**Historic Resources Inventory**

**State of Connecticut**

**Connecticut Historical Commission**

59 South Prospect Street, Hartford, Connecticut 06106

(203) 566-3005

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**Identification**

1. **Building Name (Common):** Platner and Porter Building

2. **Town City:** Farmington

3. **Village:** Unionville

4. **Street and Number (Name or Location):** 127 Perry Street

5. **Owner(s):** Orzech, Theodore A. and Jeanette

6. **Use (Present):** Residence

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**Accessibility**

- Exterior visible from public road: Yes
- Interior accessible: Yes

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**Style of Building**

- Nineteenth-century vernacular

**Date of Construction:** Between 1855-1869

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**Material(s) (Indicate use or location when appropriate):**

- Brick
- Fieldstone
- Board & Batten
- Stucco
- Aluminum

**Structural System**

- Wood frame
- Post and beam
- Balloon

**Roof (Type):**

- Gable
- Shed
- Hip
- Round

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**Condition (Structural):**

- Excellent

**Integrity:**

- Modern balustrade

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**Related Outbuildings or Landscape Features:**

- Barn
- Shop
- Garden

**Surrounding Environment:**

- Open land
- Residential

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This dwelling, set back from the road, faces east onto Perry Street. It is partly shaded by tall trees and woods are visible to the west.
17 OTHER NOTABLE FEATURES OF BUILDING OR SITE (INTERIOR AND/ OR EXTERIOR)

The mid-nineteenth century vernacular-style house, oriented ridge-to-street with a center cross gable has a central interior chimney and two-over-two sash throughout with heavy, second story box framing. The three-bay east facade displays a small window in the cross gable end; the central bay with a first floor entrance is off center. A shed-roofed entrance porch exhibits scroll-turned posts, stickwork frieze and a modern solid balustrade. The two-bay south facade has a window and truss in the simply trimmed gable end.

18 ARCHITECT

19 HISTORICAL OR ARCHITECTURAL IMPORTANCE

This building was built by the Platner and Porter Manufacturing Company on Perry Street in Unionville between 1855 and 1869 on a one acre tract purchased from canal builder James Cowles in 1853 (FLR 53:204). The land, "being four lots of one quarter acre each as described on a plan made by J. Porter," was probably marked for mill workers' housing which never developed. William Platner joined with Samuel Q. Porter of Lee, Massachusetts, in 1848 to operate a paper mill at the former Stone and Carrington Mill site. During the 1850s they leased additional water power from James Cowles, built a second mill, and were responsible for building workers' housing in other nearby areas. This house was erected on the northernmost lot of the Perry Street property sometime after 1855 and by 1869 when it appears on a map of that year. The dwelling was evidently used as an office building though it resembles a house. In 1878 as a part of a massive real estate transfer Platner and Porter sold this property to Franklin Chamberlin, a Hartford lawyer, married to Samuel Q. Porter's sister Mary Weld Porter (FLR 62:524). Just before his death in 1896 Franklin agreed to sell the property with "house and lot (known as the old office building)" to Michael McMahon, and Mary Chamberlin honored the agreement in 1899 (FLR 70:669; 71:432). Michael transferred the property title to his wife Mary (Knight) McMahon and the property remained among their children after Mary's death in 1943 until 1966 (FPR 40:487; FLR 182:14).

The former Platner and Porter office building marks the expansion of the company's paper mill operations in mid-nineteenth century Unionville and is one of the earlier structures built on Perry Street.

SOURCES


PHOTOGRAPHER
Alex Paredes

DATE
5/85

VIEW
NW

NEGATIVE ON FILE
5:26A

PHOTO

NAME
Gilbert Ramos

DATE
8/85

COMPILED BY
Greater Middletown Preservation Trust

ADDRESS
27 Washington Street, Middletown, CT

21 THREATS TO BUILDING OR SITE

X None known. □ Highways □ Vandalism □ Developers □ Other

□ Renewal □ Private □ Deterioration □ Zoning □ Explanation