**STATE OF CONNECTICUT**

**CONNECTICUT HISTORICAL COMMISSION**

59 SOUTH PROSPECT STREET, HARTFORD, CONNECTICUT 06106
(203) 566-3005

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**1. BUILDING NAME (Common)**
Bidwell, Abner, Rental House

**2. TOWN CITY**
Farmington

**VILLAGE**
Unionville

**COUNTY**
Hartford

**3. STREET AND NUMBER (and or, location)**
67-69 Bidwell Square

**4. OWNER(ES)**
Rossignol, Gary & Jones, Elizabeth

**5. USE (Present)**
Two-family residence

**6. ACCESSIBILITY TO PUBLIC**
Exterior Visible from Public Road [X] Yes [ ] No
Interior Accessible [ ] Yes [X] No

**7. STYLE OF BUILDING**
Nineteenth-century vernacular

**8. MATERIALS**
- [X] Clapboard
- [ ] Asbestos Siding
- [ ] Brick
- [ ] Other (Specify)
- [ ] Wood Shingle
- [ ] Asphalt Siding
- [ ] Fieldstone
- [ ] Board & Batten
- [ ] Stucco
- [ ] Cobblestone
- [ ] Aluminum Siding
- [ ] Concrete Type:
- [X] Cut stone
- [ ] Other (Specify)

**9. STRUCTURAL SYSTEM**
- [X] Load frame
- [ ] Post and beam
- [X] Balloon
- [ ] Other (Specify)

**10. ROOF**
- [X] Flat
- [ ] Mansard
- [ ] Monitor
- [ ] Sawtooth

**11. NUMBER OF STORIES**
2½

**APPROXIMATE DIMENSIONS**
53 x 30

**12. CONDITION (Structural)**
- [X] Excellent
- [ ] Good
- [ ] Fair
- [ ] Deteriorated

**13. INTEGRITY**
- [X] On original site
- [ ] Moved

**14. RELATED OUTBUILDINGS OR LANDSCAPE FEATURES**
- Barn
- X Shed
- X Garage

**15. SURROUNDING ENVIRONMENT**
- Open land
- Woodland
- [X] Residential
- [ ] Scattered buildings visible from site

**16. INTERRELATIONSHIP OF BUILDING AND SURROUNDINGS**

Facing north onto Bidwell Square, the Abner Bidwell Rental House is a large building on a wide lot. Other rental houses exist to the north, east, and west.
This T-shaped building is very plain in design. A shed-roofed porch with turned posts exists on the northwest and northeast sides. Its ridge- and gable-to-street configurations have allowed for three entrances. Other modest features are its overhanging eaves, six-over-six sash, and three brick chimneys.

Sometime between 1869 and 1878 Abner Bidwell (1785-1880) constructed this house for rental purposes. Bidwell, the son of Jacob and Mary Bidwell of West Hartford, was one of the founders of the Farmington Canal. He joined a partnership with James and Augustus Cowles, Joshua and Thomas Youngs, and John T. Norton in the 1830s to develop water power in Unionville. He owned many houses in Unionville and Farmington and lived at 182 Main Street. He also dealt in real estate, dividing the land along Bidwell Square into lots. After his death in 1880 his estate, including several residential and commercial properties, (FPR 16:100) was divided among his heirs. His son George inherited this building (referred to as Lot #9). George sold it to Timothy McCarthy in 1881 for $950 (FLR 65:542) and in 1912 it was sold out of the family (FLR 77:409).

The Abner Bidwell Rental House is historically important because it was constructed by one of Unionville's industrial entrepreneurs to house working class families, for whom the street is named.