

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

HISTORIC RESOURCES INVENTORY:
Buildings & Structures

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

FOR OFFICE USE ONLY	
Town No.:	Site No.: 24
UTM	
QUAD:	
DISTRICT	IF NR, SPECIFY
<input type="checkbox"/> S <input type="checkbox"/> NR	<input type="checkbox"/> Actual <input type="checkbox"/> Potential

IDENTIFICATION

1. ADDRESS 21 Boston Street
(map 40, lot 160)
2. NAME
(historic) William Eliot's store
NAME
(common) Guilford Motor Co.
3. USE
(historic) Store
USE
(present) Automobile Showroom
4. IF MOVED, WHEN AND FROM WHERE:



DESCRIPTION

5. ARCHITECT
6. DATE See below
7. ALTERATIONS Garage doors

**BUILDER
STYLE**

Greek Revival -
Italianate

8. NOTABLE FEATURES

Canopy over the doors, supported on elegant brackets.

9. ARCHITECTURAL-HISTORICAL

This little building adds a sprightly note to an otherwise rather weak collection of commercial fronts. It has been ingeniously converted to an automobile showroom without injuring its distinguishing feature, the bracketed canopy, and today is one of downtown's landmarks.

The date is given by Guilford's authority, David D. Dudley, as the early 1880's, based on the fact that the building is shown on a map of 1884 and on the recollection of Charles Hubbard (born in 1876) that he saw it being built. This would suggest a date around 1882, when Hubbard was six. However, the structure has such a strong look of the Italianate style and is so clearly different from the Queen Anne style of the canopy, that one wonders if the small boy didn't just see the canopy being added onto an
(cont'd. on next sheet)

10. SOURCES

Dudley D. Dudley; Elizabeth Mills Brown, Bicentennial; Hope Lazarevich Whitehead, interview.

SIGNIFICANCE

SOURCES

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 type="checkbox"/> Pitched | <input checked="" 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 type="checkbox"/> Wood Shingle | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Asphalt Shingle | <input type="checkbox"/> Slate | <input type="checkbox"/> Metal | <input type="checkbox"/> Other: |

14. NUMBER OF STORIES:

1 1/2

APPROXIMATE DIMENSIONS:

LOT SIZE: 1/2 ACRE (APPROX)

15. CONDITION: Exterior

- | | | | | |
|---|--|-------------------------------|-------------------------------|------------------------------|
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Excellent | <input checked="" 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.): | | | | |

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 checked="" type="checkbox"/> Town Street | b. <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Commercial | c. <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Open |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Rural | <input type="checkbox"/> Industrial | <input type="checkbox"/> Wooded |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Semi-rural | <input type="checkbox"/> Agricultural | <input type="checkbox"/> Lakefront |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Clustered Growth | <input 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 checked="" type="checkbox"/> Of outstanding scenic/architectural value | | |
| <input 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 type="checkbox"/> Vital | <input checked="" 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 checked="" type="checkbox"/> Interior accessible |
|---------------------------------|---|---|

INDEX NO. 24

22. Name D. PENAR

Date 7/22/81

Photographer D. PENAR

Date 7/22/81

Negative ROLL 16:17A

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

GLFD'S NEG 16:18

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

DESCRIPTION

COMPILED BY

FOR OFFICE USE ONLY

9. ARCHITECTURAL-HISTORICAL cont'd.

earlier building, possibly of the 1860s, which, following a familiar Guilford custom, may have been moved here from somewhere else.

Originally a dry goods store, the building has had many uses--an A & P, a sewing goods store, and Frank's Package Store. In 1931 it became Lazarevich's auto salesroom and is so remembered by most of Guilford today.

Peter Lazarevich and his wife came to this country from Serbia around 1906, but it was in New York City that they met and married--he a tool maker, she going to night school in order to earn her high school certification. They bought a farm in Mungertown where two or three Serbian families were already settled (this farming community has since disappeared, some dying and others moving on to the mid-West). In 1921 Lazarevich rented an old building on Boston Street on the site of the present Unique Cleaners from Mr. C.C. Markham, and here he opened a gas station (the pumps were on the sidewalk) and a car salesroom dealing in Stars, Durants and Flints. In 1931 a game of musical chairs took place on the street. Mr. Markham built the present Unique Cleaners building, Lazarevich having vacated the building previously on the site and moved to the former A & P building, the A & P in turn having moved into Markham's new building. At the same time Lazarevich bought from the Harry Parmelee's the little Federal house next door (23 Boston Street) and moved the gas pumps from the sidewalk in front of the old building to the sidewalk in front of the new one. He now began selling Graham-Paige's, using the Parmelee's house for an office and building a garage out back. It was the Lazarevichs who converted the house to commercial use and put in the present shop windows, and Guilford can thank these two people from Central Europe for doing a far more sensitive adaptation of American architecture than most of their Yankee neighbors have done then or since (see 23 Boston Street).

All told the Lazarevich business flourished on Boston Street for 52 years, and it continues today under the ownership of Richard Faitsch who for many years had worked with Peter Lazarevich's son, George. In the '50s it became a Peugeot dealership and the best-known garage for foreign cars on the whole Shoreline.