

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. 281
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 120 North Fair Street
(map 46, lot 75)
2. NAME
(historic) Guilford Institute
NAME
(common) Shore Line Times Building
3. USE
(historic) School
USE
(present) Newspaper office and
printing plant
4. IF MOVED, WHEN AND FROM WHERE:



DESCRIPTION

5. ARCHITECT Sidney Mason Stone
6. DATE 1854
- BUILDER
STYLE Italian Villa
7. ALTERATIONS Alterations are so extensive as to have deprived the building of most of its character: fenestration and entry changed, monitor removed, large additions north and west. Also important is the loss of the setting: ground cut away for a gas station to the south, blacktop to the east.
8. NOTABLE FEATURES
The scale of the building remains impressive. This is one of Guilford's few masonry buildings and the only known work in town by Sidney Mason Stone.

SIGNIFICANCE

9. ARCHITECTURAL-HISTORICAL
Both the building and the school were important events in Guilford and they are discussed in the Survey Introduction in the section on Architecture. In 1854 Mrs. Nathaniel Griffing gave \$10,000 and land for the founding of "a school in said Guilford, of a higher order than the district or common school." In the deed she specified "my wish is that the said school should in no sense be a sectarian institution...yet...as more harmony will be likely to prevail, if all the directors or trustees are of the same religious views, my wish is that they should be of the denomination to which I belong, to wit, of the Congregational order and of that class designated and known at the present day as Orthodox or Trinitarian...." Other prominent people (continued on next sheet)

SOURCES

10. SOURCES
Dorothy Whitfield Society '76; Connecticut Historical Commission '72; Steiner; Shore Line Times Bicentennial Pages; Elizabeth Mills Brown Ms Notes. Photographs: Guilford Keeping Society; Guilford Library.

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 type="checkbox"/> Asbestos Shingle | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Other: |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Wood Shingle | <input type="checkbox"/> Fieldstone | <input type="checkbox"/> Concrete | <input type="checkbox"/> Asphalt Siding | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Vertical Boards |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Board & Batten | <input checked="" 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 checked="" type="checkbox"/> Hip | <input type="checkbox"/> Shed | <input type="checkbox"/> Other: |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Saltbox | <input type="checkbox"/> Cross-gable | <input checked="" 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:**

3

APPROXIMATE DIMENSIONS:

LOT SIZE: 1.25 ACRES
(APPROXIMATELY)

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

18. **LANDSCAPING** (visible from public road)

- | | | | | |
|--|--|-------------------------------------|--------------------------------------|---------------------------------|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Planted Grounds | <input type="checkbox"/> Garden | <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 checked="" type="checkbox"/> Town Street | b. <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Commercial | c. <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Open |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Rural | <input type="checkbox"/> Industrial | <input 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 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 checked="" 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 type="checkbox"/> Important | <input checked="" 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. 281

22. **Name**

P. Odiseos

Date 7/23/81

Photographer

P. Odiseos

Date 7/23/81

Negative P. 1: 32, 33

Organization:

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

old's Neg. P. 1: 31 & 31A

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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CONTINUATION SHEET
GUILFORD SURVEY

ADDRESS 120 North Fair Street
NAME(S) Guilford Institute

9. Architectural-Historical con't.

contributed substantial sums, and the school opened in 1855, offering education in "the higher branches, for males and females." The Institute played an important part in town life for upward to a hundred years. A catalogue of the 1860s describes it as "furnishing every facility for intelligent, accurate and thorough mental discipline..." and goes on to speak of the building's "airy halls with their beautiful surroundings, and the pleasantness, healthfulness, quiet, and good order of the village." By 1875 the Institute was beginning to have financial problems while at the same time the town was beginning to feel the need for a public high school, so resources were combined and the building continued to operate as the Guilford Institute and High School until the mid-1930s when the town built a new building, for the first time built specifically as a high school (see Church Street). The Institute closed its doors, and the building was abandoned to a makeshift existence first as an art and cultural center then during World War II as offices for the rationing board, its monitor serving as an aircraft warning post. In 1952 it was bought by the Shore Line Times.