

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

TOWN NO.:		SITE NO.: 28	
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 39 Boston Street
(map 40, lot 157)
2. NAME
(historic) Benjamin Bradley
NAME
(common)
3. USE
(historic)
USE
(present) Private house
4. IF MOVED, WHEN AND FROM WHERE:



DESCRIPTION

5. ARCHITECT
6. DATE 1860
- BUILDER William Weld
- STYLE Italian Villa
7. ALTERATIONS

SIGNIFICANCE

8. NOTABLE FEATURES Perfectly preserved in every detail--opulent bracketed porch, window consoles and cornices, even shutters and the jaunty finial that flies from the top of the monitor on the roof--this is a fine monument to the mid-Victorian age in Guilford. In 1879 the New Haven Palladium, in a series called "Country Sketches," wrote: "In 1860 a new house was a rare bird in Guilford, and the building of this one was a sensation -- it replaced the old Zenas Bradley House, a rheumatic old mansion, so dislocated by long heavings of the soil, it could hardly stand up when it was taken away to the woodpile for cremation" (note here the typical Victorian attitude toward Colonial architecture!) A black man, Charles William, was subcontractor for digging the cellar, stoning it, digging the well and cistern, at a cost of \$175. William Weld, the builder, is known to have sometimes worked from designs by Henry Austin, the well-known New Haven architect, and the Bradley porch shows signs of his influence. The porch on Weld's own house next door is similar. See also the Julia Labadie house, 33 Whitfield Street, a twin to Benjamin Bradley.

SOURCES

10. SOURCES David D. Dudley and Joel E. Helander: information from William Weld's ledger. Other: Dorothy Whitfield Society '76; Connecticut Historical Commission '72.

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

- Clapboard
- Wood Shingle
- Board & Batten
- Brick
- Fieldstone
- Cut Stone
- Stucco
- Concrete
- Cobblestone
- Asbestos Shingle
- Asphalt Siding
- Aluminum/Vinyl
- Other:

12. STRUCTURE

- Wood Frame:
- Post & Beam
- Balloon
- Masonry
- Iron or Steel
- Concrete
- Other:

13. ROOF

- a. Pitched
- Saltbox
- Gambrel
- Gable-front
- Cross-gable
- Mansard
- Hip
- Flat Hip
- Flat
- Shed
- False Dormer
- Sawtooth
- Other:
- b. Tower(s)
- Monitor
- Cupola
- Dormered Gable
- Dome
- c. Wood Shingle
- Asphalt Shingle
- Slate
- Metal
- Other:

14. NUMBER OF STORIES:

APPROXIMATE DIMENSIONS:

LOT SIZE: 2.5 ACRES (APPROX)

15. CONDITION: Exterior

- Excellent
- Good
- Fair
- Poor
- Bad

16. CONDITION: Structure

- Excellent
- Good
- Fair
- Poor
- Bad

17. OUTBUILDINGS (visible from public road)

- Barn(s)
- Carriage House
- Garage
- Shed(s)
- Shop(s)
- Other (well, stand, greenhouse, gazebo, privy, etc.):

18. LANDSCAPING (visible from public road)

- Planted Grounds
- Stone Wall(s)
- Garden
- Pickett Fence
- Terracing
- Iron Fence
- Plaza
- Post & Rail
- Court
- Other:

19. SURROUNDING ENVIRONMENT

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

20. ROLE OF BUILDING IN ENHANCING QUALITY OF ENVIRONMENT

- Vital
- Important
- Supportive
- Neutral
- Other:

21. OWNERSHIP

- Public
- Private
- Interior accessible

INDEX NO. 28

22. Name D. PENAR

Date 7/22/81

Photographer D. PENAR

Date 7/22/81

Negative ROLL 16:21A

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

GLFD'S NEG 16:22

23. THREATS TO BUILDING

- None Known
- Renewal
- Highways
- Private Owner
- Vandalism
- Deterioration
- Developers
- Other:
- Zoning

24. SUBSEQUENT EVALUATIONS

DESCRIPTION

COMPILED BY

FOR OFFICE USE ONLY