Built on a slightly elevated site above the east side of High Street, the Deacon Edward L. Hart House is partially obscured by large pines and overgrown shrubs. High Street is lined with both historic buildings dating from the early eighteenth century as well as modern residences. This neighborhood is encompassed within the Farmington National Register District and the historic local district.
Erected in 1847, this dwelling is one of the village's best examples of Italianate-style architecture. Cube shaped in form, the house features a low-pitched hip roof with overhanging eaves supported by decorative brackets. The three-bay facade exhibits six-over-six sash with louvered shutters and a modest cornice window head. Similar sash are displayed throughout the rest of the house. The north elevation features a single-story open porch fully Italianate in character. A two-story ell with open porch and balustrade extends from the south elevation.

Deacon Edward Lucas Hart erected this house in 1847 on land he acquired from Edward Hooker (FLR 49:233 & 312). In November of that same year, Hart mortgaged the lot with "dwelling house being the homestead owned and occupied by me" (FLR 49:322). Born in Wolcott, Connecticut, Edward L. Hart (1813-1876) was the second son of Reverend Lucas and Harriet (Morris) Hart, and was also a direct descendant of Stephen Hart, one of Farmington's earliest proprietors. The Reverend Hart died shortly before his son was born and Mrs. Hart raised Edward with the help of her brother-in-law, Deacon Simeon Hart of Farmington, an educator. Edward graduated from Yale in 1836 and opened a classical school for boys in New Haven. Later he went to Berlin, Connecticut, to serve as the principal of the Academy. Finally Edward settled in Farmington, where he was employed as assistant-principal at his uncle's school, the Hart School for Boys. This private institution was located near the corner of Main and Colton streets, and accepted borders from around the world. Upon his Uncle Simeon's death in 1853, Edward opened his own private boys school in a small building to the rear of his home along High Street. (This school building is now part of #36 High Street). In 1854 he was elected a Deacon of the Farmington Congregational Church. He was also active in the Farmington Library and for many years chose the books for the library. In 1837 he married Nancy Champion Hooker, daughter of William G. Hooker of New Haven and granddaughter of Colonel Noahiah Hooker of Farmington. She was also a descendant of Samuel Hooker, the Congregational Church's second pastor and one of Farmington's early settlers. The Harts (see cont. pg.)

raised three children: Anna Hooker (b. 1848), William Edward (b. 1850), and Robert Morris (b. 1851). In 1892 Hart's sons sold the house to Amasa A. Redfield of New York City (FLR 70:284). A lawyer by profession, Redfield (1837-1902) purchased the house as a weekend and summer retreat and later retired here. Robert L. Redfield, Amasa's son, lived here from 1902 until 1925 when the house was sold out of the family (FLR 80:587).

The Deacon Edward L. Hart House is architecturally significant as a well-preserved example of Italianate-style architecture. Historically the house is notable for its association with Deacon Hart, an important individual in Farmington's educational development.
ACME 56483-8P

OWNER'S NAME: (SMITH, W. NORTON)  WELSH, Elysabeth Carrere

1930—residence  8/8/59 Vol 144 p 225

ADDRESS: 45 High Street

DATE BUILT: 1847  FOR: Edward L. Hart

ARCHITECT

MASTER-BUILDER

ADDITIONAL INFORMATION

Edward L. Hart and Nancy Hooker Hart had a son Robert Morris Hart who later lived in Cal. and a daughter Anna. Robert and Anna lived in the house a short time after their parent's death. Part of the residence, used as a school for boys to prepare them for college was later moved across the street to become the studio part of the house of Robert Brandegee.

Edward L. Hart had about 36 boys at his school, about 12 of them boarders from New York, the others being from local families being prepared for Yale.

REFERENCES: "Farmington, Conn. 1906" p. 158

"Farmington Town Clerks, Hurlburt 1943" p. 174

"Stephen Hart and his descendants" p. 329

FORMER OWNERS:


Edward L. Hart from Edward Hooker "1/6 of Hooker's Porter house lot at N. W. corner" with no house, Feb. 13, 1847 Vol. 1 p. Mortgaged to John Hooker Nov. 8, 1847 "one half acre with dwellinghouse* from New York, the and other buildings being the Homestead now occupied by me, "V ol. 49 p. 233

"Steven Hart and his descendants" p. 329

SMITH, W. NORTON) WELSH, Elysabeth Carrere 1960

45 High St.
This house, pictured in the Farmington Book on page 158 as "The Hemlocks -- Residence of Robert L. Redfield", and designated by Baker and Tilden's 1869 Atlas as "E. L. Hart", was built by Deacon Edward Lucas Hart in 1847 on land obtained from Edward Hooker.

Deacon Edward Lucas Hart was the son of the Rev. Lucas Hart and Harriet Morris. The Rev. Lucas Hart, born in New Haven in 1784, was the son of Simeon Hart and Mary Warner, and was the brother of Deacon Simeon Hart who had operated the boys' school at 93 Main Street here in Farmington. The Rev. Lucas Hart had been married in 1786 to Harriet Morris, daughter of Amos Morris and Betsy Woodward. He was ordained and settled as preacher of the Gospel in Wolcott, Connecticut, where he died of dysentery in 1813, as did his first son. His second son, Edward Lucas Hart, was born in 1813, after his father's death, but Mrs. Hart lived to see her son educated, and established as an educator himself. Here is a little chart of the ancestry of both Deacon Edward Lucas Hart and his uncle, Deacon Simeon Hart, showing their relationship. The chart also includes Deacon Simeon's son, who was the owner of 5 Carrington Lane.

Deacon Stephen Hart #1 1605-1682
m. Wife's name unknown

Stephen Hart 2nd #670 1689
m. Wife's name unknown

Sgt. Thomas Hart #672 1666-1728
m. Elizabeth Judd

Deacon Thomas Hart #682 1695-1754
m. Anna Stanley

Deacon Simeon Hart #703 1735-1800
m. Sarah Sloper

Simeon Hart #793 1763-1835
m. Mary Warner

Rev. Lucas Hart #983 1784-1813
m. Harriet Morris

Deacon Simeon Hart #986 1795-1853
m. Abby Eliza Langdon

Dea. Edward Lucas Hart #1292
m. Nancy Champion Hooker

John Hooker Hart #1302 1851-1932
m. Mary Anne Thompson

It is interesting that Deacon Edward L. Hart, 1813- , chose as his wife a girl whose grandfather had lived directly across the street from where the Deacon and his wife built their house.

Deacon Edward's chosen wife was Nancy Champion Hooker, granddaughter of Col. Noadiah Hooker and Rebecca Griswold of 50 High Street. Nancy's father was William Griswold Hooker, born in Farmington in 1782. He was educated as a physician, settled in Middlebury, Vermont, where he had a drug store. He married Melinda Metcalf, daughter of David Metcalf and Anne Champion of Lebanon, Connecticut.

September 14, 1971
Dr. William G. Hooker sold the Vermont property to a
cousin, Cyrus Porter, and moved to New Haven, where he was for a time
connected with the office of the Farmington Canal Company. He
then became treasurer of the New Haven Savings Bank, and was there
until his death in 1850, appearing not to have ever taken up the
practice of medicine. Their daughter Nancy had been born in
Middlebury, Vermont, in 1813, the same year that her husband had
been born in Wolcott, Connecticut.

Edward Lucas Hart opened a classical school in New Haven,
from where he was transferred to be in charge of the Academy in
Berlin, Connecticut, after which he located permanently in Farm-
ington. He was first an associate principal with his Uncle Simeon
in his uncle's school for boys at 93 Main Street. He later built
this fine house and opened a boys' school of his own, located to
the rear of this house. It was here that Robert Brandegee attended
school as a young boy, and it was this same Robert Brandegee who
later made of this abandoned schoolhouse a room in his own house,
a room used as his studio, in the house now known as 36 High Street.

Edward L. Hart was made a deacon of the Farmington Con-
gregational Church in 1854. He was active in choosing books for the
Farmington Library during the first ten years that the library was
housed in the town hall, 1856 to 1866, or thereabouts. He and his
wife had six children, the first three of whom died in infancy.
Those who survived were:

Anna Hooker Hart, born 1848,
William Edward Hart, " 1850,
Robert Norris Hart, " 1851.

William Edward Hart was the Farmington librarian for one
year, January 1868 to January 1869, while the library was in the
town records office. He was succeeded by town clerk Thomas Tread-
well.

Robert moved to California, Anna Lived here a while after
her parents' deaths, then died in 1891.

The brothers, William of Farmington, and Robert of Santa
Rosa, California, sold the house in 1892 to Amasa Redfield.

Amasa Redfield came here to live, bringing with him his
sister Mary and his son, Robert Latimer Redfield. A daughter Edith
had already married Professor Frederick Taber Cooper of Yonkers,
New York, having been married very shortly after Mr. Cooper's
Harvard graduation.

Mr. Redfield, a lawyer, born in Clyde, New York, in 1837,
son of Luther Redfield and Eliza Ann Angell, was probably already
retired when he came here. He was active in civic life here, aiding
the campaigns for street lighting, sidewalks and other improvements.

September 14, 1971
Robert Redfield inherited the property upon his father's death in 1902, and he and his wife lived here until 1925, when they moved to New Canaan, Mrs. Redfield wishing more social life than she could find here. In 1905, or shortly thereafter, Robert Redfield had built the house at 33 Mountain Road as a residence for his Aunt Mary.

Professor Frederick Cooper's daughter, Doris Redfield Cooper, married William Brian Hooker of 29 Mountain Spring Road, Farmington, around 1911, probably having become acquainted with him during her visits to Farmington to see her grandfather, and later her Uncle Robert. Elisabeth Hooker, Brian's daughter, remembers visiting the Redfields, her great uncle Robert and her great aunt Mary here in Farmington, and still has a little red teapot in the form of a bird, given her by great aunt Mary when she visited at 33 Mountain Road.

Robert L. Redfield, 1864-1948, and his wife, Emma B. Redfield, 1872-1945, are both buried in Riverside Cemetery.

An oak tree, a descendant of the Hartford Charter Oak, and planted by the Hartford delegates to the Constitutional Convention, stands north of the garage in this yard, on the side of the lot next to the Whitman house, the Farmington Museum.

Purchasers of this house in 1925 were Mr. and Mrs. Willis Norton Smith, previously of West Hartford. Mr. Smith's family had been from Beckley Quarter, Berlin, his grandparents having been Willis E. Smith and Sarah Osborn Norton. Mrs. Smith is the former Gertrude Wright, of the Steele family of Steele Road, West Hartford. Their two children were Shirley Wright Smith and Granville Graves Smith. The latter, six years old when they came here, recalls that Farmington Avenue and Main Street were the only paved streets at that time. Other streets were unpaved and never plowed in the winter. Cars either used chains or kept off the streets, and Mountain Road was principally used for sledding in the winter.

Mrs. W. Norton Smith states that the oak tree in the yard, which was near the barn when they moved there, was set out at the same time as the McKinley Oak on the Farmington Green. Mr. Redfield was selectman at that time, and since two trees were available at that time he had one placed in his yard. Some of the ladies of the DAR took a photo of it at one time, and it was written up in the Courant. That article gave the following information, contained in the next three paragraphs.

To commemorate the Constitutional Convention held in the year 1902, the US Department of Agriculture, at the request of US Senator Joseph H. Hawley, sent to each delegate a Pin Oak, "Quercus Balustris", a valuable ornamental good growing tree for street and lawn purposes.

"Leaves deep green, finely divided, after the manner of the White Oak, branches assuming a drooping form as the tree acquires age. One of the most desirable oaks in cultivation", as stated by the then Secretary of Agriculture, J. Sterling Morton, who might be called the Father of Arbor Day.

September 14, 1971
Amasa Refield, then living on High Street in the house now occupied by Mr. and Mrs. W. Norton Smith, was Farmington's delegate to the Convention, and had the tree planted in his own yard. It has recently been definitely identified by Albert Di-Pietro, Farmington tree surgeon. A photograph taken by Mrs. Harvey has been presented to the Farmington Room of the Farmington Village Library, with details of its history.

Could there be an error in the statement in the fourth paragraph on the preceding page? And could that oak tree be this one? Who can answer this question?

Another oak tree, one which stands on the street side of 45 High Street, was planted by Mrs. W. Norton Smith, who brought the acorn from the Lawrence Washington home in Arlington, Virginia, about 1945.

W. Norton Smith was a fuel dealer, his business based in West Hartford. Both he and his wife were active in civic and social life in Farmington. Mrs. Smith was production chairman for the Red Cross during World War II, raising money and collecting clothing, and cloth for bandages.

Their daughter Shirley, born in Hartford, was married on Armistice Day of 1941, to the Rev. Harold Graham King, the then pastor of the Farmington Congregational Church. Mr. King was born in Randolph, Maine, the son of James King and Hilda Graham. He had been pastor here since November 1938, and was the first pastor to have been married while serving at this church. They had four children: Stoddon, Avis, Jonathan and Lydia.

Upon leaving Farmington they settled in Wayzata, Minnesota, where Mr. King is presently the pastor of their Congregational Church. Their daughter Avis is married to Charles W. Bucholz and they have a daughter Sarah Elizabeth. As of May 1970 their son Stoddon was a Naval Lieutenant, serving in Vietnam, Jonathan was graduating from the University of Minnesota, and Lydia was still in Junior High.

The Smith's son Granville was married to Harriet Boyd Hunt of Philadelphia. When first married they lived in the renovated Frederick Andrus house, pictured on page 9 of the Farmington Book. They later purchased the F. L. Scott house at 113 Main Street. For more regarding them, see the account of that house.

The W. Norton Smiths moved to Litchfield Road in Norfolk in the 1950's when Mr. Smith retired. Mr. Smith is now deceased. Mrs. Smith and her sister, Mrs. Norma Sloper, an artist of some note, live there at present. Mrs. Sloper is the widow of Kenneth T. Sloper, who had been the son of Andrew J. Sloper of New Britain. The writer believes that Mr. Sloper was probably of the same family as Sarah Sloper, who ca 1760 married Deacon Simeon Hart #703, but was unable to get enough information to establish a connection.

September 14, 1971
The house at 45 High Street was rented for a while and the writer has made a note stating that tenants for a time were the members of the large Whitaker family from Rhode Island.

Mrs. W. Norton Smith said, on September 27, 1971:

"This was the one home I loved the most. Farmington in those days was still a small town".

The house was sold on August 8, 1959, to Lady Elysabeth Carrere Welsh, wife of Sir William Welsh, former Air Marshall of the British Royal Air Force. She still owns the property and resides here, although Sir William died in January 1962.

October 3, 1971
This house was purchased in 1959 by Sir William Welsh and his wife, Lady Elysabeth Welsh, formerly Mrs. William W. Barbour, nee Elysabeth Carrere.

Lady Welsh had been married first to William Warren Barbour, who was born in Monmouth Beach, New Jersey. They lived in Rumson and Locust, New Jersey. Mr. Barbour was appointed to fill the senate seat of Dwight Whitney Morrow who died in October, 1931, after having been elected to the senate in 1930. Dwight Morrow had been Ambassador to Mexico, appointed in 1927, and our representative at the London Naval Conference in 1930. It was his daughter Anne, who married Charles Lindberg. Mr. and Mrs. Barbour alternated between Washington, D. C., and New Jersey during the remainder of their married life, as Mr. Barbour was twice elected to the senate after having served the unfinished portion of Mr. Morrow's term.

The Barbours had a summer home for some years near Norfolk, Conn., and their son Warren, while in Yale, spent some of his summer vacations working at Colt's in Hartford. After graduation his first job was in Hartford and in an accident he suffered a slipped disc in his vertebra. He received excellent treatment in Hartford Hospital, and his mother, visiting him, was very much impressed with the staff of doctors and the up-to-date equipment and facilities available. Before Warren was married, when he first worked in Hartford, he lived at the Elm Tree Inn, with which he had become acquainted during his summers in Hartford.

Senator Barbour died in 1943. Their three children are: Elysabeth Carrere Barbour, married to James Henry Higgins. They have three children and presently reside in Sewickley, Pennsylvania. Warren Baldwin Barbour, married to Deborah Platt, niece of Dean Acheson of Washington, D. C. They reside, with their three children, in Bronxville, New York. Sharon Barbour is now Mrs. Harry Moore Rhett, and their home, with their four children, is in Huntsville, Alabama.

Mrs. Barbour later married Sir William Laurie Welsh, a widower, in 1947. Sir William, Air Marshall of the British Royal Air Force, first gained considerable notice in the East Mediterranean Campaign under Allenby in World War I. In World War II he was head of the British Royal Air Force in Northwest Africa, working in conjunction with the American forces under General Eisenhower. He was later associated with the Joint Chiefs of Staff under General Marshall, as head of the Royal Air Force. Some of his honors were: Knight Commander of the Bath, Distinguished Service Cross, Air Force Cross, Croix de Guerre and the U. S. Legion of Merit.

Sir William and Lady Elysabeth divided their time between England and Washington, D. C., and sometimes spent summers at the Norfolk, Conn., summer residence. Sir William became ill and his wife, wishing a better place than Washington, D. C., to care for her husband, thought of the Hartford area with its proximity to the excellent care provided by Hartford Hospital and its staff. This was highly acceptable to her husband. He also, after some summers spent in Norfolk, to quote his wife, "Loved New England, as all British do". They found the house at 45 High Street available and purchased it in 1959. They wished extensive alterations to the house however, including a whole new wing added to the lower floor. Other changes incorporated were: moving of the dining room, replacing of a mantel, the addition of a fireplace, enlarging and improving the kitchen, installing a new heating system, and the changing of library windows. All these changes added up to much more comfort and a more commodious environment.

While these changes were being effected they lived in Hartford, coming to Farmington as soon as possible. Sir William wished a name for the new home (probably unaware of the former name "The Hemlocks") and they chose "Eastfield". This was apt, both in relation to the eastern view from their library toward the Hillstead Estate, and for its recollection of the school which Sir William first attended and which he loved so dearly.

November 1969
Sir William however, had not long to enjoy their new home, nor
time to become acquainted with many of their neighbors, although he was
greatly admired and respected by those few who did get to know him. He
suffered a stroke, died on January 2, 1962, and is buried in Riverside
Cemetery. As accorded to all veterans of wars, a flagstaff has been pro-
vided at his grave, but this one provides for two flags, to show the union
of the British and American forces during the war.

He has a son, Michael Welsh, married, with two sons of his own,
who lives in Cleveland, Ohio, and is in the manufacturing industry.

Her Ladyship, his widow (who identifies herself as Mrs. Welsh)
still resides here, spending a share of each year however, in Washington,
where she has deep roots and many friends. At the present time her sister,
Helen Alison Carrere, Mrs. Stuart M. Crocker, is also here, convalescing
from a heart attack suffered here a short time ago. It was considered a
very lucky place to have had the attack, with Hartford Hospital's good
care so readily available.

A wonderful portrait of Sir William, done by Ronald Anderson
of Litchfield, hangs in the library at "Eastfield".

November 1969

Sir William Laurie Welsh had been the first pilot to fly a
plane taking off from the deck of a British ship. He had been born in
Biggleswade, England, in February, 1891.