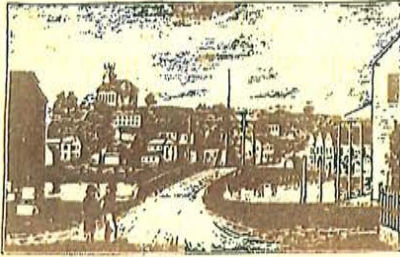


STUDY REPORT FOR  
PROPOSED HISTORIC PROPERTY DESIGNATION AT  
93 CROSS HIGHWAY  
APRIL 2011



Town of Westport  
Historic District Commission  
Prepared by HDC Study Committee  
(Research by Bob Weingarten and Property Owner Edward F. Gerber  
in collaboration with HDC Chairman Maggie Feczko, Vice Chairman Francis Henkels  
and HDC Staff Administrator Carol Leahy and  
edited by Consultant Tod Bryant, Architectural Historian)



## Westport Historic District Commission

Town Hall, Room 108

110 Myrtle Avenue

Westport, Connecticut 06880

April 13, 2011

State Historic Preservation Council  
Commission on Culture and Tourism  
Historic Preservation and Museum Division  
One Constitution Plaza, Second Floor  
Hartford, CT 06103

**RE: Proposed Historic Property Designation at 93 Cross Highway**

Dear Council Members:

In October 2010, a letter of request by the property owner was submitted to the Historic District Commission members to designate 93 Cross Highway as a local historic property.

At a public hearing on November 9, 2010, the Commission approved this property for study. The Commission supports this designation for the following reasons:

- The property owner supports the designation as a local historic property.
- The 2007 Westport Plan of Conservation and Development states that in order to maintain the town's historic character and qualities represented in its many significant buildings, structure, monuments, landscapes, cemeteries, public right of way, districts and sites, the Historic District Commission should propose, as appropriate, the establishment of additional local historic districts and local historic properties as defined by state statute.

The study report has been completed and, in accordance with CGS sec. 147(b), is being submitted to you for your comments and recommendations.

The following items are included for your review:

- Statement of significance
- A survey map of the proposed local historic property
- Site map and current photographs of the property
- Historic Property Inventory Form
- Town Ordinance with boundary description
- The letter of petition received from the property owner, and property owner contact information

Thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely,

Francis H. Henkels  
Acting Chairman, Historic District Commission

cc: Gordon F. Joseloff, First Selectman; Larry Bradley, Dir. of Planning and Zoning; Hadley Rose, RTM Moderator; Gail Kelly, Town Attorney; Patricia Strauss, Town Clerk; Steve Edwards, Dir. of Pub. Works

## 93 Cross Highway

### Sturges-Wright House c. 1764-1767

## Statement of Significance

### Description

The house at 93 Cross Highway is a two story saltbox, originally built by Eliphalet Sturges c. 1764-1767 in the Georgian style. It was later remodeled to its current saltbox form by George Hand Wright in the early 20<sup>th</sup> century. Wright was a renowned illustrator and a small, one story studio, which he converted from an old farm building, is also on the property.

### Setting

The house faces southeast on the north side of Cross Highway. It is on a 1.57 acre parcel and is set back approximately 45 feet from the road. The lot is bordered by mature deciduous trees along the road on the south side and mature evergreens on the east and part of the north edges of the property. A small studio, built in the early 20<sup>th</sup> century by the illustrator George Hand Wright is situated behind and to the west of the main house. A 20<sup>th</sup> century detached two car garage was added to the east side of the property behind a capped stone well, date unknown. The house is surrounded by residential properties, old and new, on large lots.

According to historian Dorothea Malm, the first property transfer relating to 93 Cross Highway was in 1764. Jeremiah Sturges, because of the "love, good will and affection" he bore for his son Eliphalet, gave him 15 acres of land in "part of Long Lott that is called old Barlows Lott." Then two and a half years later the same property identified as the "part of Barlows Long Lott" but with a "Dwelling House" was sold to Daniel Sherwood by Eliphalet. The reference in the deed to the "old Barlows Long Lott" is key to determining the location of the "Dwelling House" currently referred to as 93 Cross Highway.

The Barlow family did indeed participate in several of the Fairfield land grants including the Long Lott grants of 1670-71 recorded on December 30, 1681. But the specific location of each of the "Long Lotts" granted land was not accurately identified in the land grant documents until Fairfield created a committee in 1758 to legalize and document the owners and bounds of each lot granted.

The 1758 document listed ownership of all the "Long Lotts" grants by proximity. Malm superimposed the 1758 ownership record of the granted land onto a 1980 map of the Long Lots Road area. This technique showed that "old Barlows Long Lott" corresponded to the property now identified as 93 Cross Highway. See map in Appendix A and history of the Long Lotts grants in Appendix B.

### Architectural Description

#### **Exterior**

The house is a three bay, two story, Colonial saltbox with a central chimney. It is a wood frame structure on a rubble stone foundation. The house is sheathed in painted clapboard on the façade and brown- stained shingles on the other three sides. It has an asphalt roof. The windows are double

hung with nine-over-six sash. The central entrance is set with a tripartite frontispiece and a shed-roofed porch with Tuscan columns and benches. A square, flush-sided bay with pilasters opens to the west elevation. (Photos 1 and 2.)

This historic house has evolved over three centuries and it was not originally a saltbox. It is theorized by architectural historian Charles Brilvitch (who wrote a report on the house for the former owners in 1980) that the oldest part of the house is the two story western section which includes the main entrance and chimney stack. Construction details indicate that this section may have been built as early as the 17<sup>th</sup> century and then moved to the current site from another location. (Figure 1). This section of the house shows several features typical of first period construction, including an exposed gunstock post in the second floor chamber (Photo 3), massive timbers and an, " ...unusual cambered chimney girt with its ornamental hewn ends." Factoring in the land record (of the property transfer with a dwelling in 1767), sometime between 1764 and 1767, the older western portion of the house may have been relocated or rebuilt on the property, the eastern section of the house was added and a new roof built to create the basic Georgian form that underlies the current structure (Photo 1). The chimney stack may have been rebuilt at that time.



Fig. 1. Phase 1 Illustration by Charles Brilvitch

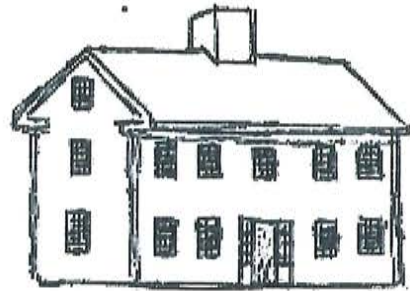


Fig. 2 . Phase 2 Illustration by Charles Brilvitch

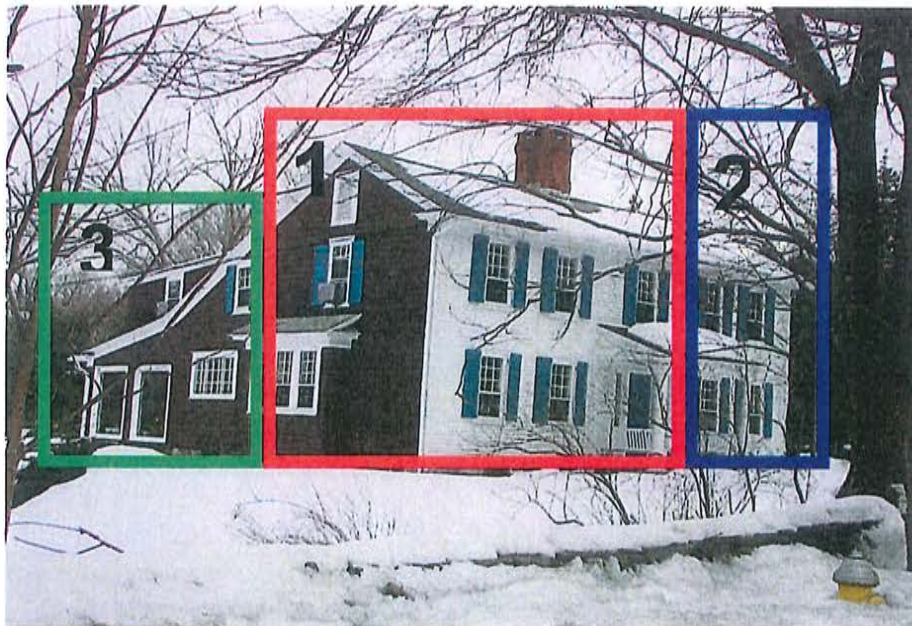


Photo 1: Three Phases of Evolution of Existing Structure (Including 20<sup>th</sup> Century Addition)



Photo 2. Northwest and west elevations, view south.



Photo 3. Gunstock post.

The third phase of construction took place in the early 20<sup>th</sup> century. A first floor kitchen, bedroom, bath and porch with two bedrooms and bath above on the second floor were added to the rear of the house with an extended roof changing the appearance of the house to a saltbox with a large shed dormer. (Photo 2.) The front portico with its Tuscan columns, typical of the Colonial Revival, was also added at this time (Photo 1).

## Interior

The house is a two story structure with a full unfinished basement. The attic is above the c. 1764-1767, 4 room/2 story structure (Photo 4). At first, the two rooms on the first floor were used as living space and a kitchen. There was a hearth in each room sharing a central fireplace stack. The Phase 2 house may also have retained the 17<sup>th</sup> century arrangement inside the front entry way, which would have included a narrow, winding staircase for access to the upstairs bedrooms.



Photo 4. Attic and interior roof structure.

George Hand Wright bought the house in its 18<sup>th</sup> century Georgian form, a simple four room home, in 1908. This era was the height of the early Colonial Revival period and he fully embraced that aesthetic in his work on the Sturges-Wright House. The staircase was later moved to the rear of the house. Along with the major structural changes already mentioned, he also added cabinetry, paneling and other details to the existing 18<sup>th</sup> century work. The changes were so well done that it is

sometimes impossible to distinguish the old work from the new without disassembling it. The effect is that of the home of a moderately well-to-do family in the late 18<sup>th</sup> century. (photo 5).



Photo 5. Parlor hearth and probable 20<sup>th</sup> century paneling.

### Eliphalet Sturges - Wright House - Historic Significance

The period of historic significance for the Sturges-Wright House at 93 Cross Highway is c. 1764 to 1951. This period stretches from the earliest probable date of construction through the time of George Hand Wright's Colonial Revival changes and his period of residence. This house is a remarkable record of 350 years of building styles and techniques. It illustrates how a house can continue to be a family home; can change with the times and still retain the look and feel of the past.

The Eliphalet Sturges-Wright House is also significant in African-American history. The last Sturges owner of the house, Peter W. Sturges, died in 1890 and his will provided for the distribution of his land and possessions, as well as some cash to family and friends. However, it also included the direction that before any other bequest be paid, but after payment of his debts, all his property should be given to, "...my faithful friend and housekeeper, Amelia Munroe, to her sole use during

the time of her natural life." Amelia was a black woman who cared for Peter after the death of his wife. This must have been an unusual bequest in the 19<sup>th</sup> century. The will was probably fully executed after her death in 1894.

The 1880 U.S. Census for Westport does not include addresses, but the census taker did complete the column headed, "Dwelling houses numbered in order of visitation." Peter W. Sturges, a white farmer, age 71, and Amelia Monroe, a black servant, age 73, are listed at number 126. We know that Peter W. Sturges lived at 93 Cross Highway in 1880, so it is reasonable to assume that number 126 refers to that house. Number 127 includes Henry Monroe, an 80 year old black farmer, and his 69 year old wife, Phoebe. The Henry and Lyzette Munroe House, the home of Amelia's brother, at 108 Cross Highway, has recently been included in the Connecticut Freedom Trail in recognition of Connecticut's African American ancestry.

## 20<sup>th</sup> Century - George Hand Wright

George Hand Wright (1873-1951) married in 1906 and moved to Westport from New York in 1908 to live with his new wife at 93 Cross Highway. He would eventually be known as the dean of Westport artists and the founding father of the art colony. His obituary in the *Westporter-Herald* on March 22, 1951 said of him: "During the 1920s he was ranked as the undisputed top illustrator in the nation."

Wright studied at the Pennsylvania Academy of Fine Arts along with such influential artists as John Sloan, Robert Henri and William Glackens. He began his career as a jewelry designer for top New York City firms, possibly including Tiffany, but soon switched to illustration. He was elected to the prestigious Salamagundi Club in 1893 and this event marked his acceptance into the elite of the New York art world. By 1899, at the age of 27, he was known as one of the best in his field and he sold illustrations to *Harper's*, *The Century* and *Scribner's*, *The Saturday Evening Post* and many others. He was in great demand and between 1900 and 1910 he illustrated fourteen novels in addition to his regular illustration work. By the 1920s, Wright began to do less commercial work and more fine art. He eventually switched almost entirely to watercolor painting and etching. He continued to work in these media throughout the 1930s and into the 1940s. He was so widely respected in the Westport art community, that he was considered its "elder statesman." Wright continued to live and work at the Sturges-Wright House until his death in 1951.

## Current Status

Edward F. Gerber, the current owner at 93 Cross Highway, purchased the property on April 1, 2010. However, the property was not new to him, since he acquired it from the estate of Constance Boylan, the widow of his godfather, Frank J. Boylan. Gerber spent his entire life exploring and studying the interior and exterior of the property and at an early age became concerned about its future preservation. Since purchasing the house, he has upgraded multiple systems, painted, plastered and refinished floors - always keeping in mind the age and history of the house. Additionally, with the guidance of the Westport Conservation Department, he has spent considerable time and energy returning the grounds to their former state. He was very pleased to find the original stone boundary walls hidden under many years of over growth, as well as the borders of the pond. Gerber is a major



collector of the work of artist George Hand Wright, his godfather's uncle and property owner at 93 Cross Highway from 1908 until his death in 1951. Wright's appropriate 20<sup>th</sup> century renovations are visible throughout the house. In 2008, Gerber published a study of Wright the artist entitled *George Hand Wright: An Artist's Life Examined*", which contains reproductions of several of Wright's renderings of the property. Once the property is designated a local historic landmark property, Gerber stated he "can rest easy because it will be preserved for generations to come."

## References

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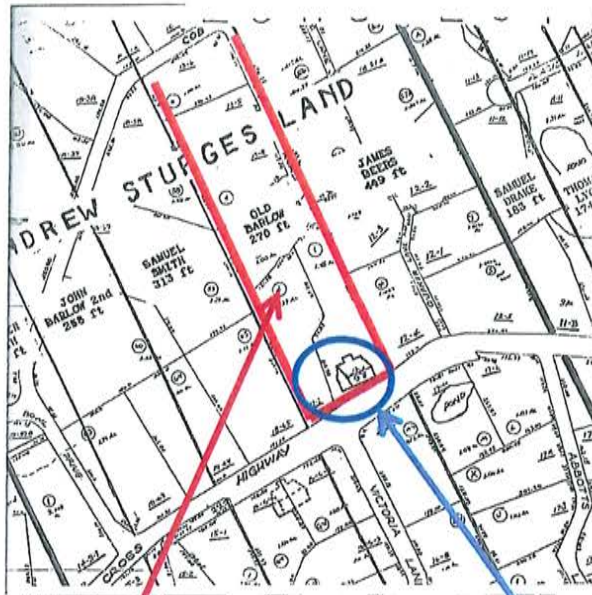
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Old Barlows Long Lott

93 Cross Highway  
House

Appendix A  
Long Lots Map - Dorothea Malm

## Appendix B

### Historical Significance of "Long Lotts"

A reference to the "old Barlows Long Lott" was documented in early deeds which appear to be the location of the property at the 93 Cross Highway. In order to confirm that the deeds were actually referring to this property, some examination of the history of Fairfield and its "Long Lotts" land grants to settlers in 1670-71 is necessary.

Fairfield was incorporated in 1639. In 1649 land was acquired by Fairfield from the Maxumux and Sasqua Indian tribes and then from the Pequannock Indians in 1656. All the land was owned by the Colony of Fairfield and a quit claim deed was subsequently written dealing with the acquired land from all the Indian tribes on March 20, 1660.

During this time period the settlers in Fairfield were concerned with what Charles II, the new English King, would do with the colony-owned undivided land. Afraid that the King would expropriate the land, Fairfield decided to distribute ("grant") the acquired land to its settlers in an attempt to make the land more secure.

Major land grants were proclaimed starting in January 1662 to 1669 with 320 acres located in the southeastern and southwestern parts of Fairfield. The land grants continued in 1669 with the distribution of 415 acres of land west of the Mill River and known as the Sasqua, deeded to 68 residents.

In 1670/71, the "Long Lotts" grant, a much larger land grant, was issued to 99 individuals and 2 institutions. The town established a Half Mile of Common from the Stratford line to Compo. On either side of this Mile Common the town created the "Long Lotts" which extended perpendicular to the Common from the Norwalk line to the Stratford line. These "Long Lotts" varied in width from 3 rods or 50 feet to 53 rods or 875 feet and extended for about 10 miles north with an average of about 490 acres. The total amount of land granted in 1670/71 was about 52,000 acres or approximately 81 square miles. The town granted these "Long Lotts" including home-lots and pastures for an average of 513 acres per individual.

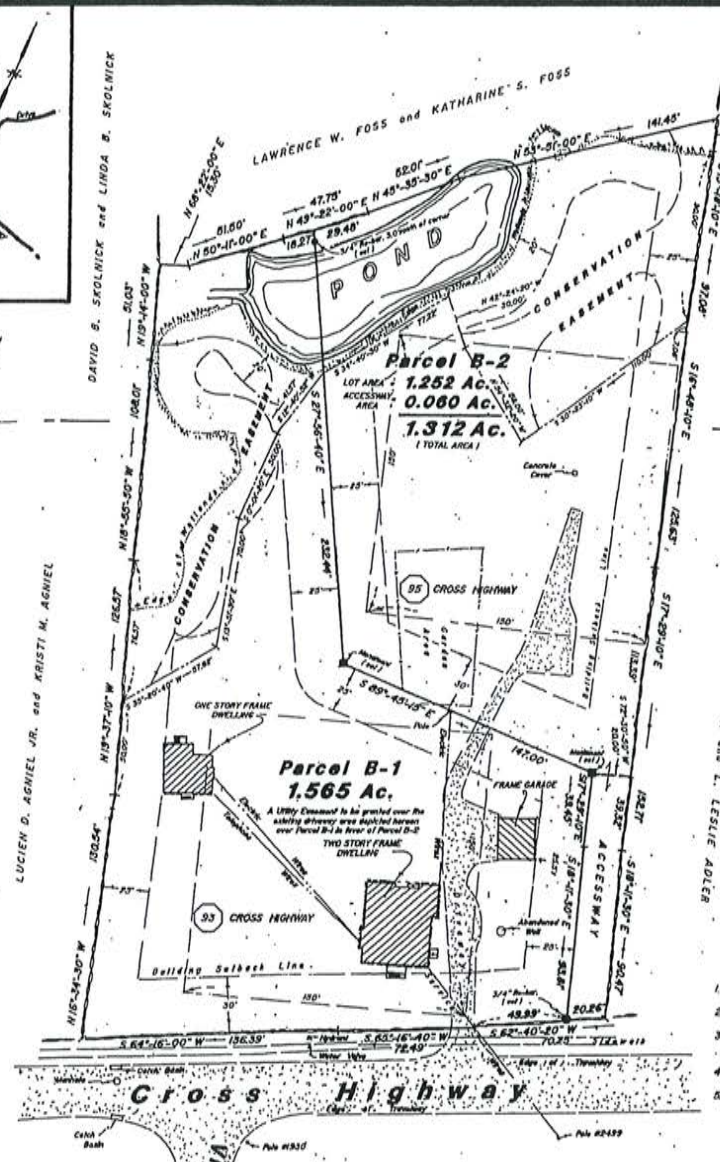
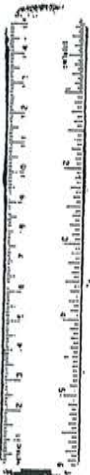
The land at 93 Cross Highway was granted in the 1670/71 "Long Lotts" distribution.



DRAWING  
 NO. 9234  
 PREPARED BY  
 LAWRENCE R. RIZZO  
 L.S. # 12060

9234

9234



1. EACH LOT CONTAINS A 150' x 150' SQUARE.
2. PREMISES SITUATED IN "AA" RESIDENCE ZONE.
3. EACH LOT TO BE SERVED BY PUBLIC WATER AND PRIVATE SEWAGE DISPOSAL FACILITIES.
4. SOLAR ACCESS HAS BEEN CONSIDERED.
5. PREMISES DESIGNATED AS TAX LOT 13-1 AND 13-2 ON SHEET 8320-2 ON THE WESTPORT ASSESSORS MAP.

9234

**RESUBDIVISION MAP**  
 PREPARED FOR  
**CONSTANCE BOYLAN**  
 WESTPORT, CONNECTICUT  
 AA RESIDENCE ZONE  
 AREA = 2.877 ACRES

1. ALL WORK APPROVED PURSUANT TO THIS SUBDIVISION SHALL BE COMPLETED WITHIN 5 YEARS OF THE DATE OF APPROVAL, BY APRIL 24, 2006.
2. ALL NEW UTILITIES SHALL BE PLACED UNDERGROUND.
3. THE CONSERVATION EASEMENT DEPICTED HEREON SHALL BE RETAINED IN ITS EXISTING STATE, EXCEPT FOR REMOVAL OF PORKSIVE TREES SUCH AS ORNAMENTAL INTERSTREET OR PORCH TREES, OR SELF-SOWN TREES, SUCH AS WILD CHERRY, THAT MIGHT INTERFERE WITH THE VIEW TO THE POND.
4. SUBJECT TO ELECTRIC AND/OR TELEPHONE COMPANY EASEMENTS, IF ANY, FOR OVERHEAD AND/OR UNDERGROUND SERVICES.
5. SUBSTRUCTURES AND/OR THEIR ENCROACHMENTS BELOW GRADE, IF ANY, NOT SHOWN.
6. WETLANDS WERE FIELD DESIGNATED BY ENVIRONMENTAL RESOURCE ASSOCIATES OF NEW CANAAN AND FIELD LOCATED BY R K W LAND SURVEYING, INC. IN 1994.
7. ALTERATIONS OF THIS MAP OTHER THAN BY A LICENSED LAND SURVEYOR IS ILLEGAL.
8. REFERENCE HEREBY MADE TO FILED MAPS 8537, 8538 ON FILE IN THE WESTPORT TOWN CLERK'S OFFICE.

LOT	AREA OF LOT	AREA OF WETLANDS ALONG LOT	AREA OF WETLANDS BY LOT	REMAINING AREA	AREA OF WETLANDS BY RECTANGLE C	AREA OF WETLANDS BY RECTANGLE D
B-1	6,871	3,260	6,320	36,631	0	0
B-2	34,637	15,413	2,770	36,402	2,810	0

ALL AREAS ARE IN SQUARE FEET.

APPROVED BY THE WESTPORT PLANNING AND ZONING COMMISSION  
*Chas. J. Tomasetto* 1/24/99  
 CHAIRMAN DATE  
 APPROVED BY THE WESTPORT HEALTH DISTRICT  
 DIRECTOR *James J. J. J.* 1/24/99  
 SUBDIVISION APPROVAL DATE 1/24/99  
 WORK COMPLETION DATE N/A  
 RECEIVED ON FILE IN THE WESTPORT TOWN CLERK'S OFFICE  
 AT 2:25 P.M. ON 1-23-99  
 BY *Margaret C. Ryan* TOWN CLERK  
 FILE NO. 9234

THIS MAP HAS BEEN PREPARED BY ACCORDANCE WITH THE "RECOMMENDED STANDARDS FOR SURVEYS AND MAPS IN THE STATE OF CONNECTICUT" AS ADOPTED FOR USE BY THE CONNECTICUT ASSOCIATION OF LAND SURVEYORS, INC. ON SEPT. 24, 1992.

TO THE BEST OF MY KNOWLEDGE AND BELIEF, THIS MAP IS SUBSTANTIALLY CORRECT AS NOTED HEREON, AND CONFORMS TO THE PRECISION OF A CLASS A-S SURVEY.

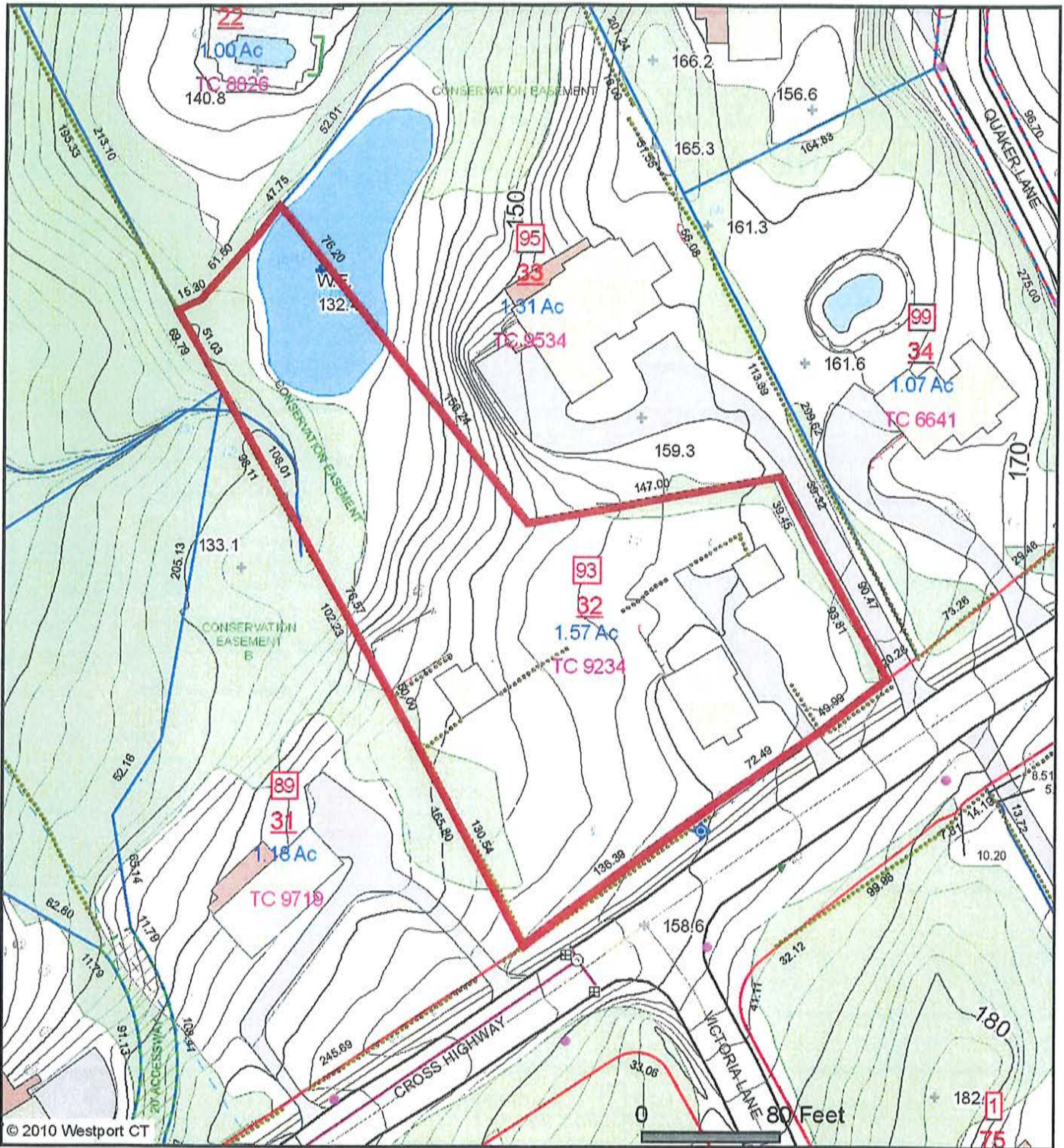
9234



**R K W LAND SURVEYING**  
 NEW CANAAN, CONNECTICUT  
 TEL. 203-966-3501

SURVEY DATED JANUARY 23, 1995  
 REVISED FEBRUARY 17, 1995  
 MARCH 5, 1995, MAY 7, 1997  
*Lawrence R. Rizzo* L.S. # 12060

SCALE: 1" = 40'



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## 93 CROSS HIGHWAY

This data is prepared for Westport, CT and is compiled from recorded deeds, plats, taxmaps, surveys, planimetric maps, and other public records and data. Users of this information are hereby notified that the aforementioned public primary information sources should be consulted for verification of the information contained on the map. Westport and its mapping contractors assume no legal responsibility for the information contained herein.



**URIC RESOURCES INVENTORY  
DING AND STRUCTURES**

REV. 6/83  
STATE OF CONNECTICUT  
**CONNECTICUT HISTORICAL COMMISSION**  
59 SOUTH PROSPECT STREET, HARTFORD, CONNECTICUT 06106  
(203) 566-3005

*FOR OFFICE USE ONLY*

Town No.: \_\_\_\_\_ Site No.: **115**

UTM: | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |

QUAD: \_\_\_\_\_

DISTRICT:  S  NR IF NR, SPECIFY:  Actual  Potential

1. BUILDING NAME (Common) \_\_\_\_\_ (Historic) \_\_\_\_\_  
Sturges-Wright House \_\_\_\_\_ Eliphalet Sturges House \_\_\_\_\_

2. TOWN, CITY \_\_\_\_\_ VILLAGE \_\_\_\_\_ COUNTY \_\_\_\_\_  
Westport \_\_\_\_\_ Fairfield \_\_\_\_\_

3. STREET AND NUMBER (and/or location) \_\_\_\_\_  
93 Cross Highway \_\_\_\_\_ 5320-2/13-1 \_\_\_\_\_

4. OWNER(S) \_\_\_\_\_  Public  Private  
Boylan, Frank & Constance \_\_\_\_\_

5. USE (Present) \_\_\_\_\_ (Historic) \_\_\_\_\_  
Residence \_\_\_\_\_ Residence \_\_\_\_\_

6. ACCESSIBILITY TO PUBLIC: EXTERIOR VISIBLE FROM PUBLIC ROAD  Yes  No INTERIOR ACCESSIBLE  Yes  No IF YES, EXPLAIN \_\_\_\_\_

7. STYLE OF BUILDING \_\_\_\_\_ DATE OF CONSTRUCTION \_\_\_\_\_  
Colonial/Colonial Revival \_\_\_\_\_ 1764-7, ca. 1912 \_\_\_\_\_

8. MATERIAL(S) (indicate use or location when appropriate)

Clapboard facade  Asbestos Siding  Brick  Other (Specify) \_\_\_\_\_  
 Wood Shingle Sides  Asphalt Siding  Fieldstone \_\_\_\_\_  
 Board & Batten  Stucco  Cobblestone \_\_\_\_\_  
 Aluminum Siding  Concrete Type: \_\_\_\_\_  Cut stone Type: \_\_\_\_\_

9. STRUCTURAL SYSTEM

Wood frame  Post and beam  balloon \_\_\_\_\_  
 Load bearing masonry  Structural iron or steel \_\_\_\_\_  
 Other (Specify) \_\_\_\_\_

10. ROOF (Type) \_\_\_\_\_ (Material) \_\_\_\_\_

Gable  Flat  Mansard  Monitor  sawtooth \_\_\_\_\_  
 Gambrel  Shed  Hip  Round  Other (Specify) \_\_\_\_\_  
 Wood Shingle  Roll Asphalt  Tin  Slate \_\_\_\_\_  
 Asphalt shingle  Built up  Tile  Other (Specify) \_\_\_\_\_

NUMBER OF STORIES: **2** APPROXIMATE DIMENSIONS: **34x41**

11. CONDITION (Structural) \_\_\_\_\_ (Exterior) \_\_\_\_\_  
 Excellent  Good  Fair  Deteriorated  Excellent  Good  Fair  Deteriorated

12. INTEGRITY (Location) \_\_\_\_\_ WHEN? \_\_\_\_\_ (Alterations) \_\_\_\_\_ IF YES, EXPLAIN \_\_\_\_\_  
 On original site  Moved  Yes  No

13. RELATED BUILDINGS OR LANDSCAPE FEATURES

Barn  Shed  Garage  Other landscape features or buildings (Specify) \_\_\_\_\_  
Carriage house  Shop  Garden \_\_\_\_\_  
studio

14. SURROUNDING ENVIRONMENT

Open land  Wood-land  Residential  Scattered buildings visible from site \_\_\_\_\_  
 Commercial  Indus-trial  Rural  High building density \_\_\_\_\_

15. INTERRELATIONSHIP OF BUILDING AND SURROUNDINGS  
House is set behind a fieldstone wall. Garden to rear and west. Contributes greatly to character of the street.

17. OTHER NOTABLE FEATURES OF BUILDING OR SITE (Interior and/or exterior)

The five-bay, central chimney, colonial saltbox is one of the most successful academic revival remodeling of a period house in Westport. Finished with a clapboarded facade and weathered shingled sides, the house was reworked ca. 1912. It was not originally a saltbox. Nine-over-twelve windows are used throughout and the overhanging eaves are boxed. The central entrance is set with a tripartite frontispiece and a shed-roofed porch with Tuscan columns and benches. A square, flush-sided bay with pilasters opens the west elevation. Of particular note is the unusual braced summer beam in the west chamber on the second level. The detail does not appear anywhere else in the house, suggesting that portions of the second level post and beam (see continuation sheet)

18. ARCHITECT

BUILDER

19. HISTORICAL OR ARCHITECTURAL IMPORTANCE

Jeremiah Sturges gave his son Eliphalet 15 acres of Old Barlow's Long Lott "a little west of my dwelling house (non-extant) by the first cross highway" in 1764, and Eliphalet built the house, apparently using some salvaged materials. 2 1/2 years later Eliphalet Sturges sold the house and 4 acres to Daniel Sherwood 4th (FLR 14:497, 16:230, 28:206). Andrew Sturges bought the property from Sherwood in 1796, and it remained in the family until 1900. In 1908 it was purchased by George Hand Wright (1873-1951), dean of the Westport artists and the founder of the art colony. Wright, a renowned illustrator, was the first artist to move to Westport, and at his encouragement, many others followed. Because of his friendly, helping nature, he was one of the most liked and respected of the many artists who resided in Westport. Wright lived permanently at the (see continuation sheet)

Westport Historical Society: House file.  
Adams Manuscript.  
Tarrant. A community of Artists.

PHOTOGRAPHER

Mary E. McCahon

DATE

May, 1988

VIEW

southeast

NEGATIVE ON FILE

CHC 6:11

NAME

Mary E. McCahon, Architectural Historian

DATE

June, 1988

ORGANIZATION

Westport Historic District Commission

ADDRESS

Town Hall Westport, Conn. 06880



SUBSEQUENT FIELD EVALUATIONS

THREATS TO BUILDING OR SITE

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

115

STATE OF CONNECTICUT  
 CONNECTICUT HISTORICAL COMMISSION  
 59 South Prospect Street, Hartford, Connecticut 06106  
 HISTORIC RESOURCES INVENTORY FORM  
 For Buildings and Structures

FOR OFFICE USE ONLY			
TOWN NO.:	SITE NO.:		
UTM: 18/	/	/	/
QUAD:			
DISTRICT:	S	NR:	ACTUAL POTENTIAL

CONTINUATION SHEET

Item number: \_\_\_\_\_ Date: \_\_\_\_\_

Item 17

93 Cross Highway

framing was salvaged from an earlier building. The dining room has an early 20th century Colonial Revival paneled dado. Ceiling joists are exposed on the first level and the west fireplace is set with a Federal style mantel.

Item 19

Cross Highway farm, which he greatly improved, until his death in 1951. His widow, Anne, bequeathed the property to their nephew, Frank Boylan, the current owner, in 1955 (124:171). Mrs. Boylan is a portrait painter.

The present appearance of the house dates to the Wright ownership. Originally a central chimney, 5-bay colonial with the traditional 5-room plan on the first floor, the house was enlarged by a leanto and subsequent rear additions. It was not originally a saltbox. The west chamber on the second level is framed with massive gunstock posts and braced beams that are most unusual. Their presence in only that chamber suggests that they are reused or salvaged. It is not customary for houses to have varied framing.



STATE OF CONNECTICUT

**CONNECTICUT HISTORICAL COMMISSION**  
59 South Prospect Street, Hartford, CT 06106

**HISTORIC RESOURCES INVENTORY FORM**  
For Buildings and Structures

**CONTINUATION SHEET**

Item number: \_\_\_\_\_

PAL, Pawtucket, RI 02860  
June 2000

**Address:** 93 Cross Highway

**Name:** Eliphalet Sturges/ George Hand  
Wright House

**NR District:**

**Local District:**

**Neg No.:** 2:17

**HRS ID No.:** 0215



**ARTICLE II**  
**SPECIFIC HISTORIC DISTRICTS AND LANDMARKS**

**38-24 Historic landmark properties**

The property and buildings at 93 Cross Highway, to be known as the Sturges-Wright House, situated in the Town of Westport, County of Fairfield and State of Connecticut being shown and designated as Parcel B-1 on a certain map entitled "Resubdivision Map Prepared for Constance Boylan, Westport, Connecticut" dated January 23, 1995, revised through January 5, 1998, prepared by RKW Land Surveying, which map is on file in the Westport Town Clerk's office as Map No. 9234.

Historic District Commission Chairman  
Ms Maggie Feczko  
Town hall  
Room 108  
110 Myrtle Avenue  
Westport, Connecticut  
06880

RECEIVED

OCT 12 2010

HISTORIC DISTRICT  
COMMISSION

October 11, 2010

Dear Ms Feczko,

When I purchased the Eliphalet Sturges/George H. Wright House (circa 1764) at 93 Cross Highway last spring, my reasons varied from an intense personal connection to the house to a strong desire to protect it in perpetuity. With this in mind, I would like to formally request that it be considered for acceptance as a Local Historic Landmark Property. I have accumulated considerable background on the property, which I will make available to you upon request.

I can be reached at 202-714-0155 (cell) or land line 203-293-4306 or e-mail [egerber161@gmail.com](mailto:egerber161@gmail.com)

I look forward to hearing from you.

With best regards



Edward F. Gerber

Ms Carol Leahy  
Historic District Commission  
Staff Administrator



93 Cross Highway  
"Westport House Files"  
Westport Historical Society