

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) Gilbert-Smith House

Building Name (Historic) Thomas Gilbert House

Street Address or Location 45 Belden Hill Road

Town/City Wilton Village _____ County Fairfield

Owner(s) Crowther, Susan B. 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 c. 1836

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

- | | | | | |
|--|---|--------------------------------------|---------------------------------------|--|
| <input checked="" 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 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: 2 Approximate Dimensions 25x26, 14x35

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 5:24

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 _____

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CONTINUATION SHEET

45 Belden Hill Road, Wilton



Photograph 45 Belden Hill Road. View northeast.

Interrelationship of Buildings and Surroundings

Set on a two-acre plot, house is located on the west side of Belden Hill Road, one of the early thoroughfares in Wilton.

Other Notable Features or Buildings on the Site

The central chimney, three-bay, offset entrance, Federal transitional house is reasonably well preserved. It is finished with a frieze board and cornice returns typical of the period. The handsome, partite frontispiece in the Greek style and pent roof sheltering it are original, but the six panel entrance door and porch posts are not. Most of the original six-over-six windows (one survives) have been replaced with one-over-one sash. A small, shed roofed ell has been added to the east side of the house and a large wing extend it on the rear.

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CONTINUATION SHEET

45 Belden Hill Road, Wilton

Historical and Architectural Importance

The traditional federal house appears to have been built between 1835, when Thomas Gilbert acquired the property “of which Isaiah Gregory died possessed,” and 1841 Thomas and his wife Lucinda were released from a mortgage given by James Mead. The mortgage release refers specifically to buildings while the earlier transaction does not (7:207, 8:247). It is quite possible that Gilbert mortgaged the property to secure the funds to build a house. J.E. Comstock purchased the house and its two-acre lot from the Gilberts in 1846, and he held it until 1855 (9:84, 10:449). The John Watrous family owned it from 1855 until 1866 when it was conveyed by Mary Watrous to Jonah Keeler (14:273). Julia Hoyt Smith purchased the house from Keeler's estate in 1890 (20:83) and retained ownership until her death in 1922. She willed the house to her sister, Mary L. Winkler, and she, in turn, left it to her nephew George Purple (52:133, 35:55, 20:83). The Grothkopfs sold the property to Clyde and James White in 1952.

Sources

Wilton Land Records.