

## = Ebenezer Avery House =

The Ebenezer Avery House was originally located on Latham Street and Thames Street in Groton , Connecticut , United States . The date of the house 's construction is unknown , but it is believed to be from the 1760s and it was the house of Ebenezer Avery . The Ebenezer Avery House was the location where the British brought the injured soldiers after the Battle of Groton Heights on September 6 , 1781 . In 1971 , the house was moved to Fort Griswold Battlefield State Park in Groton and restored . Though it stands in a state park , the historic house museum continues to be maintained by the Avery Memorial Association .

## = = History = =

Constructed around the 1760s , the Ebenezer Avery House is a 10 @-@ room house was owned by Ensign Ebenezer Avery . It was originally located on Latham Street and Thames Street in Groton , Connecticut . Avery was a tailor that answered the call for battle on September 6 , 1781 and went to defend of Fort Griswold from British attack . The Battle of Groton Heights ended with the American defeat and the deaths of its leader , Lieutenant Colonel William Ledyard and resulted in nearly 100 families being left homeless and much of the town 's waterfront .

Part of the Ebenezer Avery House history is how it came to be used after the battle while its owner was absent . Some of the wounded from the battle , those unable to walk , including Stephen Hempstead , were taken prisoner and placed on a wagon with others to be taken down to the fleet . The British men allowed the wagon to run down the hill , where it stopped when it struck a tree , throwing some of the men off the wagon and aggravated their injuries .

The wounded were set upon the beach in preparation for the boat trip to New York , but Ebenezer Ledyard , the brother of William Ledyard , offered himself as hostage . The British took the wounded to Ebenezer Avery 's house and placed Ebenezer Avery and other wounded inside and had them " parolled " . The house was later set on fire with the men inside and " with difficulty extinguished " . In the battle , Avery was shot in the neck " which cut the cords , and left him senseless as one of the dead . " Hempstead said that thirty @-@ five men had been laid upon the floor and the British left them , unattended and uncovered , until Dr. Downer and Dr. Prentiss arrived . Ebenezer Avery recovered , but lost his hearing , and continued to live in the house until his death on January 11 , 1828 at age 81 . The blood stains were still visible at the time of the centennial of the battle in 1881 , but no longer are present . In 1896 , the Thomas Starr Society placed a memorial tablet on the site .

## = = Move and restoration = =

In 1970 , the Ebenezer Avery House was in danger of being torn down to construct apartments and it was purchased by R. Stanton Avery . R. Stanton Avery purchased the property with the intention of turning it over to the Avery Memorial Association . Edwin Park , an architect , assessed the house as in need of extensive reconstruction and the association discussed the plan to move the house to Fort Griswold Battlefield State Park . A meeting held on the association on July 24 , 1971 , was held to discuss the movement plan which involved disassembling and reassembling the house at its new location . The project to move the house was a shared cost between R. Stanton Avery and the Avery Memorial Association . By the 1972 meeting , the total cost of the relocation was \$ 43 @,@ 000 and the act provoked interest from the State of Connecticut . The house was donated to the State of Connecticut for use as a historic house museum .

In 1973 , the association debated over the sale of land to cover costs of restoring and maintaining the Ebenezer Avery House . The total cost of the move was listed at \$ 80 @,@ 000 with an expected \$ 3000 per year and the intention was to serve have enough income generated by interest to cover the cost of the house . The Association owned 1 @.@ 3 acres , but would reserve the .3 acre upon which the Avery Monument is located . In May 1975 , the Ebenezer Avery House was opened after being restored to its " original condition " and filled with period items including Lieutenant Ebenezer Avery 's sword , a cousin of Ensign Ebenezer Avery , killed in the Battle of

Groton Heights . According to Leary , bricks from the Fitz @-@ John Winthrop house , located in Bluff Point State Park were reclaimed and used to reconstruct the chimney of the Ebenezer Avery House . Fitz @-@ John Winthrop 's house was a sixteen room mansion that fell into disrepair before being destroyed by a fire in 1962 .

As of 2014 , the Ebenezer Avery House is opened from Memorial Day weekend through Labor Day weekend from 12 : 00 p.m. to 4 : 00 p.m. on Fridays , Saturdays and Sundays .