The Upson Nut Company sits on the south side of Mill Street in Unionville. To the south is the Farmington River and to the north is an area consisting of commercial businesses and housing constructed during the 1960s. To the east is South Main Street which leads to the bridge crossing the Farmington River. The Union School lies to the west.
The Upson Nut Company Complex is made up of primarily three buildings: a gable-roofed brick building, a flat-roofed brick building, and a nineteenth-century vernacular residence now an office. The oldest building is the gable-roofed brick building. Two stories in height, it features many bays that are arch shaped in design and recessed from the exterior. The industrial-type windows existing are not original. The second building, a flat-roofed brick building is extremely long and measures two stories in height. Its six-bay facade is enhanced by a stepped parapet. Once again the arched windows with industrial-type windows are a prominent feature. A modern shed-roofed addition stems off the east elevation. The office (once a residence) is aluminum sided and retains none of its original details or materials. Note its cross-gabled roof, modern windows, and exterior brick chimney. Of further interest is the Italianate-style arched window in the cross gable.

The nut and bolt works that Unionville became so well-known for began in the 1850s. Dwight Landgon (1827-1860) began production of the first nuts and bolts in Unionville around 1854. Although the building which housed this original activity does not exist, it is known that Landgon employed his brother-in-law, Andrew S. Upson (1835-1905) as a wagon driver who sold carriage bolts. Sales were successful and after Langdon's death in 1860 George Dunham (1830-1918) entered a partnership with Upson with a capital investment of $15,000. The name of the company was changed to the Union Nut Company in 1864. By this time the first industrial building had been built and other buildings were added to the site. Andrew Upson served as president and treasurer and the other stockholders were George Dunham, Samuel Frisbie, and Dr. William Sage. It is said that Upson supplied the financial needs of the company and Dunham invented the machines necessary for production. In 1860 400,000 bolts and 600,000 meat sticks were manufactured employing 35 men and 3 women. The industrial complex undoubtedly had grown for by 1872 the company built a new factory in Cleveland which employed about 1200 people. The company had become one of the country's largest manufacturers of nuts and bolts. Upon Upson's death, the company was left to his two sons and daughter Mary Upson Rose. In 1920 the family sold the company to Bourne and Fuller, which later became part of the Republic Iron and Steel Company. The water rights were not included in the sale and went to the Union Water Power Company and later to the Union Electric Light and Power Company. The belt hook unit was sold to William Duff and later Richard Salting. The rule department was purchased by the Stanley Works of New Britain. Around 1925 the buildings were occupied by the LaPoint (see cont. pg.)


Plasco Mold Company. In 1946 Nicholas Martinelli and several partners started the Pioneer Steel Ball Company. During the 1955 flood, several of the buildings were destroyed and a boiler exploded. Repairs were made and the plant continues operations today.

The Upson Nut Company Complex has both architectural and historical significance. It remains one of two nineteenth-century industrial complexes in Unionville and has close ties with the development of industry in Farmington.