

Gaston, Deborah

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From: Murray, Cora  
 Date: Thursday, May 03, 2012 11:23 AM  
 To: Gaston, Deborah  
 Subject: FW: nomination & sources for Chauncey Brown on the CT Freedom Trail

Agenda Item for next week's Freedom Trail meeting. Action Item 1.

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From: kassilva@aol.com [mailto:kassilva@aol.com]  
 Sent: Wednesday, January 11, 2012 8:37 PM  
 To: Murray, Cora  
 Cc: jla.lawson@gmail.com; chleach@snet.net  
 Subject: nomination & sources for Chauncey Brown on the CT Freedom Trail

Hi Cora,

Here is the nomination form for Dr. Chauncey Brown. We expected this would be the known Brown residence on Main Street, but the Brown family did not move into this home until 1843.

Information from Farmington Historic Services Survey and the Connecticut Census of 1840 indicate that Dr. Brown lived on a home on his father-in-law's property. Jeannie Sherman, an archival librarian at the CT State Library, showed me the census form with the names next to each other & explained what this meant in terms of the 1840 census.

Dr. Charles Leach has published articles about Farmington physicians in *Hog River Journal* & in *FHS* newsletter. He went through his resources & came to the same conclusion for the residence in 1841.

I will be happy to mail you the form from the Farmington Historic Services survey which gives the details about the house. I can send you a copy of the 1840 census as well.

Do you want a copy of The Farmington Magazine & additional information about the Brown family & their interactions with Temme & the Amistad Africans? I do not know if Dr. Brown was a known abolitionist, but I feel his actions speak for him.

Let me know if this is sufficient or if you need additional information for this

omination.

Thank you,

### Nomination of the Chauncey Brown House to the Connecticut Freedom Trail

Chauncey Brown House -- Woodford Newell Strong House 809 Farmington / Route 4 Farmington, CT

Hoping for an eventual judicial decision of freedom, Lewis Tappan and the Amistad Committee made plans to relocate the Amistad Africans from New Haven to Farmington. The Amistad girls would be housed with the families of Horace Cowles, Timothy Cowles and the Reverend Mr. Noah Porter.

However Horace Cowles died in February 6, 1841 and is buried in Memento Mori in Farmington.

March 19, 1841 Temme arrived at the home of the widowed Elizabeth Hurlburt Cowles, the second wife of Horace Cowles. Later Elizabeth H. Cowles moved to West Hartford, when Mary Ann Cowles Hardy returned to her father's house.

At some point during her stay, Temme moved to the home of Dr. Chauncey Brown. Dr. Brown's wife, Julia Strong Brown wrote about her memories of Temme in *The Farmington Magazine*. "One of these by name of Tamie was sent directly to me and remained with me until their departure for their native land."

#### ources:

Brown, J. M. "The Mendi Indians Again, A Sketch" *The Farmington Magazine* Vol. 11, N. 3 July 1902

Town Clerks And Their Times 1645-1940 by Mabel S. Hurlburt © 1943.

Pitkin Norton's Diary

#### [Horace Cowles \(- 1841\) - Find A Grave Memorial](#)

[www.findagrave.com/cgi-bin/fg.cgi?page=gr&GRid=77176791](http://www.findagrave.com/cgi-bin/fg.cgi?page=gr&GRid=77176791) found online Nov. 28, 2011 10:30 pm

Horace Cowles  
Born October 18, 1782  
Died February 6, 1841

Listed in Ancestry.com and other online genealogy sites.

Farmington Historic Services Survey

Connecticut Census 1840 shows 2 heads of the household on lines next to each other indicating next closest house to Pomeroy Strong. Chauncey Brown was listed directly under Pomeroy Strong.

#### • [Historic Property: Historic Property Added to Farmington's ...](#)

[www.courant.com/2011-07-19/community/hc-farmington-blight-20110719\\_1\\_b...](http://www.courant.com/2011-07-19/community/hc-farmington-blight-20110719_1_b...)

Jul 19, 2011 ... FARMINGTON — — Town officials agree that the historic Woodford Newell Strong house on Route 4

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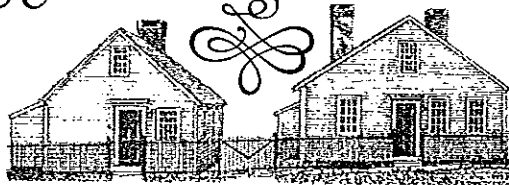
Jul 19, 2011 ... FARMINGTON — — Town officials agree that the historic Woodford Newell Strong house on Route 4

(No. 4) 994

SCHEDULE of the whole number of *abolished* *and* *existing* divisions allotted to each *of* *the* *States* *and* *the* *District* *of* *Columbia*

NAMES OF MEMBERS OF PARLIAMENTS	MARRIAGE										DEATH										BIRTH										MILITARY											
	1850		1851		1852		1853		1854		1855		1856		1857		1858		1859		1860		1861		1862		1863		1864		1865		1866		1867		1868		1869		1870	
	1	2	1	2	1	2	1	2	1	2	1	2	1	2	1	2	1	2	1	2	1	2	1	2	1	2	1	2	1	2	1	2	1	2	1	2	1	2				
Jung Lewis			1	3	1	2	1																																			
Lyle Murray																																										
Marlin Corbett	1				2	1																																				
Edwards Lewis																																										
William Lee	1																																									
Samuel Williams	2																																									
William Brown	1																																									
Edwards Lewis																																										
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THE FARMINGTON  
HISTORICAL SOCIETY



Post Office Box 1645 Farmington, Connecticut 06034 860/678-1645

Cora Murray  
Director  
The Connecticut Freedom Trail  
One Constitution Plaza, 2<sup>nd</sup> Floor  
Hartford, CT 06103

Dear Cora,

Thank you for your support of our nomination of Dr. Chauncey Brown for his care of Amistad captive, Temme, during her stay in Farmington from March-November of 1841.

Enclosed are the records of the Farmington Historic Survey and the Census of 1840.

Please let me know if there is any other information that should be shared with you and with the other Board Members.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script, appearing to read 'KAS'.

Kim A. Silva  
Coordinator, Amistad Tours  
Board Member, Connecticut Freedom Trail

17 OTHER NOTABLE FEATURES OF BUILDING OR SITE (interior and/or exterior)

This center-chimney Colonial-period building features several attached out buildings that are pictured in a 1906 photograph. Its five-bay facade features a Greek Revival-style doorway with sidelights. A large brick chimney extends from the roof and twelve-over-nine sash are found throughout the house. To the north is a gambrel-roofed addition original to the house. When restored in the 1950s by past owner, Eleanor B. Skinner, evidence surfaced that the house was actually made up of two former houses.

820 Farmington Ave (Farmington Realty)  
Farmington Historic Services Survey

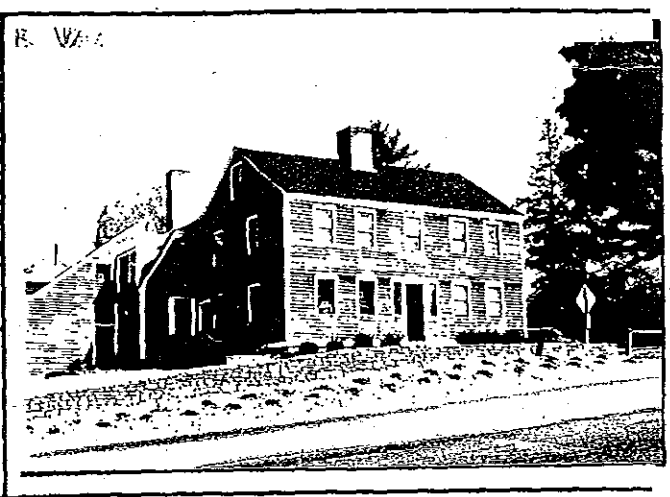
18 ARCHITECT \_\_\_\_\_ BUILDER \_\_\_\_\_

19 HISTORICAL OR ARCHITECTURAL IMPORTANCE  
In 1807 Pomeroy Strong (1777-1861) purchased a four acre piece of land with an "old house" from five Cowles brothers: Elijah, Johathan, Seth, Gad, and Martin (FLR 35:301). The house mentioned is thought to be the Woodford House existing as early as 1665, however, it is impossible to be certain. Strong also purchased the Newell Homestead (ca. 1665) from Gad North (FLR 34:76) and shortly thereafter joined both houses together, remodeling them to give them a two story appearance. It is likely that the Greek Revival-style doorway was added then. This is evident due to the information reported by its past owner (1950) who restored the existing building and discovered the joining buildings. It is known that Pomeroy Strong married Susan North (1775-1859), the daughter of John and Merrill North. Strong, perhaps a cooper, since he later purchased a cooper's shop, was the son of Col. John and Mercy (Root) Strong. Upon Strong's death his estate passed to his daughters: Julia (b. 1815) and Ellen Root (1822-1893) who had married John N. Bartlett (FPR 12:355). The Bartletts, in 1862, sold their interest in the property to Julia who at that time was married to Dr. Chauncey Brown (FLR 58:393). Dr. Brown died in 1879 leaving Julia with two children Philip and Julia. By 1931 Philip Brown had inherited his mother's estate. Next, his estate was devised to his second cousin Eleanor (Bartlett) Phelps (FLR 74:539) who owned it until 1963.

This house has an interesting evolution which makes it highly significant to Farmington's architectural history. It also derives significance due to its association with the Strong-North families who owned it for 156 years.

Farmington Land Records; Farmington Probate Records; Farmington Vital Records; Farmington Cemetery Inscriptions, W.P.A., 1934; Avon Cemetery Inscriptions, W.P.A., 1934; 1853 E.M. Woodford Map; 1855 E.M. Woodford Map; 1869 Baker and Tilden Map; 1878 O.H. Bailey & Co. Map. Prentise, Dudley. History of Farmington Houses. 9 vols., N.p., 1974; Farmington House File Collection. N.p., 1950-52. Brandegee, Arthur L. Farmington, Connecticut, The Village of Beautiful Homes. Farmington, Conn: Author, 1906.

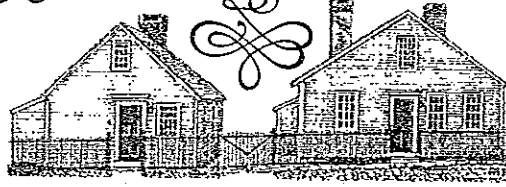
PHOTOGRAPHER: K. J. Istok DATE: 5/85  
VIEW: N NEGATIVE ON FILE: 8:10  
NAME: Ruth A. Bedrosian DATE: 1/86  
ORGANIZATION: Greater Middletown Preservation Trust  
ADDRESS: 27 Washington Street, Middletown, CT  
SUBSEQUENT FIELD EVALUATIONS



20 CHECK ONE TO BUILDING OR SITE  
 Known  Highways  Vandalism  Developers  Other \_\_\_\_\_  
 Renewal  Private  Deterioration  Zoning  Explanation \_\_\_\_\_



THE FARMINGTON  
HISTORICAL SOCIETY



Post Office Box 1645 Farmington, Connecticut 06034 860/678-1645

April 18, 2012

Cora Murray  
Coordinator  
The Connecticut Freedom Trail  
Connecticut Commission on Culture and Tourism  
One Constitution Plaza, 2<sup>nd</sup> Floor  
Hartford, CT 06103

Hi Cora,

The Farmington Historical Society would like to request a formal nomination of the historic Woodford Newell Strong House on Route 4 to be included on The Connecticut Freedom Trail.

While awaiting the verdict of the Supreme Court for the Amistad Affair in 1841, the Amistad Committee planned to send the captives to Farmington. Horace Cowles agreed to accept Temme, one of the Amistad girls into his home. However Cowles died in Feb. 1841. Temme arrived at the home of his widow, in March 19, 1841. The Widow Cowles moved to West Hartford and Temme lived with the family of Dr. Chauncey Brown during most of her stay in Farmington.

The Woodford Newell Strong House is actually several homes on one property. The Census of 1840 shows that Pomeroy Strong and Dr. Chauncey Brown's signature on the line underneath. This census does not list the address, but the location of signatures probably indicates residence on the same property.

Mrs. Julia Strong Brown wrote a story about her care of "Tamie" and included a beautiful description of this young girl. This article was printed in *The Farmington Magazine* in Feb. 1901.

Dr. Charles Leach, retired physician, professor at UCONN and member of the FHS also went through his own research on Dr. Chauncey Brown and came to the same conclusion. We do not know if Dr. Brown was a known abolitionist, but certainly his wife's actions were that of a caring and kindly nature. In 1841, women were severely restricted from speaking out in public. We have no other primary sources describing the care of the Amistad children in Farmington.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script, appearing to read "KAS", written in dark ink.

Kim A. Silva  
Coordinator, Amistad Tours



**State Historic  
Preservation Office**



**DEC D**  
State of Connecticut  
Department of Economic and  
Community Development

Date: June 6, 2012

Ms. Joanne Lawson, President  
Farmington Historical Society  
P.O. Box 1645  
Farmington, CT 06034

Subject: Chauncey Brown House – Woodford Newell Strong House  
809 Farmington Avenue/Route 4  
Farmington, Connecticut

Dear Ms. Lawson,

We are pleased to inform The Farmington Historical Society that the Connecticut Freedom Trail Site Selection Committee voted unanimously to list the Chauncey Brown House, located at 809 Farmington Avenue, in Farmington, Connecticut on the Connecticut Freedom Trail at its May 11, 2012 meeting held in East Haddam, Connecticut.

The Connecticut Freedom Trail is a listing of sites with important historic associations to the struggle towards freedom of African Americans in Connecticut. Listing on the Connecticut Freedom Trail provides honorary recognition and raises awareness about the importance of preserving Connecticut's irreplaceable architectural and historical heritage. More information about the Connecticut Freedom Trail may be found at <http://www.ctfreedomtrail.org>.

We have enclosed a CFT plaque for the property.

Sincerely,

Daniel Forrest  
Deputy State Historic Preservation Officer