

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. 335				
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 Sachem's Head
2. NAME
 (historic) Sachem's Head
 NAME
 (common)
3. USE
 (historic) Oxpasture
 USE
 (present) Residential
4. IF MOVED, WHEN AND FROM WHERE:



DESCRIPTION

5. ARCHITECT
6. DATE
7. ALTERATIONS

BUILDER
 STYLE

8. NOTABLE FEATURES

SIGNIFICANCE

9. ARCHITECTURAL-HISTORICAL Sachem's Head includes four areas of distinct character and features, as follows:
Vineyard Point has a mixture of large and small lots, houses dating from 1890 to the present, a mixture of architectural styles including shingle and bungalow. Uncas Point has large lots with large houses set back from the roads and close to the coast. The larger estates date from 1910-30. The Prospect Avenue/Chimney Corner Circle area has a mixture of small cottages and large shingle houses. Lots are small with minimal set backs from the streets. The houses here date from the 1880's to circa 1930 and are predominantly shingled. The "non-coastal" area of Sachem's Head has large lots with houses of the 18th and early 19th centuries. (continued..)

SOURCES

10. SOURCES
 Helander, Oxpasture to Summer Colony; Steiner Scrapbooks, Vol 1 & 2; Griswold scrapbooks Vol 2 and 10.

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 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 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:**

APPROXIMATE DIMENSIONS:

LOT SIZE:

15. **CONDITION: Exterior**

- | | | | | |
|------------------------------------|-------------------------------|-------------------------------|-------------------------------|------------------------------|
| <input 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 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 type="checkbox"/> Town Street | b. <input type="checkbox"/> Commercial | c. <input 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 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 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 type="checkbox"/> Supportive | <input type="checkbox"/> Neutral | <input type="checkbox"/> Other: |
|--------------------------------|------------------------------------|-------------------------------------|----------------------------------|---------------------------------|

21. **OWNERSHIP**

- | | | |
|---------------------------------|----------------------------------|--|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Public | <input type="checkbox"/> Private | <input type="checkbox"/> Interior accessible |
|---------------------------------|----------------------------------|--|

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22. **Name**

Date

Photographer

Date

Negative 21:23

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

Guilford Negative 21:24

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 Sachem's Head
NAME(S) Sachem's Head

9. ARCHITECTURAL-HISTORICAL cont'd

Sachem's Head derives its name from the results of a battle in June 1637 when Sachem Sassaus, and his band of Pequot Indians, in flight from their stronghold at the mouth of the Thames River, camped here overnight. Uncas, Sachem of a party of Mohegans, routed the Pequots in a bloody battle and beheaded a Sachem. The head was placed in the fork of an oak tree where it remained for some time.

In 1728 the acreage of Sachem's Head was divided into twenty acre plots in Guilford's fifth division of land. Jordan Leete, grandson of Governor William Leete, was the first to build here circa 1746. Other Leete's quickly followed. On 17 June 1777, a party of British soldiers took revenge for the attack on Sag Harbor, led by Guilford's Col. Return Meigs a month earlier, and burned Solomon Leete's house. By 1803, there were five homesteads in the "Great Ox Pasture" on Sachem's Head.

Summer visitors were attracted in 1832 to the Sachem's Head House, the largest hotel between New York and Newport. Fashionable people came from Hartford and New York by stage coach or steamboat until the hotel burned down in 1865. A new hotel opened in 1878-79. Three years later, in 1882, prosperous men from Bristol and Plainfield started building summer cottages. The Yacht Club was organized in 1896 and the club house opened in 1898. By 1915 the colony was served by a post office, a store and a railroad station. The summer colony prospered through the 1930's. Today, a greater percentage of the houses have been winterized for year-round living.