The Erasmus N. Ranson House faces east onto Lovely Street. Other buildings similar in age and style exist to the north and south. Large trees border the property lines.
This nineteenth-century vernacular house is cross shaped in plan. The two-story section features a small porch decorated with a bracketed cornice. A bay window with brackets remains north of the porch on the same wall. Windows are one-over-one sash and a small arched window exists in the gable end. Both the north and south one-story additions are gable roofed. A full-length porch extends along the facade. Note the brick end chimney. Wide overhanging eaves accentuate the building.

In 1868 Daniel B. Johnson (1813-1878) sold a piece of land for $125 to Erasmus N. Ranson (FLR 61:13). Little is known about Ranson except that in April of the same year he purchased additional land south of his first piece from Sarah W. Mills for $200 (FLR 61:14). Sarah Mills (1822-1907) was the wife of furniture maker, Amasa S. Mills (1823-1866). Ranson built this house by 1878 as it appears on the 1878 Bailey Map. In 1883 he purchased a third plot of land, measuring 25' in width along Lovely Street to enlarge his yard for $125 from Sarah W. Mills (FLR 68:21). By 1903 the property passed to Caroline R. King who sold it to the trustees of the Rectory of Christ Church, Episcopal (FLR 71:602). Since that date it has changed owners several times.

The Erasmus N. Ranson House contributes on the streetscape due to its state of preservation.
In 1868 Erasmus Ransom bought two pieces of land totaling about 2/3 acre from Daniel Johnson and Sarah Mills. He must have built this house that year; it is specifically mentioned in a mortgage he took with Nathaniel Hayden in September 1868 (61-62). The house is also shown on the 1869 Baker & Tilden atlas map of Unionville as "Newton Ransom". Later, in 1883, Ransom added another strip of land, purchased from Sarah Mills (68-21), making the property its current size, about .85 acre. See the map on page 2 for details of these transactions.
Nothing is known of Erasmus Ransom. His daughter Caroline married Dr. Emmett C. King, whose biography is in "Genealogical and Family History of the State of Connecticut", p. 1672. According to that account, Dr. King had received his M.D. from New York Homeopathic College in 1880 and then came to Unionville to practice medicine. In September 1880 he leased part of a house and a barn for use as a residence and office from W.W. Pinney (66-40) for a period of three years. In 1885 he married Caroline Ransom. Prentice Collection sketch #221-10 mentions Catherine Root as having worked for Dr. King and his family during the next few years. The Kings apparently lived in this house, as there are no other records of them owning any other property. In 1894 Dr. King went to Denver, Colorado for a year; then he returned and established a general medical practice in Hartford. Apparently the Kings and Mr. Ransom all moved to Hartford; because when Erasmus Ransom died in 1899, the records refer to all of them as living in Hartford.

It is said that C. Robert Hawley and his family lived in this house before they moved to 156 Lovely St. in 1903; if so, then they probably rented this house from Ransom from 1894 to 1903. When Ransom died, Caroline Ransom King inherited the house (74-64). She sold it to the Episcopal Church trustees in 1903. In that document (71-602) there is an interesting note; Caroline King is described as "married since 1877". One wonders why this unusual information was included in a land sale, especially since it contradicts the official record of her marriage, dated Jan. 31, 1885, and would have meant that they were married before Emmett King came to Unionville and Caroline would have been only 16 years old when married.

This house served as the rectory for the Episcopal Church for 53 years. During that time, the rectors were:

Arthur H. Lewis, 1903-1906
David E. Putnam, 1909-1910
Louis I. Belden, 1911-1916
Arthur H. Barrington, 1919-1932
L.M. Brewster, 1932-1933
Louis N. Moore, 1933-1936
Frederick R. Murray, 1937-1940
George E. Daniels, 1940-1943
Raymond E. Finehout, 1943-1945
William Stocks, 1945-1951
William Glazier, 1951-1955

It is assumed that these men lived in this house during their service in Unionville. Miss Jane Rogers, who has been active in the church for her whole life, recalls that Mr. Lewis was active in the Masons,
that one of Mr. Belden's sons married a Case girl and the other son became Canon of Christ Church Cathedral in Hartford, that Mr. Moore was later defrocked, that Mr. Daniels had a hobby of collecting post cards, that Mr. Finehout worked nights in a factory, and that Mr. Glazier is now in Hartford.

In 1956 the Church sold the house to the Kablicks; the church itself is now located on #4 AVON Road in Avon.

Genealogy

Erasmus Ransom: b. ---; m. ---; d. 11-28-1899 in Hartford
wife unknown
Caroline - see below

Caroline Ransom King: b. 1860/61 in Barkhampstead; m. Emmett C. King 1-31-1885; d. ---
Emmett C. King: b. 1852 in Catlin, N.Y., son of Milo & Louisa (Coldgrove) King; d. ---
Robert B. - b. 12-26-1886
Richard R. - b. 12-6-1888