Located to the southeast of Unionville, the Solomon Hart House sits on the north side of New Britain Avenue facing east away from the road. A roadway once ran along the eastern side of the lot to the southern banks of the Farmington River, which lies a short distance to the north. Surrounded by a rapidly developing residential and commercial neighborhood, the house stands on a level open lot adorned with large shade trees and smaller fruit trees.
Erected around 1750, the Solomon Hart House exhibits a five-bay facade with center brick chimney. The central entry door features modest corner pilasters supporting a simple entablature with projecting cornice. A partial lean-to addition has been incorporated on to the west elevation giving the house a "saltbox" appearance on the north elevation.

This house was erected by Solomon Hart (1724-1805) about 1755 on land he inherited from his father. A direct descendant of Deacon Stephen Hart, one of Farmington's earliest proprietors, Solomon was the son of Deacon John and Esther (Gridley) Hart. In 1750 he married Experience Cole (1728-1803), the daughter of William and Experience (Gaylord) Cole of Wallingford. Hart built this house shortly after his marriage at a place called "Congee" which was bordered to the north by the river and the east on "the highway by the common fence". A deacon of the Congregational church, Hart and his wife raised nine children. Upon moving to Tyringham, Massachusetts, in 1763 Hart sold 2/3's of the house to Elijah Wampee "Indianman of Farmington" (FLR 13:307) and 1/3 of the farm to Cornelius Indianman of New Hartford (FLR 13:299). There is little historical information available concerning Cornelius Indianman, but Elijah Wampee (Wimpee) was an educated native American who was an advocate of Indian rights and education. He owned a large amount of land in Farmington and fought for the Colonies in the French and Indian War. Wampee (Wimpee) and his wife Jerusha are documented as having two children; Bunice and Elijah Wimpee, Jr. In 1776 brothers Elannah and Roger Hooker acquired the property (FLR 21:111). Direct descendants of the Rev. Samuel Hooker, Farmington's second Congregational pastor, Elannah and Roger were the sons of Roger Hooker and his second wife, Anna Kellogg. Roger (1751-1830) was a sea captain, who made a number of voyages to the West Indies. During the Revolution, he served as a major in the Regular Continental Line. Elannah (1749-1822), who resided in this house, was a farmer and operated the "Hawley Sawmill" for several years (see Plainville Avenue). In 1790 Roger Hooker sold his brother his share of the farm at "Congee" and the adjoining land (FLR 28:459). (CONT. PAGE)


Photographer: N. Ainspan
Date: 4/86
View: W
Negative on file: 20:33A
Name: Elizabeth R. Hart
Date: 4/86
Organization: Greater Middletown Preservation Trust
Address: 27 Washington Street, Middletown, CT

Threats to building or site:
- None known
- Highways
- Vandalism
- Developers
- Other
- Renewal
- Private
- Deterioration
- Zoning
- Explanation
The next owner was farmer, Ephraim Webster (1746-1833) of East Hartford who acquired the house in 1792 (FLR 29:262). He came to Farmington with his wife Prudence (1759-1799) and a number of young children. Upon his first wife's death in 1799, Webster married the widow Eunice Olmstead (1755-1846). Upon Ephraim's death in 1833, the north-half of the "Mansion house" was willed to his daughter, Rachel Porter, the wife of Romanta Porter. The other half of the dwelling was inherited by Ephraim Webster, Jr. (FPR 9:511), who later emigrated to Cassewago, Pennsylvania and sold his portion of his father's estate to his step-sister, Sarah Richards and her family (FLR 45:36). They later sold the property to her nephew, Alpheus Porter, the son of Rachel and Romanta Porter (FLR 48:241). Alpheus later sold the south half of the dwelling house to his father and brother, William (FLR 60:617). It was Romanta (1780-1872), a native of Avon, and his wife, Rachel who resided in the house and farmed the surrounding land. His name appears on this site on the 1855 Woodford Map. William Porter, Romanta's son, was the next owner (FLR 60:624 and FPR 17:53). The house is attributed to W. Porter on the 1869 Baker and Tilden Atlas. During the Civil War, William (1817-1904) served the Co. K 25th Infantry Conn. Vols. In 1898 George Hyde purchased the farm (FLR 71:394) and resided there until 1921. The Lorencik Family owned the house between 1921 and 1961 (FLR 80:237 and FLR 157:31). In 1961 Joseph Lorencik willed the house to his daughter, Elizabeth Schanz, who later sold the house to its present owners in 1978 (FLR 264:15).

Although the surrounding area is experiencing rapid development, the Solomon Hart House remains one of a few historic buildings associated with the area's agricultural past. Historically the house is significant for its association with the Hart, Hooker, Webster, and Porter families. Of particular importance are the building's ties with Elijah Weampy and Cornelius Indianman, Connecticut native Americans.