Set a distance back off the west side of High Street, Chateau Ingres is situated on a small landscaped lot shaded with large trees. The surrounding residential neighborhood comprises a variety of architectural styles dating from the early eighteenth century to the present.
It is believed that this dwelling was assembled in 1895 from a barn, shed, and school. The front block of the house, which is oriented ridge-to-street, features little architectural embellishments. Alterations include the modern bay window and exterior brick chimney. Fenestration is displayed in a variety of forms including six-over-six, paired six-over-six, and double-hung one-over-one windows. The rear two-story ell features wall dormers with paired sash, a bay window and modern entry bay.

Robert Bolling Brandegee

The "Chateau Ingres" was built in 1895 by Robert Bolling Brandegee, a local artist of some notability. The land on which the house was built was purchased from the Estate of Selah Wescott in April 1895 (FLR 70:530). Tradition predicates that Brandegee assembled the house from a barn, shed, and schoolhouse. The school is said to have come from the rear of #45 High Street where Edward Lucas Hart operated a boys' school. Born in Berlin, Brandegee (1849-1923) was the son of Dr. Elisha and Florence (Stith) Brandegee. As a young boy he attended the Worthington Academy in Berlin and later the Edward L. Hart School for Boys in Farmington. Brandegee's interest in art began at a young age when he took a liking to nature and began to draw. By the age of twenty he was teaching drawing to young ladies in Hartford. Shortly afterward, Brandegee left for New York to study with John Henry Hill and S.C. Farrar. In 1872 he went to Paris to study at the Ecole de Beaux-Cheuraese. Upon returning to America in 1880, Brandegee opened a studio in New York which he maintained for fifteen years. During this time he taught art at Miss Porter's School in Farmington. In 1895 he sold his New York studio and returned to Farmington to build this house. Brandegee, a founder of the Connecticut League of Art Students, also had a great interest in botany and ornithology and published a number of poems on the subject. He was also an accomplished playwright. In 1900 he helped found the "Farmington Magazine." In 1898 Brandegee married Susan Lord, the daughter of Joseph and Lucy (Meech) Lord of Northampton, Massachusetts. An outstanding musician, she played the lead cello for the Hartford Philharmonic. Susan Brandegee in 1909 joined the American String Quartet of Boston and traveled throughout the northeast giving concerts. (CONT.)

Sources:

Photographer:
N. Ainspan

View:
NW

Negative On File:
17:17

NAME:
Elizabeth R. Hart

ORGANIZATION:
Greater Middletown Preservation Trust

Address:
27 Washington Street, Middletown, CT

Threats to Building or Site:
- None known
- Highways
- Vandalism
- Developers
- Other
- Renewal
- Private
- Deterioration
- Zoning
- Explanation

Date: 4/86
Her husband was so impressed with her talent as a musician that he built their swimming pool in the shape of a cello. The Brandegees had two sons, Robert Lord and Paul Montague. Robert B. left his position at Miss Porter's School in 1903 and devoted the rest of his life to writing and painting. Upon his death in 1923, Brandegee left the house to his son, Robert L. (FLR 74:394). In 1926 Harold M. Holderness, an insurance executive, purchased the property (FLR 80:662). He and his family remained here until 1941. The house has passed through a number of owners since then.

This building is historically notable for its association with the talented Brandegee family, important to the cultural community in Farmington during the late nineteenth and early twentieth centuries.
OWNER'S NAME: HARTFORD CONN. TRUST CO. TRUST FOR JOSEPH L. HYDE.

ADDRESS: 36 High Street

DATE BUILT: 1895 FOR: Robert Brandegee

ADDITIONAL INFORMATION
later selling the house and lot and converting the present residence.

ARCHITECT
MASTER-BUILDER

FORMER OWNERS:
- Hyde from Isabel B. Hardie, 2/27/1947, Vol. 100 p.315
- Hardie from Lucille H. Russell, 7/8/1944, Vol. 95, p.238
- Russell from Harold M. Holderness, 9/20/1941, Vol. 96, p.108
- Holderness from Robert Brandegee, 3/10/1926, Vol. 80, p.662
- Brandegee from S. Westcott, 1895, Vol. 70, p.530

4/11/1895: The house was built from a barn, a shed and the former school house of Edward L. Hart which stood across the street in the rear of his residence, now the residence of W. Norton Smith. R. Brandegee bought what is now the residence of J. E. Hewes [Lydia B.]

REFERENCES:
- "Farmington, Conn. L906" p.158

OWNER AS OF: 1950

HTFD-CONN.TRUST FOR J?L HYDE
This house is pictured in the Farmington Book on page 158 as "The Residence of Robert B. Brandegee, 'Chateau Ingres' ".

It was built on land purchased by Mr. Brandegee in 1895 from the estate of Selah Westcott. It has been said that the house was built from "a barn, a shed and a schoolhouse". This latter had stood in the rear of what is now 45 High Street, which was the residence of Deacon Edward Lucas Hart who had conducted the school. Sentiment toward the old school building probably induced Mr. Brandegee to use it as part of his home, as he had attended the school as a younger and felt that it was part of his life. Mr. Brandegee's son states that he would point out a small discoloration in the floor and say "That is probably from dirt that I brought in on my shoe when I first came to school here". Deacon Hart's school is pictured in the Farmington Book on page 34, and Mr. Brandegee's son states that it is the part of the house next to High Street. It was used as the studio and had a large north window.

Robert Brandegee was not the first of his family to have attended school in Farmington. His father, Elishama, and his uncle, John, had attended the Farmington Academy. The academy had been under the leadership of an earlier Deacon Hart, Deacon Simeon Hart, uncle of Deacon Edward Hart previously mentioned. See the account of the Academy, listed under Church Street, present location of the building in which it was housed. It appears to the writer that the attendance of these boys in Farmington schools might have been the factors influencing the settlement of five members of the Brandegee family in Farmington. These five were Mrs. D. N. Barney (the former Sarah Brandegee) and her sister Julia, and their three nephews, Charles, Robert and Arthur. A sixth was here for a time also. She was Katherine, sister of the three brothers, a noted vocalist who taught at Miss Porter's School. She died in 1930.

Robert Bolling Brandegee, builder of this house, was born in Berlin, Connecticut, April 4, 1849, son of Dr. Elishama Brandegee and Florence Stith. A brief account of his ancestry is appended for further information regarding the genealogy of the family.

He attended Worthington Academy in Berlin and Deacon Edward Lucas Hart's school for boys here in Farmington. His interest in art began to flower when he was eight years of age, when an aunt began to coach him, starting with watercolors of flowers. He was a real boy, with a great interest in fishing, swimming and hunting, and an equal disinterest in school, but the study of flowers and birds and nature in general, came easy to him.

After the schooling above-mentioned had been completed and some more time elapsed, during which he was still drawing and making verses, an artist Thomas Farrer took some of his watercolors to New York and actually sold them, bringing back twenty-five dollars. This gave his painting a new incentive and when he was about twenty years of age he was giving drawing lessons to several ladies in Hartford at the home of Thomas Day. He shortly began more serious studies in New York with John Henry Hill and S. C. Farrar, after which a Mr. Truman H. Bartlett convinced Robert's parents of his talents and aptitude, and they agreed that he could study in Paris.

August 29, 1971
It was in April 1872 that he finally left the United States and in company with William Faxon and Charles Noel Flagg, was soon in Paris under the tutelage of M. Jacquesson de la Chevreuse. Their fellow students also included Montague Flagg, Dwight William Tryon and J. Alden Weir. "Jackson", as they affectionately called M. Jacquesson, was one of the most talented pupils of the great Jean Ingres, who incidentally was written up in "Time" magazine on February 14, 1971. Mr. Brandegee evidently considered the influence of M. Ingres as a foremost factor in his success as an artist, as you will note that Mr. Brandegee's Farmington home was named in his honor, "Chateau Ingres".

Mr. Brandegee studied in Europe, most of the time in Paris, for some years, haunting the Louvre, gaining experience and developing a style and technique. Some of the portraits painted over there rank with the foremost of his paintings, and show the rapidity with which his portraiture developed.

After he returned from Paris in 1880 he opened a studio in New York and almost simultaneously he began to teach art at Miss Porter's School here in Farmington. He moved wholly to Farmington in 1895, when he built his house here. Sandwiched in among his other activities were teaching a while at Briarcliff-on-Hudson for Mrs. Dow, and taking part in the founding of the Connecticut League of Art Students.

On March 17, 1898, at the age of 49, Robert Brandegee married Susan Lord of Northampton, Massachusetts, daughter of Joseph Lord of that city, and Lucy M. Meech. Miss Lord was an accomplished musician, having studied at Smith College and played as a leader of the cello section with the Hartford Philharmonic. In 1909 she joined the American String Quartet of Boston. Mr. Brandegee was proud of his wife's outstanding talent, and built their home swimming pool in the shape of a cello to honor her. Two of the early visitors to this pool were Lydia Bulkeley and Ruth Parker, the latter of whom died in the 1918 "flu" epidemic.

Material for most of the preceding six paragraphs was taken from an account of Mr. Brandegee's early life, written up by Charles B. Ferguson, Director of the New Britain Museum of Modern Art. It was written as a brochure to accompany the exhibition of Mr. Brandegee's works, an exhibition held in March and April of 1971. This very likely was the last chance that will have been offered to see so many of his paintings in one place. It was certainly a worthwhile exhibition, and a tribute for which Farmington should be very grateful to Mr. Ferguson, and to all who so kindly loaned paintings.

Mr. Barndegee's teaching was not confined to painting. He was also interested in botany and birds and nature in general, and he could never resist the urge to pass along his knowledge of these subjects, so that his pupils, especially those of Miss Porter's School, were the recipients of many fringe benefits. The writing of poetry was something he loved too, and even the writing of plays was within his sphere.

An article in the Hartford Courant of October 4, 1914, brings out these points. It is quoted in part, as follows:

August 29, 1971
Robert Brandegee the painter, who published several little poems in his 'Open Book of Nature', has as well several plays to his credit, some of them written for performance by the seminary girls, and one, entitled 'Beyond the Tulip Garden', proving popular enough to merit production in Hartford.

This article goes on to state that while "the elder Montague Flagg of New York, a summer visitor to Farmington, taught the Hartford men, Brandegee was busy at the seminary. Some of his pupils were very talented and have developed into interesting artists --- Miss Helen Andrews, Miss Genevieve Cowles, Miss Bishop, Miss Hooker, Miss Saunders and others". Of those mentioned, four have been quite well known and were longtime residents of Farmington. These were: Helen Andrews of Aqueduct Lane, Genevieve Cowles of 130 Main Street, May Bishop of Talcott Notch Road and Joan Hooker, of 29 Mountain Spring Road.

The Brandegees had two sons, Robert Lord Brandegee and Paul Montague Brandegee. The elder son, Robert, and his wife, reside in Salisbury, Connecticut, and Paul, the younger son, was the unfortunate victim of a fatal auto accident in 1931, while he was still a student in college.

Mr. Brandegee continued teaching at Miss Porter's School only until 1903, after which he painted portraits as commissioned, painted landscapes for pleasure (and sometimes for quick revenue), and did some writing. He was one of those who were instrumental in founding the Farmington Magazine in 1900, and was a steady contributor throughout its short life, displaying an aptitude for prose as well as for poetry.

Other contributors to Farmington Magazine sometimes used Mr. Brandegee as a subject. An example is an article by Walter Griffin, the Maine landscape painter, in April 1901, in which he mentions a Brandegee portrait done in 1878. He says of "The Wanderer", which was on display in the New Britain Museum this year: "The portrait of Mr. Flagg by Robert Brandegee was well hung and looked the masterful piece of painting that it is. Though mellowed in tone it is as fresh in color as the day it was painted, and has more of the 'Old master' quality than any other portrait in the exhibition". This was in regard to an exhibition which he had seen in the Philadelphia Academy just two weeks prior.

Mr. Brandegee of Salisbury, his son, remembers him best for the tales he could tell, and for the long nature walks on which he took his son and young friends. He was a wonderful companion, and his conversation was interesting and full of information on bird and animal and plant life, and very much enjoyed by his young listeners and companions. Among the boys who well remember these walks and talks are William Wadsworth and Sheffield Cowles of Farmington and Lonnie Porritt of Canton, all of whom grew up together. They also remember the swimming pool and the prizes given by Mr. Brandegee for learning to swim. Some of the boys learned several times! A plot of ground which he owned and to which he often took the boys, was always spoken of as "Rochambeau". It was in the Tunxis Street area, where the General and his troops had camped on their way to an from Yorktown, and where souvenirs could sometimes be found of their visit. The marker on Main Street at Hatters Lane is placed there principally because it is easily visible. A photo of Mr. Brandegee and his young son, in front of 40 High Street, appears on page 28 of Farmington Book.

August 13, 1971
Mr. Brandegee's son remembers his father as a "born raconteur and teacher. Any group of people would invariably find that Mr. Brandegee was the speaker and the rest were listeners -- and they loved it! Only the chosen few entered his studio however, those who entered had to be well-liked". An article in the Farmington Magazine of April 1901 describes an artistic work in his house as follows: "On the walls of the music room at R. B. Brandegee's is told a tale of chivalry: the mounted knight, the group of villagers blessing his departure, and the sleeping dragon, the object of his quest. The background is one of forest, plains and hills. The decoration has the effect of watercolor, although it is in oil". Unfortunately this has been covered over, by paint or wallpaper or both, and cannot now be seen. One of his murals however, still graces the wall of the Episcopal Church on Mountain Road.

Much has already been written of Mr. Brandegee, but much of what is in the memories of Farmington's older citizens has never been written. What has been written is scattered and difficult to assemble, and what is unwritten is difficult to extract. It is the understanding of the writer that Mr. Nelson C. White of Waterford, distinguished author, painter and collector, is working on a biography of Mr. Brandegee, and it should certainly be welcomed by Farmington readers. Mr. Brandegee has done much to add to Farmington's historical interest, and more knowledge of him and of his life will be welcomed.

Mrs. Brandegee died on June 22, 1920. Their married life had been of comparatively short duration, but it had been an extremely happy one. Mr. Brandegee considered his life fulfilled, and he died on March 5, 1922.

Robert Lord Brandegee, a graduate of Williams College in 1920, was working in Hartford at the time of his father's death, employed by Connecticut Mutual Insurance Company. He spent that summer and some additional time in Europe, acquainting himself with many of the places his father had mentioned so often in his tales of the past.

When he returned from this trip he accepted employment with Hartford Accident and Indemnity and worked in Hartford several years. This was followed by a transfer to New York City and then to New Jersey, where he lived in East Orange and worked in a new branch in Newark. Here he fortunately met, on a blind date, Elizabeth Creighton of Bayonne. Her father was of Nova Scotia and her mother of Cambridge, Massachusetts. They were married in 1931, and in that same year he joined Charles E. Mitchell to form Mitchell, Brandegee & Co., Inc., in the insurance brokerage business. He was in this many years, but after a merger in 1963 he gradually tapered off his activity in the business, and retired in 1968.

Rather early in their married life the Brandegees had moved to Chatham, New Jersey, where they joined in its civic and social life. Robert was president of the historical society there, and during his term of office he instigated and promoted the publication of a history of the town, written by John Cunningham with the aid of 400 interested citizens. It is entitled "CHATHAM, at the Crossing of the Fishawack".

August 30, 1971
Mr. Brandegee always had the subconscious feeling that he was still a Connecticut man, and that New Jersey was only temporary, so when retirement faced them in 1968 they looked for and found a Connecticut home. This is a nineteenth century house on Route 44 in Salisbury, stately and comfortable and enjoyable. They have had for many years a summer home on Twin Lakes, nearby, and that now becomes the site for summer get-togethers with their two children and five grandchildren.

Their son Robert Creighton Brandegee, whose wife is Ada Joseph of Pittsburgh, has a son Robert Joseph Brandegee, and a step-daughter Beth Shaner Brandegee, both in school. The family resides in Pittsburgh, where Mr. Brandegee is an editorial consultant.

Their daughter Sarah Bolling Brandegee's husband is Douglas S. Brodie, born in Tuxedo Park, New York. They have three children: David Brandegee Brodie, Andrew Scott Brodie and Paul Stith Brodie, all in school. They reside in Sherborn, Massachusetts, where Mr. Brodie is in the real estate business.

The writer and his wife had a very pleasant visit with the Brandegees at their home in May of 1969, when Mr. Brandegee gave much of the preceding information. He found among his papers this quotation which he brought out to illustrate his father's humor. It was taken from the pamphlet "32 years of Farmington from the Parsonage", written in 1954 by Mary Twitchell Blakely, widow of Quincy Blakely, who had been Farmington's Congregational minister from 1905 until 1937. It reads:

"Robert Brandegee had a merry wit, loved his impractical, undomestic wife very dearly, and once wrote an amusing little poem to her. These few lines tell a revealing story:

'Though our darling little Susie's
Busy up among the Muses
The beans are boiling over on the stove'."

The younger Robert Brandegee had moved from Farmington after his father's death, and he rented their old home to Wilmarth Lewis, who lived there three years while he sought a suitable house to purchase. The one he chose was the General Solomon Cowles house at 154 Main Street, which he purchased in 1926.

In the month of March of that same year, 1926, Robert Brandegee sold this house and property to Mr. Holderness, an insurance executive. Mr. Holderness was from England, his wife from West Virginia. Their daughter Elise lived here with them until her marriage to Henry Shepherd.

August 30, 1971
Mr. and Mrs. Holderness, who purchased this house on March 10, 1926, were satisfying a desire which they had had for some time, to own this unique house with which they had become acquainted while Robert B. Brandegee was still alive and entertaining friends and neighbors at his home. They had come to Farmington in the days of World War I.

Harold Munroe Holderness had been born in England, the son of Harold Holderness and Mary Munroe. The elder Mr. Holderness was also born in England, but was in the shipping business and had been assigned to Boston for a time. He there married Miss Munroe, of a "proper" Bostonian family. They later lived in England and their son Harold was reared and educated there. After the deaths of his parents at rather early ages, he came to the United States to become acquainted with his American ancestors. He settled here, becoming an employee and soon a regional representative of the Connecticut Mutual Life Insurance Company.

A short time later he was assigned to Charleston, West Virginia, and there met and courted and married Margaret Lynn Lewis, daughter of William Dickinson Lewis and Jennie Grey. The Lewis family of Charleston was a solid southern family of long standing and large land holdings.

An interim assignment for Mr. Holderness was a temporary one in the city of Houston, Texas, but it was long enough that their daughter, Elise Munroe Holderness, was born there. They soon returned to Charleston and spent several more years there.

During World War I Mr. Holderness was transferred to the home office in Hartford, and through associates in the office they found that Farmington was a desirable place to live. Their first residence was at what is now 16 Main Street. It had been occupied by one of his fellow employees, Mr. Henry H. Steiner. Mrs Steiner had been in ill health some time and had died. Mr. Steiner had re-married and moved to Waterville Road. The Holderness family took over the rental of 16 Main Street, the owner at that time being Lewis Root who had inherited it. At that time the small house in the rear, which the Aspinwalls call "The Cottage" and the Root family always called "The Casino", was used as headquarters for the local Red Cross unit of volunteers, a place for their meetings and to make bandages and dressings as a part of the local war effort. This was a lovely residence, but the Holderness family found it too large, so they moved into the Farnam house on High Street, now the Farmington Museum.

This house was smaller, colorful, and as an antique, very interesting, especially to Elise, who especially loved having a fireplace that provided such a wonderful entranceway for Santa Claus. To Mrs. Holderness however, a southerner with no love for cold weather, it was almost too much for her to bear, and when her hot water bottle froze in bed! --- that was the end, and they looked for another house.

That turned out to be the house across the street known as 18 High Street now, which they purchased from Harry C. Ney on February 16, 1921, and they were all glad to be warm again.

October 12, 1971
This house never stimulated them however, and when the good opportunity came to sell it in 1924, they took advantage of it, and on October 16 sold it to Harry I. B. Rice, a fellow employee of Connecticut Mutual.

The Holderness family lived a while at the Farmington Country Club, which always had a few suites available for members, then spent several months on a tour of Europe. When they returned they lived for a time in another Steiner house, this time in the one at 26 Waterville Road, where Dr. Stockwell now resides.

The opportunity for which they had hoped finally came to them in 1926, and on March tenth they bought the Brandegee house. It had been occupied (whenever Mr. Lewis was in Farmington) by Mr. Wilmarth S. Lewis, who had been renting it while he also searched for a permanent location, and who found it in the house at 154 Main Street which he purchased that year, the former General Solomon Cowles house.

They loved the Brandegee house. They were not offended by the highly controversial St. George and the Dragon on the wall, in fact George over the fireplace and the dragon over the piano -- the quiet pastel shades of muted colors -- they always aroused interest -- and often heated debate. They were fitting mementos of Mr. Brandegee.

They did alter the interior arrangement considerably. They made a roomy master bedroom out of what had been some very small rooms, they modernized the kitchen and they made a formal dining room. They made a great many improvements, but they still retained many of the Brandegee touches.

Elise Holderness, a teen-ager then, now Mrs. Robert Marvel, liked the quiet charm of the place, the pool in the form of Mrs. Brandegee's cello, the irregular levels in the house, the interesting history of the former owner --- all these things appealed to her.

The neighbors were interesting too. She grew up with the Whaples girls of 49 High Street, the Hewes children of 50 High Street, the Skinners of 24 Mountain Road, the Kearneys of 763 Farmington Avenue and Elisabeth Hooker of 29 Mountain Spring Road. The latter introduced them all to her Aunt Joan Hooker, who devised games like "Wars of the Roses", "Treasure Hunt" and many others, for all the children. It was a wonderful life.

In 1937 Elise married Henry Longdon Shepherd, whom she had met while he was a guest of the Thomas Hewes family at 37 Mountain Spring Road. Thomas Hewes had been in Washington, D. C. for some time as Under-Secretary of the Treasury under Mr. Morgenthau (and of course President Roosevelt). Mr. Hewes had become acquainted with Mr. Shepherd, a bright young economist at that time in the same department. They became very good friends. When their disenchantment with Washington led them to leave, Mr. Hewes invited his young friend to come to the Hartford area. Mr. Shepherd, his latent interest in law stimulated by Mr. Hewes, read law with Mr. Hewes, studied hard on his own, and passed the bar examination, becoming affiliated with the firm of Hewes, Prettyman and Avalt.

October 12, 1971
Mr. Shepherd had been born in New York, the son of Henry Leven Shepherd and Marna Magnussen, and as mentioned, he was practicing law in Hartford when he and Miss Holderness were married. Their first residence after marriage was at the Elm Tree Inn, then by 1939 they had built and moved into the house on the bend of the road, now known as 9 Diamond Glen. Here were born both their children, Henry Longdon Shepherd III and Lynn Munroe Shepherd. It was while they were here that the law firm of Shepherd, Hurtha and Merritt was formed.

When Lynn was very small they purchased in November 1947, from the Whaples Estate, the house at 49 High Street, pictured on page 170 of the Farmington Book. Mrs. Shepherd of course had been familiar with this house, growing up as she had with the Whaples girls, and had always admired the charm and dignity which had been given it by Mr. Gibb and his mother Mrs. Rossiter. It provided a wonderful place for the Shepherd children to grow up.

The Shepherds were divorced however, in early 1956, and Mrs. Shepherd sold the house in March of that same year to Judge George H. Day of Hartford. Two months later she purchased the Red House at 32 Mountain Road from the widow Enid V. Williams, and moved in with her two children.

Mrs. Shepherd meanwhile had started a business venture together with Mrs. John B. Sanborn of Colton Street and later of Willow Lane. She and Helen Sanborn had opened the "Village Shop" on Canal Path. Shortly after the 1955 flood, which had almost reached them in that location, they moved up to what is now 767 Farmington Avenue, which had recently been built by Dr. Walls Bunnell. The business was at first a children's clothing store, but now expanded to include casual and leisure wear for all ages. Results were good and Mrs. Sanborn was an interesting partner, full of enthusiasm and ideas, and the business was a constant adventure. In 1959 they were made an offer for the store that they could not refuse, an offer by Joseph Whitney. He purchased the store and operated it as "Robin Hood's Barn", changing its image to one which did not appeal to the Village, and it was sold again fairly soon. The two former owners had gone into the writing of a column, used by weekly newspapers, a column something similar to Ann Landers' -- questions and answers, problems and advice. It was very interesting but its monetary rewards were few, so it was not carried on for very long.

The Shepherd children are now both married and have moved from the Farmington area. Henry (always known as Nick) worked for a while with his father as his law partner in Litchfield, but the partnership has been dissolved and Mr. Shepherd has now retired to California. Nick has since tried teaching, in a boy's boarding school. He has found it interesting a rewarding, and he has decided to follow this as a career. To his bachelor and law degrees from Princeton he is now in the process of adding a degree in education at the University of Virginia in Charlottesville. He is married to Diana Regen of Scarsdale, New York and they have two boys. Lynn is married to John S. Saylor. They live on Bleeker Street in New York, near the New York University, where John is expecting a doctor's degree in Clinical Psychology this December.

October 13, 1971
Mrs. Shepherd married William A. Damerel in 1958 and they sold the house on Mountain Road that same year, moving to a house which Mr. Damerel built on Reservoir Road. He had been with various industries in Hartford, his last position being that of engineer for United Aircraft on the Turbo-Train project. He died in late 1969 and Mrs. Damerel sold the Reservoir Road property in October 1970 to Alex Kist, Jr.

She is now Mrs. Robert Marvel of Talcott Village. Mr. Marvel is of a large influential family of Wilmington, Delaware, was a Naval Flyer in World War II and came out as Commander. He headed a Sun Oil district in Philadelphia, later lived in New York, still with Sun Oil. He had been previously married and divorced and has two sons. Faced with the choice of retiring from Sun Oil or moving west, he chose retirement. He is attached to the sea, has spent many summers at Watch Hill, and does not like to move too far from salt water. Mrs. Marvel is a newly-hired dress sales-woman in Avon, and although they are presently living in Talcott Village their plans for the future are still very flexible.

October 13, 1971

Mr. and Mrs. Holderness sold this house at 36 High Street in September 1941, and moved to California.

The purchaser at that time was Lucille H. Russell, wife of John Russell. After Mr. Russell's death Mrs. Russell married Nathaniel Hutchins and they moved to Bermuda.

It has been said that a Mr. and Mrs. Tarleton lived here a few years, not confirmed.

In July 1944 it was sold to Isabelle B. Hardie, widow of Allen Hardie. She sold in February 1947 to Joseph L. Hyde.

The Hydes had been living at 50 High Street while this house was being prepared for occupancy, and Mr. Hyde died before they moved in. Mrs. Hyde did move in however, with her son, the only one of their three children as yet unmarried. She converted part of the house to an apartment, rented at least part of the time to a Trinity college teacher. Mrs. Hyde, the former Ruth Draper, died here on August 14, 1968, and was buried in her home town of Enosburg, Vermont. The children, at the time of her death, were:

Joseph L. Hyde, Jr., of Darien, Connecticut,
Mrs. Harriet Rowland, of Mission, Kansas, and
Mrs. Susan Parrish, of Paris, Kentucky.

Helen Winter, Mrs. John Winter, purchased the house in January 1969. She and her husband have made some alterations and extensive decorative changes, and presently reside here.

March 23, 1972
Present owners and occupants of this house are Mr. and Mrs. John Keyes Winter. Mrs. Winter, Helen C. Winter, purchased it from Joseph L. Hyde, Jr., on January 4, 1969.

Mr. Winter was born in New York City, the son of Keyes Winter of Indianapolis, and Mary Mosely of New York City. Keyes Winter was as a boy a neighbor of Booth Tarkington who was courting Keyes' aunt. It was Keyes on whom Mr. Tarkington based his Penrod, of "Penrod and Sam", using some of Keyes' traits which had bothered Mr. Tarkington during his courting.

Mrs. Winter, the former Helen Cutler, was born in Hartford, the daughter of Ralph Dennis Cutler, vice president of HELCO, and Ruth Brainard, cousin of Mrs. Lydia Hewes presently of Farmington.

John Winter's father had come East to boarding school, was later graduated from Yale and Yale law school, practiced in New York, and was there a municipal judge for many years.

John K. Winter grew up in New York City but visited at times in Hartford, and he always considered Hartford his criterion when he wished to judge other cities. His first acquaintance with Farmington was when his motorcycle was put out of commission here by a frozen piston, when he was just passing through enroute from Vermont to New York. He was graduated from Yale in the almost peak depression year of 1932, and the best employment he could find was as a farmhand in Millbrook. During the next year he found a place with Aetna in Hartford, and after some training he was sent west to as . He returned to Hartford in 1938 and then opened his own small agency, selling mostly property and casualty insurance written by Aetna.

Helen Cutler, as a girl in Hartford, attended Oxford School and a dancing school. Several Farmington girls were her schoolmates, among them the Whaples girls of 49 High Street, Elizabeth Thompson of 50 High Street, Elise Holderness of what is now Helen's own house, Anita House of 32 High Street, and Helen Hewes of 37 Mountain Spring Road. Visits with these girls were her first introduction to Farmington.

Helen Cutler and Jack Winter met in Hartford and were married in the late 1930's, one of Helen's bridesmaids being Helen Hewes, now Mrs. F. Kelso Davis of Essex.

Jack Winter took time out from the insurance business to serve throughout World War II on destroyers in both the Atlantic and the Pacific, and was all set for the invasion of Japan when the two atom bombs were dropped and ended the fighting. He resumed his insurance business when he returned, having his office in West Hartford.

The Winters family lived for a time in Hartford, then moved to Sycamore Street in West Hartford. Mrs. Winter was fully occupied with the mothering of their four children until in the early 1960's, when they seemed pretty well able to care for themselves.

March 23, 1972
Helen Winter had always felt an artistic bent, and went to work for a West Hartford gallery which carried paintings and antiques. This failed, but it had stimulated her interest. She took night classes in art at the University of Hartford, and in early 1966 started her own gallery and art shop in Lyme, Connecticut. She stayed there only for one summer and in the fall opened a gallery in what has been known as the A. J. Parker building at 778 Farmington Avenue. See photo on page 179 of the Farmington Book. She handled "Antiques- Fine Paintings- Appraisals- Restoration".

By 1968 the space in this shop seemed to be too small, and she began the search for a house in which they could live and perhaps also have the shop. The saleswoman could not produce such a thing, so Mrs. Winter asked if there was a house just large enough to live in. The answer was "Yes, I have something but you won't like it, you will bump your heads". She showed them this Brandegee house and they loved it. They have made changes of course, with the help of Norrie Prentice in planning and Gene Michaud in carrying out what was planned. They have not changed the house basically, but they have restored its one-family atmosphere which had been lost when Mrs. Hyde had converted the studio section to an apartment. Jack Winter says: "I think this house is unique. The main floor has four different ceiling levels, and the second floor has five different floor levels! This is all due to the origin of the house. It has sometimes been said that it was "made of the old school house, a barn, and a shed, all pushed together and attached and made into rooms" -- -- and this must be true.

It is fitting too, that the artist Robert Brandegee built the house, and now the artistically inclined Mrs. Winter occupies it. She says: "I have always had a natural interest in art, and I could easily be an artist ---- I just haven't found my medium!" That she knows her art was just recently emphasized by an incident which was noted by the Hartford Courant on May 15, which told of the fact that she and Mrs. Virginia Somerville had discovered an authentic original sketch by 19th century artist Edgar Degas, which had been given to a charitable auction as "a good reproduction".

Mrs. Winter temporarily rested her search for a larger home for her gallery, but in mid-1970, when Jim Thomson said: "I wish the future of the old grist mill could be settled". She looked at it and decided it was just what she needed! She says: "and Jack, bless his heart, didn't think I was out of my mind", so she bought it.

It required quite a bit of alteration, but with her husband's aid it has been done and the results are good. She now has:

Her own gallery, which she operates as an antique shop, showing both paintings and artifacts,

Alice Ferguson's gallery upstairs, where she shows modern art,

"Soupcon", a luncheon room from 12 to 2, and a tearoom from 2:30 to 4:30,

May 25, 1972
The Millrace, a book store,
Needleloft, a needlework shop which both teaches & sell,
Martha West, a dress shop, and
An apartment for rental.

It takes a lot of work but it is a beautiful place and
in a beautiful setting. Mrs. Winter says: "It still clutches me ---
I just love that place". One art dealer says: "The entrance alone
is worth the price".

More about the mill itself will be found in a separate
account of the Grist Mill, Mill Road, and account of some of its
previous life and history.

Mr. Winter has just recently moved his own insurance
office from West Hartford to downtown Hartford, into a space with
Goodwin, Loomis and Britton, a place where he can get complete
computer service, and get away from much time-consuming paper work.
He is also Building Superintendent at the Grist Mill, and even has a
little office for himself there too, at 40 Mill Lane.

Mr. and Mrs. Winter have four children.

Helen Cutler Winter (Holly), is now Mrs. Joel Bauman
of San Francisco. Mr. Bauman was born in Berlin, Germany, and is
working in engineering research. They were married on November 8,
1969, in her parents' home, by Judge Douglass Wright. Mr. Bauman's
task right now is the development of an electronic thermometer with
instant read-out, which will be a great help to hospitals. A son
was born to them in San Francisco on May 28, 1972. Mrs. Winter says
of the first Winter grandson: "I have heard him squeak -- 3000 miles
away over the phone. I feel like I know him!". She will know him
before long, she is going out to see him.

Marie Keyes Winter is now Mrs. J. Michael Brady of Wis-
consin, where her husband is in the warehousing and storage de-
partment of a large chain of department stores. They are on the
eve of an African safari which will start this month.

John Keyes Winter, Jr., lives at home.

Alfred Payne Winter attends the University of Denver.

A late item seen in the Hartford Courant of June 1, 1972,
is the following:

"A Gold Seal award went to Mrs. Winter from the Farmington
Garden Club for preserving the traditional character of historic
Farmington at the Grist Mill, which she has taken over and made a
commercial center on the east bank of the Farmington River".

June 5, 1972