Standing along the south side of Farmington Avenue, the Nelson J. Tuttle House is situated on a small lot bordered to the rear by the Farmington River. The surrounding neighborhood, which lies in the eastern portion of Unionville, contains a variety of late-nineteenth and twentieth-century homes. A modern apartment complex lies across the street to the north.
Built in 1868 this 2½ story, three-bay dwelling is a modest example of the Second Empire style. The facade exhibits a single-story, open porch with square posts, solid balustrade and brackets trimming the eaves. Note the lattice-like porch base. The unadorned central facade door is set in a simple surround and a slight overhang is found between the first and second floors. The original six-over-six sash remain throughout the house. The tall mansard roof exhibits gable-roofed dormers embellished with decorative vergeboard. Scrollsawn brackets supporting the cornice are featured at the roofline. Note the northwest corner exterior stuccoed chimney.

In October of 1868 Nelson J. Tuttle purchased a one acre lot of land in Unionville from his father-in-law Luther T. Parsons (FLR 61:68). Four months later in February of 1869 Tuttle mortgaged the lot with a "new dwelling house" to the Farmington Savings Bank for $1000 (FLR 63:5). Born in Durham, Connecticut in 1836, Tuttle lived in New Britain before settling in Unionville. In 1863 he married Antoinette C. Parsons (b.1841) of Farmington and they had three children. Engaged in farming, Tuttle served as Judge of Probate for a number of years and was active in town affairs. Corydon Woodford of Avon purchased the house from Tuttle in 1872 (FLR 61:492). A farmer and merchant by trade, Woodford never lived in the house and possibly rented it to a local farmer or factory worker. In 1880 George Emerson Gillette (1840-1904) of Avon bought the house (FLR 65:493) and presumably continued to rent it. There is little historical information available concerning Gillette although it is known that he married Alice O. Cushman of Avon (1842-1901). In 1905 the property was distributed to relative Salindas Gillette (FLR 74:121), who in 1905 quit-claimed it to Frederick A. Gillette (FLR 69:687). The house was sold out of the Gillette family in 1907.

Although the house has new siding and some of the historic fabric has been lost it is significant as the only remaining example of the Second-Empire style in Unionville.

SOURCES
