Prominently located at the southwest corner of Elm and Main streets, the Samuel Frisbie House sits on a well-shaded lot trimmed by a decorative wooden fence. The bordering neighborhood contains a variety of Domestic-, Greek Revival-, Italianate-, and Queen Anne-style dwellings which date from the mid-nineteenth to early twentieth centuries.
Built between 1863 and 1869, this three-bay, Italianate-style dwelling is capped with a low-pitched hip roof with wide overhanging eaves. The facade exhibits a central projecting pavilion which is highlighted by an arched window and heavy cornice returns in the gable end. The single-story entry porch is enhanced by classical columns and ornate wood moldings. Set in an elaborate surround, the entry door features a single-pane transom and sidelights. To the east of the entry is a small open porch with turned columns, brackets, and lattice work. Also note the two-story bay window found on the facade. Another characteristic of the Italianate style is the elongated first-story windows. The east elevation displays an exterior brick chimney flanked by a two-story bay window to the north and single-story bay window to the south. Note the eyebrow windows placed beneath the overhanging eaves. An elaborate single-story open porch with stick balustrade and scroll-sawn detailing enhances a rear entrance.

Samuel Frisbie built this large dwelling house between April of 1863, when the lot was purchased by his wife, and 1869, when a building appears on the Baker and Tilden Map (FLR 58:459). Frisbie (1838-1897), a prominent citizen of Unionville, was born in Southington, Connecticut to Samuel and Martha (Atwater) Frisbie. His grandfather was Ichabod Culpepper Frisbie, a Revolutionary War soldier from Southington. As a young man Frisbie attended local public schools and later Lewis Academy in Southington. After finishing his education, he taught school for a number of years before being hired by the Upson Nut Company as a bookkeeper in 1860. In 1866 Frisbie was named director and treasurer of the firm, two positions he held for many years. The Upson Nut Company, manufacturers of forged bolts and nuts, was one of Unionville’s most successful enterprises. Founded in 1854 by Dwight Langdon, the firm employed as many as 200 workers before being sold to Republic Iron and Steel in 1920. Frisbie, an influential member of the First Church of Christ, Congregational, Unionville was active in state wide politics, serving 5 terms in the General Assembly between 1877 and 1897 and as a member of the local school board. In 1863 he married Minerva (Upson) Langdon, widow of Dwight Langdon and daughter of Seth and Martha (Brooks) Upson. In 1911 the house was inherited by her nephews, Samuel, Walter and Henry Graham, and remained in the Graham family until 1935 (FLR 74:261).

A fine example of Italianate-style architecture, the Samuel Frisbie House is historically significant for its association with Samuel Frisbie and the Upson Nut Company.