Located at the southern end of Main Street, the Simon Newell House stands in an area rapidly being developed. Although the area was once actively farmed numerous modern commercial buildings are visible. The junction of Main Street and the Colt Highway cutoff is located across the street.
Built circa 1710, the Simon Newell House exhibits a five-bay facade topped with ridge-to-street gable roof and large center brick chimney. Colonial-period characteristics include the hewn double overhangs, twelve-over-twelve sash and multi-paneled transom over the central entry door. Note the "coffin door" on the southeast corner of the south facade. Between 1979 and 1982 a number of large modern additions were added to west and north elevations more than tripling the size of the building. Today the property is used as professional offices.

### Architect

**Builder**

### Historical or Architectural Importance

Simon Newell erected a house on this lot around 1710 on land he acquired from William and Susannah Hough and Joseph Lankton (FLR 1:103). Born in Farmington to Thomas and Elizabeth (Wrotham) Newell, Simon (1683-1761) married Mehitabel Bird in 1711. They had three children: James, Timothy, and Mary. His second wife, who he married in 1733, was Mrs. Mary Wallis. In 1761 the "house, barn and homelot" were willed to James Newell, Jr., Simon's grandson (HPR #3906). James, who had previously inherited his father's estate, sold his grandfather's homelot to Captain Solomon Cowles in 1762 (FLR 13:81). Cowles, a merchant and innkeeper, resided at 149 Main Street and probably rented this property to a local farmer. In 1778 Jacob Byington, who had been renting the house, purchased the lot from Cowles (FLR 22:116). Byington, (1743-1793) a farmer, resided here with his wife Elizabeth and three daughters: Diadema, Elizabeth, and Huldah. After his first wife's death in 1789, Byington married Hannah [?], who later married Mr. Thomas Alvord. In 1793 the house willed to Byington's three daughters subject to the life use of the widow, Hannah (FPR 4:9, 87, 89, 91). Huldah and her husband, Selah Bishop sold their portion of the homestead to Moses Hills in 1795 (FLR 33:258). Hills, later in 1802, sold his interest to Joseph Langdon, who in turn sold it to Titus Bidwell in 1807 (FLR 35:84, 36:150). Bidwell died in 1808 and left the "Byington Place" to his daughter, Emily Bidwell (FPR 6:371). It appears that Hannah Byington Alvord was still residing in the house and paying an annual rent of $7.00. Emily Bidwell married Orville Atkins and together they received full title of the property from Jacob Byington's heirs in 1811 (FLR 37:206, 351, 352). Atkins and his wife mortgaged the property twice in 1816, once to wealthy tinsmith, Asa Andrews and once to (see cont. pg.

### Sources


### Threats to Building or Site

- None known. [X] Highways. [ ] Vandalism. [ ] Developers. [ ] Other.
- Renewal. [ ] Private. [ ] Deterioration. [ ] Zoning. [ ] Explanation.
Emily's brother, Henry Bidwell (FLR 39:459,460). Andrews foreclosed upon the mortgage in February of 1828 and sold his share of the "Atkins Place" to Henry Bidwell in 1830 (FLR 45:43). Bidwell sold the house to Daniel Tuttle of New York shortly thereafter (FLR 46:219). Tuttle mortgaged the land and house to the Town of Farmington in 1838 for $332.41 (FLR 46:540). It appears that he never paid the mortgage for in 1848 the town sold the property to Jonathan Hills (FLR 50:145). There is little historical information available concerning Hills (1785-1878), except that in 1874 he quit-claimed the "Atkins Place" to his son, Lucien W. Hills (FLR 64:141). The younger Hills (1810-1885) was a shoemaker and wheelwright by trade. Between 1874 and 1876 the house passed through various members of the Hills, Howard, and Walker families (FLR 61:637, 65:85, 95,222). Lucien regained full title in September of 1876 (FLR 65:223). In 1882 Hills made an agreement with Henry S. Jordon "in exchange for boarding said Lucien W. Hills in sickness and in health for $2.50 per week, (Jordon) is to have the property of said Hills valued at $600 (encumbered by a mortgage to the Farmington Savings Bank and back taxes to the town of Farmington of about $250)" (FLR 66:475). In 1902 Mr. Jordon received full title from L.W. Hills' Estate (FLR 74:91). During the twentieth century a number of families have occupied the house including the Willard family, who operated an antique business on the premises. The building has recently been added onto and converted into professional offices.

Although the historic integrity of the site has been jeopardized, the original Simon Newell House remains intact and derives historical significance as one of the few remaining buildings associated with the Newell family, early Farmington settlers.