

ON THE MARKET

What’s in a name? Sometimes, it’s the mystery behind the house

Sometimes, when the record-keeping methods of early America obscure precise data, researchers are left to play the educated guessing game. This antique Colonial in Roxbury is the case study in that game of approximation. Contemporarily baptized as the Eleazer Welton house, this center-chimney domicile perched above its namesake Welton Road was built in 1790. Unless it was built in 1830. These competing theories hinge on whom you ask. The home was almost certainly constructed by the aforesaid Welton, who, according to Roxbury Center Cemetery, died an octogenarian in 1892, which would definitely support the latter theory. But then, that Welton may have been the second of his name, and if a senior Welton built the home, then that would better support the former theory. According to “Homes of Old Woodbury,” which was published by the Old Woodbury Historical Society in 1959, “the date of the erection of the house is not known.” So that’s not much help. However, it did note that the home stayed in the Welton family until it was purchased by neighbor Michael Haggerty in 1886. Then again, a 2017 blurb by the Historic Buildings of Connecticut group stated that “The house at 72 Welton Hill Road in Roxbury was thought to have been built circa 1790 by the Welton family, which owned land in the eastern part of Roxbury for many years.” Then again, in the 2010 book “Roxbury Place-name Stories: Facts; Folklore; Fibs” by Jeannine Green, it was asserted that “The



This circa 1790 center-chimney Colonial was likely built by early settler Eleazer Welton, for whom Welton Road is named.



As the brick oven testifies, the current family room originally served as the kitchen.

Welton House was built circa 1830, but just how many Eleazer Weltons were associated with the property is the question.” Green details how variations in spellings make figuring out the timeline elusive. Naturally, current owner Sherman Baldwin is unclear about the date his home was erected or the lineage of the Welton family. But he does know that it was a wonderful place to be raised. “It was a very small Colonial when my parents bought it in 1970; they modified it and renovated it over the subsequent five decades,” he said, adding that there were three significant renovations or additions since his family moved in. “They maintained

antique spirit but changed it, opened it up, and made it more accessible for a family.” And ready for the future, while leaving the past in the past.

IN THE DETAILS

Listing: Klemm Real Estate
Price: \$850,000
Bedrooms: 4 **Baths:** 3
Acreage: 20
Year built: 1790
Do you have a home for sale with a story? We'd love to tell it. Share with Alec Johnson at ajohnson@rep-am.com

— Jack Coraggio