Facing east onto Garden Street, the Hooker Children House sits on a small landscaped lot bordered to the rear by the Farmington River. A modern apartment abuts the property to the north, although the surrounding neighborhood contains many historic homes dating from the nineteenth and twentieth centuries.
Oriented gable-to-street, this building features little in the way of embellished architectural detailing. The first story of the facade exhibits three bays with a central entry door protected by a small gable-roofed porch. A 1906 photo shows the house once displayed a full length, single story veranda with Italianate-style posts. Modern six-over-one sash have replaced the original windows. A two-story ell has been incorporated onto the south elevation. Originally the ell was a single-story and featured an entry door and two-over-two sash. A small brick chimney rises from the center of the house.

This dwelling was erected in 1848 for the children of James Hooker. The son of Col. Nodiah and Rebekah (Griswold) Hooker, James was a mariner who served the Cowles Brothers. He married late in life and died in 1846 just six years after his marriage to Jennette Sweet. The widow Hooker was left with three small children: Charles N., Jennette, and James F. Hooker's estate, which was settled in the fall of 1847, stated that the remaining balance of the estate was to be used to "purchase land for a house and build a small house for the children of the deceased" (FPR 11:33). James Hooker's brother, Edward also died in 1846 and left $300 "to be invested in a small house for the children of James" (FPR 11:26). John Hooker, the children's other uncle and administrator for both estates, was responsible for the erection of the small house. In July of 1848 John Hooker sold his young relations a small piece of land along Main Street (Garden Street) with a "new" dwelling (FLR 51:85). In 1866 James Southergill (1826-1906), a gardener from Ireland, acquired the property from various members of the Hooker family (FLR 60:51). Southergill who resided here until his death in 1906, was responsible for moving the house to the front of the lot and altering it to its present appearance. John C. Southergill inherited the house from his father's estate and shortly afterwards sold it out of the family (FPR 26:458).

Although the building has been modified over the years, it is historically significant for its association with the prominent Hooker family.

Sources:
- Greater Middletown Preservation Trust.
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th><strong>OWNER'S NAME</strong></th>
<th>GRISWOLD, WALTER &amp; JOSEPHINE</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td><strong>ADDRESS:</strong></td>
<td>50 Garden Street</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>DATE BUILT:</strong></td>
<td>ca. 1848 FOR: John Hooker</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>ADDITIONAL INFORMATION</strong></td>
<td>House was built back of present location by and moved to present location by John Southergill. Work done by F.F. Hurlburt.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>ARCHITECT</strong></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>MASTER-BUILDER</strong></td>
<td></td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>FORMER OWNERS:</strong></td>
<td>Griswold from Olga C.P. Kelsey 8/13/1937; Vol. 87, p. 361; Kelsey from father, C.J. Carlson; C.J. Carlson from E.H. Deming; E.H. Deming from John C. Southergill 7/30/1906, Vol. 77, p. 71; Southergill from James Southergill; James Southergill from Noadiah Hooker, Eli Moore and Jennette (Hooker) Moore and Jennette Loveland, formerly widow Jennette Hooker, all being children of James Hooker desc'd., ½ acre and dwellinghouse on New St., n. on land of L. Charpentier, s. on Elizabeth O'Connell; Noadiah Hooker et al from John Hooker 7/18/1848, Vol. 51, p. 85, being 55 rods with a&quot;new dwellinghouse thereon.&quot;</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>REFERENCES:</strong></td>
<td>&quot;Farmington, Conn., 1906&quot;, p. lll.</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**NOTE:** Owner as of 1950.
This house is pictured on page 111 of the Farmington Book as "The James Southergill place, Residence of C. J. Carlson". It is noted on Baker and Tilden's 1869 Atlas as "J. Southergill".

The library card states that the house was built in 1848 for John Hooker, and that title was passed on July 18, 1848, from John Hooker to Noadiah Hooker "et al". The property at that time included the land and "a new dwelling house thereon".

The writer believes that the Noadiah Hooker mentioned above must have been the young Charles Noadiah Hooker, the son of James Hooker, the latter having been the son of Noadiah who died in 1823. See 50 High Street. Noadiah the elder, in his will, had directed that his son Edward should care for James as long as James lived, paying his bills, and caring for his money. James, for a long time a sailor on the high seas, had married very late in life, at the age of 63, in 1840, but had been the father of four children by the time of his death.

Edward Hooker left a son John, and it is the writer's belief that John Hooker was assuming his father's responsibility to the brother James, by building this house for the orphaned children of James, and for their mother.

The widow was Jennette, previously the widow of Simon Sweet, who, after James' death re-married, becoming Jennette Loveland. She had had four children by James Hooker. They were:

Charles Noadiah Hooker, born 1841,
Jennette Hooker, born 1844, married Eli Moore,
Franklin Hooker, born 1845, died 1846, and
James Frederick Hooker, his twin, who died in Civil War service, in 1864.

When title to this house was later transferred, on November 9, 1866, the deed was given by:

Noadiah Hooker,
Eli and Jennette Moore, and
Jennette Loveland, formerly Jennette Hooker.

Garden Street at that time was designated as "New Street".

The new owner as of November 9, 1866, was James Southergill, born in Ireland, who worked for a local estate.

One Susan Southergill, perhaps a sister of James, was married on June 11, 1854, to Thomas Gallagher, 1826-1909, one of the nine Gallagher brothers and sisters who lived in Farmington from the 1850's.

James Southergill's wife Barbara died on July 13, 1897, and it has been said that he re-married, but to whom is not known. A daughter Tillie is said to have gone to live with a Miles family on Mountain Road after the death of her mother.

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391.
Baker and Tilden's Atlas shows this house in 1869 as standing quite a distance back from the street, but later Mr. Southergill had it moved to its present site, the moving being done by carpenter and builder Frederick F. Hurlburt who had his own home just to the south.

James Southergill died on January 17, 1906, at the age of 78. His son John, who inherited, sold on July 30, 1906, to Edward H. Deming.

C. J. Carlson purchased it from Judge Deming, probably very soon after the above transaction.

Carl J. Carlson was a shoemaker, having had his shop on Main Street, as shown in the top photo on page 88 of the Farmington Book. It does not show very clearly in that photo, but the sandwich-board sign in front of the building on the left is actually Mr. Carlson's sign, indicating his shop. He and his family may have lived there too, that house having stood just across from what is now the Corner House. That house was already scheduled to be removed from that location. It was sold in 1907, and shortly thereafter it was moved by William Bronson to its present site at 74 Mountain Road.

On Garden Street Mr. Carlson had his shop in a small building near his home, on the side of the house lot. The Carlson daughter Beatrice is said to have married a Mr. Smith. A daughter Olga married Mr. Post, and they had a son Richard. She later married Mr. Kelsey. Carl J. Carlson died on January 19, 1926, and his widow, Christine A. Carlson, died February 5, 1926. Their daughter Olga inherited the house.

Walter and Josephine Griswold purchased this house on August 12, 1937, from Olga C. P. Kelsey. Walter Griswold, born in 1882, was the son of William E. Griswold, who died in 1900, and Margaret Conlin, the latter being of Farmington Avenue. Walter was married on March 18, 1909, to Josephine E. Fish, daughter of Norton L. Fish and Alice Garret. Walter and his wife and their son Harold had moved here from 4 Mill Road. Walter tore down the old Carlson shoe shop. Earlier a carpenter, Walter also worked as a plumber for Fred Swanston, and later was custodian at Noah Wallace School. Mr. and Mrs. Griswold later sold this house and moved to Exeter, New Hampshire, where their son Harold was in charge of maintenance at the hospital. Mrs. Griswold died there on May 7, 1973, aged 77.

Mr. and Mrs. Raymond Yung of New Britain purchased on June 3, 1966, and converted it to a duplex, now renting both the upper and lower apartments, as they live in Avon.

Mr. and Mrs. Skoniezni lived here for a time. The last tenants known to the writer were Mrs. Henriette Bruzik and her two sons, and Mr. and Mrs. Anil J. Mehta.

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Deborah Jean Whipple is now Mrs. Robert Hartenstein of Meriden, Robert being the son of Robert H. and Dorothy Hartenstein of that same city. He is employed in the testing laboratory of International Silver Company, the graduate of a two-year course in electronics. Their children are William Robert and Keith Andrew. Walter Whipple is now in the plumbing business with his father. He plans to be married in June 1973 to Nancy Hennessy, presently of Stony Creek, Branford. Jeffrey Whipple is still in High School.


George Raymond Haworth, the youngest of the three children of the elder Mr. Haworth, was married in 1934 to Marion Elizabeth Bronson. They lived their first two married years in the rental apartment of the Thomas Collins house across from the Haworth home at 47 Garden Street. In 1936 Raymond and his wife built the house at 51 Garden Street, and more regarding them will be found in the account of that house.

The widow of Joseph C. Haworth, Harriet Haworth, still resides in the house at 47 Garden Street.

February 25, 1973