825. Documents in possession of William Lidgerwood of 29 Mountain Spring Road, show that Thomas Mygatt was appointed in 1830 to be Inspector of Lumber for the Town of Farmington, and that he was sworn in by Justice of the Peace Horace Cowles on November 29, 1830. It is not known just where in Farmington he had lived at that time. The Mygatt Genealogy states that at the time of its publication in 1850 he resided in Albany, New York. He appears to have returned to Farmington soon after that, as in 1853 he purchased this property from Cephas Skinner. An invoice made out by the firm of Wiard, Smith & Co., of Plainville, shows that he purchased some window blinds from them on June 15, 1857, the year in which he died.

Xerox copies of the documents and invoice mentioned in the above paragraph appear as the following page of this account.

Thomas's widow held title until her death in 1869, after which ownership passed to Catherine Mygatt, widow of Thomas's son William, who had died in 1855 at the age of thirty, appearing to have left no children.

A brother of Thomas Mygatt also lived in Farmington.

He was Henry Mygatt \#317, the fourth child of the Thomas Mygatt \#313 of Wethersfield. Henry had been born in 1804, presumably in Wethersfield. He was married in Farmington in 1830 to Sarah Case Woodruff, daughter of Noadiah and Dorcas Woodruff, and the granddaughter of Captain Judah Woodruff, noted builder of Farmington, whose most noted work was the designing and building of the Congregational Meeting House, built in 1771 and dedicated in October 1772.

See more regarding Henry Mygatt, storekeeper, in the account of 29 Mountain Spring Road, where he built the present William Lidgerwood house in 1830.

To return to 3 Waterville Road, Widow Catherine Mygatt, who had inherited after her mother-in-law's death in 1869, sold this house in 1875 to Salome Gilbert.

In 1887 it was sold by the estate of Salome Gilbert to one Eliza Smith. It has been said that Eliza Smith's husband was a very small man, perhaps a dwarf, only a little over three feet in height. This house was called "Little Smith's House".

Louis N. Long, steward at the Farmington Country Club, purchased this house from Eliza Smith in 1902, as an investment, since just the previous year he had had built for his own residence the house at 22 Waterville Road.

September 14, 1973
Hartford County to be held by 21st August

I certify that Thomas Mygatt
in said County has been by said bond appointed
an Inspector of Lumber

in and for said town of Farmington

he has given bond as the law requires this 12th day of August 1830

Chester

Hartford County 8th Farmington Town 28th 1830

personally appeared Thomas Mygatt within named
and took the oath prescribed by law for an Inspector of lumber, before me

Frederick McVicker Justice of Peace

Mr. Thomas Mygatt

To Mr. Smith & Co.

To 8 ½ Yd. of Flannel @ 53/4.33.

1826

To Pay to Mr. Smith & Co. by Miles L. Smith

Plainsville June 13th 1857
On May 1, 1906, Mr. Long leased this house to Sophia Hammersley, for an unknown period of time, but for the rental fee of $331.00 per year. Miss Sophia Hammersley was a native of Hartford, sister of Judge William Hammersley of that city. She is said to have been "well past middle age, a grand dame, very pleasant but very dignified". She later rented for a time the house at 122 Main Street. She had a "man of all work", Overton Olie, a black, and a very jovial man who joked with the children. He later worked as custodian at the West Hartford church. Judge Hammersley had a college-age son who visited his Aunt Sophia frequently.

Financial difficulties appear to have arisen with Mr. Long, as library records show that title to both his houses on Waterville Road was taken in 1907 by Catherine Duggan on foreclosure of mortgages.

This house was sold by her in 1910 to Everett Taylor House of Charles W. House and Sons of Unionville. Mr. House had lived for a time on Porter Road, presumably in the house at 4 Porter Road, following its occupancy by Russell Lee Jones and his family.

Mr. House remodeled his new residence considerably, and added to its size. See more regarding Mr. House and his family in the account of 11 Mountain Road, where he lived later, and for a longer time.

Mr. House sold this place in 1919 to Dudley Harmon, and moved with his family to 11 Mountain Road. Nothing is known by the writer regarding Dudley Harmon.

The house was sold by Mr. Harmon in 1923 to the Farmington Country Club.

One of the writer's notes says:

"The club bought it then and the steward, or greenskeeper, or maybe both, lived in it. Graham Reed was the pro. Then Jack Dailey, who was the steward until a few years ago. He has a package store on the way to Unionville, near the Oasis".

Miss Ruth Hyatt and her mother occupied the rear half of this house from 1961 until 1964. Miss Hyatt had come here from Hartford to be the Farmington librarian.

During this same period the Roger Hortons, Mr. Horton being the golf pro at the time, occupied the front half of the house.

The house was purchased on June 10, 1964, by Dr. Carl R. Folia. He uses the lower floor as his dental offices, and rents the upstairs for similar use.

September 14, 1973