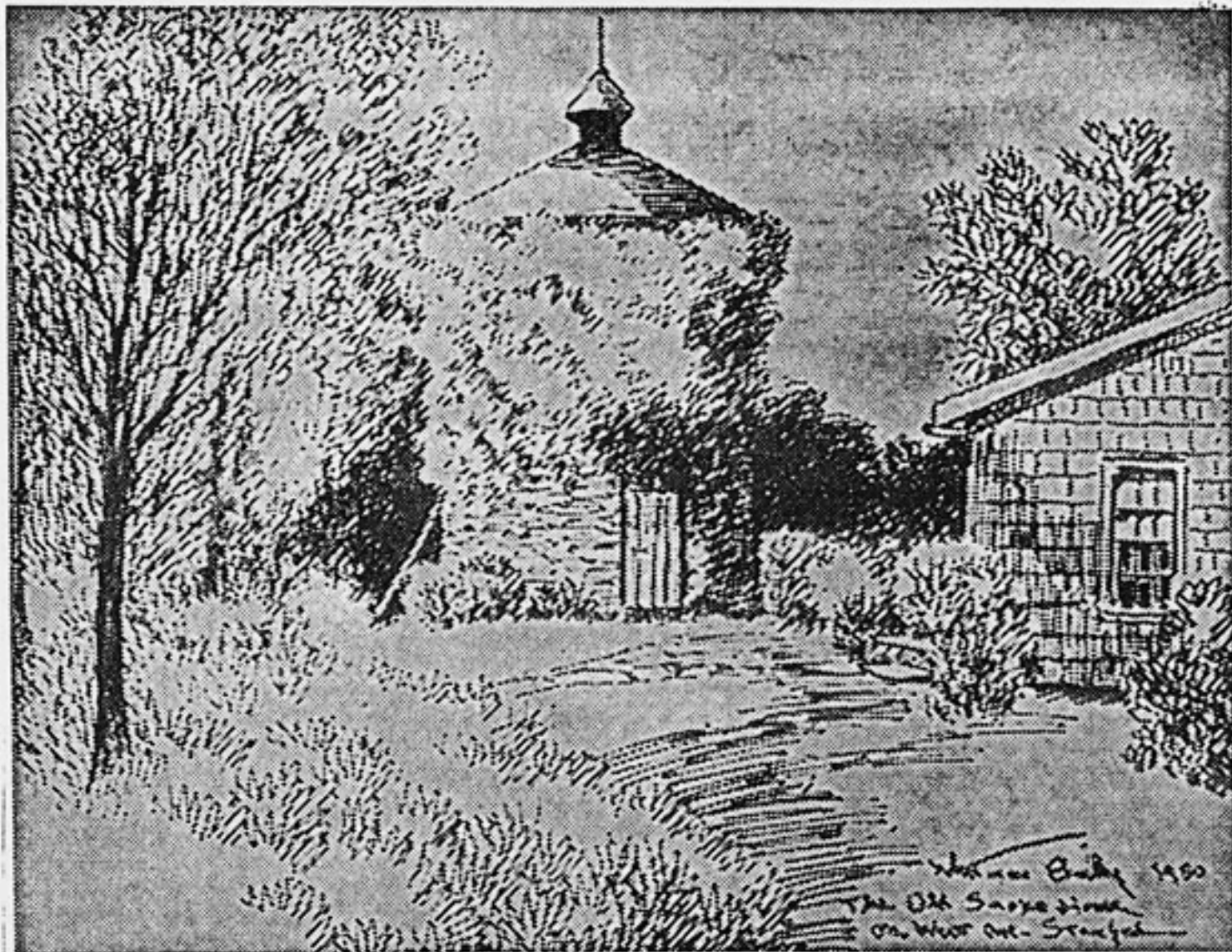


1848 Smoke House Still Stands On West Avenue



One of the most interesting buildings in Stamford today is the old circular smoke house on West Ave., built in 1848. It is of stone construction and its builder is said to have been Henry J. Selleck, a deaf mute and a carpenter by profession.

In those days almost all this territory bordering the present West Ave. was farm land, and West Ave. itself must have first been an original path which led into the Selleck farm. The story goes that not only did Selleck build his smoke house for his own use but also to help his neighbors who came to have beef and ham cured.

This curious landmark, when first no-

used by a stranger, could be taken for an old powder-house of the long ago. Indeed, it greatly resembles the famous Powder-House at Marblehead, Mass., except for its taller dimensions, and lack of a weather vane. It is quite possible, however, that the smoke house did have a weather vane when first built, as a portion of what appears to be one is still left.

Few people today know of this interesting structure because of its partly hidden location on private property. With permission, however, one may inspect it, and the old building is indeed worth seeing.

—Whitman Bailey.