

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. <u>392</u>				
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 41 Water Street
(map 39, lot 82)
2. NAME
(historic)
NAME
(common)
3. USE
(historic)
USE
(present) Apartments
4. IF MOVED, WHEN AND FROM WHERE:



DESCRIPTION

5. ARCHITECT See below
6. DATE Probably early 1840s
- BUILDER
STYLE Grecian Villa
7. ALTERATIONS
Additions on rear. Side wings partly enclosed, original porches and fringed canopies removed, trellis supports added. A Greek parapet with raised center block originally ornamented the roofline.

SIGNIFICANCE

8. NOTABLE FEATURES
With square central block and lower wings, broad eaves, full-length front windows, bracketed hood over the central window, flushboarding, and a correct Greek Ionic order, this is an early and perfect example of the Grecian Villa.
9. ARCHITECTURAL-HISTORICAL
Although the villa is probably the most polished design built in Guilford in the 19th century, it is a mystery. Who first owned it or when it was built is not known, and a recent title search comes to a dead end in the 1920s. The house is shown on a map of 1852, and we can only guess, on the basis of other evidence, that it was probably built not long after 1840. Its provenance is prestigious, for it was either built by Henry Austin or built to a design of his published in Chester Hills' Builder's Guide in the revised edition of 1846. Probably harking back to a design by Town and Davis, with whom Austin had worked, the prototype seems to be Austin's first known work, the Gabriel house in New Haven, which was long ago destroyed: the Guilford villa therefore (continued on next sheet)

SOURCES

10. SOURCES
Dorothy Whitfield Society '76; Connecticut Historical Commission '72. John B. Kirby, Jr., interview; Elizabeth Mills Brown, MS Notes. Photographs: 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

☐ Clapboard
☐ Wood Shingle
☐ Board & Batten

☐ Brick
☐ Fieldstone
☐ Cut Stone

☐ Stucco
☐ Concrete
☐ Cobblestone

☐ Asbestos Shingle
☐ Asphalt Siding
☐ Aluminum/Vinyl

☐ Other: *FLUSH
BOARDS*

12. STRUCTURE

☐ Wood Frame:
☐ Post & Beam
☐ Balloon

☐ Masonry

☐ Iron or Steel

☐ Concrete

☐ Other:

13. ROOF

a. ☐ Pitched
☐ Saltbox
☐ Gambrel

☐ Gable-front
☐ Cross-gable
☐ Mansard

☒ Hip
☐ Flat Hip
☐ Flat

☐ Shed
☐ False Dormer
☐ Sawtooth

☐ Other:

b. ☐ Tower(s)

☐ Monitor

☐ Cupola

☐ Dormered Gable

☐ Dome

c. ☐ Wood Shingle

☒ Asphalt Shingle

☐ Slate

☐ Metal

☐ Other:

14. NUMBER OF STORIES: *2*

APPROXIMATE DIMENSIONS:

LOT SIZE: *1 3/4 AC.
(APPROX)*

15. CONDITION: Exterior

☐ Excellent

☒ Good

☐ Fair

☐ Poor

☐ Bad

16. CONDITION: Structure

☐ Excellent

☐ Good

☐ Fair

☐ Poor

☐ Bad

17. OUTBUILDINGS (visible from public road)

☐ Barn(s)

☐ Carriage House

☒ Garage

☐ Shed(s)

☐ Shop(s)

Other (well, stand, greenhouse, gazebo, privy, etc.):

18. LANDSCAPING (visible from public road)

☐ Planted Grounds
☐ Stone Wall(s)

☐ Garden
☐ Pickett Fence

☐ Terracing
☐ Iron Fence

☐ Plaza
☒ Post & Rail

☐ Court
☐ Other:

19. SURROUNDING ENVIRONMENT

a. ☒ Town Street

☐ Rural
☐ Semi-rural
☐ Clustered Growth
☐ Development

b. ☒ Commercial

☐ Industrial
☐ Agricultural
☒ Residential
☐ Vacation, now or originally

c. ☒ Open

☐ Wooded
☐ Lakefront
☐ Coastal
☐ Salt marsh

d. ☐ Of outstanding scenic/architectural value

☒ Of scenic/architectural value

☐ Of supportive value to contiguous scenic/architectural area

☐ Neutral

☐ Other:

20. ROLE OF BUILDING IN ENHANCING QUALITY OF ENVIRONMENT

☒ Vital

☐ Important

☐ Supportive

☐ Neutral

☐ Other:

21. OWNERSHIP

☐ Public

☒ Private

☐ Interior accessible

INDEX NO. 392

22. Name *D. PENAR*

Date *7/14/81*

Photographer *D. PENAR*

Date *7/14/81*

Negative *21:17A*

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

GLFD: NEG *21:1*

23. THREATS TO BUILDING

☐ None Known
☐ Renewal

☐ Highways
☐ Private Owner

☐ Vandalism
☐ Deterioration

☐ Developers
☐ Other:

☐ Zoning

24. SUBSEQUENT EVALUATIONS

DESCRIPTION

COMPILED BY

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CONTINUATION SHEET
GUILFORD SURVEY

ADDRESS 41 Water Street
NAME(S)

9. Architectural-Historical con't.

is a significant document in the history of Austin's career. The restrained elegance of the Ionic portico, the perfect purity of the cubic form, and the assurance with which the small building sits on its slightly elevated podium facing the street give it a miniature majesty that ranks it among Connecticut's notable architectural work.

The house is discussed in the Survey Introduction.