1. **Building Name**: Seymour, Williams, and Porter, House

2. **Town**: Farmington  
   **Village**: Unionville  
   **County**: Hartford

3. **Street and Number (and or location)**: 7-9 Keyes Street

4. **Owner(s)**: Fiora, Helen

5. **Use (Present)**: Residence  
   **Residence**: Residence

6. **Accessibility to Public**: Exterior visible from public road: Yes  
   Interior accessible: Yes

7. **Style of Building**: Colonial/Greek Revival

8. **Materials**:  
   - Clapboard  
   - Asbestos Siding  
   - Brick  
   - Other (Specify): Brownstone foundation

9. **Structural System**:  
   - Load bearing masonry: Yes  
   - Structural iron or steel: No

10. **Roof Type**:  
    - Gable  
    - Flat  
    - Mansard  
    - Monitor  
    - Sawtooth  
    - Other (Specify): No

11. **Number of Stories**: 2½

12. **Condition**: Excellent

13. **Integrity**: Original site: Yes  
    **Moved**: No

14. **Related Outbuildings or Landscape Features**:  
    - Barn  
    - Shed  
    - Garage  
    - Other landscape features or buildings (Specify): No

15. **Surrounding Environment**:  
    - Open land: Yes  
    - Woodland: No  
    - Residential: Yes  
    - Commercial: No  
    - Industrial: No  
    - Rural: No  
    - Scattered buildings visible from site  
    - High building density: No

16. **Interrelationship of Building and Surroundings**:  
    The Seymour, Williams, and Porter House is located at the northeast corner of Keyes Street and West Avon Road. The Sanford and Hawley Lumberyard is situated to the southwest. The surrounding neighborhood contains a variety of residential homes dating from the early nineteenth century to the present.
Built around 1835 this house is clearly reminiscent of the earlier Colonial-period farm-house. Decorative detail is executed in the Greek Revival-style, although imbricated shingles dating from the Victorian-period are found in the gable end. Capped with a ridge-to-street gable roof, this five-bay dwelling features a central brick chimney. The Greek Revival style central entry door features five-paned sidelights and modest entablature with a projecting cornice. The original sash have been replaced with two-over-two windows. A two-story, shed roof ell extends from the west elevation and a small single-story addition has been incorporated onto the rear.

**Builder**

Seymour, Williams, and Porter

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**HISTORICAL OR ARCHITECTURAL IMPORTANCE**

This house was built around 1835 by the clock manufacturing firm Seymour, Williams, and Porter. In September of 1835 Edward Seymour and Austin F. Williams purchased a large tract of land in Unionville from the Estate of Solomon Langdon (FLR 47:151-52). Shortly thereafter Seymour, Williams, and partner Timothy Porter erected the clock factory along the eastern bank of Roaring Brook (see #1790 Farmington Avenue). This house and the one which once stood next door (#3 Norton Lane) were built approximately at the same time as the mill to house employees. In 1838 the firm lost the entire property (including the mill to Timothy Cowlis for $16,903.30 in damages (FLR 47:250-55). Two years later Cowles sold this lot with "two dwelling houses" to Cornelius R. Williams, Noah Preston, and Eli D. Preston (FLR 47:290). The mill was later sold to Edward K. Hamilton (FLR 51:254). Williams and the Preston brothers were members of the firm Williams, Orton, and Preston, which manufactured clocks. The company started producing clocks in Farmington in 1820 and later moved to Unionville. Eli Dewey Preston received full title to this house between 1843 and 1847 (FLR 45:461; 50:123). Born in Harwinton, Preston (1804-1887) was the son of John S. and Aurelia (Dewey) Preston. By 1840 the clock businesses had been abandoned and Eli had started a successful lumber enterprise. His saw mill and machine shop were located along Roaring Brook (no longer extant). Preston and his family lived in the large Greek Revival-style house at #46 West Avon Road and presumably rented this house to local laborers. In 1886 Eli sold the property to his daughter-in-law Esther Preston and four grandchildren; Charles, Elisha, Susan, and Maude (FLR 68:272). Esther (Curtiss) Preston was the wife of Edward Mallory Preston. In 1889 Charles Preston took his parents and... (continued)

**SOURCES**


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**PHOTO**

Alex Paredes 4/85

**DATE**

4/86

**NAME**

Elizabeth R. Hart

**ORGANIZATION**

Greater Middletown Preservation Trust

**ADDRESS**

27 Washington Street, Middletown, CT

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**THREATS TO BUILDING OR SITE**

[ ] None known  [ ] Highways  [ ] Vandalism  [ ] Developers  [ ] Other

[ ] Renewal  [ ] Private  [ ] Deterioration  [ ] Zoning  [ ] Explanation

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**DESCRIPTION (Continued)**
siblings to court "claiming judgement for the partition of certain real estate in the town of Farmington" (FLR 70:157). He was awarded one-third of an acre with this dwelling house. The property was sold to Mary L. Swanton in 1894 (FLR 71:4). The house passed through a number of owners in the early twentieth century and eventually Edward N. Preston, Charles' younger brother acquired the property in 1926 (FLR 80:66). The present owner purchased the building in 1944.

Standing as one of the oldest remaining buildings in Unionville, the Seymour, Williams, and Porter House is historically significant for its long association with a number of early Unionville industries.