This house sits on the south side of Maiden Lane. It is located across the street from the earliest house and was built before the street was laid out, explaining why its facade faces east.
This Cape-style building is oriented gable-to-street with its main entrance on the east elevation. During the early 1900s its entry was covered by an open wood rustic-like porch capped with a shed roof. Two shed-roofed dormers also extend from the main roof, however, an early photograph dated 1906 shows only one dormer. Its six-over-six sash and brick chimney are also displayed.

In 1830 Charles Pitkin (1759-1830), son of the Reverend Timothy Pitkin, pastor of the First Church Congregational, sold two pieces of land to Timothy Cowles (FLR 44:322). Cowles (1784-1858) was the son of Lt. Col. Issac and Lucina (Hooker) Cowles and grandson of Captain Solomon Cowles, founder of the successful Solomon Cowles and Co., dealers in foreign and domestic trade. By 1833 Timothy built this house on the "passway leading from Main Street to the canal", probably to house his domestic help as his house was located nearby (87 Main Street). Later he sold it to Orra and Alma Hunt (FLR 47:29) who lived there until 1874. Jeanette Hale and Florence How (perhaps daughters) next quit-claimed the property to Austin F. Williams, a successful merchant and businessman (FLR 64:444). In 1876 the property, identified as the "Hunt Place", was quite-claimed to Williams' daughter, Catherine D. Vorce, and granddaughter, Jeanette C. Vorce (FLR 64:445). Jeanette's guardian, Charles S. Mason, Jr., next received title to the property in 1892 (FLR 64:134). By 1901 Mason sold it to the estate of Miss Sarah Porter, associated with Miss Porter's School, a female boarding school. She had died in 1900 and it soon passed to her nephew and the school's headmaster Robert Porter Keep (FLR 76:600).

The Timothy Cowles Cottage is historically significant for its association with the Cowles family.

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The Timothy Cowles Cottage is historically significant for its association with the Cowles family.

**Sources**
**Owner's Name**: KEEP, ROBERT P. & DOROTHEA K. HALE  
1950-res., "Mason House"

**Address**: 3 Maiden Lane

**Architect**

**Master Builder**


**References**: "Farmington, Conn., 1906", p. 126, ('residence Skoglund').
This house is pictured on page 126 of the Farmington Book as "The Hunt Place -- Residence of John A. Skoglund". Baker and Tilden's 1869 Atlas shows it as "Miss A. Hunt".

Library records show it to have been built for Timothy Cowles in 1831 on land purchased in 1830 from Charles Pitkin, the son of the Rev. Timothy Pitkin. The latter's house and home had stood on the site of the present house at 92 Main Street.

It is not known who lived in this house when Major Timothy Cowles first built it (his own residence having been at 87 Main Street, and built earlier) but purchasers in 1833 were Orra and Almira Hunt. The writer knows nothing of the Hunts except that Mr. Hunt died on November 2, 1866, and his wife lived until April 15, 1874. It appears that Baker and Tilden's "Miss Hunt" should have read "Mrs. Hunt".

Austin F. Williams is shown as having acquired title in 1876 from Jennette D. Hale and Florence H. How. Would they have been daughters, and heirs of the Hunts?

Austin F. Williams of course is well known in Farmington as having been a successful merchant and business man, living at 127 Main Street, which he built in 1842.

Sometime prior to 1892 this house at 3 Maiden Lane came under the ownership of Jennette Cowles Vorce, granddaughter of Mr. Williams, the daughter of Catherine D. Vorce, Mr. Williams' daughter.

In 1892 Charles Stanley Mason Jr. took title from Catherine D. Vorce, stated at that time to have been the guardian of Jennette Cowles Vorce, her daughter, who was at that time 15 years of age.

Charles Stanley Mason Jr., was the elder son of Charles Stanley Mason and his wife Harriet Hall, of 88 Garden Street. Charles Stanley Mason Jr., had been born in England in 1855, and it appears that his parents came to America later that year or early in 1856, but it is not known just when they came to Farmington.

Charles S. Mason, Jr., had been married, perhaps in Meriden, to Elena Augusta Puffer, daughter of Samuel D. Puffer and Lucy Ann Harris, of Meriden. Children of Charles and Elena were:

Warren Stanley Mason, born 1878, see 320 Main St.,
Harriet Hall Mason, born 1881, see 174 Main Street,
George D. Mason, born 1883, see 4 Maiden Lane, and
Clarence Arnold Mason, born 1890, see 172 Main St.

In 1901 this house was purchased by the Estate of Miss Sarah Porter, who had died in 1900, and in 1903 title was passed to her nephew Robert Porter Keep and his wife Dorothea K. Hale Keep.

November 26, 1972.

Could Jennette Hale and Florence How have been the maiden ladies for whom the lane was named?
Charles Stanley Mason, Jr., moved from here to 174 Main Street upon selling this house, and on August 14, 1902, he bought both the house at 174 Main Street, and its companion, the house at 172 Main Street, they having been at one time one house, later to be divided.

Some time prior to 1968 one-third ownership of this house at 3 Maiden Lane passed to Miss Porter's School (probably at its incorporation in 1943) and in December 1968 the other two-thirds passed to the school. It has been used by the school since 1901, first for rental and later for the housing of the school's employees and/or members of its faculty.

John Alfred Skoglund was one of the early tenants. He had been married in 1902 to Lillian Dunbar Bond, and they first lived at 143 Main Street which they rented from Mrs. Lyons. From there they moved to 122 Main Street, renting that for a while, then, sometime prior to 1906 they came to this house, renting from the Robert Porter Keeps, or rather from Mr. Keep's widow, as he had died in 1903. In 1907 Mr. Skoglund purchased land from Judge E. H. Deming, and had William Rossvall build for him the house which still stands at 9 Maiden Lane.

It is difficult after a period of years to identify all the tenants of rental property, and especially to obtain specific dates of tenancy. The following sequence was made up from a census of various neighbors, and it reads, without dates, as follows:

John Alfred Skoglund,
Walter Blinn,
Harvey Brown,
James Vallily,
George Leopard,
Fred Blinn,
William Stevens,
George Bezine,
Francis Sullivan,
Rene Martineau,
Rene Howard.

Some of these names are entirely unknown to the writer.

Walter Blinn is said to have worked as a teamster for Miss Porter's School, his son Howard having gone with a big plumbing supply house in Hartford.

Harvey Brown is not known.

James Vallily is not known either, although there is stated to have been a Thomas Vallily, who at one time operated the former Gay's Store.

George Leopard of course is well known, first associated with his parents' home at 30 Colton Street, later as operator of the blacksmith shop pictured on page 147, and occupant of the house on Mountain Road which shows on page 172.

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Fred Blinn, whose wife was the former Louisa Miles, lived here for some time after first living in the south end of Mrs. Blinn's parents' home at 101 Main Street. The Blinns had three children: George, Marie and Laura. Fred Blinn died in 1920, only 44 years of age. His widow's mother Mrs. Miles died in 1925, leaving to Mrs. Blinn a house on the north side of Carrington Lane, known then as Colton Court. Louisa Blinn moved to that house, living there until her death in 1939, at the age of 59.

George Bezine and Francis Sullivan were both employees of Miss Porter's School. Francis Sullivan, said to have been a cook at the school, was married and had a daughter and son, one of whom was married during their residence here. Mr. Sullivan's employment and residence here were terminated by his death.

Renee Martineau, also an MPS employee, and his family lived here for some years, presently reside at 117 Garden Street. Extensive remodeling of this house was carried out during the period following their move.

Present tenants are Mrs. Rene Howard, French teacher at MPS, and her daughter, who have been here since 1968.

November 26, 1972