K-484

Skirvin Farm Site
Near Fairlee
1860

Although built a year past the planned parameters of this architectural history, the Skirvin Farmhouse is so akin to the earlier vernacular forms and plans that it is included herewith to illustrate the persistence of the vernacular tradition in Kent County.

The Skirvin Farmhouse stood on the south side of Route 20 between Fairlee and McCleans Corner until the mid-1980's. It was a two-story, stucco-covered, brick house, four bays long with central chimney and had a shallow-pitched roof above a corbeled cornice. There was a one-and-a-half story frame wing on the south gable. Its plan was hall-parlor in the main section with back-to-back fireplaces and a straight-run stair along the east side of the building. The wing had a plan nearly identical to the kitchen at Greys Inn Point Farm with kitchen at the end and pantry and corridor adjacent the main house. There were two stairs in the wing to separate quarters originally; one in the corner of the kitchen and the other opening from the corridor.

The trim throughout was typical of the mid-19th century millwork, but many details were obviously handmade and reminiscent of vernacular Federal work of the area. There were porches, but no photographic evidence has survived.

In the 1877 Atlas, the house was owned by Thomas W. Skirvin.