Facing east onto Elm Street, the Platner and Porter Rental House #1 sits near the intersection of Elm, School, and Perry streets. Standing on a small rectangular lot, the house is shaded by a large maple tree and the remains of the Unionville canal raceways visible directly to the south of the dwelling. The Alice "Clover" Pinney Memorial Park lies across Elm Street to the east. The encompassing neighborhood contains similar rental dwellings of the same vintage.
Oriented gable-to-street, this modest one-over-two bay mill house was erected around 1860. Both the first and second floor of the facade exhibit slender paired windows with four-over-four sash. As characteristic of the Greek Revival style, small, single-pane "eyebrow" windows are exhibited beneath the eaves on the side elevations. Six-over-six sash are displayed throughout the rest of the house. A modern, exterior, brick chimney has been added to the north elevation and an integral, single-story ell, with modern bay window extends from the rear. The original, central brick chimney has been removed.

This small, rental house was constructed by paper manufacturers William Platner and Samuel Q. Porter about 1860 on land previously purchased from James Cowles and Abner Bidwell (FLR 53:203). In 1854 Platner and Porter built two "double tenements" along Maple Street and a boarding house on the southwest corner of Maple and Elm (FLR 53:290 and 368). These three buildings appear on the 1855 Map of Unionville; this small rental house does not. Although there is no mortgage recorded to pinpoint an exact date, the house is clearly standing by 1869 when it appears on the Baker and Tilden Atlas. The firm of Platner and Porter was established in 1847 when William Platner and Samuel Q. Porter purchased the paper mill of Stone and Carrington. Organized in 1860 with a capital of $85,000, the Platner and Porter manufacturing company produced fine-writing paper and newsprint and soon became one of the village's largest employers. The firm constructed a number of rental dwellings in close proximity to their mill to house employees and their families. Shortly before both men retired from the business, they sold (in 1878) all the dwelling houses and boarding houses of the Platner and Porter manufacturing company to a wealthy Hartford lawyer, Franklin Chamberlin (FLR 62:524). Chamberlin continued to rent the house to local mill workers and upon his death in 1898 this house was willed to his widow Mary W. Chamberlin (FLR 74:40). In 1906 Mrs. Chamberlin sold the property to retired farmer George Burnett (FLR 77:97).

Burlington and engaged in farming and manufacturing charcoal. In 1853 he married Bridget Lyman (Lyneugh) (1836-1916) of Kill, County Westmeath, Ireland and they had ten children. Bridget inherited the property upon her husband's death in 1911 (FPR 31:182). Six years later in 1917, Bridget's daughter, Anna M. Burnett purchased the house from her mother's estate (FLR 74:349). Anna (1858-1938) never married and in 1940 the house known as the "Hollinger Place" was willed to her niece Helen, daughter of John and Connie Corcoran Burnett (FLR 94:23).

In 1968 Caroline (Burnett) Kane, sister of Helen acquired the house (FLR 189:136) and sold it a year later to Robert J. and Geraldine H. Kane (FLR 195:366). Carolyn M. Beaudin owned the property between 1974 and 1979 (FLR 230:567 & FLR 269:448). The next owner was Anthony W. Spurrier (FLR 269:448) and Wendy H. Spurrier received title of the property in January 1985 (FLR 311:373).

Relatively unaltered since its construction the Platner and Porter Rental House #1 is historically significant as one of Unionville's earliest mill workers' houses.