

PH0028860

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

(Type all entries - complete applicable sections)

STATE: Connecticut	
COUNTY: New London	
FOR NPS USE ONLY	
ENTRY NUMBER 70.10.06.0015	DATE 10/6/70

1. NAME

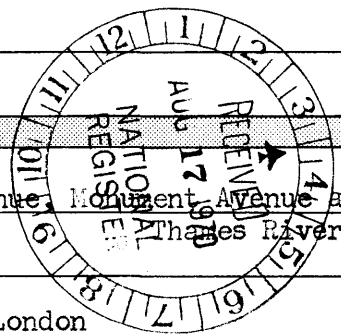
COMMON:
Fort Griswold

AND/OR HISTORIC:

2. LOCATION

STREET AND NUMBER:
Bounded by Baker Avenue, Smith Street, Park Avenue, Monument Avenue and the
CITY OR TOWN:
Groton

STATE: Connecticut CODE: 06 COUNTY: New London CODE: 011



3. CLASSIFICATION

CATEGORY (Check One)	OWNERSHIP	STATUS	ACCESSIBLE TO THE PUBLIC
<input type="checkbox"/> District <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Site <input type="checkbox"/> Building <input type="checkbox"/> Structure <input type="checkbox"/> Object	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Public <input type="checkbox"/> Private <input type="checkbox"/> Both	Public Acquisition: <input type="checkbox"/> In Process <input type="checkbox"/> Being Considered	<input type="checkbox"/> Occupied <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Unoccupied <input type="checkbox"/> Preservation work in progress
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 checked="" type="checkbox"/> Park <input 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:
State of Connecticut -- State Park and Forest Commission

STREET AND NUMBER:
State Office Building

CITY OR TOWN: Hartford STATE: Connecticut CODE: 06

5. LOCATION OF LEGAL DESCRIPTION

COURTHOUSE, REGISTRY OF DEEDS, ETC.:
Municipal Building

STREET AND NUMBER:

CITY OR TOWN: Groton STATE: Connecticut CODE: 06

6. REPRESENTATION IN EXISTING SURVEYS

TITLE OF SURVEY:
Connecticut Historic Structures and Landmarks Survey

DATE OF SURVEY: 1967 Federal State County Local

DEPOSITORY FOR SURVEY RECORDS:
Connecticut Historical Commission

STREET AND NUMBER:
75 Elm Street

CITY OR TOWN: Hartford STATE: Connecticut CODE: 06

SEE INSTRUCTIONS

STATE: Connecticut
COUNTY: New London
ENTRY NUMBER: 70.10.06.0015
DATE: 10/6/70
FOR NPS USE ONLY

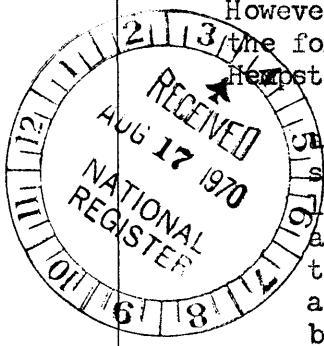
7. DESCRIPTION

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

DESCRIBE THE PRESENT AND ORIGINAL (if known) PHYSICAL APPEARANCE

Fort Griswold was built between 1775 and 78 for the defense of the Groton and New London shore. At present it appears to be a grassy and overgrown earthworks with an assymetrical star-like shape and a detached V shaped ravelin , also overgrown, which covered the gateway.

However, in 1781 at the time of the British massacre for which the fort is famous the fort is described in the diary of Stephen Hempstead as



a wall of stones 10 or 12 feet high on the lower side and surrounded by a ditch. On the wall were pickets projecting 2 feet, and above this a parapet with embrasures and within a platform for cannon and a step to mount on to shoot over the parapet with small arms. In the southwest bastion was a flagstaff and in the side was a gate with a triangular breastworks to protect it and a redoubt with a three pounder in it.¹

Using this description the daughters of the American Revolution have constructed a diagram of the original fort and with the use of Hempstead's account and that of Rufus Avery have concluded where decisive events have taken place (see enclosed sheet).

Adjacent to the fort and northeast of it is the Groton Monument. The monument is an obelisk 135 feet high, 22 feet square at the base sloping to 8½ feet at the base of the pyramid. The granite of which it was built was quarried near by. The summit is reached by a spiral stairway within of one hundred sixty-six steps, and the top gallery affords a magnificent view of the harbor and the whole surrounding country. On a marble slab near the entrance inside the monument is the inscription

This monument
 Was erected under the patronage of the
 State of Connecticut A D 1830,
 and in the 55th year of the independence of the U.S.A.
 In the memory of the Brave Patriots
 who fell in the Battle of Fort Griswold near this spot
 on the 6th of September A D 1781
 when the British under the command of
 the traitor Benedict Arnold
 burned the towns of New London and Groton and spread
 desolation and woe throughout this region.

Near the monument and also northeast of the fort is a stonehouse with an annex which is a memorial to the men who lost their lives in the Spanish American War. It houses relics of the town's history and has displays which relate to the history of the fort

SEE INSTRUCTIONS

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INVENTORY - NOMINATION FORM

(Continuation Sheet)

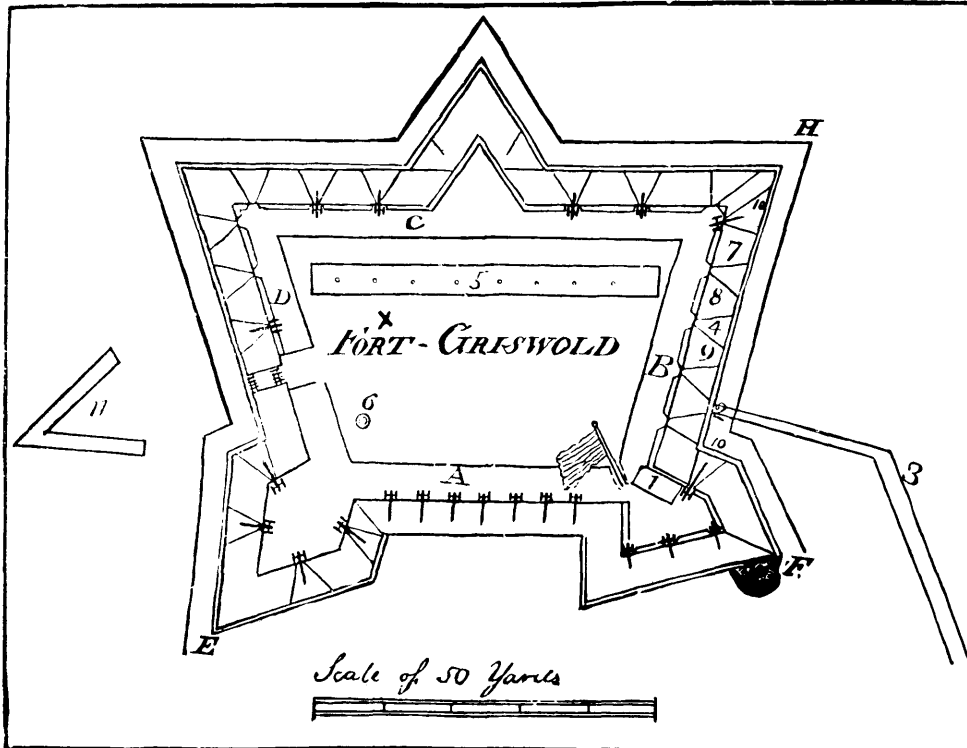
STATE Connecticut	
COUNTY New London	
FOR NPS USE ONLY	
ENTRY NUMBER	DATE
70.10.06.0015	10/6/70

(Number all entries)

- 2 -

Description of Fort Griswold

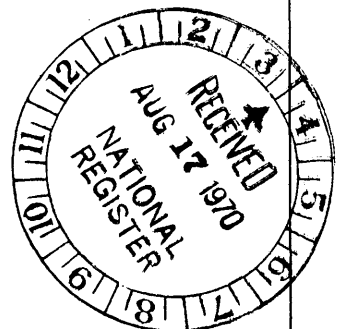
and especially to the Battle of Fort Griswold.



REFERENCES TO FORT GRISWOLD²

1. Magazine
2. Sallee-Port
3. A ditch leading to battery below
4. Embrazine where Major Montgomery fell
5. Barracks
6. Well
- 7, 8, 9. Points where the light companies of the 40th entered
10. Guns that harrassed the enemy
11. Ravelin that covered the gateway
- F A rock not cut away, which gives an entrance into the work.
- From E to F round the sides D, C and B the work is fraised.
- On the curtain A to the angle F was a barbette battery.
- H is at the southeast corner.
- F is at the southwest corner.
- x Spot where Col. Ledyard was killed.

Note: This map shows the fort as it would be approached from the river. The monument is located off the upper left hand corner.



¹The Story of the Battle of Fort Griswold and the Groton Heights Monument, pub. by the Anna Warner Bailey Chapter, Daughters of the American Revolution, p.2.
²Ibid. p. 8.

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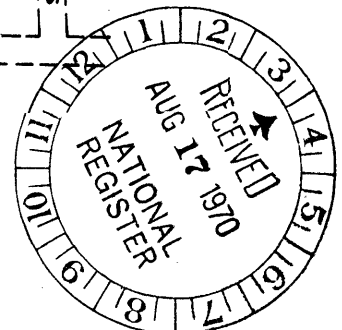
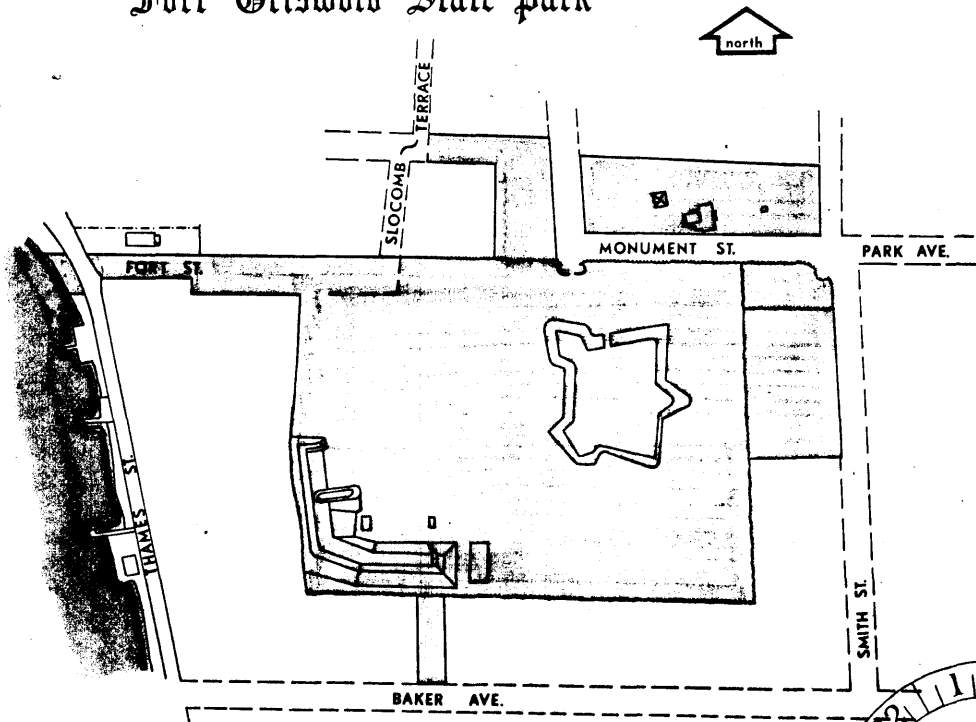
(Number all entries)

- 3 -

Description of Fort Griswold

Southwest of the fort is another wall which curves around the southwest corner of the state property. It was built in 1812 as an extension of a natural stone ledge. Within this is a stone house built in 1840 for the storage of powder, files, and ammunition. North of this stone building is a brick hot shot house built in 1812. In this building cannon balls were heated before they were shot from the cannon in the wall at wooden ships in the river. The twenty canon used in the war of 1812 were removed in 1814. The fort was a military site on three occasions after the close of the Revolutionary War--in 1812, 1898, and World War II.

Fort Griswold State Park



3. SIGNIFICANCE

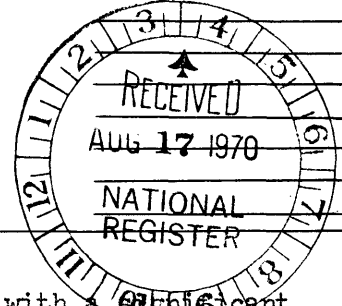
PERIOD (Check One or More as Appropriate)

<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 type="checkbox"/> Historic	<input type="checkbox"/> Industry	<input type="checkbox"/> Science	
<input type="checkbox"/> Agriculture	<input type="checkbox"/> Invention	<input type="checkbox"/> Sculpture	
<input type="checkbox"/> Architecture	<input type="checkbox"/> Landscape	<input type="checkbox"/> Social/Humanitarian	
<input type="checkbox"/> Art	<input type="checkbox"/> Architecture	<input type="checkbox"/> Theater	
<input type="checkbox"/> Commerce	<input type="checkbox"/> Literature	<input type="checkbox"/> Transportation	
<input type="checkbox"/> Communications	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Military		
<input type="checkbox"/> Conservation	<input type="checkbox"/> Music		



STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE

The significance of the fort is its association with a significant historical event, the Battle of Fort Griswold. In 1781 in an effort to divert Washington's forces from New York the British laid seige to New London in an attack led by the traitor Benedict Arnold with a force of 35 ships and 1700 men. In the attack which occured on September 6, 1781 Arnold used half his forces to burn New London and half to attack Fort Griswold.

When Ledyard rejected a surrender demand, the British began a fierce assault from three sides. The Americans replied with enfilading canon fire and caused heavy casualties. Finally the enemy, with a slashing bayonet attack, broke through the embrasures on one side. Both Eyre and Major William Montgomery, leader of the successful assault column, received fatal wounds.

The British losses numbered approximately 40 killed and 100 wounded; the American, 6 killed and perhaps 20 wounded. Ledyard, realizing that his position was hopeless, ordered his men to ground their arms. A British officer shouted, "Who commands this garrison?" Ledyard promptly handed his sword to the speaker, replying, "I did, sir, but you do now." Instantly the sword was taken and ...rammed through Ledyard's body. The wrought-up British soldiers butchered fourscore of the garrison before their officers finally halted the carnage. Major Stephen Bromfield, now in command, decided to blow up the powder magazine, so the American wounded were placed in an ammunition wagon. As the final act in this stark tragedy, the wagon got out of control on a hill, plunged wildly down the declivity, and finally crashed into a tree, tossing the maimed about and killing several.

The Battle of Fort Griswold was significant as the last British assault upon Connecticut soil: for the British it was a victory tarnished by dishonor in one of the closing battles of the Revolutionary War.

¹Albert F. Van Dusen, Connecticut. Random House, New York (1961), p.169.

SEE INSTRUCTIONS

9. MAJOR BIBLIOGRAPHICAL REFERENCES

Albert E. Van Dusen, Connecticut. New York: Random House, 1961.

The Story of the Battle of Fort Griswold and the Groton Heights Monument.
Published by the Anna Warner Bailey Chapter, Daughters of the American
Revolution, 1967.

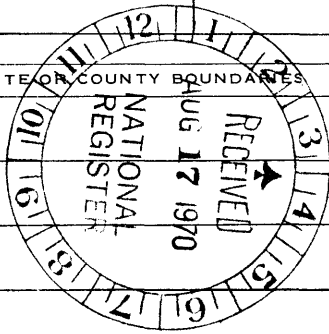
10. GEOGRAPHICAL DATA

LATITUDE AND LONGITUDE COORDINATES DEFINING A RECTANGLE LOCATING THE PROPERTY				O R	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°	21'	17"	72°	05'	03"			
NE	41°	21'	17"	72°	04'	44"			
SE	41°	21'	07"	72°	04'	44"			
SW	41°	21'	07"	72°	05'	03"			

APPROXIMATE ACREAGE OF NOMINATED PROPERTY: **16**

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

STATE:	CODE	COUNTY	CODE
STATE:	CODE	COUNTY:	CODE
STATE:	CODE	COUNTY:	CODE
STATE:	CODE	COUNTY:	CODE



SEE INSTRUCTIONS

11. FORM PREPARED BY

NAME AND TITLE:
Constance Luyster, Administrative Trainee

ORGANIZATION: **State Historical Commission** DATE: **July 31, 1970**

STREET AND NUMBER:
75 Elm Street

CITY OR TOWN: **Hartford** 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 *William J. Montegh*
Chairman, Connecticut Historical
Title Commission and State Liaison
Officer

Date June 31, 1970

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

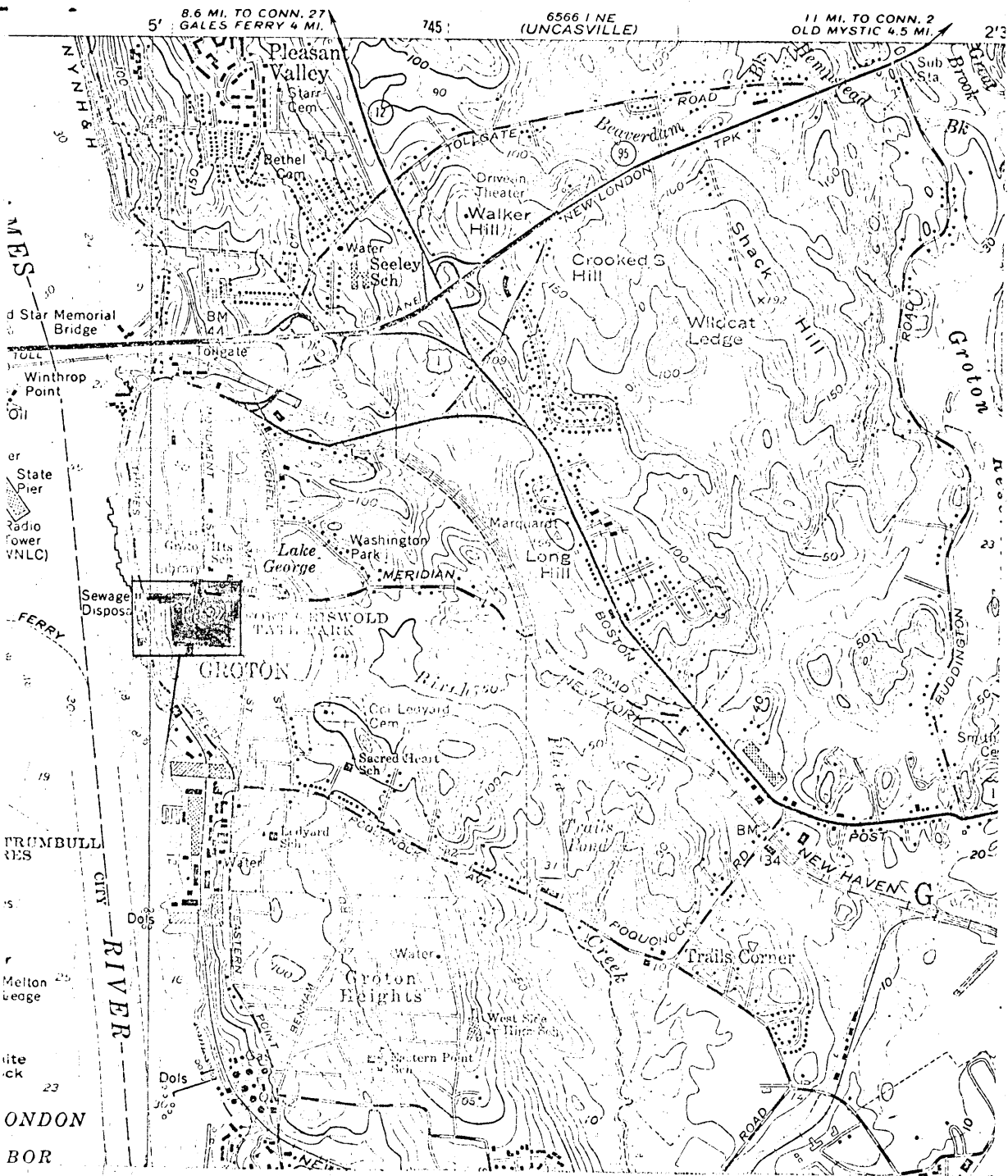
Carroll Allen Casanovi
Chief, Office of Archeology and Historic Preservation
OCT 6 1970

Date _____

ATTEST:

William J. Montegh
Keeper of The National Register
AUG 26 1970

Date _____



FORT GRISWOLD

CORNER	Latitude	Longitude
NW	41° 21' 17"	72° 05' 03"
NE	41° 21' 17"	72° 04' 44"
SE	41° 21' 07"	72° 04' 44"
SW	41° 21' 07"	72° 05' 03"

