

## HISTORIC RESOURCES INVENTORY - BUILDING AND STRUCTURES

Please send completed form to: 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) Cannon Store  
Building Name (Historic) Cannon Store  
Street Address or Location Lambert Corners, 150 Danbury Road  
Town/City Wilton Village \_\_\_\_\_ County Fairfield  
Owner(s) Wilton Historical Society ☐ Public ☒ Private

### PROPERTY INFORMATION

Present Use: Vacant  
Historic Use: General Store

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

Interior accessible? ☐ Yes ☒ No If yes, explain \_\_\_\_\_

Style of building Vernacular Date of Construction c.1790-1810

Material(s) (Indicate use or location when appropriate):

☒ Clapboard ☐ Asbestos Siding ☐ Brick ☐ Wood Shingle ☐ Asphalt Siding  
☐ Fieldstone ☐ Board & Batten ☐ Stucco ☐ Cobblestone ☐ Aluminum Siding  
☐ Concrete (Type \_\_\_\_\_) ☐ Cut Stone (Type \_\_\_\_\_) ☐ Other \_\_\_\_\_

### 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: 1 Approximate Dimensions \_\_\_\_\_

Structural Condition: ☒ Excellent ☐ Good ☐ Fair ☐ Deteriorated

Exterior Condition: ☐ Excellent ☒ Good ☐ Fair ☐ Deteriorated

Location Integrity: ☐ On original site ☒ Moved When? 1988

Alterations? ☐ Yes ☒ No If yes, explain: \_\_\_\_\_

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:

See continuation sheet.

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

See continuation sheet.

Architect N/A Builder N/A

- Historical or Architectural importance:

See continuation sheet.

- Sources:

See continuation sheet.

Photographer Mary E. McCahon Date 4/89

View west Negative on File CHC 2:20

Name Mary E. McCahon, Arch. Historian Date 5/89

Organization Wilton Historical Society

Address 249 Danbury Road, Wilton, CT 06897

- Subsequent field evaluations:

**Threats to the building or site:**

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

## HISTORIC RESOURCE INVENTORY – BUILDINGS AND STRUCTURES

### CONTINUATION SHEET Wilton

### Cannon Store, 150 Danbury Road,



Photograph Cannon Store, 150 Danbury Road. View west.

### Interrelationship of Buildings and Surroundings

The building is on skids awaiting relocation to Lambert Corners.

### Other Notable Features or Buildings on the Site

The simply detailed gable-ended store is three days wide and seven days long. It is framed with massive side posts and transverse beings. The original exterior sheathing is not known for certain, but it is believed that it may well have been plank siding. A staircase to the upper level was located to the right of the double-leaf, plank entrance doors, and the front six-over-six windows we're closed by shutters operated by rods that were secured on the interior. Contractor Walter R.T. Smith observed that the same arrangement was used on the Comstock store at 418 Ridgefield Rd. The side windows appear to be later replacements, and the center window on the rear elevation replaces an original door. The upper level is plastered. A stove located on the main level was fitted into a chimney that rests on a bearing stone with a chiseled, circular opening on the floor of the second

## HISTORIC RESOURCE INVENTORY – BUILDINGS AND STRUCTURES

### CONTINUATION SHEET Wilton

### Cannon Store, 150 Danbury Road,

level. The interior walls have horizontal flush paneling. The building is a rare and interesting example of late-18 or early 19<sup>th</sup>-century framing.

#### Historical and Architectural Importance

The exact date of the construction of the Cannon store is not known, but stylistic evidence suggests that it dates to circa 1800. The store was established in the late 1780s by John Cannon (1752-1802), but its exact location is not known. As early as 1790 Cannon was advertising in the Danbury Farmer. After John Cannon's death, the business was continued by his son George who either moved or built to store on the east side of Danbury Road near the current intersection with Cannon Road. George Cannon, who died in 1829, left the store to his oldest child, Mary Esther Cannon Jones (Mrs. Hiram). Account books in the possession of Mr. and Mrs. Trygve Hansen, who have donated the building to the Wilton Historical Society for relocation at Lambert Corners, show that the store was doing a good business from 1844 through 1859. Although the store was owned by Mary Jones, it appears that it was, in fact, operated by Charles Cannon, brother of Mary and son of George Cannon. Gilbert & Bennett Manufacturing Company issued coupons to its employees, which were redeemable at the Cannon store, which sold everything from staples to yard goods and produce. The store served the local community and was not a regional draw. For some reason, the store ceased operations by 1860. Seven stores were listed in the 1867 Wilton Grand List, but none of the entries show a Cannon operating one. Charles Cannon had moved on to other businesses including the manufacture of garments, a common, mid-19<sup>th</sup>-century industry in Wilton, contracting for the Danbury and Norwalk Railroad, and farming.

The store passed to the Millers who inherited the former Cannon property through marriage (Samuel J. Miller married Charles Cannon's daughter Esther). It was moved again and attached to a barn located behind the David Henry Miller III House at 426 Danbury Rd. At some point around the turn-of-the-century it was resided with novelty siding and windows were added to the second level. Despite these alterations, the building survives as the most complete of the 19<sup>th</sup>-century stores in Wilton and as a very important example of both a building and a business type that are representative of the lifestyle in rural Wilton.

#### Sources

Wilton Historical Society. Cannondale A Connecticut Neighborhood. 1987.  
Smith, Walter. Interview, 7/89