

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) Gilbert & Bennett School
Building Name (Historic) Gilbert & Bennett School
Street Address or Location 49 New Street
Town/City Wilton Village _____ County Fairfield
Owner(s) Town of Wilton ☐ Public ☒ Private

PROPERTY INFORMATION

Present Use: School
Historic Use: School

Accessibility to public: Exterior visible from public road? ☒ Yes ☐ No
Interior accessible? ☐ Yes ☒ No If yes, explain _____
Style of building Eclectic Date of Construction 1915

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: 1 Approximate Dimensions _____

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 E Negative on File CTSHPO 9:16

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

49 New Street, Wilton



Photograph 49 New Street. View east.

Interrelationship of Buildings and Surroundings

The school is located on a residential side street in Georgetown center. Open land to the west.

Other Notable Features or Buildings on the Site

The superb, detailed, 1-story, blond-brick, truncated hip-roofed school house is arranged with a large, interior room and eight classrooms around its perimeter. The mass of the building is relieved by applied gabled with an educational-motif cartouche in the peak at each end. A central curvilinear parapet and an elaborate, limestone frontispiece with consoles and modillions carrying a cartouche with a clock and maps of knowledge. The entrance bay is filled by double-leaf doors with glazed upper panels. Small hipped dormers are also set into the Spanish tile covered roof which adds a nice textural contrast to the building. The deep, overhanging eaves have decorative rafter ends and garland-festooned consoles between the bays set with coupled, 6-over-6 windows. The styling is eclectic, drawing elements from the Beaux Arts and Georgian revival modes. The building is extremely well preserved.

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CONTINUATION SHEET

49 New Street, Wilton

Historical and Architectural Importance

The handsome, architecturally significant school, the most ambitious of all the pre-consolidation facilities in Wilton, was constructed in 1915 on land donated by the Gilbert & Bennett Company. Money for the materials used in the construction was left in 1905 by Edwin Gilbert, the younger son of the founder and later president of Gilbert & Bennett. Funds for the construction itself were made possible by the workers of the company who opted for the school project rather than a pay raise to the town. It was one of the 10 district schools in Wilton and was by far the largest, no doubt owing to the population concentration in the village of Georgetown, location of the mill that was the national leader in woven cloth and related products. The school operated until June, 1971. The well preserved building now houses a private school, the Landmark Academy. It ranks as one of the significant public buildings in Georgetown built by the munificence of the Miller family who controlled the Gilbert & Bennett Company.

Sources

Edwards, Jerome. Interview, 8/89.

Conn. Historical Commission, Georgetown National Register nomination.