

## HISTORIC RESOURCES INVENTORY - BUILDING AND STRUCTURES

Please send completed form to: National Register and State Register Coordinator,  
State Historic Preservation Office, Department of Economic and Community Development,  
One Constitution Plaza, 2nd Floor, Hartford CT 06103

\* Note: Please attach any additional or expanded information on a separate sheet.

### GENERAL INFORMATION

Building Name (Common) 55 Church Street

Building Name (Historic) Samuel M. Cornell House

Street Address or Location 55 Church Street

Town/City Guilford Village \_\_\_\_\_ County New Haven

Owner(s) Gloria Small  Public  Private

### PROPERTY INFORMATION

Present Use: Domestic: single dwelling

Historic Use: Domestic: single dwelling

Accessibility to public: Exterior visible from public road?  Yes  No

Interior accessible?  Yes  No If yes, explain \_\_\_\_\_

Style of building Colonial Revival Date of Construction 1902 (Helander)

Material(s) (Indicate use or location when appropriate):

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

#### Structural System

- Wood Frame  Post & Beam  Balloon  Load bearing masonry  Structural iron or steel  
 Other \_\_\_\_\_

#### Roof (Type)

- Gable  Flat  Mansard  Monitor  Sawtooth  
 Gambrel  Shed  Hip  Round  Other \_\_\_\_\_

#### (Material)

- Wood Shingle  Roll Asphalt  Tin  Slate  Asphalt Shingle  
 Built up  Tile  Other \_\_\_\_\_

Number of Stories: 2 Approximate Dimensions 45' x 45'

Structural Condition:  Excellent  Good  Fair  Deteriorated

Exterior Condition:  Excellent  Good  Fair  Deteriorated

Location Integrity:  On original site  Moved When? \_\_\_\_\_

Alterations?  Yes  No If yes, explain: \_\_\_\_\_

**FOR OFFICE USE:** Town # \_\_\_\_\_ Site # \_\_\_\_\_ UTM \_\_\_\_\_

District:  S  NR If NR, Specify:  Actual  Potential

**PROPERTY INFORMATION (CONT'D)**

**Related outbuildings or landscape features:**

- Barn     Shed     Garage     Carriage House     Shop     Garden  
 Other landscape features or buildings: fence

**Surrounding Environment:**

- Open land     Woodland     Residential     Commercial     Industrial     Rural  
 High building density     Scattered buildings visible from site

• Interrelationship of building and surroundings:

This property consists of 0.5 acres of land on the east side of Church Street. A driveway extends to the east off Church Street and terminates at a parking area on the north side of the house. To the north of the house is a small shed. A fence runs along the north border of the parcel. Just to the north is the intersection of Church Street and Boston Post Road. Less than a mile to the south is the Guilford Green.

• Other notable features of building or site (*Interior and/or Exterior*)

This is a two story Colonial Revival style dwelling with an attic and a front-gambrel roof. The house is sheathed in wood shingles and the roof is covered with asphalt shingles. The three-bay façade faces west, and the main entry is on the left hand corner (north corner). It is reached by stone stairs with iron railings, and is protected from the elements by an open porch. The porch has a hip-roof which is supported by slender columns. The porch wraps around the south elevation and is enclosed along that side. Fenestration consists of six-over-one double-hung sash windows. An eight-pane circular window is in the attic. Gambrel-roof dormers protrude from south slope of the roof. An addition is on the north elevation, also with a gambrel-roof dormer.

Architect \_\_\_\_\_ Builder George W. Seward (Helander)

• Historical or Architectural importance:

Samuel M. Cornell was the original owner of the house which was built in 1902. Samuel Mott Cornell was born in 1841 in New York. In 1876, he married Rebecca Cleveland Gold in West Cornwall, Connecticut. Shortly after their marriage, they moved to Guilford and purchased a farm on Clapboard Hill Road. In the early 1900s, they sold their farm and moved to Whitfield Street before having this house located at 55 Church Street built. Samuel M. Cornell died in 1903, shortly after the house was built. Ownership of the house was passed to his wife, Rebecca. Rebecca Cleveland Gold was born in 1851 in Cornwall, Connecticut to Theodore Sedgwick Gold and Caroline Lockwood. Samuel Cornell and Rebecca Gold had two children, Theodore Gold Cornell, who died in infancy, and Martha Gold Cornell. Rebecca Gold Cornell died in 1927 after a vacation out west. Martha Gold Cornell acquired the house after her mother's death. (See continuation sheet)

• Sources:

Guilford Tax Assessor property cards accessed at <http://www.propertyrecordcards.com/PropertyResults.aspx?towncode=060&uniqueid=4176> on October 7, 2015. Helander, Joel. "A Treasury of Guilford Places." Guilford, Connecticut: Joel Helander, 2008. Shore Line Times. "Obituaries." April 28, 1927, pg.6. Ancestry.com 1930 United States Federal Census.

Photographer Kristen Nietering Date 1/31/2015

View West view, camera facing east. Negative on File \_\_\_\_\_

Name Kristen Nietering Date 10/7/2015

Organization Guilford Preservation Alliance

Address PO Box 199 Guilford, CT 06437

• Subsequent field evaluations:

Latitude, Longitude: 41.286179, -72.682899

**Threats to the building or site:**

- None known     Highways     Vandalism     Developers     Renewal     Private  
 Deterioration     Zoning     Other \_\_\_\_\_     Explanation \_\_\_\_\_

HISTORIC RESOURCE INVENTORY – BUILDINGS AND STRUCTURES

CONTINUATION SHEET

55 Church Street

**Historical or Architectural importance**

The house was built by George W. Seward who was a third generation master carpenter – His grandfather, Martin Seward, and father, George M. Seward, were both master carpenters before him. Seward grew up on Fair Street and is credited as building Boston Street School house, 188 Whitfield Street, the Guilford Town Hall at 31 Park Street, and Governor Rollin Woodruff's summer house at 40 Stonehouse Lane.

