

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) Lambert House
Building Name (Historic) Lambert House
Street Address or Location 150 Danbury Road
Town/City Wilton Village _____ County Fairfield
Owner(s) Wilton Historical Society, Inc. ☐ Public ☒ Private

PROPERTY INFORMATION

Present Use: Residence / Commercial
Historic Use: Residence

Accessibility to public: Exterior visible from public road? ☒ Yes ☐ No
Interior accessible? ☒ Yes ☐ No If yes, explain during business hours
Style of building Colonial / Federal / Colonial Revival Date of Construction early 18th Cen.

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: 3 Approximate Dimensions 38 x 33 + 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: Endangered buildings moved to grounds to create a heritage park known as Lambert Corners

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 3:15

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

150 Danbury Road, Wilton



Photograph 150 Danbury Road – Lambert House. View west.

Interrelationship of Buildings and Surroundings

The house, which originally sat on generous, casually landscaped grounds, is the focal point in a cluster of historic buildings at a major intersection.

Other Notable Features or Buildings on the Site

Few houses in Wilton are as architecturally curious as the large, five-bay, two-story, central chimney dwelling that was reworked in the Federal style. Local tradition holds that the house was built in 1724, but the height of the ceilings and spacing of the fenestration suggests that the house dates to the last quarter of the 18th century. There is no evidence to suggest that the house incorporates an earlier cape. The central chimney is set on a massive stone base that is larger than the chimneys themselves and it is also set with the steps to the basement. The massive framing members are exposed in the northern chamber on the second level, but the members on the first level have either been enclosed in the walls in the north chamber and boxed in the south chamber. Twelve-over-twelve windows are used throughout the original portion of the house, and they appear to be original, a significant feature. The central entrance is sheltered by a pedimented Tuscan-columned porch that is matched by side verandas, also with Tuscan columns. The side

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CONTINUATION SHEET

150 Danbury Road, Wilton

porches are among the earlier in the region. The floor itself is six-panel and it is surrounded by a frontispiece with Federal moldings. The same frontispiece is used on the north door. The interior is arranged on the traditional, five-room plan, and most of the woodwork is original or added ca. 1810. The earlier addition is the kitchen wing to the south, and in 1828, the corresponding north wing was added. The gambrel roof with gabled dormers was added ca. 1880 when the house was used as an academy. The garage wing was added in the 1940s.

Historical and Architectural Importance

Often regarded as the oldest house in Wilton, the Lambert House, is the dominant element in the Wilton Historical Society's Lambert Corner, a collection of historic buildings that have been moved to the site. It is easily the most important early house in Wilton, but its exact date of construction is not certain. The front portion of the house appears to have been constructed at one time, and it does not appear to be as early as 1724, the traditionally held date of construction.

David Lambert I, one of the founders of Wilton, came from Norwalk in 1722. He was a licensed taverner from 1749-56. After his death, the south half of the house "with a new room" passed to his son David II (1729-1815) who married Susanna Rogers in 1769. He was a 1761 graduate of Yale. Their son David Rogers was raised by his uncle Nehemiah Rogers who moved to Canada during the Revolution. After the war, he entered the mercantile business with his uncle in 1792 in New York City. The commission merchant's business, styled Lambert & Brothers, was very successful, and 28 volumes of its records from 1810-1829 are preserved in the Baker Library at Harvard University. The family lived with David in New York and used the old family homestead in Wilton as a summer home. In 1825 David Rogers Lambert was killed in New York City and the business failed shortly thereafter. In 1828, David's brother and business partner Samuel Fitch Lambert moved back to Wilton. In 1828 the south wing of the house was added for this sister Lurania. The house passed to Samuels' son David S. R. Lambert. He operated a private academy in the house in the 1880s. It was enlarged with the addition of the third floor to accommodate the students. Professor Lambert was killed in 1897, and the house passed to his widow, Eva Ogden Lambert who lived until 1924. It was purchased by Ruth and Royal Kellogg in 1931, and she named it Lilacstead. In addition to refreshing the house, which had fallen into deteriorated condition, Miss Kellogg added the rear garage wing. Miss Kellogg sold the house to the historical society in 1963, and the house and ground were designated as Wilton's first local historic district.

Architecturally the house is one of the most fascinating in Wilton with its interesting interior woodwork and handsome Federal additions that reflect the original family's period of prosperity.

Sources

Wilton Historical Society. House File. Lambert Papers.
Smith, Walter R.T. Interview, 6/89.