The Platner and Porter Rental House #2 faces southwest onto the intersection of School Street and Maple Avenue. The surrounding neighborhood contains similar single- and multi-family dwellings erected when Unionville was developing as the town's industrial center.
Erected in 1849 this small nineteenth-century, vernacular-style cottage is influenced by the Greek Revival style. Oriented gable-to-street, the one-over-three bay facade exhibits a later side-hall, gable-roofed entry porch which is enhanced by a raking cornice with slight returns, half-timbering, fanlight, sidelights and fluted pilasters. The gable end features slender paired windows and a raking cornice which terminates in slight cornice returns. Six-over-six sash are found throughout the rest of the house and all windows are accented by pronounced wooden lintels and sills. Although the building has been stuccoed, a wide entablature is still visible below the eaves on the east and west elevations. Another feature of the Greek Revival-style on the side elevations are the small eyebrow windows. A single-story ell with ridge-to-street, sloping roof has been added onto the west elevation. The entry door on the ell features

William Platner and Samuel Q. Porter of the Platner and Porter Paper Mill erected this rental house in 1849 on land they purchased from John T. Norton, James Cowles, Abner Bidwell, and Augustus Cowles (FLR 52:2). James L. Cowles in the Memorial History of Hartford County writes "The new mill and tenements erected by Messrs. Platner and Porter were models of neatness and good taste" (p. 201). It was beneficial to a firm to have their employees live near the factory and Platner and Porter, along with other local firms, erected a number of rental houses in the center of the village. The firm was established in 1848 when Platner and Porter purchased the paper mill of Stone and Carrington. The firm, which produced writing and book paper, grew and prospered over the years and became one of Unionville's largest employers. In 1860 the firm was reorganized and incorporated with a capital of $85,000 and employed 69 workers. Many of those who worked for the company were English, Scottish, and Irish immigrants. By 1880 the firm had 120 employees, 43 of whom were women. Both Platner and Porter had retired by 1880. In 1887 the mill closed and reopened two years later under new management although the name remained Platner and Porter. In 1889 the firm was purchased by the American Writing Paper Company and manufactured paper until 1930. This dwelling was sold to F. Chamberlin in 1878 (FLR 62:524) and he continued to rent it to local laborers. Helen Way (1850-1913) bought the house in 1882 (FLR 65:594) and it remained in the Way family until 1914. (SEE CONT.)

Sources:
The Platner and Porter Rental House #2 is significant as an early example of local employee housing and for its association with the prominent firm of Platner and Porter. It is also of interest for its modifications in the 1920s by local builder, George Bean.

17. cont.
an arched surround and sidelights. The east elevation displays a large arched window with fanlight. An integral rear ell extends from the north elevation. In the 1920s the house was remodeled, enlarged, and stuccoed by Unionville builder, George Bean.