# Building Name

Hart, Nodia, House

# Town City

Farmington

# Street and Number (and or location)

50 West District Road

# Owner(s)

Riemer, Mark E. and Janice C.

# Use (Present)

Residence

# Accessibility to Public

Exterior Visible from Public Road: Yes
Interior Accessible: No

# Style of Building

Colonial

# Date of Construction

1777

# Material(s)

- [X] Clapboard
- [ ] Asbestos Siding
- [ ] Brick
- [ ] Other (Specify)
- [ ] Wood Shingle
- [ ] Asphalt Siding
- [ ] Fieldstone
- [ ] Board & Batten
- [ ] Stucco
- [ ] Cobblestone
- [ ] Aluminum Siding
- [ ] Concrete Type: [X] Cut stone
- [ ] Brownstone foundation

# Structural System

- [X] Wood frame
- [X] Post and beam
- [ ] Balloon
- [ ] Other (Specify)
- [ ] Load bearing masonry
- [ ] Structural iron or steel

# Roof (Type)

- [X] Gable
- [ ] Flat
- [ ] Mansard
- [ ] Monitor
- [ ] Sawtooth
- [ ] Gambrel
- [ ] Shed
- [ ] Hip
- [ ] Round
- [ ] Other (Specify)
- [ ] Wood Shingle
- [ ] Roll
- [ ] Asphalt
- [ ] Tin
- [ ] Slate
- [X] Asphalt shingle
- [ ] Built up
- [ ] Tile
- [ ] Other (Specify)

# Number of Stories

2½

# Approximate Dimensions

38 x 30

# Condition

- [X] Excellent
- [ ] Good
- [ ] Fair
- [ ] Deteriorated

# Integrity

- [X] On original site
- [ ] Moved
- [X] Yes
- [ ] No

# Related Outbuildings or Landscape Features

- [X] Other landscape features or buildings (Specify): patio
- [ ] Barn
- [ ] Shed
- [ ] Garage
- [ ] Carriage house
- [ ] Shop
- [ ] Garden

# Surrounding Environment

- [X] Open land
- [ ] Woodland
- [ ] Residential
- [ ] Scattered buildings visible from site
- [ ] Commercial
- [ ] Industrial
- [ ] Rural
- [X] High building density

Facing south onto West District Road, the Nodia Hart House is set back off the street on a slightly elevated site. The large, old trees which trim the grounds shelter the house from encroaching modern development. The surrounding, densely populated modern neighborhood sits on land once actively farmed.
This large, five-bay, center-chimney Colonial-period house is a typical example of eighteenth-century farmhouses built in Farmington. Oriented ridge-to-street, the facade exhibits a paneled, double-leaf, entry door with seven pane transom. The double overhang is a common characteristic found on Colonial-period dwellings of this style. Original twelve-over-twelve sash are found on the first floor and twelve-over-eight remain on the second floor. The building has been restored by its present owners.

This house was built in 1777 by Nodiah Hart on land purchased from Elnathan Gridley (FLR 21:520). The large seventy-four acre parcel was located in the ninth allotment of the first division, west of the reserved land. Hart (1737-1817) was the son of Nathaniel and Abigail Hart and a direct descendant of Deacon Stephen Hart, one of Farmington's earliest proprietors. A year after completing the house, Hart sold the property to Abner Whittlesey (1746-1821). Born in Newington, Whittlesey, a farmer, came to Farmington in 1775 from Wethersfield. He was the son of Eliphalet and Dorothy Whittlesey. In 1787 Abner married Ruth Wadsworth (1749-1830), the daughter of Hezekiah and Lois (Judd) Wadsworth of Farmington. The Whittleseys' had three daughters: Ruth (1788-1794), Dolly (1790-1794), and Ruth Dolly (1793-1841). Although it is not recorded in any legal documents, Ruth Dolly presumably inherited her father's estate upon his death in 1821. In 1814 she had married her cousin, Harvey Whittlesey (1788-1861) of New Preston, Connecticut, and they raised eleven children. Both Ruth D. and her husband joined the Farmington Congregational Church in 1821. Like his father-in-law, Harvey Whittlesey was a farmer although Samuel Pepper states in his history of Unionville that this house was known as Whittlesey's Tavern. Upon Ruth D. Whittlesey's death in 1841, the property was distributed to her husband and surviving children. Harvey, in 1842, married Dolly Maria Sperry (1812-1878), the daughter of Wilmot and Anna (Whittlesey) Sperry. In 1856 he acquired full title to the farm from his children through a third party (FLR 51:529 and 55:35). George North purchased the property in 1864 from the estate of

Harvey Whittlesey (FLR 60:52). North (1808-1876), a farmer, was the son of Aaron and Abigail (Hart) North of Farmington. Upon his death in 1876, his property was willed to his daughters: Francis M. Lewis and Ella North, with the stipulation that their mother, Maria, have life use of all property, both the real and personal estate (FPR 15:371). A year after her husband's death, Maria (Winn) North rented the farm to her son-in-law, John P. Lewis (1836-1926) with an agreement "to support Maria and provide for her in exchange for rent" (FLR 62:450). Lewis acquired full title to the house later in that year (FLR 64:358). In 1923 the farm was purchased by Lewis's son, George (FLR 80:442) and the house remained in the family until 1941.

This dwelling is architecturally significant for its state of preservation and as one of the few remaining Colonial-period dwellings in Farmington's outlying districts. Historically the house is important for its association with the Hart and Whittlesey families.