Sited on a large lot north of the Farmington River, the Charles W. House and complex is surrounded by an iron fence. To the east is the Union School and to the west and north lie residences of modest sizes.
As part of an industrial complex, the Charles W. House Company is typical of industrial buildings built in the late and early nineteenth and twentieth centuries. Always rectangular in form, the buildings feature little detail except for the round arched brick window hoods. With many windows along each side of the building and a flat roof, the largest building has been added to with a one-story brick building. It features similar arched openings. The other buildings built around 1912 exhibit similar characteristics.

According to Historian Raymond K. Brooks, this mill complex and its site have been used industrially since 1832. Pierpont and Tolles originally operated a wood screw factory on the site. It was abandoned and later used for the manufacturing of clocks, rivets, spoons, oyster tongs, axe handles, and gunstocks partly by Cowles, Norton, and Bidwell in 1855. In 1892 the Ripley Manufacturing Company added a brick building to the old shop built by Cowles and Company. Here they manufactured heavy paper for binder boards. In 1907 three brothers from Brooklyn, New York, bought the land and existing buildings. They formed Charles W. House and Sons, makers of woven felt and in 1912 they built a new mill on the site. By 1914 they produced scarlet bushing cloth for pianos which until then was imported from Germany. In 1955 the mill was damaged by a flood requiring $98,000 in repairs.

The complex derives architectural and historical significance. It remains one of two original industrial complexes in Unionville and has association with industrial development in Farmington.
