

This is a cute photo of Pat, the old house, the electric pole, pig shed, and the windmill, from the southwest, about 1951.

Two propane tanks on the exterior of house tell that Ma replaced the cob burning kitchen stove with a gas stove.

If you look very closely, you can see the roofline of the pump house between the pig shed and the power pole.

The windmill was unused at this time.

It was replaced by an electric pump and water system.

That pump house was insulated. Heat lamps and a thermostat automatically kept the water system from freezing.

The windmill system was likely built around 1920. (I am guessing.)

It included the windmill structure and a pump, which operated below ground and was freeze-proof.

The original water system included buried water lines to the house and barn.

Those water pipes were 6 feet deep so they would not freeze in winter.

To my knowledge they never froze or needed any maintenance.

The wind did not always blow, so the water system needed a storage tank.

In towns those storage tanks are called water towers, on small farms they were called cisterns.

Nevertheless, the cistern needed to have water storage capacity, it needed to hold the stored water above faucets.

On our farm, the concrete (cistern) water tank was outside the barn on the west side.

That was the highest spot on the farmstead.

It was 12 feet wide by 15 feet long and 4 feet deep.

That cistern held 1,000 gallons of water.

It served the same purpose as the pressure tank in a modern system.

The cistern supplied water to the cattle drinking cups, one or two faucets in the barn, and one faucet in the kitchen sink.

Even when the wind wasn't blowing. Tom.

