

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) St. Matthew's Episcopal Church

Building Name (Historic) St. Matthew's Episcopal Church

Street Address or Location 254 Danbury Road

Town/City Wilton Village _____ County Fairfield

Owner(s) The Wilton Baptist Church Public Private

PROPERTY INFORMATION

Present Use: Church

Historic Use: Residence

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

Interior accessible? Yes No If yes, explain during business hours

Style of building Gothic Revival Date of Construction 1859, 1939-49

Material(s) (Indicate use or location when appropriate):

- | | | | | |
|--|---|--------------------------------------|---------------------------------------|--|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Clapboard | <input type="checkbox"/> Asbestos Siding | <input type="checkbox"/> Brick | <input type="checkbox"/> Wood Shingle | <input type="checkbox"/> Asphalt Siding |
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Fieldstone | <input type="checkbox"/> Board & Batten | <input type="checkbox"/> Stucco | <input type="checkbox"/> Cobblestone | <input type="checkbox"/> Aluminum Siding |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Concrete (Type _____) | <input type="checkbox"/> Cut Stone (Type _____) | <input type="checkbox"/> 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 many ells, Cathedral ceiling, 70x35, 9x14

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: class room 26x63, additional ells 26x81, additions 1939-40, 48-49

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 2:12

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

254 Danbury Road, Wilton



Photograph 254 Danbury Road. View Southwest.

Interrelationship of Buildings and Surroundings

The architecturally significant building is located diagonally across the street from the Wilton Historical Society's Sloane-Raymond-Fitch House. It contributes greatly to the historic character of the area.

Other Notable Features or Buildings on the Site

The distinctive, English Tudor fieldstone and brick church set gable end to the street is an excellent example of the picturesque ecclesiastical structures that were promoted by the Episcopal church during the second half of the 19th century. Superbly massed and detailed with a steep roof, flat buttresses and a rose window at the end of the nave, the church is very well preserved. The corresponding entrance porch retains its original slate roof and is set with double-leaf, lancet entrance doors and a drip molding. The lancet motif is repeated in the fenestration with brick surrounds on the secondary elevations. A 1971 fire destroyed the original windows. The octagonal

HISTORIC RESOURCE INVENTORY – BUILDINGS AND STRUCTURES

CONTINUATION SHEET

254 Danbury Road, Wilton

belfry with a steep spire is set on an open square porch with Tudor arches. Equally as well designed is the parish hall added to the north side in 1939-40 and the two-story Sunday school wing completed in 1954. The church is one of the finest ecclesiastical structures in Wilton.

Historical and Architectural Importance

Wilton Episcopalians formed the St. Matthews society 1802, and their first church was consecrated in the summer of 1819. Hubbard's history of the church states that the first church was sold to Joseph Platt Fitch, the property owner immediately to the south, and that Fitch moved it to replace his store that burned in 1862. He adds that Platt later sold that store building to William A. Sturges who moved it across the river to Wilton Center. It was used as a store known as the Village Market, and it was later the home of a realty company. The new church, a particularly handsome and ambitious English Tudor-style structure, was consecrated in the spring of 1864. The design for the church may well have come from a pattern book promulgated by the Episcopal Church, noted for architectonic buildings during the middle-and late-19th century. The congregation outgrew the facility, which was enlarged in 1939-40 (parish hall) and 1954 (Sunday school and offices), and in 1971 it was sold to the Wilton Baptist Church. Unfortunately a fire severely damaged the sanctuary in 1971, but the exterior survives in a remarkably complete state of preservation.

Sources

Wilton Bulletin. 2/1/89.