

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) Guilford Mooring Restaurant
Building Name (Historic) The Dock House Restaurant
Street Address or Location 505 Whitfield Street
Town/City Guilford Village _____ County New Haven
Owner(s) 505 Whitfield LLC ☐ Public ☒ Private

PROPERTY INFORMATION

Present Use: Restaurant
Historic Use: Shoremen's Workplace

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

Interior accessible? ☒ Yes ☐ No If yes, explain Public restaurant

Style of building Vernacular/Commercial Date of Construction c.1930/1962

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 granite) ☐ 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 200' x 50'

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 restaurant, 1962 addition

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 at the very end of Whitfield Street, on the south side, located on a small peninsula where the East River, East Creek and Long Island Sound meet on a 1.9 acre parcel. To the east, it is directly across the water from the boat docks and public parking lot in a mostly commercial area, but some residences are located close by on Whitfield Street. To the west is a salt marsh. A driveway and parking lot extends all the way down the west side of the building.

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

The oldest part of this building is located right next to the road. It is a one story, small Vernacular commercial building made of native granite. It has a side gable roof covered in asphalt shingles. There are four casement windows equally spaced across the front facade. The newer part of the building, built in the 1960s, also has a stone exterior and gable roof. There are several windows spaced equally across the span of the added 114 foot back wing.

Architect Unknown Builder Unknown

- Historical or Architectural importance:

Located at the end of the East River and East Creek, Guilford Harbor historically had the best oysters and clams according to locals, making it the main industry in the harbor. It is thought that shoremen worked in this building in the nineteenth century for the oyster and clamming industry when it was built as a workspace. How true this is and the exact date it was built would require further research. By the 1930s, Harry Durant owned the building and leased it to the Dolan brothers who used it for their fishing and lobstering business and market. The Dolans later built and owned The Little Stonehouse restaurant and market across the street. By the 1940's until 1969, Fred and Edith Blaha owned this building. (See Continuation Sheet)

- Sources:

Committee for Guilford Oral History, ed., Taking Time to Remember: An Oral History of Guilford, 1988; Guilford Mooring Restaurant, <http://www.guilfordmooring.com/about-us/> (accessed on July 27, 2015); Property card obtained at <http://www.propertyrecordcards.com/PropertyResults.aspx?towncode=060&uniqueid=3304> on July 27, 2015; Smith, Ralph D., "The History of Guilford from its First Settlement in 1639," Albany: 1877; Town of Guilford Assessor Records.

Photographer Jordan Sorensen Date 6/27/2015

View Northwest, camera facing southeast Negative on File _____

Name Jordan Sorensen Date 7/28/2015

Organization Guilford Preservation Alliance

Address PO Box 199 Guilford, CT 06437

- Subsequent field evaluations:

Latitude: 41.272510

Longitude: -72.666615

Threats to the building or site:

- ☐ None known ☐ Highways ☐ Vandalism ☐ Developers ☐ Renewal ☐ Private
☐ Deterioration ☐ Zoning ☒ Other Coastal storm ☐ Explanation _____

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CONTINUATION SHEET

505 Whitfield Street

Notable Features

Six skylights are located on either side of the ridgeline at the rear of the building. There is a deck and patio space on the east side of the building. Another building is located at the rear, easternmost point of the parking lot.

Historical/Architectural Significance Continued

With Fred being a lobster salesman, his daughter Doris a waitress, they created the Captain's Table Restaurant, starting the tradition of restaurants on this property. After 1969, Guildoc, Inc. owned the building and by 1982 the Dock House Restaurant was located in the building.

