340 Main Street

Built in 1811, the Major Martin Fearing House was presented by Fearing as a wedding gift to his wife. Its original form is described as a “half house”: an asymmetrical, reduced version of a colonial dwelling, organized around a substantial central chimney and intended to allow a matching half to be added later. That distinctive form remains an important part of its architectural identity.

The exterior retains original front windows and dentil molding around the entrance. Inside, sliding shutters retract into recesses in the parlor walls. Original ceiling beams survive in the kitchen, while a dining-room corner cabinet retains its early milk-paint finish. These features preserve evidence of the house’s construction and interior treatments beneath successive renovations.

Alterations in the late nineteenth century introduced bay windows and a kitchen fireplace. The house also developed an unusually complex circulation pattern, with six sets of small winding stairs. A major renovation in 2023 created a new central staircase and repurposed former stair spaces: one became a pantry, while another was converted into a coat closet.

Reuse of existing materials was central to the recent work. Reclaimed beams were incorporated into the mudroom, and wood recovered from the property was used for doors and paneling. Sliding pantry doors likewise came from the property. New clerestory windows brought additional daylight into the mudroom, while paneled walls and an opening with interior windows reshaped the den.

The resulting house retains visible elements of its early nineteenth-century origins alongside later additions and carefully reused materials. Its history is expressed in the contrast between the compact original plan and the more connected spaces created through renovation.