

State of Connecticut  
**CONNECTICUT HISTORICAL COMMISSION**  
59 South Prospect Street, Hartford 06106

FOR OFFICE USE ONLY	
Town No.:	Site No.: 16
UTM	
QUAD:	
DISTRICT	IF NR SPECIFY
<input type="checkbox"/> S <input type="checkbox"/> NR	<input type="checkbox"/> Actual <input type="checkbox"/> Potential

**HISTORIC RESOURCES INVENTORY:**  
Buildings & Structures

**SURVEY OF GUILFORD, NEW HAVEN COUNTY, 06437**  
June-December 1981

IDENTIFICATION

1. ADDRESS 2785 Boston Post Road  
(map 83, lot 14)
2. NAME  
(historic) Miner Fowler  
NAME  
(common)
3. USE  
(historic)  
USE  
(present) Private house, apartments
4. IF MOVED, WHEN AND FROM WHERE:



DESCRIPTION

5. ARCHITECT
  6. DATE Variously given as 1694 and 1787
  7. ALTERATIONS
- Side entrance porch and rear extensions added. Shutters may or may not have been on the house at an early date, but the present ones are modern and not of a traditional type.

**BUILDER** Late Colonial - Federal  
**STYLE**

SIGNIFICANCE

8. NOTABLE FEATURES  
On what grounds the date of 1694 has been ascribed to the house is not known. Judging by appearances, 1787 is more plausible, for the style seems to lie clearly on the borderland between Colonial and Federal. To the Colonial period belong the central chimney and the overhangs on front and sides; to the Federal period belong the lowered roof pitch and the triple central window. The latter is an economy version of one of the Federal period's favorite touches of elegance: the Palladian or "Venetian" window. By cutting off the usual arch on top of the central section, frugal Yankees saved themselves the expense of building an extravagantly high ceiling on the second floor. With its generous size and pretension to style, the Fowler house was probably the most impressive house in this western end of town in the 19th century. Today it still holds a commanding position at the junction of Moose Hill Road and the Post Road. Together with the Henry Fowler house across the street (see No. 2804) and with the great (con't. on next sheet)
9. ARCHITECTURAL-HISTORICAL

SOURCES

10. SOURCES  
owner's plaque; Tercentenary Committee and Dorothy Whitfield Society '76. Other: Connecticut Historical Commission '72; Steiner; Mary Hoadley Griswold, p. 66 ff.

In all categories below, check more than one box if applicable.

If you have not actually made certain of the answer to a given question, either leave it blank or write "inferred" after the checked box; or, if drawn from a previous investigator, give source.

11. MATERIALS

- |   |                                     |                                      |   |                                 |
|---|-------------------------------------|--------------------------------------|---|---------------------------------|
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Clapboard | <input type="checkbox"/> Brick      | <input type="checkbox"/> Stucco      | <input type="checkbox"/> Asbestos Shingle | <input type="checkbox"/> Other: |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Wood Shingle         | <input type="checkbox"/> Fieldstone | <input type="checkbox"/> Concrete    | <input type="checkbox"/> Asphalt Siding   |                                 |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Board & Batten       | <input type="checkbox"/> Cut Stone  | <input type="checkbox"/> Cobblestone | <input type="checkbox"/> Aluminum/Vinyl   |                                 |

12. STRUCTURE

- |                                      |                                  |  |                                   |                                 |
|--------------------------------------|----------------------------------|--|-----------------------------------|---------------------------------|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Wood Frame: | <input type="checkbox"/> Masonry | <input type="checkbox"/> Iron or Steel | <input type="checkbox"/> Concrete | <input type="checkbox"/> Other: |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Post & Beam |                                  |  |                                   |                                 |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Balloon     |                                  |  |                                   |                                 |

13. ROOF

- |   |  |                                   |   |                                 |
|---|--|-----------------------------------|---|---------------------------------|
| a. <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Pitched      | <input type="checkbox"/> Gable-front     | <input type="checkbox"/> Hip      | <input type="checkbox"/> Shed           | <input type="checkbox"/> Other: |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Saltbox                    | <input type="checkbox"/> Cross-gable     | <input type="checkbox"/> Flat Hip | <input type="checkbox"/> False Dormer   |                                 |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Gambrel                    | <input type="checkbox"/> Mansard         | <input type="checkbox"/> Flat     | <input type="checkbox"/> Sawtooth       |                                 |
| b. <input type="checkbox"/> Tower(s)                | <input type="checkbox"/> Monitor         | <input type="checkbox"/> Cupola   | <input type="checkbox"/> Dormered Gable | <input type="checkbox"/> Dome   |
| c. <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Wood Shingle | <input type="checkbox"/> Asphalt Shingle | <input type="checkbox"/> Slate    | <input type="checkbox"/> Metal          | <input type="checkbox"/> Other: |

14. NUMBER OF STORIES: 2 1/2 APPROXIMATE DIMENSIONS:

LOT SIZE: 1.93 ACRES

15. CONDITION: Exterior

- |   |                               |                               |                               |                              |
|---|-------------------------------|-------------------------------|-------------------------------|------------------------------|
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Excellent | <input type="checkbox"/> Good | <input type="checkbox"/> Fair | <input type="checkbox"/> Poor | <input type="checkbox"/> Bad |
|---|-------------------------------|-------------------------------|-------------------------------|------------------------------|

16. CONDITION: Structure

- |                                    |                               |                               |                               |                              |
|------------------------------------|-------------------------------|-------------------------------|-------------------------------|------------------------------|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Excellent | <input type="checkbox"/> Good | <input type="checkbox"/> Fair | <input type="checkbox"/> Poor | <input type="checkbox"/> Bad |
|------------------------------------|-------------------------------|-------------------------------|-------------------------------|------------------------------|

17. OUTBUILDINGS (visible from public road)

- |  |   |                                 |                                  |                                  |
|--|---|---------------------------------|----------------------------------|----------------------------------|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Barn(s)                                 | <input type="checkbox"/> Carriage House | <input type="checkbox"/> Garage | <input type="checkbox"/> Shed(s) | <input type="checkbox"/> Shop(s) |
| Other (well, stand, greenhouse, gazebo, privy, etc.): APARTMENTS |   |                                 |                                  |                                  |

18. LANDSCAPING (visible from public road)

- |  |  |                                     |                                      |                                 |
|--|--|-------------------------------------|--------------------------------------|---------------------------------|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Planted Grounds | <input type="checkbox"/> Garden        | <input type="checkbox"/> Terracing  | <input type="checkbox"/> Plaza       | <input type="checkbox"/> Court  |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Stone Wall(s)   | <input type="checkbox"/> Pickett Fence | <input type="checkbox"/> Iron Fence | <input type="checkbox"/> Post & Rail | <input type="checkbox"/> Other: |

19. SURROUNDING ENVIRONMENT

- |  |  |   |
|--|--|---|
| a. <input type="checkbox"/> Town Street  | b. <input type="checkbox"/> Commercial               | c. <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Open |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Rural   | <input type="checkbox"/> Industrial                  | <input type="checkbox"/> Wooded             |
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Semi-rural                                       | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Agricultural     | <input type="checkbox"/> Lakefront          |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Clustered Growth  | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Residential      | <input type="checkbox"/> Coastal            |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Development   | <input type="checkbox"/> Vacation, now or originally | <input type="checkbox"/> Salt marsh         |
| d. <input type="checkbox"/> Of outstanding scenic/architectural value                |  |   |
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Of scenic/architectural value                    |  |   |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Of supportive value to contiguous scenic/architectural area |  |   |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Neutral   |  |   |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Other:  |  |   |

20. ROLE OF BUILDING IN ENHANCING QUALITY OF ENVIRONMENT

- |   |                                    |                                     |                                  |                                 |
|---|------------------------------------|-------------------------------------|----------------------------------|---------------------------------|
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Vital | <input type="checkbox"/> Important | <input type="checkbox"/> Supportive | <input type="checkbox"/> Neutral | <input type="checkbox"/> Other: |
|---|------------------------------------|-------------------------------------|----------------------------------|---------------------------------|

21. OWNERSHIP

- |                                 |   |  |
|---------------------------------|---|--|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Public | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Private | <input type="checkbox"/> Interior accessible |
|---------------------------------|---|--|

INDEX NO. 16

22. Name D. PENAR

Date 7/7/81

Photographer D. PENAR

Date 7/7/81

Negative ROLL 6:5

Organization: Guilford Preservation Alliance  
P.O. Box 199, Guilford, Conn. 06437

GLFD's NEG. 6:7

23. THREATS TO BUILDING

- |                                     |  |  |                                     |                                 |
|-------------------------------------|--|--|-------------------------------------|---------------------------------|
| <input type="checkbox"/> None Known | <input type="checkbox"/> Highways      | <input type="checkbox"/> Vandalism     | <input type="checkbox"/> Developers | <input type="checkbox"/> Zoning |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Renewal    | <input type="checkbox"/> Private Owner | <input type="checkbox"/> Deterioration | <input type="checkbox"/> Other:     |                                 |

24. SUBSEQUENT EVALUATIONS

9. ARCHITECTURAL-HISTORICAL cont'd.

sweep of former farmland still visible around it, it gives distinction and a recollection of Guilford history to this area at the crossroads.

This house was built for Miner Fowler at the time of his marriage, by his father, Noah. Miner evidently became a man of substance, judging by the fact that in 1828 he was one of the small number who contributed \$100 to the building of the First Church on the Green. His two daughters, Sophia and Parnel, were deaf-mutes, as was one of his nephews. The three children were sent to Hartford to study at Thomas Gallaudet's trailblazing Asylum for the Deaf and Dumb, which had just opened in 1817. Sophia later married Gallaudet and helped in his work. Their son, Edward Miner Gallaudet, founded what is now Gallaudet College for the deaf in Washington, D.C. and also wrote a biography of his father. A plaque on a boulder in front of the Fowler house commemorates Sophia's birthplace.

The Fowler family were large landowners in this part of town. For more information see 2804 and 3061 Boston Post Road.

Add to Sources: J. F. Kelly has discussed the basement of  
this house.