This building sits on a prominent location at the corner of Farmington Avenue and Main Street. It is the first residence on the west side of the street. It is surrounded by a brick wall and its driveway is located on the south side of the building.
This Georgian-style building, built in 1783, features a five-bay facade and six-over-six sash. Its original appearance is unknown as it has been renovated as a restaurant, calling for the replacement of many original materials. Its original portico, as seen in a 1906 photograph, does not exist today. Note its slight overhang and cut brownstone foundation. To the rear of this house is a modern two-story addition.

In 1774 Thankful Ford sold a one-acre piece of land to Daniel Curtiss for 100 pounds (FLR 20:24). There was an old house on the site and when Daniel sold ½ interest in the property to his son Eleazer (b. 1754) in 1783, he recorded in the deed that "I and my son have mutually agreed to build a new house on said land and have large provision for the same" (FLR 25:397). It is possible that the Curtisses incorporated the older house into their new dwelling, but it is impossible to determine today as the rear section of the house was destroyed around 1960. Some sources also say that Captain Judah Woodruff built the house, but this is not documented. Daniel and Eleazer Curtiss sold their house in 1794 to William and William S. Judd for 620 pounds (FLR 30:418). Major William Judd (b. 1743) married Elizabeth Mix in 1765. He was the brother of Eunice (Judd) Woodruff, Captain Judah Woodruff's wife. In 1807 Elijah, Jr. and Jonathan Cowles purchased the property for $4000 (FLR 35:339). These brothers were the sons of Elijah Cowles of the leading mercantile firm Elijah Cowles and Company. Elijah, Jr. (1755-1826) married Elizabeth Cowles, daughter of James and Abigail (Hooker) Cowles. Jonathan (1757-1822) married Esther Lewis, daughter of William and Mary (Bull) Lewis. Jonathan, in 1813, sold the property to his sons John L. (1787-1868) and Henry Cowles (1791-1855) of both whom worked in their father's business (FLR 38:527). Henry quit-claimed his interests in the house and land to his brother in 1810 (FLR 39:310). And after William's death, it was sold to John Thomson (FLR 57:16). Thomson left the house to his son Thomas (b. 1861) and daughter Rebecca who in 1911 gained full title (FLR 76:304, FPR 22:479, FLR 73:80). Ruth (Thomson) Sneath sold it to her daughter Alice in 1918 (FLR 80:26). It has changed ownership several times since then. (see below)


Threats to Building or Site

None known. □ Highways □ Vandalism □ Developers □ Other

□ Renewal □ Private □ Deterioration □ Zoning □ Explanation
OWNER'S NAME: WRIGHT, JAMES B.

ADDRESS: 4 Main Street & Farmington Avenue

DATE BUILT: ca. 1680 FOR: Anne & Thomas Thomson & heirs

1783 " Daniel & Eleazer Curtis

ARCHITECT
MASTER-BUILDER

FORMER OWNERS: J.B. Wright from Joseph Tofani 10/7/1945, Vol. 98, p. 571, for $11,300 for a restaurant; J. Tofani from Est. Alice Sneath 6/3/1941, Vol. 94, p. 516; A. Sneath from her mother, Rebecca T. Sneath, w. side Main St., known as "Thompson Place", n. by Farmington Street R.R. Co., e. by Main St., s. by Est. F.H. Sneath, w. by John Rourke, 8/31/1918, Vol. 80, p. 26; R.T. Sneath by Quit Claim from Rebecca Doke 3/4/1898, Vol. 73, p. 80; R. Sneath from brother Thomas Thomon by Quit Claim deed of his int. 11/6/1911, Vol. 76, p. 304; R. Sneath & Thomas Thomson from their father John Thomson, by will, equally, with directions to support Rebecca Doke, sister of his wife, Ann, 10/2/1895, Prob. Rec. Vol. 22, p. 179; John Thomson, land & dwellinghouse & other bldgs., the late residence of William L. Cowles, from the Est. of Wm. L. Cowles by Seth Wheeler & Thomas Cowles, Conservators, bounded n. & e. on hghys., s. on Abner Bidwell, w. on land of Wm. L. Cowles, for $6,000, 4/1/1858, Vol. 57.

REFERENCES: "Farmington, Conn., 1906", p. 13
"Colonial Dames Pamphlet" at State Library
"Farmington Town Clerks, 1943", pp. 90, 91
"Baker & Tilden Atlas, 1869", p. 33

(OVER)
Former Owners, cont.: p. 16; Wm. L. Cowles from brother, Henry Cowles, a ½ int. in said acre with house, store & other bldgs., e. & n. on hghys., s. on Samuel Richards & w. on Isabel Lee, 1/25/1816, Vol. 39, p. 310; Henry & Wm. Cowles, sons of Jonathan Cowles "for parental love and affection", same des. 12/1/1813, Vol. 38, p. 427; Jonathan and Elijah Cowles from Wm. S. Judd, same des., for $4,000, 4/7/1807, Vol. 35, p. 339; (Elijah Quit Claim to Jonathan); Wm. Judd and his son, Wm. S. Judd, from Daniel & Eleazer Curtis, 1 acre, house, barns, store & all other bldgs., except the old saddler's shop at s.e. corner, 10/10/1794, Vol. 30, p. 418; Daniel & Eleazer Curtis agreed to build a house there, they having nails, boards, etc., 8/15/1783, Vol. 25, p. 397; Daniel Curtis from Thankful Ford, 1 acre, with all appurtenances near the n. end of Main St. that leads through said Society, n. on hghy. that leads out to New Hartford, e. on hghy. that runs through said Society, s. on heirs of Capt. Ezekiel Thompson, w. on Thomas Lee's land & house, 2/16/1774, Vol. 20, p. 24; Thankful Ford from Elisha Miller, 3 roods with dwellinghouse, barns & other bldgs., e. on Town St., n. on hghy. leading to the North Meadow Gate 6/25/1771, Vol. 18, p. 268; Elisha Miller from Heman Watson, same, 2/11/1769, Vol. 16, p. 458, on Broad St., or the town st.; H. Watson from Hezekiah Thomson, the house lot on which I now dwell, same des. 2/19/1768, Vol. 16, p. 201; H. Thomson from Brother Solomon "½ part of the homestead which was my father John's (except mother's part)" 1/13/1743-4, Vol. 7, p. 16 (see Est. John Thomson in Manwaring, Vol. 2, p. 312; John Thomson, jr., from John Sr., 5/22/1723, dated 8/3/1697, Vol. 1, p. 51 (Est. of John, sr., in Manwaring Vol. 1, p. 156); John Thomson, sr., from Thomas Welles 5/3/1647, Vol. 2, p. 5, with a dwellinghouse, ½ of the 6 acres to his son-in-law John"; John & Thomas Thomson had their father, Thomas Thomson's land by distribution made by a committee, as they could not agree, 9/2/1686, Manwaring Vol. 1, p. 156. Thomas Thomson, who married Anne Wells, daughter of Gov. Welles, died 1655. His est. probated May 1656. His widow married Anthony Hawkins within the yr. By terms of will, his 2 sons were not to have the land until after the death of their mother. The 1st house was the Farmington home of Gov. Welles, who gave it to daughter, Anne, as wedding present. The deed was written on parchment & gave the town as 'Tunxis Sepus'.
This house is pictured on page 13 of the Farmington Book as the Thompson Place. It is shown as J. Thompson in the Baker and Tilden Atlas of 1869. It was written up by Mabel S. Hurlburt for the Colonial Dames Society, in 1948, as the "Thomson or Curtis" house. It is now the "Corner House", a restaurant, to which it was converted in 1941. Although it has gone through two re-modelings and a fire, its facade remains much the same appearance as it did in 1906. It was built in 1783 by Judah Woodruff for Daniel Curtis and his son Eleazzar, perhaps at that time incorporating some parts of an older house on the same site.

This site was formerly the house lot belonging to Thomas Welles, governor of the Connecticut colony in 1655 and 1658, and an original proprietor of Farmington. He was among the first to have a house lot recorded. It was described as "the first lot on the north end of the Town Path" and extended from the road in a westerly direction all the way to the Farmington River. This land, with a dwelling house on it, was given as a wedding present to his daughter Anne when she married Thomas Thomson on April 14, 1646. The deed for conveyance of title was executed on parchment, but it was never recorded until in 1773, when it was brought in to the records office by Capt. Joseph Hawley, a great-grandson of Governor Welles.

Governor Welles was born in Essex County, England, in 1598. His property having been confiscated for political reasons he came to America, locating in Saybrook in 1636, and in Hartford 1637. His daughter Anne was born in England in 1619. His wife, Elizabeth Hunt, died in 1640. His second wife, Elizabeth Deming, the widow of Nathaniel Foote, was of Wethersfield, thought to have been the sister of the immigrant John Deming, first of the Deming family in America. Thomas Welles was Deputy Governor of Connecticut in 1654, 1656, 1657 & 1659, and Governor in 1655 and 1658.

Thomas Thomson was one of the earliest settlers in Farmington and one of the seven organizers of the Church of Christ here on October 13, 1652. He died on April 25, 1655, and by May 6, 1656, his widow Anne had married Anthony Hawkins, wealthy and prominent resident who lived on the hill above Farmington Avenue, somewhere above the house at 763 Farmington Avenue.

Mrs. Hawkins retained title to this property until her death, and in 1686 it was distributed to John and Thomas Thomson, sons of her first marriage. John Thomson's son Ezekiel was married in 1746 at the age of 33, to Catherine Hitchcock. Library records show a house being built here for Thomas Thomson in 1680, perhaps a new house, but more than likely a re-modeling of the one already on the property in 1646. The new one must have been built by the son, his father having died in 1655.

The property stayed in this same family until sold by Hezekiah Thomson in 1768. Some of the Thomsons went to the Avon area, especially to West Avon. Mrs. Raymond Sperry, the former Reata Thompson, and Oliver Thompson, first selectman of Avon, sister and brother, are of that branch of the family.

Heman Watson was the purchaser from Hezekiah Thomson in 1768, but nothing seems known of him. Elisha Miller, married in 1764 to Sarah Fowler, purchased it in 1769.

Thankful Ford, the next owner, took title in 1771, and Daniel Curtis purchased from her in 1774. He and his son Eleazar, born 1754, had Judah Woodruff build them a new house on the property in 1783, perhaps incorporating in it a part of the old house. One report is that Daniel Curtis used the cellar as a saddle shop, using a door in the front as access. A short history of the house, made up for use of the owners of the "Corner House" when it first was opened, states that "there is every indication that the ell at the rear of the house is part of the earliest house which stood there". This ell, which shows in some photographs taken from Farmington Avenue, was on the north side of the house, but was torn off during the remodeling which followed a fire around 1960.

It was Daniel Curtis who purchased land on the highway north of this house, selling it in 1785 to Samuel Richards. The latter built a store on that site, later to be known as "Gay's Store".

In 1794 Major William Judd and his son William Samuel Judd purchased the property and buildings, with the exception of a "saddler's shop on the southeast corner of the property". This was perhaps built to replace the shop previously in the cellar. Major William Judd, born in 1743, was a descendant of Immigrant Thomas Judd, one of the "seven pillars of the church", the seven organizers of the first church in Farmington on October 13, 1652.

Major Judd married Elizabeth Mix, daughter of Ebenezer Mix & Anna Goodwin of West Hartford, in 1765, the same year that he was admitted to the bar. His sister, Eunice Judd, was the wife of Judah Woodruff who had built this house. Major Judd was a prominent and leading man in the affairs of the town and of the colony. In September 1774 he drew up an agreement signed by 70 men to march to the defense of Boston with 3000 lbs of lead, 10,000 flints and 36 bbls of powder. When word of Lexington and Concord came, 100 Farmington men marched under the command of Col. Fisher Gay. It was that year in which William Judd was made a major. John Mix of 123 Main Street, Major Judd's wife's brother, was an ensign in his company, Col. Wyllys' regiment, in 1777.

Major William Judd was a charter member of Frederick Lodge #14 of Free and Accepted Masons, which was chartered by the Grand Lodge of Massachusetts two years before Connecticut's grand lodge was organized. He was later a delegate to its organizing convention. For more on the Masonic Lodge, see Trumbull Memorial History, Volume 1, page 96. Major Judd sold his interest in this property to his son who mortgaged it to the State for $1250 and had to give it up. Major Judd, after presiding over the State Constitutional Convention in Middletown in 1804, died that same year, practically penniless, but with his good name unsmirched. His descendant William Hart Judd was living in New Britain in 1948.

Jonathan and Elijah Cowles took title to this property in 1807 and Elijah later quit-claimed his half to Jonathan. William L. and Henry Cowles inherited in 1813, William L. purchasing Henry's share in 1816. The relationship of these members of the Cowles family is as follows:

Elijah Cowles #320 and Jonathan Cowles #321, were sons of Elijah Cowles #119, while

William Lewis Cowles #752 and Henry Cowles #754, were the sons of Jonathan #321.

July 29, 1971
Elijah Cowles, 1755-1826, was married to Elizabeth Cowles, daughter of James Cowles and Abigail Hooker. He was a merchant in business with four brothers, and was the head of Elijah Cowles and Company, a business formed by his father, one of the leading mercantile firms in the state. He was a director of the Hartford bank. Once a shoemaker, he was very close and saving.

Jonathan Cowles, 1757-1822, his brother, was married to Esther Lewis, daughter of William Lewis and Mary Bull. He was in the War of the Revolution, a private in Captain Bidwell's 1st Company, Fisher Gay's 15th Connecticut Militia, and later rose to the rank of major in the militia. He was a merchant in company with his four brothers, and lived at 59 Main Street, where his son William Lewis Cowles later lived.

Henry Cowles, 1791-1855, son of Jonathan, was married to Rebecca F. Green of Long Island and Alabama. He was for a time a notary public and deputy sheriff in Farmington and was aide-de-camp to Major General Solomon Cowles in 1813 and 1814. He was a merchant both in Farmington and New York, and died in Gainsview, Alabama.

William Lewis Cowles, his brother, 1787-1868, was married to Charity Cowles, daughter of Major General Solomon Cowles and Polly Gleason. It was for her father that the house at 154 Main Street was built. William is stated to have been a "merchant at the north end of Farmington Street". Just what this meant is not clear to the writer. Julius Gay does not include him in the list of operators of Gay's Store at the extreme north end of Main Street, but there was once a store building of sorts across the street from it. See photo on page 88. William L. Cowles did build in 1850 the house in which John Rourke lived in 1906, pictured on page 112, but it does not appear ever to have been a store. Records do state however, that in 1816 by William of Henry's share in 1816, that it included "house, store and other buildings".

John Thomson, whose wife was Anne McClintock, daughter of Andrew and Elizabeth McClintock, purchased the property in 1868 from the estate of William L. Cowles. This makes it exactly 100 years from the time it left the Thomson family's ownership in 1768, but it is not at the moment known whether this is the same family which previously owned it.

John Thomson left it to his two children, Thomas and Rebecca, with the proviso that they would support Rebecca Doke, their mother's sister. Mrs. Doke relinquished her claim to her niece Rebecca in 1898, and died in 1899. Thomas and Rebecca (Mrs. Frank Sneath), owned the house at 4 Main Street jointly after the death of their father in 1895, and their Aunt Rebecca in 1899, but could not agree on its disposition so it was vacant for several years. It is said that the house was in such poor repair that it was once declared unfit for occupancy.

Thomas Thomson, born in 1861, was employed at Hillstead Estate and in 1906 married a fellow employee there, Isabella (Belle) Ross, born in Canada in 1870. Thomas had inherited from his father extensive property north of the golf course, extending from Waterville Road to Mountain Spring Road. It is the property on which Charles W. Deeds now lives. Thomas Thomson and his wife lived in a small house on this property. It appears that they moved later to Porter Road, where they were living when he died in 1937. Mr. Deeds, after his purchase of the property on the mountain, razed all the buildings that were on it. Mrs. Thomson died 1946.

July 30, 1971

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In 1911 Thomas Thomson quit-claimed to his sister Mrs. Sneath, his share of the title to the house at 4 Main Street, after which she restored the house to habitable condition. In 1913 Dr. Phelps and his family moved into it, Dr. Phelps newly married after the death of his first wife two years prior to this. He used this house as his office as well as residence. Within a few years the old building next door, which had housed "Gay's Store" and which had burned around 1913, was rebuilt and provided space upstairs for his office. He and his family then moved to the house at 9 Waterville Road, which they purchased in 1917, perhaps having rented prior to that. See more regarding Dr. Phelps and his family in an account of that house, which is pictured on page 59 of the Farmington Book as "Brookside".

Several old barns to the rear of the property were burned, perhaps around 1911. Around 1918 Alice Sneath inherited the property from her mother, but never occupied it as she continued living in the family home at 10 Main Street, next door south. In formation as to occupants of the house from this time until its sale to James Wright is wholly hearsay, and not necessarily correct. It is given however, but subject to change when accurate information may be forthcoming.

Mr. and Mrs. Robert Bridgeman were perhaps next. He was a Lieutenant in the State Police and at one time head of its detective force. While living here he had had his own detective bureau, with an office in Hartford. They had a son Robert, who would perhaps now be in his sixties.

Mr. and Mrs. Alden Stevens might have followed the Bridgemans. They had two boys and a summer cottage in Jackson, New Hampshire at the foot of Mt. Washington. It was on a small river on the Tuckerman Ravine side. The Stevens family lived here around 1923 and 1925, and it is thought that they went from here to Africa where Mr. Stevens ran a rubber plantation.

Mr. and Mrs. Warren Cook, who in the early 1960's owned the house at 116 Main Street, lived here for a time.

After the Cooks came Dr. and Mrs. Prendergast. He practiced dentistry in Unionville and soon moved there.

It has been said that a Mrs. McNamee and her sister, of Massachusetts, had a tearoom and antique shop here, and rented rooms, especially to parents of Miss Porter's girls.

The name of Emma Lord Smith, a resident for a time at 113 Main Street, has been mentioned as living here, as has also a Mr. Boardman.

The house was converted sometime during this period, to a two-family house.

Mr. and Mrs. Mann and daughter Jean were residents. Mrs. Mann was the sister of Mrs. Hatheway of Birdseye View, and, like the Hatheways, were also interested in horses and horse racing. They owned a small stable and raced them at Charter Oak Park and Cherry Park. Mr. Mann died very suddenly one day, and his widow and daughter moved to Hartford. Mrs. Mann died there a few years later.

July 30, 1971.
This house was purchased, as an investment, by A. Joseph Tofani, in 1941. He already owned the old store building to the north, separated from this one by the old trolley tracks which were torn up in the late 1940's.

Henry Britton and his wife were two of the tenants, Mr. and Mrs. (Betty) Birmingham living at that time in half of the house. The Britton bought property on Reservoir Road later that year, from Homer Hillyer, and they later built their own residence on it.

Another couple, a Mr. and Mrs. Scott, were tenants, Mr. Scott being employed in a factory in New Britain.

In October 1945 Mr. Tofani sold this house to James Bernard Wright, who converted it to use as a restaurant. Mr. Wright already had some experience in this business. Born in the Ansonia area of Connecticut in 1886, Mr. Wright had early been employed at Clancy's Grocery store in Unionville, and later owned it. His wife was the former Nora Curran of that town. He opened a tearoom in Bristol in 1926 and Wright's Tavern in Plainville in 1928. The Corner House, which he called his new restaurant here, was opened for business on July 4, 1946.

July 30, 1971
This property was purchased in 1945 by James B. Wright who had formerly owned and operated Wright's Tavern on Route 10 in Plainville.

The house of course needed decorating and some alteration to convert it to a restaurant and in this work and its planning he was aided by his brother Edward and nephews Bob and Edward. Bob helped especially with draperies etc and with the naming and decorating of the dining rooms. Knowing that the Highway Department would soon be widening Route 4 at this point, and removing the old drug store which stood to the north, Mr. Wright appropriately named his restaurant The Corner House, and opened it in 1946. He operated it with success for five years, but at that time, his health declining, he wished to be rid of the management. He was 66 at this time. He leased it to two married couples in 1952. The lessees were Elton and Elizabeth Hill and Albert and Jennie Kubas. Elton Hill was the chef at that time, but the Hills soon became dissatisfied with their roles as partners in the management, so sold their share of the business to Mr. and Mrs. Kubas.

Mr. Kubas had been born and reared in New Britain, the son of Blaise Kubas and the former Mary Dul, both of whom had come to New Britain from Poland. Albert had first started in the beauty parlor business in Hartford and later in New Britain, but soon transferred his attention to construction, building houses in New Britain and Newington.

Mrs. Kubas, the former Jennie Spiek, daughter of Frank Spiek and Mary Sokol Spiek, was born and grew up in Bristol. She left school early and was working in a candy shop on the Boulevard in Bristol when she came to the attention of James B. Wright who was operating a sandwich shop across the street. When she left the candy store he suggested she try the restaurant business, and he employed her at Wright's Tavern in Plainville, which he was opening at this time. It was not too long before she was the hostess of his restaurant.

Mr. Wright sold the tavern just a few years later, but by this time she had met and married Albert Kubas and she was glad to leave the restaurant business and stay at home to care for their two children, Judie and Robert. They were living in New Britain at this time.

When Mr. Wright opened the Corner House in Farmington in 1946 he asked Mrs. Kubas to take the position of hostess at his new place of business. She was reluctant to do so as the children were still small, but he suggested trying it a few months anyway, to help him get started. The months became years and she stayed on. Mr. Kubas helped Mr. Wright occasionally too, and became somewhat acquainted with various phases of the work. By the time Mr. Wright wished to give up the operation in 1952, as previously stated, Mr. and Mrs. Kubas joined with Mr. and Mrs. Hills in taking it over. When the Hills left after only a few months Mr. and Mrs. Kubas were on their own.

Mr. Wright, with the help of Mrs. Kubas as hostess, had developed a good patronage. There were some difficulties in the operation as the house had not been changed structurally so there were some inconveniences in its operation. To the right of the entrance was the largest dining room, the Farmington Room, and to the left was the next largest, with four tables, the "Gay Nineties".

August 17, 1970
600,
A room to the rear, off the kitchen, served as dining rooms for the owners and employees --- and sometimes for an overflow of guests. Upstairs were three medium sized rooms, one small one with one table, a small office, and two lavatories. It was not arranged for easy and speedy service.

Mr. and Mrs. Kubas surmounted these obstacles, served good food in pleasant surroundings, with a courteous staff and at reasonable prices. Business improved steadily.

During the repair of damages to area electrical transmission equipment occasioned by the disastrous 1955 flood, the responsibility for feeding the electrical repair crews from as far away as New York State, was assumed by the Corner House. This was the only period during which breakfasts were ever served. This was a period of long working hours, breakfast being served from five in the morning and dinners until all the crews were in for the night. A good job was done and the owners have a plaque presented by the electric companies to show their appreciation. This period was doubly hard for Mrs. Kubas as she lost her father during this time of reconstruction.

Many well known names would appear on the rolls if all patrons of the Corner House were to be listed. Among those easily remembered are Ted Williams, Ezio Pinza, Celeste Holm, Henry Fonda, Jean Tierney and Frank McHugh. A lady enjoying her 90th birthday party was almost overwhelmed one day when Warren Hull sat at the next table and marked her birthday with a kiss! Everyone enjoyed the Corner House and it became a landmark in spite of its youth.

Local people of course were good patrons too. Among those best remembered perhaps are Edward H. Deming and Robert Parsons and their families, and H. I. B. Rice was probably the steadiest and most enduring. An excellent watercolor of a Maine lighthouse done by him graces the living room of the Kubas house as a memento.

In 1957, after Mr. and Mrs. Kubas had been operating the Corner House for five years, Mr. Wright wished to sell the building. The operators wished to buy, but no agreement could be reached on price so Mr. and Mrs. Kubas terminated their management and purchased the Monopole on Route 10, which had been in operation ten years. They regretted leaving the Corner House but there were some advantages. One was a residence on the property, as they had always had to commute to New Britain. Another was the ease of operating all on one floor.

Now, after twelve years of successful operation of the Monopole, they have been out of the business a year, having sold it to a group of four people whom they are satisfied will keep up the good reputation which they have built. The group is comprised of their daughter Judie, her husband Horst Zerber, Mrs. Kubas's sister Virginia, and Joseph Podhajski, Virginia's husband. Mr. Zerber, trained as chef in Germany, is very competent.

Judie Kubas had been graduated from Bay Path, and had been well on her way to a good executive secretarial position with a local insurance company, but she decided to give this up and go into the family business. She and her husband have two children, Kevin six years of age and Pamela four.

August 17, 1970
Robert Kubas, son of Mr. and Mrs. Kubas, is a graduate of Georgetown University, employed by Clairol in their chemical laboratory in Stamford, Connecticut, and is married to Brenda Zeil.

Mr. and Mrs. Kubas have now retired to Florida, but they are probably far from idle. An addition to the Monopole building, noted in May 1971, seems to indicate that business is good.

June 1971

Mr. Wright, a short time after selling the Corner House, opened the Farnham Tavern in Lakeville, Connecticut. His health failed however and he returned to Unionville, retiring from business activity. His wife had died many years earlier, in October 1918, and he died in September 1970. He was a man who loved people, and those who knew him reciprocated. His only child, Mary Noreen Wright, was married in 1941 to James Alexander Hartney, born in New Britain, the son of John J. Hartney and Mary Elizabeth Graham. They lived in Unionville ten years and their son John Curran Hartney, was born during that residence. James Hartney was with Walter J. Dunn in the real estate business in West Hartford for nine years, and in 1951 they moved to Coral Gables, Florida. There he went into the construction business, building rental apartments chiefly. He is past president of Coral Gables Country Club, and member of the local Rotary and Century Clubs. Their son John, a graduate of the University of Florida in 1968, is now in the business with his father, they call it "The Hartneys".

February 26, 1973

Mr. Wright's sale of the restaurant on July 1, 1957, was to the "Corner House Corporation", a corporation headed by Michael R. Perretta of Raymond Road, West Hartford. He was the owner of the Hearthstone Restaurant of Hartford and La Trattoria in Canton. For some reason business fell off in Farmington and Mr. Perretta leased the Corner House to one Mr. Gallagher of New York. Under his management conditions became even worse. A new tenant was found but a fire occurred in , damaging the building quite badly.

In 1963 a plan was evolved by Mr. Perretta and Mr. Irving R. Stich, a plan which involved building the Farmington Motor Inn at the corner of Farmington Avenue and Garden Street, and rebuilding the Corner House and enlarging it to accommodate the guests of the motor inn. This plan seems to have been successful, both businesses doing well. The building housing the Corner House was altered considerably and enlarged, but the Main Street facade has been left much the same, keeping its easily recognized identity.

Michael R. Perretta was killed in an automobile accident on Route 44 in Simsbury on October 31, 1971. Some excerpts from his obituary in the Courant read as follows:

"Born in Hartford's old East Side, Perretta was a prominent business figure in the area for more than thirty years...... and was president of the Farmington Motor Inn, Inc. At the age of 19 Perretta opened his first restaurant, on Market Street..... He was well known for his outgoing personality and novel promotions".

December 27, 1972