

ON THE MARKET

Great features did not go up in smoke

This 1849 Greek revival farmhouse is situated on five acres of bucolic Bridgewater scenery; the parcel was historically known as the Hatch Homestead, officially known as the Housatonic Valley View Farm, but today known simply as Wayside Farm. Moreover, the three-bay, front-gabled residence is situated on a piece of the area's forgotten legacy, having once been among several area tobacco farms. "There were other sorts of building on the property," said owner Dana Wiehl, who purchased and renovated the homestead in 1998. "So I don't know that it was exclusively a tobacco farm, but there was certainly a tobacco shed on the property." According to a report compiled by the Connecticut



Originally known as the Hatch Homestead, this 1849 Greek Revival farmhouse was once surrounded by one of the area's historic tobacco farms.



In the 19th century homestead, one of its gathering points was the sitting room with fireplace.

State Historic Preservation office, given the site's distance from more fertile riverbed ground, the Hatch family probably used tobacco not as a cash crop, but to supplement income. By the 1930s, tobacco had all but dried up in Litchfield County. Even listing agent Beverly Mosch, who was aware of central Connecticut's history with the controversial leaf, was surprised to learn that it was harvested in the area. "The soils, climate and the know-how of farmers produced a tobacco that was excellent for the manufacture of cigars; the area of cultivation began as far south as East Haddam, Conn, following the Connecticut River northward on to Massachusetts and the lower tip of Vermont," read a statement from the Connecticut Valley Tobacco Historical Society. "Tobacco sheds have been found outside of the Connecticut River Valley in New Milford, as well." The Hatch tobacco shed is now a stable, and the property also features a one-bedroom guesthouse. As for the farmhouse, it was built by the Hatch family on the foundation of a 1767 home, something surmised by the etchings on a granite stone found at the base of the property. But the house has seen numerous changes in recent years. "We renovated it the minute we moved in, and it was in dire need of redoing," said Wiehl. "We put in a new kitchen, took out the awful 1960s embellishments, but kept all the good old stuff." In other words, she made it more livable without corrupting its antique integrity.

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IN THE DETAILS

Listing: Klemm Real Estate

Price: \$1.095 million

Bedrooms: 3 **Baths:** 3

Acreage: 5.14

Year built: 1849

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— Jack Coraggio