DECD
State of Connecticut
Department of Economic and Community Development

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) Degener Tenant House

Building Name (Historic) Elisha Northrup House

Street Address or Location 764 Ridgefield Road

Town/City Wilton Village _____ County Fairfield

Owner(s) Town of Wilton ○ 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 Federal Date of Construction 1843

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 40 x 27

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: rear addition

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 Southwest Negative on File CTSHPO 4:4

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 _____

CONTINUATION SHEET
764 Ridgefield Road, Wilton

Photograph 764 Ridgefield Road View Southwest

Interrelationship of Buildings and Surrounding

Set close to the road, the house is an important contributor to the historic character of Ridgefield Road.

Other Notable Features or Buildings on the Site

The five-bay, central entrance and chimney house was built circa 1843 in the conservative, local interpretation of the Greek- Revival style. Nine-over-six windows are used throughout, and the central entrance is set with a two-panel Grecian door. It is sheltered by a shed-roofed porch with square columns. The frieze board is set under the cornice which returns on the gable ends. The house was extended to the north by a wing that duplicates the original massing and styling of the house, and it too has the cornice return. It is assumed that the south addition, a separate apartment, was added during the middle of this century. The shed-roofed addition with a pedimented roof

appears earlier. The house is set very close to the road, and it is an important contributing element to the architecturally significant streetscape.

Historical and Architectural Importance

Elisha Northrup purchased a house lot on the east side of Ridgefield Road from Isaac Abbott in 1842, and the conveyance does not mention buildings. It is assumed that Northrup immediately built the Greek-Revival house. In 1853, Northrup sold the lot "with dwelling house and barn" to Erastus Ruscoe, and three years later Erastus conveyed the property to George Ruscoe who held it until 1865 (11:336, 14:194). Orrin Harrison purchased the house from Ruscoe in 1865, and he and his wife Emily held it until their deaths. Arthur Daly sold the property to Alice Smith of New York City in 1927, and she conveyed it to Mary Martin Degener in 1944 (38:584, 81:280). The Degeners used the house as a rental property, and it was part of the Degerner property acquired by the town in 1988 for open space.

Sources

Wilton Land Records