

HISTORIC RESOURCES

BUILDING AND STRUCTURES

Please send completed form to: Stacey Vairo, National Register and State Register Coordinator,
State Historic Preservation Office, Department of Economic and Community Development,
One Constitution Plaza, 2nd Floor, Hartford CT 06103

* Note: Please attach any additional or expanded information on a separate sheet.

GENERAL INFORMATION

Building Name (Common) Welton, Hobart Victory, Carriage Shed Record No. 53468
 Building Name (Historic) Welton, Hobart Victory, Carriage Shed
 Street Address or Location Wolcott Street and Manor Avenue (Parcel ID: 0298-0098-0083)
 Town/City Waterbury Village _____ County New Haven
 Owner(s) State of Connecticut, 165 Capitol Ave. Room G1, Hartford CT 06106 Public Private

PROPERTY INFORMATION

Present Use: Agriculture/Subsistence: agricultural outbuilding
 Historic Use: Agriculture/Subsistence: agricultural outbuilding
 Accessibility to public: Exterior visible from public road? Yes No
 Interior accessible? Yes No If yes, explain Stone vault open to the public way
 Style of building Carriage barn, Renaissance revival style Date of Construction 1858

Material(s) (Indicate use or location when appropriate):

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

Structural System

- Wood Frame Post & Beam Balloon Load bearing masonry Structural iron or steel
 Other _____

Roof (Type)

- Gable Flat Mansard Monitor Sawtooth
 Gambrel Shed Hip Round Other Vault, earth-covered

(Material)

- Wood Shingle Roll Asphalt Tin Slate Asphalt Shingle
 Built up Tile Other Stone vault, earth

Number of Stories: 1 Approximate Dimensions 20' x 20' x 14' high

Structural Condition: Excellent Good Fair Deteriorated

Exterior Condition: Excellent Good Fair Deteriorated

Location Integrity: On original site Moved When? _____

Alterations? Yes No If yes, explain: _____

FOR OFFICE USE: Town # _____ Site # _____ UTM _____

District: S NR If NR, Specify: Actual Potential

PROPERTY INFORMATION (CONT'D)

Related outbuildings or landscape features:

Barn Shed Garage Carriage House Shop Garden

Other landscape features or buildings: Stone retaining walls & foundations, original farmhouse at 342 Wolcott St.

Surrounding Environment:

Open land Woodland Residential Commercial Industrial Rural

High building density Scattered buildings visible from site

• Interrelationship of building and surroundings:

See continuation sheet.

• Other notable features of building or site (*Interior and/or Exterior*)

See continuation sheet.

Architect Hobart Victory Welton Builder Hobart Victory Welton

• Historical or Architectural importance:

See continuation sheet.

• Sources:

Cunningham, Jan, Connecticut's Agricultural Heritage: an Architectural and Historical Overview, Connecticut Trust for Historic Preservation & State Historic Preservation Office, 2012.

See continuation sheet.

Photographer Charlotte Hitchcock Date 3/20/2013

View Multiple Views Negative on File CTHP

Name Charlotte Hitchcock Date 4/26/2013

Organization Connecticut Trust for Historic Preservation

Address 940 Whitney Avenue, Hamden CT 06517

• Subsequent field evaluations:

Latitude, Longitude:
41.552565, -73.017052

Threats to the building or site:

None known Highways Vandalism Developers Renewal Private

Deterioration Zoning Other _____ Explanation _____

HISTORIC RESOURCES INVENTORY FORM – BUILDING AND STRUCTURES continuation sheet

Wolcott Street & Manor Avenue, Waterbury CT

Record No. 53468

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- Interrelationship of building and surroundings:

This unusual vaulted stone carriage shed is located on the west side of Wolcott Street, which curves around the toe of Long Hill on a route from the center of Waterbury toward the northeast to Wolcott. The stone vault of the shed has its open end abutting the sidewalk line and its interior banked into a steep hillside which rises toward the west. To the south there is an adjacent three-sided fieldstone foundation retaining wall indicating a former structure which was also banked into the hill. To the north a spring formerly had a piped outlet and functioned as a public fountain until the late 1950s.

On the east side of the road across from the carriage shed is a c. 1819 Colonial-style house at 342 Wolcott Street, formerly associated with the carriage shed and other barns which are no longer extant. The house is sited at an oblique angle to the road, facing toward the west. The house is a 2 ½-story center-chimney gable-roofed house with its entry in the west-facing eave-façade. The west side is a four-bay façade in the manner of a half-house of the Colonial period; the entry door off-center toward the south, has a vernacular Federal-style surround with pilasters, lintel and four-light transom above the door. This is in the same bay as the center chimney. To the left are two bays with double-hung windows at the first and second floor levels, with simple trim including a shallow cornice. To the right of the door is a single window on each level. The house is 30' x 30' and has an attached garage and shed extending eastward. A shallow 1-story porch across the south gable-end has an open section and a small enclosed portion toward the east. Siding is wood shingles and roof is asphalt shingles. The front yard elevation is below the sidewalk, indicating that in addition to being widened, the road has been raised up over the years.

Manor Avenue intersects Wolcott Street at the north border of the property. The carriage shed and its 2.7-acre site are owned by the State of Connecticut and the house at 342 Wolcott Street is privately-owned. However both were part of a single farmstead in the 19th century, along with a considerable acreage to the north and east. To the east is a densely built-up residential neighborhood of the mid-20th century, on land sloping down to the Mad River, which runs generally southward to meet the Naugatuck River. Several 19th-century factory sites along the river have been recently redeveloped as commercial shopping areas.

- Other notable features of building or site (*Interior and/ or Exterior*):

Architectural description:

Inventory of structures (C – contributing, NC – non-contributing):

Carriage shed	1858	C
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Farmhouse at 342 Wolcott Street, c. 1819, formerly associated with the shed, now under separate ownership.

Carriage shed:

This is a barrel-vaulted masonry structure approximately 20' wide, 20' deep, and 14' high. The vault is oriented east-west, banked into a hill which rises to the west. The east end is open to the street, abutting the sidewalk line of the modern roadway. The west end is formed of exposed natural rock, while the sides and roof are formed by a fieldstone masonry vault. The east façade surrounding the vault is formed of dressed ashlar masonry which blends into massive fieldstone retaining walls extending north and south along the sidewalk line. To the north the wall tapers down to grade while to the south the wall is approximately six feet high extending to meet the banked foundation wall to the south. Beyond this ruined foundation is a steep bedrock slope; historical photographs indicated that the retaining wall extended further south and that a series of terraces and ramps provided access to the hillside.

The east façade of the vaulted shed consists of wide corner piers approximately five feet high, slightly battered and topped by projecting water tables which form the spring lines for the arch. The arch is faced with dressed stone voussoirs with a textured surface. Surrounding the voussoirs is a course of rusticated blocks with exaggerated joints, stepping up to the top of the arch. The keystone is inscribed with the date 1858 and the Latin word "MANEO" (I endure) and an ornamental cap carved with a bas relief of horns of harvest fruits and vegetables. Originally a carved

stone bird set atop the cap. Flanking the central panel are the words “PUTEUS” (well) and “DOLIUM” (cask or tun) forming a pun on the family name of the owner, Hobart Victory Welton.

The interior is a cave-like space lined with fieldstone masonry and with exposed bedrock at the back wall. The floor is earth. A historical image shows that there was a loft level platform, now gone, and that carriages were stored in the ground level area.

• Historical or Architectural importance:

Applicable Connecticut State Register Criteria:

1. Associated with the lives of persons significant in our past;
2. Embodying the distinctive characteristics of a type, period, or method of construction.

The Hobart V. Welton Carriage shed is an exceptional and unique structure in intact condition, a stone vault banked into the hill, with elegant classically-inspired stonework details. It is unique as a type of folk art, constructed to serve a simple farm function but created with extraordinary artistic and technical skill and with humor. The Carriage shed derives additional significance from the long association with the Welton family, descendants of one of the first proprietors of Mattatuck Plantation, and in particular as the most visible legacy of Hobart V. Welton, a prominent citizen, self-taught engineer, and folk artist.

Historical background:

Biographical information on Hobart Victory Welton (1811-1895) is provided by Anderson and Prichard in *The Town and City of Waterbury*, 1896. In addition to Welton's biography, an engraved illustration shows several of Welton's functional sculptures, including the Carriage shed, the front gate of his Farmhouse, a water fountain located north of the shed, and another gate of a family member's home.

Hobart Victory Welton, the eldest son of the Rev. Joseph Davis Welton (1783-1825) and Eunice Tomlinson (1788-1832) Welton, was born in Woodbury in 1811, where his father had a position as an Episcopal minister. The family moved to Easton when Hobart was three, and then in 1819, due to the Rev. Welton's failing health, the family moved back to their original home town of Waterbury.

The first of the Weltons to settle in the area had arrived from Farmington in 1679; John Wellton was one of the proprietors of the Mattatuck Plantation. Many of the Welton ancestors were farmers living in the area of Bucks Hill, now a northern section of the city but at that time a nearby village.

However, Eunice's father, Victory Tomlinson (b. 1760), a wealthy man, purchased this site, known as the “Zara Warden place,” for his daughter and her family. Victory Tomlinson came from Shelton, where his father, Captain Beach Tomlinson (1726-1817) had fought in the Revolutionary War and with his wife Charity Shelton Tomlinson (1736-1809, had 14 children. The youngest of these, David Joseph Nichols Tomlinson (1779-1828), remained in Shelton and his farmstead on Meadow Street is included in this thematic State Register nomination (see 181 Meadow Street, Shelton). Both Captain Beach and his son Victory grew wealthy through real estate investments and Victory also through turnpike construction.

According to Prichard's account in *The Town and City of Waterbury*, Victory Tomlinson built the farmhouse on the Wolcott Street site for the Rev. Joseph, Eunice and their four children. This would place the date of the extant farmhouse slightly later than the Assessor's record date of 1803. The farm apparently backed onto Long Hill and extended out into the area known as Sawmill Plain, in the valley of the Mad River.

Rev. Joseph Welton died not long after in 1825, leaving Hobart at age 14 as the eldest son. He had been taught by his father, who ran a small school out of the family home. He continued attending school intermittently during the winters while running the family farm. Hobart mastered land surveying, and had studied Latin. He also enjoyed sculpture and has been quoted as saying, “With an inborn taste for sculpture but obliged from early youth to earn my own living I have been of some service to society in my day and generation. Had I not been placed under such limitations, I might have been nothing more than a third rate artist.” (Prichard, p. 461) Hobart Welton's brother, Joseph (1814-1894) also learned surveying, but moved to a farm on the west bank of the Naugatuck River.

Hobart V. Welton appears to have continued farming (Census records list him as a farmer) while serving for 25 years as the superintendent of public highways for Waterbury. His grandfather Victory Tomlinson was the sole shareholder in the Waterbury River Turnpike (from Naugatuck to Colebrook and Massachusetts) for some period of time; there may have been a family connection with transportation. Hobart V. Welton is credited with the first stone arch bridge in town, and an innovative iron bridge at the West Main Street crossing of the Naugatuck River.

He also served as a Waterbury Selectman and was elected to the state legislature in 1851-52. Along with other Welton family members, he participated in the founding of the Waterbury Brass Company in the late 1840s, serving as a director. He worked for several years on establishing a series of reservoirs on the Mad River to serve the factory, further illustrating his engineering abilities. The Welton farmstead overlooked the Mad River valley, where the Waterbury Brass Company was located.

Hobart V. Welton married Mary Adeline Richards (1811-1874) of Westminster, Vermont, in 1834; she had grown up in Waterbury and they had been schoolmates at the “old stone academy.” They had four children: Edwin D. Welton, Sarah Cornelia Welton Pierpont, Harriet Adeline Welton Lamb, and Hobart L. Welton. Hobart L. Welton appears to have lived in the Farmhouse, as his name is painted on the cross-bar of the front gate described below. Son Edwin D. may have lived nearby.

Throughout the years, Welton also pursued his lifelong interest in sculpture. He created ornamental gates along the borders of the farmstead, illustrated by Prichard, who wrote, “He was fond of carving both in wood and in stone, and the gate-way to his house and the stone work of his farm buildings, with their quaint and ingenious emblems deftly carved in wood and stone, have for many years attracted the attention of passersby.” The vaulted carriage shed was perhaps the most elaborate expression of his artistic and engineering talents. A significant artifact, a gate, is preserved in the collection of the Mattatuck Museum, where it has been widely recognized as an outstanding work of folk art since the 1930s, listed in the Index of American Design which was created during the Great Depression as a project of the Works Progress Administration (WPA), and included in traveling exhibits. The piece was acquired by the Museum in 1938 as the gift of Mrs. Harry Welton – Harry Welton was the son of Hobart L. and grandson of the sculptor.

Another Welton piece in the collection of the Museum is the fountain and watering trough which Welton carved of granite and placed under a piped spring to the north of the Carriage shed. This provided fresh running water to the public from its creation in 1870 until after the Great Flood of 1955. The fountain appears to have been relocated at least once, as a photograph dating to the 1890s shows it close to the then-dirt road in an open field against a wood fence. A later set of photographs taken by the WPA in 1939 show the stone and trough set against a wall of massive fieldstones (which appear in the background of the earlier image), and behind a designated parking area at the roadside. Correspondence in the Museum archives reveals that the Museum had been attempting to acquire the stone pieces since the early 1940s, to protect them from vandalism. The State Highway Department initially preferred to retain the site as a public picnic area, citing its popularity. In the late 1970s the Museum made another offer, and perhaps this is when the stones came to reside in the boiler room of the museum building where they are today.

By the 1930s, the farm had been sold out of the Welton family, with the Connecticut State Highway Department acquiring the 2.67 acres of hillside west of the Wolcott Road, and Leda Bouley and her son Edward, of French-Canadian origin, owning much of the rest. The Bouleys, listed in the 1930 Census as working in real estate and construction, subdivided the land and laid out streets including Manor Avenue, as shown by a 1936 State Highway Department right-of-way map in the Mattatuck Museum archives. From 1934 to 1962, this section of Wolcott Street was designated as State Route 69, after which Route 69 was moved. The state route designation may have played a role in the acquisition of the parcel by the State of Connecticut, and possibly in the eventual decision to dismantle the piped spring and allow the stone fountain and trough to go to the Museum.

The Welton Farmhouse and the vaulted Carriage shed remain despite road widening, paving, and increased traffic; the Carriage shed is noted as a local landmark on the City of Waterbury web site.

Architectural significance:

The Hobart V. Welton Carriage shed is an exceptional and unique structure in intact condition, significant because of the excellence of design and construction as a stone vault banked into the hill, with elegant classically-inspired details. It is unique as folk art, constructed to serve a simple farm function but created with extraordinary artistic and technical skill and with humor which is reflected both in the Latin pun incorporated into the stone decoration and the over-scaled stonework of the walls and vaulting. The juxtaposition of the stone vault and other embellishments to the site such as the gate and fountain, with the unpretentious Colonial-style house which was the Welton Farmstead, highlights his remarkable artistry in creating a sculptural environment for public enjoyment outside his front door. The Carriage shed derives additional significance from the association with the Welton family, descendants of one of the first proprietors of Mattatuck Plantation, and in particular as the most visible legacy of Hobart V. Welton, a prominent citizen, engineer, and artist.

• Sources (*continuation*):

Photographs and field notes by Charlotte Hitchcock 4/10/2013.

Interview with Mike Forina and Dr. Cynthia Roznoy of the Mattatuck Museum, 4/24/2013.

Map resources:

Ancestry.com web site: http://records.ancestry.com/Hobart_Victory_Welton_records.ashx?pid=44127135

City of Waterbury Assessor's Records

<http://www.equalitycama.com/tvweb/PropertyResults.aspx?city=Waterbury+2012+Revaluation>

Parcel ID: 0298-0098-0083 .

City of Waterbury

Map Viewer http://gis.waterburyct.org/GIS/Maps_Assessor.asp/

City Landmarks: <http://www.waterburyct.org/content/9586/10404/13826.aspx>.

Aerial views from: <http://maps.google.com/> and <http://www.bing.com/maps/> accessed 4/10/2013.

Historical aerial photography accessed at UConn MAGIC: http://magic.lib.uconn.edu/mash_up/1934.html .

USGS Historical Maps at <http://historical.mytopo.com/> accessed 4/10/2013.

UTM coordinates: <http://itouchmap.com/latlong.html> .

Print and internet resources:

Anderson, Joseph, Ed., Prichard, Sarah J., The Town and City of Waterbury, Connecticut: from the aboriginal period to the year eighteen hundred and ninety-five, Price and Lee, New Haven, 1896.

Bronson, Henry, M.D., The History of Waterbury Connecticut, Bronson Brothers, Waterbury, 1858, accessed via Google Books, <https://play.google.com/store/books/>.

Connecticut Roads web site: <http://www.kurumi.com/roads/ct/ct69.html> .

Connecticut Trust for Historic Preservation, Historic Barns of Connecticut Resource Inventory, 2010, <http://www.connecticutbarns.org/53468> .

Mattatuck Museum, Online collections database at [http://www.mattatuckcollections.org/PRT0*9\\$116*98075](http://www.mattatuckcollections.org/PRT0*9$116*98075) .
Museum archives including photographs, correspondence, and artifacts.

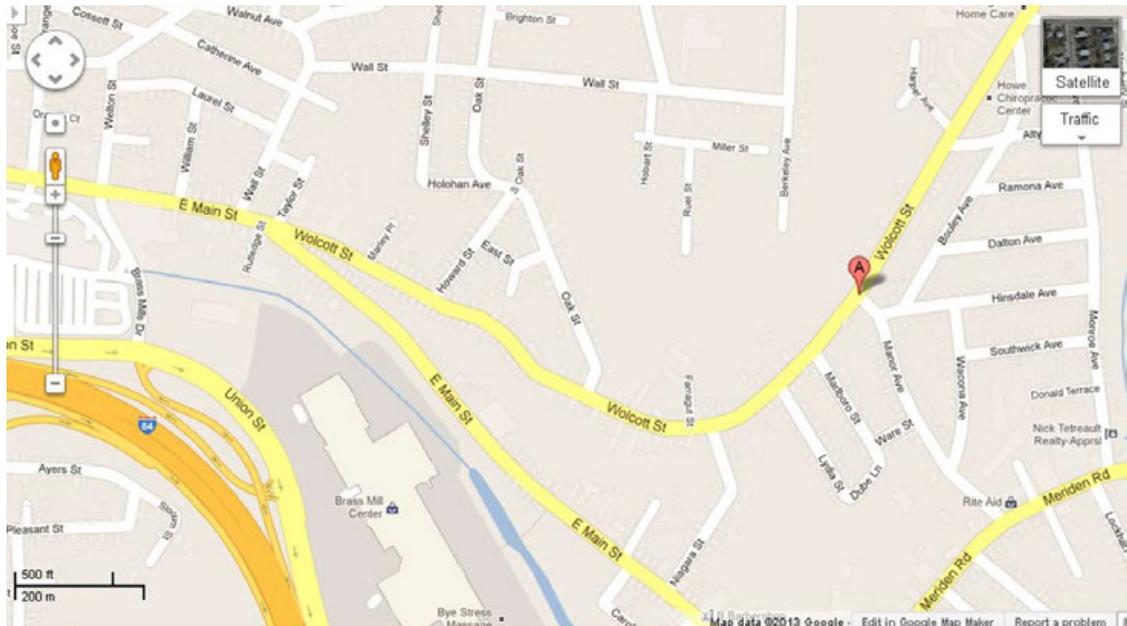
Mattatuck Museum, Waterbury 1674-1974: a Pictorial History, Pequot Press, Chester, 1974.

Pape, William Jamison, Ed., History of Waterbury and the Naughtuck Valley, S.J. Clarke, New York, 1918, accessed via Google Books, <https://play.google.com/store/books/>.

Sexton, James, PhD; Survey Narrative of the Connecticut Barn, Connecticut Trust for Historic Preservation, Hamden, CT, 2005, <http://www.connecticutbarns.org/history>.

U.S. Federal Census, accessed at <http://persi.heritagequestonline.com/hqoweb/library/do/census/search/basic>

Visser, Thomas D., Field Guide to New England Barns & Farm Buildings, University Press of New England, 1997.



1. Location map of Wolcott Street and Manor Avenue, Waterbury CT – from <http://maps.google.com/> accessed 4/10/2013.

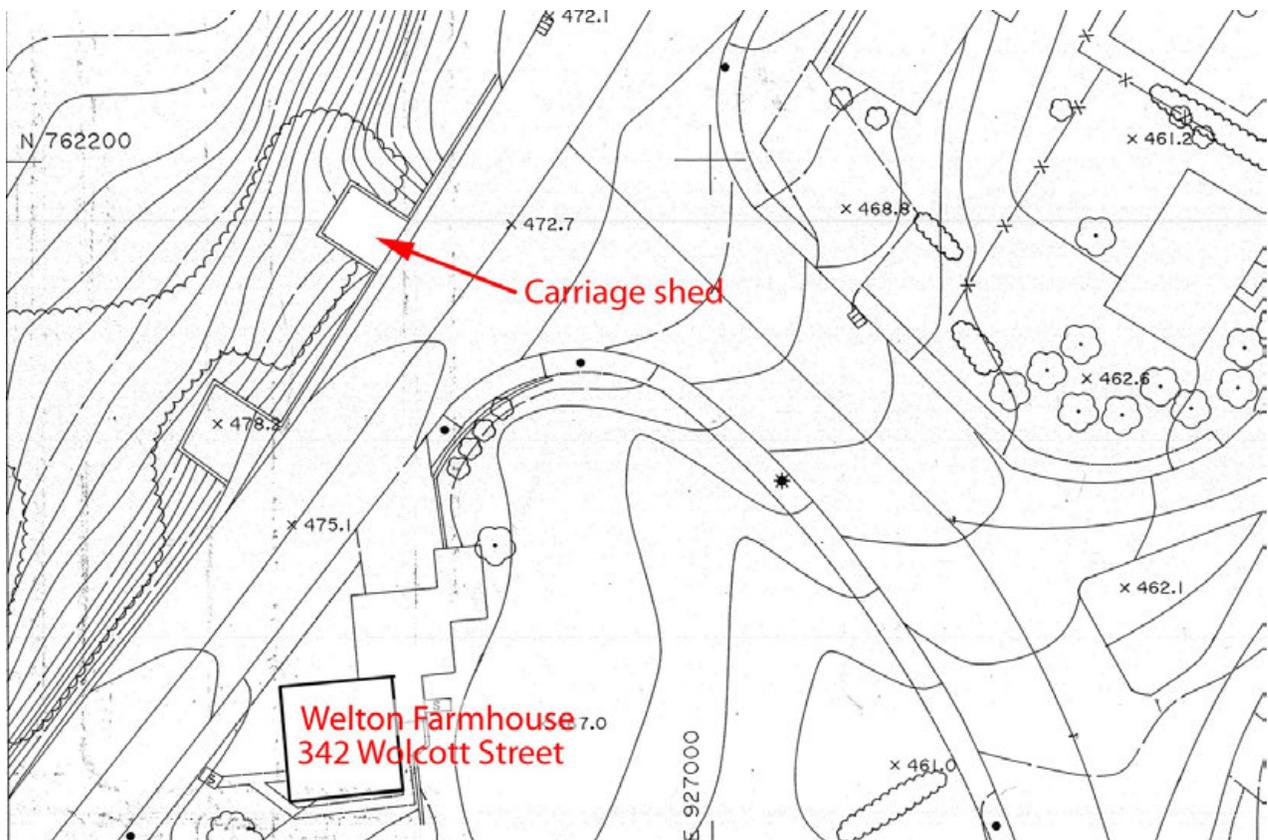


2. East view – aerial “bird’s-eye” map of Wolcott Street and Manor Avenue, Waterbury CT – <http://www.bing.com/maps> accessed 4/10/2013. Note the arched opening on the west side of the road.

HISTORIC RESOURCES INVENTORY FORM – BUILDING AND STRUCTURES continuation sheet



3. Parcel map of Wolcott Street and Manor Avenue, Waterbury CT (Parcel ID: 0298-0098-0083) – from City of Waterbury GIS Viewer <http://gis.waterburyct.org/Waterbury-GIS-2010/>



4. Site plan of Wolcott Street and Manor Avenue, Waterbury CT (Parcel ID: 0298-0098-0083) – from City of Waterbury Topographic Mapping – accessed 4/09/2013 at: http://gis.waterburyct.org/GIS/Map_PDFs/



5. Northeast context view of house at 342 Wolcott Street on left and Welton Carriage shed at right, camera facing southwest.



6. East context view of house at 342 Wolcott Street, on left, and Welton Carriage shed, at right, camera facing west.



7. Southwest view of house at 342 Wolcott Street, camera facing north.



8. North context view of house at 342 Wolcott Street on left and Welton Carriage shed at right in profile view, camera facing south. The fountain location was approximately in the vicinity of the traffic light control box.



9. South view of house at Wolcott Street with Carriage shed, camera facing north. At near left is the foundation of a former barn.



10. East view of Carriage shed, camera facing west.



11. East view of Carriage shed keystone and decorative cap, camera facing west; showing inscriptions.



12. Southeast view of façade arch, camera facing northwest.



13. East view of façade arch left (south), camera facing west.



14. Northeast view of south pier and retaining wall, camera facing southwest.



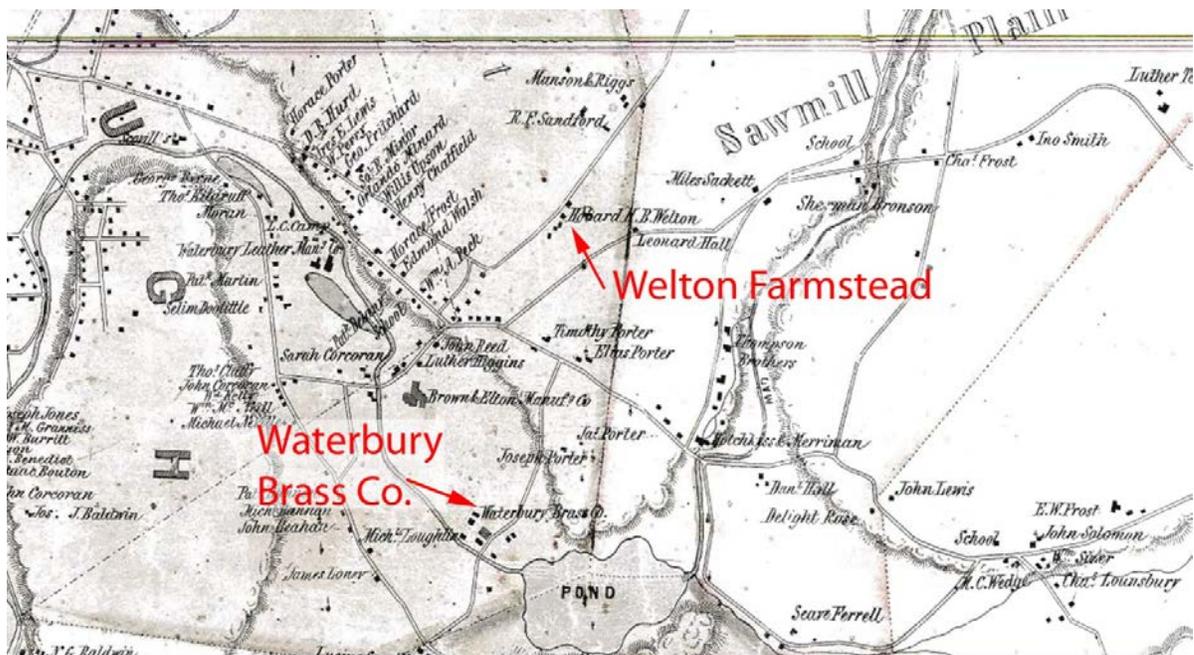
15. East view of façade arch right (north) side, camera facing west. Note shift in stone blocks indicating imminent need for repairs.



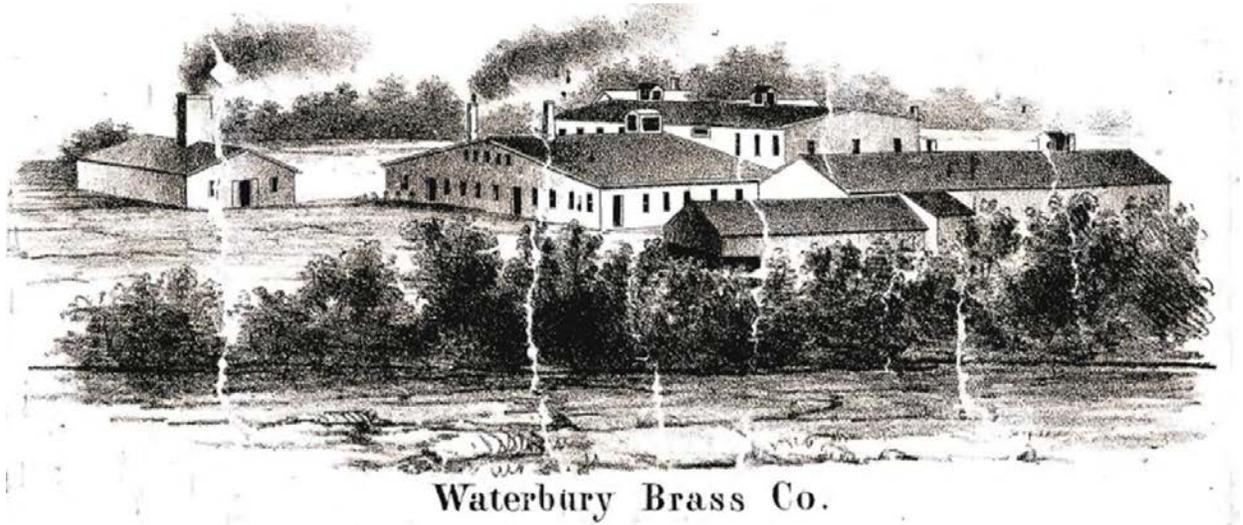
16. East view of right (north) pier, camera facing west.



17. Interior view of rear (west) wall of the vault, camera facing west.



18. Detail from Clark's 1852 Map of Waterbury, showing the Welton Farm ("Hobart V." is misspelled "Hobart H.B.") and the Waterbury Brass Co. in the Sawmill Plain District along the Mad River – accessed at: http://gis.waterburyct.org/GIS/Map_PDFs/Historic/1852_WaterburyMap.pdf.



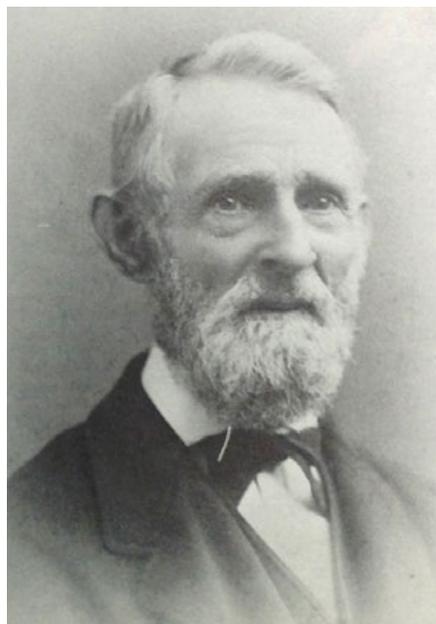
19. Detail of inset from Clark's 1852 Map of Waterbury, showing the Waterbury Brass Co. – accessed at: http://gis.waterburyct.org/GIS/Map_PDFs/Historic/1852_WaterburyMap.pdf.



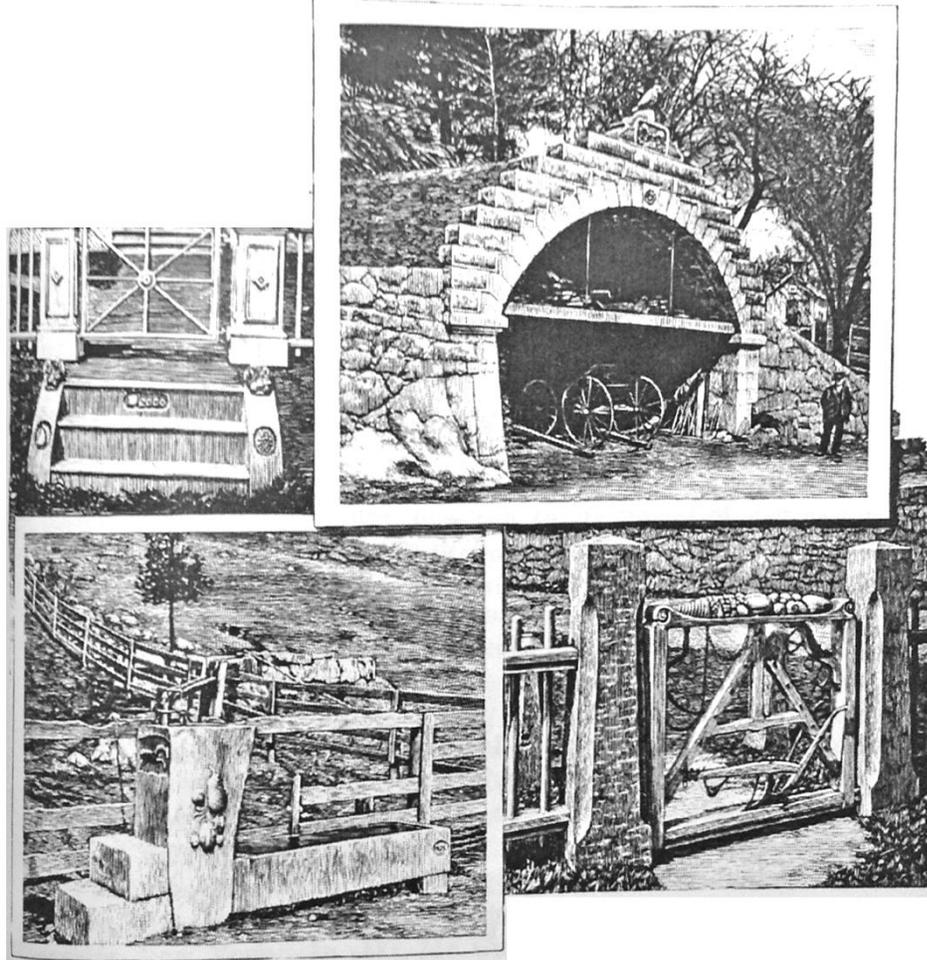
20. Historical photograph – north view showing Welton Farmhouse at left, Carriage shed at right, and the barn on the extant foundation at right rear, camera facing south; photo courtesy of the Mattatuck Museum. Note man standing at left of road; also note that the stone retaining wall continues beyond the barn at right rear.



21. Historical photograph – southwest view showing Welton Farmhouse, Carriage shed at left rear; photo courtesy of the Mattatuck Museum. Note the horse at left rear, at the location of the fountain. The gate is shown in place.



22. Hobart Victory Welton – portrait as reproduced in *Waterbury 1674-1974: a Pictorial History*, by the Mattatuck Museum, 1974.



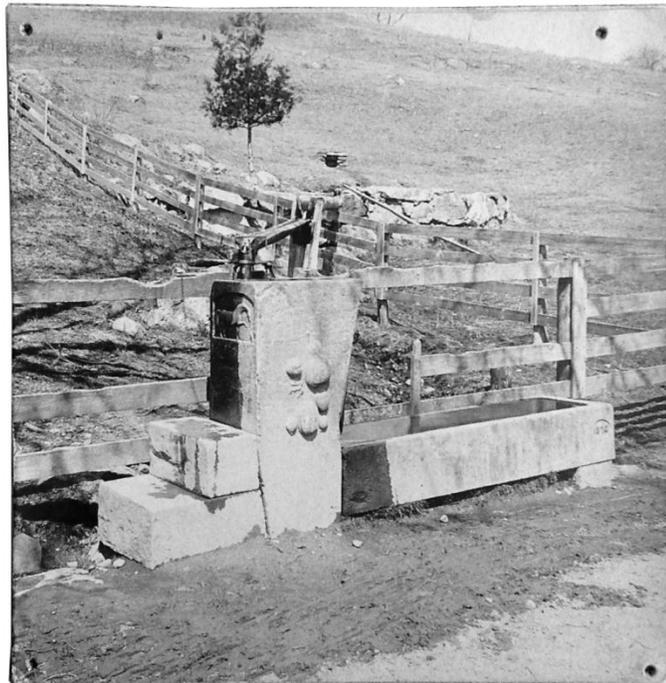
23. Illustration of Hobart V. Welton's sculptural work, from a biographical sketch of Welton in Anderson & Prichard, *The Town and City of Waterbury, Volume II*, 1896, p. 460. The gate at lower right is in the collection of the Mattatuck Museum, Gift of Mrs. Harry C. Welton, 1938; seen in this view from inside the yard looking west across the road. The lower left image is of the fountain and horse trough; the upper left shows stone lion head carvings by Welton, at the home of his son (Edwin), all at the Mattatuck Museum. The upper right shows the Carriage shed, with a carriage and storage loft. A stone bird sits on the cap above the arch.



24. Historical photograph showing the steps and carved lion heads reproduced in Fig. 23. Photograph courtesy of the Mattatuck Museum.



25. Historical photograph showing the gate reproduced in Fig. 23. Photograph courtesy of the Mattatuck Museum. This image, mounted on cardboard and with tack holes in the corners, appears to be the original photograph upon which the 1896 engraving was based.



26. Historical photograph showing the fountain reproduced in Fig. 23. Photograph courtesy of the Mattatuck Museum. This image, mounted on cardboard and with tack holes in the corners, appears to be the original photograph upon which the 1896 engraving was based.



27. A series of snapshots were taken in 1939 by the WPA's Index of American Design project when the Welton Gate was chosen to be represented in the Index. Courtesy of the Mattatuck Museum.



28. Photographs probably taken in the 1970s show work on the fountain and watering trough, which has become nearly buried by changes in the road grade level. Upper left: the stone bird shown on the house stoop was formerly above the cap over the arch of the Carriage shed. Upper right: carved stone post in the meadow. It is possible, though not documented, that this was the point at which the fountain and trough were removed to the Mattatuck Museum. Photographs courtesy of the Mattatuck Museum.