Set back a distance from the south side of Mountain Road, the Ephraim Smith House sits on a sloping lot adorned with shrubs and trees. The house itself sits above a slight brownstone retaining wall trimmed with a white picket fence. The bordering neighborhood comprises other historic dwellings dating from the eighteenth, nineteenth, and twentieth centuries.
This small Colonial-period cape-style house exhibits a four-bay facade capped with a ridge-to-street gable roof. A replacement, diminutive brick chimney rises from the center of the house. Other later alterations include the six-over-six sash and gable-roofed dormers. Many of these modifications occurred in the late nineteenth century and the original appearance of the house has been lost. A small ell extends from the rear elevation and little other architectural detailing is found on the house.

**Architectural Description**

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**Historical or Architectural Significance**

The construction date of this building is somewhat uncertain. The first mention of a dwelling on this lot is in 1698 when Ephraim Smith acquired a parcel of land "joyning to land which his house stands on" (FLR 1:63). Smith, the son of Benjamin Smith had married Rachel Cole in April of 1686. In 1740 he sold "the lott on which I now lived" with buildings to his son, Benjamin II (b. 1706) (FLR 6:271). Benjamin II married the widow Agnis Hugg in 1740. Elijah Porter bought the property in 1753 (FLR 9:303). One year later in 1754 Robert Porter, Ephraim Smith's son-in-law, purchased the homestead for $1200 (FLR 9:431). The grandson of Robert Porter, one of Farmington's earliest proprietors, the younger Robert had married Sarah Smith. In 1782 Robert willed the property to his son Deacon Noah Porter (FPR 2:247). When Noah sold the six acre parcel to Charles Pitkin in 1792, the deed conveyed the entire lot except for "a small house standing on the northeast corner which is owned by Samuel Warren" (FLR 29:211). The deed further stipulates that Warren "is to possess the house for two years from last May and no longer and is to remove the same". It is unclear in the land records how Warren came into possession of the dwelling from the Porter family. It appears that the requirement of removing by 1794 was never enforced for in 1806 Samuel Warren sold to a relative, Norman Warren (1782-1820) "a part of my dwelling house which stands on land of Charles Pitkin" (FLR 35:144). The deed included the west room, bedroom adjoining the west room, the chamber above and half the "milk" room and half of the shoemaker's shop adjoining the house lot. Timothy Pitkin, the prominent lawyer and congressman, acquired the house in 1821 from the estate of Norman and Samuel Warren and in 1822 purchased the land from his brother, Charles (FLR 74:61, 46:223). The house was subject to the (see cont. pg.)

**Sources**

dower rights of both the Warren widows. Edward Hooker bought the property in 1834 (FLR 46:226) and three years later John Hooker took the title (FLR 46:489). It appears that Susannah Warren, widow of Norman, resided here until 1846 when she quit-claimed her right to the dwelling to John Hooker for $27.50 (FLR 50:81). Shortly thereafter Hooker leased the house to Fredus Reed for a term of ten years (FLR 49:215). In 1848 Reed purchased the lot for $500 (FLR 49:343). Little is known about Reed, except that his wife was the former Elmira Hollister and their daughter Julia married Lucius Dorman. Hudson Reed (relation unknown) bought the lot in 1856 (FLR 55:89). John Hooker took title again in 1857 and presumably rented it (FLR 54:266). Thomas Cowles was the next owner; he purchased the land with a small dwelling in 1864 (FLR 58:578). During this period the house was rented to members of the Harland family. It should be noted that in February of 1874 Justus M. Alling attached a lien to the property against Charles Harland "for services rendered and materials and/or repairs done from September 1873 to February 1874" (FLR 63:286). The house at this time may have been altered from its original appearance. In May of 1874 Thomas Cowles sold Justus M. Alling the house and land now occupied by Edward Harland (FLR 64:173). Five months later Edward N. Pierce became the owner and continued to rent to the Harland family (FLR 64:195). Isaac Miles bought the dwelling in 1875 (FLR 65:183). Isaac Miles was a farmer who resided along High Street and this house was either lived in by family members or rented. In 1880 at the time of his marriage to Sarah Gallagher, Isaac Miles, Jr. acquired the property (FLR 65:456). Karl Klauser, the music instructor at Miss Porter's School, purchased the lot in 1882 (FLR 65:651). Klauser built a new large dwelling to the southeast of this lot (no longer extant) and continued to use this small house as a rental. The house was sold to Tilden O. Kearney in 1937 by the heirs of Karl Klauser (FLR 91:565).

Although an exact date cannot be determined, this small cape-style dwelling is significant for its association with the Smith, Hooker, Pitkin, and Klauser families. It derives further importance as an early rental home.
OWNER'S NAME  KEARNEY, TILDEN O.

ADDRESS:  30 Mountain Road

DATE BUILT:  ca. 1740  FOR:  Ephraim Smith, sr.

ARCHITECT

MASTER-BUILDER

FORMER OWNERS:  Kearney from Cora Klauser et al 11/2/1937, Vol. 91, p. 565; Karl Klauser from Isaac F. Miles 10/24/1882, Vol. 65, p. 651; I. M. Miles from father, Isaac Miles 5/26/1880, Vol. 65, p. 456; I. Miles from Edward N. Pierce, 1/12/1878, Vol. 65, p. 314; Pierce from John Hooker, land & all bldgs. w. on land of Sidney Hart, 9/15/1877, Vol. 64, p. 348; a quit claim deed; Hooker from Hudson H. Reed, on Mountain St., n. on street, e. & s. on land of A. Bodwell, w. on S. Westcott, ½ acre & a one-story dwellinghouse & small barn, 10/16/1857, Vol. 54, p. 266; Hudson H. Reed from Fredus Reed, same, ½ acre and bldgs. 8/19/1856, Vol. 55, p. 89; Fredus Reed from John Hooker, n. on Mountain St., e. & s. on land of J. Hooker and w. on land of M. Fish, for $500, 2/7/1848, Vol. 49, p. 343; Fredus Reed from John Hooker, BY LEASE, with right to purchase, same, with dwellinghouse, 12/31/1846, Vol. 49, p. 215; John Hooker from Edward Hooker, n. on


OWNER  KEARNEY, TILDEN O.
Former owners, cont.:

The Warren house on Pitkin land - Charles Pitkin from Noah Porter, n. on highway leading to 1st mountain, e. on my own land (Porter's), s. on Jonathan Bull (Bull lot), w. on Thomas Lewis lot - 6 acres and small house owned by Samuel Warren which he is to possess two years hence and no longer, 8/25/1792, Vol. 29, p. 211; Noah Porter from Robert Porter, same; Robert Porter from Elijah Porter, 6 acres and dwellinghouse and barn, e. on land of John Hart, w. on Elisha Lewis, n. on highway leading up the mountain, s. on land of David Bull, 11/18/1754, Vol. 9, p. 431; Elijah Portter from Benjamin Smith, 5 acres on which I now live, e. on land of Deacon John Hart, w. on Elisha Lewis, n. on said highway and s. on David Bull, 10/23/1753, Vol. 9, p. 303; Benjamin Smith from father, Ephraim Smith Sr., same, 7/17/1740, Vol. 6, p. 271.
This house is pictured, together with the residence of William H. Parsons in the background, on page 169 of the Farmington Book. It is shown as the residence of Frank Harris, whose full name was James Frank Harris. Two girls and a baby, whom the writer guesses were probably Lucy Elizabeth and Mary Ellen, with baby James Frank Jr., are in the photo, sitting on the front stoop. What seems to be this house is shown in Baker and Tilden's 1869 Atlas as T. Cowles. He was perhaps a tenant at that time, as John Hooker is stated to have been the owner.

According to statement on the library card for this house, it was built for Ephraim Smith in 1740, who was probably born in 1690.

Benjamin Smith, who took title to it in 1740, was married in that same year to the widow Agnes Hugg.

The next purchaser was Robert Porter in 1754. This could have been the grandson of the first Robert Porter. This grandson was born in 1697 and married Sarah Smith, born in 1701. Their own residence was the old family homestead on the site of the present Leila Dilworth Library of Miss Porter's School, and their son Noah was the father of the Reverend Noah who was pastor of the local Congregational Church for so many years. The elder Noah, who was a deacon of the church, inherited this property, probably at his father's death in 1782, and sold it to Charles Pitkin in 1792.

Charles Pitkin, born in 1759, was the son of the Reverend Timothy Pitkin whose home was on the site of the present house at 92 Main Street. Charles Pitkin married Cynthia Wells. It is not known whether they lived in this house.

The sale to Charles Pitkin covered six acres and the residence near Mountain Road, also a small house owned by Samuel Warren, which "he is to possess for two years only", according to the deed. In 1806 Samuel Warren deeded to Norman Warren his rights to the house, so it appears that he had not conceded his ownership after the two years.

Edward Hooker purchased this house in 1834, this being just one year after the Pitkin property on Main Street and Maiden Lane had been purchased by Major Timothy Cowles. Deacon Edward Hooker's own residence at this time was what is now 50 High Street. He was the one who operated for some years what was called "Old Red College", situated on Mountain Road just below his own home. This house was probably purchased by him for rental purposes.

Edward Hooker's purchase in 1834 appeared to have been subject also to Norman Warren's rights. John Hooker received title to this property in 1837. Perhaps he purchased it from his father, as Deacon Edward lived until 1845. No mention here is made regarding Warren's rights. In 1846 however, a year after his father's death, John Hooker obtained a quit-claim deed from Susanna Warren, possibly the wife of Norman Warren, in which she surrendered her dower rights. Perhaps this "small house" is that shown as the home of Wm. H. Parsons, which stood to the south of No. 30.

December 14, 1973
Fredus Reed was the next purchaser, in 1848. Fredus Reed's wife was the former Elmira Hollister, and their daughter Julia became the wife of Lucius Dorman, whose house stood about on the site of the garage belonging to the owners of the house at 24 Mountain Road.

Hudson Reed took title in 1856. Whether or not he was the son of Fredus Reed is not presently known. Fredus died 1877.

It was in that same year, 1877, that Edward N. Pierce purchased the property, twenty-seven years after his marriage in 1850 to Permelia F. Thompson.

Isaac F. Miles, who also owned the house on High Street which was later moved and is now 37 Main Street, purchased this property in 1878. Mr. Miles' wife was Rebecca Gallagher whom he had married on December 18, 1853. They had a large family. See the account of 37 Main Street.

Isaac F. Miles died on August 31, 1880, and in that same year the property was inherited by Isaac F. Miles, Jr., who in that same year married Sarah J. Gallagher. Their son Harry Edward Miles was probably born here, in 1881. Isaac Miles later lived toward the top of the hill in the house now known as 88 Mountain Road, and probably around 1889 moved to New Britain.

Isaac Miles sold this property in 1882 to Karl Klauser of Miss Porter's School. Mr. Klauser had in 1870 built his own residence just above here, on the site of the house now known as 34 Mountain Road, but he also kept this one at No. 30, probably for rental purposes.

We do not know who occupied the house prior to the Harris family, but in 1906 it was being rented and occupied by James Frank Harris and his wife, the former Elizabeth Pullen, and their children. Both Mr. Harris and his wife were from England. Mrs. Harris had come to America first, and had worked in the household of Henry Martin Cowles of 47 Main Street. Mr. Harris came later and was also employed by Mr. Cowles, as groundsman. It was during this employment that the two became sweethearts and were married.

Later Mr. Harris worked for Mr. Redfield of 45 High Street, and it was then that the Harrises moved into this house at 30 Mountain Road, renting from Mrs. Karl Klauser, who by that time had been widowed for some years. Another woman was living with her, probably her daughter.

Frank Harris (he was never called by his first name of James) served as constable at the visit of President "Teddy" Roosevelt and his family, who visited Farmington on October 22, 1901.

December 14, 1973
The Harris children were:

Lucy Elizabeth Harris, who married Charles Philips and lived in New York. Their four children, all married, and with the number of their children listed after their names, are: Betty, one; Charles, two; Ruth, two; and Edith, none.

Mary Ellen (Mollie) Harris, who married Fred Smith and later lived at 74 Mountain Road. See account of that house. They had two children.

James Frank Harris, Jr., whose first wife was Grace, had six children: Eunice, three; Robert, three; Sally, four; Edward, two; Frederick, three; and Marjorie, three.

Frank Harris, who married Anna and had no children.

William, now deceased, had married Doris Roth. Their one son was William, now married and with one child.

Edward, now deceased, had married Barbara Grimes, having two children. They are; John, now married and with one child, and Peter, unmarried.

Henry, married to Winifred A. Crowe of Unionville. See more regarding their family in the account of the firehouse at 76 Main Street. See next 2 pages.

Joseph, married to Astrid Benson. See more regarding their family in the account of 163 Main Street. He operated the Elm Tree Pharmacy.

One of the Harris boys remembers that their father used to hire a horse and buggy occasionally from HiWoodward at 50 High Street, and he would take his family to visit friends out in West District.

One of the boys' chores in the morning, and this passed from one to the other as they grew older, was to stop at Lucius Dorman's house and clean the grates in the stove and carry in more wood for the fire.

In 1913 the Harris family having outgrown this house, Mr. Harris purchased the house now standing at 74 Mountain Road. That house, pictured at the left in the top photograph on page 88 of the Farmington Book, had been standing on Main Street across from what is now the Corner House, in 1906. Two years later William Bronson had bought it and moved it up the hill to the site it now occupies. Mr. Harris purchased from Mr. Bronson, who then moved with his family to the Reilly house on Farmington Avenue.

December 14, 1973
Henry Harris is the youngest of the Harris family and was born in their house at 30 Mountain Road.

He has been a member of the Farmington Volunteer Fire Department for many years, as his father was a volunteer before him. He was taken by his father to his first large fire when he was about the age of seven, which was to what he calls the "Douglas Fire", which demolished the residence which stood on Colton Street on the site of the present retreat house of the Sisters of the Cross and Passion. The Bissell family had just purchased the house but had not yet taken possession.

Mr. Harris remembers that for many years the only fire wagon was a hose cart kept in a small shed on School Street, north of the horse sheds which stood east of the Congregational Church. Later a small truck was purchased and some apparatus was installed in it. The first conventional fire truck was purchased in 1924, the one pictured in the Yankee Trader of March 26, 1969. The fire house at that time was the former Hurlburt blacksmith shop pictured on page 9 of the Farmington Book, owned in 1924 by Fred Swanston.

The Farmington Volunteer Fire Department was given its official status as an organization in , but its new home on Main Street was not completed until 1932, the year in which Henry Harris was married to Winifred Anna Crowe, daughter of James Francis Crowe and Winifred Margaret Higgins, of Unionville. They lived their first married years in the Samuel Rose house on Colton Street.

One of the first fires handled from the new fire house, the present one, was that at 80 Main Street, the old Deming house, which Mrs. Wilmarth Lewis had recently restored. Damage was kept to a minimum.

On June 1, 1934, Mr. and Mrs. Henry Harris moved to Hartford, where they lived on Harold Street, Mr. Harris being employed at that time by Colt Manufacturing Company.

When they returned to Farmington on July 10, 1944, they moved into the fire house, and Henry immediately became active again in the fire department, which he had first joined around 1928 or 1929. At the time of their return to Farmington they took the place, or Mr. Harris did, of Alfred Brogard, who had been chief engineer of the department, caring for the equipment, taking the fire calls, and living in the apartment on the upper floor of the fire house. Mr. Brogard had died on May 30, 1944. Mr. Harris has served in this same position since that time, and his thumb has pressed the button for many a fire alarm, usually being on duty around the clock. When there were no fires he was caring for the equipment, keeping it in A-One condition.

Mrs. Harris took up her job for the village in 1950, as school crossing guard on Main Street at the foot of School Street, her own children being all in school and leaving her days free.

November 22, 1972
The year 1972 has brought retirement for both of them, Mrs. Harris in June, after 22 years, and Mr. Harris in October, after 28 years as chief engineer, plus several more as an early member of the fire department.

An article in the Hartford Courant of November 29, 1971, lauded Mrs. Harris for her years of faithful service, and tribute was paid to Mr. Harris in an article on October 12, 1972. A testimonial dinner was held for Mr. Harris at Wright's Restaurant in Plainville on October 20, 1972. Both Mr. and Mrs. Harris were honored by Toastmaster Frank Cadwell, and Town Council Chairman Jeremiah Wadsworth presented them both with honorary badges.

They plan to move to Plainville soon, and their retirement plans include a trip to Florida this winter. Mr. and Mrs. Harris have four children.

Winifred Elizabeth is married to Lawrence William Klett. They live in Bristol, where Mr. Klett is service man for General Electric. Their three children are Gary, Kathleen and Richard.

Marilyn Ann lives with her parents.

James Henry is married to Ellen Rourke of Unionville. They live on Wells drive in Farmington with their four children: James T., Stephen H., John D. and Sarah A. James is a clerk in the Farmington post office and also an enthusiastic member of the fire department.

Margaret Ellen is the wife of Martin Kohutka. They live in Unionville and her two children are Russell M. and Mark J.

November 22, 1972
Regarding 74 Mountain Road, in 1921 a chance came to enlarge it. The old George Hurlburt house on High Street, on the site of the present house at 10 High Street, was slated for demolition. It was then the property of Mrs. John Wallace Riddle. Mr. Harris and his sons carefully tore it down and took the useful lumber up the mountain to their home, and used it to build a much needed addition.

After Mrs. Harris's death Mr. Harris went with the Radfields to their home in New Canaan. After his retirement he returned to Farmington and lived with his daughter Mollie and her family in his former home at 74 Mountain Road. Mr. Harris died in 1958.

To return from our digression, and to the house at 30 Mountain Road, we know that the Pannone family and the Crescenzi family in turn rented this house, but we do not know the dates. It was still under the Klauser ownership however.

John Pannone and his wife, the former Giovannina Grossi, both born in Lenola, Italy, lived here from 1914 until 1917. Mr. Pannone being employed at that time as caretaker, by Mrs. Klauser of the house just above this. The Pannones had lived on Mill Road prior to this. Mr. Pannone's main work was taking care of the grounds, but one of his daily chores was carrying enough water up to an attic tank, to supply the household's daily needs. The Klauser's water was piped into the main floor of the house from their own well at the corner of Mountain and Reservoir Roads. Mrs. Pannone used to tell her daughter-in-law that: "when some of the Italian children got into minor trouble, and when constable Harry Reed was looking for them, they would hide in the attic at 30 Mountain Road and he couldn't find them". The Pannone family later moved to a house on Tunxis Street, thought to have been owned by Miss Porter's School. The Pannone children were Olga, Philomena, Maria and Armento, the latter having been born at 30 Mountain Road. Armento, now married and with his own family, lives farther up the hill at 77 Mountain Road.

In 1937 this house was purchased by Mrs. Tilden O. Kearney, the wife of James L. D. Kearney. The Kearneys had earlier lived at 763 Farmington Avenue, and later in a new house which they built around 1929 on Talcott Notch Road. Mrs. Kearney purchased this as an investment, and remodeled it considerably. The first tenants after the remodeling were Mr. and Mrs. William Damerel. The writer does not know who else lived here until 1959, except the Burges Smiths.

Mr. Kearney died in 1939 but Mrs. Kearney continued living on Talcott Notch Road until about 1959, when she sold that house and moved into this one on Mountain Road, being here until her death in 1968.

The house was later sold by Mrs. Kearney's estate, to Miss Margaret Dewing, daughter of Harold A. Dewing and Marjorie Allen, the latter of whom, already widowed, having died on December 18, 1971. Harold A. Dewing had been the founder and president of Dewing & Dewing, Inc., a real estate firm, which Miss Dewing joined in 1950. The firm had been started in 1919, and after the deaths of the three brothers she became its president. She closed it up in 1967 to join the Heritage Group, Realtors, and in 1970 was president of that firm. Miss Dewing purchased this house on March 30, 1967.

December 14, 1973