**Situated on a small, wooded lot, the James H. Hyde House faces west onto Plainville Avenue and is surrounded by domestic architecture of similar vintage. The bordering neighborhood developed in the late nineteenth-century by families associated with Unionville's growing industries.**
Built in 1870-71, this three-bay, L-shaped, Italianate-style home features a full-length, single-story, open veranda with decorative square posts and carved brackets with pendants. The first floor sash are elongated and rest on carved wooden bases. Six-over-six sash with simple window hoods are found throughout the rest of the house. The north wing features a small Italianate-style porch and a modern enclosed porch along the north elevation. A small, wood-frame, hipped-roof garage is located to the rear of the house.

In May of 1870 James H. Hyde of Unionville purchased a parcel of land from Charles and Emeline Merriman of Litchfield (FLR 61:258). Ten months later in March of 1871, Hyde mortgaged the property "with new dwelling house" to the Farmington Savings Bank for $1300 (FLR 63:79). A papermaker by trade, Hyde was born in Lee, Massachusetts in 1839. His wife Catherine is recorded as being born "onboard ship" in 1838. Upon moving to Holyoke, Massachusetts, the Hydes sold the house to Mary L. Mulcunry in 1898 (FLR 71:348). Born in New Hartford, Connecticut, Mary Louise Mulcunry (1868-1949) was the daughter of Patrick and Mary (Daffey) Mulcunry, both Irish immigrants. Mary Mulcunry never married and is recorded as being employed as a maid. Joseph and Anita McMahon purchased the house in 1949 (FLR 104:75-76).

A well preserved example of the Italianate-style architecture, the James H. Hyde House contributes to the historic character of Plainville Avenue.

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**Sources:**
