Robotham, George, House  

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>TOWN</th>
<th>CITY</th>
<th>VILLAGE</th>
<th>COUNTY</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Farmington</td>
<td>Unionville</td>
<td></td>
<td>Hartford</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

186 Main Street

Rourke, Daniel T.  

Public ☐  Private ☒

Residence ☒  Residence ☐

Italianate 1871

Clapboard ☒  Asbestos Siding ☐  Brick ☐  Other (Specify)

Wood Shingle ☐  Asphalt Siding ☐  Fieldstone ☐  Cobblestone ☐  Stucco ☐  Concrete ☐  Cut stone ☒

Brownstone foundation

Wood frame ☒  Post and beam ☐  Balloon ☒  Other (Specify)

Load bearing masonry ☒  Structural iron or steel ☐

Gable ☐  Flat ☒  Mansard ☐  Monitor ☐  Sawtooth ☐  Gambrel ☐  Shed ☐  Hip ☐  Round ☐  Other (Specify)

Load bearing masonry ☐  Structural iron or steel ☒

Wood Shingle ☒  Roll ☐  Asphalt ☐  Tin ☐  Slate ☐  Asphalt shingle ☐  Built up ☐  Tile ☐  Other (Specify)

Wood Shingle ☒  Roll ☐  Asphalt ☐  Tin ☐  Slate ☐

2 36 x 50

Excellent ☐  Good ☒  Fair ☒  Deteriorated ☐  Excellent ☒  Good ☐  Fair ☐  Deteriorated

On original ☒  Moved ☐  Yes ☒  No ☐

Barn ☐  Shed ☒  Garage ☒  Other landscape features or buildings (Specify)

Carriage house ☐  Shop ☐  Garden ☐

Open land ☐  Woodland ☒  Residential ☒  Scattered buildings visible from site ☐

Commercial ☐  Industrial ☐  Rural ☒  High building density

Located in the center of Unionville in an area comprised of historic buildings from various periods, the George Robotham House faces south onto Main Street. Bidwell Square borders the property on the west and the Greek Revival-style "stonehouse" abuts the property on the east.
The George and Isabella Robotham House is a fine example of Italianate-style architecture in Farmington. The three-bay facade exhibits a single-story, wrap-around porch enhanced by square posts with beveled corners set on wooden pedestals and paired brackets trimming the eaves. Lattice work adorns the base of the porch. The central entry door is set in a modest surround and is flanked by floor length, six-paned sash. Set in a decorative surround, the first floor windows protrude approximately four inches and are embellished with elaborately carved panels. The second floor windows exhibit two-over-two sash and louvered shutters. The broad overhanging eaves are supported by ornate paired brackets. Between each pair of brackets, eyebrow windows are set into the flushboarded entablature. A single-story ell extends from the northwest elevation.

In August of 1870 Abner Bidwell sold this parcel of land to Frank Robotham for $200 (FLR 61:349). Frank quit-claimed the plot to Isabella V. Robotham (1838-1915) in May of 1871 (FLR 59:685). In the following December Isabella and her brother, George Robotham (1846-1877), mortgaged the land "with a new dwelling house" to the Farmington Savings Bank for $2000 (FLR 63:103). They were the children of Irish immigrants William Robotham (1800-1868) and Maria (Rogers) Robotham (1807-1890). George, who was born in Ireland, is recorded in the vital statistics as a restauranteur (FVS 2:485). He and his wife, Rosetta (Peck) Robotham (1840-1903) had one daughter, Georgia born in 1876. There is little historical information available concerning Isabella V. Robotham, although we do know she operated a millinery and dressmaking shop from the house. A few months after the house was completed Andrew J. Payne attached a $1500 lien on the property "for services rendered in the construction of a dwelling house built between August 24, 1871 and November 30, 1871" (FLR 62:170). It is not recorded when the lien was satisfied. Isabella quit-claimed her half interest in the land to George in 1874 (FLR 64:232) although she continued to reside there. Her name and occupation appear at this location on the 1878 "Bird's-eye-view" Map done by O.H. Bailey and Co., Publishers of Boston. Upon George's death his wife Rosie received her portion of the house and property (FLR 62:515). Nineteen years later in 1897 Isabella and Rosie Robotham sold the land and dwelling to Irish immigrant Daniel Rourke (FLR 71:273). Mr. Rourke, an active member in Unionville's Catholic Church, owned a number of dwellings in this section of the village and presumably rented some out to local factory workers. (CONT.)

* SOURCES:

* PHOTOGRAPHER:
  Alex Paredes

* DATE
  5/85
19. Continued

The house today is owned by Rourke's grandson, Daniel T. Rourke.

Fully Italianate in character, the George and Isabella V. Robotham House makes a historical and architectural contribution to Unionville's historic village.