Sited on the north side of Main Street in the Unionville section of Farmington, the Frank D. Lawton House is surrounded by other historic homes erected when Unionville was developing as the town's manufacturing center.
Built in 1912 this three-bay, gable-to-street, transitional Queen Anne/Colonial Revival-style dwelling features a side-hall entrance. The facade exhibits a single-story, open, wrap-around porch with classical columns and simple stick balustrade. Lattice work trims the base of the porch windows on the first floor of the facade are large and exhibit a single-pane transom. Smaller one-over-one sash are featured throughout the rest of the house. The pedimented gable end displays a small attic window and vent. Note the large gable-roofed dormer on the east elevation and hip-roofed dormer on the west elevation. The small, single-story ell on the east side features a multipaned entry door accessible by the open veranda. A single-story, Queen Anne-style porch enhanced with turned columns and stick balustrade is found on the rear elevation and (cont.)

In March of 1911 Frank Darwin Lawton purchased a half acre of land along Unionville's Main Street from Sherman and Edwin M. Sanford (FLR 77:378) and built this house in 1912. Evidence for this date is documented in Mr. Lawton's probate inventory in 1938 which describes this property as having "a frame house - two and one-half stories - three rooms to a floor - built in 1912 - needs considerable repairs" (FPR 46:92).

Born in Milwaukee, Wisconsin, Lawton (1853-1938) was the son of Giles and Sarah (Hayden) Lawton. He was married to Ida A. Holmes (1858-1929), a North Stonington, Connecticut native and daughter of Wheeler and Esther (Smith) Holmes. The Lawtons who had lived in Nebraska and South Dakota before coming to Unionville, had three children. In 1905 Lawton purchased the flour, grain, and feed business owned by the Richards' family. The mill is located the west side of Farmington, just south of the present day bridge. Mabel Hurlburt notes that the "Lawton came here from the west where he had an extensive acquaintance with the practical side of the industry and became an expert judge of all kinds of grain" (p. 346). Later he went into business with his son-in-law, Leroy B. Miner, husband of Esther G., his daughter. The company is still known as Lawton-Miner today. Upon Lawton's death the house was devised to his eldest daughter Elise L. Barker. She had married the Reverend Frank Barker, a widower, in 1930, Pastor of Unionville's First Church of Christ, Congregational. Barker was the son of Joseph and Annie (Upson) Barker of New Brunswick, Canada. The house was sold out of the family in 1976. (see cont. pg.)

Sources:
a decorative stairwell window highlights the west elevation.

19. This early twentieth-century home combines the decorative ornament of the Queen Anne style and classical detailing of the Colonial Revival and is typical of many Connecticut residences built during this period. Historically the house is notable for its association with the Lawton family, who operated an important local business that still carries their name.