

State of Connecticut
CONNECTICUT HISTORICAL COMMISSION
59 South Prospect Street, Hartford 06106

FOR OFFICE USE ONLY	
Town No.:	Site No. 43
UTM	
QUAD:	
DISTRICT	IF NR SPECIFY
<input type="checkbox"/> S <input type="checkbox"/> NR	<input type="checkbox"/> Actual <input type="checkbox"/> Potential

HISTORIC RESOURCES INVENTORY:
Buildings & Structures

SURVEY OF GUILFORD, NEW HAVEN COUNTY, 06437
June-December 1981

IDENTIFICATION

1. ADDRESS 171 Boston Street
(map 40, lot 134)
2. NAME
(historic) Thomas Griswold III
NAME
(common) Guilford Keeping Society
3. USE Private house
(historic)
USE
(present) Historical society and museum
4. IF MOVED, WHEN AND FROM WHERE:



DESCRIPTION

5. ARCHITECT
6. DATE c1774
7. ALTERATIONS See below

BUILDER
STYLE Colonial

SIGNIFICANCE

8. NOTABLE FEATURES
Simple but effective Georgian doorway with fluted pilasters, pulvinated frieze, and a fine paneled door. The siting of this house on a high ledge at a curve of the road, with its distinctive fence delineating the edge of the bank, is memorable.
9. ARCHITECTURAL-HISTORICAL
Built by Thomas Griswold for his two sons, Ezra and John, the house was lived in by four more generations of the Griswold family until the Guilford Keeping Society bought it from Robert Griswold Deforest's conservator in 1958. Extensive restoration was undertaken in 1974-75: rear dormers, screen porch, and shed were removed, restoring the original saltbox shape; a fireplace ten feet wide was also uncovered in the kitchen, exposing two original beehive ovens and a warming oven. In 1938 the Federal Writers' Guide wrote: "an attractive white salt-box dwelling on a high bank, behind an odd picket fence. Its excellent state of preservation and its charming setting have caused it to be the most photographed house in Connecticut." The "odd" fence was originally the railing on the belfry of the North Church that once stood on the Guilford Green.

SOURCES

10. SOURCES
Tercentenary Committee; Dorothy Whitfield Society '76; Connecticut Historical Commission '72; Colonial Dames; (cont'd. on next sheet)

In all categories below, check more than one box if applicable.

If you have not actually made certain of the answer to a given question, either leave it blank or write "inferred" after the checked box; or, if drawn from a previous investigator, give source.

11. **MATERIALS**

- | | | | | |
|---|-------------------------------------|--------------------------------------|---|---------------------------------|
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Clapboard | <input type="checkbox"/> Brick | <input type="checkbox"/> Stucco | <input type="checkbox"/> Asbestos Shingle | <input type="checkbox"/> Other: |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Wood Shingle | <input type="checkbox"/> Fieldstone | <input type="checkbox"/> Concrete | <input type="checkbox"/> Asphalt Siding | |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Board & Batten | <input type="checkbox"/> Cut Stone | <input type="checkbox"/> Cobblestone | <input type="checkbox"/> Aluminum/Vinyl | |

12. **STRUCTURE**

- | | | | | |
|--------------------------------------|----------------------------------|--|-----------------------------------|---------------------------------|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Wood Frame: | <input type="checkbox"/> Masonry | <input type="checkbox"/> Iron or Steel | <input type="checkbox"/> Concrete | <input type="checkbox"/> Other: |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Post & Beam | | | | |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Balloon | | | | |

13. **ROOF**

- | | | | | |
|---|--|-----------------------------------|---|---------------------------------|
| a. <input type="checkbox"/> Pitched | <input type="checkbox"/> Gable-front | <input type="checkbox"/> Hip | <input type="checkbox"/> Shed | <input type="checkbox"/> Other: |
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Saltbox | <input type="checkbox"/> Cross-gable | <input type="checkbox"/> Flat Hip | <input type="checkbox"/> False Dormer | |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Gambrel | <input type="checkbox"/> Mansard | <input type="checkbox"/> Flat | <input type="checkbox"/> Sawtooth | |
| b. <input type="checkbox"/> Tower(s) | <input type="checkbox"/> Monitor | <input type="checkbox"/> Cupola | <input type="checkbox"/> Dormered Gable | <input type="checkbox"/> Dome |
| c. <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Wood Shingle | <input type="checkbox"/> Asphalt Shingle | <input type="checkbox"/> Slate | <input type="checkbox"/> Metal | <input type="checkbox"/> Other: |

14. **NUMBER OF STORIES:** 2 1/2 **APPROXIMATE DIMENSIONS:** **LOT SIZE:** 5.2 ACRES

15. **CONDITION: Exterior**

- | | | | | |
|------------------------------------|--|-------------------------------|-------------------------------|------------------------------|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Excellent | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Good | <input type="checkbox"/> Fair | <input type="checkbox"/> Poor | <input type="checkbox"/> Bad |
|------------------------------------|--|-------------------------------|-------------------------------|------------------------------|

16. **CONDITION: Structure**

- | | | | | |
|------------------------------------|-------------------------------|-------------------------------|-------------------------------|------------------------------|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Excellent | <input type="checkbox"/> Good | <input type="checkbox"/> Fair | <input type="checkbox"/> Poor | <input type="checkbox"/> Bad |
|------------------------------------|-------------------------------|-------------------------------|-------------------------------|------------------------------|

17. **OUTBUILDINGS** (visible from public road)

- | | | | | |
|---|---|---------------------------------|----------------------------------|----------------------------------|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Barn(s) | <input type="checkbox"/> Carriage House | <input type="checkbox"/> Garage | <input type="checkbox"/> Shed(s) | <input type="checkbox"/> Shop(s) |
| Other (well, stand, greenhouse, gazebo, privy, etc.): | | | | |

18. **LANDSCAPING** (visible from public road)

- | | | | | |
|---|--|-------------------------------------|--------------------------------------|---|
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Planted Grounds | <input type="checkbox"/> Garden | <input type="checkbox"/> Terracing | <input type="checkbox"/> Plaza | <input type="checkbox"/> Court |
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Stone Wall(s) | <input type="checkbox"/> Pickett Fence | <input type="checkbox"/> Iron Fence | <input type="checkbox"/> Post & Rail | <input type="checkbox"/> Other: DECORATIVE WOOD FENCE |

19. **SURROUNDING ENVIRONMENT**

- | | | |
|--|--|---|
| a. <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Town Street | b. <input type="checkbox"/> Commercial | c. <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Open |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Rural | <input type="checkbox"/> Industrial | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Wooded |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Semi-rural | <input type="checkbox"/> Agricultural | <input type="checkbox"/> Lakefront |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Clustered Growth | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Residential | <input type="checkbox"/> Coastal |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Development | <input type="checkbox"/> Vacation, now or originally | <input type="checkbox"/> Salt marsh |
| d. <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Of outstanding scenic/architectural value | | |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Of scenic/architectural value | | |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Of supportive value to contiguous scenic/architectural area | | |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Neutral | | |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Other: | | |

20. **ROLE OF BUILDING IN ENHANCING QUALITY OF ENVIRONMENT**

- | | | | | |
|---|------------------------------------|-------------------------------------|----------------------------------|---------------------------------|
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Vital | <input type="checkbox"/> Important | <input type="checkbox"/> Supportive | <input type="checkbox"/> Neutral | <input type="checkbox"/> Other: |
|---|------------------------------------|-------------------------------------|----------------------------------|---------------------------------|

21. **OWNERSHIP**

- | | | |
|---------------------------------|---|--|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Public | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Private | <input type="checkbox"/> Interior accessible |
|---------------------------------|---|--|

INDEX NO. 43

22. **Name** D. PENAR

Date 7/23/81

Photographer D. PENAR

Date 7/23/81

Negative ROLL 18:10A

Organization: Guilford Preservation Alliance
P.O. Box 199, Guilford, Conn. 06437

GLEF'S NEG. 18: 11

23. **THREATS TO BUILDING**

- | | | | | |
|-------------------------------------|--|--|-------------------------------------|---------------------------------|
| <input type="checkbox"/> None Known | <input type="checkbox"/> Highways | <input type="checkbox"/> Vandalism | <input type="checkbox"/> Developers | <input type="checkbox"/> Zoning |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Renewal | <input type="checkbox"/> Private Owner | <input type="checkbox"/> Deterioration | <input type="checkbox"/> Other: | |

24. **SUBSEQUENT EVALUATIONS**

DESCRIPTION

COMPILED BY

FOR OFFICE USE ONLY

CONTINUATION SHEET

GUILFORD SURVEY

ADDRESS

171 Boston Street

NAME(S)

Thomas Griswold III
Guilford Keeping Society

10. SOURCES cont'd.

Federal Writers' Guide; Kelly, Early Domestic Architecture;
Joel E. Helander, Olde Guilford; David D. Dudley, research on
file at the Keeping Society. Photographs: Guilford Library;
Guilford Keeping Society.