

**HISTORIC RESOURCES INVENTORY  
BUILDING AND STRUCTURES**

HIST-6 NEW 5 77

STATE OF CONNECTICUT  
**CONNECTICUT HISTORICAL COMMISSION**  
59 SOUTH PROSPECT STREET, HARTFORD, CONNECTICUT 06106  
(203) 566-3005

FOR OFFICE USE ONLY	
Town No.:	Site No.:
UTM	
QUAD:	
DISTRICT <input type="checkbox"/> S <input type="checkbox"/> NR	IF NR SPECIFY <input type="checkbox"/> Actual <input type="checkbox"/> Potential

#10

IDENTIFICATION

1. BUILDING NAME (Common) <i>(Historic)</i>		Farnam House	
2. TOWN CITY Norfolk	VILLAGE	COUNTY Litchfield	
3. STREET AND NUMBER (and or location) Litchfield Road, west side			
4. OWNER(S) Nathaniel W. & Frances E. Brown, Litchfield Road, Norfolk, CT 06058 <input type="checkbox"/> Public <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Private			
5. USE (Present)		<i>(Historic)</i> Residence	
6. ACCESSIBILITY TO PUBLIC:	EXTERIOR VISIBLE FROM PUBLIC ROAD <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No	INTERIOR ACCESSIBLE <input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> No	IF YES, EXPLAIN

DESCRIPTION

7. STYLE OF BUILDING		DATE OF CONSTRUCTION 1908
8. MATERIAL(S) <i>(Indicate use or location when appropriate)</i>		
<input type="checkbox"/> Clapboard	<input type="checkbox"/> Asbestos Siding	<input type="checkbox"/> Brick <input type="checkbox"/> Other <i>(Specify)</i> _____
<input type="checkbox"/> Wood Shingle	<input type="checkbox"/> Asphalt Siding	<input type="checkbox"/> Fieldstone
<input type="checkbox"/> Board & Batten	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Stucco	<input type="checkbox"/> Cobblestone
<input type="checkbox"/> Aluminum Siding	<input type="checkbox"/> Concrete Type: _____	<input type="checkbox"/> Cut stone Type: _____
9. STRUCTURAL SYSTEM		
<input type="checkbox"/> Wood frame	<input type="checkbox"/> Post and beam	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> balloon
<input type="checkbox"/> Load bearing masonry	<input type="checkbox"/> Structural iron or steel	
<input type="checkbox"/> Other <i>(Specify)</i> _____		
10. ROOF (Type)		
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Gable	<input type="checkbox"/> Flat	<input type="checkbox"/> Mansard <input type="checkbox"/> Monitor <input type="checkbox"/> sawtooth
<input type="checkbox"/> Gambrel	<input type="checkbox"/> Shed	<input type="checkbox"/> Hip <input type="checkbox"/> Round <input type="checkbox"/> Other <i>(Specify)</i> _____
<i>(Material)</i>		
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Wood Shingle	<input type="checkbox"/> Roll Asphalt	<input type="checkbox"/> Tin <input type="checkbox"/> Slate
<input type="checkbox"/> Asphalt shingle	<input type="checkbox"/> Built up	<input type="checkbox"/> Tile <input type="checkbox"/> Other <i>(Specify)</i> _____
11. NUMBER OF STORIES 2½	APPROXIMATE DIMENSIONS 37 x 71'	
12. CONDITION <i>(Structural)</i> <span style="float: right;"><i>(Exterior)</i></span>		
<input type="checkbox"/> Excellent	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Good	<input type="checkbox"/> Fair <input type="checkbox"/> Deteriorated
<input type="checkbox"/> Excellent <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Good <input type="checkbox"/> Fair <input type="checkbox"/> Deteriorated		
13. INTEGRITY <i>(Location)</i> <span style="float: right;"><i>(Alterations)</i></span>		
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> On original site	<input type="checkbox"/> Moved	WHEN? <span style="float: right;">IF YES, EXPLAIN</span>
<input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No		
14. RELATED OUTBUILDINGS OR LANDSCAPE FEATURES		
<input type="checkbox"/> Barn	<input type="checkbox"/> Shed	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Garage <input type="checkbox"/> Other landscape features or buildings <i>(Specify)</i>
<input type="checkbox"/> Carriage house	<input type="checkbox"/> Shop	<input type="checkbox"/> Garden
15. SURROUNDING ENVIRONMENT		
<input type="checkbox"/> Open land	<input type="checkbox"/> Wood-land	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Residential <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Scattered buildings visible from site
<input type="checkbox"/> Commercial	<input type="checkbox"/> Indus-trial	<input type="checkbox"/> Rural <input type="checkbox"/> High building density
16. INTERRELATIONSHIP OF BUILDING AND SURROUNDINGS		

The house is one of a series sited close to the road, south of town.

(OVER)

DESCRIPTION (Continued)

In this shallow, U-shaped plan, Taylor's typical broad gables are used to terminate the arms of the U. An eyebrow dormer in the central portion of the roof looks out over a narrow porte cochere that runs parallel with the front of the house. The wall of the porte cochere is pierced by long vertical openings, and there is a gate in its center for pedestrian traffic. The walls are stucco and the chimneys molded brick.

18 ARCHITECT

A.S.G. Taylor & Levi

BUILDER

19 HISTORICAL OR ARCHITECTURAL IMPORTANCE

SIGNIFICANCE

There is a striking similarity between this house and the 1898 Buckley House at Lake Windermere, England, by C.F.A. Voysey (1857-1941). The two structures have similar shape, mass, and plan. Both have broad gabled sections to left and right with horizontal bands of windows at the second floor, connected by a gabled roof over a projecting shed roof at the center of the first floor in the case of Voysey and projecting central porte cochere in the case of Taylor. These houses are not period imitations and are, in fact, more independent of the past than most architects dared to be. There is, nevertheless, an admission of sympathy for the rural Tudor tradition. Voysey carried through with design of furniture and furnishings with the net result of a cozy effect. While Taylor's eclecticism encompassed a number of influences, his work could never be called cozy.

SOURCES

Prints of construction drawings in Taylor Collection.  
 Drawing of front elevation in Taylor Collection.  
The Penguin Dictionary of Architecture, Baltimore: Penguin Books, 1966, p. 237.

PHOTO

PHOTOGRAPHER

D. Ransom

DATE

October 1978

VIEW

Northwest

NEGATIVE ON FILE

Conn. Historical Commission

Place

COMPILED BY

NAME

D. Ransom

DATE

Oct. 28, 1978

Photograph

ORGANIZATION

Connecticut Historical Commission

Here

ADDRESS

59 South Prospect Street, Hartford, CT 06106

11-12

20 SUBJECT FIELD EVALUATIONS

Verbal boundary description: NLR 47/449, 2 acres.  
 UTM Reference: 18/648980/4649240

21 THREATS TO BUILDING OR SITE

- None known.   
  Highways   
  Vandalism   
  Developers   
  Other \_\_\_\_\_  
 Renewal   
  Private   
  Deterioration   
  Zoning   
  Explanation \_\_\_\_\_