The Eli D. Preston House sits on a rise of a hill on the east side of West Avon Road. Nestled among large trees it faces southwest. Roaring Brook lies directly west of the house.
This Greek-Revival style building features three bays, an elaborate door surround, and a heavy pediment with a rectangular attic window. Six-over-six sash are found throughout the house. A two-story addition extends off the east elevation. This ell with its open porches, bannisters, and supports is visible on the 1878 map. A modern shed-roofed dormer remains on the east side of the roof on the main block.

In 1843 Cornelius R. Williams quit-claimed 1½ acres with buildings to Eli D. Preston (FLR 45:476). Eli Dewey Preston (1804-1887) was born in Harwington to John S. and Aurelia (Dewey) Preston. He engaged in clock manufacturing around 1820 in partnership with Williams and Orton, but by 1840 had established a successful lumber business operating a saw mill and machine shop on Roaring Brook just west of West Avon Road. Eli's brother had also quit-claimed to him a 25 acre tract of land for $1300 (FLR 45:461) about the same time. Both tracts of land had been purchased in 1840 by Eli and Noah Preston and Cornelius R. Williams from Timothy Cowles for $1300 (FLR 47:290). Upon the death of Eli and his wife, Chloe (Mallory) (1803-1881), their son Edward M. Preston (1837-1919) inherited the house and adjoining land (FPR 16:502). Edward's first wife, who he married in 1857, was Esther H. Curtiss (1838-1908). He later married Anna (Kimberly) Goodman (1853-1909). The house remained in the family until 1940 when it was sold by Frank Foster, executor of Edward N. Preston's estate (FLR 94:302).

The Eli D. Preston House contributes to the historical industrial development of Unionville's industry due to its association with the Preston family.

Sources:

Photographer: Alex Paredes
View: NE
NEGATIVE ON FILE: 5:10A
DATE: 5/85

NE 5:10A

Name: Ruth A. Bedrosian
DATE: 8/85

Organization: Greater Middletown Preservation Trust
Address: 27 Washington Street, Middletown, CT

Threats to Building or Site:
X None known. □ Highways □ Vandalism □ Developers □ Other
□ Renewal □ Private □ Deterioration □ Zoning □ Explanation