Sited on the south side of Mountain Road, the John Hooker House stands before the natural bend and incline of a hill. To the west and north are other historic residences of similar age. To the south lies an open area and a modern residence.
This Cape-style house is unlike others in Farmington dating from the eighteenth century. Built in 1847, the house features a small brick chimney, centrally located, and a three-bay facade. Extending from the front facade is a full-length, open porch supported by square posts. The west end of the porch, which once was open, has been enclosed. Note the twelve-over-twelve sash and the lack of windows in the half story.

This house was erected in 1847 by John Hooker on land he inherited from his father's estate (FPR 10:494). In November of that same year the Reverend Noah Porter sold Hooker "a small strip to be added to the yard of a house, Hooker has recently erected" (FLR 49:330). This small piece of land was located in the northeast corner of Porter's orchard along the south side of Mountain Road. Whether Hooker and his family ever lived in this small house is not known because in 1846 he had inherited his father's homestead at 50 High Street where he probably lived. John Hooker (1816-1901) was the eldest son of Deacon Edward and Elizabeth (Daggett) Hooker and a direct descendant of the Reverend Thomas Hooker, founder of the Hartford Colony. As a young man John was schooled at the Farmington Academy and later attended Yale. Due to poor health, Hooker was forced to leave college and continue his studies at home. He was given a degree with the class of 1837. After traveling around the world for a few years, he returned to Connecticut to study law and was admitted to the Bar in 1841. Hooker set up a practice in Farmington on Main Street. In 1841 he married Isabella Beecher of Hartford, the daughter of Reverend Lyman and Harriet (Porter) Beecher and the sister of Harriet Beecher Stowe. While residing in Farmington, John Hooker served as a town representative and was active in the anti-slavery movement. In 1851 the Hooker family moved to "Nook Farm" in Hartford and this small house was sold to John DeWolfe of Hartford (FLR 52:255). Shortly after purchasing the house, DeWolfe (b. 1829) married Maria Clark (b. 1827). At the birth of his daughter in 1853, DeWolfe's occupation is listed as "attends to his business". Later he is listed as a (see cont. pg.)

Sources:
farmer. In 1856 John Hooker took title to the property again (FLR 54:221). In 1858 the house was sold to Hudson H. Reed of Hartford (FLR 55:301). Little is known about Reed except that he had moved to Brooklyn by 1869 and sold the property to Emily Dorman, the wife of Alfred Dorman (FLR 61:135). The Dormans sold it a year later to Sarah Porter, the headmistress of the successful girls' boarding school (FLR 61:239). John O. Conner owned the house between 1874 and 1885 (FLR 61:673 and 68:172). Miss Porter purchased the property again in 1885 and presumably rented it to employees of her school (FLR 68:172). The next owner was Esther H. Mix who acquired the lot in 1900 from Sarah Porter's estate (FLR 74:62). According to Lewis and Hurlburt, Mrs. Mix moved this small dwelling a short distance to the east and built a larger house on its site. The newer house is located at 42 Mountain Road. Esther Hart (Hawley) Mix rented this house to her brother, Frank M. Hawley, who purchased the house outright in 1924 (FLR 80:491). He and his brother David operated a painting and decorating firm. The property remained in the Hawley family until 1955.

The John Hooker House, although modest in design, contributes to the streetscape and Farmington's local and National Register districts.
ADDRESS: 14 Mountain Road

DATE BUILT: 1847 FOR: John Hooker

ARCHITECT
MASTER-BUILDER

FORMER OWNERS: B.B. Hawley from husband, Frank Hawley, by inheritance 9/9/1940, Vol. 94, p. 229; Frank Hawley from sister, Adaline F. Hawley, by warr., 4/1/1924, Vol. 80, p. 496; A.F. Hawley from Est. of sister, Esther Hawley Mix, by ctf. of devise, 10/22/1921, Vol. 74 p. 372; E.H. Mix from Est. Sarah Porter 4/26/1900, Vol. 74, p. 62 - 3/4 acre, dwelling-house & barn, n. on highway, e. and s. on land of C. Brandegee, w. on other land of Est. Sarah Porter. The dwellinghouse mentioned was the one in which Mrs. Hawley now lives & stood on the site of the present J.H. Minikin house. It was moved to its present site in 1901 when Mrs. Mix built her new house on that site. The barn was later demolished. There was no fireplace in the house originally, Mrs. Hawley having it built with money she earned for that purpose. The fireplace flue goes at an angle into the old chimney. Sarah Porter from John O'Connor 4/25/1885, Vol. 68, p. 172; O'Connor from S. Porter, Farmington, Conn., 1906", p. 169.

"Baker & Tilden Atlas, 1869," p. 33. (House marked Fredus Reed should be Hudson H. Reed, who owned the house from 1858-1869.

OWNER'S NAME (HAWLEY, BERTHA B. Est) to WHITAKER, Lucius M.

 DATE BUILT: 1847

FOR: John Hooker

ADDRESS: 14 Mountain Road

DATE BUILT: 1847 FOR: John Hooker

ARCHITECT
MASTER-BUILDER

FORMER OWNERS: B.B. Hawley from husband, Frank Hawley, by inheritance 9/9/1940, Vol. 94, p. 229; Frank Hawley from sister, Adaline F. Hawley, by warr., 4/1/1924, Vol. 80, p. 496; A.F. Hawley from Est. of sister, Esther Hawley Mix, by ctf. of devise, 10/22/1921, Vol. 74 p. 372; E.H. Mix from Est. Sarah Porter 4/26/1900, Vol. 74, p. 62 - 3/4 acre, dwelling-house & barn, n. on highway, e. and s. on land of C. Brandegee, w. on other land of Est. Sarah Porter. The dwellinghouse mentioned was the one in which Mrs. Hawley now lives & stood on the site of the present J.H. Minikin house. It was moved to its present site in 1901 when Mrs. Mix built her new house on that site. The barn was later demolished. There was no fireplace in the house originally, Mrs. Hawley having it built with money she earned for that purpose. The fireplace flue goes at an angle into the old chimney. Sarah Porter from John O'Connor 4/25/1885, Vol. 68, p. 172; O'Connor from S. Porter, Farmington, Conn., 1906", p. 169.

"Baker & Tilden Atlas, 1869," p. 33. (House marked Fredus Reed should be Hudson H. Reed, who owned the house from 1858-1869.
Former owners, cont.:
3/4 acre, dwellinghouse & all bldgs., 4/7/1874, Vol. 61, p. 673; S. Porter, same, from Emily & Alfred Dorman, same, 3/9/1870, Vol. 61, p. 239, "being the same premises conveyed to the said Emily by Hudson H. Reed by deed dated 3/24/1869, Vol. 61, p. 135;
E. Dorman from Hudson H. Reed, 3/4 acres, dwellinghouse & barn, n. on highway, e. & s. on land of John Hooker & w. on land of heirs of Rev. N. Porter, 3/25/1869, Vol. 61, p. 135; H.H. Reed from John Hooker, a lot of land with dwellinghouse & barn, 1/21/1858, Vol. 55, p. 301 for $775; John Hooker from John DeWolfe, by quit claim, 11/26/1856, Vol. 54, p. 221; John DeWolfe from John Hooker, land, dwellinghouse & barn, n. on highway, w. on land of Noah Porter, said land surveyed 2 ch., 41 links on highway, 2 ch. 32 l. on rear line, 3 ch. 24 l e. & w. lines, for $750.; the condition of sale being mortgage to Farmington Savings Bank 4/12/1851, Vol. 52, p. 255; John Hooker mortgaged to N.H. Savings Bank, 46 acres, no house, 5/8/1847, Vol. 51, p. 2; when mortgage released 10/21/1856, Vol. 54, p. 207, there was a house, barn & 1 acre; John Hooker from Noah Porter "1/2 rods being a small strip to add to yard of a house recently built at n.e. corner of my orchard 11/23/1847, Vol. 49, p. 330.
This house is pictured on page 169 of the Farmington Book as the residence of F. M. Hawley. The Baker and Tilden Atlas of 1869 shows it as F. Reed. Library records show it as having been built in 1847 for John Hooker, on land of the Hooker estate, plus a little from Noah Porter, probably on the west.

As far as the writer knows, there is no definite proof the Mr. Hooker lived here. His father had died only two years before that, and his mother's house was of ample size to accommodate John Hooker and his wife. Perhaps they did live in her house when first married, in 1841, but by 1847, with two children in the house by that time, it was considered best that they have their own house. We shall assume, for the purposes of this sketch, that the John Hooker family did live here.

It is noted on the Baker and Tilden map that next east of this house was the "Pound". This is also noted by Mrs. Hurlburt in "Town Clerks", as on page 179 she says:

"December 28 (1848), Voted: That whereas John Hooker has given his permission that the Pound may remain for the present where it now is, in front of his land on Mountain Street; the Town shall be considered as occupying the Ground thus enclosed, by his license, and as claiming no right however long such occupancy shall continue.

John Hooker was born on April 9, 1816, in the house now known as 50 High Street, the son of Deacon Edward Hooker and Elizabeth Daggett. He attended district school until the age of ten, then the Farmington Academy, and was undoubtedly coached for Yale by his father. He entered Yale at the age of sixteen, and he said:

"When I went down to Yale in the fall of 1832 I went by canal boat...... a very convenient and pleasant mode of traveling".

His time at Yale was difficult and trying. He became ill after two years, with typhoid fever. After his recovery he suffered injury to his eyes from working too hard, and trying to catch up on his studies. He never finished a formal course of study, but aided by his father he did continue these studies at home, and was given a degree with the class of 1837, his own class.

He felt unsettled after graduation and made two voyages at sea, one to China and one to the Mediterranean. By the time of his return he had decided what to do, and that was to take up the study of law, which he did.


"When in 1840 John Hooker invited "a respectable looking and decently clad Negro" to share his pew at church, the moral shock was great. When he opened law office a year later he encountered much unfriendliness from those who were bitter against the anti-slavery movement".

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John Hooker finished his study of law and passed the bar examination in 1841. He was married in that same year, and also opened his law office in that year, the office being on the second floor of the old stone store building, about on the site of the present parsonage at 96 Main Street. Thomas Cowles had his law office there also, although his practice was very small, and two years later Miss Sarah Porter was to use one of the rooms in which to begin the teaching which was the first step in the starting of Miss Porter's School.

The writer feels that John Hooker was accorded much less space than he deserved, when the Farmington Book on page 83, carried only the following mention of him:

"Hon. John Hooker was born April 19, 1816. His early life was spent in Farmington. While residing in his native town he was ever forward in all enterprises calculated to promote the welfare of society, and the best interest of his fellow men. He died February 12, 1901."

Probably the fact that he did not stay in Farmington was quite a point against him.

Mrs. Hurlburt speaks well of him on Page 141 of "Town Clerks", saying:

"John Hooker loved Farmington, and as his contribution to the beauty of the village, planted without help all of the trees now bordering High Street and Mountain Road".

It has also been said by others, that: "Together with other boys he planted many of the trees along Main Street".

He says in his own book "Reminiscences", that there was a very pleasant but simple social life in Farmington when he was young. Neighbors came in frequently to sit and chat of an evening, when apples and walnuts were always brought out, together with cider, of which every cellar had a good supply. Family visits were common, near relatives often staying several days. The hotel which later became the main building of Miss Porter's School was the Phelps Hotel in his boyhood.

One of John Hooker's great contributions to Connecticut's history was the aid he gave to a young Farmington teacher, whose ancestors had lived in Farmington, but who himself had been born and reared in the South, although he later was graduated from Hamilton College. This young man was Joseph R. Hawley, who read law in the office in the old stone store, later became Mr. Hooker's law partner, a general officer in the Civil War, governor of Connecticut, U. S. Senator from Connecticut, editor of the Hartford Courant, and chairman of the committee which planned the Centennial Celebration of 1876 in Philadelphia.

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John Hooker's wife, whom he married on August 5, 1841, was Isabella Beecher, daughter of the Rev. Lyman Beecher and Harriet Porter, and the sister of Harriet Beecher Stowe. Three of their children were born in Farmington. These were:

- Thomas Beecher Hooker, 1842-1842,
- Mary Beecher Hooker, 1845-1886, who married Eugene Burton, and
- Alice Beecher Hooker, 1847-, who married John Calvin Day, a lawyer. Their two daughters were Alice and Katharine, the latter of whom founded in 1941 the Stowe-Day Memorial Library and Historical Foundation.

In 1848 John Hooker donated land to the Farmington Seminary Association, land on which they built the Female Seminary, shown in the Farmington Book on page 193 as "The School House on the Hill". This was purchased by Miss Sarah Porter in 1885, but had been used by her for many years. It is now the property of Miss Porter's School. It was shown on Baker and Tilden's 1869 Atlas as Miss Porter's School.

Mrs. Hurlburt states on page 181 of "Town Clerks" that in the town meeting of December 19, 1849, "Egbert Cowles and John Hooker" were voted "to be and are hereby constituted a Board of Trustees" of the school district.

John Hooker and Asahel Thomson were elected in 1850 for a term representing Farmington in the Connecticut House of Representatives.

On page 10 of his "Reminiscences" John Hooker says that he "resided in Farmington until the fall of 1851, when I removed to Hartford, where I have lived ever since".

He sold this house on Mountain Road in 1851 to John DeWolfe, but retained his ownership of the old homestead at what is now 50 High Street, which he had inherited. His mother was probably still living there at that time.

We shall allow John Hooker himself to tell of the origin of the Nook Farm settlement in Hartford, which the writer considers his most famous achievement, but one for which he has been accorded very little public acclaim. His words follow, taken from page 170 of his "Reminiscences":

"In 1853 I purchased, with Hon. Francis Gillette, who had married my sister, a farm of a little over 100 acres, lying just outside the limits of Hartford, on the Farmington Road. It had belonged to William H. Imlay, who had held it for thirty years or more, and was called 'Nook Farm', this name having been given it because the river, now called Park River, curved about the southern part of it in such a way as to leave thirty or forty acres within the nook. At this time there was a comfortable farm house quite a distance in the interior, but no other dwelling house".

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** The widowed Mrs. Edward Hooker moved to Nook Farm in Hartford probably around 1855, to a small house built for her on her son's house lot there. See next page.
John Hooker's narration continues: "I built a house for myself on a street which we opened and called Forest Street, Mr. Gillette occupying for three or four years the farmhouse, and later building a large and pleasant house on the same street. The neighborhood..... still kept the old name of Nook Farm, and that name remained a familiar one for years".

"There was a curious thread of relationship running through our little neighborhood..... Mr. Gillette and I were the first settlers, and Mrs. Gillette was my sister. Soon after came Thomas C. Perkins, an eminent lawyer, whose wife was the sister of my wife. Then came Mrs. Stowe, another sister..... who subsequently came to live close by us on Forest Street. My widowed mother early built herself a cottage next to my own house. Elizabeth, daughter of my sister Mrs. Gillette, married George H. Warner, and she and her husband settled close by us. Next came Charles Dudley Warner and his brilliant wife, he being the brother of the George H. Warner just mentioned. Joseph R. Hawley, then my partner but since a general in the War, and Senator in Congress, met and afterward married, Harriet W. Foote, a cousin of my wife. They also settled in the immediate neighborhood. The Rev. Dr. Nathaniel J. Burton and his wife were for two years members of my family, becoming family connections by the marriage of my daughter to Mr. Burton's brother. This daughter also settled close by us. Still later Mark Twain (Samuel L. Clemens) built and has ever since occupied, a residence near us, his wife being the daughter of a very intimate and much loved friend of my wife. I ought not to omit William Gillette, then a boy growing up amongst us, the son of my sister, who has since become distinguished as an actor and playwright". See next page.

The highlight of John Hooker's law career was most surely his thirty-six years as Reporter for the Supreme Court of the State of Connecticut. Those years were from 1858 until 1894, which brought him to the age of seventy-eight. His reports were considered the best, and were used as guides by Law Schools and law students.

Mr. Hooker's extremely high regard for his wife was shown in his dedication of his "Reminiscences", the dedication reading:

To I. B. H.

whose enlightening and inspiring companionship for over half a century has made my life well worth living and full of pleasant memories

I dedicate this book.

J. H.

June 10, 1973
Man of Many Talents, Actor
Still Baffles Researchers

By BARBARA CARLSON

Distinctively handsome, witty, mechanically inclined, artistically, creatively—and still, 33 years after his death, a man of mystery.

This is William Gillette, the Hartford-born actor who originated the stage role of Sherlock Holmes and who built for himself a vast stone castle on a ledge in Hadlyme overlooking the Connecticut River. Here he entertained such guests as Albert Einstein, who delighted in Gillette's miniature railroad.

The Nook Farm Visitors' Center on Forest Street now has an exhibit on actor Gillette that will remain open through the end of January. Gillette was one of Nook Farm's own; he was born and brought up there (at what is now Hartford Public High School now stands) and neighborhood Mark Twain helped finance his first Broadway play.

The exhibit tells the story of this popular actor who wrote plays and starred in them—but it doesn't tell the whole story.

"He was not an extrovert in his personal life," said Joseph S. Van Why, director of the Stowe-Day Foundation, who arranged the exhibit. He didn't seek publicity. He granted very few interviews. To many on stage with him, he seemed aloof.

Burned Letters

His last years, as a newspaper clippings of 1927 says, were spent "in Seclusion in His Strange Stone Castle." And, before he died in 1937 at the age of 83, he burned all his correspondence.

Of course, some letters that he wrote remain. There's no hint in them of any romance, although his wife died in 1888 after only six years of marriage and Gillette never remarried.

There's some talk, said Van Why, that a distant cousin became enamored of Gillette but no evidence at all that Gillette reciprocated.

He remains a known man, with just enough known to make him a tantalizing figure from the past.

He was intrigued with the theater from boyhood even though nice Nook Farm families thought theater was something close to the devil's work.

One of his first stage appearances seems to have been when he was 20, taking part in a festival given by the Glenwood Society on Sigourney Street. Gillette did an imitation of Edward Sothern playing the comic role of Lord Dundubury. Gillette had seen Sothern in Hartford.

There are a few curious mementoes of his boyhood—a model of the undercarriage of a steam engine that he made, the wood-carved book cover that he made for Margaret Warner, his niece. The cover features a heart with wooden drops dripping from it.

There's a handwritten newspaper probably executed by Gillette when he was about 21. One account reads, "Clara Clemens has a cold in her head. It is one of the best she has ever had, and anyone who wishes some of the same variety can obtain a slip."

Reflecting the mature man, there are photographs of his lavish yacht "Aunt Polly," a 140-foot long steamboat with built-in bookcases and a fireplace. It was on this yacht that he cruised up the Connecticut River, docked at Hadlyme and "fell in love," said Van Why, with the Seven Sisters—the seven hills in that area. It was on the Seventh Sister—the highest of the hills—that he built his castle, starting it in 1914 and completing it in 1919. He called the castle "Seventh Sister" and a monogrammed towel from the castle has "7S" on it.

But this was later in life, after he had retired (for the first time) in 1910. Theater programs from earlier days show that among his co-stars were Maude Adams, Ethel Barrymore and Charlie Chaplin who played Billy in "Sherlock Holmes" when he was just 12 years old.

Gillette played melodrama, mystery and comedy, but he became most famous for his portrayal of sleuth Sherlock Holmes. Gillette himself wrote the stage adaptations of A. Conan Doyle's famous detective stories.

According to Van Why, when Gillette visited Doyle in London to discuss the plays with him, he stopped off the train wearing the deerstalker hat and checked suit that became the character's trademark. And Doyle said to the American actor, "Why Mr. Gillette, you are Sherlock Holmes."

Royal Showing

Gillette played Sherlock Holmes more than 1,300 times, including once at a command performance in London for King Edward VII and Queen Alexandra. A program printed on silk is a momento of that occasion.

Magazines printed drawings of Gillette as the master-mind of Baker Street. And the Nook Farm exhibit even shows a post card of Gillette as Holmes. On the post card, Holmes is puffing at a pipe (the detective was known to indulge in certain drugs) and the caption says, "Sherlock Holmes Sees Faces in the Smoke."

Many people, said Leslie Ricklin, assistant to Van Why, came to associate Gillette with the character he played. But in real life, she said, he was a "very ascetic kind of person. He was a health food addict. I don't believe he smoked or drank."

Gillette made a farewell tour as Sherlock Holmes in 1930, when he was 78 years old. The Chicago Journal of Commerce wrote at the time, "There is to be a remarkable conjunction on the Chicago stage tonight, that of an immortal character in fiction, Sherlock Holmes, and an actor who made a profound impression on things theatrical years ago, William Gillette."

In 1938, a year before his death, he made his final, final tour in "Three Wise Fools."

Gillette rode a motorcycle when he was of an advanced age. He enjoyed his model railroad (now at Lake Compounce) and his yacht (which burned in the late 1930s) and his castle.

A fascinating son of Hartford. But questions plague the mind:

An accomplished actor, why did he never try the classics? Why did he build that "strange stone castle" in Hadlyme? Who, really, was William Gillette?

A word sketch of the mysterious Gillette appears in the program for the exhibit. It was written by Doris Cook of Hartford, who has written a book, "Sherlock Holmes and Much More; or, Some of the Facts About William Gillette."
The fourth child of John Hooker and Isabella Beecher was born in 1855, perhaps on Forest Street, and was Edward Beecher Hooker. He was graduated from Boston University, studied medicine in New York and Paris, and was for his lifetime a physician practicing in Hartford. He married Martha Clarke Kilbourne, daughter of Joseph Knight Kilbourne and Jane Skilling, the latter being of London, England, although the Kilbournes were of Norwich, Connecticut. The Edward Hooker children were:

Isabel Kilbourne Hooker, born 1881,
Thomas Hooker, born 1886, died 1909, and
Joseph Kilbourne Hooker, born 1887.

Dr. Edward's son, Joseph Kilbourne Hooker, married Margaret Ames Eddy. Joseph K. Hooker remembers the Clemens family, but not very distinctly, as his closest association with them had been when the Hooker and Clemens families summered in Norfolk one year. Joseph Hooker was with Aetna Life and Casualty for forty-six years, and progressed from clerk to vice president. He retired in 1956.

The two children of Mr. Joseph Hooker and his late wife are Isabel and Mary.

Isabel Beecher Hooker, who is unmarried, lives in Newton Center, Massachusetts and is employed by the New England Merchants National Bank.

Mary Wells Hooker, now married, and her husband J. Noyes Crary presently reside in Farmington on land purchased by her great great grandfather in 1800 from Noah Porter. The site of this house is in the area formerly known as Hooker's Grove, just southwest of the junction of Mountain Road and Reservoir Road.

The grove is pictured on page 6 of the Farmington Book. During the late 19th and early 20th centuries, before travel was so easy, this was the favorite place for picnicking by local residents, and a favorite place for woodsy walks. This property had always stayed under Hooker ownership. John Hooker was the first to have become an absentee owner, having left Farmington in 1851. His son Dr. Edward inherited, then Dr. Edward's son Joseph, and they continued the practice of picnicking here with their families. Now Joseph's daughter, Mary Hooker Crary, is the owner, and lives here with her husband and family.

Someone wrote, and this writer has copied, the following description of Hooker's Grove:

"On the crest of the hill that overlooks Farmington is Hooker's Grove. It is there that the red cedars and hemlocks live in beautiful peacefulness. The long trunks of the trees suggest the pillars of a church".

June 10, 1973
The description continues: "It is said that the sacred Groves of Greece cannot compare in beauty with our Hooker's Grove, and although we may not see Jupiter the Thunderer here, nor hear the call of a lost dryad, there is the nearness of a greater God. And anyone who cares to stay here after the sun sets may see the Indian with the deer thrown over his shoulder pass down the mountain side".

The home which the Crarys built here in 1967 was one of the Farmington houses opened for a tour on October 15, 1968, sponsored by the Women's Association of the Farmington Congregational Church. It was described in the brochure given to the tour guests, as follows:

"Entering the hall, on the right is a gilt and Bilbao fawn marble mirror over an English paneled oak chest. The grandfather's clock is American Sheraton with a cherry inlaid case. It was made by David Wood in Newburyport, Massachusetts, in 1800. The portraits on the stairway are of Crary ancestors. The dining room contains a Margolis sideboard. The lowboy is American Queen Anne. The compote and candlesticks on the lowboy are of alabaster. The portrait in the dining room is a Crary ancestor. The beautiful carpet in the living room is Liristan. The secretary is English burled walnut and the landscape is by Irving. Weather permitting, you may go from the living room to the den by way of the stone terrace -- with its magnificent view of the Farmington River and Valley".

Joseph Noyes Crary, born in Hartford, is the son of Roy Palmer Crary, 1871-1936, and Clara Josephine Noyes, 1884-1960. Roy P. Crary was a partner in Cooley and Company, Hartford. J. Noyes Crary is a graduate of St. Paul's School, Concord, New Hampshire, and of Princeton, 1931. He has been with Connecticut General Life Insurance Company as Secretary in the Individual Underwriting Department and was the Corporate Contributions Officer, retired in June 1971. Mrs. Crary says: "He is enjoying our land, which has been in the Hooker family for over a hundred and sixty years, five acres of which are ours". As stated, it has a wonderful view facing west over the Farmington Valley, with the graceful spire of the Congregational Church in the foreground.

Mr. Crary is on the Board of the Institute for Living, the Hartford Dispensary and the Roaring Brook Nature Center. Mrs. Crary, graduate of Chatham Hall, Chatham, Virginia, and of Bennett College in Millbrook, New York, has been a volunteer at Hartford Hospital for the last 25 years, and is on the Board of Directors.

The Crary children are J. Noyes Crary, Jr., student at Colorado College, and Margaret Hooker Crary, student at Franklin College in Lugano, Switzerland.

June 11, 1973
As stated previously, on page 3 of this account, this house was sold by John Hooker in 1851 to John DeWolfe. Not much is known of John DeWolfe. He was the son of William DeWolfe and is said to have been caretaker of the property of Mrs. Sarah Barney when she lived at what is now 763 Farmington Avenue. He was married on April 14, 1851, to Maria Clark. Their daughter Jennie, who is said to have been born on Pearl Street, married William Gallagher in 1882, and they lived their married life in what is now the house at 776 Farmington Avenue.

For some reason John Hooker repossessed this property on Mountain Road in 1856. Two years later he sold it again, this time to Hudson H. Reed. Nothing is known of Hudson Reed, but he may have been the son of Fredus Reed, who was purchaser of 30 Mountain Road in 1848.

The house was sold in 1869 to Emily Dorman, the former Emily Taylor, who had on October 19, 1835, married Alfred Dorman.

Miss Sarah Porter purchased from the Dormans in 1870.

John O'Connor purchased the house in 1874, the son of George and Sarah O'Connor.

Miss Porter bought it back from him on April 24, 1885, exactly nine months before Mr. O'Connor's death on January 24, 1886.

Miss Porter perhaps housed some of her employees here, or rented it, for some years. It was sold by her estate on April 23, 1900, two months after her death, the purchaser at that time being Mrs. Newell P. Mix, the former Esther Hart Hawley.

At the time of the purchase by Mrs. Mix this house stood where 42 Mountain Road now stands. Mrs. Mix had purchased extra land with the house, the land extending east to the foot of the steep hill, and onto this extra land she had this house moved.

After the move the house stands on the site of what was once the town "Pound", as shown on Baker and Tilden's 1869 Atlas. The pond had only recently been done away with, as the result of the town meeting's action on September 14, 1894, at which it was voted: "that the pound on the highway in the village of Farmington be discontinued".

An entry on the library card for this house states: "Esther Hawley Mix added a fireplace with her own earned money".

Esther Hawley, born in 1847, the daughter of Ara Hawley and Mary Green, of the pioneer Scott Swamp Hawleys, had been married in 1871 to Newell P. Mix, son of Noble Mix and Eunice Aylesworth of Columbus, Ohio. Where the couple had lived their married life is not known, nor whether they had children. The writer is of the opinion that she was widowed before she purchased this house.

January 23, 1974
Shortly after the purchase of this house Mrs. Mix had a new house built on the site from which she had this house moved. The new house is presently known as 42 Mountain Road, and it was in that house that she made her home, although she kept title to both the houses until her death in 1921.

Title passed in 1921 to her sister Adaline Fort Hawley, and in 1924 it passed to her brother Francis McLeod Hawley, known as Frank, who had lived here at least since 1906, as he had been noted as the resident in that year. Frank and his brother David, of what is now 126 Main Street, were partners in the painting and decorating business. Frank's wife was the former Bertha Burwell, born in 1871 in New Hartford, the daughter of John Satterlee Burwell of Milford, and Clarissa Lewis, formerly of Woodbury. It is not known that they had children.

Frank Hawley served as constable at the time of President "Teddy" Roosevelt's formal visit to Farmington on October 22, 1901.

Mr. Hawley, born in July 1864, died in August 1940, having been retired for some time.

Mrs. Frank Hawley inherited and continued residence here for some fifteen years, when she sold the house and perhaps spent her last few years in a convalescent home or hospital. All of the Hawleys who had lived in these two neighboring houses, 42 and 44 Mountain Road, are buried in Scott Swamp Cemetery. She died in 1958.

The purchaser in 1955 was Lucius M. Whitaker, Sr., and he and his wife lived here for some years.

Lucius Milan Whitaker, born in Killingly, Connecticut, was the son of Milan Dwight Whitaker and Adna Peck, the elder Mr. Whitaker having been a dairy farmer. Lucius Whitaker's wife is the former Regina Rose Gutnecht, born in Lowell, Massachusetts, the daughter of former officer in the Franco-Prussian War, Col. George Gutnecht of Alsace-Loaine.

Lucius M. Whitaker was a foreman at United Aircraft in East Hartford. He and his wife had two children, Lucius M. Jr., and Judith Mae Whitaker. More will be found regarding Lucius, Jr., in the account of 8 High Street, where he and his family presently reside.

Judith Mae Whitaker, graduate of Norwich Free Academy, was married in 1954 to Paul Murphy and they presently reside in Norwich, Connecticut, where her husband is a chemist employed by Phiser and Company. Their children are Pamela, Timothy and Jeffrey.

Lucius M. Whitaker, Sr., sold this house on 44 Mountain Road in late June 1971, and moved to Niantic, where they summer, now wintering in Florida.

Purchaser of this house in 1971 was Mrs. Joan H. Fons, daughter of the late Jay Vandergrift Hall of 99 Main Street. Mrs. Fons remarried in 1973, is now Mrs. Frank Sussler.

February 12, 1974