

**230 Main Street – William Griswold House – circa 1837**

Greek Revival. William Griswold was a carpenter/joiner who reportedly built Unionville's third schoolhouse in 1868. It is said that he operated a meeting hall in the upper story of the house, where the Odd Fellows held their early meetings, and dances were also held there. Griswold was the first to try bring fresh water into homes: he dug a ditch from water source on



Huckleberry Hill to a small reservoir at the rear of his house that stored the water. But cold weather and animal interference forced him to end his "impractical and useless enterprise." Subsequent owners of the house included Lucius Pond, a founder of Pond & Hart, a cutlery manufacturer that



# Unionville Historic District and Properties Commission

Self-Guided Walking Tour #3

*Main Street - Unionville*



**60 Main Street – Howard W. Humphrey House – 1887**

The Queen Anne house is an excellent example of its type, featuring steep gables, a square tower, decorative bargeboards and cut-work designs. Moving to Unionville in 1849, Russell Humphrey manufactured tin spoons and, later, quality washers. The house remained with four generations of the Humphrey family until the late 1980s. Its current architect-



owners worked closely with the Unionville Historic District Commission when replacing the tower's slate fish-scale shingles, handsome finial, gutters and downspouts. The effective period color scheme does not fall under the purview of a historic district commission!

**63 Main Street – Samuel Porter House – 1853-63**

Arriving in Unionville in 1847, Samuel Q. Porter, with William Platner, established the Platner & Porter paper mill. Porter was a delegate to the 1860 Republican national convention, which nominated Abraham Lincoln for President. He also served in the state legislature. His Greek Revival



home is significant because of its connection to the history of one of Unionville's largest manufacturing firms.

**70 Main Street – Virgil Goodwin House – 1842-46**

Virgil Goodwin ran a livery stable and grocery store. From 1850 to 1864, William Platner, president of P&P Co., lived across the street from his business partner, Samuel Q. Porter. Platner sold the

mill on the river, next to the current mini-golf property. The Lawton-Miner mill operated continuously until 1985.



**206 Main Street – Griswold-Mulrooney House – circa 1870**

The house features many distinguishing characteristics of the Italianate style, including a low-pitched roof, elaborate open porch, and bracketed overhanging eaves. It is believed that Edwin Griswold built this house, but quickly sold it. Mrs. Ann Mulrooney, a widow, purchased the house in 1875. Members of the family worked in the Platner & Porter paper mills (later the American Writing Company) and were active in St. Mary's Star of the Sea Catholic Church. The family owned the house until 1942. It is significant for its association with the Mulrooney family, one of the area's earliest and most prominent Irish immigrant families.







**187-189 Main Street – Frisbee rental house – circa 1885**

19<sup>th</sup> c. Vernacular with Stick-style details. It retains most of its original historical character. This large, two-family house was constructed by Mrs. Minerva Frisbie, wife of Samuel Frisbie, director and treasurer of the Upson Nut & Bolt Co., manufacturers of forged nuts and bolts. The Frisbies lived in the Italianate home at 101 Main St. and rented this home to local factory workers and their families.



**198 Main Street – Frank D. Lawton House – 1912**

Built by Frank Darwin Lawton, from South Dakota, this early 20<sup>th</sup>-century house combines the decorative ornament of the Queen Anne and classical detailing of the Colonial Revival styles. The house is notable for remaining in the Lawton family until 1976. In 1905, Lawton purchased the flour, grain and feed business owned by the Richards family and located in a mid-19<sup>th</sup>-century

homestead to the Unionville Parsonage Assoc., and the house served as the First Church Congregational parsonage until 1976. Since then it has remained a private home.



**90 Main Street – Edward M. Mills House – 1861-65**

Edward Mills owned and operated Union Cabinet Co., a furniture factory. Subsequent owners of the Transitional Greek Revival/Italianate style house include Robert King Vibert, who purchased the



house in 1930. He was one of two Unionville Spanish-American War veterans and a long-time representative of Unionville businesses in the Panama Canal Zone. There was active trade of Unionville's

manufactured products in the Caribbean between 1890-1930. Three generations of the Vibert family have resided in the house.

**101 Main Street – Samuel Frisbie House – circa 1869**

Elegant Italianate home. Samuel Frisbie (1838-1897), in the 1860's, was a bookkeeper, then director and treasurer at the Upson Nut Company, one of the town's most successful businesses.



Frisbie was an influential member of the Congregational Church and was active in state politics, serving five terms in the General Assembly between 1877-97.

**120 Main Street – Frederick Crum House – 1836**

One of the best examples of Greek Revival architecture in town. Frederick Crum manufactured saws for Hill & Crum. Later, the company made burial caskets and Crum became an undertaker. The house is significant because of its association with the Crum family and with early Unionville industrial development.



**132 Main Street – Hubert C. Hart House – 1885**

The best example of Queen Anne architecture in Unionville. Around 1880, Hubert Hart joined with Andrew Upson to establish the firm of Upson & Hart, a cutlery manufacturer. After leaving the cutlery business, Hart invented a machine that made washers from wire and formed the Spencer Wire Co. in Worcester, MA. The invention was lucrative, and by 1919, the firm was manufacturing spring washers for automobiles. In 1905, Hart returned to cutlery when he organized the H. C. Hart Manufacturing Co., which produced cutlery, pliers, can openers and the Supreme Adjustable Safety Razor. Hart patented over 100 inventions and served on numerous boards, many as president.



\*Walk **Bidwell Square** if you have time, noting these five 19<sup>th</sup> c. homes:

14 Bidwell Square – St. Mary's Church Rectory – Queen Anne – 1875

42 Bidwell Square – Mark Howard House – Vernacular/Italianate – 1872

50 Bidwell Square – Dr. William Sage Rental House – Vernacular/Italianate – 1869-72

67-69 Bidwell Square – Abner Bidwell Rental House – Vernacular – 1869-78

82 Bidwell Square – Rev. James Smith Rental House – Vernacular – 1863-69

**175 Main Street – Albert L. Curtiss House – 1910**

The Curtiss house contributes to the historic architectural character of Main Street because it remains one of Unionville's few unaltered Bungalows.



**182 Main Street – Cowles, Norton & Bidwell House – circa 1835**

The only brownstone Greek Revival in Unionville. Its connection with early Unionville manufacturing history makes it an important building to preserve. Cowles, Norton & Bidwell were charter members of the Farmington River Water Power Co., organized in 1831. The firm erected a dam and canal in 1831-32 and then leased water power to Unionville's growing industries.