Sited on a narrow lot, the Parsons Brothers' Rental House #1 faces south onto Farmington Avenue. Located across the street is the Yodkins-Morin Memorial Park and the Farmington River. Similar late nineteenth- and early twentieth-century dwellings abut the property.
This modest four-bay, Colonial Revival-style building is capped with a hip roof and cross gables. The facade exhibits a U-shaped veranda supported by square posts and a simple balustrade. One-over-one sash and two doors exist on the first floor; two one-over-one sash highlight the second floor. A hip-roofed dormer with three small windows rests in the attic story. A small hip-roofed porch is featured on the east facade and a single-story ell has been added on the rear facade. Note the heavy cornice returns in the gable ends and two brick chimneys.

18 ARCHITECT

John and Luke Parsons

19 HISTORICAL OR ARCHITECTURAL IMPORTANCE

This two-family rental house was erected by brothers John S. and Luke A. Parsons between 1901 and 1903. In September of 1900 they purchased a large lot of land on the north side of Farmington Avenue from Burnside E., Jane A., Alice M., and Eloise A. Hamilton for $900 (FLR 73:305-07). They sold 1/3 of the lot to their brother-in-law Sheldon H. Porter in the following month (FLR 71:475). When the Parsons brothers mortaged the remaining land in July of 1903 to the Farmington Savings Bank, they had completed this house and the house next door (1740 Farmington Avenue). John S. (1863-1906) and Luke A. (1871-1936) Parsons were the sons of Martin L. and Georgia (Thompson) Parsons. Both sons worked for their father, a successful building contractor. Two other sons, Mark L. (1857-1932) and Guy R. (1876- ), also worked in the business. The Parsons family also operated a lumber and hardware store which is still managed by the family members today. In 1904 Luke A. sold John S. his interest in the building (FLR 71:659) and upon John's sudden death in 1906, the property passed to his wife, Alice L, and their three children: Edna, Ward, and Robert (FPR 28:432). In 1915 Edna L. Parsons received title of the property from her mother and brothers (FLR 77:506). She sold the house out of the family shortly after her marriage in 1917 (FLR 80:88).

This modest rental house is historically significant for its association with the Parsons family, leading members of Unionville's business community.

Sources:

Photographer: Alex Paredes

Date: 5/85

View: N

Negative on File: 4:29A

Name: Elizabeth R. Hart

Date: 6/85

Organization: Greater Middletown Preservation Trust

Address: 27 Washington St., Middletown, CT 06457

28 Subsequent Field Evaluations

27 Threats to Building or Site

☐ None known. ☐ Highways ☐ Vandalism ☐ Developers ☐ Other

☐ Renewal ☐ Private ☐ Deterioration ☐ Zoning ☐ Explanation