**Identification**

1. **Building Name (Common)**
   - Platner and Porter Rental House #3

2. **Town City**
   - Farmington

3. **Village**
   - Unionville

4. **County**
   - Hartford

5. **Owner(s)**
   - Dufour, Patricia G. and Alan E.

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

7. **Accessibility**
   - Exterior visible from public road: Yes
   - Interior accessible: Yes

8. **Style of Building**
   - Nineteenth-century vernacular
   - Date of construction: 1849

9. **Material(s)**
   - Wood shingle
   - Brick
   - Other (specify)

10. **Structural System**
    - Gable
    - Post and beam
    - Other (specify)

11. **Roof (Type)**
    - Gable
    - Shed
    - Other (specify)

12. **Number of Stories**
    - 1 1/2

13. **Approximate Dimensions**
    - 46 x 28; 11 x 30

14. **Condition (Structural)**
    - Excellent

15. **Integrity**
    - On original site: Yes
    - Moved: No
    - Scattered buildings visible from site

16. **Surrounding Environment**
    - Scattered buildings visible from site

**Description**

Located along the north side of Maple Avenue, the Platner and Porter Rental House #3 faces onto the Alice "Clover" Pinney Memorial Park. Late nineteenth- and early twentieth-century vernacular dwellings dominate the surrounding Unionville's commercial center is situated to the east.
Built in 1849 this L-shaped, nineteenth-century, vernacular-style building exhibits several elements of the Greek Revival style, including the small attic windows and a wide entablature beneath the eaves. The entablature, which was originally flush-boarded, has been covered with wood shingles. The gable-to-street wing features a single-story bay window and raking cornice with slight returns in the gable end. A modest, single-story, open porch with square posts and simple balustrade extends across the facade of the ridge-to-street wing. Note the decorative scroll sawn columns found on the southwest and northwest corners of the porch. A small, shed-roof ell with a Victorian period porch extends from the rear elevation.

In June of 1849, William Platner and Samuel Q. Porter purchased a two-acre lot in the heart of Unionville from John T. Norton, James Cowles, Abner Bidwell, and Augustus Cowles for $500 (FLR 52:2). It was on this lot that Platner and Porter erected four small rental dwellings between 1849 and 1855 for employees of their paper mill. Established in 1848, the Platner and Porter Paper Mill manufactured writing and book paper. It was located along the south side of School and Perry streets. Under the management of Platner and Porter, the firm eventually became one of Unionville’s most successful and largest employers. By 1880 the factory employed 120 men and women, many of whom were English, Scottish and Irish immigrants. Shortly before both men retired from the firm, they sold all of the company’s tenement and boarding houses, including this one, to Franklin Chamberlin of Hartford in 1878 (FLR 62:524). Mr. Chamberlin continued to rent the dwelling to local factory employees and their families. In 1898 the estate of Franklin Chamberlin devised this house to his wife, Mary W. Chamberlin (FLR 74:40), who shortly thereafter sold it to Margaret Carney of Unionville (FLR 71:362).

Although this structure has been modified somewhat over the years, it still retains some Greek Revival-style characteristics and is historically significant for its association with the Platner and Porter Paper Mill.