**State of Connecticut**
**Connecticut Historical Commission**
59 South Prospect Street, Hartford, Connecticut 06106
(203) 566-3005

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1. **Building Name (Common)**
   - Platner and Porter Boarding House

2. **Town**
   - Farmington

3. **Village**
   - Unionville

4. **County**
   - Hartford

5. **Street and Number**
   - 28 Elm Street

6. **Owner(s)**
   - Begley, Dennis P. & Marie H.

7. **Use**
   - Residence

8. **Accessibility TO PUBLIC**
   - No

9. **Exterior Visible from Public Road**
   - Yes

10. **Interior Accessible**
    - Yes

11. **Style of Building**
    - Nineteenth-century vernacular

12. **Date of Construction**
    - 1854

13. **Material (Indicate use or location when appropriate)**
    - X Brick
      - Foundation
    - Other
      - Specify
      - Asbestos Siding
    - Other
      - Specify
    - Wood Shingle
    - Asbestos Siding
    - Fieldstone
    - Board & Batten
    - Stucco
    - Cobblestone
    - Aluminum Siding
    - Concrete
      - Type:
    - Cut stone
    - Other
      - Specify
    - Wood frame
    - Post and beam
      - Balloon
    - Other
      - Specify
    - Load bearing masonry
    - Structural iron or steel

14. **Roof (Type)**
    - X Gable
    - Flat
    - Mansard
    - Monitor
    - Sawtooth
    - Other
      - Specify
    - Gambrel
    - Shed
    - Hip
    - Round
    - Other
      - Specify
    - Roll
    - Asphalt
    - Tin
    - Slate
    - Other
      - Specify
    - Wood Shingle
    - Roll
    - Asphalt
    - Tin
    - Slate
    - Other
      - Specify
    - Asphalt shingle
    - Built up
    - Tile
    - Other
      - Specify

15. **Number of Stories**
    - 2½

16. **Approximate Dimensions**
    - 28 x 40; 28 x 7, porch; 11 x 20; rear; 25 x 10 rear

17. **Condition (Structural)**
    - Excellent
    - Good
    - Fair
    - Deteriorated

18. **Integrity, Location, and Use**
    - Moved
    - On original site

19. **Related Outbuildings or Landscape Features**
    - X Garage
    - Other landscape features or buildings
      - Specify
    - Barn
    - Shed
    - Other
      - Specify
    - Carriage house
    - Shop
    - Garden

20. **Surrounding Environment**
    - X Residential
    - Scattered buildings visible from site
    - Open land
    - Woodland
    - Commercial
    - Industrial
    - Rural
    - High building density

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Sited at the southwest intersection of Elm Street and Maple Avenue, the Platner and Porter Boarding House faces east onto the Alice "Clover" Pinney Park. The encompassing neighborhood contains other Platner and Porter rental buildings, as well as private homes built in the mid-nineteenth century.
Erected in 1854 this mid-nineteenth-century vernacular-style home displays little in the way of embellished architectural detailing. Oriented gable-to-street, the four-bay facade features a full-length, single-story, open porch, which is a later addition. The original windows have been replaced with one-over-one sash. The main entrance exhibits a Victorian-period door of wood. Rear additions extend from the west elevation.

William Platner and Samuel Q. Porter, of the paper manufacturing firm of Platner and Porter, erected this boarding house in 1854 on land they purchased from James Cowles and Abner Bidwell (FLR 53:203). In December of 1854, Platner and Porter mortgaged a portion of that lot "with a boarding house recently erected" to the Farmington Savings Bank for $500 (FLR 53:368). The firm was established in 1848 when Platner and Porter purchased the Stone and Carrington Paper Mill. The company produced fine writing paper and book paper and soon became one of Unionville's largest employers. Platner and Porter were responsible for erecting a number of rental dwellings in this area to house employees of the paper mill. In 1878 F. Chamberlin, a lawyer from Hartford, purchased the building and continued to rent rooms to local factory workers (FLR 62:524). Thomas and Mary Jane (Burnett) Mulrooney bought the property in 1889 (FLR 68:452). Although the family resided in the house, Mrs. Mulrooney operated a rooming and boarding house to supplement the family's income. Born in Dublin, Ireland, Thomas J. Mulrooney (1848-1937) came to Unionville as a young man with his parents, Matthew and Ann (Kearney) Mulrooney. For many years he was employed by the American Writing Paper Company. Mrs. Mulrooney (1854-1941) was born in Burlington, Connecticut, to George C. and Bridget (Lyman) Burnett, both Irish immigrants. The Mulrooneys raised four children and were members of the Church of St. Mary, Unionville. The house was sold out of the family in 1941. (see below)


19. cont. Historically, this house is significant as an early rooming house for Platner and Porter and for its association with some of Unionville's early Irish immigrants.

21. Threats to Site

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<tr>
<th>Threats to Building or Site</th>
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<tr>
<td>□ None known</td>
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<td>□ Highways</td>
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