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CONNECTICUT HISTORICAL COI	MISSION
59 South Prospect Street, Hartford	06106

HISTORIC RESOURCES INVENTORY: **Buildings & Structures** 

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

Town No.:	n bever	Site No.: 57			
UTM !	111		11111		
QUAD:	(Caraga)	79			

1. ADDRESS

State of Connecticut

6 Broad Street (May 39, lot 14)

2. NAME

(historic) NAME

Caleb Stone

(common)

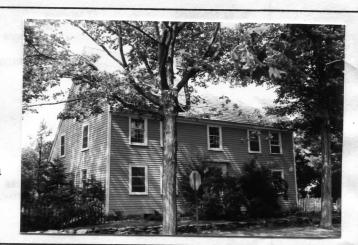
3. **USE** 

(historic) USE

(present)

Private house and barn

4. IF MOVED, WHEN AND FROM WHERE:



5. ARCHITECT

6. DATE

1749

BUILDER STYLE

Colonial

7. ALTERATIONS

Rear dormer added. Also see below.

8. NOTABLE FEATURES A 12-post plank house with integral leanto and secondary leanto added to the first. Original clapboards on what is now the inside wall of second leanto. Big stone chimney and foundation  $2\frac{1}{2}$  thick of large granite blocks with clamshell mortar. Chimney base 12.6° x 12.9". Doorway with 4 transom lights (but not the paneled door) ARCHITECTURAL-HISTORICAL possibly original. 9. ARCHITECTURAL-HISTORICAL

This well-kept saltbox is a fine example of an unpretentions 18th century Guilford house -- severely plain, with little to detract from the sheer, steep outline and the purity of the geometric form. The rhythmic grouping of windows across the front, characteristic of houses of this period, is almost the only concession to conscious embellishment. The land is the homelot of William Leete, the colony's great and steadfast leader in its critical early years. After Whitfield and all the other elite of the founding company had left, he stayed behind, becoming the chief authority in Guilford, then Governor of the New Haven Colony, and finally Governor of Connecticut; and it was he who steered both town and colony through their most desperate period. His most heroic act, in the dark days after the Restoration, was (continued on next sheet)

Dorothy Whitfield Society '76; Tercentenary Committee; Connecticut Historical Commission '72; Colonial Dames; Tom Wuerth (owner) interview. Illustrated: Kelly, Early Domestic Architecture. Photographs: Guilford Keeping Society; Guilford Library files and Dana microfilm.

SIGNIFICANCE

DESCRIPTION

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

## #9. Architectural-Historical, con't.

the sheltering of two of the judges who had condemned Charles I to death and who had fled to New England, pursued by officers of the restored monarchy. The barn that now stands behind the house is thought to be built on the cellar of the Leete homestead, and here, according to local legend, the judges were hidden. This is described on a separate survey sheet: see 6 Broad Street (Barn).

Originally 32 acres, his homelot was one of the larger allotments granted to the first settlers. It ran from River Street past the present house nextdoor, and its proximity to the river and salt meadows made it one of the most desirable sites in the new town. In 1715 the land was bought from the Leetes by Caleb Stone and his wife (she signing her name with an X), and the deed is still preserved in the house. The Stone family owned the place until 1955 when it was bought by the present owner. By that time many changes had been made, mostly in the 19th century -- a wing added on the west, 1/1 sash in the windows, interior wainscot stripped, flooring removed, fireplaces closed, etc: the usual roster of on-going modernization that is typical of the history of most old houses; at one time it had even been converted to a two-family dwelling. The new owners undertook a thorough restoration, and the house today is one of Guilford's outstanding Colonial houses. Standing on a corner, land has latterly been cut away around it on both the Broad and River Street sides, raising it in effect on a small podium above the road level and heightening the dramatic effect of its uncompromising clarity of form.

Alterations: An addition (wing to the west) was made in 1906.

Source: Shore Line Times, 21st June, 1906.

Also add to Sources: Steiner.

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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

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Town No.:		Site No. 58			3	3		
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6 Broad Street (Barn) 1. ADDRESS (map 39, lot 14)

2. NAME (historic)

Site of William Leete house

NAME (common)

Regicide Cellar

3. USE

(historic) USE

Barn'

(present)

Barn and garage

4. IF MOVED, WHEN AND FROM WHERE:



5. ARCHITECT

6. DATE

Variously estimated as c1860-190 and c1920

7. ALTERATIONS

BUILDER STYLE

8. NOTABLE FEATURES

17th century cellar under the barn with curved north wall, stonework for original stair, masonry with clamshell mortar.

9. ARCHITECTURAL-HISTORICAL For the history of this site see 6 Broad Street. According to tradition the cellar under the barn belonged to Governor William Leete's house, but some have questioned this, claiming that it was built for storage or a store of some sort. At any rate we know that it did belong to Governor Leete, and the spot is famous in Guilford today as the reputed hiding place of the regicide judges. A plaque on the barn tells the story: "Here in June 1661, Williame Leete, then Governor of New Haven Colony concealed for three days Whalley and Goffe, two of the judges who signed the death warrant of Charles I of England. They were sought by emissaries of Charles II was after the Restoration ordered the regicides beheaded." This story too has been questioned, but it remains a cherished Guilford legend.

Dorothy Whitfield Society '76; Steiner; Tom Wuerth (owner), interview. Photographs: Guilford Library; Guilford Keeping Society.

DESCRIPTION

SIGNIFICANCE

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

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