

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) Sturges - Blackmar House
Building Name (Historic) Betts - Sturges House
Street Address or Location 224 Danbury Road
Town/City Wilton Village _____ County Fairfield
Owner(s) Dana Blackmar, III Estate, Stylvia Neumann, Trustee ☐ 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 Colonial/Colonial Revival Date of Construction circa 1785

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 38 x 83

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: Cottage

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 Southwest Negative on File CTSHPO 1:17

Name Mary E. McCahon 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

224 Danbury Road, Wilton



Interrelationship of Buildings and Surroundings

The building is one of the many early houses that line Danbury Road.

Other Notable Features or Buildings on the Site

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The central chimney, five-bay, Colonial dwelling has been extensively reworked in the Colonial Revival style beginning in the 1920s. It is known that there were late-19th century, “improvements” made to the house, but they were removed this century. Nine-over-nine sash are used throughout and are coupled on the gable ends. The barge board and eave detail appear to be 20th century. The house has been extended to the rear with a two-story wing of corresponding design in this century. An apartment was located in the rear ell. The house was apparently originally constructed as a two-room, up-and-down dwelling which was later extended by a kitchen ell across the back. The framing is original, but most of the interior paneling was added by the current owner in the 1960s.

Historical and Architectural Importance

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224 Danbury Road, Wilton

Since the house has been extensively reworked in the Colonial Revival style, it is not possible to assign an accurate date of construction. It is 18th century, but a curious entry in the 1782 inventory of Elias Betts, the son of James Betts who is reputed to have built the house ca. 1730 refers to "21 acres on which an old house stands." It was common for ancient houses to be replaced by newer dwellings, or be completely reworked in a more commodious form, so it is quite possible that the present dwelling was erected by Isaiah and Elisha Betts who inherited the property from their father's estate in 1785. In 1833 the house passed out of the Betts family to Ezekiel Sturges. It descended through the Sturges family, passing from Ezekiel to his daughter Catherine and then to her niece Sarah Davenport. The house was reworked in the Victorian-era, picturesque mode, but all of the late-19th century "improvements" were removed by the host of owners who succeeded Mrs. Davenport after 1910. The practice of stripping an 18th century house of all evidence of 19th century additions and returning the structure to an idealized and comfortable interpretation of the 18th century was common in Wilton, and in fact all of New England in the post-World War I era. The house, which stood on a 72-acre parcel was sold to Edward Eakland in 1920, Edward Godfrey in 1927, Henry Mountain in 1928, and Victor Hammer in 1954 (31:104, 38:342, 37:422, 66:62). Much of the work on the house was done by Victor Hammer's daughter Nancy Tafel who occupied the house her father owned. Dana Blackmar purchased the house in 1965 and he, like the Mountains, used it as both a residence and antique shop. Mr. Dana added the interior paneling, fireplace in the north chamber on the second level, and in general made the house more authentically colonial in appearance. The house has been extended to the rear at least twice. The first wing was added about 1954 by the Hammers and Tafels. The guest house was also rehabilitated in 1954.

Sources

Wilton Historical Society: House File.

Merwin, Gertrude. Interview, 5/89.

Blackmar, Mrs. Interview, 7/89.