

# HISTORIC RESOURCES INVENTORY - BUILDING AND STRUCTURES

Please send completed form to: Stacey Vairo, 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) 5463 Durham Road  
 Building Name (Historic) Walter E. Blake House  
 Street Address or Location 5463 Durham Road  
 Town/City Guilford Village \_\_\_\_\_ County New Haven  
 Owner(s) Wimler Properties LLC  Public  Private

## PROPERTY INFORMATION

Present Use: Residential: single dwelling  
 Historic Use: Residential: single dwelling

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

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

Style of building Vernacular Date of Construction c. 1920 (Helander)

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

- |  |   |                                      |                                       |  |
|--|---|--------------------------------------|---------------------------------------|--|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Clapboard             | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Asbestos Siding | <input type="checkbox"/> Brick       | <input 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 25' x 35'

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

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**PROPERTY INFORMATION (CONT'D)****Related outbuildings or landscape features:**

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

**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 3.2 acres of land on the east side of Durham Road. A horseshoe driveway extends to the east off the road, and leads around the rear (to the east) of the house. There are two sheds on the property, one just to the east of the house, and the other to the southeast. The house is slightly set back from the road. Approximately 150 feet to the north is the Durham town line. Across the street (to the west) is the Coginchaug River. (See continuation sheet)

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

This is a two-story vernacular dwelling with a cross-gable roof. The house is sheathed in asbestos shingles and the roof is covered in asphalt shingles. The façade faces west, and the main entry is on this side. It is reached by a concrete step and has an overhang above it. Fenestration consists of two-over-two double-hung sash windows. A brick chimney protrudes from the ridgeline of the roof. An addition is attached to the east elevation of the house.

Architect Unknown Builder Unknown

- Historical or Architectural importance:

The original owner of this house was Walter E. Blake (1874-1966). The house was built after World War I on farmland once owned by Oscar Wimler. After Wimler's death in 1891, Blake married his widow, Mary Catherine Lutter in 1893. Documentation in both the Historic Resource Inventory form on the Wimler Farm in Durham (part of the Durham Historic Resources Survey) as well as records kept on deaths in Durham between 1746-1908 note that Oscar Wimler was killed in a coal cart accident. However, according to family tradition, Oscar Wimler was murdered by a farmhand he had fired. (See continuation sheet)

- Sources:

Guilford Tax Assessor property records accessed at <http://www.propertyrecordcards.com/PropertyResults.aspx?towncode=060&uniqueid=7850> on June 15, 2015. Helander, Joel Eliot. "A Treasury of Guilford Places." Guilford, Connecticut: Joel Helander, 2008. Hart, E. R. "Historic Resources Inventory of Durham, CT." site no. 16. April 1984, Greater Middletown Preservation Trust. Ancestry.com. "Sprague Family Tree." Accessed June 15, 2015.

Photographer Kristen Nietering Date 1/21/2015  
View West view of the house, camera facing east. Negative on File \_\_\_\_\_  
Name Kristen Nietering Date 6/15/2015  
Organization Guilford Preservation Alliance  
Address 199 PO Box Guilford, CT 06437

- Subsequent field evaluations:

Latitude & Longitude: 41.431687, -72.690575

**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

5463 Durham Rd

**Interrelationship of buildings and surroundings**

Surrounding the property are nineteenth and twentieth century single-family houses.

**Historical or Architectural importance**

Walter Edward Blake was born in 1874 and was a farmer who served in World War I. After Mary and he married in 1893, they had two sons, Walter S. Blake and Franklin S. Blake. Mary had five sons with Oscar Wimler before his death in 1891. Their sons were Fred Wimler, Oscar Wimler, Charlie Wimler, Hermon Wimler, and William Wimler. This property was once part of farmland in Durham that is still owned by the Wimler Family to this day.

