

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. 239
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 974 Leete's Island Road  
(map 18, lot 9)
2. NAME  
(historic) George Watrous  
NAME  
(common)
3. USE  
(historic)  
USE  
(present) Private house
4. IF MOVED, WHEN AND FROM WHERE:



DESCRIPTION

5. ARCHITECT
6. DATE 1875
- BUILDER
- STYLE Vernacular Italianate
7. ALTERATIONS  
Siding; back porch; some window sashes.
8. NOTABLE FEATURES Wide overhanging eaves; arched gable window; arched stairway window with stained glass; bay window with brackets and a balustrade; porch with beveled posts, brackets and braces; large block foundation.

SIGNIFICANCE

9. ARCHITECTURAL-HISTORICAL  
Several fine Victorian details enliven this house; particularly notable are the front porch with brackets and braces and the bay window with a balustrade on top of its bracketed roof.  
According to the diary of Henry W. Norton, George Watrous, who built this house, raised it in 8° below zero weather on January 19, 1875.

SOURCES

10. SOURCES  
Henry W. Norton's diary, 19 January 1875.

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 type="checkbox"/> Clapboard      | <input type="checkbox"/> Brick      | <input type="checkbox"/> Stucco      | <input checked="" 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 checked="" 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 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 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: 115' x 250'

15. CONDITION: Exterior

- |                                    |  |                               |                               |                              |
|------------------------------------|--|-------------------------------|-------------------------------|------------------------------|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Excellent | <input checked="" 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 type="checkbox"/> Garage | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Shed(s) <u>METAL</u> | <input type="checkbox"/> Shop(s) |
| Other (well, stand, greenhouse, gazebo, privy, etc.): |   |                                 |  |                                  |

18. LANDSCAPING (visible from public road)

- |  |  |                                     |                                      |                                 |
|--|--|-------------------------------------|--------------------------------------|---------------------------------|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Planted Grounds | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Garden <u>REAR</u> | <input type="checkbox"/> Terracing  | <input type="checkbox"/> Plaza       | <input type="checkbox"/> Court  |
| <input 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 type="checkbox"/> Wooded             |
| <input checked="" 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 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 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 |
|---------------------------------|---|--|

INDEX NO. 239

22. Name D. PENAR

Date 7/8/81

Photographer D. PENAR

Date 7/8/81

Negative ROLL 6:30

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

GLFD NEG 6:33

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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Add to Sources: Joel E. Helander, 4th July, 1982  
memorandum of interview of Florence  
Norton Benton in November 1981 and  
quotations from Henry W. Norton's diary.

Dorothy Whitfield Society.