Located on the south side of Farmington Avenue, the John S. Parsons House sits on a small narrow lot bordered to the south by the Farmington River. The surrounding environment contains historic buildings built during the mid-nineteenth and early twentieth centuries.
This large asymmetrical, Queen Anne-style dwelling features a hip roof with lower cross gables. The most prominent feature of the facade is the three-story, polygonal tower with tent roof found on the northwest corner. Note the decorative frieze below the eaves. The facade also exhibits a single-story, open veranda embellished with fluted, classical columns set on pedestals, and a turned balustrade with modillions and dentils set below the eaves. Lattice work trims the base of the porch. Two entry doors are found on the facade. Set below the pedimented gable end is an elaborate frieze with panels and modillions. The gable end, featuring imbricated shingles and a raking cornice with dentils, is highlighted by a classical tripartite window with pilasters and a semi-circular fanlight motif with a keystone, and small, wooden urns. Both the east and west elevations feature a 2½ story, cross gable with a two-story cutaway bay window.

HISTORICAL OR ARCHITECTURAL IMPORTANCE
In February of 1896 John S. Parsons purchased the old Solomon Langdon Inn from Mary E. and Norman S. Gridley (FLR 71:186). He sold the western half of the lot to John D. Horsfall on May 23 that same year (FLR 71:187). Parsons tore down the old dwelling house and had this handsome dwelling erected by December of 1896 when he mortgaged the lot with buildings to the Farmington Savings Bank for $4,000 (FLR 63:533). John Stanley Parsons (1863-1906) was born in Unionville to Martin L. and Georgia (Thompson) Parsons. He was educated in local schools and later trained in the contracting business by his father who had established a prosperous hardware store and lumber yard. It is still operated by members of the Parsons family today. In 1888 he became a partner in his father's firm. After his father's death in 1897, John ran both businesses in partnership with his brother Luke. They were responsible for erecting a number of dwellings in the Unionville area in the late nineteenth and early twentieth centuries. In 1882 John married Alice Latimer, the daughter of Amon and Lucia Amanda (Case) Latimer of Simsbury. Upon John's sudden and tragic death in 1906 the business was taken over by his brothers, Luke A. and Guy R. Parsons. The house was distributed in November of 1909 to the widow and three of the four children (FPR 28:432), who quit-claimed their interests in the property to their brother Robert (FLR 77:548), shortly after his marriage in 1914 to Josephine Marie Swanston (b. 1894). Robert Parsons served as Lt. Governor in 1948 and held other elected positions in the state legislature. He is best known as the owner of a car dealership in Farmington which is still in operation today. The house was sold out.

COMPILED BY
Elizabeth R. Hart
Greater Middletown Preservation Trust
27 Washington St., Middletown, CT

PHOTOGRAPHER
Alex Paredes

DATE
5/85

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PHOTO

NAME

ORGANIZATION

ADDRESS

SUBSEQUENT FIELD EVALUATIONS

THREATS TO BUILDING OR SITE

None known. [ ] Highways [ ] Vandalism [ ] Developers [ ] Other

[ ] Renewal [ ] Private [ ] Deterioration [ ] Zoning [ ] Explanation
which is enhanced by a decorative frieze and scroll-sawn, corner brackets. The pedimented cross-gable ends display small paired windows capped with a semi-circular fanlight motif. A single-story spindlework porch extends from the south elevation. Set to the rear of the house is a small wood-frame barn with a decorative cupola.

of the family in 1952.

Representing one of the best examples of Queen Anne-style architecture in Unionville's historic center, the John S. Parsons House is historically significant for its long association with the Parsons family, local community and business leaders.