### HISTORIC RESOURCES INVENTORY

**BUILDING AND STRUCTURES**

**STATE OF CONNECTICUT**
**CONNECTICUT HISTORICAL COMMISSION**

59 SOUTH PROSPECT STREET, HARTFORD, CONNECTICUT 06106

(203) 566-3005

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**1. BUILDING NAME (Common)**

Platner and Porter Company Rental House #5

**2. TOWN CITY**

Farmington

**VILLAGE**

Unionville

**COUNTY**

Hartford

**3. STREET AND NUMBER (and or location)**

51 Maple Avenue

**4. OWNER(S)**

Peltier, Alfred S. & Margaret S.

**5. USE (Present)**

Residence

**6. ACCESSIBILITY TO PUBLIC:**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>EXTERIOR VISIBLE FROM PUBLIC ROAD</th>
<th>INTERIOR ACCESSIBLE</th>
<th>IF YES, EXPLAIN</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Yes</td>
<td>No</td>
<td>Yes</td>
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**7. STYLE OF BUILDING**

Nineteenth-century vernacular

**DATE OF CONSTRUCTION**

between 1854-1855

**8. MATERIALS (Indicate use or location when appropriate)**

- [X] Clapboard
- [ ] Asbestos Siding
- [ ] Brick
- [X] Other (Specify) cement covered foundation (prob. brick)
- [ ] Wood Shingle
- [ ] Asphalt Siding
- [ ] Fieldstone
- [ ] Board & Batten
- [ ] Stucco
- [ ] Cobblestone
- [ ] Aluminum Siding
- [ ] Concrete Type:
- [ ] Cut stone Type:

**9. STRUCTURAL SYSTEM**

- [X] Wood frame
- [ ] Post and beam
- [ ] balloon
- [ ] Other (Specify)
- [ ] Load bearing masonry
- [ ] Structural iron or steel

**10. ROOF TYPE(s)**

- [X] Gable
- [ ] Flat
- [ ] Mansard
- [ ] Monitor
- [ ] sawtooth
- [ ] Gambrel
- [ ] Shed
- [ ] Hip
- [ ] Round
- [ ] Other (Specify)

**11. NUMBER OF STORIES**

1½

**APPROXIMATE DIMENSIONS**

31 x 22; 16 x 12; 21 x 12

**12. CONDITION (Structural)**

- [X] Excellent
- [ ] Good
- [ ] Fair
- [ ] Deteriorated

**13. INTEGRITY (On original site or moved when transferred)**

- [X] Yes
- [ ] No

**14. RELATED OUTBUILDINGS OR LANDSCAPE FEATURES**

- [ ] Barn
- [X] Shed
- [ ] Garage
- [ ] Other landscape features or buildings (Specify)
- [ ] Carriage house
- [ ] Shop
- [ ] Garden

**15. SURROUNDING ENVIRONMENT**

- [X] Open land
- [ ] Woodland
- [ ] Residential
- [ ] Scattered buildings visible from site
- [ ] Commercial
- [ ] Industrial
- [ ] Rural
- [X] High building density

**16. INTERRELATIONSHIP OF BUILDING AND SURROUNDINGS**

This mill workers' house faces north onto Maple Avenue in a densely populated residential neighborhood.
This ridge-to-street house features a five-bay north facade with two three-paned eyebrows above a modest central, gable-roofed entry porch. Windows have six-over-six sash and are paired in the east and west gable ends. These elevations also each feature a small, gable-roofed one-story ell set back towards the south facade. The ell and main gable ends display a modest cornice and overhanging eaves. There is a small central brick chimney.

In 1848 William Platner and Samuel Q. Porter (1821–1907, b. Lee, Massachusetts) purchased and began to operate the idle Stone and Carrington Paper Mill in Unionville. Their successful production of book paper and fine writing paper in the 1850’s led to the erection of a second mill, increased employment, and in 1860 the incorporation of their business as the Platner and Porter Manufacturing Company. The work force increased, tripling between 1850, and 1860 to 69, and they responded by building workers' housing. In December of 1853 the partners purchased from James Cowles and Abner Bidwell a narrow one-half acre and "20 rods" tract of land along a passway (later Maple Avenue) in the vicinity of their paper mills (FLR 53:203). In the following two years they built three mill workers' houses on this tract as revealed by an 1855 map. In 1878 their company sold the narrow tract of land along with three mill houses to Frank Chamberlin, a Hartford lawyer originally from Lee, Massachusetts (FLR 62:524). When Mary W. Chamberlin inherited her husband's Unionville properties in 1898, the southernmost 1/3 of land with a house had already been sold (FLR 77:40). In 1906 Mary sold the remaining land and two houses to George Burnett who promptly divided the property, selling the northernmost house with its land to his son, John Burnett who died in 1924 (FLR 77:97; 77:98; 70:413). The property since then has passed through a number of owners.

This modest house is an early example of industrial workers' housing and illustrates the growth of industry in Unionville.
