

## Whitfield Street

Whitfield Street, one of the town's original streets, was first known as South Lane. At one time it was also called Hog Lane for reasons we can only guess at today. Perhaps hogs were driven down the lane to be loaded on boats and taken to market. Later, because it led to the sluice and the docks, it was named Harbor Street. In 1885, in anticipation of Guilford's 250th anniversary celebration, a committee renamed the street for Henry Whitfield, leader of the original settlers, and urged that other streets be given historically important names—Desborough, Chittenden, Leete—but nothing more came of the idea.

*The walk, about four-tenths of a mile long, begins at the corner of Whitfield and Water streets and goes south to within sight of the bridge over the railroad where it veers left onto Old Whitfield Street. There are several buildings worth seeing on the other side of the bridge—the Lot Benton-Henry Ward Beecher house and the old railroad station and its outbuildings, for instance—but they exceed the geographical limits of the guide and are best reached by car.*

### **Nathaniel Eliot, 103 Whitfield Street, Colonial, 1755.**



Here is an example of a five-bay, center-chimney, one-room-deep Colonial house with integral lean-to. The Greek Revival doorway, shed dormer in the rear, and a one-and-a-half-story Greek Revival wing are all later additions; vinyl siding obscures the trim. Nathaniel and his wife, Beulah Parmelee, had two children, William and Mary. Mary married a Tory Episcopalian tailor named Israel Halleck

and became the mother of Fitz-Greene Halleck, a well-known nineteenth-century poet, and his sister Maria. William inherited the family property.

### **Martin Blatchley, 119 Whitfield Street, Grecian Villa, c1836.**

Notice that the Greek Revival doorway with both sidelights and transom is recessed, which sets it apart from others of its style. The monitor with its quatrefoil design is much like the one at 100 Water Street; the two-story bay adds a Victorian touch. Martin and Aaron Blatchley were owners of the sloop *Juno*, which was



captured by a French privateer in 1799 while sailing from Guilford to the West Indies with a full cargo. The United States received indemnity from the French but in 1899, one hundred years later, Blatchley descendants were still trying to collect from the government. Dr. Alvan Talcott, a Yale graduate who practiced in Guilford for forty years, also lived here. He was very active in town affairs and wrote a genealogy of Guilford's old families.

**Firehouse, 120 Whitfield Street, Eagle Hose Company No. 2, 1907.**



This firehouse is built of concrete block cast to look like stone, a construction method rare in Guilford and apparently done by the firemen themselves. An article in the *Guilford Bicentennial Pages* recalls that John N. Rankin of New York, originally from Guilford, gave Company No. 2 “a cement-blockmaking machine so that the firemen could mix their own cement for the building.” Previously he

had donated a “handsome hose carriage, four wheeled, on which to pull apparatus to fires.” The cornice with corbeling below and a stepped parapet above tops three arched windows on the second floor. About 1940 the first floor was entirely remodeled to accommodate larger engines, resurfaced, and painted white. Company No. 2 was founded in April 1888 by a group of young men, some still in high school, after a serious fire on Water Street.



**133 Whitfield Street, Queen Anne, 1882.**

Here is a nice example of a style uncommon in the borough. Bargeboard trim decorates the front gable, the cross gables, and the peaked roof of the spindle-railed porch. It is also present at the ends of the porch roof which displays additional ornamentation along its edge

and is supported by turned posts. Patterned shingles on the gables and the two-story bay with pendants add texture.

**Leverett Parmelee, 142 Whitfield Street, Greek Revival, 1854.**



Much more research needs to be done on this house presumably owned by Leverett Parmelee and probably built by William Weld. Its unusually broad front displaying the characteristics of the Greek Revival style—cornice with returns, rectangular window in the gable, doorway with pilasters and entablature trimmed with a row of dentils—is typical of Weld’s work. Parmelee married Juliana Seward in 1814

and they had nine children. They had also lived at 254 Boston Street and sold that house to Colonel John Burgis in 1829.

**Charles W. Miller, 158 Whitfield Street, Italian Villa, 1851.**

Here is a restrained and elegant example of the Italian Villa style. The wide overhanging eaves of the broad porch are repeated in the roof of the house and the monitor. The trim over the windows, the floor to ceiling windows, the wraparound porch with square columns all add to its distinction. In about 1852 Leverett C. Stone and Charles W. Miller organized Fire Engine Company No. 1 and the Washington Fire Engine Company No. 2. Miller also served as Master of St. Alban’s Lodge, No. 38, in 1853. Jehiel Hand was a later owner, and his brother Daniel Hand lived here before he built his own house at 47 Fair Street.

**St. George Roman Catholic Church, 161-165 Whitfield Street, Gothic Revival, 1876.**



With its lancet windows and sharply pointed wings at each corner, this is an interesting example of the rural Gothic style often referred to as Carpenter Gothic. When it was built, the Catholic parish numbered about thirty families who had been holding services conducted by visiting priests in a hall over a market which they had purchased about 1860. It was 1887 before they were to have their

own clergy. When the new Roman Catholic church was built on Whitfield Street in 1963, the steeple was removed and the church deconsecrated. St. Alban's Lodge, No. 38, bought the building in 1965 for a Masonic Temple and altered it considerably. A new owner removed the vinyl siding, which restored the shape of the three small lancet windows at the top, uncovered the arched windows on either side of the doorway as well as the large circular window, and turned it into apartments.

**William Faulkner, 186-188 Whitfield Street, Villa Style, c1850.**



Although double houses were built fairly often in New Haven, they were rare in Guilford. This house may have been designed by New Haven architect Henry Austin or built from one of his plans. With its porch extending across the whole front, paired steps, and line of prominent columns, the design is particularly successful at bringing two small parts together and making them into one

substantial whole. The windows on the first level are floor length and their eared surrounds both up and down are a charming touch. An unexpected detail, according to Elizabeth Mills Brown writing in the Guilford Survey, is “the porch rail which is a copy in wood of the iron fence around the New Haven Green.” The house was restored in 1975 and painted its original color. William Faulkner, who was born in Guilford in 1808, was for many years the publisher of *The News* in Norwich, Connecticut, and for a time published a morning paper in New Haven also called *The News*. He moved to Oakland, California, where he continued his career as a newspaper publisher and died there in 1898.

**Henry A. Chittenden, 196 Whitfield Street, Federal, 1844, restored 2010.**



The roof ridge parallel to the street, a central-hall plan, and twin brick chimneys indicate the builder's preference for the earlier Federal style. But a wealth of Greek Revival detail—rectangular windows in the gable ends, closed pediment, wide cornice lines, a strong entry porch, pilasters, and sidelights—shows a desire to be up to date. Since

“Harry” Abel Chittenden’s primary residence was in Montclair, New Jersey, this house was probably used during the summer, when he joined his brother Simeon, whose summer house was at 1 Broad Street, and their sister Anna Hart Chittenden who lived in Guilford year-round at 29 Broad Street. William Faulkner also owned this house at one time. After many years of neglect it was rescued by a new owner, who received a commendation from the Guilford Preservation Alliance for Best Restoration.

**Hooker Bartlett, 199 Whitfield Street, Colonial, 1761, demolished 1990.**

Here was a fine example of a typical medium-sized Colonial house—three bays wide, one room deep, and integral lean-to; the Greek Revival doorway was an addition. In 1981, sadly, it burned and now sits neglected behind tall bushes, exposed to the elements which are taking their toll. Hooker Bartlett was born in Guilford, married Ruth Parmelee in 1749, had eight children, and died in 1767. For many years it was the home of the Phinney sisters, Miss Mary and Miss Dorothy, who died in 1968 and 1974 respectively, leaving it to a niece who allowed it to disintegrate. Two handsome modern homes now occupy the site.

**Captain Joel Stone, 200 Whitfield Street, Italian Villa, 1853.**



“The Captain is building his house as though he expects to go to sea in it” was the comment often made by onlookers as this grand house was going up. Stone, the son of Solomon Stone, who was the second keeper of Faulkner’s Lighthouse (1809-1818), became a well-known navigator on Long Island Sound steamers and a wealthy steamship owner. When he decided to build his retirement home, he

chose a site where he had a good view of the sound and of Faulkner’s Island and, supervising the construction with meticulous care, erected one of the grandest homes in Guilford. Built on a solid stone foundation with rigid truss construction of the frame, two-and-a-half stories high with an ell in the rear and a wing on the north side, it is crowned by a monitor reached by a narrow, sheathed-in, winding stairway. A veranda with fluted Corinthian columns runs across the front and was later extended to the entire south side of the house. The windows on the first floor reach from floor to ceiling, and all of the window frames on the street side are ornamented. Decorative cornices and brackets are used throughout the house. The walls are thick, the ceilings high, the woodwork embellished. Edward P. Dickie

who bought it in 1886 from Captain Stone's widow was a glass importer and replaced the windows in the main portion of the house with plate glass; he also built the barn.

**Colonel William Hart, 222 Whitfield Street, Federal, c1814.**



This house was built by Hart for his bride, Lydia Griffing, the daughter of Captain Joel Griffing at 64 Fair Street. It features a triple window, delicate round-columned porch, and fanlight over the door. Hart was a deacon of the First Congregational Church and one of the organizers of its Sunday school in 1816. His wife died in 1819 leaving three young children. That same year he married Catherine Starr by whom he had five children.

**Henry Whitfield, 248 Old Whitfield Street, Late Medieval, 1639.**



This great stone house was built in 1639 for the Reverend Henry Whitfield, leader of the settlers who founded Guilford. It is believed to be the oldest stone house in New England. There have been many alterations and two restorations, the second one done by J. Frederick Kelly between 1931 and 1937. Elizabeth Mills Brown in the Guilford Survey writes that “in its location on the edge of town and

its large landholdings adjacent to the house . . . the Whitfield house recalls the small manor houses of England and tells us something of the image that Whitfield and his companions [hoped] to recreate in the wilderness.” Now a state museum, it contains early English and American furniture and a number of Guilford artifacts (see page vi).

**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.

**Boston Street**

Boston Street, at one time called East Lane, was for 150 years or more part of the old stagecoach road. In 1927 a more direct route was built some miles away and the old road became merely one of the town streets. In some places, particularly on the south side of the road, bits of old Guilford are still to be seen—a barn still sheltering a horse, a little side road ending in wild growth, a surprising amount of open space—all reminders of the farmland which once stretched south the length of Whitfield Street. Five houses past Alderbrook Cemetery there is a stream barely visible, called East Creek or Alder Brook, which once marked the limits of the borough.

*The walk, which takes you east on Boston Street for about eight-tenths of a mile, begins at the corner of Boston and Park streets and ends at Alderbrook Cemetery. You may wish to walk it in two segments, in which case Union Street makes a good division point. Start with No. 39 on your right.*

**Benjamin Bradley, 39 Boston Street, Italian Villa, 1860; Builder: William E. Weld.**



Author Henry Pynchon Robinson in his newspaper articles “Country Sketches” wrote, “In 1860 a new house was a rare bird in Guilford, and the building of this one was a sensation.” It is located behind the foundation of an old Colonial house owned by Bradley's uncle, Zenas Bradley, which was described by Robinson as being “a rheumatic old mansion, so dislocated by long heavings of the soil, it

could hardly stand up when taken away to the woodpile for cremation.” It is gratifying to see this house, a twin of 33 Whitfield Street and also built by William Weld, so well preserved and retaining its Italianate characteristics including a massive entrance portico, triple windows, and finial still topping the monitor on the roof. Bradley, who also lived in Boston, was the son of Benjamin and Juliana Leete.

**Russell Crampton, 44 Boston Street, Greek Revival, 1844.**



A late Greek Revival building with its gable end on the side in the Colonial manner, this house has been altered considerably but the portico with its sturdy fluted columns, reminiscent of 7 State Street, remains. Crampton, a dealer in coal, advertised his yard as “the best place to buy and to buy cheap . . . the best quality coal, screened in good order and the same delivered.” He must have had

many customers anxious for his services because in June 1879 the *Shore Line Sentinel* reported that he had taken a week’s vacation and his coal wagon “was not seen about the streets as much as usual.” From 1869 to 1874 he was a warden of the borough.

**William E. Weld, 45 Boston Street, Greek Revival, 1850; Builder: William E. Weld.**

Although aluminum siding covers some of the trim on this fine home, much of the wonderful detail is still visible. The patterned window in the gable is a distinctive





design which became Weld's signature (see page v). Symmetrical wings flanking both sides of the house and an unusually handsome Doric door with dentils under the cornice and patterned sidelights complete the picture. The side porch resembles the one next door and was probably added ten years later when he built No. 39. Weld was born in Guilford in 1815, moved to Sag Harbor, Long Island,

with his parents, and later returned to Guilford where he ran a carpenter and lumber business for nearly fifty years as well as becoming an important builder. He was a Democratic member of the board of burgesses and the first selectman from 1892 to 1894. At the same time, he was one of nine volunteer members of the building committee which planned the new town hall.

### **Ebenezer Hopson, 55 Boston Street, Colonial, 1764.**



Little is known about Ebenezer Hopson, but he was innovative enough to use a gambrel roof, rare in Guilford, on his otherwise traditional Colonial house and to welcome the Reverend Jessie Lee, who in 1789 in this house preached the first Methodist sermon delivered in Guilford. The simple but elegant Greek Revival doorway, with its row of little pegs (guttae) at the top of each pilaster, and a

delicate cornice were added about 1841. A Victorian porch shown in a 1909 photograph was removed sometime after 1946, and small paned windows like the old ones have replaced the modern sash.



### **Alfred G. Hull, 58-60 Boston Street, Italianate, 1849; French Second Empire, c1860.**

Built in the Italianate style with arched dormers, polygonal bays, and bracketed porch, this house was later remodeled by adding a mansard roof to the nearly flat roof of the French Second Empire style. Notice the charming little conservatory

built into an angle of the west wing. It was certainly a house befitting a pillar of the church and an outstanding citizen. Hull was the first vice-president of The Guilford Savings Bank, town treasurer, a justice and a deacon of the Third Congregational Church from 1852 until his death in 1894.

**Frederick A. Weld, 65 Boston Street, Italian Villa, 1852; Builder: William E. Weld.**



This beautifully preserved gem, set on a wide square lot outlined by an elegant iron fence, is an arresting sight. Its square broad-eaved shape is repeated in miniature by the monitor which still retains its finial on top. Tall windows and matching doorway open onto a broad-caved columned porch. Everything about this house suggests a design by Henry Austin, (see page v) whose plans were

often used by builder William Weld. The oriental design of the columns, described by Elizabeth Mills Brown (see page vi) as “springing from bases like great overblown plants,” is a favorite motif of Austin inspired by illustrations of palaces and temples in India. The strength, directness, and balance of the house coupled with an oriental influence were especially appropriate for its owner, Frederick Alonzo Weld, brother of William. As captain of the whaling vessel *Italy* out of Greenport, Long Island, Weld sailed both the Atlantic and Pacific with crews of many different nationalities. His account book begun in 1855 of some of his voyages makes fascinating reading. He died in 1893, one of the last of Guilford’s whaling captains.

**The Hyland House Museum, 84 Boston Street, Colonial, c1690.**



This is an excellent example of a seventeenth-century frame house with added lean-to and one of the oldest in Guilford. It has been restored, by Norman Isham, restoration architect, as far as possible to expose the work of its earliest period. The hewn overhangs with corbel and handsome chamfered beams on the exterior are a rarity in Connecticut. Built by George Hyland as a two-over-two house, it was the home of his descendants

for many years. One of the most renowned was Ebenezer Parmelee, a boatbuilder, who built a town clock thought to be the first in New England. In 1916 the house was rescued by The Dorothy Whitfield Historical Society and opened to the public. Now supported and maintained by them, The Hyland House Museum contains a good collection of period furniture and china and has a pleasant herb garden at the rear. It has been said that “this house alone would make Guilford famous.”

**Thomas Burgis, Jr., 85 Boston Street, Colonial, 1736.**



Various dates have been given for this house but Guilford historian Mary Hoadley Griswold believed that it was built in 1735 by Thomas Burgis, Jr., who was married that year to Hannah Dodd. With its clapboards untouched by aluminum siding, cedar shingles, 8/12 sash, and a center chimney which may not be original but is still of stone and the right size, this two-and-a-half-story

saltbox, restored in 1956, is one of the town’s Colonial treasures. A Federal doorway makes a pleasant addition. Thomas and Hannah had seven children, one of whom, Thomas III, graduated from Yale College in 1758 and was the schoolmaster in North Guilford. He married Olive Dudley in 1769 and they lived here for many years.

**Hill Estate, 94 Boston Street, c1850.**



Elizabeth Mills Brown, writing in the Guilford Survey, describes this house as “a simple basic five-bay house with Greek Revival trim, its form perpetuating the Colonial tradition at an astonishingly late date.” Through the years it has changed from a single-family to a two-family home and back again. The rear section and porches are modern additions. The original estate has been described

somewhat vaguely as consisting of all the land on the north side of Boston Street from the Hyland House to the western boundaries of the Griswold House Museum and Union Street, assembled parcel by parcel by a leading citizen of the town, Samuel Hill. Trained as a hatmaker, Hill was town clerk for thirty-five years and

began its land record book. He filled many other local positions and was elected year after year as a delegate to the General Court from 1732 until his death in 1752. The story goes that the moderator of town meetings would rise and say: “We are here to elect Colonel Sam Hill and someone to go with him to the next General Court.” Hill’s house, which was torn down in 1849 to make room for this one, was remembered in Guilford as being architecturally unusual, having a three-story facade. This house was built by Deacon Alfred G. Hull who was appointed the conservator to Hill’s great-grandchildren Anna and Samuel Hill, who both died in 1877, aged ninety and ninety-three respectively.

**Boston Street School, 103 Boston Street, 1906; Architect: Charles A Willard;  
Builder: George W. Seward.**



This symmetrical, hipped-roof schoolhouse was built by a committee. In August 1905 George Seward was awarded the contract for his bid of \$4,883 and broke ground the next month. The committee chose furnishings and debated costs. By January 1906, a metal ceiling was installed and by February it was declared ready for the spring term. An early photograph shows the trim and

stickwork painted a lighter color which broke up the mass, a porch with a gabled roof supported by two front columns, and railings on each side of the steps. It was closed decades ago but reopened briefly in the 1940s when schools became crowded after World War II. The Guilford Shirt Company was located here from c1954 to c1961. It was also the office of architect Victor Lundy, who painted it a dark maroon. By this time its porch and railings were gone. In 1984-85 it was converted into three condominium units.

**Jared Buell, 113-115 Boston Street, Italian Villa, c1850.**



New owners (2007) recently converted this house from a double to a single residence, leaving in place features often used by New Haven architect Henry Austin. The symmetrical outline, tall front windows, eared door frames, and broad eaves on both house and porch are typical of his style. A small, barely noticeable cupola has been

added. In 1819 Jared Buell married Lydia Marie Weld, who was the fifteenth of the eighteen children born to her parents, Edmund and Charlotte Stone Weld.

**John B. Chittenden, 121 Boston Street, Late Colonial, 1814.**



This well-preserved, handsome house was updated with Federal additions—the triple window and a delicately scaled porch with leaded fanlight. John Baldwin Chittenden and his family lived here until 1823 when they and several other Guilford families moved to Illinois and settled in Mendon. Some years later the town of Guilford asked Chittenden to examine a title of land in Illinois which it had acquired, no

one knew how or why. In October of 1841 Chittenden wrote to the selectmen of Guilford that he had located the land two-and-a-half miles southeast of Carthage, a county seat; that it was pleasantly situated and “would be quite valuable except that it lies out in a large prairie, 3 miles from the nearest timber;” and that it would probably not “sell for much, if any, more than the government price, \$1.25 per acre.” What happened after that is a mystery.

**Nathaniel Bishop, 147 Boston Street, Colonial, 1755.**



This house was moved here in 1975 from what is now the parking lot on Boston Street behind The Guilford Savings Bank. Its steep lines and trim are striking; the doorway with pediment is an addition as is the nineteenth-century slate roof, rare in Guilford. A pair of bay windows acquired during its use as an office building was taken out after it was moved and the original windows reproduced. In 1720

Nathaniel Bishop, a farmer and sea captain, married Abigail Stone and bought the land but didn't begin to build until many years later. He died in 1769 leaving a considerable fortune and his house, still unfinished. It is certainly possible that the deaths of his son in 1756, his wife and daughter in 1758, and another son in 1761 left him too bereaved to care about its completion. His grandsons inherited the house and the “bords, sash and glass” with which to complete it.

**Thomas Burgis IV, 150 Boston Street, Federal, c1814.**



This house has an elegant doorway with dainty fluted Ionic columns and a delicate leaded fanlight, one of the prettiest in Guilford. According to David Dudley (see page vi), the house may have been built in the late Colonial style with center chimney somewhat like the John Chittenden house at No. 121. It appears that Thomas Burgis, the fourth of that name, was the builder, moving he had

bought and lived in since 1798. Thomas IV married Sarah Deshon in 1793. He was a warden at Christ Church from April 1825 to April 1833 and again from April 1840 to April 1854. He died in 1861.

**Charles Caldwell, 159 Boston Street, Colonial, c1740.**



Here is a substantial two-and-a-half-story house with steeply pitched roof, two overhangs on both sides and one across the facade. The supporting corbels seen at the first-floor corners are a rather rare treatment; a variation of the style occurs in the Hyland House, No. 84. The twin chimneys took the place of the original center chimney in about 1815 and the graceful little Federal porch with delicate

fanlight over the paneled door and slender columns supporting the triangular roof were probably added at the same time. Charles Caldwell and his brother John came to Hartford from Perth, Scotland, having deserted from the British army during the Scottish rebellion. They were described as merchants “aristocratic in their manners and unaccustomed to the industrious habits of New Englanders.” In 1724 Charles moved from Hartford to Guilford, married Anna, the daughter of the Reverend Thomas Ruggles, and lived here until his death in 1765. It is evident from the size of his house that he soon caught on to the New Englanders’ industrious ways.

### **The Thomas Griswold House Museum, 171 Boston Street, Colonial, c1774.**



According to the Guilford Survey, this house was built by Thomas Griswold III for his two sons, Ezra and John, and was lived in by four more generations of the Griswold family. In 1938 the Federal Writers' Guide described it as "an attractive white salt-box dwelling on a high bank, behind an odd picket fence. Its excellent state of preservation and its charming setting have caused it to be the

most photographed house in Connecticut." The "odd" fence was originally the railing on the belfry of the First Church that once stood on the Guilford Green. In 1958 The Guilford Keeping Society bought it and in 1974-75 it was extensively restored. On the grounds are an early blacksmith shop, a barn, several corncribs, and also an unusual collection of trees and shrubbery, some dating back 100 years. The house contains a collection of appropriate furniture and china, some of which belonged to the Griswold family, and an extensive clothing collection.

### **Knapp Foundry, 200 Boston Street, 1913.**

Originally a garage and automobile dealership, it was built and operated by George Edwin Hull and his sons Herbert Pickering Hull and Sherman Bishop Hull. They sold Dodge and Chalmers cars and provided service for Hupmobiles and Studebakers, and their reputation for excellent work drew customers from miles around. It became a foundry in c1944 and was altered extensively but the limestone sills and brick corbeling at the cornice line survived. In 1988 remodeling was begun for use as condominiums.

### **Nathan Meigs, 254 Boston Street, Colonial, c1787.**

An article in the *Shore Line Times* described this house as being built in a style then popular on Long Island and bearing a close resemblance to the twentieth-century bungalow. "The eaves drop to the first floor ceilings in front and back while the roof rises to permit a second story in the center of the house." The later addition of a dormer makes the resemblance even more striking. "According to Guilford historian Joel Helander (see page vi), Nathan Meigs bought one acre "with dwelling house thereon" and either rebuilt the old house completely or "raised a new house, incorporating the old cellarhole and chimney stack." In any case "he should be considered the first principal owner." Meigs served in the army

during the Revolution from 1775 until May 1783, rising from private to sergeant. He and Mabel Parmelee were married in November of 1783 and had four children. Their son Isaac and probably Mabel continued to live here after Nathan's death by drowning in the Connecticut River in 1810. In 1829 Colonel John Burgis, the grandson of Thomas Burgis III of 85 Boston Street, bought the property from a second owner and went into the seed business. He died in 1864 leaving an estate of \$9,348.02. He was married to Thankful Stone, who grew up on Faulkner's Island where her father, Solomon, was the lighthouse keeper. Of her eleven children only two were living when she died in 1883. The Meigs house is also known as the Bradford Monroe house because of their long residency.

### **Nathaniel Fowler, 276 Boston Street, Greek Revival, 1847.**

In many ways this house is typical of the Greek Revival style-wide plain frieze below the cornice, wide flat windowheads, and rectangular gable window with cross-cornered muntins. But the doorway with its carved elliptical arch and its graceful porch is from the Federal period, popular at least fifty years before this house was built. Was it added during the Colonial Revival period? Are the scallops over the gable window additions also? There are no answers but it is a pleasant addition to the street. For several years passers-by were fascinated by the sight of a large seagoing sailboat being built in the side yard.

### **Edwin Griswold, 296 Boston Street, 1871.**

Part of a group of three appealing small houses clustered together, this one seems to be all windows. The bracketed porch with its crisp wooden railing and the trim painted in a contrasting color imparts a feeling of cheeriness. A new owner has stripped off the aluminum or vinyl siding to reveal its original clapboards. Though Edwin Henry Griswold built this house, he sold it almost immediately to his brother Samuel Judson Griswold. When he was twenty-five Samuel had enlisted in the Union army. He was captured in April 1864 and sent to the infamous Andersonville stockade where he was a prisoner for eight months. His health ruined, he spent most of his life after the war as a shipping clerk for I. S. Spencer's Sons. He was a Mason, active in various veterans' organizations, and president of the Connecticut Association of Prisoners of War. At his death in 1915 the *Shore Line Times* referred to him as "a martyr of Andersonville."



**John W. Norton, 320 Boston Street, Greek Revival, 1870; Builder: Carlton Parmelee.**

This house, exhibiting characteristics of both Colonial and Greek Revival styles at a very late date for both, was built on the foundation of a 1716 dwelling inherited by Thomas Burgis IV and his brother Samuel which Norton later bought and tore down. He sold the new house in 1912 and wrote the following information on the back of a photograph of it. "Deacon John Norton bought in 1866 and built this house in 1870, using chamber doors and oak planks in pantry and sinkroom and front door in cellar from old house (1716). Windows and door handmade by builder, Carlton Parmelee (builder of the present home)." Described in the *New Haven Palladian* in 1879 as "one of those eminently square men sure to be burdened with cares of state and church," Norton was elected as a first selectman and as a member of the General Assembly from 1878 to 1884. He also served as a deacon of the First Congregational Church from 1877 until his death in 1925.

**Daniel Hubbard IV, 321 Boston Street, Colonial, c1757.**

Although this house is commonly attributed to Levi Hubbard, recent research by Joel Helander points to its builder as Daniel Hubbard IV and the date as c1757. Levi, a son of Daniel III and Diana Ward, (see 51-53 Broad Street) apparently bought it from his brother for his bride, Anna Gould, c1761 . In 1787 the Frenchman Nicholas Loyselle bought the house from Hubbard and remodeled it extensively about 1790. Loyselle had fled from the racial troubles in Guadeloupe to New London where he met and married Ruth Deshon of Huguenot descent, and later moved to Guilford. According to local lore, Loyselle was getting ready to paint the house when he heard the news of Louis XVI's execution and to express his grief painted it black. Legend has it that Loyselle returned to his island home to transact business which brought him a great deal of money, slept on board ship to be ready to sail at dawn, and in the morning was found murdered in his berth. In 1798 the house was sold to Thomas Burgis IV who had married Sarah Deshon, Ruth's sister, and was owned by them for many years. A handsome Greek Revival doorway was added, probably in the 1840s. For many years of this century the house stood empty and decaying, hidden behind tall bushes. Recently rebuilt, it lost its original Greek Revival door in the process but regained its traditional black color.

**Alderbrook Cemetery, Boston Street.**

Alderbrook Cemetery was laid out c1817 after the town decided that a cemetery on the Green was no longer appropriate. The ground was leveled and the headstones dispersed, some taken by families, some used as doorsteps or hearthstones, some

sold, and some brought here where they are still, neatly lined up against the front wall. A large brownstone monument marks the burial spot of the nineteenth-century poet Fitz-Greene Halleck (see 25 Water Street). The cannon stands on the Grand Army of the Republic lot and was dedicated on Memorial Day 1902 “To the memory of those who fought for the preservation of the Union 1861-1865.” The letters G A R are carved into the granite base.