



# GUILFORD PRESERVATION ALLIANCE

NEWSLETTER

[WWW.GUILFORDPRESERVATION.ORG](http://WWW.GUILFORDPRESERVATION.ORG)

SPRING/SUMMER 2024

## Explore “Made In Guilford”



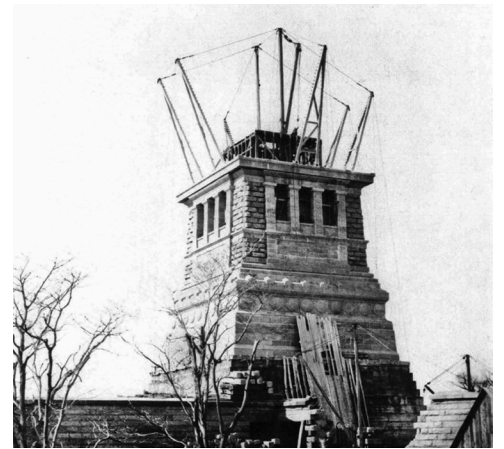
Sachems Head Canning Co c 1919.  
Remembered for canning tomatoes.

The town of Guilford was founded largely by landowners and planters and its history as a farming community is still visible in the landscape. Thirty-one farms are enumerated in the recently issued *Guilford Farms Map*. Commerce and industry have also played a role in the community, as documented in the pictorial exhibit mounted on the north side of the Guilford train station. Entitled

“Made in Guilford” the exhibit, created by the Guilford Preservation Alliance, depicts numerous ways people have made a living here taking advantage of the community’s natural resources, produce from local farms,

its location on Long Island Sound, and access via railroad.

To learn more about Guilford’s commercial past, visit the north side of the Guilford train station waiting area. Enjoy the text for the exhibit which is at eye level, then be sure to look up!



Granite used for the base of the Statue of Liberty sourced from the Beattie Quarry.

## Save the Red Shack

As of June 1, approximately \$56,000 had been raised to save Guilford’s treasured **Red Shack**. The effort was spearheaded by Tim Sperry of the Guilford Preservation Alliance with support from many organizations including The Guilford Foundation, businesses including Bishop’s Orchards and hundreds of individuals. If you would like to donate, go to [www.guilfordpreservation.org](http://www.guilfordpreservation.org) and click on the **Donate Red Shack** button.

## Mark Your Calendar: Witness to History-Slavery in Guilford

The Witness to History-Slavery in Guilford initiative of the GPA will continue its collaboration with the Guilford Free Library this Fall. On October 24th at the library, six time Emmy documentary award winner Karyl Evans will show and discuss her two part documentary “The History of African Americans in Connecticut.” The program will be in the evening. The library requests that you register in advance and will indicate the time of the program at registration.

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**Like to become a member or donate to the Guilford Preservation Alliance?** Join or donate online at [www.guilfordpreservation.org](http://www.guilfordpreservation.org). Checks can also be sent to Guilford Preservation Alliance, PO Box 199, Guilford Ct. 06437. See the website for special categories of membership and giving.

# The Ham Primus House-Frequently Asked Questions

## Where is the Ham Primus House and why is it important?

The Ham Primus house is located at 3431 Durham Road, a short distance from Lake Quonnipaug. The house illustrates a family progression from slavery to prominent status in the African American community. Ham Primus, born in 1787, was enslaved by Ebenezer Linsley. He married Temperance, the daughter of Gad Asher, an enslaved person who served in the American Revolution. The family were members of St. John's Episcopal Church. The son Holdridge went on to become a prominent member of the African American community in Hartford. It is believed that Ham owned and resided in this house for a short period of time.

## Was the Ham Primus House recently listed on the Connecticut Freedom Trail?

Yes, with the help of Town Historian Joel Helander and Tracy Tomaselli of the GPA, along with a dendrochronology study, the house was listed on the Connecticut Freedom Trail. The Trail designates sites that “celebrate the struggle for justice and equality that continue in the 21st century” and which “depict the efforts of the state’s African American community and other communities that championed the goals of universal freedom and dignity.”



Ham Primus House and Original Door

## Are there other sites in Guilford which are listed on the Connecticut Freedom Trail?

Yes, 111 Goose Lane, the James Davis House (in front of the Shoreline Medical Center) is recognized for a role in the Underground Railroad. It is believed that abolitionist and anti-slavery member George Bartlett (1798-1893) hid fugitive slaves in a cellar there.

## What will happen to the Ham Primus house?

Parts of the house are situated in an area where dam repair and road realignment were planned. The Town of Guilford, which owns the house, is exploring various options for the property.



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