In 1600, the first European settlers arrived in Salem. The early settlers lived in small, cramped homes, using the land for farming and fishing. In the early 1700s, the town grew, and more people moved to Salem. While some people continued to live in small, one-room cottages, others began to build larger homes. By the late 1700s, Salem was divided into small house lots, and many homes were built on these lots, transforming the area from farmland to an urban neighborhood. The property where the Skerry House was located was once part of a larger farm called the Old Planter's Settlement. The property was once owned by Ephraim Skerry (1685-1741), a mariner, merchant, and farmer who lived in Salem from 1720 to 1741.

Archaeologists discovered two trash pits at the Skerry House site. Trash Pit A was located near the east end of the site, while Trash Pit B was near the west end. Both trash pits contained artifacts that provided clues about the history of the site. The trash pits were filled with ceramics, glass, and metal objects, as well as wooden artifacts such as spindles and loom weights.

The majority of ceramics collected were plain, inexpensive, and locally produced, like the "common" dishes that were popular during this time. Some of these ceramic vessels would have been used to prepare and serve food. The family who owned the Skerry House used these dishes for everyday tasks, such as preparing food and serving meals.

Archaeologists also discovered two post holes in the site, which were likely part of a post-and-beam structure. These post holes were filled with soil and organic material, suggesting that the post-and-beam structure was once part of the Skerry House.

The Skerry House was built by Ephraim Skerry (1685-1741) between 1710 and 1730. The house was a two-story structure with a gabled roof and a central chimney. The house was divided into small house lots, and many homes were built on these lots, transforming the area from farmland to an urban neighborhood. The property where the Skerry House was located was once part of a larger farm called the Old Planter's Settlement.