Standing along the northern side of Carrington Lane near the intersection of Colton and Main streets, the John Hooker Hart House is located on a small landscaped lot. Modern residences border the lot to the east, while Colonial, Georgian- and Federal-styles homes are visible in all other directions. The surrounding neighborhood lies in the heart of Farmington's historic district.
Although much of this building's detail is not visible from the street, it exhibits features of the vernacular dwellings found throughout the country. Its rectangular form capped with a gable roof is rather modest; however, an open porch on the north elevation features round post supports. Several additions have been added to the building—including one-story north, west, and south sections, and a large rear two-story section. One-over-one sash are found throughout the house. A small center chimney extends from the original building.

John Hooker Hart erected this house around 1880 on land he had previously inherited from his father's estate (FPR 11:224). The youngest son of Deacon Simeon and Abigail (Andrews) Hart, John (1851-1931) was married in 1876 to Mary Ann Thompson, the daughter of Horace and Mercy (Gridley) Thompson. In 1881 he sold the new dwelling house to his wife through a third party (FLR 65:532, 64:521). Engaged in farming, Hart also raised and trained steers. Upon Mary T. Hart's death in 1902 the house was willed to her three children: Ellen H. Risley, Simeon T. Hart, Albert L. Hart (FPR 25:48, 41:263). The property was subject to the life use and improvement of her husband. John H. Hart remarried after his wife's death (Helen M. Hart (1850-1923) and later Nancy B. Wood). In 1931 the heirs of John and Mary Hart sold the homestead to author Rachel Field of New York City (FLR 86:313). Miss Field, who later married Arthur S. Pederson, purchased the house as a home for her mother, Lucy Atwater Field and aunt, Katherine C. Atwater. The Pedersons, who later reside in Beverly Hills, California, sold the house in 1949 (FLR 103:396).

Although relatively undistinguished architecturally, the John Hooker Hart House is historically notable for its association with the Hart family, one of Farmington's oldest families.

Sources:
SLATER, Theodora T.
1950-residence
5 Carrington Lane

ADDITIONAL INFORMATION
southerly side of my land next to the property of C. Carrington, 6/14/1886
Vol. 17 p 381.

DATE BUILT: 1880 FOR: John Hooker Hart (inf. E.H. Risley

ARCHITECT: Nelson O. Keyes

MASTER-Builder: "

FORMER OWNERS: Slater from Arthur S. Pedersen, 7/21/1949, Vol. 103, p. 396; Pedersen from wife, Rachel Field (the author) Pedersen by inheritance, 6/26/1945 Vol. 97, p. 228; Field from Simeon & Albert Hart 8/10/1931, Vol. 86, p. 313; Hart, A. & S. by inheritance from Est. of their father, John H. Hart who inherited from his mother, Abby Hart, "the lot adjoining his orchard with the right of passing to and fro over the same from Main St or the highway along the lane on the

REFERENCES: "Farmington, Conn. 1906" page 94.
5 Carrington Lane

This house is pictured in the Farmington Book on page 94 as
the residence of John H. Hart. It was in fact built for him, by
Nelson O. Keyes in 1880 on land inherited from his mother Abby Lang-
don Hart, widow of Deacon Simeon Hart.

John Hooker Hart had married in June, 1876, prior to the
building of this house, but had lived for the early years of his
marriage in his parents' home, presently known as 93 Main Street.
His wife was Mary Ann Thompson, daughter of Horace Thompson, 1804-
1844, and Mercy Gridley, granddaughter of Abel Thompson. Their first
child, Simeon Thompson Hart, was born in 1878, while they were living
in the home of John's parents. Ellen Flagg Hart, born 1880, and Albert
Langdon Hart, born 1882, were born at 5 Carrington Lane. As of May,
1970, the only survivor of these three children is Simeon, the eldest
child, residing in Syracuse, New York.

The family was saddened in 1866 by the murder on October 20
of Luther Gridley Thompson, born 1830, brother of John Hart's wife.
It appears that the murderer was never brought to trial. One of the
works of Julius Gay in 1867, when he was a young civil engineer, was
to make a map of the site of this crime, apparently north of Farming-
ton Avenue near Nott's Corner.

John Hart was a well known figure in Farmington. The Hart
Genealogy states that he was a farmer and that he raised and trained
steers. He often spoke to his children of visiting his mother's
family in Hartford. From what is remembered it is believed that they
resided and also had a store, at the corner of Main and Pratt Streets
in Hartford, and kept it for many years.

For an account of the family of Ellen Flagg Hart, who married
Charles Risley, Jr., please refer to 11 Colton Street, where they
lived thier married life.

Albert Langdon Hart was married in 1903 to Daisy May McCoy,
born in Turner's Falls, Massachusetts, in 1875, daughter of George
H. McCoy and Ella Stickles. They had one child, Kenneth Albert Hart,
born in August 1907, who lived only until January 1908. Mr. Hart had
moved to New Britain rather early in life and became a carpenter.
Their early married life was lived on Shuttle Meadow Road, out near
the water area, where he had a few acres of land. Later they moved
to Jubilee Street where they had a very small lot, barely room for
Mrs. Hart's garden. Mr. Hart continued through his life working as
a carpenter, gaining a reputation as a very careful and painstaking
"finish carpenter". As such he was employed most of the time hanging
doors, setting windows, and doing all the fine work of installing the
"trim" in residential construction. Mrs. Hart's sister Laura had
married Cyrus Hotchkiss and had five children. Mr. and Mrs. Hart be-
came especially attached to one of these children, Edith, who visited
them often and spent much time with them. They in turn treated her
as the daughter which they had never had. She took the name of Hart
and became Edith Hart Hotchkiss. This intimate and fond relationship,
as stated by her "carried over into my life as I grew up, married,
and had a family of my own, meaning even more to me then because my
own mother died when I was only 18, and the time came, as they aged,
that it was my turn to do for them as a daughter would".

June 10, 1970
And so she did care for them in their later years. Mrs. Hart and her husband died in 1948 and 1959 respectively. Edith Hart Hotchkiss is now Mrs. John Hoyt. She and her husband, having reared their family, and now being retired, reside on Lincoln Street in Plainville. They are the only ones who retain very vivid memories of the Albert Harts. As of June 3, 1970, they were enjoying graduation ceremonies at the Military Academy in West Point, New York.

Simeon Thompson Hart attended Farmington's public school and Mt. Hermon Academy in Northfield, Massachusetts. After returning from Mt. Hermon he was employed by the Farmington Creamery on Watervliet Road. He spent some time one winter learning the butter-making business in Avon, riding there on horseback. He also spent alternate days driving around to some of the smaller milk producers, picking up milk, and on the other days they would be processing the butter. He became manager of the creamery and tied for first place as champion butter-maker in the state of Connecticut. He also spent some time at Hillstead, making butter for the Pope family in their own private creamery.

Henry Barbour was head of the Creamery Association and a friend and mentor of Simeon Hart. Mr. Barbour gave him the start of a flock of chickens so that he could go into the poultry business in a small way, and he remembers that Mrs. Heydock of Mountain Road was one of his egg customers.

Hiram Woodward also gave him a helping hand, going to Hartford with him to purchase a horse and helping him select it. Mr. Woodward also, when Simeon wished to sell it, bought it for the same price he had given for it, $75.00. He was industrious and frugal and saved enough out of his $50.00 monthly salary to finance his college career, with the help of additional outside work while in college. He even had $25.00 left when he was graduated and returned to Farmington, for the first time since he had left to enter college.

Simeon had attended the University of Wisconsin, transferring to Purdue University after two years, and graduating from there in 1908. He married Maude Lee Clark in 1910 and then went on to get a Professional Degree in Mechanical Engineering from Purdue in 1911. He was meanwhile for a time assistant superintendent of Morgan Machine Company in the city of Rochester, New York. He came back to Connecticut in 1911 to be Superintendent at Hartford Special Machine Company until 1915. At this time he decided to follow in the footsteps of his grandfather Deacon Simeon Hart and entered the educational field, first at the University of West Virginia and later at Syracuse University. Here he taught from 1920 until 1948 as full professor, and later as head of the Department of Industrial Engineering. In addition to teaching he became a prominent machine designer, particularly in the food processing field.

Two children were born of his marriage with Maude Clark: Jascah and Simeon Willard. Mrs. Hart died in 1936 and in 1938 he married LeNore Zercher, a widow with three children: Margaret, Nancy and Frederick Zercher. They have had a very happy married life. Two step-grandchildren carry the name of Hart, a genuine tribute to Simeon T. Hart. Mr. Hart retired in 1948 at the age of 70, and now in 1970 they still reside in Syracuse.

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Mr. and Mrs. Hart have been active in church affairs in Syracuse and in many committee activities. Mr. Hart is a member and past president of the Technology Club of Syracuse and a member of various social and honorary fraternities. Mr. Hart has kept up his membership in the Congregational Church in Farmington, as have many other former residents. He and Mrs. Hart maintain many contacts with friends in Farmington, have visited here on many vacations, and are warmly remembered by many local residents. Mr. Hart's advanced age has limited their travels, so that they have not been here for the last few years.

Mr. Hart's daughter Jascha, after graduation with a B. S. degree from Syracuse University and graduate work at Northwestern University, worked for some time in the social service field in Kansas City, Missouri. Here she aided immigrants from the Ozarks in making their adjustments to urban life. During World War II she worked with the American Red Cross, hedgehopping across the European war area attached to various hospital units and giving aid to hospitalized and convalescent wounded servicemen. After the war she settled in California and took up the teaching of physical education at a girls' private school. In California she met and married Ormond G. Hirsch, a postal employee. During late years she and her husband have been developing a second vocation, that of selling, and working as a team they expect to follow this as soon as Mr. Hirsch becomes eligible for early retirement from the postal service. Their daughter, Heidi Bretaigue Hirsch, sixteen years of age, is becoming acquainted with the fields of music and art, with special attention to the piano and to commercial art.

Mr. Hart's son, Simeon Willard Hart, born in 1913, died in 1930, the unfortunate victim of an auto accident, having been hit by a car while delivering papers on a rainy evening.

John Hooker Hart's wife, Mary Ann Thompson, as stated previously, was the daughter of Horace Thompson and Mercy Gridley, who had married in 1828. Mercy Gridley, daughter of Mark Gridley, was born in 1807 and died in 1897. Mary Ann Hart died in March, 1902, only five years after her mother's death. Mr. Hart remained a widower from 1902 until in March, 1930, when at the age of seventy-nine he married Nancy Bridget Wood, daughter of John Wood and Nancy Wilson. He had not long to enjoy this marriage however, as he died in January of 1931.

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Simeon Thompson Hart died in Syracuse just four days after the above had been written, and his widow, in a letter to the writer, said "His wonderful mind remained alert until the end, and I am sure he thoroughly enjoyed his reminiscences of Old Farmington, which I was able to take down last winter and pass on to you. I am sure he was the final link with much of the past. He was a true Connecticut Yankee until his last breath; a giant of a man in learning and understanding, and this world is a much finer place for many of us for having known him". The writer believes that the feeling between the two was mutual.

April 26, 1971.

It has been brought to the writer's attention that John Hooker Hart's second wife, Helen, whose surname is not known, had a house in Sarasota where they wintered, and that Nancy Wood was his third wife.
Miss Rachel Field purchased this house from the heirs of John H. Hart in 1931. Miss Field had become acquainted with Farmington through Lucy Talcott, a schoolmate in Radcliffe College, Lucy having entered when Rachel was a junior, and Lucy's mentor at the college. Lucy Talcott in turn was familiar with Farmington, being the niece of Miss Rose Churchill, owner at that time of the house at 93 Main Street, just at the foot of Carrington Lane. Miss Field visited Miss Churchill often after she was graduated from college, doing some of her early writing in Miss Churchill's home, including "Hittie", the story of a doll, and when she found that this house at 5 Carrington Lane was available, she purchased it. It was her desire at that time to provide her mother with a home in the quiet countryside, and her mother's sister, Miss Atwater, lived with her. Miss Field never was a resident here in this house, which the Churchills called "Up the Lane", but she did visit here often, and the east room upstairs was set aside for her use when she wished to be here writing. Two of Miss Field's books are "And now Tomorrow" and "All this and Heaven Too", and she may have written portions of them in this house.

Miss Field later married Arthur Peterson and they took up residence in California. Upon her early death in 1943 her husband inherited the house, occupying it about a year later on, but by that time his daughter was too much of a Californian to be happy here, so they did not stay long. Mr. Peterson sold this house to Theodora T. Slater in 1949.

Mrs. Slater is a sister of the Lucy Talcott mentioned above, and a daughter of George S. Talcott and May Churchill of New Britain. George Talcott's father was John Talcott of the American Woolen Company of New Britain, who had lived in the Talcott homestead in the Elmwood section of West Hartford. In his later years, when he, John Talcott, was wondering what memorial he should leave to the city of New Britain, May's mother said: "Why doesn't he leave a fund for starting a little art gallery?". He followed this suggestion and some paintings were purchased. These first hung in the New Britain Library, but later Mrs. George Landers donated her house on Lexington Street, and it houses the now extensive collection of American Art, many of the paintings bearing the nameplate of the John Talcott Fund.

George Talcott made a good name for himself at Yale for his strong mastery of the Greek language, and could have been in line for a professorship very early, but he chose manufacturing and went into American Hosiery. Much later in life he was in the investment business.

Mr. and Mrs. George Talcott lived in the Churchill home at Franklin Square, New Britain. They had four daughters. Cynthia and Almeta did not live; Lucy, who never married, and Theodora who married the native of England, Patrick Slater, and went to England to live.

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After Mrs. Talcott died, around 1921, at the early age of 42, Mr. Talcott married Elizabeth Norton of New Britain, and they lived on Ledyard Road, in West Hartford. After his second wife died Mr. Talcott made his home with his sister-in-law, Rose Churchill, in her home at 93 Main Street.

Theodora joined him with her two children, after she was divorced from her husband just before the war. Lucy also made her headquarters there during World War II. Theodora had the front den as a bedroom.

Theodora, Mrs. Patrick Slater, subsequently bought this house at 5 Carrington Lane, which Rachel Field had owned, and her two children, John and Shirley, were reared here. Mrs. Slater still owns and occupies the house.

Mrs. Slater, born in 1910, was stated to have been a student at Brookline, Massachusetts, at the time of her marriage in January 1932, to Patrick Slater, born in London, the son of Gilbert Slater and Violet Oakeshott. He was a student, and a resident of Oxford, England, at that time. They were married in Farmington by the Rev. Quincy Blakely. Mrs. Slater purchased this house in 1949.

Mrs. Slater's daughter Shirley is now Mrs. John Crosman of Mason City, Iowa, whose husband is with Libby-Owens-Ford. Their son, Nathaniel Hart Crosman, was born in November 1970.

Lucy Talcott was a student in Miss Porter's School, 1913 to 1917. She then entered Radcliffe college, was graduated in 1921. After a Master's Degree from Columbia, she attended the American School of Classical Studies in Athens to further her knowledge and interest in Greek Archaeology. For thirty years she worked there and became a distinguished archaeologist and scholar. Miss Rose Churchill said of her: "One of the most brilliant members of the family was that niece of mine". In 1931 she had become one of the first members of the staff for the Agora Excavations, at the site of the market place of ancient Athens. She established a method of recording the over 60,000 articles found in the Agora, and this is the method now used by many excavators all over the world. During the last ten years of her life she was engaged in writing a book about the pottery of the Fifth Century BC, which is to be published in two volumes by the Agora Excavation Committee of the Institute of Advanced Study, in Princeton, New Jersey.

Miss Talcott died in Princeton in April 1970, at the age of seventy-one. In addition to having been a descendant of Deacon Stephen Hart, she was also one of Rev. Thomas Hooker. She was a member of the Colonial Dames of America, and of the Cosmopolitan Club of New York. She had built a house in Princeton, and it was her residence since 1959, with her friend and colleague Alison Frantz, while she was in the United States.

Much of the information on Lucy Talcott is from her friend and MPS room-mate, Miss Helen Perkins of Farmington.

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