The John E. Cowles House stands on a slightly elevated site along the east side of Main Street. Partially shaded by large pines, the building is an integral part of the Miss Porter’s School campus. The surrounding neighborhood contains other historic residential architecture.
This Neo-Classical style dwelling was originally built in the Italianate style in 1844. The house underwent extensive remodeling in 1929. The two-bay facade is dominated by two matching full-height porticos enhanced by Corinthian fluted columns, a turned balustrade, and a classical entablature with a dentil course. Note the bracket-like modillion course beneath the eaves and the third-story "half" windows. The entry door is fully classical in character and displays multi-paned sidelights, a four-paired transom, and a projecting cornice with dentils.

John E. Cowles built this house around 1844 on land he inherited from his father's estate (FPR 11B:20). The son of Col. Martin and Harriet (Wells) Cowles, John (1819-1898) married Margaret Stanley of New Britain in 1844. He was a prosperous farmer and served as a director of the Hartford Bank. Cowles was also a Farmington representative to the State Legislature. In 1894 the property was willed to his son, Henry Martin Cowles (FPR 26:81). Upon his father's death, Henry (1845-1926) returned to Farmington from New York City where he was involved in banking. He then served as the New England agent for the M.H. Birge & Sons, manufacturers of wallpapers. He set up an office in Boston and traveled extensively around the world in search of designs from historic wallpapers, tapestries, and brocades. In 1876 Cowles married Helen Maria Peters (1844-1910), a native of New Jersey. None of their three children survived childhood. Mr. Cowles retired shortly after his wife's death and asked his two nieces, Gertrude S. and Maguerite Cowles, to reside with him. He spent his winters in the South or West Indies and the summers in Farmington. In 1918 Henry willed the house to his two nieces (FPR 38:37). They retained ownership until 1927, when it was sold to Rose Anne (Day) Keep (FLR 85:144). Mrs. Keep and her husband, Robert Porter Keep, the headmaster of Miss Porter's School, extensively remodeled the house in 1929. The Keeps resided here for many years and the property became part of the school. In 1968 the building was converted to a dormitory. (SEE CONT PG)
Historically significant for its close association with the Cowles family and Miss Porter's School, the John E. Cowles House is architecturally significant for its contribution to the village's historic district. It is also notable as an example of the change of stylistic taste.

Sources cont.
OWNER'S NAME: KEEP, ROSE ANNE D.
1950-res.

ADDRESS: 47 Main Street

DATE BUILT: ca. 1844 FOR: John E. Cowles

ARCHITECT
MASTER-BUILDER


REFERENCES:

(OVER)
Marguerite (Cowles) Cowles, widow of Col. Calvin Cowles, stated July 1950 that she understood that the old part of the house which shows in the picture in "Farmington, Conn. ,1906", p. 92, being the rear of the house at that time, was originally an old house which stood across the street. It may have been the old Noah Porter house as that was the only house there except the Whitman house, which burned. The old house was added to, according to Marguerite C. Cowles, in 1844 when John E. Cowles married Margaret Stanley, 12/30/1844, John's father, Col. Martin Cowles, making him a present of the house although the title did not change until the death of Col. Martin Cowles. The old house & the addition at the front were used for a parlor and considered 'very elegant' were joined by a chimney, the old part having no central chimney, no doubt taken down when the house was moved.

Mrs. Keep stated (1950) that the old part was in such disrepair that it was considered unwise to keep it, & it was torn down & the present new rear added in 1928-29. She said she understood that the old part had been an old store, but it had the appearance of a house. Mrs. Keep added the front rm. fireplace; had doorways & mantels & mouldings copied from "Colony House" & changed the front stairs. In 1929, when R.F. Jones rebuilt the present front part & added the new rear, the front part had to be reinforced. All windows in the house are new, except the front mullioned window. The Library was enlarged & the bow, all pillars and columns are new - also all fireplaces except the "black Belgian marble" in the library, which was taken from the old part. All trim & mouldings are new, that in the drawingrm. copied from "Colony" & that in the diningrm. & corridor from a room in the Boston Art Museum. The trim in the new part, built 1845?, was ornate plaster with plaster rosette in the ceiling with hanging lamp. (9/1/1950-R.A.D.Keep). The origin of the old part is uncertain. It may be, beside the old N. Porter house, an old Cowles store which Elijah Cowles had before James & Augustus built their brick store, now Jones Library, or it may have been an old house which was on the land. But the only old house that went with this land was the one with the orchards dist. to Col. M. Cowles in 1813, cf. Vol. 37, p560 & M.W. Gil-
This house is pictured in the Farmington Book on page 92 as the residence of Henry Martin Cowles. It is shown in Baker and Tilden's 1869 Atlas as John E. Cowles.

The photograph in the Farmington Book shows what appear to be two separate houses. The one in front and to the left is the one mentioned in the caption under the photo. The house to the right and in the rear (which may or may not be attached) is a subject of some difference of opinion as to its source. Mrs. Archibald states two of these opinions in an article in the Miss Porter's School Bulletin, winter 1970, as follows:

"Mrs. Marguerite Cowles understood (1950) that the old rear part of the house visible in the 1906 photograph was originally an old house, perhaps an old Noah Porter house, which stood directly across the street. Aside from the Whitman house that burned, the Noah Porter house was the only house at this location. Mrs. Keep further suggested (1950) that the old rear part may also have been an old Cowles store which Elijah Cowles had before James and Augustus built their brick store, now the Leila Dilworth Jones Library of Miss Porter's School. In any case, this rear part of the house stood alone until the front addition, which was considered very elegant, was built in 1844. Thus, the earliest structural part of the present Keep house is the front section, built in 1844 and rebuilt in 1929".

Mrs. William Shelton, sister of Marguerite Cowles, apparently supports Mrs. Keep. During a conversation with her on June 19, 1970, she made the following statement, without any knowledge of the statements made previously by her sister and Mrs. Keep: "When my grandmother came here, instead of building a new house, they took this store and added practically a house in front. It was about a fourteen room house in the end".

As Mrs. Archibald states, the front section of the house was built in 1844 for John Edward Cowles, son of Colonel Martin Cowles. The latter had acquired the property in 1813. The land had belonged to Deacon Orton, as stated by Mrs. Hurlburt in "Town Clerks", on page 369: "Deacon Thomas Orton settled first in Windsor, being there in 1649. His land in Farmington in 1656 was on the east side of Main Street, just north of Robert Porter's land as it extended across the street from his home, making the Orton homestead about where Robert Porter Keep now (1943) lives".

The following basic information regarding John Edward Cowles, as stated in the Cowles Genealogy, is about as follows:

John Edward Cowles #776, Son of Col. Martin Cowles #329, born in Farmington November 4, 1819, married December 30, 1844, died on February 22, 1898. His wife was Margaret Stanley of the Stanleys of New Britain, born November 26, 1820, died December 20, 1903. Mr. Cowles was a well-t-do farmer and lived just south of his father's home (pictured on page 26 of the Farmington Book) on Main Street.

July 30, 1970
Mr. and Mrs. John E. Cowles probably lived in this house from the time of their wedding, although Mr. Cowles did not take title until after his father's death in 1846, and perhaps not full title until his mother, Harriet Welles, died in 1868. Mrs. William Roy Shelton, granddaughter of this couple, stated on June 19, 1970, that when Mr. Cowles brought his bride into this house she became the 16th Mrs. Cowles living in Farmington at that time. This has not been verified, but it could well be true. The day following Mrs. Cowles' death saw her obituary printed in the Hartford Times, including the following statement: "Mrs. Cowles was an unusually bright and intelligent woman, always interested in philosophic and scientific subjects. A few years ago she aided in the success of Professor Davidson's School of Philosophy in Farmington, and entertained many of the lecturers in her home on Main Street".

An article entitled "Memories of Thomas Davidson" in the book "The Wandering Scholar" by William Knight, published by Ginn and Company in 1907, contains some information about this school. The writer explains that Professor Davidson, to carry out the idea of summer study—in Philosophy, Literature, Sociology and Religion—away from the turmoil and distractions of city life, selected the small New England town of Farmington, where he gathered together a few friends in the year 1888. He describes Farmington in his prospectus as "a quaint, old, shady New England town, overlooking the Farmington and Pequabuck Rivers, affording beautiful and expansive views in many directions. The rugged hills and broad valleys about Farmington afford excellent opportunities for pleasant walks, rides, and drives, while the rivers are very convenient for bathing and boating".

Among the studies scheduled for the school session of the year 1890, from June 17 to July 2, include the following:

The Greek Moralists:
Aeschylus - Socrates - Plato - Aristotle, by Davidson,

The Philosophy of T. H. Green:
Green's Theory of Cognition - Davidson
Green's Relation of Feeling to Reality - H. N. Gardiner
Green's Ethical System - Stephen F. Weston,

The Primary Concepts of Economic Science:
Wealth - Percival Chubb
Value - W. M. Salter
Labor - Stephen F. Weston.

The experiment in Farmington lasted three years, 1888 to 1890, inclusive. Inquiries as to the site used for these gatherings has not resulted in definite information, but it is thought that the meetings were perhaps held under canvas, perhaps in the general area near where the Retreat House now stands, on Colton Street. The article goes on to state that in 1891 Professor Davidson's school was absorbed into the school at Glenmore.

July 30, 1970

See note on second page following, regarding Mrs. John E. Cowles
Two of the children of Mr. and Mrs. John Cowles were:

Henry Martin Cowles #1838, 1845-1926, and
John Stanley Cowles #1842, 1857-1885.

John Stanley Cowles married Mary Rivington Gay, daughter of Richard Holmes Gay (of the house presently known as 22 Main Street) and Gertrude Palmer. They were living in East Orange, New Jersey, when their two daughters were born, Gertrude in 1881 and Marguerite in 1882. Mr. Cowles died in 1885 and his wife in 1892. Whether the girls' mother brought them to Farmington right after their father's death, or whether they were only brought to Farmington after their mother's death, is not known for sure, but it is believed that during their teens and until 1910 they lived with their grandparents Mr. and Mrs. Richard Gay at 22 Main Street.

These two girls, according to the Cowles Genealogy, had several ancestors of some note. They were descendants of four governors of Connecticut: John Haynes, Thomas Welles, Gurdon Saltonstall and John Treadwell, two of these having had connections with Farmington. Also, through the wife of John Haynes, they were of royal descent from the King of France, and through the wife of Gurdon Saltonstall, from the King of England.

See note on next page.

Henry Martin Cowles married Helen Peters of Newark, New Jersey, so it appears quite possible that both he and his brother had been in business in New Jersey. The marriage of Henry Martin resulted in three children, but all of them died in infancy. Henry Martin Cowles inherited this house in 1898 upon his father's death, and at least from this time on, probably lived here. His wife died in 1910 and he then asked his nieces Gertrude and Marguerite to live with him, they to care for his household and he to provide a home for them. Henry Martin Cowles was agent for M. H. Birge and Sons of London, and opened an office for them in Boston. He traveled to far places, Australia, New Zealand, South America, as well as to all of Europe, in search of ancient tapestries and brocades which could be used as designs for modern wallpaper. He also set up agencies in likely sites. Marguerite had shown an aptitude for housekeeping, and he took Gertrude with him on many of his trips.

Mr. Cowles was proud of his home and of his gardens, and greenhouses. John Hurley and his family lived on the premises, and Mr. Hurley's daughter, Nellie Hurley, speaks of Mr. Cowles as follows: "Mr. Cowles traveled extensively. He had beautiful greenhouses and my father took care of the plants. He always sent them from wherever he went. He had one greenhouse which had nothing but geraniums, all different kinds. That was on one side of the kitchen. Then there was a long one that was toward the barn. It had beautiful plants in it, orchids, a goldfish pool, ferns, palms, rubber trees and all that sort of thing. It was beautiful. It burned however, about two or three years after my father's death (in 1911) and was never rebuilt. Mr. Cowles' farm extended to the rear to join the land belonging to the Brantegges and the Porritts. There was a pond up there in back of where the chicken houses were, in fact it was right in the center of the apple orchard".

Henry Martin Cowles was an active man, a charter member of the Farmington Country Club, and a great fisherman, going to many places suggested by Noah Wallace, an experienced sportsman.

July 30, 1970
Marguerite and Gertrude Cowles both attended Miss Porter's School, Marguerite one year and Gertrude three. Day students were welcomed then, as dormitories were scarce. Gertrude studied art under Robert Brandegee in the Memorial Studio on Mountain Road, which had been built in 1885. Among her classmates at school were Alice Thaw and Nancy Carnegie. She remembers the last day of the school term as follows: "The girls gave a Shakespearean play on the lawn and then after that we were invited to a supper back of "Main", then we saw the "Planting of the Ivy", they didn't have a regular graduation". She also studied art and music outside the school, she thought piano practice would never end.

Gertrude's uncle, who had attended Phillips Academy, Andover, influenced her to attend Abbott Academy, a girls' school nearby, which had been founded by missionaries. While at Abbott she met Rose Anne Day, whose father was an instructor at Phillips. After all these years at schools and of private instructions in the arts, she went into nursing in New York City. Too young for Presbyterian Hospital she took training at Trinity Hospital, a part of Trinity Parish. She later spent six months in General Memorial. All trainees at that time helped out in the Settlement Houses in the slum areas, doing their share of social work. She later worked for Henry Clarke Coe, a gynecologist of some note at that time. This work ended when she and her sister were called upon to take over the running of their uncle's house.

July 30, 1970

Note regarding Mrs. Cowles, page 2:

Mrs. John E. Cowles was quite a traveler, and a woman who made many friends. Always on the search for someone interesting, she would even strike up conversations in railroad station waiting rooms if she saw people in whom she might find an interest.

Note regarding Henry Martin Cowles, page 3:

Henry Martin Cowles was a graduate of Phillips Academy, Andover, Massachusetts. His first employment was with the American Exchange Bank of New York, of which his cousin George Coe was president, later worked in the office of S. W. Green, a printer of books, on Jacobs Street, New York. He was married in Newark, New Jersey, in 1876, to Helen Maria Peters. In 1894 he was made Northeastern United States Agent for M. H. Birge & Sons, manufacturers of fine wall paper. He established their Boston office. They had lived their early married life in Summit, New Jersey, but after a period in Boston they took up residence here around 1898.

Mr. Cowles prided himself in having only registered Guernsey cows. He always had two driving horses, both winning many prizes at fairs, also a pair of farm horses. The carriage house on Mr. Cowles' estate, which is located just a short distance east of his residence, is now owned by Miss Porter's School and is used as a garage.
Henry Martin Cowles died in 1926 and his nieces Gertrude and Marguerite inherited from him. Marguerite deeded her share to Gertrude, who sold in 1927 to Rose Anne Day Keep, Mrs. Robert Porter Keep, who had come to Farmington in 1917 to take charge of Miss Porter's School.

Both girls married soon after their uncle's death, Gertrude to William Shelton, and Marguerite to Col. Calvin Cowles.

William Roy Shelton, whom Gertrude Cowles married, was from North Carolina. He attended Trinity College, later re-named Duke University, and studied to be a Methodist minister. He did not follow this vocation however, but had changed to a business career before his marriage. His business was "something to do with a new method of collecting bills" and he traveled expensively throughout the United States selling his new collection technique to merchants and others in need of such services.

Mrs. Shelton had traveled a great deal with her uncle, visiting many foreign countries, now she had a chance to see America. She can recount many interesting experiences, remembering little incidents that happened. A reception for a new ambassador in Montevideo, seeing a unique dog cemetery there, a fire in the Treasury building next door to their hotel in Rio, Melba receiving a gold loving cup after a concert in Melbourne, and crossing the Red Monarch Mountains of New Zealand in a six-horse coach. After going over a corduroy road to a small hotel, it was so economically minded that if there were ten or more guests the gas lights were lit, if not -- candles! Going riding on an underground river into a cave lit up by fireflies -- and well lit up, too! One winter in Porto Rico a small native fiesta gave her a fund-raising idea, and she promoted and managed a fiesta in the main plaza. With the governor's daughter running a Valentine booth, and with the help of many others they raised $1000 during World War I for the Red Cross. Her travels through the States were interesting too, and one must remember that this was during the 20's and 30's when travel was still new and the Grand Canyon, the Petrified Forest, and Yellowstone and Yosemite were to most people something seen only on stereoptican slides.

The marriage of Marguerite Cowles and Col. Calvin Duval Cowles linked the southern branch of the Cowles family with the northern, as will be shown by a brief genealogy appended. Col. Cowles was born in 1849 in Elkville, North Carolina, the son of Calvin Josiah Cowles and Martha Temperance Duval. He had served in the Indian wars in the 70's and 80's, and in the Spanish American War, in both the Cuban campaign and in the Philippines. He was for some years in charge of the ROTC program at Trinity College in Hartford, and what was probably his last military command was the SATC at that same college. The SATC was the Student Army Training Corps, organized to familiarize 18-year-olds who had not yet been drafted (and could not now enlist), with some phases of military service, to make them more useful when the army DID get them. Their term of service, based one one certain person's experience, was from October 4 until December 18, 1918.

Mrs. Cowles was Col. Cowles' third wife. He and Mrs. Cowles had a large apartment in Hartford, and it was with that apartment as headquarters, that they finished up the Cowles Genealogy on which Col. Cowles had been working for some years.

July 30, 1970
Ancestry of Col. Calvin Cowles.

John Cowles, #1, 1598-1675, B. England, D. Hatfield, Mass., m. Hannah

Samuel Cowles, #2, 1639-1691, Farmington, m. Abigail Stanley -1734, at a great age

Samuel Cowles, #9, 1662-1748, moved to Kensington, m. 1685 Rachel Porter

Thomas Cowles, #69, 1686-1751, m. 1714 Martha Judd -1768

Capt. Josiah Cowles, #168, 1716-1793, D. Southington, m. (1) 1739 Jemima Dickinson, 1676-1746
(2) 1748 Mary Scott 1732-1809

Calvin Cowles, #439, 1749-1901, B & D in Southington, m. 1774 Miriam Atwater 1754-1798

Josiah Cowles, #1074, 1791-1873, B. Farmingbury, now Wolcott, m. (1) Deborah Sanford 1795-1827

Calvin Josiah Cowles, #2629, 1821-1907, B. Hamptonville, N. C., D. Wilkesboro, N. C., m. (1) 1844 Martha Temperance Duvall -1862
(2) 1868 Ida Augusta Halen -1888

Col. Calvin Duvall Cowles, #4874, 1849-1936, B. Elksville, N. C., m. (1) 1874 at Big Bug, Arizona, Mary Ella Hitchcock, 1855-1906
(2) 1908 in New York City, Kate Hitchcock Holmes, 1857-1925
(3) 1926 in Farmington, Marguerite Rivington Cowles 1882-1971
Seven children by 1st wife, none by others

Colonel Cowles, born on June 26, 1849, spent his whole working life in military service. Perhaps disappointed that he was too young for the Civil War, he served in the Indian wars in the West in the 1870's and 1880's, in the Spanish-American War, 1898-99, and in the Philippine Campaign, 1900-02. He was later a member of the State Militia in Hartford, and then in charge of the ROTC training at Trinity College. Perhaps his final military assignment was as commander of the SATC unit on the campus of Trinity College in the Fall of 1918. He spent much of his later life in the compilation of the two-volume Genealogy of the John Cowles Family, published about 1933. He was greatly aided in this by his wife Marguerite, also a member of the same Cowles family. Mrs. Cowles had been born in East Orange, New Jersey, the daughter of John Stanley Cowles and Mary Rivington Gay, both of Farmington. After the early deaths of her parents she was reared by her grandparents, Mr. and Mrs. Richard Gay of 22 Main Street.
In 1910 she and her sister Gertrude were taken in by their uncle, Henry Martin Cowles of 47 Main Street. Marguerite did volunteer work during World War I in 1918, at Camp Merritt, New Jersey. She and Col. Cowles were married in the house at 47 Main Street, in 1926, just before it was sold to the Robert Porter Keeps.

May 26, 1973
ROBERT PORTER KEEP HOUSE
47 Main Street
From FORD TIMES April 1956

Copy of a painting by Sascha Maurer
After Col. Cowles' death, about 1936, Mrs. Cowles gave up the large apartment and took a smaller one at 39 Robin Road in West Hartford, where she lived some thirty years. Mrs. Shelton joined her there sometime in the 60's and they lived there until 1969 when they moved to Holiday House on Highland Avenue, West Hartford.

Mrs. Cowles died in mid-July 1970, and was buried in Farmington with a graveside service at Riverside Cemetery. In her room at Holiday House at the time of her death, was the desk pictured in the Farmington Book on page 58, a desk stated to have been made by a Tunxis Indian. It had formerly been in the house at 47 Main Street.

Mrs. Shelton still resides at Holiday House.

This house, to be known as "Next Door" during the residence of Mr. and Mrs. Robert Porter Keep, was extensively remodeled in 1929, as is explained in the following by Mrs. Archibald: "The obvious differences between the front part of the house in the photograph of 1906 and the front part today are easily explained by the 1929 rebuilding which was not only desirable but necessitated for reinforcement. At that time the library was enlarged by the addition of bow, the pillars and decorative columns were added, the porch roofs raised, all trim and moldings were new (that in the living room copied from 'Colony' and that in the dining room - present student lounge - copied from a room in the Boston Art Museum), and all fireplaces (except the one in the library) were added. The black Belgian fireplace in the library was moved there from the old rear part of the house, and is therefore the oldest thing in the present house and a visible relic tying present to past".

From 1929 the character and activity of the house changed, it emerged from its somnolence and quietude and became a social center both for Miss Porter's School and for Farmington. The Robert Porter Keep's became the catalysts through which the school and the town were able to better able to merge and mingle and become known to each other. See following page.

In 1937 this house was the scene of a social event, the wedding of Mary Lowe Gaddis, great-grandniece of Miss Sarah Porter, and Kermit Roosevelt, grandson of President Theodore Roosevelt.

The Keeps retired from official duties for the school in 1943, on the hundredth anniversary of its founding, but they did not in any way diminish their interest in the school and its students, that interest and influence never waned. Mrs. Keep died in 1965 and Mr. Keep in 1967.

For a time after the death of Mr. Keep the fate of this house was in limbo, awaiting a decision as to its future use. Some thought that it should house the headmaster and his family, but Mr. Davis and his family were well established in the Thomas Hart Hooker house at 66 Main Street, and loved it, that it was decided that the Keep house be converted to a dormitory, additional quarters being needed for girls. Mrs. Archibald will tell us more about this conversion. See 2nd page following.

July 30, 1970
It is interesting to note that Robert Porter Keep was not only a resident in Farmington, and head of Miss Porter's School, he was also of Farmington, interested in the village, and an integral part of it.

Mr. Keep was President of the Farmington Savings Bank from 1941 until Mr. Lund took over. He was a member of the Borough Council from 1923 until 1947. He was a member of the Board of Trustees of the Village Library from 1919 to 1935, and its Chairman for ten of these years. He was a Deacon of the Congregational church, and member of its Prudential Committee. His participation in local affairs was unusual for a headmaster, but was not unusual for him, as he was one who always was willing to involve himself in his environment.

A pamphlet issued by Miss Porter's School shortly after his death in 1967, edited by President of the Board of Trustees Theodore W. Stedman contains tributes by several of his contemporaries and colleagues in various phases of his good works, including the following words of Wilmarth Lewis:

"At Farmington he was a teacher as well as at Andover. Here his teaching was not in a classroom, but in his study, and in the assembled school. Miss Porter's beneficent influence served no diminution in him. He cherished it and fostered it and contributed to the strength of his own integrity and his faith in the standards by which he had been reared".
"During the year from September 1968 to September 1969, the Keep House underwent a radical remodeling process ... Unique among the dormitories at MPS, the Keep House includes a spacious front apartment for a faculty couple who oversee the safety and well-being of the residing students as well as the general care of the house....."

The above is quoted from an article on this house, written for the MPS Bulletin, Winter 1970, by Mrs. Archibald; the Archibalds are the faculty couple mentioned. She goes on to describe the changes effected, as follows:

"The faculty apartment in the front of the house is essentially unchanged in structure from the rooms as the Keeps had them arranged. The spacious front living room, the bowed library (now a library and dining room), the front entry hall and circular staircase are, though completely re-decorated, the same. The master bedroom and bath upstairs is now the area for three smaller bedrooms and a modern bath. The previous dining room is now a student lounge which is separated from the faculty apartment by double doors in the arch of the hallway. The previous kitchen is now a room for four girls, a new kitchen having been incorporated in the hall area off the library. There is a student kitchenette opposite the lounge on the main floor. Perhaps the most outstanding luxury for the students however, is the bathroom which accompanies the accommodations for every two girls. Thanks to Mrs. Marshall J. Dodge, Jr. (Alice Rutgers, 1934-1937) and Mrs. Donald R. Williams, Jr. (Lucia Armstrong, 1946-1949) among other alumnae, all the rooms have been handsomely and youthfully redecorated with wall-to-wall carpeting, colorful spreads and wall colors. The lounge is a picture of happiness, in tastefully chosen golds, apricots and greens".

Mr. and Mrs. Bob Archibald (yes, he was christened "Bob"), the faculty couple mentioned above, are an interesting couple, and the following paragraphs will serve to introduce you to them and to their backgrounds.

Mr. Archibald is the son of James Archibald of New Brunswick, Canada, who worked himself across Canada and down into Orange County, California, on a trek which started when he was fourteen years of age. His mother is Corinne Horton, born in Indiana, whose parents moved across the country gradually, via Oklahoma, also ending their migration in Orange County, California, where the two met and were married. Bob was born there but they soon moved to Oregon, where he grew up in Salem and his father was employed by the Bonneville Power Company. Mr. Archibald, Sr., is now deceased and his widow lived in Bristol, Connecticut, has now returned to Salem, Oregon.

Mrs. Archibald, the former Jane Pitkin Martyn, is the daughter of Lyndon Sanford Martyn and Dorothy Loomis Clapp. Her ancestors came from two of the oldest families in Connecticut, the Pitkin family of East Hartford, and the Loomis family of Windsor. Incidentally, one of her Loomis ancestors, Deacon John Loomis, owned property here in Farmington from 1652 to 1660, and resided here part of that time, before returning to Windsor. His home is believed to have been on the site of the house presently at 24 Main Street. Jane's mother grew up in South Windsor, the daughter of a tobacco grower. She now is a teacher in South Windsor schools. Jane grew up in Suffield, her father employed by Pratt and Whitney of East Hartford until his recent retirement.

July 30, 1970
Bob studied at the University of Oregon for his BA and MA, was one year in France on a Fulbright scholarship, started on his PhD in Princeton, taught five years in Suffield (where he and Jane met and wed), after which they both went west to the University of Oregon. Jane had received her BA from Mt. Holyoke in Massachusetts and taught a year in Agawam before they were married, then earned her MA in English at the University of Oregon.

Both are now on their way to PhD's, Bob in Romance Languages, Jane in Comparative Literature, with only a portion of their dissertations yet to be completed. Bob is head of the French Department at MPS. Jane taught Latin during the year which ended in 1969, researched for her advanced degree the next year, and this year is teaching English. They will have to make a trip west (which they will be glad to do) for their PhD's.

The Archibalds enjoy Farmington and MPS and feel that they relate successfully to the age group of the students here. They feel at home in their residential apartment in the Keep House. The large, beautiful, high-ceilinged living room houses a grand piano and a secretary belonging to the school, while the drapes are those chosen by the Keeps during their residence. Other furniture belongs to Bob and Jane, including Jane's grandmother's old desk, Bob's great-grandmother's little table, and the small chair by the dining room door is a Pitkin chair, from Jane's great-greats. They like the dining room best --- it is smaller and cozier than the living room and has the Belgian marble fireplace which Mrs. Keep stated was the one from the old section of the house.

July 30, 1970

Mr. Archibald received his Ph. D. in Romance Languages from the University of Oregon in March 1971. His mother has returned to Oregon to live.

May 17, 1971

This house has been endowed, through "70's Fund" gifts, by Mrs. Samuel E. Durand (Virginia Ranlet '18) and Mr. and Mrs. W. Warren Sheldon (Virginia Durand '39). This will assure the preservation and maintenance of the house.

September 7, 1974

Jeff and Judy Park were house directors at Keep 1973-74. Jeff is a native of Milwaukee, Wisconsin, a graduate of Duke University, and a real estate investor with Aetna. Judy, originally of West Hartford and a graduate of Middlebury, was a new English teacher at MPS, emphasizing creative writing.

September 15, 1974
Loomis Ancestors
of
Mrs. Bob Archibald, the former Jane P. Martyn

Joseph Loomis, 1590-1658, born in Essex County, England, married in 1614 to Mary White, he was a woolen draper in Braintree. They, with their eight children, sailed from London April 11, 1638, in the ship "Susan and Ellen". Arriving in Boston they tarried a short while in Dorchester, then came to Windsor in 1639, settling near the mouth of the Farmington River, at its joining with the Connecticut River, about at the site of the Loomis Institute.

Deacon John Loomis, 1622-1688, also born in England, came to America with his parents, and with them to Windsor, married in 1648 to Elizabeth Scott, who had arrived in America in 1634, settling in Hartford. Deacon John lived in Farmington for part of the period from 1652 to 1660 and returned to Windsor, selling his property here in 1660. His residence was probably about on the site of the house presently standing at 24 Main Street, Farmington.

Thomas Loomis, 1653-1688, born in Farmington, moved to Windsor and later to Hatfield, Massachusetts. Married in 1680 to Sarah White.

Ensign John Loomis, 1681-1755, lived in Hatfield, Mass. Married first to Martha Osborn, who died in 1723, he later married Ann Lyman. They moved to Lebanon, Connecticut.

Timothy Loomis, 1718-1785, of Lebanon, married Anna Taylor.

Dan Loomis, 1758-1841, of Lebanon, married Sarah Wells, was in the battles of Stillwater and Saratoga, and witnessed Burgoyne's surrender after the latter battle.

Samuel Loomis, 1790-1858, moved from Lebanon to North Coventry, Married Irene Tracy.

Henry Huntington Loomis, 1822-1899, moved from North Coventry to South Windsor, married Hannah Snell.


July 30, 1970
Pitkin and other ancestors
of
Mrs. Bob Archibald, the former Jane P. Martyn

William Pitkin, Progenitor, born in England in 1635, was the first of his branch of the family to come to America, coming in 1659. He was married here in 1661 to Hannah Goodwin, 1637-1724, who was born in America. She was the daughter of the Hon. Ozias Goodwin and Mary Woodward, the first generation of Goodwins in America, coming with the Rev. Thomas Hooker. William Pitkin had had a good education in England, held several public offices in Hartford, and was a principal planter in East Hartford, having large land holdings there. He died in 1694.

Roger Pitkin, 1662-1748, was a farmer in East Hartford on part of the family homestead. He was married to Hannah Stanley, daughter of Capt. Caleb Stanley, whose father had come with Thomas Hooker also. Roger was a leading citizen of East Hartford, a selectman, school committee man, and captain of the first company of militia east of the river, defending the town against the Indians in 1704. Roger Pitkin's brother William was the ancestor of the Hon. Timothy Pitkin of 2 Colton Street, Farmington.

Jonathan Pitkin, 1697-, lived in Hartford, married Rebecca Smith, daughter of Philip Smith of Hadley, Massachusetts

Jonathan Pitkin, 1730-, lived in Hartford,
  m. Lucy Steele, daughter of Dr. Jospeh Steele.

Jonathan Pitkin
  m. Elizabeth Cummings
  Jonathan was of the same generation as his distant cousin, the Hon. Timothy Pitkin mentioned above

Henry Evelyn Pitkin, 1850-, born South Windsor,
  m. Melissa Amanda Loomis, 1854-
  See Loomis genealogy, previous page.

Olive Loomis Pitkin, 1884-
  m. John Sullivan Clapp, 1878-, a tobacco grower, son of Alfred S. Clapp and Clara I. Wrisley.

Dorothy Loomis Clapp, 1909-
  m. Lyndon Sanford Martyn, employee of Pratt and Whitney

Jane Pitkin Martyn,
  m. Bob Archibald

July 31, 1970
This house, no longer standing, is pictured on page 149 of the Farmington Book, top right, as the property of Henry Martin Cowles, residence of John Hurley and Frank Chidsey. The writer does not find this house in Baker and Tilden’s 1869 Atlas. It actually stood nearer to the Fred Miles house, now 37 Main Street, as can be seen in the photo on page 29, where it shows at the right, in the top photo. The writer has chosen to call it "47 Main Street, Rear" because it belonged to the owner of 47 Main Street, and its site, at that time, also belonged to him. The land was later deeded to the owners of 41 Main Street, so that their house could be moved to the rear, farther from the street.

The house probably was built later than 1869, and it burned down around 1913, or shortly after.

John Hurley, born in County Cork in 1870, was the son of Daniel Hurley and Mary Sullivan. His wife was Julia Collins, 1876-1965, daughter of Timothy Collins and Ellen Donahue, and born in Ireland. She was also the sister of James M. Collins of 501 Farmington Avenue.

Frank Chidsey was a bachelor, a house painter, later lived in a small house near the Pequabuck, to the rear of the Wilmarth Lewis house.

John Hurley was groundskeeper for Henry Martin Cowles, and in addition to caring for the grounds and livestock, built and cared for his greenhouses. Mr. Cowles traveled extensively and brought home many beautiful and exotic plants and orchids to come under John Hurley's care.

Mr. Hurley died suddenly in 1911, at the early age of 41, leaving his wife with three young daughters. Mrs. Hurley was permitted to stay in this house a year or so. After the death of the wife of her brother James, in 1912, she moved with her daughters to 501 Farmington Avenue. There she kept house for her brother and cared for both families. Her three daughters were Mary, Julia and Nelly.

Mary Hurley died on January 19, 1924, and was buried on the day of the fire that destroyed "Westward", the Herbert Knox Smith house on Mt. Spring Road, pictured on page 5 of the Farmington Book. Julia, "the girl with the curls", as affectionately remembered by the Flood family, died in 1933. Nelly lives in the 501 Farmington Avenue House now, with two cousins of the Collins family. Her mother died in 1965.

After Mrs. Hurley and her children had left the house at 47 Main Street, rear, a Mr. Porter, formerly employed by Paul Ney, lived here with his family and managed Mr. Cowles' interests until he disposed of his farm in 1913.

September 7, 1973