DECD
State of Connecticut
Department of Economic and Community Development

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 House

Building Name (Historic) Mary Cannon Jones House

Street Address or Location 436 Danbury Road

Town/City Wilton Village _____ County Fairfield

Owner(s) Paul, John D. ○ Public ● Private

PROPERTY INFORMATION

Present Use: Retail

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 Greek Revival Date of Construction ca. 1835

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 28 x 27 + 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: 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 _____ Negative on File CTSHPO

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 _____

Photograph 436 Danbury Road. View

Interrelationship of Buildings and Surroundings

Although this house and carriage barn to the southeast have been converted to commercial use, as have surrounding structures, the area retains its original character.

Other Notable Features or Buildings on the Site

The gable-ended, three-bay, Greek-Revival house, which has been enlarged several times, ranks as one of the architecturally most interesting dwellings in town owing to the survival of the many additions. The house is the only local example of an applied portico with a handsome Ionic portico with a full entablature. It frames a Grecian entrance door and pilastered frontispiece. The transom and sidelights are leaded, unlike most Greek houses, the gable is not pedimented and is set with a lunette window. The house has been enlarged several times. A large, two-story ell with shingled gable ends was added to the rear of the original portion of the house and to it was attached an earlier, simply detailed, gable, two-story building, reportedly built as a small house the west side of the rear addition is sheltered by a Doric verandah. The interior reflects both the original Greek

Revival and the later Colonial Revival mode. Of particular note is the detailing of the front parlor and stair hall with reeded surrounds and friezes and the original staircase. The rooms are generously proportioned than most other Grecian dwellings in Wilton. In addition to the architecturally significant house is a superb, picturesque detailed carriage barn which has commercial use that are as respectfully handled as this site do much to retain the original character of the property and community while meeting modern use and economic requirements.

Historical and Architectural Importance

When George Cannon died in 1829, 3 ¾ acres of the "store lot" at the southeast of Danbury Road and Cannon Road went to his eldest daughter, Mary Esther (Norwalk Probate Records 5:40). This lot contained the store (extant, but relocated), a carriage house and a hours shed. The remaining six acres of the store lot south of Mary Esther's lot along Danbury Road went to their mother, Betsy Cannon. George and Betsy with their four minor children and her mother had lived across the road in a house set on 10 acres which Betsy received us of for life (Norwalk Probate Records 4:296) in George's will.
Mary Esther Cannon married Hiram Jones in 1830 (Wilton Vital Statistics) and proceeded to build a family which numbered five by the time of the 1840 census. Hiram had, evidently, been associated with George in the operation of the store, since he owned half of the inventory at the time of George's death (Norwalk Probate Records 4:309). Since the Jones family is shown in the census as a separate entity, it is evident that a second house was in existence in 1840. The 436 Danbury Road house is shown on the 1855 map annotated "M. E. Jones". Hiram had died in 1843 (Norwalk Probate Records 6:311). On the 1867 map the house is labeled "Mrs. Johns", undoubtedly "Jones". From the above, it may be concluded that the new house was built sometime between the Probate of George's will in 1830 and the taking of the 1840 census, roughly, then 1835.

This house became the homestead of succeeding Cannon-Miller generations, passing to Mary Esther's brother, Charles Cannon in 1878 (19:404), his daughter, Esther Allee Cannon Miller in 1893 (20:377), her husband, Samuel J. Miller, son of David Henry I and himself, President of Gilbert & Bennett from 1915 to 1936, and then his children, D. Henry Miller and Mary C. Ambler in 1925 (37:534), and D. Henry's daughter, Esther Miller Allen in 1956 (68:284, 68:434, 68:454). D. Henry Miller, known as Henry, succeeded his deceased father as President of Gilbert & Bennett, serving. ADDITIONAL PAGE MISSING

Sources

Norwalk Land Records, Wilton Land Records, Wilton Vital Statistics

Wilton Historical Society, Cannondale, A Connecticut Neighborhood.