Standing at the southeast corner of School Street and Mountain Road, the William Hart Deming House sits on a small open lot bordered to the rear by the Noah Wallace School. Other historic dwellings of similar vintage are visible. St. James Episcopal Church and buildings belonging to Miss Porter's School lie to the north.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Building Name</th>
<th>Deming, William Hart, House</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Town/City</td>
<td>Farmington</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Street and Number</td>
<td>Mountain Road</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Owner</td>
<td>Town of Farmington</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Use (Present)</td>
<td>Residence</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Style of Building</td>
<td>Queen Anne</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Date of Construction</td>
<td>1898</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Material</td>
<td>Aluminum Siding</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Structural System</td>
<td>Wood frame</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Roof Type</td>
<td>Gambrel</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Number of Stories</td>
<td>2½</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Condition</td>
<td>Excellent</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Integrity</td>
<td>On original</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Related Outbuildings</td>
<td>Barn</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Surrounding Environment</td>
<td>Open land</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Relationship</td>
<td>Standing at the southeast corner of School Street and Mountain Road, the William Hart Deming House sits on a small open lot bordered to the rear by the Noah Wallace School. Other historic dwellings of similar vintage are visible. St. James Episcopal Church and buildings belonging to Miss Porter's School lie to the north.</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Oriented gable-to-street, this Queen Anne-style dwelling exhibits a three-bay facade with a single-story, wraparound veranda with turned brackets, columns and a balustrade. Note the pedimented entry bay on the facade and west elevation. A lattice-like skirt trims the base of the porch. An ornate tripartite window is found in the gable end. A two-story crossgable with cutaway bay window is found on both the east and west elevations. One-over-one sash are displayed throughout. The original siding, which includes decorative imbricated shingles, has been covered by modern aluminum siding.

William Hart Deming built this house in the fall of 1898 shortly before his marriage to Grace Mabelle Davis in April of 1899. Deming purchased an acre of land on the corner of School Street and Mountain Road in September of 1898 (FLR 71:383). In the following January a mortgage from Deming to his aunts mentions buildings on the parcel (FLR 72:72). Born in 1876 William was the son of Chauncey and Ellen Maria (Hart) Deming. His wife was born in Farmington to Eugene F. and Frances (Holcomb) Davis. According to Lewis and Hurlbut the Demings lived elsewhere after their marriage and rented this house from 1898 to 1906. The family moved here in 1906 and William operated a small livery from the new barn he built to the rear of the house. Deming also engaged in farming as well as teaming and carpentry. In 1938 William quit-claimed half the house to his wife (FLR 93:37). In 1939 Grace Deming received the other half of the property from her husband's estate (FLR 92:335). In 1940 the house was sold to the Center School District (FLR 87:530). The house has been rented by the town since that time. During the 1950s a kindergarten occupied the first floor.

Although the house has been altered, it makes a significant contribution to the streetscape of Mountain Road. Historically the house derives added significance for its long association with the Deming family.

Sources:
FARMINGTON, TOWN OF: 8 Mountain Rd.

OWNER'S NAME:  
FARMINGTON, TOWN OF  
1950-res. and school

ADDRESS:  
8 Mountain Road & School Street

DATE BUILT:  
1898  
FOR:  
William Deming

ARCHITECT:  
MASTER-BUILDER  
Charles Stanley Mason

FORMER OWNERS:  
Deming, Grace (Davis) to Center School District,  
1/30/1940, Vol. 87, p. 530; Grace Deming from Est. of  
husband, William Deming. The house was automatically  
transferred to the Town of Farmington at Consolidation.

REFERENCES:  

ADDITIONAL INFORMATION:  
The house was a wedding gift  
from Eugene Davis to his  
daughter, Grace, when she  
moved William Deming. They  
were married in the house,  
4/6/1899.
This house, pictured in the Farmington Book on page 172, was built in 1899, by William Deming. This is subject to some question, as indicated in the second paragraph below.

William Hart Deming, 1876-1938, was the son of Chauncey Deming and Ellen Maria Hart, whose marriage in 1870 had brought together for the second time two of Farmington's old families. A brief genealogy following this account will show the two inter-marriages between the families, and the lineage back to the first members of each of the two families in America.

It was built to house William Deming and his bride, Grace Mabelle Davis, daughter of Eugene F. Davis and Frances Holcomb. The Davis family lived in the house pictured on page 104 of the Farmington Book, located just to the north of the Silo Restaurant on Main Street. It has been said that the house was built by C. S. Mason for Mr. Davis as a wedding present for his daughter. Mr. Deming's son, William, Jr., has never heard his family mention this circumstance. William, Jr., has always believed that his father and his father's brother Henry built the house themselves. In any case, the marriage took place in this house, on April 6, 1899, but the young married couple did not actually live in it until 1906. Instead they rented it out for those six years, and they themselves lived in what was called the Jane R. Griswold house, pictured on page 147 of the Farmington Book, after a honeymoon in Buffalo, New York, where they visited Uncle Fred Deming.

This latter house was shown on Baker and Tilden's 1869 Atlas as the property of S. Deming. It was originally the second Farmington schoolhouse, built in 1717 and outmoded in 1795, when it was sold to John and Chauncey Deming. Just exactly who lived in it over the span of years is not known. It seems quite possible that Chauncey Deming, William's father, born in 1838, was born in this house. The Demings always appeared to have owned more properties than they occupied, so it seems difficult to distinguish, at this late date, their residences from their rental properties.

The Deming farm buildings stood to the south and southeast of this house, called the Jane Griswold house, about where the driveway to the library, and the library parking lot, are now situated. The curbing of the old well which served this house still stands, just north of the parking lot. The barn stood south of the house, the horse stable and other buildings being about on the site of the parking lot and east of it, the ground sloping upward very gently at that time, toward the east. A spring, located in the field just north of the present site of the old Academy building on Church Street, supplied water piped down to Main Street for the drinking fountain which still can be seen at the foot of School Street, and the horse trough no longer in existence just at the foot of Church Street. This latter can be seen near the left edge of the lower photo on page 93, although it appears to be a drinking fountain.

The horse sheds used by church-goers stood just in front, and to the west, of the house. The driveway (now Church Street) which led from Main Street to the church horse sheds at that time, served also as the driveway leading to the Deming farm buildings. It branched to the left immediately above the horse sheds, and passed between them and the front of the Deming residence (Jane Griswold house), providing access to both. As it continued north it provided access also to School.
Street, which at that time passed west down to Main Street between the church and the buildings which were on the sites of the Porter Memorial and the parish offices, namely the Farmington Academy and the Town Records office. The horse sheds can be seen in photos of the church on page 44, and of Meeting House Square, on page 198. As stated above, the Demings moved from the Griswold house to their new house on Mountain Road about 1906.

Mr. Deming's principal acreage for farming was across the river. Twenty-two acres were across from the grist mill, and 10½ acres were in the V between Red Oak Hill and Meadow Roads. This portion of the meadow was at one time higher ground than it is now, worn down perhaps by the numerous floods which have passed over the meadows.

** see note at bottom of next page

Sometime prior to 1917, when the library was built, and probably a few years earlier than that, he gave up his farming operations in the Village, sold the land south of the schoolhouse, and the barns and other outbuildings were torn down. The Jane Griswold house was moved to Mill Lane, below Garden Street. This will be covered more fully in an account entitled 32 Mill Lane. He built a horse barn in the rear of his new house, 8 Mountain Road, and here he usually kept from two to four horses. He did some teaming and livery work and is remembered by Mrs. Kenneth Ruic, the former Mabel Harris, as picking up school children in the mornings. "Tucky", as he was called, was well known in Farmington. Mrs. Raymond Haworth, the former Marion Bronson, remembers what might have been one of his last contracting jobs, excavating with his team of horses and a "Frenso" scraper, the cellar for the house being built by the not-long-married Haworths at 51 Garden Street. This was around 1936. His photo, with his son Walter, is shown on page 207 of the Farmington Book. At that time he was Assessor for the town.

He had ceased his farming operations entirely in the early twenties, when his boys had left for college, but as mentioned above he had continued some odds and ends of teaming work and some carpentry work when available. He died in 1938. His widow kept the house only two years after that, then sold to the school district. She lived for various periods of time with her three children, in Bloomfield, Long Island or Pittsburgh, and died in Bloomfield at the home of her daughter, in 1949.

The Demings had had four children; Walter, Frances, William and Dorothy. The youngest, Dorothy Davis Deming, died in infancy.

Walter Ennis Hart was graduated from Springfield College and took up teaching physical education and coaching high school athletics. He had served in World War I during an interlude between High School and College. After filling positions at Pleasantville and Pearl River, New York, he served for a time at the New York Agricultural College at Farmingdale, New York. His longest and last position was as Director of Athletics and Physical Education at the public schools of Great Neck, Long Island, from which he recently retired. He has gotten a great deal of satisfaction from seeing some of his boys become "All-American" and go on to the Hall of Fame. It made his work worthwhile.

Walter's wife is the former Gertrude Lilah Ryder of Ansonia, Connecticut, a direct descendant of John and Priscilla Alden. They have two children. Jean Gertrude Deming is Professor of Nursing Education at Keuka College for women at Geneva, New York.

May 2, 1971
Davis Ryder Deming and his wife, the former Frances Matilda Andrews, reside at East Pine Bush, New York, where he is associated with the Eastern Breeders' Association. Their children, the eldest in his teens, are: James Walter Deming, Margaret Ellen Deming and Thomas Harold Deming.

The Walter Demings now spend the winters in Florida and their summers at their Berkshire home, Hickory House, in Housatonic, Massachusetts.

Frances Holcomb Deming held various positions in secretarial work prior to her marriage. She worked for the Retail Credit Bureau and the Humane Society, and then the State of Connecticut. There she was secretary to two governors, Templeton and Trumbull. During Governor Trumbull's administration it was not at all unusual to see the governor's limousine stop in Farmington and let her off after work, as Governor Trumbull lived in Plainville and usually came through our village on the way home. Miss Deming met her future husband at the State Capitol and was married in 1926 to State Trooper Carroll Montgomery Clark, son of Francis G. Clark and Estelle G. Lampnier.

The first five years of their marriage they lived in the house at 8 Mountain Road, in an apartment converted for them by the bride's father. Their three children were born here, the first having died in infancy however. The other two were Carroll Montgomery Clark, Jr., and Barbara Deming Clark. During this period Mr. Clark was with the Connecticut State Police. In 1931 he transferred to the State Tax Department, and they moved to a house which they built on Woodland Street in Bloomfield. He stayed with the tax department, handling tax matters concerning gasoline, kerosene and diesel oil, traveling over much of the state. He retired in 1955 and they still reside in Bloomfield.

Their son is married to Anna Mae Rediker of Rocky Hill and they have three children: John Deming, James Steven and Barbara Anne. Carroll, Jr., served in finance department of a police action army group sent to Europe from Ft. Pickett, Virginia, right after World War II. He and his family now live in Bloomfield and he is Eastern Regional Manager for Tappan Company of Mansfield, Ohio, and travels extensively for them.

Their daughter is now Mrs. Frank Lee Flood, Jr. Her husband was from Needham, Massachusetts, and is now employed as cost estimator for Dravo Company, a large construction concern of Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania. They have four children: Carol Elizabeth, Frank Lee II, Douglas Clark and Deborah Joan, and reside in Coraopolis, Pennsylvania, across the river from Pittsburgh.

Mrs. Clark, after their children were grown up and in homes of their own, again entered the secretarial field and was employed for some years by Willoughby and Pinney, insurance agents of Bloomfield.

May 2, 1971

William Deming served as constable during President Teddy Roosevelt's visit to Farmington on October 22, 1901.

The William Deming children remember that Mrs. Dwight Fish of Cider Brook Road was Mrs. Deming's aunt, her father's sister, and once a year or so the Demings would visit the Fishes of Cider Brook.
William Hart Deming, Jr., was of course familiar with all the phases of farm work, and all the chores there were to do, as he was in his teens before his father stopped the main part of his farm operations. As a very small boy, and with his father and his cousin Chauncey watching, he was alone in a wagon one day when the horse ran away. He heeded his father's shouted order to get off the seat and down on the wagon bed and this saved him, as the horse crashed the wagon into the barn door before stopping. As a teen-ager he watched the library being built and watched a piece of sage advice being indelibly imprinted in the foundation concrete by one of the workmen. It reads "Live on woodchucks and save money".

After William, Jr., had finished Springfield College he wanted to go into high school coaching. Two of his classmates were from California and they sold California so well that five others decided to go out there with them. William was one, two were from Brooklyn, two others were from Maine and Washington State. The Washington boy bought a seven passenger Locomobile that was being sold to settle an estate, and they took off. It took them 23 days and 25 flat tires. They slept in sand piles and any other place, they got stuck in the Kansas mud and had many other mishaps, but they finally arrived in Whittier, California. California wouldn't hire them though --- they had not studied California School Law! They worked at Palisades Park a while, on a bluff over Santa Monica, then they picked apricots in San Jose, and then they came back to the East. It was certainly an experience however, and they were glad to have had it. When they contacted Springfield again there was a job open in Pittsburgh. William took it for a year, and the year turned into 19 years!

While in High School he had met and courted Verna Lourie and after his return from California they were married and moved to Pittsburgh. Her full name is Eunice Verna Rebecca Lourie, the daughter of William George Laurie and Rebecca Ann Tilley. During her childhood she lived in West Avon with Mr. and Mrs. Walter H. Judd, and is still considered a part of their family. Mrs. Judd was her mother's sister. While Verna was in High School her sister married Albert R. Thompson and lived on West Avon Road, and Verna then moved, to stay with her sister.

William stayed in school coaching for the nineteen years and then took up the insurance business and stayed with that, also in Pittsburgh, for seventeen more years, then retired in 1963. They had visited Connecticut almost every year on their vacations, so it felt natural for them to come back here after retirement, and they settled in Burlington. Will didn't care for the idle life, so --- back to school again --- and now he is with the school maintenance department in Simsbury, and likes it much better than loafing. He has helped the writer a lot in going over the site of his boyhood home and showing where the various buildings which were razed long ago, were located.

May 2, 1971
Baker & Tilden's designations

1. J. S. Rice
2. Dr. F. Wheeler
3. Samuel Deming
4. M. Humphrey
5. Miss S. Porter's Schoolhouse
6. John Deming
7. Chapel and Town Hall
8. Records Office
9. Frame house (Jail)
10. C. Rowe Store
11. Meeting House
12. Horse sheds
13. Methodist Church
14. S. Deming
15. Blacksmith shop
16. S. Deming
17. Middle Dist. School

53 Main St. now on this site
now known as 59 Main St
" 66 "
" 63 "
" 9 Mt. Road
" 80 Main St
now moved to Church St. at Hart
site now of Parish offices
now moved to 2 Mill Road
Congregational Church
Razed
Burned July 3, 1897
Later the Jane Griswold house
Moved to rear of 21 Main Street
now known as 16 Mt. Road
Noah Wallace School now here

If you will look at photo on page 198 of the Farmington Book, you will see, from left to right, Nos. 15, 13, 12, 9, 11, 8 and 7, in that order. No. 7 was moved after 1900 to make way for Sarah Porter Memorial (see page 41 photo for next site) and before library was built it was moved to Church Street at Hart Street, where it now houses the Recreation Association.

The southwest end of School street is now where the figures 7, 8 & 9 are typed on the above map. Library on site of #14.

The above was taken from Baker and Tilden's 1869 Atlas, street names having been added. Church street at that time was merely a lane, leading to horse sheds, Deming house & farm buildings, they being located in the area of number 18. The present house at 8 Mountain Road is designated by number 19.
Deming Genealogy and Intermarriages with Hooker and Cowles Families

Thomas Hooker
  Susannah Garbrand
  ↓
  Samuel Hooker
  Mary Willet
  ↓
  John Hooker
  Abigail Standley
  ↓
  Joseph Hooker
  Sarah Lewis

John Cowles
  Hannah
  ↓
  Samuel Cowles
  Abigail Stanley
  ↓
  Isaac Cowles
  Elizabeth Smith
  ↓
  James Cowles
  Abigail Hooker

John Deming
  Honor Treat
  ↓
  John Deming
  Mary Mygatt
  ↓
  Hezekiah Deming
  Lois Wygard
  ↓
  Samuel Deming
  Anna Hart
  ↓
  John Deming
  Susannah Cowles
  ↓
  Samuel Deming
  Catherine M. Lewis
  ↓
  Chauncey Deming
  Ellen Maria Hart
  ↓
  William Hart Deming
  Grace Mabelle Davis

May 4, 1971
Hart Genealogy

Showing those who intermarried with the Deming family

Deacon Stephen Hart
wife unknown

Stephen Hart the 2nd
wife unknown

Sgt Thomas Hart
Elizabeth Judd

Thomas Hart
Anna Stanley

Joseph Hart
Mary Bird

William Hart
Elizabeth Woodruff

Anna Hart she married
Samuel Deming

Gideon Hart
Elizabeth Hart

Gideon B. Hart
Marilla Woodford

Gideon W. Hart
Susan Parsells

Ellen Maria Hart she married
Chauncey Deming

May 4, 1971
It will have been noted on page 2 that the widowed Mrs. William Deming lived here only until 1940, selling at that time to the School District.

Ruth Scudder, librarian at the Village Library from 1929 until 1949, lived here for many years, occupying the upper apartment with her mother and a sister. She may have been living here prior to Mrs. Deming's sale of the property, but this is not known. Ruth Scudder, presently Mrs. Harvey Wooster, presently resides in Florida.

Mrs. Charles Foster Kent lived here for a while after leaving the Elm Tree Inn. Mrs. Kent was the daughter of Louise B. Root, #5604 in the Root Genealogy, who was the wife of the Rev. Samuel Sherrill. Mrs. Kent's sister Ruth taught Science at Miss Porter's School from 1907 until 1924. See more regarding Mrs. Kent in the account of the Elm Tree Inn.

Mr. and Mrs. Robert Sanford, married in 1950, moved into the upstairs apartment in November of that year, subleasing from Ruth Scudder who had moved to Florida. The first floor of the house was in use as a kindergarten while the Sanfords lived here, which was until September 1952, when the town needed their apartment for the use of George Bennett and family.

Mr. and Mrs. Bennett with three children lived in the upper apartment until the kindergarten vacated the first floor, after which the Bennetts occupied the whole house.

George Thomas Bennett, born in Ansonia, Connecticut, was the son of Joseph Bennett and Katherine Hinkelmauns. Graduated from Ansonia High School and Yale, he taught math at Chapin Technical High from 1938 to 1942. As an Ensign in the Navy he was Ordnance Instructor for four years at the Naval Reserve Midshipman's School at Columbia University. Later he was vice-principal of New London High School. Mrs. Bennett is the former Rowena Lyon.

In 1950 Mr. Bennett received his MA from Yale in Secondary School Administration and in 1952 he became Principal of Farmington High School. The Bennetts moved from here sometime in the 1960's to a house they built at White Circle in West District. Mr. Bennett died in July 1969. The Bennetts' three children were at that time:

Richard L. Bennett with the Army at Ft. Leonard Wood, John C. Bennett, a Navy seaman stationed in W. Virginia, Anne L. Bennett, at home.

Mrs. Bennett continues her work as Secretary to the Headmaster at MPS, a post she has had for several years. She is a "Motor Car Buff" and in June 1972 was Co-Chairwoman with Mrs. Louise Blackler, of the June Round-up at Moodus, Conn., of the Conn. Valley Region of the Veteran Motor Car and Antique Club of America. Every car in the Round-up had to be over 25 years old and authentically restored.

The 1966 resident here was Eugene J. Voll, with his family.

February 25, 1973