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) Prins House

Building Name (Historic) Wescott-Olmstead House

Street Address or Location 522 Ridgefield Road

Town/City Wilton Village _____ County Fairfield

Owner(s) Greenberg, Corey & Lynda ○ 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 Colonial /Colonial1Revival Date of Construction 1790-2, 1940

**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 28 x 31 + 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: well house

**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 _____ Negative on File CTSHPO

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**
**522 Ridgefield Road, Wilton**

Photograph 522 Ridgefield Road View

**Interrelationship of Buildings and Surrounding**

Stone wall and granite fence post at road. Set close to road.

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

The superbly proportioned and detailed three-bay, massive central chimney, Colonial house was originally two rooms up and down to which a lean-to was added shortly after it was completed about 1792. The house was Victorianized during the late-19th century, as were so many other period homes in Wilton, but all of those "improvements" were removed in 1940 when the house was "restored" under the direction of Nelson Breed, who is noted for his fine eye for period detail.

Twelve-over-eight sash replaced the two-over-twos and the central entrance is accented by a handsome, revival Connecticut River Valley recreation. The lean-to was extended, and a barn was moved up to the house and used for the south wing. Little, if any, original fabric appears to have survived on the exterior save the basic proportions and window placement.

**Historical and Architectural Importance**

Local tradition holds that the three-bay, central chimney house was constructed by Elijah Westcott in 1792. Westcott, a veteran of the Revolution and Wilton's first "sealer of the leather", the one responsible for inspecting and maintaining the quality of locally tanned leather, retained the property until 1805 when he sold to Samuel Middlebrook. In 1821 it was acquired by Lewis Olmstead (1795-1861). A merchant and later the Bald Hill postmaster, Olmstead also operated a shirt construction business that employed many local women. Olmstead's widow, Sarah DeForest Olmstead, occupied the house until 1867. During the late-19th century the house was refreshed in the picturesque taste with the addition of a wrapping verandah and replacement of the original/early sash with 2-over-2s. The Benjamin Prins purchased the house from the heirs of Charlotte Kober in 1940, and they retained Nelson Breed, Wilton's most noted Colonial Revival architect, to "restore" the house. All 19th century alterations were removed, the lean-to was extended, and a new frontispiece and windows were added. The result is as much an expression of the academic Colonial Revival mode as it is the late 18th century.

**Sources:**

Wilton Historical Society: house file.