

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) 161 Whitfield Street
 Building Name (Historic) St. George Roman Catholic Church
 Street Address or Location 161 Whitfield Street
 Town/City Guilford Village _____ County New Haven
 Owner(s) David Wyman & Ingrid Staecker-Wyman Public Private

PROPERTY INFORMATION

Present Use: Residential: Multiple Dwellings
 Historic Use: Church/Meeting Hall

Accessibility to public: Exterior visible from public road? Yes No

Interior accessible? Yes No If yes, explain _____

Style of building Gothic Revival Date of Construction 1876 (Helander)

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

Clapboard Asbestos Siding Brick Wood Shingle Asphalt Siding
 Fieldstone Board & Batten Stucco Cobblestone Aluminum Siding
 Concrete (Type _____) Cut Stone (Type _____) 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 Approximate Dimensions 65' x 53'

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: Conversion to apartments after 1985

FOR OFFICE USE: Town # _____ Site # _____ UTM _____

District: S NR If NR, Specify: Actual Potential

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:

This building is located on a .29 acre parcel on the corner of High Street and Whitfield Street, a quarter of a mile south of the Town Green and the intersection of Whitfield Street and Boston Street. It is in a mainly residential area with many houses. A parking lot is located behind the building with an entrance on High Street. The southwest elevation has a wooden deck and stairway leading up from the parking lot.

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

This Gothic Revival building was built as a church in 1876-1877 by St. George's Roman Catholic Church. The one story building has white wood shingle siding with dark green trim, a brick foundation, and a steep pitch front gable roof covered in asphalt shingles. The front facade has four windows, one round with two lancet windows on either side and a triple lancet window, with the center window being the tallest, on top, common in Gothic Revival buildings.

Architect Unknown Builder Unknown

• Historical or Architectural importance:

This building, originally owned by St. George's Roman Catholic Church, was built by the Guilford Catholic parish. This parish originally organized in 1854, meeting at the Reverend Whitfield stone house until purchasing another small building on Whitfield Street. When they decided to build their own church, the cornerstone was laid on November 12, 1876 and served thirty families. Growing to a congregation of more than 200 by just 1887, a new church was built in 1963 on the west side of the Town Green, at which time the original church was deconsecrated. It was purchased by the Masonic Order, St. Albans Lodge No. 38 for use as a meeting hall the next year. This lodge is one of the oldest in Connecticut, chartered in 1771.

• Sources:

Baxter, Linda Trowbridge, "The Newcomers: A Study of Immigrants to Guilford, CT 1850-1930, Dexter, MI:Thomson-Shore, Inc., 1985; Helander, Joel, "Treasury of Guilford Places" Self Published: Guilford, CT, 2008; Property card found at <http://www.propertyrecordcards.com/PropertyResults.aspx?towncode=060&uniqueid=2926> (accessed June 3, 2015)

Photographer Jordan Sorensen Date 1/19/2015

View Northeast, camera facing southwest Negative on File _____

Name Jordan Sorensen Date 6/4/2015

Organization Guilford Preservation Alliance

Address PO Box 199 Guilford, CT 06437

• Subsequent field evaluations:

Latitude: 41.279480
Longitude: -72.679431

Threats to the building or site:

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

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CONTINUATION SHEET

161 Whitfield Street

Notable Features Continued

The front entry is an enclosed portico with two red doors and a small lancet window on either side elevation. A white wooden stoop with two white railings leads up to it. When converted to a Masonic meeting hall, the steeple was removed and the building deconsecrated.

Historical Significance Continued

They sold the building in 1985 and now meet in Branford, the town next to Guilford. It is now three townhouse apartments.

Sources Continued

St. Albans Lodge History at

http://www.stalbanslodge38.org/index.php?option=com_content&view=category&id=13&Itemid=39

(Accessed on June 5, 2015).



Photo by Oliver B. Husted, c.1909 from

Guilford Keeping Society collections

(Taken from Helander, *Treasury of Guilford Places*)