

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) St. John-Rosendahl House
Building Name (Historic) St. John House
Street Address or Location 1 Church Street 11/15
Town/City Wilton Village _____ County Fairfield
Owner(s) Scher, Bradley M. ☐ Public ☒ Private

PROPERTY INFORMATION

Present Use: Residence
Historic Use: Residence

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

Interior accessible? ☐ Yes ☒ No If yes, explain _____

Style of building Italianate Date of Construction c. 1860

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: 2 Approximate Dimensions 34 x 27 plus ells

Structural Condition: ☒ Excellent ☐ Good ☐ Fair ☐ Deteriorated

Exterior Condition: ☐ Excellent ☐ Good ☐ Fair ☐ Deteriorated

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

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 east Negative on File CHC 9:21

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 _____

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CONTINUATION SHEET

1 Church Street, Wilton



Photograph 1 Church Street. View east.

Interrelationship of Buildings and Surroundings

The house is located on the southwest corner of busy Route 107 and Church Street in Georgetown center.

Other Notable Features or Buildings on the Site

The superbly detailed and well-preserved Italianate house has a three-bay, gable-ended section with a recessed, one-and-one-half-story gabled ell to the south. The main block has bracketed overhanging eaves and a cornice return on the gable end. The frieze is pierced by oval frieze windows, and the gable end is filled with a coupled, circular-headed window. It is not certain if the veranda originally extended across the entire front of the house, but its present configuration with an arched frieze porch at the entrance appears to be correct. It is set with chamfered, Italianate posts. Double-leaf doors with a small transom above fill the offset entrance bay. The ell is sheltered by a full-length veranda of corresponding styling, and its gable end has a Gothic barge

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CONTINUATION SHEET

1 Church Street, Wilton

board. Full-length windows are used on the first level and four-over-four sash fill the upper level and second elevations. A 19th century barn survives to the rear of the house and a new barn/workshop is located to the south of the house. The property contributes greatly to the historic character of Georgetown.

Historical and Architectural Importance

The well-preserved, Italianate house may have been the homestead of John St. John. Little is known about the Georgetown St. Johns, but their houses ranked among the architecturally most significant in the village, suggesting that they were people of influence and means. John St. John was a founding member of the Methodist protestant church and was active in the Georgetown Anti-Slavery Society, serving as treasurer in 1838. The house passed from John and Hiram St. John to Samuel St. John in 1865 (14:552), and in 1908, it was owned by Charles W. Caldwell. He sold it to Charles and Hilda Rosendahl in 1908, and it remained in the Rosendahl family until 1968. George Malinsky owned it from 1968 until 1984 when it was purchased by the current owners. Local tradition states that the south ell was added as a mother-in-law wing, but it appears to be an integral part of the original design and is most likely original. Stylistically the house dates to the 1860s, and with the Hiram St. John house at 49 Church St., are the best local examples of the Italianate style.

John O., Hiram and Samuel were brothers. Their father was Noah St. John who was born in 1782 on the family homestead in the Belden Hill area. He was a stonemason by profession. Samuel was trained as a minister, and he also worked in his brother's store and Georgetown in 1850. He was apparently ordained in the Methodist Protestant sect, in which the family was active, but he later returned to the Congregational persuasion. He died in 1892 in Georgetown.

Sources

Beers. Commemorative Biographical Review of Fairfield County. 1890.
Wilton Land Records.