The Truman Sanford House faces south on Main Street on a large lot. Old trees are set away from the house to the west. Tall pines stand along the property line on the north and form an expansive backyard.
This cross-planned, Italianate-style house features a low-hipped roof with overhanging eaves, paired brackets, a brick chimney and wide entablatures. All windows are six-over-six sash with second-story windows capped by decorative crowns. The south facade displays second-story paired windows and a first-story protruding bay with tripartite window and sidelights. This south wing is balanced by two side-entry porches on the west and east elevations with overhanging eaves, paired brackets, pilasters, and square column supports. The shallow wing on the east elevation features a bay window. The original cross plan is altered by additions on the north wing.

Truman Sanford was born in 1829 on the North family homestead in Avon just beyond the Farmington line. His parents were Jesse, Jr. and Almira (North) Sanford. Whereas Truman's brother Sherman formed a thriving lumber business in Unionville, Truman established himself through a junior partnership with Frank A. Tryon in the grocery firm of Tryon and Sanford. Truman married Emily Woodford (b.1834, Avon), daughter of Henry and Hulda (Andrews) Woodford. In 1855 Truman bought land from Joshua B. Brewer (FLR 53:526). A house was constructed between that year and 1869, according to the Baker and Tilden 1869 map. No mortgage was taken out on the property, probably due to Truman's financial success as well as his family ties to the lumber business. Truman was involved in district affairs and served as postmaster for a period of time. Truman and Emily had no children of their own, but they raised Marion Hawley, whose father Robert had died in the Civil War. Truman died in 1896, leaving the property to Emily (FLR 74:11). In 1916 she sold the property to James W. and Helen J. Hurley.

The role of the Sanford family in the early development of Unionville makes this house historically significant. Architecturally, it exhibits outstanding Italianate-style details.

Prior to 1855, this property was part of Joshua Brewer's homestead at 90 Main Street. Truman Sanford bought this land from Brewer in September 1855. The house cannot be specifically dated, because Truman Sanford never took out a mortgage on it. It does not appear on the 1855 map, but it can be seen in the 1865 picture of this area of Unionville taken from Hillside Cemetery. So the house was built sometime between 1855 and 1865.

Truman Sanford was one of the three sons of Jesse and Almira Sanford of West Avon. His brother Sherman lived on Lovely Street, and his other brother Edmund lived further north, on Lovely Street in West Avon. Truman Sanford was the junior partner with Frank Tryon in the Tryon & Sanford store in the brick building at the fork of Main & Lovely Streets, a building which is now the Masonic Hall. Truman and his wife Emily had no children of their own; but they raised Marion Hawley, whose father had been killed in the Civil War. Marion eventually married their nephew Frank and lived on Lovely Street too.
Samuel Pepper, in Hurlburt's "Town Clerks and their Times", says that Truman Sanford acted as postmaster during the time when George Richards was officially postmaster and could no longer handle the job by himself. Truman was a stockholder in the Unionville Parsonage Association when it was formed in 1864, so he must have been active in the Congregational Church. He also owned a half interest in Frederick Crum's saw manufacturing business from 1870 until 1877, at which time they sold the factory to the Union Nut Company.

When Truman Sanford died in 1896, ownership of this house passed to his wife Emily. She sold the house to James & Helen Hurley in 1916. James Hurley apparently was a trolley conductor.

Genealogy

Truman Sanford: b. 9-27-1829 in Avon, son of Jesse, Jr., and Almira North Sanford; d. 1-8-1896
Emily Woodford Sanford: b. 3-23-1834 in Avon, dau of Henry & Hulda Andrews Woodford; d. 5-26-1926

children: none, but raised Marion Hawley - see 71 Lovely Street

James W. Hurley: b. 7-10-1884, son of Edward & Margaret Odlum Hurley; m. 7-8-1915; d. ?
Helen J. Coppen Hurley: b. 1881/2 in England, dau of Charles & Helen Liver Coppen; d. ?

children: twins, James W. & Edward W., b. 3-29-1918