Sited on the corner of Elm and Maple streets, the Dr. William H. Sage House stands on a small open lot enhanced by lilacs, mulberry bushes, and spruce trees. The yard is trimmed by a wooden picket fence. The surrounding neighborhood contains other historic dwellings, including mill housing, which date from the mid-nineteenth century.
This modest, L shaped, nineteenth-century vernacular-style dwelling features elements of the Greek Revival style including the eyebrow windows and wide entablature on the southern ell. The four-bay facade, which exhibits an intersecting gable-to-street and ridge-to-street roof, is enhanced by six-over-six sash and simple paneled door. The gable end features a modest raking cornice terminating in slight cornice returns. A single-story, shed-roofed, enclosed porch has been added to the facade, and the west elevation exhibits a small open porch with ornate square posts. A highly elaborate, Victorian-period barn, which originally belonged to the Samuel Frisbie House to the north, stands to the northwest of the house.

Dr. William H. Sage purchased in June of 1850 a 3/4 acre lot of land on the "road to Litchfield" from John T. Norton, Abner Bidwell, and James Cowles (FLR 52:137). The house was erected sometime between February of 1852 and December of 1852 when Dr. Sage mortgaged the lot "with buildings -- being my residence now occupied by me" to Sarah Carrington for $800 (FLR 52:547). Born in Sandisfield, Massachusetts in 1825, Sage was the son of Josiah and Elizabeth (Cone) Sage. As a young man he attended Westfield Academy and later Yale Medical School, from which he graduated in 1849. Sage came to Unionville shortly after his graduation and developed a successful practice, becoming the area's leading physician. While living in Unionville he became interested in homoeopathy "a medical practice that treats a disease by the administration of minute doses of a remedy that would in healthy persons produce symptoms of the disease treated." In 1851 Sage married Elizabeth Victoria Pinney of Hartford. They raised two sons: Frederick and Henry. Besides being the village's most prominent doctor, he also was a major stockholder in the Upson Nut Company, manufacturers of forged nuts and bolts. In 1874 Sage moved to New Haven and sold the house to Samuel Frisbie (FLR 65:33). Reverend James A. Smith acquired the property in April of 1875 (FLR 65:104) and presumably rented it until he sold it in 1881. The next owner was Sophia T. Brown of New Milford (FLR 65:519). The house remained in the Brown family until 1910 when Frederick Goodhind bought it (FLR 77:331).

(SEE CONTINUATION SHEET)

Although modest in design, the Dr. William H. Sage House is a well preserved example of a mid-nineteenth-century home influenced by the Greek Revival style. The house is historically significant for its association with Dr. Sage, one of Unionville's most prominent nineteenth-century citizens.