

## 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) Old Town Hall  
Building Name (Historic) Wilton Townhouse  
Street Address or Location 69 Ridgefield Road  
Town/City Wilton Village \_\_\_\_\_ County Fairfield  
Owner(s) Town of Wilton ☒ Public ☐ Private

### PROPERTY INFORMATION

Present Use: Auditorium  
Historic Use: Town Hall

Accessibility to public: Exterior visible from public road? ☒ Yes ☐ No

Interior accessible? ☒ Yes ☐ No If yes, explain \_\_\_\_\_

Style of building Federal Date of Construction 1828-1832

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 26 x 37

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 Northwest Negative on File CTSHPO 4:14

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 69 Ridgefield Road, Wilton



Photograph 69 Ridgefield Road View Northwest

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

The house is located in the historic center of Wilton, a local historic district.

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

The well-proportioned Federal style building was stripped of its late 19<sup>th</sup> century “improvements” during a 1930’s restoration. The well-proportioned and chastely detailed structure has a pedimented gable end with a lunette window in the tympanum and twelve-over-twelve windows on both levels. The central entrance is fitted with double-leaf doors surrounded by an extremely handsome frontispiece with transitional moldings. An octagonal cupola with louver-closed panels further defines the entrance bay. During the 1930’s renovation the second floor was removed creating a large, open auditorium space with a stage at the south end and a balcony at the north. The beaded wainscoting was installed in 1894. The lean-to rear ell was added in 1948.

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#### Historical and Architectural Importance

Wilton voted to build a town hall in 1828, although the first meeting was held in the building in October of that year, it was not completed until 1832. It was constructed on land donated by Nathan Comstock. Referred to as the “town house,” the building had an auditorium on the first floor and the second housed the Wilton Academy, a private school operated by the Olmsteads. In 1894 the wainscoting was added as was a “piazza” and a door to the selectman’s office on the second floor. The building served as the seat of municipal government until 1930 when the new and much larger town hall on Danbury road was completed. The new facility was built by the Meyer brothers, Wilton’s leading contractors. Their shop and mill was located on Danbury and Wolpit roads, but it was demolished when the state cleared the right of way for the new Route 7 in the early 1970’s. By 1934 the historic town hall was in very poor condition. The town leased the building to the Wilton Garden Club who effected its rehabilitation for use as a garden and meeting center. The 19<sup>th</sup> –century piazza was removed and the building was repaired. It is assumed that the second level was also removed then. A kitchen ell was added in 1948. The Wilton Playshop started here in 1937. The building is important in the historic development of Wilton and it contributes greatly to the historic character of Wilton Center, a potential national register district. It is part of Wilton Historic district number 2, created in 1970.

#### Sources

Wilton Historical Society: House File