

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) Wilton Railroad Station
Building Name (Historic) same
Street Address or Location 146 Danbury Road
Town/City Wilton Village _____ County Fairfield
Owner(s) Wilton Historical Society ☐ Public ☒ Private

PROPERTY INFORMATION

Present Use: offices
Historic Use: railroad station

Accessibility to public: Exterior visible from public road? ☒ Yes ☐ No
Interior accessible? ☒ Yes ☐ No If yes, explain during business hours
Style of building Carpenter Gothic Date of Construction 1852, 1978

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? 1978

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 northwest Negative on File CHC 3:17

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

146 Danbury Road, Wilton



Photograph 146 Danbury Road. View northwest.

Interrelationship of Buildings and Surroundings

The building is located on the grounds of the Lambert Corner, which have become a collection of endangered structures moved and conserved.

Other Notable Features or Buildings on the Site

The board-and-batten sided, gable-roofed structure with cross gables on both elevations was dismantled and moved to the present site in 1978 and restored to its original appearance. Built in 1852, it was remodeled in 1892. The overhanging eaves are set with brackets and the six-over-six windows have drip moldings. The waiting room portion of the building was finished but the freight house, serviced by diagonally paneled doors was originally left with the framing exposed. The paint scheme is based on physical evidence of the original. Most of the fabric dates to 1978 as the building was severely deteriorated before it was moved.

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CONTINUATION SHEET

146 Danbury Road, Wilton

Historical and Architectural Importance

The Wilton train station, originally located on the west side of the tracks in Wilton Center, was moved to Lambert Corner in 1978 and restored by noted local contractor Walter R. T. Smith for the Wilton Historical Society. It is now used for office space. The Danbury and Norwalk Railroad chartered in 1850 and completed as a single tack line in 1852, was a local short line that linked Danbury, the hat-manufacturing center of the country, with Wilson's Point in South Norwalk and the main line to New York City. The station, restored to its original appearance, apparently dates to 1852, but it was remodeled in 1892 after the New York, New Haven & Hartford Railroad leased the Danbury and Norwalk line. Today the historic right-of-way, still only a single-track line, is operated by the State of Connecticut as part of its Metro North service to Grand Central Station in New York.

The Wilton Center station has been moved twice. In 1940 the state constructed the steel viaduct on Ridgefield Road, which isolated the existing station from the center. A new station was built, and the old station was moved by Charles Dana to his property (now Merwin Park) and converted into a guesthouse complete with a central chimney. Dana left the property to the Norwalk Hospital, and the Town of Wilton purchased it from them. The former station, isolated and unused, was being vandalized, so the Wilton Historical Society undertook the project to move the building to Lambert Corners where it became part of Wilton Historic District #1. The building was little more than a shell when it was dismantled and moved. The restoration was based on physical evidence discovered when the structure was taken apart. It appears today as it did between 1852 and 1892. The windows, doors, board-and-batten siding, cross gables, and drip moldings date to the 1978 restoration.

Sources

Smith, Walter. Interview, 3/89.

Turner, Gregg. Connecticut Railroads. 1985.