

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) Breakwater Books/Spice Exchange
 Building Name (Historic) Robert Shelley House
 Street Address or Location 83 Whitfield Street (Still referred to as 81 for retail addresses)
 Town/City Guilford Village _____ County New Haven
 Owner(s) Elna Cianciolo c/o George Trahan Public Private

PROPERTY INFORMATION

Present Use: Retail
 Historic Use: Residential: Single Residence, Retail

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

Interior accessible? Yes No If yes, explain Retail Store

Style of building Georgian Date of Construction 1749 (Helander)

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 type="checkbox"/> Concrete (Type _____) | <input type="checkbox"/> Cut Stone (Type _____) | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Other <u>Vinyl</u> | | |

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: 2 Approximate Dimensions 76'x40'x55'

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: Full facade portico added when converted to commercial use

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 east facing building sits on a .11 acre lot at the north end of Whitfield Street, just north of the intersection with Boston Street and Water Street. It is directly across from the Guilford Town Green, at the Southwest corner, and located along a strip of buildings that have both residential and commercial uses.

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

Built in 1749, this Georgian style building has a side gabled roof covered with asphalt shingles. It has white vinyl siding, red shutters, and a center chimney. A full facade portico extends past the south end of the building. There are three doors to enter bordered by extensive showcase windows on the first floor and three one over one sash windows on the second floor level.

Architect Unknown Builder Unknown

- Historical or Architectural importance:

Before it's conversion to commercial use, this building was lived in first by Sarah Bartlett, husband Robert Shelley and their three children. The first keeper of Faulkner's Island lighthouse, Joseph Griffing, also lived here from 1812 to 1839. As a commercial building it has been used for many businesses including Francesco Cianciolo's fruit and vegetable store, which stayed for forty-six years. Currently in the space is Breakwater Books, which has been there since 1972, and The Tea & Spice Exchange, which opened in 2014. It is the oldest building on the Guilford Green.

- Sources:

Guilford Preservation Alliance, "Significant Structures Fifty Years Old or More, Guilford, Connecticut" accessed at <http://guilfordpreservation.org/WordPress/illustrated-survey> on March 25, 2015; Helander, Joel Eliot, "A Treasury of Guilford Places," Guilford, CT: Joel Helander, 2008; McCulloch, Sarah Brown; "Guilford: A Walking Guide, the Green & Neighboring Streets; 2006, accessed at guilfordpreservation.org on 3/27/2015;

Photographer Jordan Sorensen Date 1/17/2015
View East view, camera facing west 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: 41.281432
Longitude: -72.681773

Threats to the building or site:

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

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CONTINUATION SHEET

83 Whitfield Street

Sources Continued

Property card found at

<http://www.propertyrecordcards.com/PropertyResults.aspx?towncode=060&uniqueid=1192> on March 27, 2015; Photograph by Harriet Hunt Bryan, 1885, Guilford Keeping Society collections, found in Helander, Joel "A Treasury of Guilford Places."



Photo by Harriet Hunt Bryan, Guilford Keeping Society collections

1885