

PH0020834

**NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
INVENTORY - NOMINATION FORM**

(Type all entries - complete applicable sections)

STATE: Connecticut	
COUNTY: Hartford	
FOR NPS USE ONLY	
ENTRY NUMBER: MAR 1 1972	DATE

1. NAME

COMMON:
FARMINGTON HISTORIC DISTRICT

AND/OR HISTORIC:
FARMINGTON VILLAGE

2. LOCATION

STREET AND NUMBER:
(SEE MAP OF FARMINGTON HISTORIC DISTRICT)

CITY OR TOWN:
FARMINGTON

STATE: CONNECTICUT CODE: 09 COUNTY: HARTFORD CODE: 003

3. CLASSIFICATION

CATEGORY (Check One)	OWNERSHIP	STATUS	ACCESSIBLE TO THE PUBLIC
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> District <input type="checkbox"/> Building <input type="checkbox"/> Site <input type="checkbox"/> Structure <input type="checkbox"/> Object	<input type="checkbox"/> Public <input type="checkbox"/> Private <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Both	Public Acquisition: <input type="checkbox"/> In Process <input type="checkbox"/> Being Considered	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Occupied <input type="checkbox"/> Unoccupied <input type="checkbox"/> Preservation work in progress
PRESENT USE (Check One or More as Appropriate)			
<input type="checkbox"/> Agricultural <input type="checkbox"/> Commercial <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Educational <input type="checkbox"/> Entertainment	<input type="checkbox"/> Government <input type="checkbox"/> Industrial <input type="checkbox"/> Military <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Museum	<input type="checkbox"/> Park <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Private Residence <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Religious <input type="checkbox"/> Scientific	<input type="checkbox"/> Transportation <input type="checkbox"/> Other (Specify) _____ _____ _____

4. OWNER OF PROPERTY

OWNER'S NAME:
MULTIPLE (SEE PHOTOGRAPHS)

STREET AND NUMBER:

CITY OR TOWN: STATE: CODE:

5. LOCATION OF LEGAL DESCRIPTION

COURTHOUSE, REGISTRY OF DEEDS, ETC.:
FARMINGTON TOWN HALL

STREET AND NUMBER:

CITY OR TOWN: FARMINGTON STATE: CONNECTICUT CODE: 09

6. REPRESENTATION IN EXISTING SURVEYS

TITLE OF SURVEY:
CONNECTICUT HISTORIC STRUCTURES & LANDMARKS SURVEY

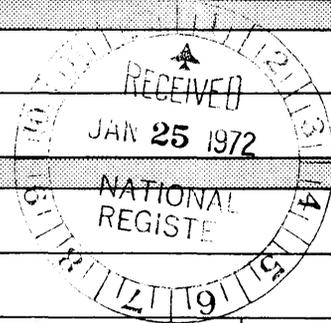
DATE OF SURVEY: 1966 Federal State County Local

DEPOSITORY FOR SURVEY RECORDS:
CONNECTICUT HISTORICAL COMMISSION

STREET AND NUMBER:
54 PRATT STREET

CITY OR TOWN: HARTFORD STATE: CONNECTICUT CODE: 09

SEE INSTRUCTIONS



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7. DESCRIPTION

CONDITION	(Check One)					
	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Excellent	<input type="checkbox"/> Good	<input type="checkbox"/> Fair	<input type="checkbox"/> Deteriorated	<input type="checkbox"/> Ruins	<input type="checkbox"/> Unexposed
	(Check One)			(Check One)		
	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Altered	<input type="checkbox"/> Unaltered		<input type="checkbox"/> Moved	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Original Site	

DESCRIBE THE PRESENT AND ORIGINAL (if known) PHYSICAL APPEARANCE

ON THE BASIS OF ENABLING LEGISLATION BY THE STATE OF CONNECTICUT AND BY LOCAL ORDINANCE, A HISTORIC DISTRICT WAS FORMED SIX YEARS AGO TO HELP PRESERVE THE CENTER OF FARMINGTON VILLAGE. MUCH OF THE CHARACTER OF EARLIER TIMES REMAINS BECAUSE OF A CONCENTRATION OF FINE OLD HOUSES SURROUNDING THE OLD MEETING HOUSE AND THE STately BUILDINGS THAT HOUSE MISS PORTER'S SCHOOL.

ALTHOUGH FARMINGTON WAS DIRECTLY ON THE OLD STAGE COACH ROAD FROM HARTFORD TO LITCHFIELD AND ALSO ON THE ROAD FOLLOWED BY GENERAL ROCHAMBEAU TO JOIN GENERAL WASHINGTON IN NEW YORK STATE, IT HAS BEEN PROTECTED IN LATER YEARS BY ITS POSITION, OFF THE "BEATEN TRACK."

FARMINGTON'S POSITION IS NO LONGER AFFORDED ANY PROTECTION AGAINST THE UNCONTROLLED EXPANSION OF HARTFORD'S SUBURBAN GROWTH AND THE NET OF EXPRESSWAYS WHICH ARE NECESSARY TO ACCOMMODATE LOCAL AND INTERSTATE TRAFFIC. FARMINGTON'S MAIN STREET IS STILL ONE OF THE MOST HANDSOME IN NEW ENGLAND, EVEN THOUGH AS A STATE HIGHWAY IT HAS SUFFERED FROM THE NOISE, VIBRATION, POLLUTION, AND OTHER HAZARDS OF COMMERCIAL TRAFFIC AND HAS LOST MANY FINE TREES WHICH WERE A TRADITIONAL FEATURE OF THE AREA.

PLANS ARE NOW UNDERWAY TO RELOCATE THE STATE HIGHWAY IN THE MEADOWS TO THE WEST OF THE VILLAGE. A VIGOROUS PLAN OF TREE-PLANTING IS BEING CARRIED OUT ON BOTH SIDES OF THE STREET AND ALSO A PLAN IS BEING SOUGHT WHEREBY THE UTILITY POLES AND WIRES CAN BE REMOVED.

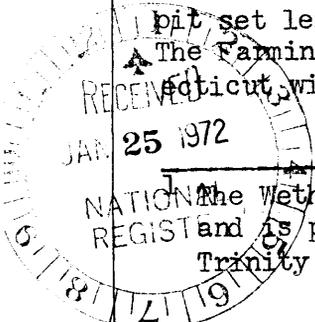
DURING 1972 AN EXPANSION OF THE HISTORIC DISTRICT WILL BE EFFECTED, TAKING IN HOUSES WHICH UNFORTUNATELY COULD NOT BE INCLUDED WHEN THE DISTRICT WAS FORMED.

There are many very distinguished structures in the present Historic District. All of them deserve thorough study; a few of the more interesting ones, characteristic of the District, are described below.

The Meeting House, 1771, the third built in the Village, was designed and built by Judah Woodruff, builder of many of the houses in the town. The earlier meeting houses were built in 1672 and 1708. The present structure retains the early form of entry and pulpit on the long sides, rather than at the ends. It was Charles Bulfinch who broke the tradition of the pulpit set lengthwise at the side, and began the practice of the long nave. The Farmington Church is the only original Congregational church in Connecticut, with its entry at the side. The centered entry has three windows

The Wethersfield Congregational Church has been renovated several times and is presently being restored to its original appearance. Brooklyn's Trinity Church is in the same form, but is an Episcopal church.

SEE INSTRUCTIONS



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INVENTORY - NOMINATION FORM

(Continuation Sheet)

STATE	
Connecticut	
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	MAR 17 1972

(Number all entries)

#7 Description -1-

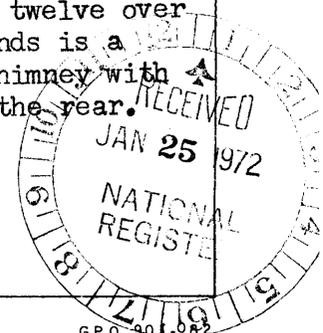
on each side and represents later work, for it is in Greek Revival style, with large columns supporting a heavy entablature. Decoration elsewhere is sparse as would be expected. At the north end is a bell tower, starting at the ground and extending above the roof line. Near the top is a clock, then a balustrade in the center of which is the bell stage. The arch of the bell section is repeated just above, though this is closed. Topping the whole tower is an unusually slender and graceful steeple which can be seen for miles.

This church represents an excellent example of its style and period. It was built as the focal point of the community and remains an important structure there.

The Union Hotel, c. 1830, once served the passengers of the Farmington Canal. An ill-fated adventure, the Canal was begun in 1825 and ran from New Haven to Northampton, Massachusetts, planned eventually to be extended to Canada. The first boat was launched in 1828 amid much fanfare, but by 1848 the canal was no longer in use. The Union Hotel became part of Miss Porter's School, now serving as the administration building.

The old hotel is a striking brick building standing near the road. Its porch contains a frieze and dentils, and white columns in Greek Doric style. The front entry is unmistakably Greek, its door set off by four-pane sidelights and a four-pane overdoor light. The windows have stone sills and lintels and proper six over six sash. The building is square with a low-hipped roof and four corner chimneys. The cupola rising from the center of the roof has Greek details; beneath the turned balusters is a frieze of tryglyphs and metopes with modillions above. Corner pilasters matching those at front porch complete the detail here.

John Hart House, c. 1740. This is an early house in the Farmington Historic District built by Judah Woodruff. Its characteristic 9-window facade contains a centered double-leaf entryway framed with decorative elements. The flat pediment contains a foliated motif suggested again at the capitals of the fluted pilasters at either side of the entry. This is the only ornamentation on the structure. Windows are plain, with proper twelve over twelve sash. The overhang at second story level in the gable ends is a carry-over from earlier times. The form is typical: a center chimney with rooms to the sides and, originally, at least, a kitchen across the rear.



SIGNIFICANCE

PERIOD (Check One or More as Appropriate)

- | | | | |
|--|--|--|--|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Pre-Columbian | <input type="checkbox"/> 16th Century | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 18th Century | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 20th Century |
| <input type="checkbox"/> 15th Century | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 17th Century | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 19th Century | |

SPECIFIC DATE(S) (If Applicable and Known) **SEE DATA ACCOMPANYING PHOTOGRAPHS OF BUILDINGS***

AREAS OF SIGNIFICANCE (Check One or More as Appropriate)

- | | | | |
|--|---|---|--|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Aboriginal | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Education | <input type="checkbox"/> Political | <input type="checkbox"/> Urban Planning |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Prehistoric | <input type="checkbox"/> Engineering | <input type="checkbox"/> Religion/Philosophy | <input type="checkbox"/> Other (Specify) |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Historic | <input type="checkbox"/> Industry | <input type="checkbox"/> Science | *WHENEVER WE FOUND DISCREPANCIES IN DATES, WE USED THOSE GIVEN BY MABEL HURLBURT, TOWN HISTORIAN AND FORMER TOWN CLERK. |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Agriculture | <input type="checkbox"/> Invention | <input type="checkbox"/> Sculpture | |
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Architecture | <input type="checkbox"/> Landscape | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Social/Humanitarian | |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Art | <input type="checkbox"/> Architecture | <input type="checkbox"/> Theater | |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Commerce | <input type="checkbox"/> Literature | <input type="checkbox"/> Transportation | |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Communications | <input type="checkbox"/> Military | | |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Conservation | <input type="checkbox"/> Music | | |

STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE

FARMINGTON WAS SETTLED IN 1640 AND BECAME A TOWN FIVE YEARS LATER. IN 1774 IT WAS THE TENTH MOST POPULOUS TOWN IN THE COLONIES AFTER BOSTON, NEWPORT, NEW YORK, PHILADELPHIA, CHARLESTON, SALEM, BALTIMORE, NEW HAVEN AND NORWICH, CONNECTICUT. IN THAT YEAR ITS GRAND LIST WAS NEARLY 50% GREATER THAN THE GRAND LIST OF HARTFORD.

FARMINGTON OWED ITS EMINENCE TO THE ENTERPRISE OF ITS MERCHANTS WHOSE SHIPS CAME UP THE CONNECTICUT RIVER AS FAR AS MIDDLETOWN, WHERE THEIR CARGOS OF SUGAR, MOLASSES, RUM AND INDIGO WERE CARTED TO FARMINGTON FOR DISTRIBUTION TO THE NEW SETTLEMENTS SUCH AS LITCHFIELD TO THE WEST AND NORTHAMPTON TO THE NORTH. BUSINESS FLOURISHED IN THE VILLAGE WITH ITS TINSMITHS AND SILVERSMITHS, HAT MAKERS, LINEN MAKERS, LEATHER WORKERS, AND MAKERS OF MUSKETS, BUTTONS AND CARRIAGES. A CANAL WHICH IS STILL PARTLY IN EVIDENCE WAS A VITAL PART OF THIS COMMERCE.

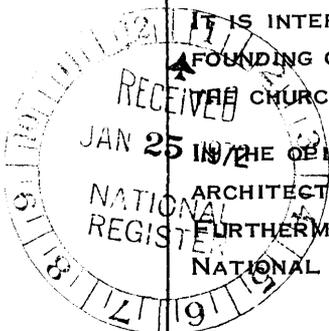
WITHIN THE FARMINGTON HISTORIC DISTRICT AND CONTINGUOUS AREAS ARE CONCENTRATED ABOUT 115 HOUSES DATED PRIOR TO 1835 ALL STILL IN USE MOSTLY AS RESIDENCES. SOME HAVE BEEN CHANGED VERY LITTLE, OTHERS HAVE BEEN ALTERED OR ADDED TO TO MEET THE EXIGENCIES OF DAILY LIVING AS TIME WENT ON.

THE FARMINGTON HISTORIC DISTRICT IS BY NO MEANS A MUSEUM-TYPE TOWN, BUT RATHER A LIVING COMMUNITY OF FINE HOMES AND A NATIONALLY-KNOWN SCHOOL FOR GIRLS. THE CONCENTRATION OF THESE BUILDINGS WITHIN A RELATIVELY SMALL AREA IS ONE OF ITS DISTINGUISHING FEATURES. ANOTHER INTERESTING FEATURE THAT CAN BE NOTED IS THAT HOUSES OF FOUR DIFFERENT CENTURIES ARE HARMONIOUSLY SITED WITHIN SHORT DISTANCES OF ONE ANOTHER, THE OLDEST BEING THE WHITMAN HOUSE WHICH IS ALREADY INCLUDED IN THE NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC BUILDINGS.

MANY OF THE OLD HOUSES ARE STILL OCCUPIED BY DESCENDANTS OF THE EARLY SETTLERS. IT IS INTERESTING TO NOTE THAT IN 1962 AT THE TERCENTENARY CELEBRATION OF THE FOUNDING OF FARMINGTON, DESCENDANTS OF EACH OF THE SEVEN ORIGINAL FOUNDERS OF THE CHURCH WERE STILL LIVING IN THE TOWN.

IN THE OPINION OF MANY PEOPLE INCLUDING NOTED HISTORIANS AND STUDENTS OF ARCHITECTURE, FARMINGTON IS CONSIDERED UNIQUE AND WARRANTS NATIONAL RECOGNITION. FURTHERMORE, IT NEEDS THE PROTECTION WHICH MAY BE AFFORDED BY INCLUSION IN THE NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES.

SEE INSTRUCTIONS



9. MAJOR BIBLIOGRAPHICAL REFERENCES

SEE ACCOMPANYING PAGE (Continuation Sheet 2.)

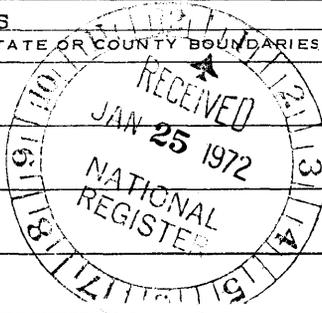
10. GEOGRAPHICAL DATA

LATITUDE AND LONGITUDE COORDINATES DEFINING A RECTANGLE LOCATING THE PROPERTY			O R	LATITUDE AND LONGITUDE COORDINATES DEFINING THE CENTER POINT OF A PROPERTY OF LESS THAN TEN ACRES		
CORNER	LATITUDE	LONGITUDE		LATITUDE	LONGITUDE	
	Degrees Minutes Seconds	Degrees Minutes Seconds		Degrees Minutes Seconds	Degrees Minutes Seconds	
NW	41° 43' 35"	72° 50' 29"		° ' "	° ' "	
NE	41° 43' 35"	72° 49' 00"				
SE	41° 42' 48"	72° 49' 00"				
SW	41° 42' 48"	72° 50' 29"				

APPROXIMATE ACREAGE OF NOMINATED PROPERTY: 275 acres

LIST ALL STATES AND COUNTIES FOR PROPERTIES OVERLAPPING STATE OR COUNTY BOUNDARIES

STATE:	CODE	COUNTY	CODE
STATE:	CODE	COUNTY:	CODE
STATE:	CODE	COUNTY:	CODE
STATE:	CODE	COUNTY:	CODE



SEE INSTRUCTIONS

11. FORM PREPARED BY

NAME AND TITLE:
RICHARD D. BUTTERFIELD, CHAIRMAN FARMINGTON HISTORIC DISTRICT COMMISSION
JAMES MCA. THOMSON, CLERK FARMINGTON HISTORIC DISTRICT COMMISSION

ORGANIZATION: FARMINGTON HISTORIC DISTRICT COMMISSION DATE: Nov. 22, 1971

STREET AND NUMBER:
 c/o TOWN HALL

CITY OR TOWN: FARMINGTON STATE: CONNECTICUT CODE:

12. STATE LIAISON OFFICER CERTIFICATION

NATIONAL REGISTER VERIFICATION

As the designated State Liaison Officer for the National Historic Preservation Act of 1966 (Public Law 89-665), I hereby nominate this property for inclusion in the National Register and certify that it has been evaluated according to the criteria and procedures set forth by the National Park Service. The recommended level of significance of this nomination is:

National State Local

Name: [Signature]

Title: State Liaison Officer

Date: January 20, 1972

I hereby certify that this property is included in the National Register.

[Signature]
 Chief, Office of Archeology and Historic Preservation
 MAR 17 1972

Date: _____

ATTEST:

[Signature]
 Keeper of The National Register
 MAR 14 1972

Date: _____

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INVENTORY - NOMINATION FORM

(Continuation Sheet)

STATE	
Connecticut	
COUNTY	
Hartford	
FOR NPS USE ONLY	
ENTRY NUMBER	DATE
	MAR 17 1972

(Number all entries)

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9. Major Bibliographical References

Farmington, Connecticut (The Village of Beautiful Houses)
By Arthur Brandege and Eddie Smith
City Printing Company, Hartford, Connecticut, 1906.

Farmington, Connecticut
By Wesley Sherwood Bessell
The White Pine Monograph Series Vol, XII- No. 2, 1926.

Farmington House File
A file of historic data and photographs of houses in "Farmington Room" of the Village Library, Farmington, Connecticut. Compiled by the late Mrs. Wilmarth S. Lewis and Mrs. Mabel Hurlburt.

Short History of Farmington
By Lydia Hewes
Connecticut Printers, 1936.

Julius Gay Papers
A compilation of fourteen historical addresses delivered by Julius Gay before the Village Library Company of Farmington and the Connecticut Historical Society, the first address presented in 1890. Privately printed in 1929.

Early Connecticut Meetinghouses
By J. Frederick Kelly
Columbia University Press, 1948.

Early Domestic Architecture of Connecticut
By J. Frederick Kelly
Yale University Press, 1924.

Farmington—Church and Town
By Mabel S. Hurlburt
The Pequot Press
Stonington, Connecticut, 1957.

National Trust Quarterly Publication
Fourth Quarter 1971 featured an article on the old houses of Farmington.

