

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) Hiram St. John-Jennings House
Building Name (Historic) Hiram St. John House
Street Address or Location 49 Church Street 12/92
Town/City Wilton Village _____ County Fairfield
Owner(s) Quellette, Eileen M, & Roger M. ☐ 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 Italianate Date of Construction c.1870

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 32 x 36 + 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: _____

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 southeast Negative on File CHC 9:25

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 _____

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49 Church Street, Wilton



Photograph 49 Church Street. View southeast.

Interrelationship of Buildings and Surroundings

The suburban Villa sits small want on a residential street in Georgetown Center. Originally on a larger lot.

Other Notable Features or Buildings on the Site

The superb, shallow hip-roofed, three-bay Italianate house arranged on the central hall plan ranks as one of the finest 19th-century dwellings in all of Wilton. Boldly proportioned and chastely detailed, the house has coupled brackets under the overhanging eaves and a frieze panel pierced by clipped corner, oval windows. A belvedere with the same eave detail crowns the roof. The central bay is emphasized on the second level by a pedimented frontispiece at the two-over-two window which a large door with large oval panels with bead and spool moldings. It is flanked by sidelights and a transom in a simple frame with a molded back band. Full-length casement windows provide access to the full façade, flat-roofed veranda set with distinctive posts with stylized capitals. They're reminiscent of Henry Austin's work in New Haven. The posts are on pedestals with

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49 Church Street, Wilton

applied panels and rosette decoration. The veranda foundation enclosures are flat, sawn millwork. A large, rear service ell is sent to the rear of the main block. Two-over-two windows are used through the extremely gracious and well-preserved house. The Italianate style is well represented in Westport, but this is one of two known examples of the suburban villa house form in Wilton.

Historical and Architectural Importance

Hiram St. John, the builder of the architecturally most significant house in the Wilton portion of Georgetown, was the son of Noah St. John of the Belden Hill area of Wilton. His brothers were John O. and Samuel St. John. The source of the family wealth was not discovered, but it is obvious that the St. Johns were influential people of means. They do not seem to have been associated with the Gilbert & Bennett Company, and there is documentation to suggest that they were successful merchants in Georgetown. Hiram was active in both the Georgetown Antislavery Society and was a member of the Methodist Protestant Church located across West Church Street from the house. His brother Samuel was originally a minister in the sect. The house dates to ca. 1870, and it is the finest local example of the Italianate style. It stands in remarkably complete condition. The house passed from Hiram to his widow, Mary, and then to Lillie and Gershom Hill. They sold to Floyd “Dick” Jennings in 1903 (24:53). He worked for Gilbert and Bennett and was in upper level management. He retained the house until 1959 when it was sold by his estate to David and Mildred Doggett. Noted contemporary architect Willis Mills and his wife Elizabeth on the house from 1963 until 1971.

Sources

Todd, Harold. History of Redding. 1880.