Sited on a wide lot, the Mary Foster House faces south onto Merriman Street. Other houses similar in age border its property lines. A barn lies to the north.
This two-bay, L-shaped nineteenth-century vernacular-style building exhibits Italianate-style details. On its southern facade, a small porch hood with brackets covers the single leaf door. Directly above the door lies a single two-over-one sash that is flanked to the west by paired one-over-one sash windows. A small arched window exists in the attic story. The one-story ell porch, still on the southern facade, is open and supported by squared, half-height columns on an enclosed base. The western facade is more decorative, featuring a bay window on the first story with paired arch windows directly above. The eaves and cornice are plain. A small brick chimney rises from the center of this gable-to-street house.

In 1877 John A. Merriman sold a 2 acre plot of land to Mary E. Foster for $500 (FLR 65:271). Mary (1840-1894) was the daughter of Jonathan and Sarah Clark. She married Matthew H. Foster (1834-1910) and had two children: a female (b. 1866) and John T. (b. 1883). By 1878 this house existed, as shown on the O.H. Bailey Map. After Matthew Foster's death in 1910, John T. Foster received title to the house from the estate of John A. Merriman in 1918 for $3000 (FLR 80:11). The following year, William C. Duff purchased the house and land for $2900, reserving for Ernest Shippee the right to occupy the second floor of the house until May of 1919 (FLR 74:325). Duff was a longtime judge of the borough of Unionville's court.

The Mary E. Foster House contributes to the historic character of Merriman Street due to its well-preserved condition.

Sources: