Sited on the south side of Merriman Street, the John A. Merriman House #1 appears close to the road. Other domestic buildings dating from the nineteenth and early twentieth centuries bound the property.
This two-bay, cube-formed building illustrates features typical of the Italianate style. Its front facade displays a one-story open entry portico supported by square posts. Its entablature contains brackets. On the northwest corner is a rectangular bay window with a shed roof, entablature, and brackets. The west facade possesses a three-sided bay window highlighted by similar details. The overhanging eaves reveal a bracketed cornice with half vent windows. Two-over-two sash are found throughout the house. Modern alterations are minimal: a one-story, enclosed addition on the east elevation, and a connecting breezeway and garage on the west elevation.

In 1874 John A. Merriman (1832-1918), a farmer, purchased 25 acres of land for $1500 from Eli D. Preston (1804-1887), owner of the saw and machine shop on Roaring Brook (FLR 61:667). Merriman served as Unionville's First Selectman in 1888 breaking off the political control of Farmington over Unionville. This house does not appear on the 1878 Bailey Map, but probably was built around 1880 after Merriman's passway became Merriman Street. During the same time, Merriman sold off many acres of the surrounding land. By 1893 his son, Garius A. Merriman (1855-1916), acquired one-half interest in his father's 30 acres and buildings (FLR 68:11). Three years later G.A. Merriman mortgaged the ½ acre and house (FLR 71:268), followed shortly by the sale of the property to Frank S. Brewer (FLR 71:700). Brewer sold the property to Ada H. Williams in 1914 (FLR 78:467). Since that time, it has changed hands several times.

The John A. Merriman House #1 contributes to the historic character of the streetscape due to its preservation of original details and is significant for its association with the Merriman family.

Sources: