Set on a slight incline in the terrain, the Garrity-Merrick House faces west onto Plainville Avenue. The property is bordered by late nineteenth- and early twentieth-century vernacular-style architecture erected when Unionville was experiencing a population growth due to increasing industrial development.
This modest, four-bay, Italianate-style building was constructed in 1884. The facade entry door exhibits a small, elaborate porch with beveled posts, stick balustrade and scroll sawn brackets. To the right of the entrance is a single-story, bracketed bay window with one-over-one sash. The two-story ell on the south elevation features an Italianate-style, enclosed porch with decorative brackets trimming the eaves. Capped with a low-pitched hip-roof, the house is devoid of any architectural embellishment beneath the wide overhanging eaves. Two-over-two, double-hung sash are featured throughout the house and two small additions extend from the rear elevation.

In October of 1883, Irish merchant Lawrence Garrity of Unionville purchased a plot of land on Depot Hill from William H. Sage (FLR 68:61). Garrity died on April 29, 1884 shortly after the house was completed. In the following June, both J.E. Preston and S.N. Wadsworth filed a mechanic's lien on the property "for services rendered and materials furnished in the construction of a new dwelling house belonging to the estate of Lawrence Garrity (FLR 66:330 & 334). The liens were for work done between March 3, 1884 and April 23, 1884. In 1885 Garrity's estate sold the house to Michael Merrick (FLR 66:411). There is little historical information available concerning Merrick, although we do know he was married to Ellen Agnes McCabe (1840-1911), a native of Ireland. Presumably, Merrick, like many Irish immigrants in Unionville, worked in one of the local paper or nut and bolt factories. The Merricks raised six children and lived in New Hartford, Connecticut, before coming to Unionville.

In 1888 Merrick sold the house to his wife through a third party (FLR 68:388 & 389). Upon her death in 1911 the house was willed to her husband; daughter, Catherine and son, John J. (FPR 31:162). Irish immigrant, Martin Dugan, a barber bought the house in 1919 and resided here with his wife, Catherine (Kinney) Dugan and family. The Dugans owned the house until 1936.

This Italianate-style house derives historical significance from its long association with late nineteenth- and early twentieth-century Irish immigrants.

**Sources**
