

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. 73
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 122 Broad Street
(map 39, lot 48)
2. NAME
(historic) Elisha Chapman Bishop
NAME
(common) Congregational Parish House
3. USE
(historic)
USE Private house
(present) Parish house
4. IF MOVED, WHEN AND FROM WHERE:



DESCRIPTION

5. ARCHITECT Henry Austin
6. DATE 1874
- BUILDER Baldwin C. Dudley
- STYLE French Second Empire
7. ALTERATIONS Nothing major has changed, only little things: the rich Victorian fence that gave the place an air of opulence is gone (balusters preserved in the basement); also the elegant balustrade on the roof of the porch, echoing the fence; also the subtly two-toned color scheme that set off the (continued on next sheet)

SIGNIFICANCE

8. NOTABLE FEATURES
The town's grandest production of the Reconstruction Era, one of the few instances where the Gilded Age touched Guilford. Lush consoles at the windows; slate roof with fanciful dormers; entry porch typical of mid-Victorian classicism, spaciously (continued on next sheet)
9. ARCHITECTURAL-HISTORICAL
E. C. Bishop, descended from a first-generation Bishop, had gone west in a covered wagon in his youth and then on to the Pennsylvania oil fields, returning home a rich man in 1873. Today the house is more commonly called the Frederick C. Spencer house. Spencer married Chapman's daughter; he was the grandson of I. S. Spencer and president of the Spencer Foundry (see 20 Fair Street). He was instrumental in starting the Guilford volunteer fire department, he gave most of the memorial walks on the Green, and he and his wife gave to the town the land on which to build the library. His name is well preserved today in the F. C. Spencer Hook and Ladder Company. Marilla Spencer was an equally well-known figure in town: a founder of the Public Health Nurse Association and long its (continued on next sheet) man

SOURCES

10. SOURCES Dorothy Whitfield Society '76; Connecticut Historical Commission '72; David D. Dudley; Lindsay; Shore Line Times, '72; Bicentennial Pages; memorial document framed in the house. Photo-graphs: Lindsay; Guilford Library.

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

14. NUMBER OF STORIES: 2 1/2

APPROXIMATE DIMENSIONS:

LOT SIZE: 210' X 145'
(APPROX)

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.): | | | | |

18. LANDSCAPING (visible from public road)

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

INDEX NO. 73

22. Name D. PENAR

Date 7/22/81

Photographer D. PENAR

Date 7/22/81

Negative ROLL 16:10A

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

GLFD'S NEG 16:11

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

GUILFORD SURVEYNAME(S) Elisha Chapman Bishop7. Alterations con't.

trim and animated the facade. Austin's drawings show iron cresting along the roof and top of the tower which was either never built or has been removed. Such details as these add up to a considerable difference in effect. (Also see #8 below)

8. Notable Features con't.

scaled for an era of voluminous skirts; high foundation of very large granite blocks. Henry Austin's drawings are preserved by the Church and show that except for the details mentioned above, the exterior is unaltered. The plan was evidently changed somewhat in execution (as there are no working drawings or specifications it is possible that Austin was not involved in construction but merely sold the design either to the builder or to the Bishops directly), but except for plumbing, heating, electricity, and some resurfacing of ceilings (and perhaps floors?), the layout and all interior detail are intact. It is interesting to note that in a house so luxurious there was originally only one bathroom, supplemented by a built-in privy next to the butler's pantry.

9. Architectural-Historical con't.

president, a worker for women's suffrage, and, it is said, the first woman in Guilford to drive a car. She lived in this house until her death in 1962 at the age of 97. The house was bought soon after by the First Church.

An old photograph shows balustrade on the roof
of the west bay as well as the entry porch.

Add to Sources: Elizabeth Mills Brown MS notes.