The Sherman Sanford House stands prominently on a large lot surrounded by trees southeast of the intersection of Lovely Street and Sanford Avenue. Just north of the property lies the Farmington-Avon town line and modern houses. Historic houses remain to the south. An open field exists directly across Lovely Street.
This massive, asymmetrical, Queen Anne/Colonial Revival-style building possesses three bays, gable roofs, and a two-story Colonial Revival-style porch. Functioning as a two-family residence, the first-floor entry porch with a modest balustrade, paired Tuscan columns, and pedimented gable covers two doors. The second-floor porch with a bellcast roof is set in somewhat and has an enclosed balustrade and a single door. Dentils decorate the cornice. Paired one-over-one sash are found north of each entry door. Venetian-like windows exist in the main gable which is enhanced by cornice returns as well as a gable dormer. Six-over-six sash appear frequently. The southern cross gable consists of a bay window projection. Towards the peak of the building is a fanlight window. Several large chimneys rise from the roof.

**HISTORICAL OR ARCHITECTURAL IMPORTANCE**

In 1861 Edmund and Sherman Sanford purchased 17 acres of land from George W. Payne for $500 (FLR 58:295). Sherman (1835-1927) married Helen M. Humphrey (1841-1912), daughter of Lucius and Emeline (Judd) Humphrey, of Pennsylvania. The couple had five children: Edwin (d.1920), William (b.1865), Clara (d.1873), Bertha (b.1874), and Blanche (m.1898); Edmund Sanford, Sherman's brother (1824-?), married Mary Elizabeth Tillotson; they had three children: Henry (1852-1883), Frank (1853-1923), and Charles Jesse (1865-?). Both Sanford brothers were involved in the logging and lumber business. Later with Frank Sanford, Sherman financed the lumber business called S. and F. Sanford, known later as Sanford and Hawley. In 1864 Edmund quit-claimed his title on the property to Sherman (FLR 69:142). The land consisted of the original 17 acres plus an additional 9 acres with no buildings. As shown on the 1869 Baker and Tilden Map, a building might have existed on the site of the current building. However, it would have been razed to make way for the existing two-family dwelling which stylistically dates to the 1890s. After Sherman's death in 1927, the estate passed to his two daughters, Blanche A. Tew and Bertha M. Lawson. Each received one-half interest in the "2 tenement dwelling house" (FLR 74:492). In March of 1935 Blanche quit-claimed her share of her father's estate to her brother-in-law, Gustav A. Lawson (FLR 89:218). During the same month the Lawsons sold the property and its immediate land to two Valigursky couples (FLR 87:24).

This ornate Queen Anne/Colonial Revival-style dwelling contributes to the historic character of Lovely Street.

**SOURCES**

In 1861 brothers Edmund and Sherman Sanford bought 17 acres of land in Unionville and Avon from George Payne, land on the east side of "Lovely Street Road" (58-295); the Sanfords had previously lived in Avon. In 1864 Edmund sold his interest in the property to Sherman (59-142). According to a biography of Sherman Sanford, the house was built in 1861 "when he removed to his present residence in Unionville, which had been built by him". ("Commemorative Biographical Record of Hartford County", p. 928) The Sanfords' first child, Edwin, was born in Unionville in 1866; and the house appears on the 1869 Baker & Tilden atlas map of Unionville. So the 1861 date seems accurate. The biography mentioned above includes a picture of Sherman Sanford, which is copied and included here.
Sherman Sanford and his brother Edmund were "in the logging and lumber business. They bought tracts of standing timber, moved a steam operated sawmill to the site, cut the trees, sawed the logs into lumber. It was then hauled to the nearest railroad siding for shipment by rail, most of it being purchased by the railroad itself, for use as ties and bridge timbers." (Prentice Collection, sketch #195-8). When Edmund's son Frank was old enough, they took him into the business; then in 1882-3 Sherman backed Frank financially when he started the retail lumber business known as S. & F. Sanford, now Sanford & Hawley.

In Unionville, this property originally encompassed all of the east side of Lovely Street from the present Sanford Avenue to the Avon town line. See Map 1. Sherman Sanford sold various pieces of the land to several people. In 1886 he sold 1/3 acre to George Taft (68-268); see 170 Lovely St. for further history of that lot. In 1893 he deeded the adjacent lot to his son Edwin (68-670); see 176 Lovely St. for its subsequent history. In 1896 he sold Edwin a ½-interest in another piece with a new house on it (71-237); then in 1902 they sold it to Sherman's daughter and son-in-law, Blanche & Oliver Tew (71-554). See 162 Lovely St. for its further history. In 1903 Sherman sold another lot to C. Robert Hawley (71-627); see 156 Lovely St. for further history of that lot. So the original property now
contains five houses along Lovely Street, plus property along Sanford Ave. and Sherman St. Sherman Sanford and his family lived here until his death in 1927. The distribution of his estate left the homestead to his two daughters, Blanche Sanford Tew and Bertha Sanford Lawson (74-492). In 1933 Blanche quit-claimed her ½ interest to Bertha's husband Gus Lawson (89-218). In 1935 the Lawsons sold the homestead and part of the land to the two Valigursky couples; the Lawsons then moved to the west side of Lovely Street. In 1953 Gus Lawson sold the rest of the land, over 4 acres between Sherman St. and Sanford Ave., to Rudolph & Lydia Harninger (113-479). Thus the present size of this property is .82 acre. See Map 2.

Map 1 -- 1861

Map 2 -- 1953

Genealogy

Sherman Sanford: b. 3-18-1835 in Avon, son of Jesse & Almira North Sanford; m. Helen Humphrey; d. 11-28-1927

Helen Humphrey Sanford: b. 5-18-1841 in Orwell, Pa., daughter of Lucius & Emeline Judd Humphrey; d. 8-18-1912

Edwin M. - b. 4-4-1865; see 176 Lovely St.
Clara L. - b. 11-5-1870; d. 10-26-1873
Blanche - b. ----; see 162 Lovely St.
Bertha May - see below
William - b. ----; died in infancy

Bertha May Sanford Lawson: b. 3-18-1874; m. Gustav A. Lawson 10-3-1900; d. 4-1942

Gustav A. Lawson: b. 4-3-1879 in Sweden; d. 12-3-1956

no children