

HISTORIC RESOURCES INVENTORY - 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) 186 Boston Post Road
 Building Name (Historic) Frederic G. and Margaret N. Davis House/Sunrise Farm
 Street Address or Location 186 Boston Post Road
 Town/City Guilford Village _____ County New Haven
 Owner(s) Peter and Penelope Rebuzzini Public Private

PROPERTY INFORMATION

Present Use: Residential: single dwelling
 Historic Use: Residential: single dwelling

Accessibility to public: Exterior visible from public road? Yes No

Interior accessible? Yes No If yes, explain _____

Style of building Vernacular Date of Construction 1930-1931 (Helander)

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

- | | | | | |
|--|---|--------------------------------------|---------------------------------------|--|
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Clapboard | <input type="checkbox"/> Asbestos Siding | <input type="checkbox"/> Brick | <input type="checkbox"/> Wood Shingle | <input type="checkbox"/> Asphalt Siding |
| <input 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 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 _____

(Material)

- Wood Shingle Roll Asphalt Tin Slate Asphalt Shingle
 Built up Tile Other _____

Number of Stories: 1 Approximate Dimensions 30' x 35'

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: Addition added to south elevation

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: _____

Surrounding Environment:

- Open land Woodland Residential Commercial Industrial Rural
 High building density Scattered buildings visible from site

- Interrelationship of building and surroundings:

This property consists of 0.75 acres of land on the south side of Boston Post Road. The house sits back from the road. A long driveway extends to the south off the road and terminates on the east side of the house. In a separate parcel to the east of the house are two barns and a field. The property sits on the corner of Boston Post Road and Horseshoe Road. A mile and a half to the southwest is the Guilford Green. (See continuation sheet)

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

This is a one story vernacular dwelling with a side-gable roof. The house is sheathed in clapboard siding and the roof is covered with asphalt shingles. The five-bay façade faces north, and the main entry is slightly right of center (to the west). It is reached by wood stairs with wood railings, and is protected by the elements by a gable-roof overhang supported by slender posts. (See continuation sheet)

Architect _____ Builder Frank Spencer (Helander)

- Historical or Architectural importance:

This house was built by Frank Spencer for Frederic and Margaret Davis in 1930 to 1931. The Davises moved in in June of 1931 before the house was even finished. Frederic G. Davis (1891-1970) was born in Guilford. Margaret (Norton) Davis (1894-1988) was born to Etta Bullard and William H. Norton. She grew up on Leete's Island where her Norton ancestors had resided since 1820 and her Leete ancestors resided since 1705. She was one of seven children and was an ambitious girl even at a young age. She lived with her childless aunt and uncle in New Jersey during her freshman and sophomore years of high school. Margaret Norton returned to Guilford before her junior year of high school and graduated from the Guilford Institute in 1911. (See continuation sheet)

- Sources:

Guilford Property Tax Assessor property records accessed at <http://www.propertyrecordcards.com/PropertyResults.aspx?towncode=060&uniqueid=1685> on November 18, 2015. Helander, Joel, "Margaret N. Davis," brochure, produced 1988. Ancestry.com, "Davis (Fred) Family Tree," accessed November 30, 2015. Helander, Joel, Email Correspondence, November 29, 2015.

Photographer Kristen Nietering Date 1/17/2015

View North view of the house, camera facing south. Negative on File _____

Name Kristen Nietering Date 11/18/2015

Organization Guilford Preservation Alliance

Address 199 PO Box Guilford, CT 06437

- Subsequent field evaluations:

Latitude & Longitude: 41.286244, -72.654048

Threats to the building or site:

- None known Highways Vandalism Developers Renewal Private
 Deterioration Zoning Other _____ Explanation _____

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CONTINUATION SHEET

186 Boston Street

Interrelationship of building and surroundings

Surrounding the property are nineteenth, twentieth, and twenty-first century single-family dwellings and commercial buildings.

Other notable features of building or site

The door is flanked by sidelights, and windows are spaced evenly along each side of it. In the rear (on the south elevation) of the house is an addition and gable-roof dormers on the south slant of the roof.

Historical or Architectural importance

After graduation, she lived and worked in many places including Massachusetts, Vermont, and New York City before settling in Connecticut. In 1924, Margaret Norton married Frederic G. Davis, and she moved back to Guilford. For seven years they lived in the Nut Plains district before purchasing property from Edward Eliot on the south side of Boston Post Road. Originally this land was part of the Eliot Family's Saw Pit Farm. Unlike the fields in the Nut Plains district, these fields were not quite fertile, however, the Davises persevered. They called their farm "Sunrise Farm." Besides being a dairy farm, they also grew corn, hay, potatoes, turnips, and sold eggs.

After the Davis family purchased the property, the barn was built first (now located on a separate parcel to the southeast of the house). They then moved cows from the Nut Plains area to their new barn. The farmhouse was built after the barn, and the family moved in after the cows had already been established on the property. In 1959, Margaret and Frederic Davis sold most of their acreage to Jack Macauley who created housing developments on Davis Drive, Horseshoe Road, Cornfield Lane, Stonewall Lane, and Sparrow Bush Lane. The house at 186 Boston Post Road is still owned by members of the Davis family.

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CONTINUATION SHEET

186 Boston Street

