Facing south onto Main Street, the William Griswold House stands on a large, well-maintained lot trimmed with a wooden, picket fence. Lying at the western portion of Unionville, the house is surrounded by other historically significant dwellings built when Unionville was developing as a small manufacturing community.
The main block of this well-preserved example of Greek Revival-style architecture was built around 1837. An older building, dating from the eighteenth century, may have been incorporated into the rear ell. The ridge-to-street, five-bay facade features a central, recessed entry door flanked by pilasters which support a wide entablature with projecting cornice. Ornate, full height pilasters decorate the corners of the facade and support a wide entablature which extends around the house beneath the roofline. The entablature is divided by a simple molding and small symmetrically placed vents adorn the entablature. It is highly probable these were once small "eyebrow" windows, a common characteristic of the Greek Revival style. Six-over-six sash, with a simple pediment shaped window head are featured throughout the house, although the first floor sash are elongated. The east and west elevations...

In April of 1832, William Griswold purchased a 31-acre track of land with buildings from John Isham for $1150 (FLR 46:51). The buildings mentioned in this deed may have been an older house which was incorporated into the rear portion of the Greek Revival-style house William Griswold built between 1832 and 1841. According to historian Samuel Pepper in Mabel Hulbert's Town and Clerks and Their Times, "Captain William Griswold built the house in 1837 and enlarged it from time to time" (pg. 338). Born in 1803, Griswold was employed as a joiner/carpenter and is reported to have erected Unionville's third schoolhouse around 1868. His wife's name was Flora A. (b. 1810) and they are recorded as having a daughter Jane born in Farmington in 1848. Pepper states that Griswold operated a meeting hall in the upper story of his home and the Odd Fellows held their early meetings there. Dances were also held at the Griswold's Hall, "it being the only hall in the village" (pg. 338). Captain Griswold also has the distinction of being the first man in Unionville to try to supply village homes with fresh water. He dug a ditch from the water source on Huckleberry Hill across the road to the rear of his house, where a small reservoir stored the water. The water ran for a short while, but because of inclement and cold weather and animal interference, Griswold was forced to end his "impracticable and useless enterprise". Historically this failed attempt is known as Griswold's Folly. In 1867 Griswold sold his homestead to his son, Edwin D. Griswold of New York City (FLR 60:587). Three years later, in 1870 the younger Griswold sold the house "in which my mother now resides" to Frances H. Shannon of Brooklyn, New York (FLR 62:195). Shannon sold the property in

Sources:
display fully pedimented gable ends embellished with large, geometrically designed, rectangular windows. An integral ell with "eyebrow" windows extends from the north elevation. Some modern alterations, including sliding glass doors, have been made to the east elevation of the rear ell. A wood-frame barn with cupola sits to the rear of the house.

19. cont.

June of 1872 to Flora Ann Dyer of Unionville, "it being the homestead upon which the mother of Edwin D. Griswold resides" (FLR 62:195). The next owner was Lucius D. Pond of Burlington, who acquired the house in 1874 for $9000 (FLR 65:47). Pond (1821-1895), a native of Burlington was the son of Josiah and Acta (Dyer) Pond. His wife was the former Mary Moses (1824-1901), also a native of Burlington. Soon after settling in Unionville, Pond joined Hubert Hart and Pond organized the manufacturing firm of Pond and Hart. The company produced cutlery and edge tools and by 1880 employed 60 workers. Pond left the firm in 1880 when Charles E. Meech purchased his share of the company. Six years after Lucius D. Pond's death, the house was distributed to his two sons, Joshua M. and Lucius Bradford Pond. Both men were born in Burlington and were engaged in farming. Lucius B. (1847-1916) married Ella A. North in 1872, while Joshua (1845-1923) remained a bachelor all his life. The property was inherited by the heirs of Lucius B. Pond (FLR 74:325 & 414) and it remained in the family until 1935 (FLR 89:268).

One of the best examples of Greek Revival-style architecture in Unionville, the William Griswold House has remained virtually unaltered since its construction. The house is historically significant for its association with William Griswold and Lucius D. Pond, both of whom contributed to the development of Unionville in the nineteenth-century.