Standing on a long, narrow lot bordered to the south by the Farmington River, the Fred Smith House faces north onto Farmington Avenue. The surrounding historic neighborhood contains a concentration of houses built in the Italianate, Queen Anne, and Colonial Revival styles.
Built in 1925, this house is a fine example of Craftsman-style architecture in Unionville. Capped with a ridge-to-street roof, the five-bay facade exhibits a full length, enclosed porch, which is contained under the main gable roof. The porch displays one-over-one sash and four symmetrically placed decorative pilasters. The extended rafters found beneath the wide overhanging eaves are a common characteristic of this particular style, as are the facade's gable-roofed dormer with support braces, extended rafters and small paired windows. The gable ends on the east and west elevations feature triangular knee brace supports beneath the enclosed eave overhang. A single story ell extends from the rear elevation.

Fred Smith (1875-1940) on July 1, 1925, purchased this parcel of land from Charles C. Georgi (FLR 80:595). Smith had erected the house by the following January when he mortgaged the lot "with dwelling house" to the Unionville Bank and Trust (FLR 83:418). A native of England, Smith worked as a bookkeeper for the Broadbent Cotton Mill, a prosperous Unionville enterprise. His wife was the former Blanche Crowther and they had a daughter, Vera (b. 1904). Upon the death of Mr. Smith the house was devised to his widow. The property was sold to Ebba Nelson Matava in 1942 (FLR 95:98).

The Fred Smith House is a well-preserved example of the Craftsman style which was the popular mode for small homes built during the early twentieth century throughout the United States.

Sources:

Photographer: Alex Paredes Date: 5/85

View: SE Negative on file: 4:23A

Name: Elizabeth R. Hart Date: 8/85

Organization: Greater Middletown Preservation Trust

Address: 27 Washington Street, Middletown, CT

Threats to building or site:

- None known
- Highways
- Vandalism
- Developers
- Other

- Renewal
- Private
- Deterioration
- Zoning
- Explanation

Compiled by: Elizabeth R. Hart

DATE: 8/85

ADDRESS: 27 Washington Street, Middletown, CT