**Historic Resources Inventory**

**State of Connecticut**

**Connecticut Historical Commission**

59 South Prospect Street, Hartford, Connecticut 06106

(203) 566-3005

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1. **Building Name (Common):** McCarthy, Alice, House

2. **Town City:** Farmington
   **Village:** Unionville
   **County:** Hartford

3. **Street and Number:** 178 Plainville Avenue

4. **Owner(s):** Flynn, Pauline L. & Peter J.

5. **Use (Present):** Residence

6. **Accessibility to Public:**
   - Exterior Visible from Public Road: Yes
   - Interior Accessible: Yes
   - If Yes Explain: Public

7. **Style of Building:**
   **Nineteenth-century vernacular**

8. **Material(s):**
   - Clapboard
   - Wood Shingle
   - Board & Batten
   - Aluminum Siding
   - Wood Frame
   - Structural iron or steel
   - Other (Specify)

9. **Roof Types:**
   - Gable
   - Gambrel
   - Wood Shingle
   - Asphalt Shingle
   - Other (Specify)

10. **Exterior Visible from Public Road:**
    - Yes

11. **Number of Stories:** 2½
    **Approximate Dimensions:**
    - 22 x 44; side add., 21 x 20; porch 20 x 5

12. **Condition:**
    - Excellent
    - Good
    - Fair
    - Deteriorated

13. **Integrity:**
    - On original site: Yes
    - Modern additions

14. **Related Outbuildings or Landscape Features:**
    - Barn
    - Shop
    - Garage
    - Other landscape features or buildings (Specify)

15. **Surrounding Environment:**
    - Open land
    - Residential
    - Scattered buildings visible from site

16. **Interrelationship of Building and Surroundings:**

   Situated atop a small rise, the Alice McCarthy House is located at the northwest corner of Webster Street and Plainville Avenue. Bordering the property are similar late nineteenth- and early twentieth-century dwellings.
This modest Nineteenth-century vernacular, cross-gable building exhibits a gable-to-street, three-bay facade with side-hall entrance. A simple, shed-roofed open porch spans the first-story of the facade. Note the decorative square window in the gable end. One-over-one sash are featured throughout the house. Modern additions have been incorporated onto the north and west elevations. A small brick chimney rises from the center of house.

This building was erected by Alice McCarthy in 1897 on land her late husband Dennis McCarthy purchased from F.A. Tyron in 1882 (FLR 64:548). In November of 1897 Mrs. McCarthy mortgaged the ½ acre lot "with new dwelling house" to the Collinsville Savings Society (FLR 72:24). Alice McCarthy (1839-1904), a native of Ireland was married to saloon keeper, Dennis McCarthy who died in 1885. The McCarthy family was one of a number of Irish families to immigrate to the area in the second half of the nineteenth century. The Irish were the largest group of foreign-born in Unionville in the nineteenth century, most of whom worked in the paper mills or bolt factory. In 1905, the McCarthy's daughter received the property (FLR 71:127). Both the O'Shea and Moriarty families owned the house in the early twentieth century.

Although the house displays little in the way of architectural embellishments, it is historically significant for its association with Unionville's Irish-Americans.