Facing south onto Main Street, the Griswold-Mulrooney House sits on a well-maintained 68' x 150' lot. The surrounding residential neighborhood consists of other historic dwellings built in the mid-nineteenth century when Unionville was developing as a small manufacturing community.
Built around 1875, this well-preserved, L-shaped, Italianate-style home exhibits a single-story, wrap-around open veranda with ornate fluted posts resting on decorative pedestals, elaborate cutwork brackets and delicate spindlework balustrade. The eaves of the porch feature small paired brackets. The first-floor, two-over-two sash are floor length and are set in a modest surround as is the simple facade door. The east elevation is embellished with two highly ornate, single-story bay windows adorned with paired brackets, decorative woodwork and recessed panels. The roof's wide overhanging eaves are supported by decorative paired brackets. The remaining two-over-two sash are accented by bracketed sills and a molded surround. Two ells extend from the rear elevation.

The early history of this house is difficult to ascertain. In 1867 William Griswold sold his son, Edwin D. Griswold, his homestead of 18 acres for $6000 (FLR 60:587). When Edwin sold the same 18 acres to Frances H. Shannon three years later (1870), the purchase price had increased to $11,500 (FLR 61:311). Since a house does not appear at this location on the Baker and Tilden Atlas of 1869, it may be safe to assume that it was built in 1870. Between 1870 and 1874 the property passed through a number of owners. Lucius D. Pond bought the eighteen-acre piece in October of 1874 (FLR 65:47). In 1875 Mrs. Ann Mulrooney, the widow of Matthew Mulrooney, purchased this quarter-acre parcel of land with a dwelling house from Lucius D. Pond for $3000 (FLR 65:153). Born in Dublin, Ireland, Matthew Mulrooney (1823-1862) brought his young family to the United States around 1858 and lived in Holyoke, Massachusetts, Manchester, Green, and Windsor Locks, Connecticut, before settling in Unionville. He had been trained in the papermaking trade in his native land and worked in a local paper mill, probably Plater and Porter, before his sudden death in 1862. Ann (Kearney) Mulrooney (1817-1885), also a native of Dublin, was left to raise their four children, Mary Ann (1844-1934), Thomas, Sarah (1855-1920), and Elizabeth (1857-1898). Both Mary Ann and Thomas helped support the family by working for the Plater and Porter Paper Mill, which later became the American Writing Paper Company. The three unmarried daughters remained in the house after their mother's death in 1885. Mary continued to work at the paper mill and Sarah was the organist and choir director for St. Mary's Catholic Church.

Jennie M. Burnett and resided on Elm Street in Unionville. In 1942 the property was sold to Thomas M. Heafy (FLR 96:410-411) and it remained in that family until 1967 when the present owners purchased the house (FLR 186:102).

This house features many distinguishing characteristics of the Italianate style, including low-pitched roof, elaborate open porch, and bracketed overhanging eaves. It has historical significance for its association with the Mulrooney family, one of the area's earliest and prominent Irish immigrant families.