Facing east onto Main Street, the Samuel Q. Porter House lies in the heart of Unionville. Its small landscaped lot is bordered to the east by the First Church of Christ Congregational, Unionville. Small rental dwellings and other public and commercial buildings lie to the south. The surrounding residential neighborhood to the north and west contains similar historic single-family residences erected in the nineteenth and twentieth centuries.
Oriented gable-to-street, this Greek Revival-style dwelling features embellishments of the Italianate style including the facade's bay window, the open porch, and two-story bay window found on the south elevation. The three-bay facade exhibits a fully-pedimented gable end and Greek Revival-style door surround with pilasters supporting a heavy entablature with projecting cornice. A wide entablature extends around the house beneath the eaves. Six-over-six sash are displayed throughout most of the house, although floor-length windows are found on the north elevation. The two-and-one-half-story cross gable also displays a fully pedimented gable end and is enhanced by a small Colonial Revival-style entry portico. A Victorian-period porch with turned columns and balustrade extends from the rear elevation. Alterations include a new interior brick chimney and some modern replacement windows.

The Honorable Samuel Quincy Porter erected this house between 1853 and 1855 on a portion of land he and William Platner purchased from John Norton, James Cowles, Abner Bidwell and Augustus Cowles (FLR 52:2). He received full title to this lot in 1851 (FLR 50:310). Born in Lee, Massachusetts, to Attorney William Porter and Mary Ann (Quincy) Porter, Samuel (1821-1907) came to Unionville in 1847. He and his partner, William Platner, established the Platner and Porter Paper Company in 1847 when they acquired the firm of Stone and Carrington. Incorporated in 1860 with a capital of $85,000, the Platner and Porter Paper Company produced fine writing paper and newsprint, and eventually became one of Unionville's most successful businesses. Samuel retired from the business in 1871. For many years Porter was elected to the State Legislature. Although the records are conflicting, it appears that Porter was married three times. His first wife was the former Maria Hulbert (1827-1855), of Lee, Massachusetts. Little is known about his second wife, Esther H. (1837-1857), to whom he was married for a very short time.

In 1861 Porter married Frances Ann Smith (1842-1897), the daughter of the Rev. James and Mary (Morgan) Smith. Samuel sold the homestead to Frances in 1878, through a third-party (FLR 65:295,296). Upon her death in 1897, the property was willed to their surviving children, subject to the life use and improvement of Samuel (FPR 26:32). In 1912, five years after Samuel's death, the Porter heirs sold the house to Luke A. Parsons (FLR 77:430). The Robotham family owned the property from 1922 to 1940 (FLR 80:333, 94:232). (see cont. pg.

**SOURCES**

Relatively unaltered since its construction, the Samuel Q. Porter House is a typical example of Greek Revival-style architecture which dominated the area from 1835 to 1860. Historically the house is significant for its long association with the Porter family, early Unionville industrialists.