

## 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) Davenport House  
Building Name (Historic) Deodate DavenportHouse  
Street Address or Location 108 Ridgefield Road  
Town/City Wilton Village \_\_\_\_\_ County Fairfield  
Owner(s) Finnie, Linda W. ☐ 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 Date of Construction circa 1791

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 36 x 38 + 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: 2 garages

**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 1:13

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 \_\_\_\_\_

## HISTORIC RESOURCE INVENTORY – BUILDINGS AND STRUCTURES

### CONTINUATION SHEET 108 Ridgefield Road, Wilton



Photograph 108 Ridgefield Road View Southwest

#### **Interrelationship of Buildings and Surroundings**

The house is oriented to the south rather than the road.

#### **Other Notable Features or Buildings on the Site**

The handsome and well proportioned, five-bay, central chimney dwelling is an excellent example of late 18<sup>th</sup> century domestic architecture. More generously proportioned and finished with larger window openings than earlier houses, it perpetuates the central chimney, five-room plan and the flush eave detail that dominated the century. Twelve-over-twelve windows are used throughout and the central entrance is accented by a Colonial Revival frontispiece with a denticulated cornice which has also been added to the façade eave. The house is oriented to the south rather than the

## HISTORIC RESOURCE INVENTORY – BUILDINGS AND STRUCTURES

### CONTINUATION SHEET

#### 108 Ridgefield Road, Wilton

road, a common 18<sup>th</sup> century custom, and has a lean-to addition on the rear. It is not known if the house was remodeled in the 19<sup>th</sup> century, but if it was, all evidence of picturesque improvements have been removed. The house, now shingled, was originally clapboarded.

#### Historical and Architectural Importance

The Davenport House appears to be one of the most complete colonial- style houses in Wilton. Built circa 1791 by Deodate Davenport, who also constructed and operated a nearby mulling mill, powered by the Norwalk River, and a dye house. The house and mill passed to his son Nathan (died 1817). It then passed to Nathan's widow, Mary, and their son James S. Davenport, born in 1811 (Norwalk Probate 3:195). In 1938 John A. Davenport conveyed "two acres, being a portion of the estate of James S. Davenport and known as the Davenport homestead" to Harry and Estella Davenport, and they sold to James and Emily Farr in 1941 (47:493, 49:399). The Farris retained ownership until 1973. It is believed that the Farris added the Colonial Revival frontispiece at the central entrance and the denticulated cornice. Early homes were often oriented to the south rather than to the road. The house contributes greatly to the historic character of Wilton Center. The east wing is made of a barn moved to the site by the Farris. The house is part of Wilton Historic District #2.

#### Source

Wilton Land Records. Wilton Historical Society: 18<sup>th</sup> Century Houses of Wilton, 1976. Norwalk Probate Records. Smith, Walter. Interview 4/89.