

# 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) 257 Water Street  
 Building Name (Historic) Orrin R. Blatchley House  
 Street Address or Location 257 Water Street  
 Town/City Guilford Village \_\_\_\_\_ County New Haven  
 Owner(s) Gary Damiano & Paul Greenburg  Public  Private

## PROPERTY INFORMATION

Present Use: Residence: Dwelling  
 Historic Use: Residence: 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 1867 (Helander)

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

- |  |   |                                      |  |  |
|--|---|--------------------------------------|--|--|
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Clapboard  | <input type="checkbox"/> Asbestos Siding        | <input type="checkbox"/> Brick       | <input checked="" 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: 1.5 Approximate Dimensions 42' x 32'

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:**

Located on a .48 acre parcel, this east facing building is located in the "Y" of the intersection of Water Street (Route 146) and Jacobs Lane, about a half mile south of the Guilford Green. It is located in a residential area with several houses all in the same area. A driveway extends off Jacobs Lane at the southwest corner of the house and ends just south at a garage. A red shed is also located by the driveway at the southwest corner of the property.

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

This vernacular style house, built in 1867, sits atop a stone brick foundation and is sheathed in yellow clapboard siding with white trim. The one and a half story, front gabled central block and the side gabled wing are covered in asphalt shingles with one chimney on the central block. Under the raking cornice are two six over six hung sash windows on the top story and two of the same on the first story. (See Continuation Sheet)

Architect Unknown Builder Unknown

**• Historical or Architectural importance:**

Orrin R. Blatchley was the first owner of this house in 1867. The Blatchley family is known in town for their shipbuilding dynasty. It began in 1827 when Orrin bought the former Bradley Shipyard near Jones bridge on Water Street. Him and his three sons ruled the business for fifty years. After 1900, Blatchley's great grandson, Edwin Brown and his brothers George, and Frank (See 258 Water St) took over the business until WWII. The Blatchley family had several homes along Water Street, including a boarding house they owned for their laborers, run by the Blatchley wives. Amelia Blatchley, even as a widow in 1874, continued to own the home in the twentieth century. William N. Norton and Lottie I. Norton then owned the home as of 1908. (See Continuation Sheet)

**• Sources:**

Helander, Joel Eliot, "A Treasury of Guilford Places," Guilford, CT: Joel Helander, 2008; Property card obtained at <http://www.propertyrecordcards.com/PropertyResults.aspx?towncode=060&uniqueid=3212> on August 8, 2015

Photographer Jordan Sorensen Date 1/17/2015  
View East, camera facing west Negative on File \_\_\_\_\_  
Name Jordan Sorensen Date 08/06/2015  
Organization Guilford Preservation Alliance  
Address PO Box 199 Guilford, CT 06437

**• Subsequent field evaluations:**

Latitude: 41.277542  
Longitude: -72.690688

**Threats to the building or site:**

- None known       Highways       Vandalism       Developers       Renewal       Private  
 Deterioration       Zoning       Other \_\_\_\_\_       Explanation \_\_\_\_\_

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CONTINUATION SHEET

257 Water Street

**Notable Features**

A recessed blue door entry with simple surround and crown is placed at the north end. The wing extends to the south and has two six over six hung sash windows. A skylight is built into the roof of the wing.

**Historical/Architectural Importance**

William N. Norton was one of the original owners of a summer cottage on Mulberry Point (807, now demolished) in 1885 in what would become a summer colony. Norton had a strong association with Mulberry Point since he worked in the fish oil industry, prominent on the point in the mid nineteenth century. He also owned a building on the Point known as the “fish hut” because it was the only remaining trace of the fish-oil works (built c.1865), originally the small quarters for a night watchman. As of 1983, Charles F. Hill owned the house.



West view, camera facing east from Jacobs Lane