The Garrity-Byrne Store sits at the southwest corner of South Main Street and Railroad Avenue. The surrounding neighborhood, which lies on the south side of the Farmington River in Unionville, contains primarily modern commercial buildings. The area was heavily damaged in the 1955 flood, although some historic dwellings remain to the south and west.
Oriented gable-to-street, the original appearance of the building has been dramatically altered by modern additions. The first floor of the facade exhibits a modern store front which extends around the south elevation. The second floor displays an open, Victorian-period porch with turned columns, scroll-sawn brackets and simple balustrade. Slight overhanging eaves and a one-over-one sash are featured in the gable end. The rear elevation exhibits an enclosed second-story porch supported by large knee braces.

In November of 1876 Irish immigrant Lawrence Garrity sold James Byrne a "one half interest in a ½ acre piece of land, being the south half of the parcel, which is to be owned in common by Garrity and Byrne and contains 1/8 of an acre" (FLR 65:236). Ten months later, in September of 1877, Garrity and Byrne mortgaged the 1/8 acre with buildings for $500 to the Farmington Savings Bank (FLR 63:254). The 1878 "birdseye view" map of Unionville shows that L. Garrity had a store and residence at this location. Little is known about Garrity (1829-1884) except that he operated a general merchandise store and was married to Mary Ann Garrity, also a native of Ireland. Garrity's probate inventory, dated May 22, 1884, lists merchandise including stocks of groceries, tobacco, cigars and a pool table (FLR 16:259). There is no historical information concerning Byrne. In 1886 Byrne received full title to the property from Garrity's estate (FLR 66:508). The next owner was Stephen Lambert, who bought the building in 1902 (JL:540). A number of people owned the property between 1910 and 1968 when the Parson’s Paint and Hardware Company, Inc. purchased the building (FLR 189:451). A long established business of Unionville, the Parson's Company was organized by Martin L. Parsons more than a century ago.

Although the building has changed dramatically from its original appearance, it remains historically significant for its association with Unionville's early commercial development.
