Located at the northeast corner of Main Street and Rourke Place, the Mary J. Latham House sits in a residential neighborhood comprising both single- and multi-family dwellings erected in the late-nineteenth and early twentieth centuries.
Erected in 1883 this ridge-to-street, six-bay duplex exhibits a full-length, single-story open veranda enhanced by square posts and sawn brackets. Note the slender second-story vertical paired windows above the two central entry doors. A wide flushboarded entablature extends around the house beneath the overhanging eaves, which are supported by corner brackets. The gable peaks on the east and west elevations display embellished trusses. Twin interior brick chimneys are featured and a single-story ell extends from the rear elevation. Two-over-two sash are found throughout the house.

In March of 1883 Mary J. Latham purchased a quarter acre lot in the village of Unionville for $500 from Daniel Rourke (FLR 68:10). One year later on March 24, 1884, carpenter Martin L. Parsons filed a mechanics lien against Miss Latham "for services rendered in the erection of a dwelling house and outbuildings" (FLR 66:319). The claim was for $2300 for work done between June 1, 1883 and January 30, 1884. It is not recorded when the debt was satisfied. Miss Latham died in April 1902 leaving no will. Her only heirs by law were a brother, Albert C. Latham of Granby, Connecticut, a sister, Susan Bailus of Olmstead, Ohio, and the three children of her deceased sister Ellen Fauver (FPR 21:397). In 1904 E.P. Latham, the administrator of Latham’s estate, sold the property to Irish immigrant Daniel Rourke, who owned a number of dwellings in the immediate area (FLR 71:645). Rourke, an active member of St. Mary's Catholic church was employed by the Rev. James A. Smith for many years. He also owned a local saloon (FPR 34:277). In 1936 Daniel's son, Thomas S. Rourke, inherited the property (FLR 74:681). Employed as a fire insurance and real estate agent, Thomas S. Rourke also owned an auction business and served as Unionville's postmaster for a number of years. The house remains in the Rourke family today.

The Mary J. Latham Duplex is significant as a well-preserved example of a late nineteenth-century two-family dwelling, erected at a time when Unionville served as the town’s manufacturing center.
