Facing east onto Waterville Road, the Elms sits on an irregular shaped landscaped lawn bordered to the rear by a golf course and the Farmington River. The Wallace-Whaples House, which is almost identical in plan, lies just to the north. Other historic dwellings dating from the nineteenth and twentieth century are visible.
This large, single-family dwelling combines the decorative detail of the Colonial Revival style and broad massing of the shingle style. Three stories in height and oriented gambrel-to-street, the house features intersecting cross gambrels on both the north and south elevations. The four-bay facade exhibits a modest, open entry porch with pedimented gable and shingled posts and balustrade. The three-bay second floor features simple one-over-one sash, while the third-story windows display a decorative upper sash, a common characteristic in early twentieth-century domestic architecture. The gambrel end exhibits slight cornice returns and small, rectangular sash in the peak. Porches extend from the west and south elevations.

ARCHITECT

Theodore Peck

BUILDER

Parsons Brothers

HISTORICAL OR ARCHITECTURAL IMPORTANCE

This house was built in 1905 by Noah Wallace to be the residence of Mr. F.E. Belden. Theodore Peck of Waterbury was hired as the architect and Unionville's John Parsons was the contractor. A wealthy entrepreneur, Wallace erected a number of large dwellings along Waterville Road in the late nineteenth- and early twentieth century for speculation (see #9, 15, and 33 Waterville Road). Little is known about Mr. Belden, the first occupant of the house. In 1919 Wallace sold the property to Arthur H. Griswold of Hartford (FLR 79:128-129). Three years later, the house was purchased by Elva A. Simpson (FLR 79:463-64). The next owner was Arthur E. Parsons, who acquired the building in 1926 (FLR 84:19). In 1970 the Estate of Arthur Parsons sold the house to artist Helen D. Perkins (FLR 201:41). A well known local painter, Miss Perkins has served as President of the Hartford Society of Women Painters and was a founder of the Connecticut Watercolor Society.

Architecturally notable as a well-preserved, early-twentieth century house, "The Elms" derives added significance for its association with Noah Wallace, Arthur Parsons, and Helen D. Perkins. The building also contributes to the historic character of Waterville Road.
A tenement house stood on the site of the A.E. Parsons house and in 1896 Mr and Mrs Harry Loomis lived there while their new house on Farmington Ave. was being built. They moved into their new house in (over)
1897 and the tenement which belonged to Harry Loomis was moved to its present location, back of the Loomis house.