



# United States Department of the Interior

NATIONAL PARK SERVICE  
1849 C Street, N.W.  
Washington, D.C. 20240

The attached property, the Godillot Place, in Fairfield County, Connecticut, reference number 77001396, was listed in the National Register of Historic Places by the Keeper of the National Register on 08/29/1977, as evidenced by the FEDERAL REGISTER/WEEKLY LIST notice of Tuesday, February 6, 1979, Part II, Vol. 44, No. 26, page 7440. The attached nomination form is a copy of the original documentation provided to the Keeper at the time of listing.

  
Keeper of the National Register of Historic Places

2/19/2009  
Date

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR  
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

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NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES  
INVENTORY -- NOMINATION FORM

SEE INSTRUCTIONS IN HOW TO COMPLETE NATIONAL REGISTER FORMS  
TYPE ALL ENTRIES -- COMPLETE APPLICABLE SECTIONS

1 NAME

HISTORIC  
Godillot Place  
AND/OR COMMON  
Lyman Building

2 LOCATION

STREET & NUMBER  
60 and 65 Jesup Road  
CITY, TOWN  
Westport  
STATE  
Connecticut

--- NOT FOR PUBLICATION  
VICINITY OF  
Fourth  
CONGRESSIONAL DISTRICT  
CODE  
09  
COUNTY  
Fairfield  
CODE  
001

3 CLASSIFICATION

<b>CATEGORY</b>	<b>OWNERSHIP</b>	<b>STATUS</b>	<b>PRESENT USE</b>
<input type="checkbox"/> DISTRICT	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> PUBLIC	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> OCCUPIED	<input type="checkbox"/> AGRICULTURE
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> BUILDING(S)	<input type="checkbox"/> PRIVATE	<input type="checkbox"/> UNOCCUPIED	<input type="checkbox"/> MUSEUM
<input type="checkbox"/> STRUCTURE	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> BOTH	<input type="checkbox"/> WORK IN PROGRESS	<input type="checkbox"/> COMMERCIAL
<input type="checkbox"/> SITE	<b>PUBLIC ACQUISITION</b>	<b>ACCESSIBLE</b>	<input type="checkbox"/> PARK
<input type="checkbox"/> OBJECT	<input type="checkbox"/> IN PROCESS	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> YES: RESTRICTED	<input type="checkbox"/> EDUCATIONAL
	<input type="checkbox"/> BEING CONSIDERED	<input type="checkbox"/> YES: UNRESTRICTED	<input type="checkbox"/> ENTERTAINMENT
		<input type="checkbox"/> NO	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> GOVERNMENT
			<input type="checkbox"/> INDUSTRIAL
			<input type="checkbox"/> MILITARY
			<input type="checkbox"/> PRIVATE RESIDENCE
			<input type="checkbox"/> RELIGIOUS
			<input type="checkbox"/> SCIENTIFIC
			<input type="checkbox"/> TRANSPORTATION
			<input type="checkbox"/> OTHER

4 OWNER OF PROPERTY

NAME  
Town of Westport  
STREET & NUMBER  
Town Hall, Post Road  
CITY, TOWN  
Westport

VICINITY OF  
Connecticut  
STATE

5 LOCATION OF LEGAL DESCRIPTION

COURTHOUSE,  
REGISTRY OF DEEDS, ETC.  
Westport Town Hall  
STREET & NUMBER  
Post Road  
CITY, TOWN  
Westport

STATE  
Connecticut

6 REPRESENTATION IN EXISTING SURVEYS

TITLE  
Westport Historic Sites and Buildings Survey

DATE  
1975  
--- FEDERAL --- STATE --- COUNTY  LOCAL

DEPOSITORY FOR  
SURVEY RECORDS  
Westport Historical Society

CITY, TOWN  
Westport  
STATE  
Connecticut

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CONTINUATION SHEET

ITEM NUMBER 6 PAGE 2

CT Statewide Inventory of Historic Resources

1975

State

Connecticut Historical Commission, 59 South Prospect St.,  
Hartford, CT

# 7 DESCRIPTION

CONDITION		CHECK ONE	CHECK ONE
<input type="checkbox"/> EXCELLENT	<input type="checkbox"/> DETERIORATED	<input type="checkbox"/> UNALTERED	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> ORIGINAL SITE
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> GOOD	<input type="checkbox"/> RUINS	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> ALTERED	<input type="checkbox"/> MOVED DATE _____
<input type="checkbox"/> FAIR	<input type="checkbox"/> UNEXPOSED		

## DESCRIBE THE PRESENT AND ORIGINAL (IF KNOWN) PHYSICAL APPEARANCE

Godillot Place, the estate which includes the Godillot house (currently known as the Lyman Building), a cottage (currently the offices of the Westport Board of Education), and a stable-carriage house is located south of the Boston Post Road (U.S. Route 1) in Westport, Connecticut. Jesup Road, a 20th century street which is an enlargement of a late 19th century footpath passes through the property crossing Dead Man's Creek on a concrete bridge on the site of a wooden footbridge erected in 1882. Bay Street is near the west border of the property and dead ends at the junction with Jesup Road and near the west end of the Godillot house. The house is about 15 feet south of Jesup Road while the stable-carriage house is east of the house and about 5 feet north of the street. The cottage, located east of the stable-carriage house, is about 15 feet north of Jesup Road. Imperial Avenue and Dead Man's creek are the eastern border of the property, while the Saugatuck River is the southern boundary.

The neighborhood around the estate has changed considerably since the 1880's when it was one of the community's finest, is not the finest, residential areas. Today the Westport Police Building is the western neighbor of Godillot Place and the house and cottage function as governmental offices. Parking lots have replaced the gardens on the estate. The shore line of the Saugatuck River is now more distant from the house due to sanitary landfill. Fortunately the house and cottage still are surrounded by grass and trees.

The 1804 house on the bluff overlooking the Saugatuck River had a square plan with a small wing at the east. This building was incorporated into the remodeled house and is the western, or main, section of this building. However, the c. 1880 remodeling was so extensive that only in the basement is there visible evidence of the earlier building.

The existing house, despite some modifications, is an impressive and well-preserved stick style building. The horizontal clapboards, painted green, covering its walls have an overlay of other boards suggesting the structural frame. This "stickwork" and other exterior features such as vergeboards and exposed framing in gables, verandas, a projecting gablet, and a two-story bay window enliven the wall surfaces. Exterior trim is effectively painted a cream color.

The building which is very large, having a 2½ story main block with steep hipped roof and a 2½ story east wing with a steep gabled hip roof, is not blocky or ponderous since its mass is broken up by the use of gables, dormers, verandas, overhanging roof, and chimnies. The rear (east) veranda extends into the east wing creating a void.

The building has the tall proportions characteristic of the stick style, except the north facade which has greater horizontality since the main block and the wing are aligned. However the north side which now seems to be the main facade since it faces Jesup Road is actually a lesser facade. The main entrance is found on the west facade and the irregularly composed south side faces the river.

Major exterior alterations to the house include the removal of a greenhouse which was attached to the east wing on the south side and the addition of a large shed dormer between the gables of the south slope of the roof of the main block. The addition on the second story in the corner of the main block and the wing is probably a 20th century alteration.

See continuation sheet 1

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CONTINUATION SHEET 1

ITEM NUMBER 7

PAGE 2

Godillot Place, Westport, CT.

7. Description

Although the floor plan is somewhat irregular, the house has basically a side hall plan with rear wing and verandas. The floor plan has been somewhat modified in adapting the building first to apartments and then to offices.

The house's interior features are not as elaborate as its exuberant exterior would suggest. A number of rooms have fireplaces with slate mantels painted to simulate marble, cast-iron fronts, and tile hearths. A 1880's style wood mantel in the room on the first floor east of the stairhall has a tile surround. The stair has turned balusters and massive newels. An interesting stepped radiator is in the first floor hall.

The two existing outbuildings compliment the house and are of harmonious design. The stable-carriage house, a picturesque  $1\frac{1}{2}$  story frame structure on a raised masonry basement, has a jerkin head, or clipped gable, roof which has a central gable on the south side. Unfortunately the ventilator visible in late 19th century illustrations of this building has been removed. The cottage is a good example of a late 19th century working class dwelling. It is a  $2\frac{1}{2}$  story frame building located on a site which slopes down at the east. It basically is an L shaped mass with gable roofs, but a veranda extends the lengths of the south (main) and east sides while a  $1\frac{1}{2}$  story wing is attached to the west side. Exterior trim around windows and doors is similar to that of the main house as are the exposed bracing in the gables. The narrow pent roofs over second-story windows are interesting features. The exterior of this cottage is in a good state of preservation except it is inappropriately painted white and a greenhouse formerly attached to the south side of the wing is now gone.

See Continuation Sheet 3 for Site Plan.

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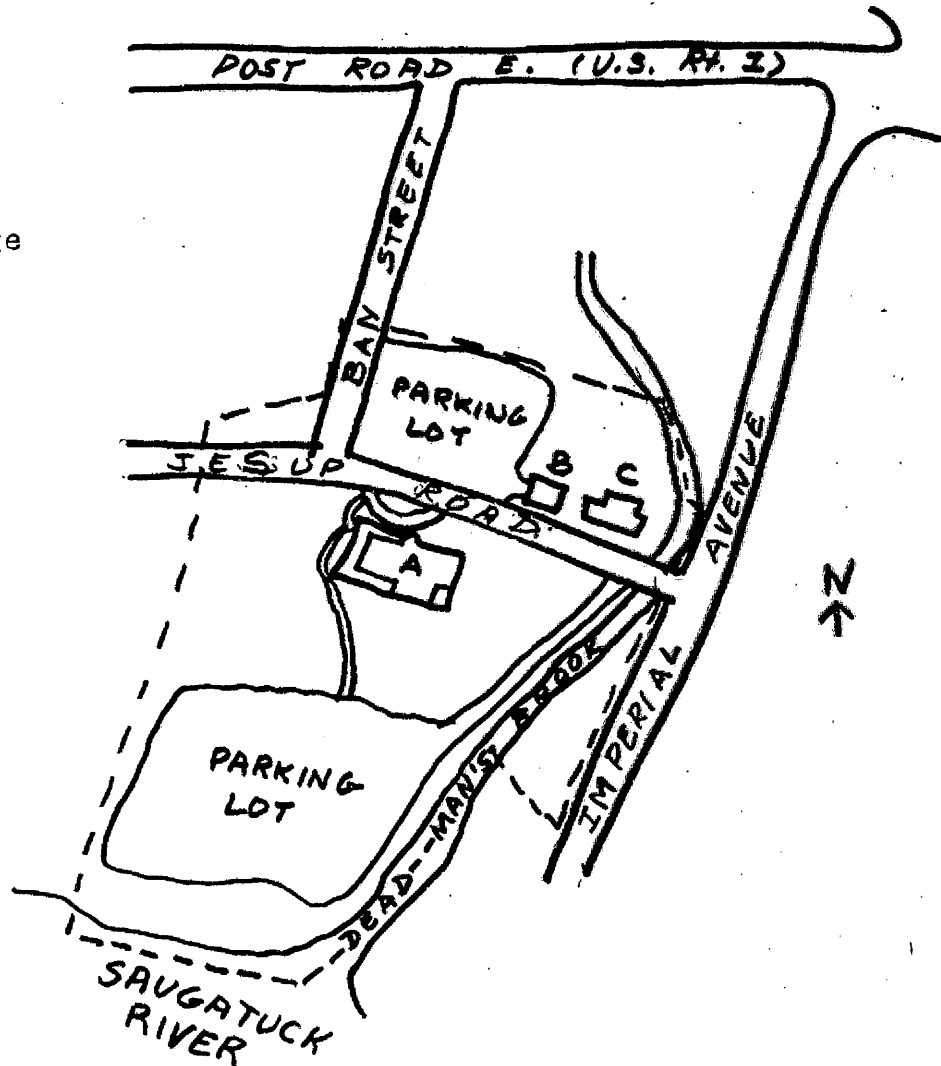
CONTINUATION SHEET 2 ITEM NUMBER 7 PAGE 3

Godillot Place, Westport, CT.

7. Description

SITE PLAN  
Not to scale

- A House
- B Stable-Carriage House
- C Cottage
- Boundary of Property



# 8 SIGNIFICANCE

PERIOD	AREAS OF SIGNIFICANCE -- CHECK AND JUSTIFY BELOW			
<input type="checkbox"/> PREHISTORIC	<input type="checkbox"/> ARCHEOLOGY-PREHISTORIC	<input type="checkbox"/> COMMUNITY PLANNING	<input type="checkbox"/> LANDSCAPE ARCHITECTURE	<input type="checkbox"/> RELIGION
<input type="checkbox"/> 1400-1499	<input type="checkbox"/> ARCHEOLOGY-HISTORIC	<input type="checkbox"/> CONSERVATION	<input type="checkbox"/> LAW	<input type="checkbox"/> SCIENCE
<input type="checkbox"/> 1500-1599	<input type="checkbox"/> AGRICULTURE	<input type="checkbox"/> ECONOMICS	<input type="checkbox"/> LITERATURE	<input type="checkbox"/> SCULPTURE
<input type="checkbox"/> 1600-1699	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> ARCHITECTURE	<input type="checkbox"/> EDUCATION	<input type="checkbox"/> MILITARY	<input type="checkbox"/> SOCIAL/HUMANITARIAN
<input type="checkbox"/> 1700-1799	<input type="checkbox"/> ART	<input type="checkbox"/> ENGINEERING	<input type="checkbox"/> MUSIC	<input type="checkbox"/> THEATER
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 1800-1899	<input type="checkbox"/> COMMERCE	<input type="checkbox"/> EXPLORATION/SETTLEMENT	<input type="checkbox"/> PHILOSOPHY	<input type="checkbox"/> TRANSPORTATION
<input type="checkbox"/> 1900-	<input type="checkbox"/> COMMUNICATIONS	<input type="checkbox"/> INDUSTRY	<input type="checkbox"/> POLITICS/GOVERNMENT	<input type="checkbox"/> OTHER (SPECIFY)
		<input type="checkbox"/> INVENTION		

SPECIFIC DATES c. 1879-82

BUILDER/ARCHITECT

## STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE

Godillot Place is an estate with a house which is a very good example of the stick style and two complimentary outbuildings. The picturesque large frame house with exposed bracing in its gables and an overlay of boards suggesting framing over its horizontal clapboard siding is the only elaborate building of its style in Westport. About 1804 a house was erected on the site, but the main house took its current form about the time the estate's cottage was erected in 1882. Unfortunately no documentary materials reveal the name of the architect, but stylistic similarities to plate 34 in Palliser's American Cottage Homes published in 1878 suggest that its design can be attributed to the architectural firm of Palliser, Palliser & Co. located in nearby Bridgeport, Connecticut.

In 1804 Dr. Ebenezer Jesup, a prominent landowner in what is now Westport, built a house on Saugatuck River and Dead Man's Creek for his daughter Abigail. Abigail married Eliphalet Swift in 1806. Swift was a lawyer who is best known for promoting the change of the town's name from Saugatuck to Westport. He lived in the house until his death in 1857. The house was sold in settling Swift's estate. During the period 1857-79 it had several owners and during part of the time was known as "Bayview."

In 1879 the Swift property was purchased by Julia Godillot. She was the daughter of a Westport grocery merchant, Levi Doves. Her husband, Alexis, Jr., had been born in France and was an importer of French foods. The Godillots increased the acreage of the estate and enlarged and modernized the house making it a showplace in the community. The grounds were elaborately landscaped and a cottage (in 1882), boat house, and stable-carriage house erected. The architectural firm of Palliser, Palliser & Co. of nearby Bridgeport, Connecticut, probably designed the late 19th century architectural improvements. The house is extraordinarily similar to a house design published as Design 34, Plate 34, in Palliser's American Cottage Homes and even the stable-carriage house resembles designs published in pattern books put out by this firm. Unfortunately little is known about Palliser, Palliser & Co which while in Bridgeport and then in New York City published numerous pattern books in the late 19th century.

In 1899 Julia Godillot died and left the house to her husband. Two years later he transferred it to his son, John, an attorney. John and his family were part-time residents there until 1920 when it was sold.

During the 1920's the house was converted into the "Riverbay Boarding House" by its owner, Mrs. Elizabeth M. J. Lyman. Subsequently about 1946, it was divided into apartments. In 1951 the Town of Westport purchased the property and uses it for offices. The boat house was moved from the estate in 1953. Recent landfill has moved the shoreline of the Saugatuck River away from the house.

# 9 MAJOR BIBLIOGRAPHICAL REFERENCES

See Continuation Sheet 3

Janet Durso, "Historian Describes Westport on a Bright Spring Day in 1890," Bridgeport Sunday Post, March 24, 1974.

Robert Gault, "The Godillot Place," typewritten transcript of speech given to Westport Historical Society in December 1973. In files of TRBrown.

Dorothea Malm, "History of Lyman-Godillot-Swift-Jesup Property, 60 and 65 Jesup Road, 1804- 1951," July, 1976. Typewritten report in Westport

# 10 GEOGRAPHICAL DATA

ACREAGE OF NOMINATED PROPERTY 3.12 acres

UTM REFERENCES

A 18 637670 4551400  
 ZONE EASTING NORTHING

B           
 ZONE EASTING NORTHING

VERBAL BOUNDARY DESCRIPTION

LIST ALL STATES AND COUNTIES FOR PROPERTIES OVERLAPPING STATE OR COUNTY BOUNDARIES

STATE	CODE	COUNTY	CODE
STATE	CODE	COUNTY	CODE

# 11 FORM PREPARED BY

NAME / TITLE

T. Robins Brown Consultant in Architectural History

ORGANIZATION

Connecticut Historical Commission

DATE

September 1976

STREET & NUMBER

59 South Prospect Street

TELEPHONE

203-566-3005

CITY OR TOWN

Hartford

STATE

Connecticut

# 12 STATE HISTORIC PRESERVATION OFFICER CERTIFICATION

THE EVALUATED SIGNIFICANCE OF THIS PROPERTY WITHIN THE STATE IS:

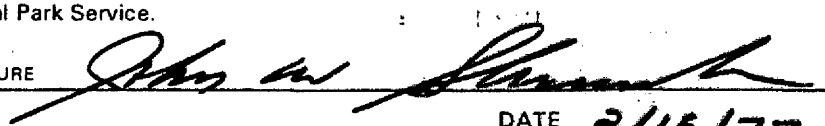
NATIONAL   

STATE   

LOCAL X

As the designated State Historic Preservation Officer for the National Historic Preservation Act of 1966 (Public Law 89-665), I hereby nominate this property for inclusion in the National Register and certify that it has been evaluated according to the criteria and procedures set forth by the National Park Service.

STATE HISTORIC PRESERVATION OFFICER SIGNATURE



TITLE

SHPO

DATE

2/16/77

FOR NPS USE ONLY

I HEREBY CERTIFY THAT THIS PROPERTY IS INCLUDED IN THE NATIONAL REGISTER

DATE

DIRECTOR, OFFICE OF ARCHEOLOGY AND HISTORIC PRESERVATION

ATTEST:

DATE

KEEPER OF THE NATIONAL REGISTER



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CONTINUATION SHEET 3                      ITEM NUMBER 9                      PAGE 4

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Godillot Place, Westport, Connecticut

9. Major Bibliographical References

Historical Society, Westport, Ct. and in files of TRBrown.  
Letter from Dorothea Malm, July 14, 1976. In files of TRBrown.  
Palliser, Palliser & Co., Palliser's American Cottage Homes, Bridge-  
port, Ct.: Palliser, Palliser & Co., 1878, plate 34.