Hawley's Mill is set back off the west side of Plainville Avenue in the Scott Swamp area of Farmington. A waterfall and brook border the mill to the south and a large pond sits to the southwest. Large trees shade the building which sits above a brownstone retaining wall. The surrounding rural residential neighborhood has incurred some modern development. A small, commercial zone lies to the south at the intersection of Plainville Avenue and Scott Swamp Road.
This building has been considerably altered since its construction in 1783. The east elevation, which is oriented gable-to-street features a modern, attached garage and replacement windows. The facade, which faces north away from the road, exhibits six bays with some original six-over-six sash. A modern, screened-in porch extends from the west elevation. Note the two interior brick chimneys.

This late eighteenth-century saw mill was erected in 1783 by Amos and Abell Hawley on land they purchased from Silas Bronson (FLR 25:116 and 117). Both men were descendants of Joseph Hawley, an original settler of Farmington. In November of 1783, the Hawleys leased to Elijah Strong "one-third of a certain mill place for a full term of 999 years with all conveniences for a saw mill" (FLR 25:416). A year later Abell Hawley sold his interest in the mill to Amos Hawley and Elijah Strong (FLR 25:448). Elhanathan Hooker acquired one-half of the mill "known as Hawley's Mill" from Amos in November of 1792 (FLR 29:263). A few months later he purchased Strong's half interest in the mill place (FLR 29:539). Jesse Curtis bought the property in 1794 (FLR 32:415) and operated the mill for four years before selling "the saw mill on Scott's Swamp Brook with every tool and implement" to Oliver and William Orvis of Farmington (FLR 32:76). In 1823 William Orvis (1777-1858) sold his half of the mill to Elijah Cowles (FLR 41:406), while Oliver sold his half to John Thomson Jr. (FLR 41:396). There is no information on John Thomson or what he did with his half portion of the mill. Elijah Cowles, on the other hand, sold his interest to Asa Hawley and Roger Newell two days after he purchased it from Orvis (FLR 41:110). Roger Sherman Newell (1790-1863) married Naomi Hawley (1804-1839) in 1821. His second wife's name was Mary (1791-1860). Asa Hawley (1776-1858) was the son of Ebenezer and Mehitable Hawley and a relative of the mill's original owners. He was married to the former Diademia Root (1775-1870) and was engaged in farming as well as operating the saw mill. In 1854 Hiram Hills bought the property and saw mill located in the Scott Swamp District (FLR 59:614 and

Hill later moved to Plainville and sold the mill to Arthur Hotchkiss of Cheshire in 1870 (FLR 61:251). In 1878 Hotchkiss sold the property to Elias Samms with the following stipulation "that no cider, spirituous or intoxicating liquors shall be manufactured or sold on said premises" (FLR 65:368). A native of England, Samms (1853-1899) was married to the former Effie Bryant (1860-1951). In 1887 Samms quit-claimed the mill and land to his brother-in-law, George Nelson Bryant (b. 1862) (FLR 69:67). Mr. Bryant replaced the old waterwheel with a gasoline-powered engine and continued to operate the saw mill. In 1901 he received full title to the mill from the estate of Elias Samms (FLR 74:82). A month later Bryant quit-claimed the property to Daniel C. Potter of Fairhaven, Massachusetts, (FLR 76:527). In 1915 Potter quit-claimed his interest in the land to George Bryant's wife, Minnie (Jordan) Bryant (FLR 76:534). The Bryant family cut ice for sale from the mill pond, eventually leasing the pond and ice house to Constance Vetrano who furnished Miss Porter's School with ice at the "prevailing prices". Joseph P. Vetrano owned the mill from 1936 (FLR 91:279 and 92:264) until 1939 when Mrs. Bryant took title again. By 1943 it was sold to W. Churchill Richtmyer and his wife, Lilly (FLR 95:171) who converted the building to a residence.

Although the building has been modified over the years Hawley's Mill is historically significant as the only remaining link to the area's industrial past.