

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) Whitfield Shores
 Building Name (Historic) Spaceship Building
 Street Address or Location 446 Whitfield Street
 Town/City Guilford Village _____ County New Haven
 Owner(s) Multiple Owners Public Private

PROPERTY INFORMATION

Present Use: Residential: Multiple Dwellings
 Historic Use: Residential: Multiple Dwellings

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

Interior accessible? Yes No If yes, explain _____

Style of building Modern Date of Construction 1985 (NY Times)

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

- | | | | | |
|---|---|--|---------------------------------------|--|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Clapboard | <input type="checkbox"/> Asbestos Siding | <input type="checkbox"/> Brick | <input 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 checked="" type="checkbox"/> Concrete (Type _____) | <input type="checkbox"/> Cut Stone (Type _____) | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Other <u>Steel, Copper</u> | | |

Structural System

- Wood Frame Post & Beam Balloon Load bearing masonry Structural iron or steel
 Other Cantilevered Steel Beams

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 Lead Coated Copper

Number of Stories: 4 Approximate Dimensions 50' x 300'

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

PROPERTY INFORMATION (CONT'D)**Related outbuildings or landscape features:**

- Barn Shed Garage Carriage House Shop Garden
 Other landscape features or buildings: Parking lot on the west side of the building

Surrounding Environment:

- Open land Woodland Residential Commercial Industrial Rural
 High building density Scattered buildings visible from site

• Interrelationship of building and surroundings:

This southwest facing building is located at the southern end of Whitfield Street, just south the fork with Old Whitfield Street, near the Guilford Marina and Long Island Sound. It is amongst many other single family dwellings and the town shoreline neighborhoods. About 500 feet north are railroad tracks. A driveway and parking lot run along the west side of the building.

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

This Modern style building, designed by architect Wilfred Armster to resemble a spaceship in 1985, has four stories with thirteen condominium units. It has a round, lead coated copper roof, with a flat roof down the center atop another story of the building. Steel and copper siding surround a frame of load bearing masonry and cantilevered steel beams. (See Continuation Sheet).

Architect Wilfred Armster Builder Wood, Steel, Glass, Inc.

• Historical or Architectural importance:

The developer of this site asked Armster, renowned for his modern architecture style, to prepare a "wild" design for a luxury condominium complex on the site of a out of business restaurant named Bernice's. Armster designed the building to embody elements of modern architecture including the use of contemporary materials and a respect for the landscape, including plans to raise the building on concrete platforms, conforming with the hilly terrain and providing views of the Long Island Sound. This was a contrast to the tactic on the adjacent plot where a developer bulldozed the land, clearing the landscape. (See Continuation Sheet).

• Sources:

2007 Historic Resources Inventory Form partially completed by unknown author; Green, Penelope, "The Spaceship Down the Street," New York Times, August 12, 2009; Property Card found at <http://www.propertyrecordcards.com/PropertyResults.aspx?towncode=060&uniqueid=9332> on March 27, 2015 (See Continuation Sheet)

Photographer Jordan Sorensen Date 1/11/2015
View Southwest view, camera facing northeast Negative on File _____
Name Jordan Sorensen Date 3/27/2015
Organization Guilford Preservation Alliance
Address Guilford Preservation Alliance PO Box 199 Guilford, CT 06437

• Subsequent field evaluations:

Latitude: 41.273695
Longitude: -72.668719

Threats to the building or site:

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

HISTORIC RESOURCE INVENTORY – BUILDINGS AND STRUCTURES

CONTINUATION SHEET

Insert Property Name/Address

Notable Features Continued

A steel H-Beam juts out from the west side of the building connecting to a stone, upright half circle in the parking lot. It is a 300 foot long and fifty feet wide, thin oval shaped building with concrete piers connecting to a concrete platform.

Historical/Architectural Importance Continued

At a Planning and Zoning meeting before the building was approved, Armster responded to criticism about designing modern building in a town with such historic character saying, "When the Pilgrims settled in Guilford in the 17th century, they did not build teepees to be contextual with the architecture of the Indians who inhabited the town. They built wood houses with pitched roofs, suited to their life style and the time." While the spaceship building was initially rejected by many in Guilford, it is now a celebrated local landmark.

Sources Continued

Stoller, Kristin, "30 Years Later, Guilford Architect Reflects on Controversial 'Spaceship' Design," New Haven Register, October 11, 2014 found at <http://www.nhregister.com/general-news/20141011/30-years-later-guilford-architect-reflects-on-controversial-spaceship-design> on March 27, 2015;



HISTORIC RESOURCE INVENTORY – BUILDINGS AND STRUCTURES

CONTINUATION SHEET

Insert Property Name/Address

