

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) Orem's Diner

Building Name (Historic) Orem's Diner

Street Address or Location 209 Danbury Road 71/42 29/62 Demolished (marker moved)

Town/City Wilton Village _____ County Fairfield

Owner(s) Young's Nurseries, Inc. Public Private

PROPERTY INFORMATION

Present Use: Restaurant

Historic Use: Restaurant

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

Interior accessible? Yes No If yes, explain _____

Style of building Vernacular Date of Construction 1921

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 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 checked="" type="checkbox"/> Other <u>Masonite Siding</u> | | |

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 46 x 30 + rear ell.

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 northeast Negative on File CHC 8:40

Name Mary E. McCahon, Arch. Historian 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

209 Danbury Road, Wilton



Photograph 209 Danbury Road. View northeast.

Interrelationship of Buildings and Surroundings

Originally built at the corner of Orem's dairy farm. Also adjacent to former town ball field, which was used until World War II.

Other Notable Features or Buildings on the Site

The boxy, flat-roofed structure with V-groove, Masonite siding and boxed, corner piers with large ball finials incorporate the original building (southern portion). An entrance vestibule is centered on the façade, and the bands of single-light windows slide up into pockets. The building has been extended to the rear and north. A large sign, with the same pier and finial detail as the main mass, is centered atop the stepped parapet that wraps three sides. The interior is not historic.

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CONTINUATION SHEET

209 Danbury Road, Wilton

Historical and Architectural Importance

Charles and Anna Orem, who owned the adjacent house at 213 Danbury Road and operated a dairy farm, started the concession stand in 1921. Originally a small building with only a counter, it was initially popular for its ice cream. For a short period in the 1920s, the structure was also a grocery store, operated by Orem and Charlie Robinson. After the grocery, it was converted to a diner intended to be run by Orem's son Roger, but he died in March of 1939. It was then leased to Bill Banks and Lyle Talladge. The popular gathering spot was operated by Robert Iliffown and his brother Bud from 1952 until 1967. They enlarged it considerably and are responsible for the present appearance of the diner. It is now operated by Tony and Bill Papanikolaou who have operated it since 1980. Charles and Anna Orem acquired the land upon which the diner was built in 1981 from Elizabeth Hartley.

The field behind the diner was the location of the town ball field, actively used by a local, semi-pro team from 1924 until about 1927. The Wilton team known as the Farmers played business-sponsored teams from the surrounding communities, and many spectators paid 50 cents admission to attend the games held on Sunday afternoons. The league ceased when the popularity of the Sunday games declined. A team sponsored by the Wilton Fire Department started in 1932, and it was used more local talent with only a professional pitcher and catcher to augment the local players who split the fate with the winner taking 60 percent and the losing team 40 percent. That league ceased with the outbreak of World War II. After the war, games were played at the high school field.

Sources

Norwalk Hour, August 16, 1984.

Sterling, Charles. Interview, 4/5/89.

Edge, Robert. Interview 4/89.