Standing on a large, open lot shaded with large pines and maples, the Frederick M. Hart House faces east onto Plainville Avenue. Modern development encroaches upon the property from the south and north, although some historic dwellings remain to the east.
Capped by a low-pitched hip-roof, this Italianate-style dwelling exhibits a three-bay facade. The northern portion of the facade features a single-story, rectangular bay window adorned with square corner pilasters and brackets beneath the eaves. The central facade door displays a bracketed doorhood. Original six-over-six sash remain throughout the rest of the building, although a modern paired window has replaced the original on the first-story of the facade. The wide overhanging eaves are supported by large, decorative, Italianate-style brackets. A single-story ell with an interior brick chimney extends from the rear elevation and a modern, screened-in, single-story porch has been added to the south elevation. Standing to the rear of the house is a large, 2½-story wood-frame barn.

Frederick Moses Hart (1826-1911) erected this house between 1866 and 1867 on land he purchased from Edward S. Collins (FLR 62:6) and Harry Falcott (FLR 59:442). Born in Burlington, Hart was the youngest son of Ambrose and Chloe Hart. In 1852 he married Minerva C. Hart (1832-1862) of Burlington. Three years after his wife's death, Hart married in 1865, Mrs. Sarah A. (Symth) Hamblin, a native of Springfield, Massachusetts. A stone mason by trade, Hart is also recorded as being a "building mover". During the Civil War he served in the Union Army. In November of 1867 Hart contracted with the town of West Hartford to build a stone arched bridge for $11,000 to be completed by July 1, 1868. The contract stated that Hart "hereby agrees to forfeit and release to West Hartford the house and lot at Unionville, which he has given to the town of West Hartford as a security for the performance of this agreement" (FLR 57:606). Between November of 1867 and January of 1868, Hart mortgaged the house and land to the Town of West Hartford three times as a security bond to build the bridge (FLR 60:655, 60:664, and 62:34-35). Upon his failure to do so, the Town of West Hartford transferred the mortgage to Cromwell Barnes of Burlington in May of 1869 for $1000 (FLR 62:35), but Barnes quit-claimed the property back to Hart in July of that year (FLR 59:563). The Hart family remained in the house until 1890, when the Farmington Savings Bank foreclosed on a mortgage (FLR 70:184). The next owners were Frank A. Tryon and Truman Sanford of the firm Tryon and Sanford (FLR 69:167). In 1893 James Murphy (1863-1940) purchased the property. Born in

Unionville, Murphy was the son of Irish immigrants John and Catherine (Griffin) Murphy. Employed as a polisher in a cutlery factory, he was married to Margaret Burns and they raised two daughters; Anna and Dorothy. The house remains in the Murphy family today.

Relatively unaltered since its construction, the Frederick M. Hart house is a fine example of Italianate style architecture in Unionville and it derives historical significance for its association with the Hart family.