

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) Wilton Congregational Church
Building Name (Historic) Wilton Congregational Church
Street Address or Location 70 Ridgefield Road
Town/City Wilton Village _____ County Fairfield
Owner(s) Wilton Congregational Church, Inc. ☐ Public ☒ Private

PROPERTY INFORMATION

Present Use: Church
Historic Use: Church

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

Interior accessible? ☒ Yes ☐ No If yes, explain during services

Style of building Colonial Greek Revival Date of Construction 1790 -1844

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 41 x 62 + 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: connected church hall

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 Northerly Negative on File CTSHPO 4:13

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
70 Ridgefield Road, Wilton



Photograph 70 Ridgefield Road View Northerly

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CONTINUATION SHEET 70 Ridgefield Road, Wilton

Interrelationship of Buildings and Surroundings

The church is the focal point of historic Wilton Center, a local historic district.

Other Notable Features or Buildings on the Site

Located on a gentle rise in the historic center of Wilton, the handsome, well-preserved, clapboarded, gable-ended, Federal style church is a quintessential example of the stereotypical New England church. Built in 1790 and remodeled in the Grecian taste in 1844, the well-proportioned, gable-ended building is dominated by a pedimente, Greek Revival, Doric portico in antis. The recessed entrance bay is accented by a bold, pilastered frontispiece that surrounds the large, double-leaf entrance doors and chamfered transom panel. The entablature is continued on the side elevations which are opened by two levels of sixteen-over-sixteen windows. In contrast to the chaste, Grecian styling of the lower level is the colonial spire which is set on an engage square base. The graceful, attenuated, shingle-covered, octagonal spire rests on an octagonal-shaped drum with louvered panels. The well-proportioned and well preserved church is the dominant element in the historic center of Wilton. A Colonial Revival parish hall is connected to the east side of the building by a one-story hyphen of corresponding styling.

Historical and Architectural Importance

Wilton Parish was incorporated in 1726 as an offshoot of the Norwalk church. The first church building and adjacent cemetery were located on Wolfpit Road where the bridge crosses the railroad tracks. The second church was located at Danbury and Sharp Hill roads adjacent to the present cemetery. That building fell into disrepair, and after much discussion and disagreement, the congregation finally agreed to erect a new church on Ridgefield Road in Wilton Center, a location reasonably central for the Wilton section of Norwalk, in 1790. The handsome steeple was added about ten years later, and the building was originally painted white. The interior was finished with boxed pews and an hour glass pulpit with a sounding board. In 1844 the building was refreshed in the Grecian taste. The shallow portico and entablature were added to the exterior, and the 18th-century interior fittings were removed and replaced with chastely detailed elements. At that time the original arched ceiling was covered with a flat ceiling. The original stoves were replaced by a furnace in 1885. In 1885 the interior was again redecorated, this time in the rich and dark Victorian-era taste. Historic photographs show a ceiling painted to suggest coffering and the chancel with a trompe l'oeil niche, all in the classical style. Wainscoting was added as were frieze papers, and the whole was painted in warm, dark hues. Necessary structural repairs to the flat ceiling mandated redoing the interior again in 1975. Fortunately, a mid-1940s scheme to return the

church to its 18th century appearance by removing the Grecian improvements was not executed. The Parish hall that originally stood to the east of the church was built in 1871, and it was moved

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CONTINUATION SHEET

70 Ridgefield Road, Wilton

to Lovers Lane to make way for the present parish hall connected to the church and added in 1952.
It was designed by Nelson Breed.

Source

Resen, Larry. Wilton Congregational Church From 1726. Nd.