



HARTFORD HISTORICAL SOCIETY

• HARTFORD, VERMONT 05047 •

HARTFORD • QUECHEE • WEST HARTFORD
WHITE RIVER JUNCTION • WILDER

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September Meeting . . .

Our September meeting will feature a slide show and presentation by Judy Hayward entitled "Identifying Architecture in Vermont's Communities". This slide show will include slides of houses, farm buildings, and commercial buildings from throughout the town of Hartford. Judy is Executive Director of Historic Windsor Inc. and will be teaching courses at Lebanon College this fall dealing with historic architecture.

The Meeting will be

Wednesday, September 13, 7:00 PM

at the Greater Hartford United Church of Christ
Route 14, Hartford Village



Upcoming:

Our November meeting will feature a talk by Kelly Nolin dealing with the Samuel and Stephen Pingree Civil War letters. The Pingrees were of Hartford, and Samuel later became Governor of Vermont. Kelly Nolin is a librarian at the Connecticut Historical Society and was the person who rediscovered these letters while organizing a part of the Lyndon State College Library. Since that time she has published excerpts from them in the Summer issue of *Vermont History*. Her presentation will touch upon several important themes in the Pingree's Civil War experience.

Thank You...

The Board of Directors of the Hartford Historical Society with to thank all of those who responded to the survey mailed out this Summer concerning the function of the society. Since that time we have met with Michele Pietryka-Pagan, Director of the Vermont Collections Care Program and Michael Sherman, Director of the Vermont Historical Society. Both Michele and Michael had valuable input as to our questions concerning historical societies in general and ours in particular. We are still evaluating all input and are excited about the future.

Welcome!

We would like to officially welcome Herbert Adams as our new president of the Hartford Historical Society and David Ford our new secretary of the society. Both Herb and David were elected at our May annual meeting and are looking forward to serving the society.

In Our Schools

The Hartford High School is beginning a new class this fall entitled "New England Experience". It is an interdisciplinary class which will run three hours daily, September-January. The class will cover four units:

1. Architecture; 2. Colonial Life; 3. Maritime New England; and 4. Natural History. This class is hoping to be able to draw on local resources within the community. Anyone having artifacts, information, or time to share with the class please contact either Andersen Thorp or Robert Hagan at the Hartford High School.

From the Curator

Mrs. Fred Bloetscher, of Cuyahoga Falls, Ohio, after corresponding with me, sent some items belonging to her grandparents, Thomas Peirce Goold and Sara Jane (Cook) Goold. They had lived in Wilder in the late nineteenth century, where Thomas Goold owned and operated a grocery store and dry goods store.

The items sent were blueprints, specs, bill of material, detailed sketches, and a tinted water color sketch of the home they were to build in Wilder. All the documents were carefully removed from the package and examined for content and conservation needs. Pat Stark, our Archivist, and I made out work sheets for each item, gave them an accession number, and made note where each item will be stored. Please come and see this interesting donation on exhibit at the September meeting.

Priscilla Gadzinski, *Curator*

The Goold House:

Domestic Architecture in Wilder

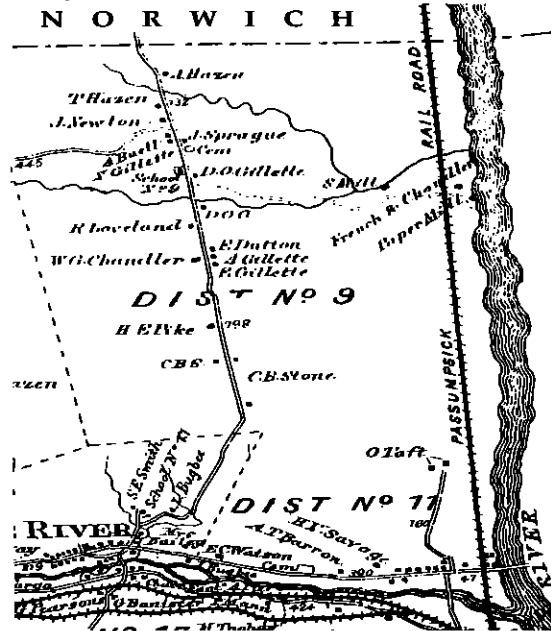
by Cameron Clifford

In the summer of 1895, Thomas and Sarah Goold constructed a house in the town of Hartford's village of Olcott, now known as Wilder. The Goolds house was built as a part of the boomtown atmosphere which created Olcott after the erection of a nearby pulp mill in 1883. The Goolds house typified in many ways the new house form then taking hold in Hartford while at the same time being of a singular style and origin.

Thomas and Sarah Goold definitely would not have built their house in Olcott if a pulp mill had not been built at the "falls" on the Connecticut River in 1883. Before the building of this pulp mill; Olcott did not exist. The building of the pulp mill at "the falls" culminated an effort on the part of enterprising individuals to developed the site to its full industrial potential. The falls site had been utilized since the 1790s in operating at different times a fulling mill, corn mill, saw mill, and paper mill. In the 1870's members of the Gillette family led an effort to acquire rights to the whole area around the falls site on both sides of the Connecticut River. This early effort failed to materialize, but in the early 1880s another effort sponsored by

the Gillettes succeeded in the construction of "one of the most important manufacturing enterprise ever inaugurated" in Hartford; the pulp mill¹.

It was natural that residential growth would occur in the vicinity of such an important manufactory as the pulp mill. Previous to the era of personal mobility via automobile, families settled in the vicinity of their work. Thus villages grew around businesses and factories. Olcott village began with the construction of the pulp mill in 1883 and by 1889 the village consisted of "about fifty dwelling houses, a commodious school house, a post office, a dry goods and grocery store, a public hall with a seating capacity of 150 persons, a livery stable, ...[and a] congregational church...." Olcott was a boomtown.



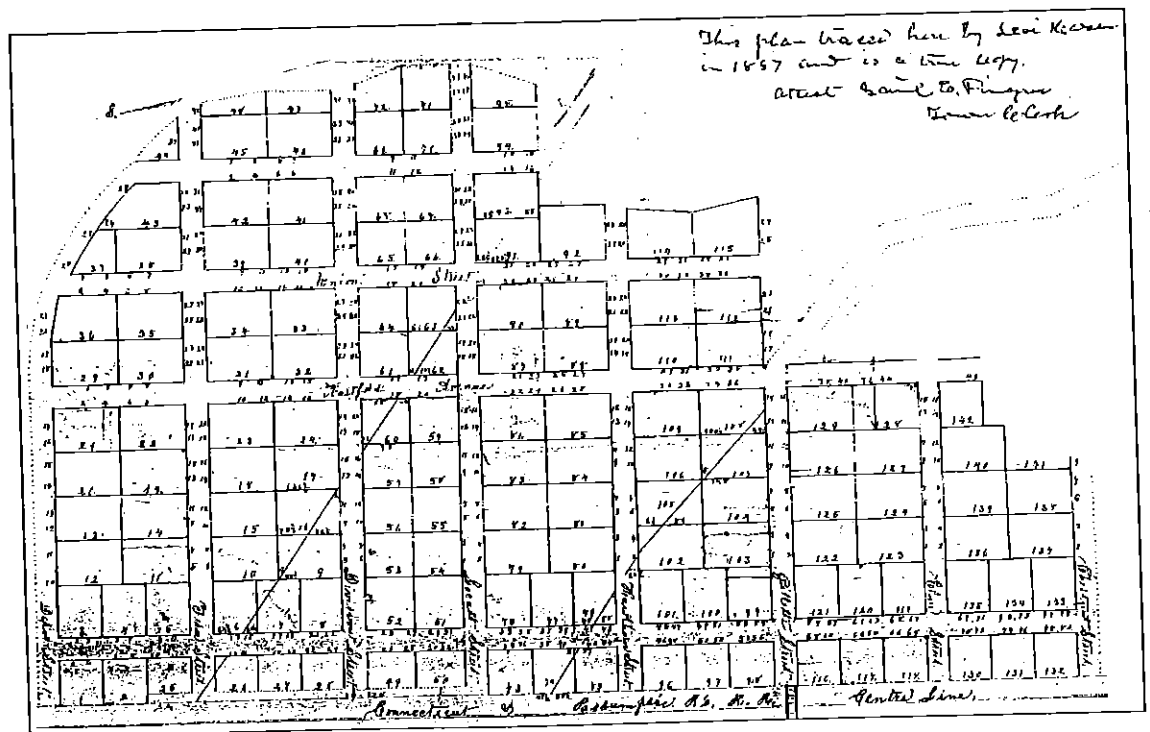
1869 map showing the area now known as Wilder, Vermont.

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William Tucker predicted in 1889 that because of the pulp mill "other manufacturing establishments will be put in operation in Olcott" resulting in the "many hundred available building lots there" to be fully occupied. Tucker predicted that Olcott would soon "become the most important village in Hartford, if not Windsor County."²

While community leaders wanted business and village growth, they also wanted to avoid the problems of congestion associated with large villages and cities. Planning the growth of villages and suburbs became widespread in the latter part of the nineteenth century.³ One aspect of organized village planning was that residential building lots should be laid out in an orderly fashion. At the time rectangular lots laid out on a grid of lots and streets was a popular form of village planning. This planning ensured that all lots were uniform and would have street frontage so there would be little likelihood of controversy over individual right-of-ways to lots.

A map of Olcott's house lots drawn in 1887 by Levi Hazen of West Hartford shows the uniformity of the lots as they had been planned for the village. Hazen's map showed a grid of 141 lots accessed by 12 streets.⁴ The lots at Olcott were of a standard size; small. Since this was a plan for a mill village; there was no need to have large lots for pasture, or crops. Indeed, agricultural pursuits within the village most



Survey map of Olcott, Vermont drawn by Levi Hazen.

likely were strongly discouraged. The house lot size designed for Olcott was small compared to those in the outlying districts within town, but much thought and evaluation went into ensuring the lots were not "too small." Congestion in the larger New England towns and cities was avoided. Olcott's lots were large enough to ensure the owner could build a decent house and maintain a grass lawn around the home; thus giving the owners a certain sense of independence which was hard to achieve in urban settings.

Because of the excitement associated with the development of Olcott, house lots sold briskly. Susan (Gillette) Kinsman and husband Charles' transactions during this time reveal the intensity. Through the 1880s and 1890s they sold lots 114, 106, 111, 109, 51, 52, 83, 108, 27, 26, and other lots to a diverse pool of interested people. Some purchasers of Olcott lots were from the Hartford region, but others were from the larger towns and cities of New Hampshire and Massachusetts.⁵ The hype about the business and residential opportunities at Olcott spread beyond the immediate region.

As lots were sold; people began building homes. The homes which were built in Olcott differed though from those which had been built within the town of Hartford previously. Before the 1880s most of the houses built in Hartford were "capes." This dominant house form came along with the early settlers to town in the eighteenth century and was modified throughout the years. Originally the cape was a square to rectangular one and a half story building with a central doorway along the front facade flanked by paired windows. Interiorly, there were typically two front rooms, and two or more smaller



Typical Tri-Gable house of the period.

rooms in the back centered around a massive brick chimney. The upstairs had either one large or two smaller rooms. As technology and tastes changed, stoves and small chimneys replaced the central chimney; windows became evenly spaced across the facade; and a kneewall developed between the roofline and the window-line making more headroom upstairs.⁶

Along with capes there was a small representation of other house forms in Hartford before the 1880s, but these were few in number. With the 1880s came the newest house form along with its variant styles: the tri-gable.

The tri-gable house was one in which a gable end hosting the primary entrance was oriented to the street with another gabled form jetting out midway at right angle to

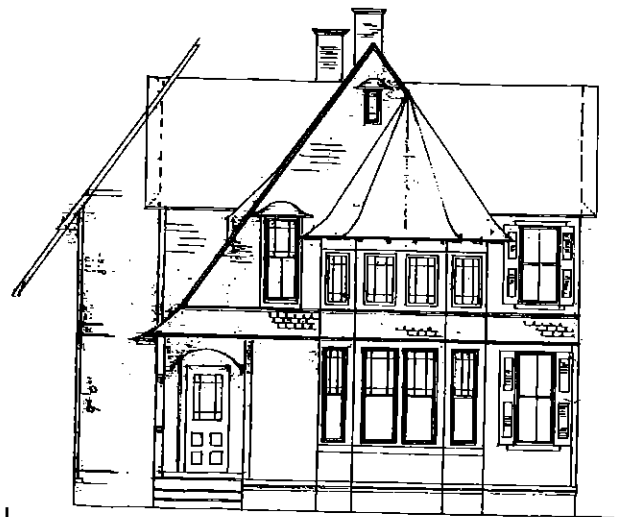
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the main block of the house; thus forming a house with three gable ends. Tri-gable houses became widespread after the 1876 U.S. centennial celebration which featured tri-gables with the new "Queen Anne" style of embellishments. They soon became the dominant house form in both rural and urban settings throughout the rest of the nineteenth century.⁷ Indeed, the rural midwest and the residential fringe of growing cities abounded with tri-gables during this time.

In Hartford's case, the construction of tri-gable houses was confined mainly to the villages of White River Junction, Hartford, and Olcott with almost none being constructed outside of the village setting. The concentration of tri-gables in these villages and almost nowhere else in town had to do with population and demographics. During the latter part of the nineteenth century Hartford's village population grew while the rural parts of town actually lost population.⁸ At the same time villages were seeing new houses built; rural areas were seeing houses abandoned. Thus new house forms such as the tri-gable, built in the latter nineteenth century, were limited to Hartford's villages.⁹

Within Olcott tri-gable houses were very popular. Many of those who chose to make their homes in the new village adopted the new house style. On lots 5, 7, 12, 14, tri-gables were built. A line of tri-gables on Norwich Avenue extended from lot 101 to 119. Owners of corner lots found the location ideal for tri-gable houses; lots 23, 24, 25, 60, 62, 85, and 87 were among the corner lots with tri-gables built on them. There were other tri-gables throughout the village bringing the total to over twenty. Among them was the Goold house.¹⁰

The house the Goolds built came out of the tradition of the tri-gables, but it had some aspects which made it very singular within Olcott Village. Thomas and Sarah Goold were originally from out of the region. They became part of the elite of Olcott where Thomas was a merchant.¹¹ The Goolds architectural aspirations were a little more refined than many other home owners in Olcott. The Goolds house was designed by a professional architect. Most likely, the majority of the homes in Olcott were designed or copied from already published plans and adapted by local builders on site, so



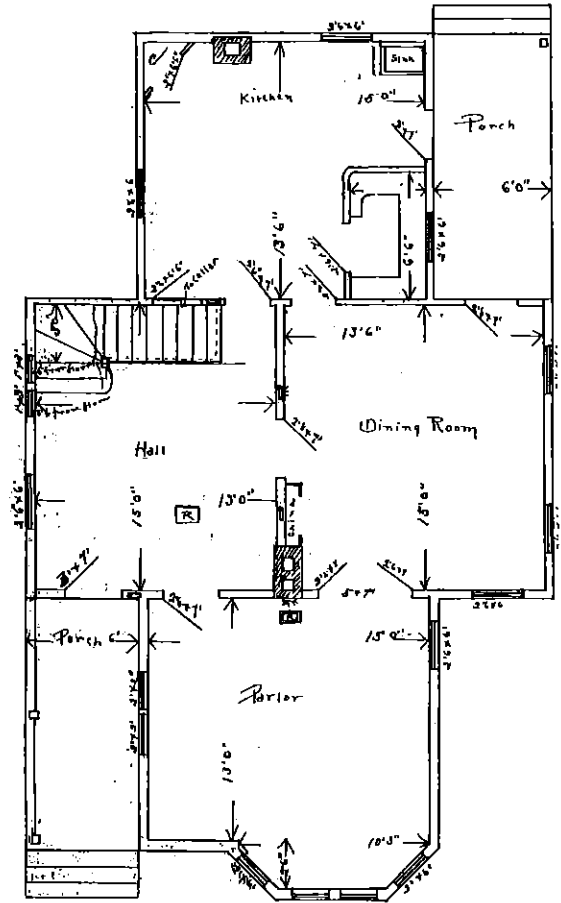
An elevation drawing of the Goold house.

the Goold house was special in this respect. Not only was the Goold's house designed by an architect, but this architect practiced in far-away Philadelphia, Pennsylvania.

Another aspect of the Goold house related to its design which made it singular within Olcott and indeed rare within the nation was that the architect from Philadelphia who designed the Goolds house was a woman. Little is known about Emily Elizabeth Holman, but she appears to have been successful in her architectural practice. She was listed in the Philadelphia city directory as an architect from 1893-1914. Within her career she undoubtedly designed many residential buildings and perhaps business and public buildings also. She published several monographs on residential architecture during her active years, but little else is known of her career.¹²

Holman was only one of three known female architects in Philadelphia's history. Of the other two; less is known about Helena Lukens, but Minerva Parker Nichol's career is better known. Minerva Parker followed in the footsteps of her grandfather; architect Seth Doane. Parker evidently pursued architectural design as a career in Philadelphia until her marriage in 1896 to minister William Nichols. The couple moved to Brooklyn, New York where he preached. Minerva Nichols architectural talents were then "limited to work for relatives and friends, and she never actually reopened her architectural offices..." again.¹³ Marriage many times limited women's professional opportunities in nineteenth century America. This was true for Minerva Parker Nichols. It's not known if Emily Holman ever married.

The house Emily Holman designed for the Goolds included balloon construction, central heating, and two porches. The ground floor included a kitchen, hall, dining room, and parlor while the upstairs included four bedrooms. Even though the Goolds house came out of the tri-gable tradition; it actually had an extra gable making it a

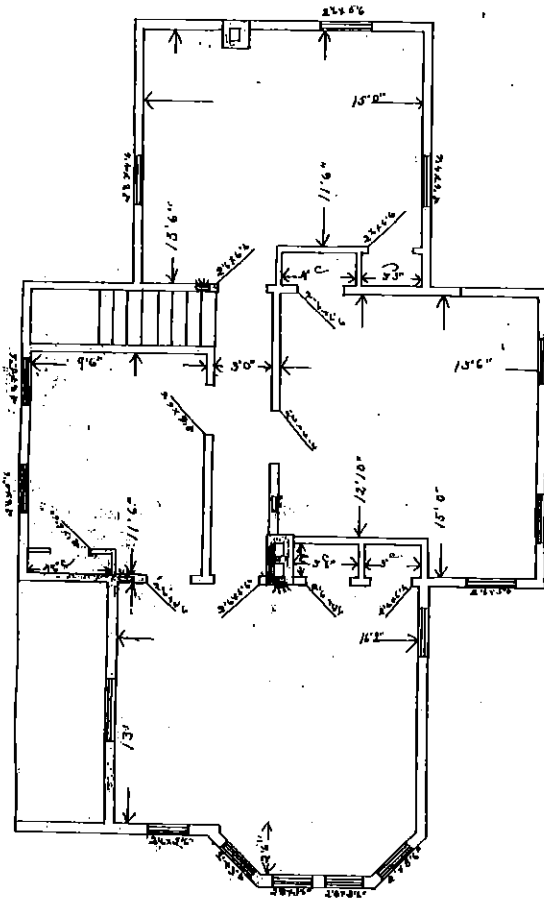


First Floor Plan
Scale 1/4" = 1 ft.

house of four gables. This detail is important because it was an individual aspect Holman incorporated into the Goolds house plans. It set the house apart from the other tri-gables. The Goolds house also had certain stylistic embellishments which set it slightly above, if not apart from, Olcott's other tri-gable houses. The Goold's house made use of "Queen Anne" styling with fancy trimwork, decorative shingles, and a sweeping roofline on one side of the house.¹⁴

The contract between the Goolds and the builder reveal a careful attention to details in the construction of the house arranged by Holman. The building contractor was to proceed "in a thorough and workmanlike manner, according to the true intent and meaning of the plans and specifications" of the dwelling. Specific examples by what was meant in the agreement as to quality work included the chimneys being "laid in strong lime and sand mortar..." The lath inside was to be made of "good spruce" lumber. The framing was to be "in the best manner known to the trade" with specific instructions for the framing "around stairways and chimneys." There was to be "careful note" taken in connection with the upstairs dormer. There were numerous details to attend to, but they were all summed up best in the contract with the instruction to "leave all perfect at the completion of [the] house."¹⁵ Indeed it surely was.

The Goolds lived in their home in Olcott for over ten years; selling in 1907 to Helen Palmer.¹⁶ By then the village was known as Wilder. Though the village never fulfilled William Tucker's prophecy as the most important village in Windsor County; it did prove fertile



M. J. T. P. Goold -
Olcott, Vt.

Second Floor Plan
Scale 1/4" = 1 ft.

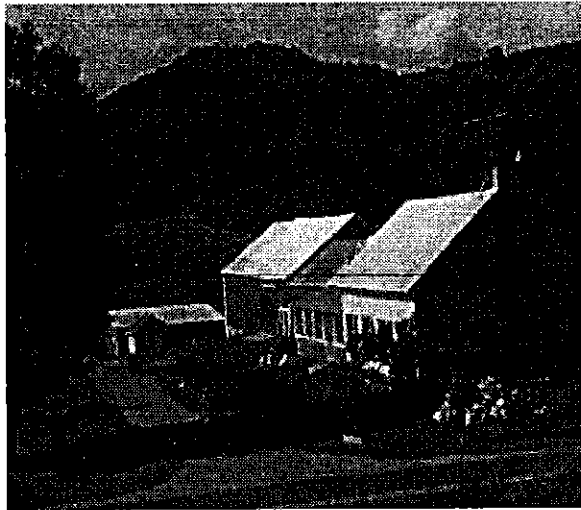
ground for the spread of a popular late nineteenth century house form. There were many tri-gable houses constructed in the village between the 1880s and 1900s. The Goolds house was one of them, but singular in design.

Nanny's Place:

Architectural Changes in Function of a Vermont Farm

by Cameron Clifford

In July of 1994 my Grandmother or "Nanny" as we called her, died. Her name was Maude (Kenyon) Clifford and she lived in N. Pomfret, Vermont. She died in the house in which she had lived for almost seventy years. This house was the third house she had lived in. She was born in another house located less than two miles to the East on a hill overlooking the White River. There she lived until her teens when her older brother took over that farm and she and her parents moved to a small farm nearer N. Pomfret Village. She lived there throughout her teenage years and the first few years of her marriage to my grandfather, Gerald Clifford. In 1927 my grandfather's father died leaving two adjoining farms in N. Pomfret; one went to my grandfather's brother "Pete" and the one across the road went to my grandfather. My grandparents moved into the house on this farm in 1928. This is the house my grandmother lived in her remaining sixty-seven years. Through interpreting the architecture of the place I knew as her home and interviewing family and friends, many hints of the life she and my grandfather lived were uncovered.¹



*The Clifford House near North Pomfret;
"Nanny's Place".*

It was obvious the house my grandmother lived in her sixty-seven years was a Vermont farmhouse. Her house was part of a farm which she and my grandfather operated for most of the years they lived there. The presence of the attached barn and unattached milkhouse indicate that they had dairy farmed for a living.

The dairy barn was in a sad state of disrepair at my grandmothers death. The roof boards were rotten. This had happened because the barn never had a cupola to vent out unwanted moisture which condensed on the metal roof and over time rotted the roof. The barn floor was dangerous to walk on. One

wrong step and through the floor you could go. As with the barn roof, the barn floor was bad because of neglect. Old hay was allowed to accumulate on the floor over the past two decades and as a result; water from the leaks in the roof kept this hay chaff

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on the floor wet. Rotten floorboards ensued. The stable stone wall was unsound. Also the barn was pulling apart. Either my grandfather or the previous owner before him, cut some of the support beams upstairs in the barn to make it more convenient for hay unloading. Thus over time the barn had slowly spread apart. An iron rod was later put through the building to help hold it together, but ever since the barn stopped being used for dairying; the barn slowly continued to spread. Since use facilitates maintenance for a building; my grandmothers unused barn was in bad shape.

At the time of my grandmothers death the barn hadn't held cattle for over twenty years, but it was made use of in a grossly underutilized way. It served as a storage place. Parents, siblings, cousins, an uncle, and myself all had "stuff" in it. This "stuff" ranged from a motorcycle, to picnic tables, to beekeeping equipment, to lumber, to just plain garbage nobody wanted. It was a convenient space to put anything one wanted to get out of the way. And there was plenty of room.

This barn had a very different function when my grandparents were farming. The barn had supported them throughout their working lives in housing their dairy herd.



Getting in hay, circa 1945

The herd occupied the lower level of the barn in the "stable." Here was where the cows were "stanchioned" during the morning and evening milkings as well as over night. During the day the cows were allowed to go out to pasture until it was time to get them back into the stable late in the afternoon for the evening milking. The east wall of this stable was built into the bank so that the upstairs "barn floor" could be accessed at ground level. The upstairs held the hay for the herd. This space got completely filled during the summer

so that hay was also stored at other barns rented by my grandparents. During the fall, winter, and spring the store of hay got less as it got fed out at a greater rate than when the cows also had summer pasture. Come Summer again; the barn floor, and all the space to the rafters of the barn was refilled with hay.

This dairy barn of my grandmothers was originally built as a multipurpose barn in the first half of the nineteenth century. At that time "mixed" agriculture was pursued by most farmers.² Farmers raised a variety of grains, crops, and animals for their livelihood. Later in the nineteenth century in Vermont, farmers began to focus more on dairying as the primary activity on their farms. This new focus on dairying

had a big impact on the barn my grandparents later owned. The barn was renovated to facilitate dairying.

The original one-story barn was moved to a new location on top of a foundation which made possible the underneath stable for the cattle. Previously, animals were housed underneath scaffolds which held the hay and unthrashed grain in the old one-story barns. These scaffolds were on either side of the entryway as one entered the main barn door on the front facade. The "new" upstairs was renovated for almost exclusive hay storage and the barn was turned into a dairy barn.³

The barn was not alone in this shift to dairying; the barn was just a part of a larger reorganization of the whole farm. This reorganization of the farm in the late nineteenth century involved the construction of a new house, the addition of a line of sheds off one end of the new house, and the moving, renovation, and attachment of the old barn to the other end of the sheds. It was quite a project.

Farm creation in Pomfret was intense during the latter part of the eighteenth and first third of the nineteenth centuries. Thereafter because of the saturation of potential farmland in the town and later because of rural population loss; new farms ceased being created. My grandparents farm probably dated from the first quarter of the nineteenth century.⁴

Although farms stopped being created in the latter part of the nineteenth century it did not mean new farmhouses weren't built. My grandmother's house had replaced an older one. Old farmhouses became dilapidated without proper care, fire destroyed many, and changes in tastes and expectations all were catalysts for building a new farmhouse on an old farm.

The form, construction, and orientation of my grandmother's house to the other farm buildings all tell something about the life of its occupants. The new house was a 1½ story sidehall house; a rare house form in Northern Pomfret. Sidehall houses originated in the large towns and urban centers where land was a premium and lots necessarily small. The sidehall house with its entry at the gable end was oriented toward the street. In this way more houses could be built along a street because the end of the house faced the road and not the facade.⁵ That four sidehall houses were built in Northern Pomfret in the latter part of the nineteenth century indicates their occupants subscribed to the urban style widespread in Southern New England.

Even though the form and style of my grandmothers house mimicked those of a mainly urban lifestyle, her house was built specifically as a farmhouse. The woman who with her husband had the sidehall house built was originally from Fitchburg, Massachusetts and subscribed to an urban style in architecture, but the couple farmed for a living in N. Pomfret.⁶ The house they built was part of a unified farm

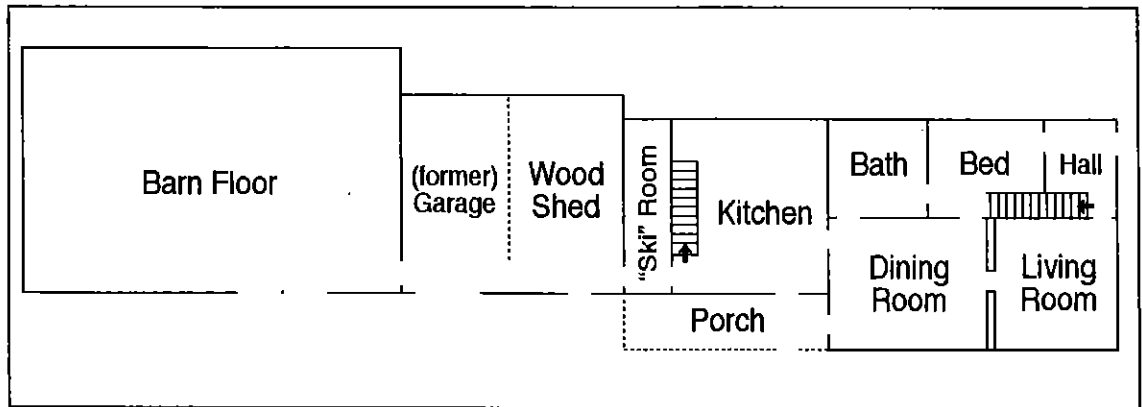
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complex which was organized in a line of connected buildings. The house was connected to a dairy processing room, which was connected to a woodshed, which was connected to a carriage shed, which was connected to the main barn. This arrangement of house and farm buildings was most prominent in rural Maine where large numbers of "improving" farmers sought to arrange their farm buildings to be more conducive to changes in agricultural technology and became more efficient.⁷

Because of the arrangement of this line of structures at my grandmothers place and the extant "hints" within them helping to gain an understanding of the function each structure performed, a fairly good picture of late nineteenth century rural life can be visualized

In the house, as has been noted, its form was of a more urban and formal nature. This had to do mainly with the organization and use of the sidehalls front hall and parlor of yesteryear. In genteel urban society during the nineteenth century there was a code of conduct which made the hall and parlor central to how one received visitors. The hall was a receiving room and the parlor was an entertaining room. The hall was accessed from the outside doorway facing the street where visitors would presumably come from. The parlor was off the hall through a doorway. Another doorway in the front hall led to the rest of the house. What was "supposed" to transpire with unexpected or formal guests was if one was called upon by visitors; they could be led directly to the parlor which was kept perfectly clean and used very little for any other activity. In that way the visitors would not be exposed to the mess and intimacy of the rest of the house. If the visitor on the other hand was a close friend; she could be led right through the rest of the house to wherever the hostess was doing her chores to visit while getting housework done.⁸ It is hard to imagine many genteel visitors in 19th century rural Pomfret, but easy to visualize visiting neighbors. Within the rest of the house; bedrooms were upstairs and the kitchen, dining, and other small room downstairs made the home complete.

The next part of the farm complex connected to the house was the milk processing room. This room actually included two floors; the ground floor and the cellar directly underneath accessed by a set of stairs from the upper room. The milk processing room was strategically located to be both convenient to access from the house and the barn. The function of this space was to process the milk produced on the farm in preparation for sale.⁹ The upstairs most likely held the various strainers, pans, cream separator, and other equipment needed. Here butter and perhaps cheese was made and then carried downstairs to the cold room in the cellar for storage. This room in the cellar had an outside door where presumably one could load the finished dairy products into a wagon for shipment to market. This two-floor dairy processing and storage space represents a perfect combination of the work of the barn and the work of the house; its location was between both.



Floorplan of "Nanny's Place" 1994

Beyond the milk processing room was a cold storage room which also housed the out-house in one corner. Connected to this cold storage room was the woodshed where the supply of kitchen firewood was thrown in. Down the walk past the wood storage area was the carriage storage space within this shed; a sort of nineteenth century garage. Attached to the carriage shed was the barn. A doorway from the carriage shed to the barn led to the main barn floor where the hay was stored.

With my grandparents moving to the farm in the late 1920s they made use of much of what had been renovated and constructed in the late nineteenth century farm reorganization. They used the buildings. The house was occupied by them. The old woodshed held their kitchen stovewood. The barn held their cattle and hay.

The first number of years on the farm did not see them make use of the former milk processing and storage rooms. These rooms had ceased being useful when milk stopped being processed at home and was picked up by truck instead. This phenomena occurred in Pomfret just about the time my grandparents moved onto their farm.

Throughout the years my grandparents made several changes to the home, sheds, and barn which came with the farm. The house saw the majority of these changes. My grandparents expanded the living space of their home out of the main block of the house. They created a new kitchen where the old dairy processing room had been. Most of the subsequent changes which were made revolved around this decision to move the kitchen.

The old kitchen had been located off the dining room in the south-west corner of the house. It was a small kitchen and my grandmother desired a larger one. The old dairy processing room made a great place for a new kitchen. It was large. It had running water within it. And its location at the end of the main block of the house made it a natural entry way from the barn or for visitors from the driveway.

The decision to move the the kitchen space into the old dairy processing room resulted in more than just the creation of a new room; it altered the uses of several rooms.

Where the old kitchen had been was renovated into a bathroom complete with toilet, bathtub, and sink. These in turn replaced the outhouse, the portable washtub, and the old large kitchen sink of the previous era. Also the dining room changed from being the place where everyday meals were eaten to being a place rarely used for meals. The new kitchen was big enough for a kitchen table; something the old kitchen wasn't able to accommodate. Thus the former daily use of the dining room table. With the new kitchen, the dining room was used for eating meals only on special holidays or family gatherings. Instead of hosting daily meals the dining room was converted to "holding space"; it held the hunting trophies, the cabinet of good china, and the desk where bills and accounts of the farm were kept.

With the moving of the kitchen to the old dairy processing space; the old stairs which led to the dairy storage room were abandoned and new stairs to the cellar installed in the main block of the house. When the new kitchen was created; my grandmother saw the potential to make use of the little nook off the kitchen for a woodbox and storage space where the old stairs led to the old dairy storage room. The old stairs led to the "plastered room" downstairs as she called it instead of directly into the cellar where the new wood furnace was located. Whenever the furnace needed to be filled with firewood; one had to go through the kitchen, down the stairs, through the plastered room, and into the cellar. It seemed like a long trip when one had been seated in the living room. The combination of the desire of making use of the old stairway landing off the kitchen and the hope of creating a more direct route to the furnace in the cellar resulted in a new set of stairs being built within my grandparents bedroom.

The new stairs made it a more direct route to the cellar. One could then hop off the couch take a few steps into the old dining room, take a sharp right into the bedroom and there the stairs were. Middle of the night trips to the furnace on the coldest winter nights were made much more convenient with the cellar door a few feet away from my grandparents bed. This renovation did not make the trip from the kitchen to the furnace any shorter, but my grandmother got her extra storage space.

The use of the cellar for a furnace room also in part came about because of the creation of the new kitchen in the old dairy processing room. Previously with the combination of the kitchen cookstove in the main block of the house and the stove in the old parlor, the house could be kept warm. However, with the movement of the kitchen woodstove to the new kitchen outside of the main block of the house it was harder keeping the whole house warm. This fact combined with and a general desire to do away with the parlor stove brought about the installation of the wood furnace central heating system in the cellar.

Along with the changes in the house during my grandparents farming years came the changes to the sheds and barn. The woodshed and carriage shed off the cold storage room changed little. The woodshed still held firewood and the carriage shed still was associated with transportation; albeit housing a pickup truck instead of a carriage. The barn on the other hand did see changes.

The main change the barn saw was associated with expansion. Technology did make changes within the barn: electrification brought about the disappearance of the kerosene lamp, but technology also brought about changes to the barn itself. In the days of hand milking, my grandparents had perhaps fifteen cows. With electric power also came the milking machine. The milking machine made it possible to milk more cows efficiently. The milking machine combined with a general trend toward fewer and larger dairy herds to make expansion of my grandparents herd possible; and desirable.

The problem with expansion of the herd was that more outlay was needed in acquiring the use of more farmland for pasture, hay, and crops and the buildings on the farm needed to be expanded. The expansion of the dairy barn was a relatively easy matter though. The barn was simply extended out beyond where it had been. This meant more hay storage upstairs and more stable room downstairs. Two by six inch dimension lumber was spliced to ten by ten inch beams. The expansion of the herd and dairy barn also brought about the creation of new buildings. An equipment shed was raised using old milk cans filled with cement as the foundation and lumber either from the farm or bought from a local mill. Later, in combination with stricter regulation of milk production, a cement block milkhouse was built which held the milk in a tank outside of the stable itself.

The milkhouse of the 1960s was the last farm structure my grandparents built. Within a few years my grandfather was diagnosed with cancer and in May of 1973; he died. My grandfathers diagnosis and decline in health directly affected the use of the farm buildings; he stopped farming. At first he tried to keep farming, but later decided that it was best to sell the herd. After that he concentrated on the less labor intensive raising of heifers to sell to other farmers. He raised heifers until he died. In the last stages of my grandfathers illness, my grandparents depended upon children, grandchildren, and neighbor boys to do the bulk of the work associated with the cattle. With my grandfathers death came an auction which sold the cattle and remaining farm equipment. My grandparents place ceased functioning as a farm.

Even though my grandmother's place ceased functioning as a farm, she remained in her mind a retired farmwife and her attitude influenced how she used her home. She tried her best to keep the barn in repair. She did not have notions of pastoral beauty associated with agricultural architecture; the barn had been a central part of her life

and she wanted it to remain. Her efforts were managerial as they always had been. She called daring neighbors who could climb on the roof after each windstorm to re-attach loose sheets of metal roofing. She had handymen keep the barn windows repaired. She encouraged the poaching of pigeons which "messed" all over the barn floor from their roosts in the rafters. She hired a contractor to pour a cement retaining wall against the stone foundation to keep it from caving in. And she hired her brother-in-law to take down the old leaning silo before it pulled the barn over.

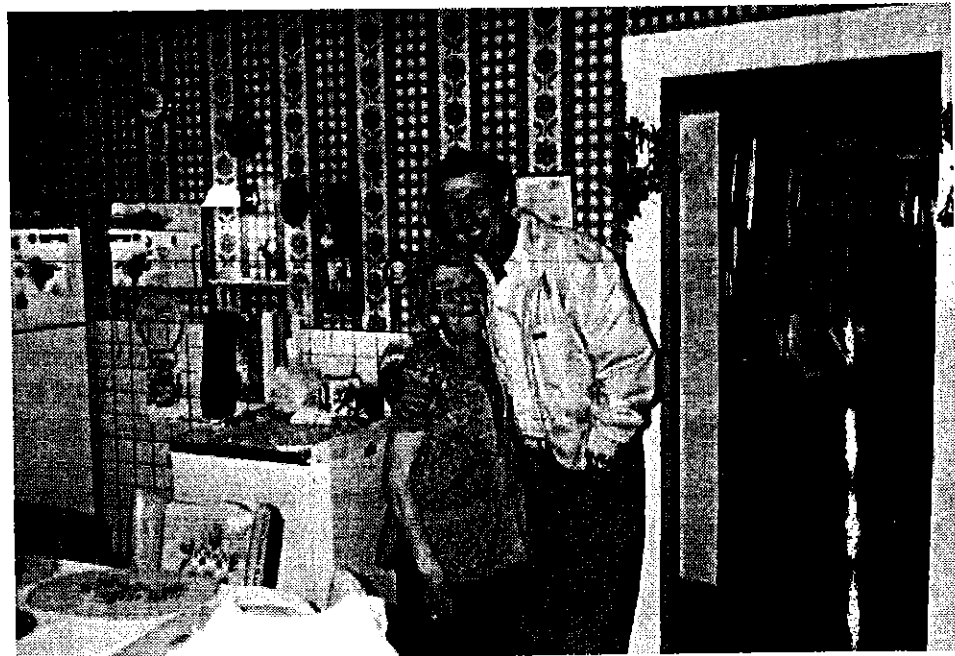
Along with the persistence in maintaining the barn came a deep desire to keep burning wood in her kitchen stove. Since her upbringing taught her to cook on a wood stove and she began housekeeping with a wood cook stove; she persisted in keeping a wood kitchen cookstove. The purchase of her gas/wood combination stove sometime in the 1940s reflected her desire to have the ease of gas, but retain the familiarity of wood with the comfort of its winter warmth.

Since Nanny's kitchen had a wood cookstove throughout her lifetime; the wood used for fueling the cookstove influenced more than just her whim; it influenced how her buildings were used. After wood had been cut and sawn it was drawn to the house where it was thrown into "the woodshed". This space was located off the kitchen through a hallway door; between the house and barn. Here wood was thrown into a huge pile where it was easily accessed from the house. Along with the shed, another space was influenced by the use of wood. In the small room off the kitchen where her laundry facilities were later located was the small, space gained when she did away with the old stairs to the "plastered room". Within this room was a closet-like space a foot and a half wide and five feet tall where wood was stored for use in the stove. And of course the kitchen was influence by the burning of wood in the cookstove within it. Thus the shed held the years supply of kitchen stove wood, the closet held a days supply, and the kitchen only enough as the stove could burn at one time. Because Nanny wanted to burn wood in her kitchen, three spaces within the house and farm buildings were utilized so that could be accomplished.

My grandmother also persisted in her former weekly routine. Church on Sunday mornings; downstreet on Fridays; and home the rest of the time. Her life revolved around her home. It was this love of her home which set the stage for an endeavor which she entered before the death of my grandfather and indeed, helped her cope in life without him. She operated a guest house

During the decades after WWII as increased numbers of people came to the Woodstock region to recreate and "experience" Vermont; a need arose for providing overnight lodging for these "guests". As a result several farmers and former farm families in Pomfret opened up their homes as "Guest Houses"; my grandmother was one of those who made her home available to travelers.

It began by actually giving up her own bed to her guests while she slept on a cot. As more people came and stayed more than just one night; use was made of the old upstairs bedrooms formerly used by the hired man and his family in the days when a hired man was retained full-time on the farm by my grandparents while my uncle was in the Korean War. Subsequently these rooms were improved; one having a dormer added for sunlight. A bathroom was added upstairs and two more bedrooms were added to the unused space over the kitchen and over the hallway to the woodshed. When even these renovations proved inadequate of providing enough space; part of the former cold storage room on the way to the woodshed was made into a "ski-room" where one could sleep in privacy and have a cozy woodstove to keep warm by. This woodstove had taken over the little recess where years before the outhouse had been. Not only was the house renovated to accommodate the influx of overnight guests, but the old milkhouse was too. Nanny decided that the old milkhouse would make a nice little "cottage". Thus the milkhouse was stripped of all vestiges of milk production and converted to sleeping quarters complete with an attached addition where a chemical toilet was located. My grandmother's efforts at changing her home to accommodate travelers resulted in many happy acquaintances with people who became friends. She was able to persist in taking in guests well into her late 80s when declining health brought about another chapter of her life; and the use of her house.



"Nanny" and one of her "guests"; 1988

As my grandmother's health declined her will to remain in her own home intensified. The result was that her house was essentially turned into an extended care facility for her. At first this meant the use of walkers which helped her make her way throughout her house as well as outside. The need arose for someone to help her do things she could not do herself such as laundry and carrying in the wood. Later someone was needed to stay to get her meals and eventually stay with her full time.

In time as my grandmother slowed down and used less of her home herself; the need for more help combined with her increased medical needs resulted in changes to her home. Her confinement to a wheelchair necessitated the building of wheelchair ramps from the kitchen to the porch and from the porch to the lawn. Also, the woman who lived with my grandmother and took care of her found her job getting harder. As time went on my grandmother required care at night as well as during the day; more people were hired to care for her. There were people who alternated caring for my grandmother nights and on Sundays. Their use of the house ranged from sleeping on the living room couch or sitting up reading while my grandmother slept to giving her medication or changing her bed after she had soiled it. The flow of caregivers was continuous, so were the visits by the doctor. Finally it was decided to keep her as comfortable as possible and let nature take its course. She died July 15, 1994.

In November of 1994 Nanny's place was sold to people from Massachusetts who had a different vision for how they wanted their new home to function. The barn would still to be a barn, but the floor would be taken out and a new one put in; three feet higher than the old one. The old stable downstairs was to be completely gutted, cemented, and installed with horse stalls, and the barn made sound. The old shed between the house and barn would be made into living space for the owners while the main house was planned to accommodate future hospice patients the new owners hoped one day to care for.

One winter day in February, 1995 when I stopped at my grandmother's former place to see how the renovation was going, I found eight guys working there. The barn had been renovated, the shed was under way, and the main house was completely gutted to the exterior studwall. All the interior studwalls had been ripped out. I told one of the workers who I was and of my amazement at the work being done on the place. While getting ready to leave I overheard him commenting to one of his co-workers that he thought I was "freaking out" at the changes. I wasn't. But I was sure glad I had preserved the photos and memories of the place I had always known as "Nanny's."

Welcome

Notes to Articles in This Issue

The Goold House: Domestic Architecture in Wilder, Vermont

- 1 William Howard Tucker, *History of Hartford, Vermont* (Burlington: 1889), 131-135; hereafter cited as Tucker.
- 2 Tucker, 135.
- 3 David Ward, *Poverety, Ethnicity, and the American City, 1840-1925* (Cambridge: 1989) 29-39, 61-64, 75-77, 82-86).
- 4 *Town of Hartford Vermont Land Records*, Vol. 26, end of book; hereafter cited as Hartford.
- 5 *Ibid.*, Vol. 27, 157; Vol. 28, 11, 109, 123, 143, 178; Vol. 29, 4, 73, 92, 125.
- 6 Curtis Johnson ed., *The Historic Architecture of Rutland County* (Montpelier: 1988) 480.
- 7 *Ibid.*, 474-475, 483.
- 8 Federal Census Records 1850-1900. Predominately rural towns contiguous to Hartford lost population while Hartford gained population. By inference rural parts of Hartford also lost population.
- 9 Informal survey of house forms in the Town of Hartford's rural and village settings conducted by the author, July, 1995.
- 10 Survey of extant house forms in Wilder Village conducted by the author August, 1995. Collection of the author.
- 11 *The Gateway of Vermont, Hartford and Its Villages*, 63.
- 12 Sandra Tatman and Roger Moss, *Biographical Dictionary of Philadelphia Architects 1700-1900* (Boston: 1985), 393
- 13 *Ibid.*, 494, 573-575
- 14 Architectural Collection of Hartford Historical Society.
- 15 *Ibid.*
- 16 Hartford, Vol. 36, 29.

Nanny's Place: Archectural Changes in the Function of a Vermont Farm

- 1 This essay is based on over seventy interior and exterior photographs I took of my grandmother's place the day she died. The essay is also based on my personal memories, and the recollections of my grandmother, Maude (Kenyon) Clifford, my father, Erwin Clifford, my uncle Paul Clifford, and the memories of a former farm employe and neighbor of my grandparents, Bruce Tuthil.
- 2 Thomas C. Hubka, *Big House, Little House, Back House, Barn. The Connected Farm Buildings of New England* (Hanover: 1984) 54-55; hereafter cited as Hubka.
- 3 Curtis B. Johnson, *A Field Guide To Vermont Barns*, Vermont Life: Autumn, 1992, 34-35.
- 4 Research conducted by the author using Pomfret land records in researching the chain of title and origins of each farm and village house in Northern Pomfret extant in 1990. Notes in collection of the author.
5. Curtis Johnson ed., *The Historic Architecture of Rutland County* (Montpelier: 1988), 483.
- 6 *Town of Promfret Land Records*, Vol. 14, 37; Vol. 16, 176, 399; Vol. 21, 345.
- 7 Hubka, 202-204.
- 8 Sally McMurry, *Families & Farmhouses in 19th Century America* (Oxford: 1988), 1:1-143
- 9 Jane C. Nylander, *Our Own Snug Fireside Images of the New England Home 1760-1860* (New Haven: 1993), 201

Illustration credits: Beer's 1869 Atlas of Windsor Co, VT: 3. Clifford collection: 9, 10, 13, 17. Hartford Historical Society: 6, 7, 8. Curtis Johnson photo: 5. Town of Hartford: 4.

In Philemon Hazen's account book there is an interesting entry:

October 1816 James Spenser Dr.		
to one day's work up to the Jewett place	.75	Dr to Drawing sand
Dito	.75	Cr for clay
October 19th to drawing boards from Daeacon Gibbs		Cr for fore hundred and twenty Bricks at
1000 + 11 feet	.75	four dollars A thousand
		2.00

Hazen was from Hartford and from this 1816 entry it is evident something was in the plans to be built. Research shows it was for James Spencer's new cape-style house that was built in 1816 and still stands at the intersection of Jericho Street and Sugartop Road in Hartford.

Recent Gifts

The Society thanks the following individuals for their recent gifts:

John Adams; Program, Hartford Grammar School Graduation Exercises, 1921.

Daniel and James Aher; Hartford Library Records: Constitution, early records, membership, circulation information, 1850s-1900s.

Fred Bradley; China Cup, Pitcher, and Saucer with Hartford scenes.

John Gates; Various Hartford High School Yearbooks, 1940s-1970s; Alumni Day Newsletters, 1980s; Baccalaureate Programs, 1940s-1970s

Charlotte Lahar; Hartford Bicentennial Coin, 200 Years of Progress 1761-1961.

Lettie Morse; Wood Yardstick from Taft Grocery, White River Jct., Vt.

Kent and Carla Quilla; Booklet, *Annual Report of the Officers of the Town of Hartford, 1913*

Richard Simonds; Photograph, Hartford High School class of 1919 with student ID on back.

Pat Stark; Paper, *How to Dance the Charleston* by Oscar Durgea, 1926.

Woodstock Historical Society; Metal Confectioner's Scoop from Smith & Sons, White River Jct., Vt.

Kim Zea; Booklet, *First National Bank of WRJct. 1885-1936 50 Years Of Service.*



HARTFORD HISTORICAL SOCIETY

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Meetings are held on the second Wednesday of March, May, September and November at the Greater Hartford United Church of Christ, Route 14 in Hartford Village.