

**United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service**

**National Register of Historic Places
Continuation Sheet**

Section number _____ Page _____

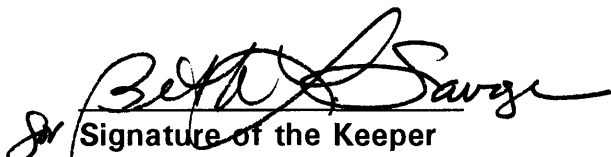
SUPPLEMENTARY LISTING RECORD

NRIS Reference Number: 93001378 **Date Listed:** 12/15/93

Cogswell, Edward, House New London CT
Property Name **County** **State**

N/A
Multiple Name

This property is determined eligible for listing in the National Register of Historic Places in accordance with the attached nomination documentation subject to the following exceptions, exclusions, or amendments, notwithstanding the National Park Service certification included in the nomination documentation.


Signature of the Keeper

12-15-93
Date of Action

=====

Amended Items in Nomination:

Level of Significance:

The appropriate level of significance for this property is local.

This information was confirmed with John Herzan, National Register Coordinator, CTSHPO, by telephone.

DISTRIBUTION:

- National Register property file
- Nominating Authority (without attachment)

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

RECEIVED

NOV 01 1993

National Register of Historic Places
Registration Form

NATIONAL
REGISTER

This form is for use in nominating or requesting determinations for individual properties and districts. See instructions in *How to Complete the National Register of Historic Places Registration Form* (National Register Bulletin 16A). Complete each item by marking "x" in the appropriate box or by entering the information requested. If an item does not apply to the property being documented, enter "N/A" for "not applicable." For functions, architectural classification, materials, and areas of significance, enter only categories and subcategories from the instructions. Place additional entries and narrative items on continuation sheets (NPS Form 10-900a). Use a typewriter, word processor, or computer, to complete all items.

1. Name of Property

historic name Edward Cogswell House

other names/site number Bliss House

2. Location

street & number 1429 Hopeville Road not for publication

city or town Griswold vicinity

state Connecticut code CT county New London code 011 zip code 06384

3. State/Federal Agency Certification

As the designated authority under the National Historic Preservation Act, as amended, I hereby certify that this nomination request for determination of eligibility meets the documentation standards for registering properties in the National Register of Historic Places and meets the procedural and professional requirements set forth in 36 CFR Part 60. In my opinion, the property meets does not meet the National Register criteria. I recommend that this property be considered significant nationally statewide locally. (See continuation sheet for additional comments.)

John J. Hannan 10/25/93
Signature of certifying official Title Date
Director, Connecticut Historical Commission
State of Federal agency and bureau

In my opinion, the property meets does not meet the National Register criteria. (See continuation sheet for additional comments.)

Signature of certifying official/Title Date

State or Federal agency and bureau

4. National Park Service Certification

I hereby certify that the property is:

- entered in the National Register.
 See continuation sheet.
- determined eligible for the National Register
 See continuation sheet.
- determined not eligible for the National Register.
- removed from the National Register.
- other, (explain:)

Barbara P. Savage Signature of the Keeper
Date of Action 12-15-93

5. Classification

Ownership of Property
(Check as many boxes as apply)

- private
- public-local
- public-State
- public-Federal

Category of Property
(Check only one box)

- building(s)
- district
- site
- structure
- object

Number of Resources within Property
(Do not include previously listed resources in the count.)

Contributing	Noncontributing	
2	1	buildings
		sites
		structures
		objects
2	1	Total

Name of related multiple property listing
(Enter "N/A" if property is not part of a multiple property listing.)

N/A

Number of contributing resources previously listed in the National Register

N/A

6. Function or Use

Historic Functions
(Enter categories from instructions)

Domestic: single dwelling

Current Functions
(Enter categories from instructions)

Domestic: single dwelling

7. Description

Architectural Classification
(Enter categories from instructions)

Colonial: Postmedieval English

Materials
(Enter categories from instructions)

foundation Stone-part granite

walls Wood-clapboard

roof Asphalt-shingle

other Brick

Narrative Description

(Describe the historic and current condition of the property on one or more continuation sheets.)

See Continuation Sheets

8. Statement of Significance

Applicable National Register Criteria

(Mark "x" in one or more boxes for the criteria qualifying the property for National Register listing.)

- A** Property is associated with events that have made a significant contribution to the broad patterns of our history.
- B** Property is associated with the lives of persons significant in our past.
- C** Property embodies the distinctive characteristics of a type, period, or method of construction or represents the work of a master, or possesses high artistic values, or represents a significant and distinguishable entity whose components lack individual distinction.
- D** Property has yielded, or is likely to yield, information important in prehistory or history.

Criteria Considerations

(Mark "x" in all the boxes that apply.)

Property is:

- A** owned by a religious institution or used for religious purposes.
- B** removed from its original location.
- C** a birthplace or grave.
- D** a cemetery.
- E** a reconstructed building, object, or structure.
- F** a commemorative property.
- G** less than 50 years of age or achieved significance within the past 50 years.

Areas of Significance

(Enter categories from instructions)

Architecture

Period of Significance

c. 1740

Significant Dates

N/A

Significant Person

(Complete if Criterion B is marked above)

N/A

Cultural Affiliation

N/A

Architect/Builder

N/A

Narrative Statement of Significance

(Explain the significance of the property on one or more continuation sheets.)

9. Major Bibliographical References

Bibliography

(Cite the books, articles, and other sources used in preparing this form on one or more continuation sheets.)

Previous documentation on file (NPS):

- preliminary determination of individual listing (36 CFR 67) has been requested
- previously listed in the National Register
- previously determined eligible by the National Register
- designated a National Historic Landmark
- recorded by Historic American Buildings Survey # _____
- recorded by Historic American Engineering Record # _____

Primary location of additional data:

- State Historic Preservation Office
- Other State agency
- Federal agency
- Local government
- University
- Other

Name of repository:

Edward Cogswell House
Name of Property

New London County, CT
County and State

10. Geographical Data

Acreage of Property 1.94

UTM References

(Place additional UTM references on a continuation sheet.)

1	19	258080	4807620
Zone	Easting	Northing	
2			

3			
Zone	Easting	Northing	
4			

See continuation sheet

Verbal Boundary Description

(Describe the boundaries of the property on a continuation sheet.)

Boundary Justification

(Explain why the boundaries were selected on a continuation sheet.)

11. Form Prepared By

(Reviewed by John F. Herzan, National Register
name/title Gregory E. Andrews Coordinator, Connecticut Historical Commission)
organization Connecticut Historical Commission date _____
street & number 1643 Boulevard telephone 203-561-3841
city or town West Hartford state CT zip code 06107

Additional Documentation

Submit the following items with the completed form:

Continuation Sheets

Maps

A **USGS map** (7.5 or 15 minute series) indicating the property's location.

A **Sketch map** for historic districts and properties having large acreage or numerous resources.

Photographs

Representative **black and white photographs** of the property.

Additional items

(Check with the SHPO or FPO for any additional items)

Property Owner

(Complete this item at the request of SHPO or FPO.)

name James H. and Marian C. Bliss
street & number 1429 Hopeville Road, RFD 2 telephone 203-376-9572
city or town Voluntown state CT zip code 06384

Paperwork Reduction Act Statement: This information is being collected for applications to the National Register of Historic Places to nominate properties for listing or determine eligibility for listing, to list properties, and to amend existing listings. Response to this request is required to obtain a benefit in accordance with the National Historic Preservation Act, as amended (16 U.S.C. 470 et seq.).

Estimated Burden Statement: Public reporting burden for this form is estimated to average 18.1 hours per response including time for reviewing instructions, gathering and maintaining data, and completing and reviewing the form. Direct comments regarding this burden estimate or any aspect of this form to the Chief, Administrative Services Division, National Park Service, P.O. Box 37127, Washington, DC 20013-7127; and the Office of Management and Budget, Paperwork Reductions Projects (1024-0018), Washington, DC 20503.

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**National Register of Historic Places
Continuation Sheet**

Section number 7 Page 1

Edward Cogswell House
Griswold, Connecticut

The Edward Cogswell House is located on Hopeville Road, State Route 201, in the town of Griswold, several hundred feet north of the intersection with State Route 138, and slightly more than one mile east of the historic village of Pachaug (photograph 1). Historically, the property consisted of a 500-acre farm in the 18th century; included within the National Register nomination is the 1.94-acre lot still in common ownership with the house. Sloping gradually downward to the west from the street, the lot remains open land, although no longer in cultivation, and features a mixture of old and new stone walls.

A modern stone wall runs along Hopeville Road and almost touches the front southeast corner of the house, which is oriented with its long side approximately 20 degrees to the street (photograph 2). About 60 feet behind the house is a c.1985 barn garage that does not contribute to the historical and architectural qualities for which the Cogswell House is significant. An old two-seat privy, which appears to date from the 19th century (photograph 3), is located just northwest of the house and is a contributing resource (see the Fig. 1 plot plan).

The Cogswell House is a 12-room building of central-chimney New England Colonial design in two sections: a 2-story, gable-roofed main block (43' x 29.5') and a 1-story ell (20.5' x 31.75') with gable roof (photograph 4). The facade of the main block has five bays, with the central entrance flanked by two windows at the first story, and with five windows at the second in a 2-1-2 symmetrical arrangement. A c.1740 construction date is assigned the house, with some basis in historical evidence; the date may apply to only a part of the present building (note 1).

The present owners acquired the property in 1978. Their work has restored the original appearance of the main block, responded to deterioration and structural damage, and included limited modernization. Most of the original structural elements and detailing survive (note 2). To the limited extent that components of the house were replaced, the new elements replicate the old or are sensitive to the old; in some cases, original components themselves were used in the repairs (note 3).

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Griswold, Connecticut

The basement under the main block has dry walls of fieldstone rubble, with granite ashlar supporting the sills. The dirt-floored basement is full height; occupying a sizable portion is the dry fieldstone foundation of the main chimney. The original framing of the building, rough-hewn, is clearly visible. At the southwest corner of the basement is a hatchway, which is reached from the outside by a flight of granite ashlar steps flanked by granite walls. The ell similarly has a fieldstone foundation, but it has only a crawl space at the rear that is not connected to the main basement.

Sheathing the exterior of the building are wood clapboards, which vary in exposure and age (see note 2). Vertical boards define the building corners. The main chimney stack appears to be original, while the one in the ell is not (note 4). Most of the windows are double-hung 9-over-6 sash that are likely original; those in the ell gable are old 6-over-6 sash, and at the back of the house are a few modern sash windows (photograph 6). The front entrance (photograph 7) displays a beveled, 6-panel door with old, perhaps original, wrought-iron hardware that includes iron strap hinges and an unusual iron pull on the outside that turns the interior latch. Positioned under a 5-light transom, the door is set within a flat casing surmounted by a molded cornice with projecting cap. Off-center in the northeast (side) elevation of the main block is a second doorway that features a modern door surmounted by a triangular cap.

The first- and second-floor plans, shown in the attached sketch (Fig. 2), are typical of mid-18th-century houses: a large central chimney of fieldstone, with five flues; a front entrance hall containing stairs to the second floor; large rooms to the left and right of the front entrance; and a large kitchen across the rear, with a pantry at the northwest corner of the house. A small room at the northeast corner has been modernized as a bathroom; beside it is a second stairway. The second-floor room layout is similar to the first. Over the first-floor bath is another modern bathroom. In the ell is a modern kitchen and two rooms at the rear that are now undergoing restoration.

The interior wood framing and detailing appear to be original and are in good condition. Framing in the attic (photograph 8), for example, is rough-hewn, pegged with mortise-and-tenon joints, and braced. The absence of a ridge pole in the roof helps confirm

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Griswold, Connecticut

the mid-18th-century age. Roman numerals, used to assemble the framing, are visible on many rafters. In the first-floor rooms, the corner posts, which exhibit a slight flare upward, are boxed and beaded; the chimney girts are relatively narrow, and the summer beam, also boxed and beaded, is visible only in the southeast main chamber. The chestnut floors vary in width (approximately one-foot wide, for the most part).

Vertical feather-edged sheathing is present in the front entrance hall and covers entire walls, or appears as wainscotting, in several other rooms. The first-floor bath, together with the stair hall and large rear room at the second floor, is entirely covered in feather-edged or beaded vertical sheathing. In the second-floor southeast bedroom, the sheathing covers only part of the fireplace wall. Except in the ell, which appears never to have been finished (note 5), the balance of the walls and ceilings are plastered. Windows in the southeast first-floor room display large raised-panel interior shutters that are replicas of the damaged originals still in the owners' possession (photograph 9).

The wood interior doors, which for the most part exhibit either two or four panels, are set in molded casings, and their hardware, in assorted designs, appears to date mostly from the mid-19th century or earlier. The doors in the ell, in contrast, are beaded batten in design. The steep half-turn, closed-string stairway in the front hall features an open railing with pegged joints and plain handrail without balusters (photograph 10). The five fireplaces in the main block are granite ashlar in construction; most have molded surrounds with mantels (photograph 11 shows a non-original Federal-style mantel), although the one in the second-floor southeast chamber is without decorative elaboration. The largest by far is found in the old kitchen (photograph 12). This fireplace, with an old iron crane still in place, has a brick beehive oven to one side that is enclosed by a 19th-century cast-iron door with decorative detailing.

Notes

1. The 1744/45 deed from Edward Cogswell to his son Nathaniel, covering 300 acres, describes the property as a "tenement of housing and land," and makes subsequent reference to the

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Edward Cogswell House
Griswold, Connecticut

appurtenances as including housing (see the Preston land records at volume 6, page 58). All or only a part of the present house may have stood at that time. Most features of the building point to a mid-18th-century date, including the proportions of the framing, the location of the kitchen beehive oven outside the fireplace firebox, and the absence of both an exterior overhang between the floors and of a roof ridgepole.

The ell, whose framing appears as ancient as that of the main block, may be the oldest component, as is sometimes the case. Some structural evidence, furthermore, suggests that the southwest front section of the house may also be older than the rest of the main block. Visible irregularities in the interior framing and flooring suggest that the southwest front chamber originally extended farther to the rear than at present, into the old kitchen and pantry space. If that is the case, then the house may originally have been three bays in width, with the central chimney on the outside wall and the front door in the end bay.

2. Replacement of a non-original bay window on the front of the house, together with the impact of an automobile collision (photograph 5), necessitated extensive first-floor residing with clapboards and the introduction of replacement windows, in all cases closely matching the old. Inside, the alterations included re-opening the old fireplaces, creation of a modern kitchen in the ell, and new bathrooms.

3. Replacement flooring for the old kitchen, for example, was taken from the attic.

4. The alignment of this chimney, based on the roof framing around it, is slightly different from the old, although the proportions are similar.

5. The ell walls show no evidence of plastering or paneling over the framing.

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Continuation Sheet**Section number 8 Page 1Edward Cogswell House
Griswold, Connecticut

The c.1740 Edward Cogswell House is architecturally significant because it is a fine and well-preserved example of a mid-18th-century Connecticut residence. Its framing and detailing are characteristic of local construction practices of the time. The associations with the Cogswell family, which occupied the residence for over 100 years, adds historical interest. The Cogswells were early settlers in Griswold, taking an active role in town life for several generations and serving in the American Revolution.

Architectural Significance

The Cogswell House exemplifies Connecticut construction techniques and stylistic elements of the mid-18th century. Among the many features establishing the building's great age are the pegged post-and-beam framing; the size, proportion, and arrangement of the exterior elements; and inside, the room layout and wide chestnut flooring. The structural framework of the Cogswell House is almost completely intact and in good condition, as is much of the interior detailing.

The design is especially important to the town of Griswold for two reasons. First, it is one of the town's best preserved 18th-century buildings (note 1) and, secondly, it is a fine representation of the kind of residence--ample in size, but modest in detailing--that suited the unpretentious farmers of rural southeastern Connecticut in the 18th century. The only bow to exterior decoration is the front entrance enframing, while the interior paneling and mantelpieces show restrained elaboration. Adding interest are the paneled, almost square, windows shutters, which are unusual in their size. The orientation of the building (diagonal to Hopeville Road) is another distinguishing feature that, together with the stone walls, contributes to a strong visual sense of the historic setting.

Historical Note

Edward Cogswell (1686-1773), the presumed builder, came to Preston, Connecticut, of which Griswold was then a part, around

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Griswold, Connecticut

1714. Following the common migration patterns of the time, he came from Ipswich, Massachusetts, as one of Griswold's first settlers and bought a tract of which this property is part (note 2). Cogswell signed the petition to the General Court requesting the division of Preston into two ecclesiastical societies, which occurred in 1715/16; according to society records, he boarded the first minister, the Reverend John James, during 1717/18 (note 3). Together with the expected farming pursuits, Edward Cogswell was a founding partner of the Glasgo Iron Works, one of the first iron foundries, although small in scale, in southeastern Connecticut (note 4). Bog ore, found plentifully in the lowlands near the Pachaug River, offered a ready supply for the new industry, which smelted the ore, made kettles, and refined the ore for blacksmiths' use. A 1750 act of the British Parliament, however, devastated such early foundries by prohibiting certain iron manufacturing in the American colonies.

Edward Cogswell sold his holdings of 500 acres in Preston to his son Nathaniel (1714-1810) in two transactions, the first in 1744/45 and the second in 1748/49 (note 5), following which he relocated to New Milford, Connecticut. Nathaniel, who lived on this property throughout his 97-year life, distinguished himself by his success in farming (note 6). Two members of his family, including his son John (1747-1829), the subsequent owner, were veterans of the Revolutionary War (note 7).

The property passed through four generations of the Cogswell family until its sale in 1862, at which time the holding associated with this house had diminished to 230 acres through normal division among family members. Since then, it has passed through a succession of owners and has gradually become smaller. At the time of purchase by the present owners, the remaining 102 acres were subdivided for residential development.

Notes

1. Observation of Mary Rose Deveau, Municipal Historian for the Town of Griswold, during June, 1993, interview.
2. By deed of July 11, 1714, found at volume 3, page 37, of the Town of Preston land records, Edward Cogswell acquired a substantial piece of property that contained the parcel being nominated to the National Register of Historic Places by

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**National Register of Historic Places
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Edward Cogswell House
Griswold, Connecticut

this report. Some sources suggest that he did not arrive in Preston (Griswold) until 1735, although other evidence discussed in this report indicates a much earlier date of arrival.

3. Phillips, History of Griswold(1929), p. 25.

4. Ibid., page 38.

5. Town of Preston land records, deeds at volume 6, page 143 (January 30, 1748/49), and volume 6, page 58 (January 21, 1744/45).

6. Captain Nathaniel Cogswell appears on the Town of Preston grand list for 1775 as the fifth largest of 175 taxpayers. The source of the title "captain" is not clear, although it appears in Lucius Barbour's extract of the probate records for Nathaniel Cogswell at the time of his death in November, 1810.

7. Phillips, op.cit., p. 336, lists John Cogswell as a sergeant in the local militia raised in response to the 1776 Lexington Alarm. Similar reference is also made to Nathan Cogswell, who probably was John's brother (1754-?).

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Edward Cogswell House
Griswold, Connecticut

BIBLIOGRAPHY

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- Griswold, Town of. Town Clerk's office (land records) and Town Assessor's office.
- Interview with Mary Rose Deveau, Municipal Historian, Town of Griswold, Connecticut, June, 1993.
- Jameson, E.O. The Cogswells in America. Boston: Alfred Mudge and Son, Printers, c.1884.
- Map of New London County, Connecticut. Philadelphia: William E. Baker, Publisher, 1854 (shows "J. Cogswell" house at this location, with no others nearby)
- McAlester, Virginia and Lee. A Field Guide to American Houses. New York: Alfred A. Knopf, 1984
- Miner, Gilbert A., Historian of American Legion, compiler. Cemeteries with Graves of Honored Dead in Town of Griswold and Vicinity. Private publication, 1959.
- Phillips, Daniel Lynn. Griswold--A History. New Haven: Tuttle, Morehouse & Taylor Company, 1929.
- Preston, Town of. Town Clerk's office (land records)
- Trostel, Helen Cogswell. Cogswell-Haldeman. The Ancestors and Descendants of Asa Ferns Cogswell and Arobine Haldeman Cogswell. Denver: Big Mountain Press, 1966.

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Section number 10 Page 1

Edward Cogswell House
Griswold, Connecticut

Verbal Boundary Description

The boundaries of this property, for National Register listing, are identical to those found in volume 85, page 242 of the Griswold, CT land records, which is the deed into the present owners.

Boundary Justification

The boundary conforms to the present property lines. This parcel is part of a larger farm property formerly associated with the Cogswell House. Over time, the farm was subdivided, leaving the present 1.94-acre parcel.

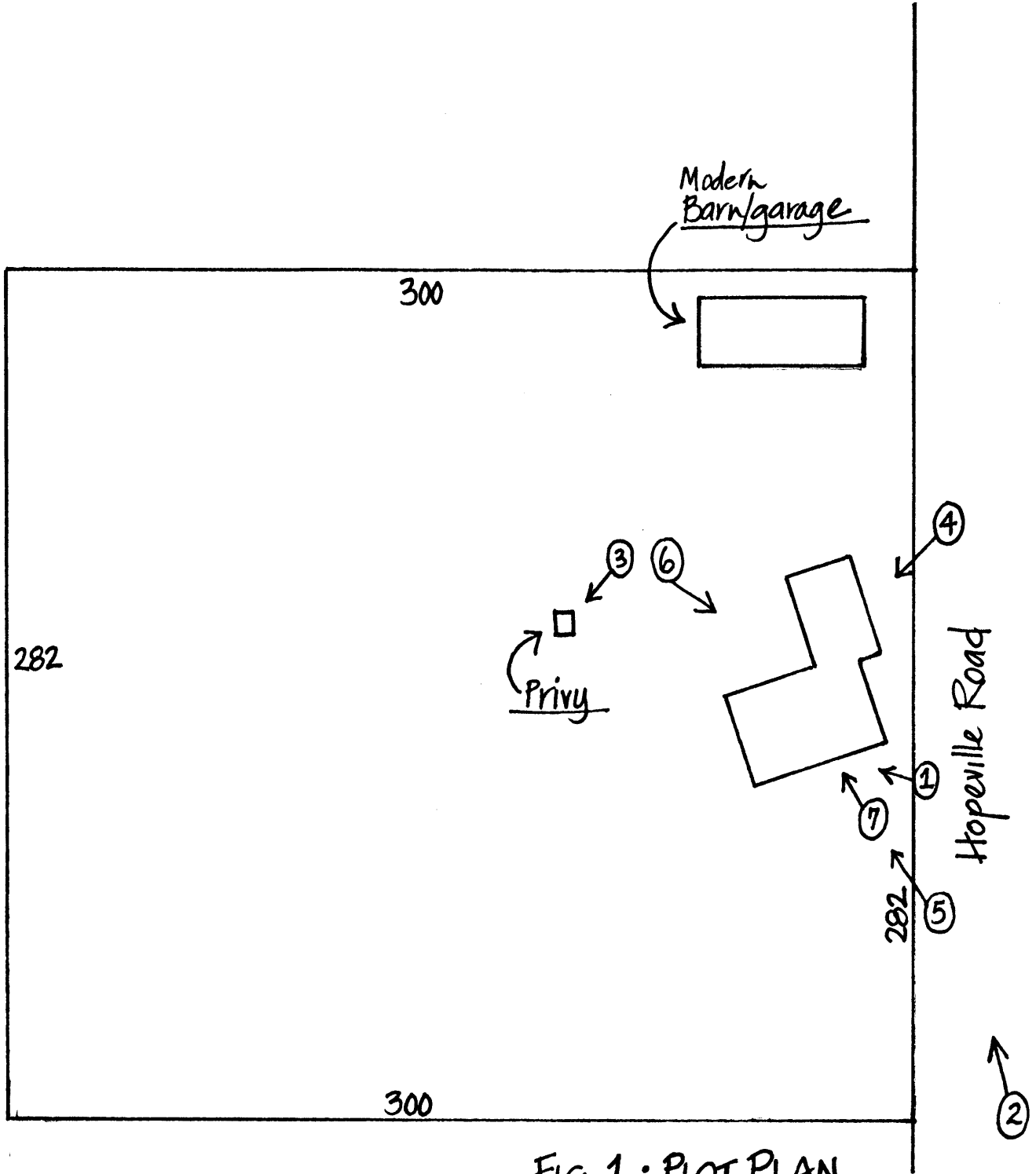


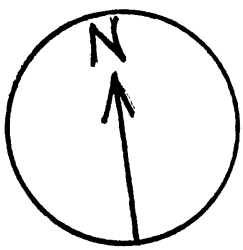
FIG. 1 : PLOT PLAN
 The Edward Cogswell House
 Hoperille Road
 Griswold, Connecticut

SCALE: 1 inch = 50 feet

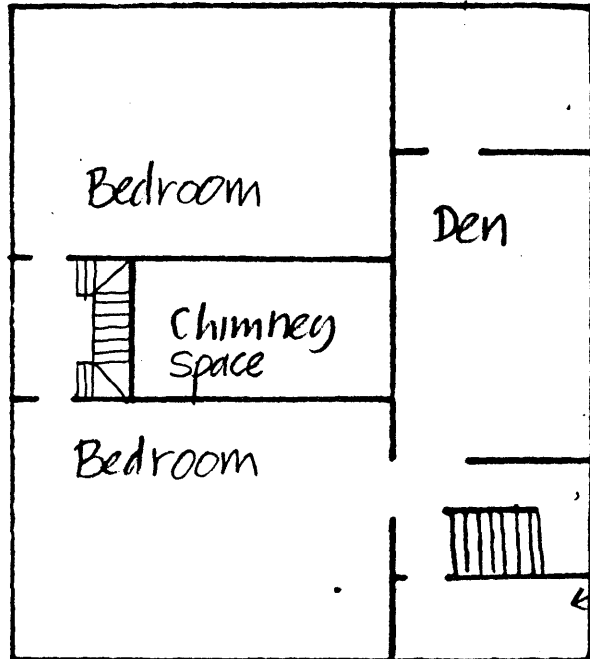
KEY:

① → photo positions of exterior

(Note: building locations are approximate)



Second Floor
Plan



First Floor
Plan

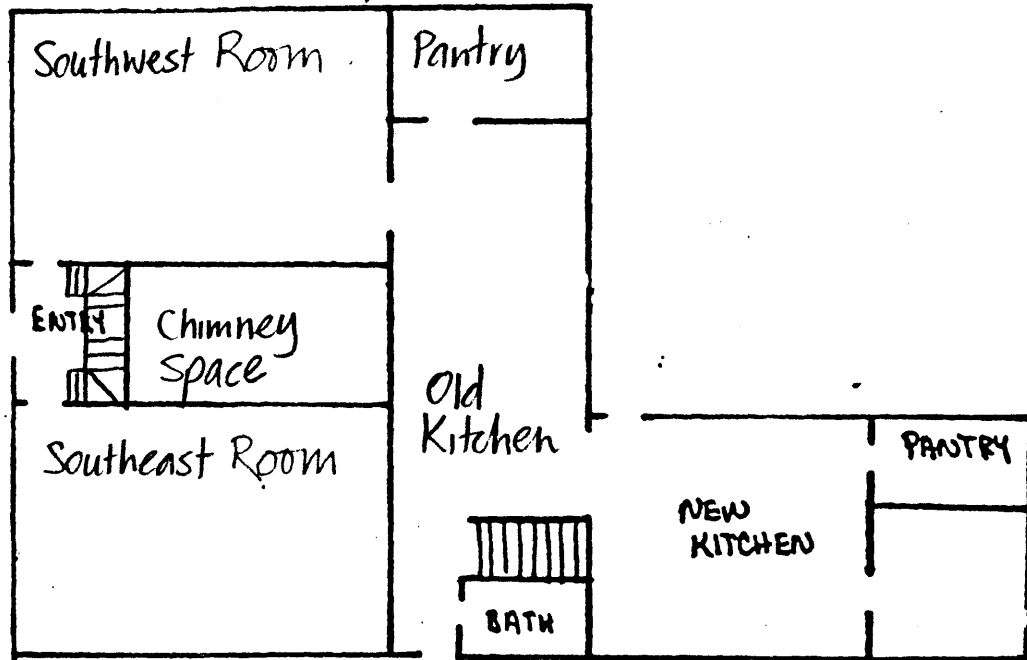


FIG. 2: LAYOUT SKETCH
The Edward Cogswell House
Hoperville Road
Griswold, Connecticut

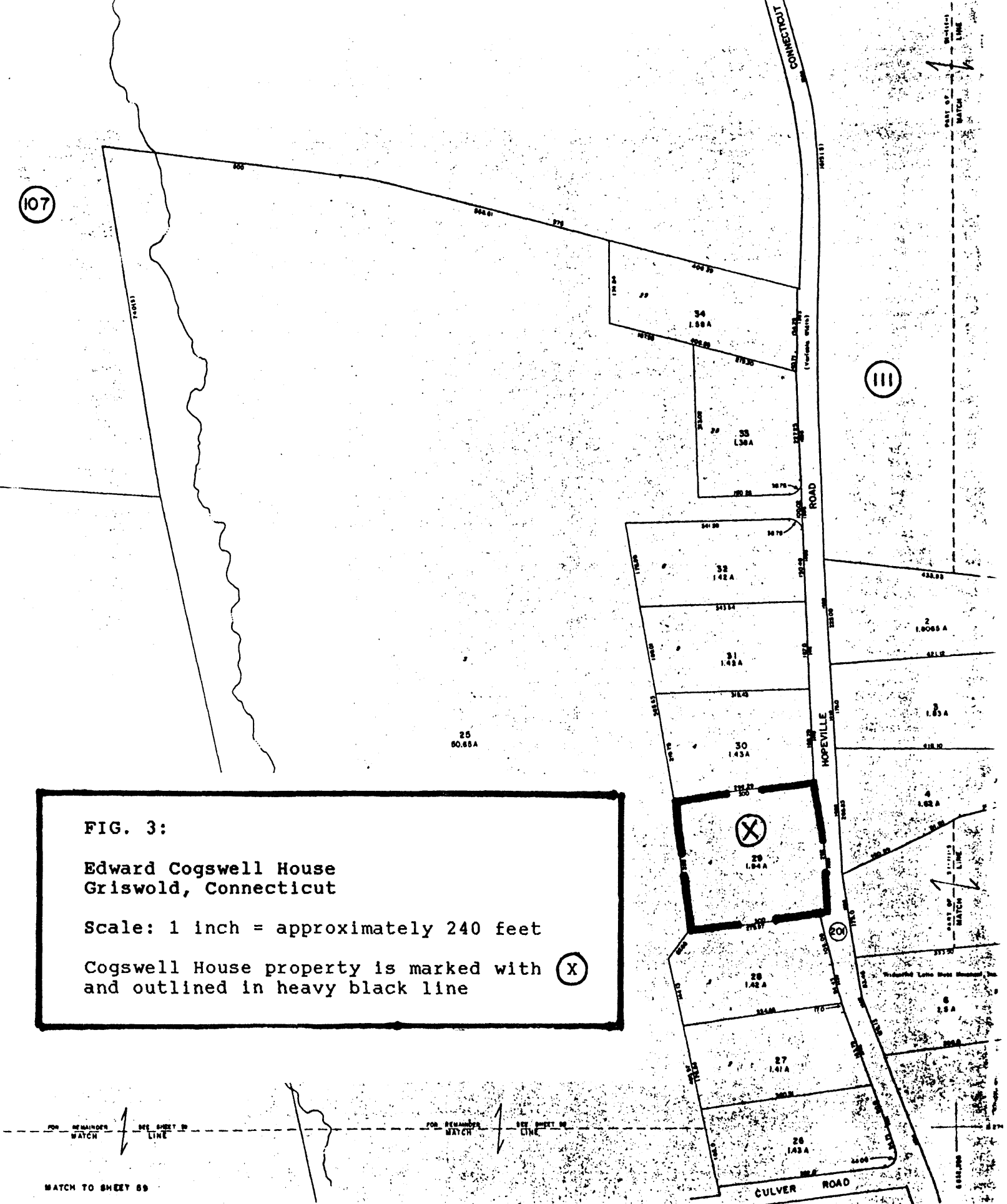
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111

FIG. 3:
Edward Cogswell House
Griswold, Connecticut

Scale: 1 inch = approximately 240 feet

Cogswell House property is marked with **(X)** and outlined in heavy black line



MATCH TO SHEET 89

FOR REMAINDER MATCH SEE SHEET 89 LINE

FOR REMAINDER MATCH SEE SHEET 89 LINE

LEGEND PROPERTY LINE BOUNDARY LINE TOWN LINE COUNTY LINE STREAM		RAILROAD GENERAL LOT LINE UNNOTED FOUNDING OWNER DEED LOT NUMBER DEED AREA CALCULATED AREA	PROPERTY MAP SCALE 1/4" = 100' (SEE SHEET 89) DEED NUMBER SURVEYED PLANT BLOOD VIT LINE STATE ROUTE NUMBER	SHEET INDEX <table border="1"> <tr><td>40</td><td>41</td><td>42</td></tr> <tr><td>43</td><td>44</td><td>45</td></tr> <tr><td>46</td><td>47</td><td>48</td></tr> </table>	40	41	42	43	44	45	46	47	48	TOWN OF GRISWOLD NEW LONDON COUNTY, CONNECTICUT SCALE 1" = 100' TOWN SHEET NO
40	41	42												
43	44	45												
46	47	48												

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Edward Cogswell House
Griswold, Connecticut

PHOTOGRAPHS

Photographs 1-4, 6-12 of the Edward Cogswell House in Griswold, Connecticut, were taken by Gregory E. Andrews in May, 1993. Negatives for the photographs are on file with the Connecticut Historical Commission, Hartford, CT. Photograph #5 was taken by the owners soon after their purchase of the property in 1978.

1. Facade (southeast elevation), looking northwest
2. Facade, with Hopeville Road shown as it passes the house, looking northwest
3. The old privy, looking southwest
4. Northeast (side) elevation, looking southwest
5. C.1979 view of the facade, looking northwest
6. Rear (northwest elevation) of main block and ell, looking southeast
7. Front doorway, looking northwest
8. Attic roof framing, lookin southwest
9. Front window in southeast chamber, first floor, looking southeast
10. Main stairway, looking north
11. Fireplace in southwest chamber, first floor, looking northeast
12. Old kitchen fireplace and adjacent beehive oven, looking east