

From Sarah Brown McCulloch's *Guilford: A Walking Guide* (2012):

**Governor Rollins S. Woodruff, 268 Old Whitfield Street, Shingle and Rustic, 1903-04, destroyed by fire 7/26/2000, Builder: George W. Seward; Barns: William E. Weld.**

This ample summer home is set far back from the road on property called "Rollwood Farm." A large steep gable and matching smaller ones, with scalloped borders over the windows, pierce the sloping roof. The porch posts are tree trunks trimmed and left in their natural shape. The porte-cochere attached to the northwest side of the house repeats the design. The barns built in 1869 were moved from behind the Henry Whitfield house when Woodruff decided to start what became a prize dairy herd. His is the classic success story. Hired as an errand boy by C. S. Mersick & Company, a plumbing supply firm in New Haven, he became its president. His political life was equally successful. He began as president of the New Haven Chamber of Commerce, became a Republican state senator and speaker of the house, lieutenant governor, and then governor; he declined to run for Congress. Woodruff lived here year-round after he retired and when he died in 1925, just short of his seventy-first birthday, the Shore Line Times reported his funeral as "holding the record of any former funeral in town" for the numbers of prominent people "who came to pay honor so fittingly due." The state capitol closed at noon and flags were lowered to half-mast.