HISTORIC DEPARTMENT INVENTORY
BUILDING AND STRUCTURES

STATE OF CONNECTICUT
CONNECTICUT HISTORICAL COMMISSION
59 SOUTH PROSPECT STREET, HARTFORD, CONNECTICUT 06106
(203) 566-3005

1. BUILDING NAME (Common) [Historic] Holt, Horace B., House

2. TOWN CITY Fabermon

3. STREET AND NUMBER (and or location) 60 Garden Street

4. OWNER(S) Miss Porter's School, Inc.

5. USE (Present) Residence [Historic]

6. ACCESSIBILITY EXTERIOR VISIBLE FROM PUBLIC ROAD INTERIOR ACCESSIBLE IF YES EXPLAIN

7. STYLE OF BUILDING Nineteenth-century vernacular with Victorian-period details

8. MATERIALS (Indicate use or location when appropriate)

- Clapboard
- Wood Shingle
- Board & Batten
- Aluminum Siding

9. STRUCTURAL SYSTEM

- Wood frame
- Load bearing masonry

10. ROOF (Type & Material)

- Gambrel - Roll Asphalt
- Asphalt Shingle

11. NUMBER OF STORIES / APPROXIMATE DIMENSIONS

- 2
- 22 x 44

12. CONDITION (Structural & Exterior)

- Excellent
- Good
- Fair
- Deteriorated

13. INTEGRITY - LOCATION WHEN

- On original site
- Moved

14. RELATED OUTBUILDINGS OR LANDSCAPE FEATURES

- Barn
- Shed
- Garage
- Other landscape features or buildings

15. SURROUNDING ENVIRONMENT

- zero
- Residential
- Scattered buildings visible from site

16. INTERRELATIONSHIP OF BUILDING AND SURROUNDINGS

The Horace B. Holt House faces east onto Garden Street across from the intersection of Porter Road. The surrounding neighborhood, which lies directly west of Farmington's historic district, contains a variety of vernacular architecture erected in the nineteenth and twentieth centuries.
Built in 1850-51, this three-bay, T shaped building is oriented gable-to-street. The facade's most prominent feature is the single-story, wrap-around, Victorian-period veranda embellished with decorative square posts, scroll brackets, spindlework frieze, and lattice skirt. The first floor features elongated windows of nine-over-nine, double-hung sash. The rest of the house exhibits six-over-six sash. The side-hall entry is set in a simple molded surround as are the windows. The gable end displays a rectangular, eight-paned window and small overhanging eaves. A small shed-roofed entry porch is found on the north elevation.

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<th>ARCHITECT</th>
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In April of 1850 Horace B. Holt of Farmington purchased a two-acre lot on the west side of the "new road" from Solomon, Edward, and Nancy Whitman (FLR 52:31). The deed stipulated that the Whitmans could reserve the "crop of rye now on the grounds, except so far as it may necessarily be destroyed in digging the cellar and well and setting out trees" (FLR 52:31). In 1851 Holt mortgaged a portion of the lot on the "new road lying west of Main Street" with buildings, to the trustees of the estate of Sidney Wadsworth (FLR 52:261). There is little historical information available concerning Holt (1805-1856), except that his wife's name was Christina and they are both buried in the Hillside Cemetery in Unionville. In 1852 Holt sold the house to Mrs. Elizabeth Connell, wife of Richard O. Connell (FLR 52: 548). Born in England, Elizabeth (Robinson) Connell (1808-1889) purchased the surrounding acreage between 1864 and 1868 enlarging the homelot to 6½ acres by November of 1868 (FLR 61:79). Richard Connell (1798-1889) engaged in farming and worked as a currier, a person who combs horses or oils animal hides. In 1889 the property was inherited by the Connells' two daughters: Hattie and Sarah (FPR 20:191 & 198). Sarah was the wife of George Trumball. George N. Whiting (1823-1902) purchased the house in 1893 (FLR 68:682). A native of West Hartford, Whiting was a housejoiner/carpenter by trade and operated a feed store and stable in Farmington. In 1852 he married Nancy C. Thompson (1826-1908), a dressmaker from Ohio. Upon Mr. Whiting's death in 1902 the house was willed to his widow and three children: Mary Ann Corbin, Belle McKenney, and George Whiting (FPR 25:514). Frank E. Corbin of New Britain received the property in January of 1903 (FLR 69:6:

although Mrs. Whiting continued to reside there. Five years later in 1907, Frederick E. McKenney, Belle (Whiting) McKenney's husband, bought the house (FLR 77:145). At the time of the McKenneys' marriage in 1898, Frederick was employed as a milk dealer and is recorded as a native of East Richford, Vermont. Miss Porter's School purchased the property in 1964 (FLR 170:491) and continues to use it today as faculty housing.

Architecturally significant for its degree of preservation, the Horace B. Holt House makes a notable contribution to the historic character of Garden Street.
OWNER'S NAME: MCKENNEY, FRED E. & BELLE W.
1950-res.

ADDRESS: 60 Garden Street

DATE BUILT: 1863 FOR: Richard & Elizabeth O'Connell

ARCHITECT
MASTER-BUILDER Back addition built by F.F. Hurlburt


60 Garden Street

This house is pictured on page 110 of the Farmington Book as the residence of Mrs. G. N. Whiting. It shows on Baker and Tilden's Atlas of 1869 as R. O. Connell.

Library records written up from Mrs. Hurlburt's research indicate that the house was built in 1863 for Richard and Elizabeth O'Connell, "the back part built by F. F. H.", an addition built by Frederick F. Hurlburt.

The O'Connells purchased the land on March 21, 1863, from the estate of Solomon and Edward Whitman, who had owned property from Main Street back to the river, and had lived at what is now the site of 44 Main Street. The O'Connells then built and occupied this house.

On October 22, 1878, they sold part of the land to Frederick F. Hurlburt, and on it he built the house presently known as 54 Garden Street, and probably also the blacksmith shop of his son Frederick W. Hurlburt, which stood just to the south of his own house.

The O'Connell house and 3½ acres of land were later inherited by their daughters Hattie and Sarah, the latter of whom had by then married one Mr. Trumbull.

The daughters sold this house on November 20, 1893, including the 3½ acres, to George N. Whiting. Mr. Whiting operated a feed store and stable to the rear and east of the former Col. Fisher Gay homestead on Farmington Avenue, later converted to the home of the Farmington Country Club. See Mr. Whiting's sign, visible in the top photo on page 210 of the Farmington Book.

Mr. Whiting appears to have been deceased prior to 1906, and upon his widow's death the house was inherited by their daughter Belle, then the wife of Fred E. McKenney. The McKenneys owned and occupied this house until some time later than 1950.

Fred McKenney was the son of William B. McKenney of Lake View Farm on South Road, but appears not to have stayed long on the farm, but moved into the village rather early in life. He worked as teamster for some time, and is said to have delivered ice. He later worked many years for Miss Porter's School, possibly as supervisor of maintenance, perhaps preceeding John Battista in that post.

Belle McKenney was something of an artist, and Mrs. Emmett Rourke is said to have had her painting of the old grist mill, which showed the mill wheel.

The McKenney's son was Irwin, graduate of a business college near Boston, and said to be living in Massachusetts.

The house was sold to Miss Porter's School in 1965, presumably by the estate, for occupancy by employees. Rene D. Howard lived there in 1967. The most recent tenants known to the writer were Miss Katherine Smedley, Chairman of the History Dept., and Miss Beverly Robsham, Director of Physical Education.

October 23, 1973