# HISTORIC RESOURCES INVENTORY

**BUILDING AND STRUCTURES**

**STATE OF CONNECTICUT**

**CONNECTICUT HISTORICAL COMMISSION**

59 SOUTH PROSPECT STREET, HARTFORD, CONNECTICUT 06106

(203) 566-3005

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### BUILDING NAME (Common) (Historic)

Horsfall, John D., House

### TOWN CITY

Farmington

### VILLAGE

Unionville

### COUNTY

Hartford

### STREET AND NUMBER (and or location)

1781 Farmington Avenue

### OWNER(S)

Howard, George B. and Roberta B.

### USE (Present)

Residence

### MAKER

Private

### ACCESSIBILITY TO PUBLIC:

Exterior visible from public road: Yes

Interior accessible: No

### EXTERIOR VISIBLE FROM PUBLIC ROAD

- Yes

### INTERIOR ACCESSIBLE

- No

### IF YES EXPLAIN

- Other (Specify)

### DATE OF CONSTRUCTION

1896

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### MATERIALS

- Queen Anne
  - Clapboard 1st
    - Other
  - Wood Shingle 2nd
    - Other
  - Board & Batten
  - Aluminum Siding
  - Wood frame
  - Load bearing masonry
  - Gable
  - Gambrel
  - Wood Shingle
  - Asphalt Shingle
  - Asphalt

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### DATE OF CONSTRUCTION

1896

### CONDITION (Structural)

- Excellent

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### INTEGRITY (Location)

- On original site

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### RELATED OUTBUILDINGS OR LANDSCAPE FEATURES

- Barn
  - Shed
  - Garage
  - Carriage house
  - Shop

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### SURROUNDING ENVIRONMENT

- Open land
  - Woodland
  - Residential
  - Scattered buildings visible from site
  - Commercial
  - Industrial
  - Rural

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Facing north on Farmington Avenue, the John D. Horsfall House sits on a narrow lot bordered on the south by the Farmington River. The surrounding neighborhood comprises similar late-nineteenth and early-twentieth century domestic architecture.
Oriented gable-to-street, the two bay facade exhibits a small open, single-story shed-roof porch with turned columns. To the west of the porch is a decorative single-story bay window with panelled base. The first story is sided with clapboards while the second story features decoratively cut wood shingles. Differing wall textures are a common characteristic of Queen Anne-style architecture. The pedimented gable end displays fish-scale shingles, raking cornice and a decorative horizontal wooden band set below the one-over-one gable window. One-over-one sash are featured throughout the rest of the dwelling. A single-story bay window with panelled base and hip-roofed dormer are found on the west elevation. The 2½-story ell which extends from the rear elevation displays an ornate, two-story, spindlework porch. A diminutive brick chimney rises from the center of the main block. Note the wood-frame garage to the rear of the house.

In March of 1896 John Dicken Horsfall (1864-1938) purchased this plot of land from John S. Parsons for "a valuable sum of money" (FLR 71:187). Seven months later, Horsfall mortgaged the property "with a new dwelling house" for $2300 to the Collinsville Savings Society (FLR 71:239). According to the Unionville Historic District Committee Report, this house was built by carpenter John S. Parsons, whose own dwelling was located on the adjoining property to the east.

Born in Tarriffville, Connecticut, Horsfall was the son of John D. Horsfall, a native of Yorkshire, England, and Mary (Payne) Horsfall of Kidderminster, England. His wife was the former Levella M. Upson (1866-1942), daughter of Washington and Sarah (Foote) Upson of Burlington, Connecticut. Horsfall was employed for sixty years as a superintendent for the Broadbent Cotton Mills. The firm relocated in Unionville in 1888 after a fire destroyed their factory in Burlington. The Broadbent Mill was well-known for producing cotton batting and cotton yarn. The company also conducted a successful business in selling cotton waste. Upon his death in 1939, Horsfall left "the single-frame dwelling house and garage" to his wife Levella (FLR 92:548). The house was sold out of the family after Mrs. Horsfall's death in 1943.

Virtually unaltered since its construction, the John D. Horsfall House is architecturally notable as a well-preserved example of the Queen Anne style and is historically significant for its association with one of Unionville's successful manufacturing companies, the Broadbent Cotton Mills.