## GENERAL INFORMATION

Building Name (Common) **Davenport House**

Building Name (Historic) **Deodate Davenport House**

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.

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
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 18th 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
CONTINUATION SHEET

108 Ridgefield Road, Wilton

road, a common 18th century custom, and has a lean-to addition on the rear. It is not known if the house was remodeled in the 19th 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 Fars retained ownership until 1973. It is believed that the Fars 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 Fars. The house is part of Wilton Historic District #2.

Source