

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. <b>223</b>
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 173 Highwoods Drive  
(map 85, lot 17A-8)
2. NAME  
(historic) Elisha Pitkin House  
NAME  
(common)
3. USE  
(historic)  
USE  
(present) Private house
4. IF MOVED, WHEN AND FROM WHERE:  
Moved from East Hartford  
Taken down 1952-1953. Re-erected 1954-55



DESCRIPTION

5. ARCHITECT Rear ell c1660
6. DATE Front gambrel part 1764
- BUILDER Colonial
7. ALTERATIONS  
Side addition connected by a hall; side porch; shed roof addition to the rear ell.
8. NOTABLE FEATURES  
Gambrel roof ell; central hall plan; 12/12 sash; crown mouldings above the window frames; double door; heavily moulded entablature supported by slender fluted pilasters.

SIGNIFICANCE

9. ARCHITECTURAL-HISTORICAL This house is on The National Register of Historic Places. Even though it was re-erected in Guilford in 1954-55, it is a very fine example of the two-chimney gambrel-roofed Colonial house. Two huge chimneys of hand-made English brick at the ends of a large gambrel roof contribute to the massive look of the house. The rear-ell was the original house. The larger front section, with its gambrel roof, was attached to the ell later. When this was done, part of the ell became the kitchen. The fine doorway has fluted pilasters and an entablature with three advancing panels one over each pilaster and one over the center of the double door.

Squire Elisha Pitkin was born in part of this house, which his father built about 1660 in East Hartford. A graduate of Yale College in 1753, Pitkin was a prominent figure in Colonial affairs as a (cont'd)

SOURCES

10. SOURCES  
J. Frederick Kelly; The Early Domestic Architecture of Connecticut; Dorothy Whitfield Society; Guilford Free Library - Pitkin House file

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 checked="" 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 ACRES  
(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 checked="" type="checkbox"/> Garage ATTACHED | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Shed(s) 1 | <input type="checkbox"/> Shop(s) |
| Other (well, stand, greenhouse, gazebo, privy, etc.): <u>TENNIS COURTS; GABLE ROOF SHELTER</u> |   |   |   |                                  |

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 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: |

19. SURROUNDING ENVIRONMENT

- |  |  |   |
|--|--|---|
| a. <input type="checkbox"/> Town Street  | b. <input type="checkbox"/> Commercial               | c. <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Open |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Rural   | <input type="checkbox"/> Industrial                  | <input checked="" 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 checked="" 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 type="checkbox"/> Of scenic/architectural value                               |  |   |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Of supportive value to contiguous scenic/architectural area |  |   |
| <input checked="" 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 type="checkbox"/> Interior accessible |
|---------------------------------|---|--|

22. Name D. PENAR

Date 7/6/81

Photographer D. PENAR

Date 7/6/81

Negative ROLL 4:19A

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

GLFD NEG 4:21A

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

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## 9. ARCHITECTURAL-HISTORICAL continued

magistrate, justice and representative in the General Assembly 1784-1805. A Captain in the Revolutionary Army, he entertained Count de Rochambeau and clergy of all denominations here. His house became known as the "Ministers' Hotel".

For his services in the Revolution, Pitkin and his two partners were granted a 24 year monopoly on the manufacture of glass, which was produced at a factory in Manchester, 1783-1830. Pitkin also was a manufacturer of gun powder, snuff and forged anchors. He was involved in the West Indies trade and kept slaves, some of whom were quartered in the gambrel roofed attic.

The house remained in the Pitkin family until 1871. In the 1940's plans to restore the house failed owing to the prohibitive costs. Then, in 1952, Edward H. Pitkin, a descendant of Elisha, a Guilford jeweler, bought the house for one dollar from the Town of East Hartford for removal and re-construction in Guilford.