



Address: 265-267 North Main Street

Contemporary Building Name: 265-267 North Main Street

Historic Building Name: I. Allen House

Present Use: Residential

Historic Use: Residential

Architectural style: Greek Revival / Italianate

Date constructed: 1849 (Assessor)

Description: In the three-bay gable end of the house which faces the street, the doorway to the south is framed by plain pilasters and entablature. The two windows to the north are full-height, 6-over-9, under peaked caps. The three second-floor 6-over-6 windows also have peaked caps. In the attic the peaked cap of the paired small windows is more pronounced than on the lower floors. A one-story wing is set back to the south. A porch in the angle of the L has an almost flat roof supported by turned posts and one sawn bracket. Two small 3-over-3 windows are under the eaves of the ell. Three more of these small windows appear on the north elevation, second floor. The property is 67.8 acres.

Significance: The mixture of Greek Revival and Italianate features in the I. Allen House is consistent with its 1849 date of construction. By this mid-century year, the Greek Revival style was nearing the end of its epoch, while popularity of the Italianate was strong. Accordingly, in this house the plain Greek Revival doorway was present along with the peaked window caps characteristic of the Italianate, the whole in a Greek Revival temple-form three-bay front elevation, but without a Greek Revival pediment. The 1869 atlas (inset, Plate 2) identifies the textile enterprise at the northwest corner of North Main Street and Chapman Road as "Allen & Hanks Cotton Mill, Manf.s of Satinet Warp." The house at 265-267 North Main Street carries the name of I. Allen. E.P. Hanks is next door to the north, while rows of Allen & Hanks houses run along both North Main Street and Chapman Road. Since satinet is a fabric with cotton warp and woolen filling, the term cotton mill is correct for a manufacturer of satinet warp. Such two-fiber fabrics fall under the generic term of union, suggesting that when the mill earlier had been known as Union Mills it was producing a similar product. In the 1869 atlas the name Marlborough Mill is associated with a building on the east side of North Main Street.

Sources: Ransom, David. Historical and Architectural Resources Survey, Town of Marlborough, Connecticut. April 1998.

Notes: