

**NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES  
INVENTORY - NOMINATION FORM**

(Type all entries - complete applicable sections)

STATE: Connecticut	
COUNTY: Hartford	
FOR NPS USE ONLY	
ENTRY NUMBER 70.10.06.0006	DATE 10/6/70

**1. NAME**

COMMON:  
Gideon Welles House

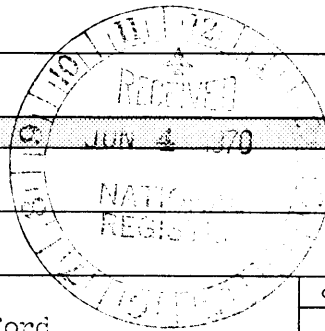
AND/OR HISTORIC:  
Gideon Welles House

**2. LOCATION**

STREET AND NUMBER:  
37 Hebron Avenue

CITY OR TOWN:  
Glastonbury

STATE: Connecticut      CODE: 06      COUNTY: Hartford      CODE: 003



**3. CLASSIFICATION**

CATEGORY (Check One)	OWNERSHIP	PUBLIC ACQUISITION:	STATUS	ACCESSIBLE TO THE PUBLIC
<input type="checkbox"/> District <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Building <input type="checkbox"/> Site <input type="checkbox"/> Structure <input type="checkbox"/> Object	<input type="checkbox"/> Public <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Private <input type="checkbox"/> Both	<input type="checkbox"/> In Process <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Being Considered	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Occupied <input type="checkbox"/> Unoccupied <input type="checkbox"/> Preservation work in progress	Yes: <input type="checkbox"/> Restricted <input type="checkbox"/> Unrestricted <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> No
PRESENT USE (Check One or More as Appropriate)				
<input type="checkbox"/> Agricultural <input type="checkbox"/> Commercial <input type="checkbox"/> Educational <input type="checkbox"/> Entertainment	<input type="checkbox"/> Government <input type="checkbox"/> Industrial <input type="checkbox"/> Military <input type="checkbox"/> Museum	<input type="checkbox"/> Park <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Private Residence <input type="checkbox"/> Religious <input type="checkbox"/> Scientific	<input type="checkbox"/> Transportation <input type="checkbox"/> Other (Specify)	<input type="checkbox"/> Comments

**4. OWNER OF PROPERTY**

OWNER'S NAME:  
Francis M. Vivivatz and William J. Nosal

STREET AND NUMBER:  
37 & 41 Hebron Avenue (respectively)

CITY OR TOWN: Glastonbury      STATE: Connecticut      CODE: 0255

**5. LOCATION OF LEGAL DESCRIPTION**

COURTHOUSE, REGISTRY OF DEEDS, ETC.:  
Glastonbury Town Office Building

STREET AND NUMBER:  
2108 Main Street

CITY OR TOWN: Glastonbury      STATE: Connecticut      CODE: 0255

**6. REPRESENTATION IN EXISTING SURVEYS**

TITLE OF SURVEY:  
Historic American Buildings Survey; Air Dep, Tax Office, Glastonbury, Ct

DATE OF SURVEY: 1936-37       Federal     State     County     Local

DEPOSITORY FOR SURVEY RECORDS:  
Library of Congress

STREET AND NUMBER:  
1st Street

CITY OR TOWN: Washington      STATE: D.C.      CODE: 08

SEE INSTRUCTIONS

STATE: Connecticut  
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7. DESCRIPTION

CONDITION	(Check One)					
	<input type="checkbox"/> Excellent	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Good	<input type="checkbox"/> Fair	<input type="checkbox"/> Deteriorated	<input type="checkbox"/> Ruins	<input type="checkbox"/> Unexposed
	(Check One)			(Check One)		
	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Altered	<input type="checkbox"/> Unaltered		<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Moved	<input type="checkbox"/> Original Site	

DESCRIBE THE PRESENT AND ORIGINAL (if known) PHYSICAL APPEARANCE

Originally the house was at the corner of Main Street and Hebron Avenue. It was moved back when the post office was built there in 1936, but is still on land that was Welles property. The main house consists of a two story colonial facade with five windows over four, and a one and a half story ell. Both are intact. The front porch and the ell veranda have Doric columns. House faces east with south end fronting on the street. The small ell added here houses foyer and stairway to adapt for two family occupancy. The slave house ell was removed at that time and made into a small house on the same lot. The map of Main Street about 1920 shows an outline of the original house including a T-shaped ell (called the slave house) at the rear with all buildings drawn to scale.\*

The lot line starts 160.00' east of the monument at the corner of Main and Hebron, runs east 251.40', north 125.93', west 250.06' and south 126.60' to starting point. The two houses and a barn are on the lot. Assessor's lot number N2.

Architecturally the Gideon Welles House was recognized as a gem of Colonial style in 1936 when HABS conducted a survey. Filed in the Library of Congress, Washington, D.C., Ref. 2F<sup>1</sup> - 2R<sup>3</sup> Conn. HABS Conn Class B, Feb. 25, 1937, are two outside photos and three views inside showing winding stairs and panelling, one page of data and 13 drawings including detail.

Before Glastonbury was a town, a committee was formed in Wethersfield called "Committee for the Three Mile Farms" headed by William Swayne. They obtained from Great Sachem Sohoag of the Pequod tribe a strip of land three miles wide along the river, including meadows rated a fifth best in the world, extending from the present north boundary of Glastonbury down into what is now South Glastonbury. In the year 1649 Swayne sold a 72 rod section of this land extending from the north border to where there is now a monument at the corner of Hebron Avenue and Main Street. This land was held by the Welles family right through into the lifetime of Gideon. Thomas Welles of Wethersfield, who in 1655 became the Governor of the Colony (the fourth), was the purchaser. Gideon was a seventh generation descendant of Thomas.

The house was built as a bridal gift by Gideon Welles to Anne Hale when she married Samuel Welles, Gideon's father May 2, 1700, and though moved still rests on part of the original Welles land. Gideon was born in the house July 1, 1802. Here he spent his boyhood. During his term as Secretary of the Navy he and Admiral Farragut sat on the wide veranda watching the peaceful pedestrian and carriage traffic as they discussed the campaigns of the Civil War.

\*Map filed in Historical Society Museum, corner of Main and Hubbard Streets on the Glastonbury Green.

SEE INSTRUCTIONS

**3. SIGNIFICANCE**

PERIOD (Check One or More as Appropriate)

- |  |                                       |  |                                       |
|--|---------------------------------------|--|---------------------------------------|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Pre-Columbian | <input type="checkbox"/> 16th Century | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 18th Century | <input type="checkbox"/> 20th Century |
| <input type="checkbox"/> 15th Century  | <input type="checkbox"/> 17th Century | <input type="checkbox"/> 19th Century            |                                       |

SPECIFIC DATE(S) (If Applicable and Known)

AREAS OF SIGNIFICANCE (Check One or More as Appropriate)

- |  |   |  |  |
|--|---|--|--|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Aboriginal              | <input type="checkbox"/> Education              | <input type="checkbox"/> Political           | <input type="checkbox"/> Urban Planning  |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Prehistoric             | <input type="checkbox"/> Engineering            | <input type="checkbox"/> Religion/Philosophy | <input type="checkbox"/> Other (Specify) |
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Historic     | <input type="checkbox"/> Industry               | <input type="checkbox"/> Science             | _____                                    |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Agriculture             | <input type="checkbox"/> Invention              | <input type="checkbox"/> Sculpture           | _____                                    |
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Architecture | <input type="checkbox"/> Landscape Architecture | <input type="checkbox"/> Social/Humanitarian | _____                                    |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Art                     | <input type="checkbox"/> Literature             | <input type="checkbox"/> Theater             | _____                                    |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Commerce                | <input type="checkbox"/> Military               | <input type="checkbox"/> Transportation      | _____                                    |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Communications          | <input type="checkbox"/> Music                  |  |  |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Conservation            |   |  |  |

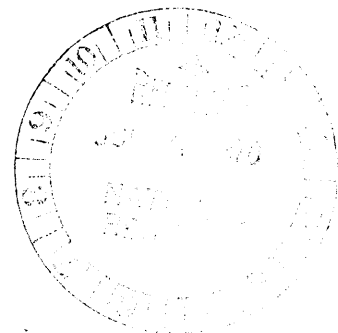
STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE

Soon after taking office under Lincoln, Welles rapidly built up the naval strength and organized it into a powerful fighting force. Refusing to bow to pressure from the press, contractors and politicians, he went his own way. Against persistent derision and ridicule he ordered wooden ships ironclad and gave a contract to the Swedish immigrant John Ericson to build the revolutionary "Monitor" which with its arched gun turret and shallow draft out-maneuvered and routed the dreaded Confederate ironclad "Merrimac".

In 1823, and again thirty years later, Gideon gave the Independence Day address on the beautiful Glastonbury Green. Gideon loved to write and left to posterity his diary and about a dozen journals which provide intimate glimpses into the doings of his administration. He even wrote a four verse poem, the last line of each verse ending with "old Glasstenbury", as "Nor can there one compare with Three, Old Glasstenbury". The name of the town has been spelled "Glassenbury", "Glasstenbury", and is now "Glastonbury".

The Gideon Welles house with its 22 rooms and "Slave House" ell was in its heyday the grandest house in Glastonbury. Its site was known as "Welles Corners". Its carriage house, said to have been destroyed by fire, housed the first carriage owned by a Glastonbury resident, Gideon's father. However, the primary significance of the house lies in its association with Gideon Welles, a patriot whose commanding ability and foresight provided the Union with a crucial naval victory.

SEE INSTRUCTIONS



**9. MAJOR BIBLIOGRAPHICAL REFERENCES**

Encyclopedia Americana  
 Directory of American Biography, pp 629-32.  
 The following papers and clippings on file in the HABS office, Washington, D.C.  
 Paper by Florence Hollister Curtis, 1913.  
 Paper by Robert C. Rider, May 12, 1941, (ed.) Ray W. Bidwell.  
 Travelers Record, Vol. XIV, Hartford, April 1878, #1.  
 Hartford Daily Courant, Sunday Nov. 24, 1935 D3, concluded p.7.  
 Hartford Times, August 20, 21, 22, 23, 25, 26, 1947 (upon release of the Lincoln Papers by the Library of Congress).

**10. GEOGRAPHICAL DATA**

LATITUDE AND LONGITUDE COORDINATES DEFINING A RECTANGLE LOCATING THE PROPERTY				OR	LATITUDE AND LONGITUDE COORDINATES DEFINING THE CENTER POINT OF A PROPERTY OF LESS THAN TEN ACRES				
CORNER	LATITUDE		LONGITUDE		LATITUDE		LONGITUDE		
	Degrees	Minutes	Seconds	Degrees	Minutes	Seconds	Degrees	Minutes	Seconds
NW	°	'	"	°	'	"	41°	42'	46"
NE	°	'	"	°	'	"	72°	35'	31"
SE	°	'	"	°	'	"			
SW	°	'	"	°	'	"			

APPROXIMATE ACREAGE OF NOMINATED PROPERTY: 1

LIST ALL STATES AND COUNTIES FOR PROPERTIES OVERLAPPING STATE OR COUNTY BOUNDARIES

STATE:	CODE	COUNTY	CODE
Connecticut	06	Hartford	003
STATE:	CODE	COUNTY:	CODE
STATE:	CODE	COUNTY:	CODE
STATE:	CODE	COUNTY:	CODE

**11. FORM PREPARED BY**

NAME AND TITLE: Charles Stanley Nutt V.P. and Historian

ORGANIZATION: The Glastonbury Art Guild Inc. DATE: June 1969

STREET AND NUMBER: 1796 Main Street

CITY OR TOWN: Glastonbury STATE: Connecticut CODE: 06

**12. STATE LIAISON OFFICER CERTIFICATION NATIONAL REGISTER VERIFICATION**

As the designated State Liaison Officer for the National Historic Preservation Act of 1966 (Public Law 89-665), I hereby nominate this property for inclusion in the National Register and certify that it has been evaluated according to the criteria and procedures set forth by the National Park Service. The recommended level of significance of this nomination is:

National  State  Local

Name: [Signature]  
 Title: State Liaison Officer  
 Date: February 27, 1970

I hereby certify that this property is included in the National Register.

[Signature]  
 Chief, Office of Archeology and Historic Preservation  
 OCT 6 1970  
 Date: \_\_\_\_\_

ATTEST:  
[Signature]  
 Keeper of The National Register  
 AUG 26 1970  
 Date: \_\_\_\_\_

SEE INSTRUCTIONS

GEOLOGICAL SURVEY

72° 37' 00"

603000m E

700

35' 70'

41° 45'

4624000m N

HARTFORD CIVIC CENTER 4.4 MI.  
EAST HARTFORD 2.8 MI.



1.7 MI. TO INTERSTATE 91

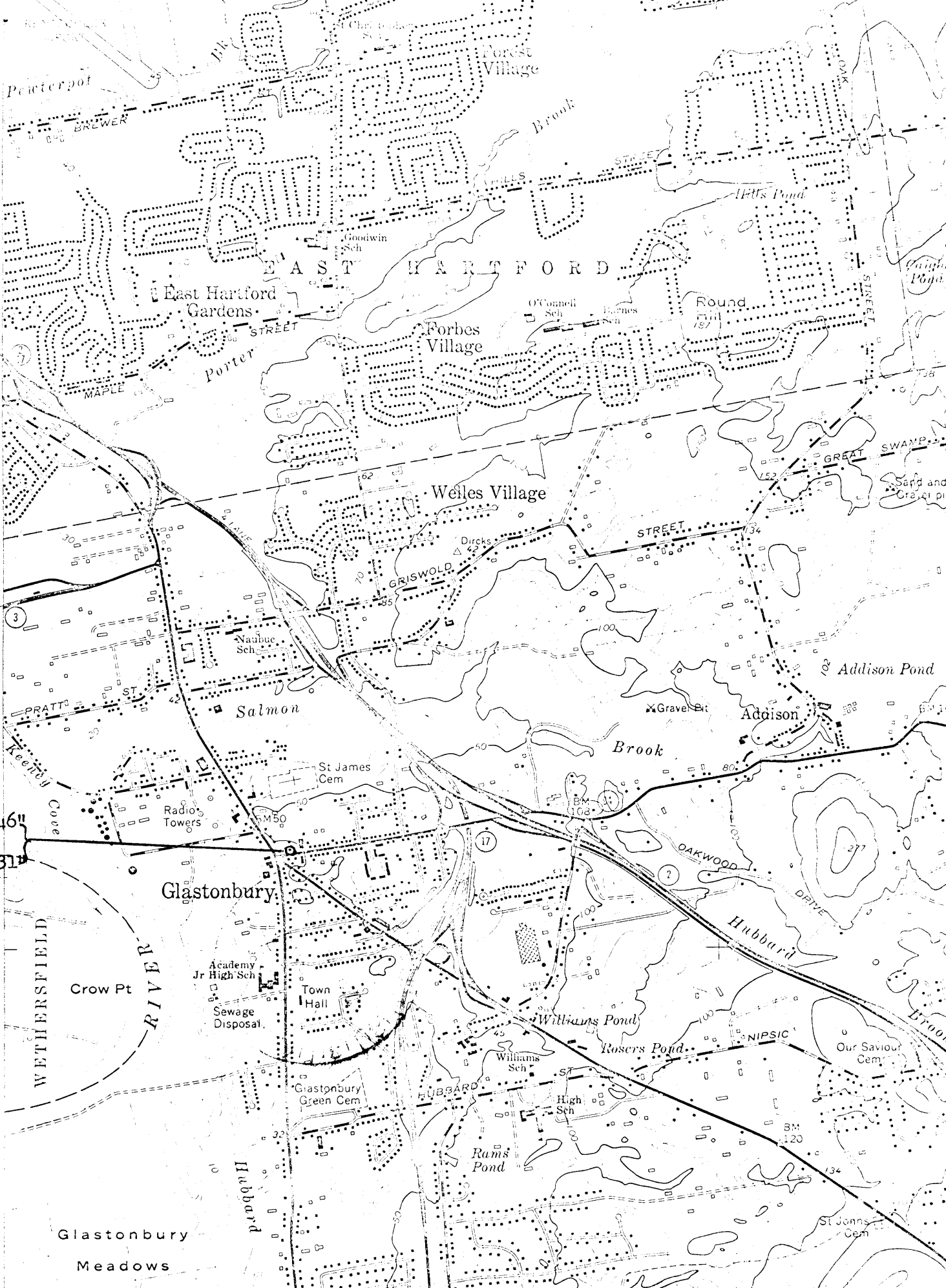
41° 42' 46"

72° 35' 31"

4620

42' 30"

4619



Glastonbury Meadows

St. John's Cem.