The Alexander and James L. Patterson House sits on the southeast corner of South Road and Patrick Flood Road in the East Farms District of Farmington. Modern development and highway construction has considerably altered the rural character of the area. The I-84/Route 4 connector borders the property directly to the south.
This modest, three-bay, vernacular-style farmhouse displays little in the way of architectural embellishments. Oriented gable-to-street the facade exhibits a side-hall entrance set in a simple surround. Two-over-two sash are exhibited throughout the house and a small brick chimney rises from the center of the roof. A single-story, open porch is found on the east elevation and a one-and-one-half story ell extends from the rear.

This dwelling was erected by Alexander Patterson and his son, John Patterson around 1870 on land they purchased from the estate of Ira Bowen (FLR 62:52). The first mention of a building on the property is in a mortgage deed given by the Pattersons to the Farmington Savings Bank in 1878 (FLR 63:267). Alexander Patterson (1814-1899) was born in Antrim, Ireland to Alexander and Sarah (Kennedy) Patterson. His first wife, Sarah Logan, who was the mother of John, died before the family arrived in Farmington. In 1853 Alexander married Jemima Beecher, a native of New York State. James (1847-1912) and his father were both engaged in farming. The younger Patterson married Sarah M. Lankton (1856-1909), the daughter of Eli and Marietta (Humison) Lankton of Farmington. They had two children: Mabel and Raymond, a sailor who died at the age of 17. Insurance agent, Arthur J. Birdseye (1859-1921) owned the house between 1913 and 1921 (FLR 74:281 and 74:369). The next owner was Patrick Flood (1863-1941), the son of John and Anne (McCahill) Flood. Prior to acquiring this farm, Flood worked at Hill-Stead as a coachman, and as the groundkeeper for the George G. Williams family on Mountain Spring Road. In 1907 he married Maria Quinlon (1877-1924), a native of Ireland. The Floods, who operated a dairy farm on the premises, raised five children who own the house today. During the 1960s the surrounding farmland was impacted by the construction of I-84 and later the Farmington Route 4 connector. The house remains as one of the few tangible links to the area's thriving agricultural past.

This house is pictured on page 142 of the Farmington Book as the residence of James L. Patterson.

Date of construction of the house is not known to the writer, nor the date when the Pattersons acquired the property.

The Pattersons farmed the land. James L. and Sarah Patterson are said to have had two children, Raymond and Mabel. Raymond is said to have died many years ago. Mabel was employed for many years at the Hartford Public Library, said to have been married rather late in life to one Mr. Strickland, and to have died in 1968.

Patrick Flood purchased this property in 1921, which included land extending some distance south and west, and he and his family lived here for many years, and some members still do live here.

When a road was laid out leading west from South Road to Wolf Pit Road, from a little south of the junction of Middle Road, it split the Patrick Flood property, and was given the name of Patrick Flood Road, used for several years as the exit from I-84 leading to South Road.

This house is presently the home of Norbert A. McKeon and his wife, who is the former June Wheeler, granddaughter of Patrick Flood.

See more regarding the Patrick Flood family in the account of 521 Farmington Avenue, where the Flood parents had lived.

October 19, 1973

Joseph Raymond Wheeler, grandson of Patrick Flood, was married on September 14, 1974, at St. Gregory's Church in Bristol, to Cassandra York, daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Frank P. York, Jr., of Terryville. After a honeymoon cruise off the coast of Maine, they took up residence on Farmington Avenue in New Britain. Joseph Wheeler is employed as a supervisor by Mercer and Dunbar Company.

September 28, 1974