

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

HISTORIC RESOURCES INVENTORY:
Buildings & Structures

SURVEY OF GUILFORD, NEW HAVEN COUNTY, 06437

June-December 1981

FOR OFFICE USE ONLY	
Town No.:	Site No. 95
UTM	
QUAD:	
DISTRICT	IF NR SPECIFY
<input type="checkbox"/> S <input type="checkbox"/> NR	<input type="checkbox"/> Actual <input type="checkbox"/> Potential

IDENTIFICATION

1. ADDRESS 174 Clapboard Hill Road
(map 75, lot 15)
2. NAME John Griswold II
(historic)
NAME
(common)
3. USE
(historic)
USE
(present) Private house
4. IF MOVED, WHEN AND FROM WHERE:



DESCRIPTION

5. ARCHITECT
6. DATE 1806-7
- BUILDER
STYLE Federal
7. ALTERATIONS
The side addition appears to be only a little later than the house itself. Chimney may be rebuilt but in original form and location. The sprightly door hood was probably added soon after the Civil War.
8. NOTABLE FEATURES
Overhanging eaves with a row of diamond shapes below; transom; large stone foundation.

SIGNIFICANCE

9. ARCHITECTURAL-HISTORICAL
The Griswold house is located in a section of Guilford known as Clapboard Hill. The area lies several miles to the northeast of the village of Guilford and comprises the land on either side of Clapboard Hill Road. The road runs up a hill through open farm land, down across the bridge at the East River and up again through a heavily wooded area. There are a number of fine 18th and 19th century houses on either side of the road; the 19th century are nearly all of the Greek Revival style.
The Griswold house, built early in the 19th century, has the characteristics of the Federal Period. An ell was added to the west side in 1852 and removed in 1912. This house has a (cont. on next p.)

SOURCES

10. SOURCES
Tercentenary Committee; Dorothy Whitfield Society '76; Connecticut Historical Commission '72; Guilford Land records, July 1805; Steiner Scrapbook Vol. I, p. 228. Photograph: Guilford Library.

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 checked="" type="checkbox"/> Pitched | <input type="checkbox"/> Gable-front | <input type="checkbox"/> Hip | <input type="checkbox"/> Shed | <input type="checkbox"/> Other: |
| <input 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 type="checkbox"/> Wood Shingle | <input checked="" 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: 1.75ac

15. CONDITION: Exterior

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

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: |

19. SURROUNDING ENVIRONMENT

- | | | |
|--|--|--|
| a. <input type="checkbox"/> Town Street | b. <input type="checkbox"/> Commercial | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Open |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Rural | <input type="checkbox"/> Industrial | <input type="checkbox"/> Wooded |
| <input checked="" 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. 95

22. Name P. Odiseos

Photographer P. Odiseos

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

Date 7/17/81

Date 7/14/81 Negative R.9:8

Glfd's Neg. R.9: 7A

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

9. ARCHITECTURAL-HISTORICAL cont.

row of diamond shapes below the eaves but otherwise has little ornament. The doorhood is a late 19th century addition.

The house was built by John Griswold II; his wife Hannah was the daughter of Caleb Dudley III, who was born in the earlier house just east of this. It is reported that the Griswold house was raised during a total eclipse of the sun, June 16, 1806. A small meteor is said to have fallen on the property in 1916. The house is still owned by the Griswold family. The small one-room Clapboard Hill School House is located just to the west of this house.

Sources: Joel E. Helander, paper entitled The Griswold
Homestead Atop Clapboard Hill, January 1970.