

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. 445	
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 485 Whitfield Street
(map 29, lot 108)
2. NAME
(historic) Lot Benton, later the
NAME Lyman Beecher house
(common)
3. USE
(historic)
USE
(present) Private house
4. IF MOVED, WHEN AND FROM WHERE:
Moved from the Green, present site of
the First Congregational Church. 1829



DESCRIPTION

5. ARCHITECT
6. DATE cl770 BUILDER
STYLE Colonial
7. ALTERATIONS
Chimney rebuilt, rear roof raised.

SIGNIFICANCE

8. NOTABLE FEATURES
Overhanging eave, boxed cornice; 8/12 sash; wrought iron fence with graceful gate. The most notable feature of the house, aside from the remarkable great stone wall that now adjoins it, is the pedimented Georgian doorway with fluted pilasters and rosettes. There are not
9. ARCHITECTURAL-HISTORICAL more than two or three such in Guilford.

The Lot Benton house is often called the Lyman Beecher house today after a more famous owner, the great clergyman and revivalist. Lyman Beecher was Lot Benton's nephew and he grew up in North Guilford on his uncle's farm. About the time he entered Yale, Lot Benton moved down to town (to "old Guilford," as Beecher calls it, North Guilford apparently still being "new Guilford"). He settled in the present house, which was then on Broad Street, and Lyman made this home-base until he moved away three or four years later. When Lot Benton died he left the house to Lyman. At this time the First Church was preparing to build a new meeting house, and the Lot Benton house happened to stand precisely on the (continued on next sheet)

SOURCES

10. SOURCES Dorothy Whitfield Society '76; Connecticut Historical Commission '72; Tercentenary Committee; Colonial Dames; Federal Writers' Guide; Mary Hoadley Griswold; Steiner; Shore Line Times, Bicentennial Pages; Photographs: Guilford Keeping Society; Guilford Library; Dana.

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 checked="" 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 checked="" 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 checked="" type="checkbox"/> Asphalt Shingle | <input type="checkbox"/> Slate | <input type="checkbox"/> Metal | <input type="checkbox"/> Other: |

14. NUMBER OF STORIES: 2 1/2

APPROXIMATE DIMENSIONS:

LOT SIZE: 7.75 acres

15. CONDITION: Exterior

- | | | | | |
|------------------------------------|--|-------------------------------|-------------------------------|------------------------------|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Excellent | <input checked="" 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 checked="" type="checkbox"/> Planted Grounds | <input type="checkbox"/> Garden | <input type="checkbox"/> Terracing | <input type="checkbox"/> Plaza | <input type="checkbox"/> Court |
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Stone Wall(s) | <input type="checkbox"/> Pickett Fence | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Iron Fence | <input type="checkbox"/> Post & Rail | <input type="checkbox"/> Other: |

19. SURROUNDING ENVIRONMENT

- | | | |
|--|--|--|
| a. <input checked="" 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 checked="" type="checkbox"/> Clustered Growth | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Residential | <input type="checkbox"/> Coastal |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Development | <input type="checkbox"/> Vacation, now or originally | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Salt marsh |
| d. <input type="checkbox"/> Of outstanding scenic/architectural value | | |
| <input checked="" 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 checked="" 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 checked="" type="checkbox"/> Private | <input type="checkbox"/> Interior accessible |
|---------------------------------|---|--|

INDEX NO. 445

22. Name

P. O. Olsen

Date 7/23/81

Photographer

P. Olsen

Date 7/23/81

Negative Roll 17:27

Organization:

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

Olfd's Neg. Roll 17:25A

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 485 Whitfield Street
NAME(S) Lot Benton

9. Architectural-Historical con't.

most commanding site in town, at the center of the head of the Green. A happy arrangement was made all around. The Church bought the property and promptly sold the house to someone who was willing to move it, and the Lot Benton house went off down Whitfield Street in a still famous procession, drawn by 70 yoke of oxen.

This house is sometimes also called the Eli Foote house and the Jeremiah Rackett house.