

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

FOR OFFICE USE ONLY	
Town No.:	Site No. 138
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 4365 Durham Road  
(map 122, lot 24)
2. NAME  
(historic) Joseph Clark  
NAME  
(common)
3. USE  
(historic)  
USE  
(present) Private house
4. IF MOVED, WHEN AND FROM WHERE:



DESCRIPTION

5. ARCHITECT
6. DATE c1723 (see below)
7. ALTERATIONS

**BUILDER**  
**STYLE** Colonial

8. NOTABLE FEATURES  
8/12 sash. Large stone chimney may have been rebuilt but is evidently in original position with original number of flues.

9. ARCHITECTURAL-HISTORICAL

A stark facade, with few windows--small and far apart. This house has the severity of the early 18th century. There is no extraneous material here. All window and door frames are as plain as possible. Now painted dark brown, it evokes the dark, weathered look of an early farmhouse and a time when life was harsh and insecure, and strangers were not always to be trusted.

There seems to be some uncertainty about the date. 1723 does indeed seem early, but the building's style may support it.

Joseph Clark was one of the earliest settlers in North Guilford, listed as signing a petition to hire a minister in 1716. His house must have been one of the first to be built here. (cont'd)

SIGNIFICANCE

10. SOURCES  
Tercentenary Committee; Dorothy Whitfield Society '76; Connecticut Historical Commission '72; Colonial Dames; Steiner, p. 199.  
Photograph: Guilford Keeping Society.

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 checked="" type="checkbox"/> Pitched      | <input type="checkbox"/> Gable-front     | <input type="checkbox"/> Hip      | <input type="checkbox"/> Shed           | <input type="checkbox"/> Other: |
| <input checked="" 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 checked="" type="checkbox"/> Wood Shingle | <input type="checkbox"/> Asphalt Shingle | <input type="checkbox"/> Slate    | <input type="checkbox"/> Metal          | <input type="checkbox"/> Other: |

14. NUMBER OF STORIES: **2 1/2** APPROXIMATE DIMENSIONS: LOT SIZE: **4.5 acres**

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 checked="" type="checkbox"/> Garage | <input checked="" 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 checked="" type="checkbox"/> Garden | <input type="checkbox"/> Terracing  | <input type="checkbox"/> Plaza       | <input type="checkbox"/> Court               |
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Stone Wall(s)   | <input type="checkbox"/> Pickett Fence     | <input type="checkbox"/> Iron Fence | <input type="checkbox"/> Post & Rail | <input type="checkbox"/> Other: <b>pond.</b> |

19. SURROUNDING ENVIRONMENT

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

22. Name

**PO & DP**

Photographer

**DP**

Date **June 30 - 1981**

Date **June 30 - 1981** Negative

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

ROLL 2:17

GLFD NEG 2:17

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

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9. ARCHITECTURAL-HISTORICAL continued

In 1936, Joseph Downs, former Curator of the American Wing of the Metropolitan Museum in New York and Curator of the Henry Francis du Pont Winterthur Museum in Delaware, bought this house. Downs was an expert in the history of American furniture. He used the house for the summer and other holidays. According to his information, the house was actually built by a man named Baldwin in 1723. Downs bought the property from the Rusconi family, which lived here from 1898 until 1935.

Mr. & Mrs. Ralph Barrow bought the house in 1960 from the estate of Mr. Downs, who is buried in the cemetery on ~~Meeting House Hill~~. *Bluff Head (S L T 9-16-1954, p. 8)*

Source: interview Mrs. Ralph C. Barrow, 14 July 1982.