<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Building Name (Common)</th>
<th>Historic Name</th>
<th>Location</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Ward House</td>
<td>Ward, Susan and Augustus, House</td>
<td>Hartford</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

2 Town City | Village | County |
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th></th>
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</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Farmington</td>
<td></td>
<td>Hartford</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

3 Street and Number (and or location) | 56 Main Street |

4 Owner(s) | Miss Porter's School, Inc. |

5 Use (Present) | Office/dormitory |

6 Accessibility to Public | Exterior Visible from Public Road | Interior Accessible |
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
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</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Yes</td>
<td>No</td>
<td>Yes</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

7 Style of Building | Greek Revival |

8 Materials | Indicate use or location when appropriate |
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
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</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Clapboard</td>
<td>Asbestos Siding</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Wood Shingle</td>
<td>Asbestos Siding</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Board &amp; Batten</td>
<td>Stucco</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Aluminum Siding</td>
<td>Concrete</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

9 Structural System | Wood Frame | Post and beam |
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th></th>
<th></th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Wood Frame</td>
<td>Post and beam</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

10 Roof Type | Gable | Flat | Mansard | Monitor | Sawtooth |
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
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</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Gable</td>
<td>Flat</td>
<td>Mansard</td>
<td>Monitor</td>
<td>Sawtooth</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

11 Number of Stories | Approximate Dimensions |
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th></th>
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</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>2</td>
<td>41 x 31; 73 x 49</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

12 Condition | Excellent | Good | Fair | Deteriorated |
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
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</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Excellent</td>
<td>Good</td>
<td>Fair</td>
<td>Deteriorated</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

13 Integrity | On original site | Moved |
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th></th>
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</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Yes</td>
<td>No</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

14 Related Outbuildings or Landscape Features | Barn | Shed | Garage | Other landscape features or buildings |
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
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<th></th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Barn</td>
<td>Shed</td>
<td>Garage</td>
<td>Other landscape features or buildings</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

15 Surrounding Environment | Open Land | Woodland | Residential | Scattered buildings visible from site |
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
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<th></th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Open Land</td>
<td>Woodland</td>
<td>Residential</td>
<td>Scattered buildings visible from site</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

16 Interrelationship of Building and Surroundings | Facing east onto Main Street lies the Susan and Augustus Ward House. To the east is the intersection of Mountain Road. To the north and south stand other historic buildings associated with the Miss Porter's School campus. |

(Over)
This building is fully Greek Revival in form and detail. The three-bay facade displays a flushboard exterior, an uncommon feature not often found in Farmington. A small classical entry porch supported by columns and a wide entablature is also prominent. Small attic vents are visible under the eaves. On the rear of the building are several modern additions probably done in the mid-twentieth century. Note the brick chimney and eight-over-eight sash.

In 1793 Seth Cowles (1763-1842) inherited part of his father's estate (FPR 4:35) including a piece of prime real estate on Main Street, possibly containing the Elijah Cowles House. Seth and his four bothers (Gad, Jonathan, Elijah, and Martin) worked for their father in his successful mercantile and shipping business, Elijah Cowles and Company. Seth married Susannah Whitman and they raised two children, Susan and Sarah. Upon Seth's death in 1842 his daughter Susan (1815-1894) inherited the "homelot containing about 3½ acres" (FPR 10:285). Susan had married Augustus Ward (1811-1883), the son of Comfort and Plumea Ward, a maker of powder and kegs from Massachusetts. It is believed that the Wards removed the older house and on two of the three-and-one-half acres erected the existing building around 1842. In 1891 Susan sold the property to Henry R. Hatch of Ohio (FLR 68:541); several days later he sold it to Sarah Porter, the headmistress of Miss Porter's School (FLR 70:255) for $7000. Since that time it has belonged to the school and was added to in 1902 by John Parsons of Parsons Lumber Company.

Architecturally significant, the Susan and Augustus Ward House exemplifies the Greek Revival style. It is also historically significant due to its association with the Cowles and Ward families.

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ADDITIONAL INFORMATION

ADDITIONAL INFORMATION ON ITS NAME

ADORUS:

ADVANCED:

ARCHITECT

MASTER-BUILDER

Addition built 1902 by Parsons Lumber Co

John Pafsons.

FORMER OWNERS:

Miss Porter's School from Sarah Porter by will 3/7/1900 P.R. Vol. 26, p 173, with authority to continue the School. The inventory value was $2350. Sarah Porter from H.R. & Mary C. Hatch, 7/20/1891, Vol. 70, p. 255; Hatch, Henry R. from Susan Ward, 7/20/1891, Vol. 68, p. 541; Ward, Susan (Cowles) from her father, Seth Cowles, by will 5/9/1842 Vol. 10 P.R. p 285, the dwellinghouse and all other buildings on the home lot of 3 1/2 acres; Seth Cowles was the son of Elijah Cowles and had inherited the so-called Elijah Cowles Mansion. It was an old house and was probably demolished and this house built on its site.

REFERENCES:

"Farmington, Conn., 1906" p. 191, 195.

Cowles Genealogy p 291

Baker & Tilden Atlas 1869 p 33 "A. Ward"
This house is pictured on page 191 of the Farmington Book as the "Ward House", property of Miss Porter's School. It was designated in Baker and Tilden's Atlas of 1869 as "A. Ward".

It was built in 1840 for Augustus Ward and his wife, the former Susan Cowles, on land which had been in her family for at least three generations prior to hers. An old house which had stood on the property was torn down to make way for the new construction.

Original settler on this land may have been William Heacox (or Hitchcock), who sold to Robert Porter, or Thomas Newell, who sold to John Lee. This observation is made from viewing Mrs. Hurlburt's map on page xvi of "Town Clerks", explained on page xviii.

Isaac Cowles, first of the four generations mentioned in the second paragraph above, lived from 1675 to 1756, married to Elizabeth Smith, and may have built the house which stood on this land when it was purchased by Augustus Ward.

Isaac Cowles was a tailor by trade, captain of the train band, held the office of constable and others, and became an extensive land owner. He was the grandson of Settler John Cowles, 1598-1675, and was the son of Samuel Cowles, 1639-1691, who married Abigail Stanley. She died in 1734 at a great age, and was the mother of eleven children.

Isaac's son Elijah, 1727-1793, who inherited, was the son of Isaac's third wife. He was a shoemaker by trade, and a saving man. It may have been he, or maybe his son, who placed an ad in the Connecticut Courant of March 3, 1777, reading as follows: "Stolen from the subscriber, of Farmington, on Saturday night last, from the door of Mr. Moses Seymour in Hartford, two horses with a slay.... Whoever shall take up and return the above horses and slay to the owner in Farmington, shall have three dollars reward, and all charges paid by Elijah Cowles". We do not know the result.

Elijah Cowles and Fisher Gay, according to note on page 64 of "Town Clerks", "set the Psalms" in church in 1750. Elijah Cowles was married for a short time to Sarah Hart, daughter of Josiah Hart and Sarah Bull. She bore one child who died in infancy, and she died a short time later. Elijah then married Eunice Gould of North Guilford, who bore him ten children. Five of these were sons and were in mercantile and shipping business together for many years, dividing profits equally without complaint. All lived in houses very near by. Edward D. Mansfield, later a newspaper man of note, who attended Edward Hooker's "Old Red College" in 1815, had this to say:

"There were on the main street five families of brothers of the name of Cowles, in all of whose houses I visited, and to whom I was indebted for many pleasant hours".

November 26, 1971
The brothers mentioned by Mr. Mansfield were all sons of Elijah Cowles, and their names and addresses were as follows:

Elijah, born 1755, 53 Main Street  
Jonathan, " 1757, 59 "  
Seth, " 1763, 56 "  
Gad, " 1768, 63 " and  
Martin, " 1774, 41 "

It was Seth who inherited from Elijah this property on which 56 Main Street was later built. A daughter of Elijah, Mary (better known then as Polly) married General SolomonCowles of 154 Main Street, the present residence of Wilmarth S. Lewis.

Frederick A. Ward, on January 26, 1903, wrote the following of these brothers:

"The five brothers were very notable men in their day and generation. By their thrift and enterprise they made Farmington second only to Hartford in importance in Connecticut as a commercial center at the beginning of the last century. In conjunction with James Hillhouse they constructed the Farmington Canal. These five brothers also were largely engaged in foreign trade, exporting home products, cattle, fruit, woodenware, etc., and importing rum, molasses, etc., and owned several ships".

The portion above regarding the Farmington Canal may have been somewhat of an exaggeration.

"Mrs. Hurlburt describes this trade and shipping on page 111 of "Town Clerks", as follows:

"Vessels owned by the Cowles family and the Deming brothers, went to the far corners of the world, bringing back silks, tea and monogrammed china from China; rugs, carpets, coffee and spice as well as bric-a-brac from India, and furs from the South Sea islands. Rum and molasses from the West Indies was the basis of much of the wealth here, and great houses with ballrooms, pianos and imported wallpapers and hangings from England were soon built. Horses and carriages glittered on the main street through the dust clouds of summer and the deepest snows of winter".

Seth Cowles, 1763-1842, who lived here next, was an active merchant in the company with his four brothers. He was called "doctor", an eccentric man, a great reader. He was paymaster in 1797-98 of the Connecticut Militia Cavalry. His wife was the former Susannah Whitman, daughter of Solomon Whitman and Mary Thomson. They had no sons who lived, their daughters were Susan and Sarah. Sarah, 1812-1861, was married in 1835 to Dr. Edwin Wells Carrington, who came here from Woodbridge in 1826, and practiced here for his life-time, and in 1841 purchased the Pitkin house at 2 Colton Street. Susan, 1815-1894, was the daughter who married Augustus Ward, of the seventh generation of Wards in America. See brief genealogy of the Ward family on the next page.

November 26, 1971
The Ward Family

Ensign William Ward, 1632-1690, born in Northley, Oxfordshire, England
  m. (1) 1658 Sarah Phelps, in Windsor, Conn.
    (2) 1660 Phoebe

Captain Thomas Ward, 1660-1728
  m. Hannah Tappan 1662-

William Ward, 1687-1761
  m. 1710 Mary Harris 1686-1776

William Ward, 1720-
  m. Martha Bull, 1717-

James Tappan Ward, 1751-
  m. Elizabeth Miller, 1752-

Comfort Ward, 1778-1867
  m. Plumea Shepherd 1785-1836
    Dau. of Amos Shepherd and Hannah North,
    Grand-dau. of Amos Shepherd & Mehitabel Wood.

Three children of this marriage married into local families. These three were:

  Augustus Ward, 1811-1883, m. Susan Cowles
  Susan D. Ward, 1824-1875, m. Hezekiah Tillotson
  Lucy Ann Ward, -1883, m. Winthrop M. Wadsworth

August 27, 1971
Augustus Ward, 1811-1883, was the son of Comfort Ward, 1778-1867, and Plumea Shepherd, 1785-1836, whose wedding took place in the house at 37 Mountain Spring Road, in the home of Mr. and Mrs. Noadiah Woodruff. One of the guests at that wedding was Noadiah's daughter Sarah, later to become Mrs. Henry Mygatt of 29 Mountain Spring Road. She said "the wedding was in the north parlor and they had a social and pleasant time". Comfort Ward was a maker of powder kegs in West Granville, Massachusetts, who had located there because proper wood for the making of kegs was available there. Comfort was also a cobbler by trade. In his later life he lived with the Tilletsons on Town Farm Road, as his daughter Susan had married into that family.

Julius Gay on page 83 of the Farmington Book has this to say of Augustus Ward:

"He was a merchant of New Britain in its earliest days. Marrying a daughter of Seth Cowlis in 1840 he removed to this village and built a new house on the site of the old Cowles mansion. He was a farmer, but had much to do with the Farmington Savings Bank after its organization in 1851, being one of its most able and efficient directors."

Augustus Ward was on various civic committees as pointed out in the following notes taken from Mrs. Hurlburt's "Town Clerks":

Page 176. December 4, 1843. Augustus Ward was named to the committee to consider the expediency of improving the road between Main Street and some point on the railroad in Berlin, "for travel and the transmission of the mail in all weather".

Page 179. January 10, 1848. He was appointed to a committee to either build a new Town Hall or repair the Academy for use as such.

Page 202. October 3, 1859. He was appointed to be a member of the Board of Relief.

Augustus Ward was also said to have organized a manufacturing establishment here. This may have been the Phoenix Manufacturing Company, whose factory was built on Garden Street in 1848, this being the building which has for many years housed the laundry of Miss Porter's School, but which now is used wholly for the housing of employees of the school. The Phoenix manufactured hoes, forks, shovels and other tools of similar nature.

One of the sons of Augustus Ward was Hubert Cowlis Ward, 1842-1900. He was an 1862 graduate of Yale's Sheffield Scientific School and also attended for a year the Scientific School of Harvard. He did some survey work in Farmington, and according to the records of the Town Meeting of October 26, 1878, it was "voted that the surveys and the maps made by Hubert C. Ward, surveyor of the roads and highways of this town be accepted as the lines and bounds of the same ---- except where the measurements are well known and easily proved".

November 26, 1971
Hubert Cowles Ward was married in 1876 to Alice Theresa Maxwell of San Luis Obispo, California. He was in charge of the construction of the Northern Pacific Railroad's western half, from Bozeman, Montana, to Tacoma, Washington, and then from Tacoma to Portland. This is of special interest to the writer, because his first nine years of post-high school employment were with that railroad, in Auburn and Seattle, Washington, from 1918 to 1927.

Another son of Augustus Ward was Frederick Augustus Ward, born in 1841, who became a Justice of the Supreme Court of New York State in 1908, was the man who wrote of the Cowles brothers' business as quoted on the second page of this sketch, and most important, left a legacy of $3000 to the Village Library.

A third son was Edwin Carrington Ward, born in 1858, was a graduate of Yale in 1880 and its law school in 1882, became an attorney in New York City. He was married in 1895 to Marion Louette Matson of Madison, Wisconsin.

Augustus Ward died in 1883. Eight years later, three years prior to her own death, Mrs. Susan Ward sold this house on July 20, 1891, to Henry R. and Mary C. Hatch. Later that same year they sold it to Miss Sarah Porter. She willed it to her school, which still owns it.

Ward House, or "Ward", as it is usually known by both students and faculty, has been a dormitory since that date. The "ample" addition to the house, mentioned on page 195 of the Farmington Book, was made in 1902 by John Parsons of the Parson's Lumber Company of Unionville, and it shows in the photo on page 191. As with all additions made to houses by Miss Porter's School, no change was made to the facade, so that it still presents to passersby its original appearance.

November 26, 1971

A letter from Miss Sarah Porter to Mr. and Mrs. Stanley Trott Woodward, written in 1881, states that "Main" was full, but that she had acquired the building next door, and was expanding into it, as her boarding school grew. This appears to indicate that the Wards perhaps lived elsewhere in their later years, permitting Miss Porter the use of the house prior to actual purchase.

Ward housemother for two years, Mrs. Rockwell Ward, retired in June 1971.

The young married couple who are presently the assistant house directors, are Tracy and Kathy Ambler. Tracy is a native of Newington, Connecticut. He is a graduate of Mt. Hermon with a B. A. from Johns Hopkins, and expects to be a graduate of U-Conn law school this month.

Kathy grew up in Blairstown, New Jersey, met Tracy when they were at Northfield Mt. Hermon, and after two years at Vassar was graduated from Goucher. She is a copy writer with an advertising agency in Avon.

May 7, 1974

828.