

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) Chapin-Loosley House

Building Name (Historic) Fromhartz-Chapin House

Street Address or Location 212 Drum Hill Road

Town/City Wilton Village _____ County Fairfield

Owner(s) Goodwin, Therese & F. Lawrence, Jr. 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 Revival Date of Construction circa 1865

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 44 x 52 + 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: _____

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 South Negative on File CTSHPO 9:6

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 _____

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CONTINUATION SHEET

212 Drum Hill Road, Wilton



Photograph 212 Drum Hill Road View South.

Interrelationship of Buildings and Surroundings

The house is superbly sited overlooking reservoir across the road. Property includes parcel on south side of road (garage on it).

Other Notable Features or Buildings on the Site

The nucleus of the rambling, two-story, Colonial-Revival house is an 1865 house, but later improvements are so extensive that its original configuration is not known for certain. The chimney on the west end appears to be original. Early in this century the house was reworked in the French style with a large hood added to the fireplace, but it was redone again in the Colonial Revival style after 1950. The house, with a variety of functionally placed small-light windows and several bay windows, has been extended on every elevation. The hip-roofed, Tuscan columned, porch on the west side was originally open on the second level, but it is now enclosed with 15-over-15 windows. The central entrance, with a wide, solid door installed in the 1950s to replace a glazed door, is defined by a flat-roofed, Tuscan Columned porch and a hipped bay window on the second level. The interior plan is casually arranged and finished in the colonial taste. The well preserved house is not unlike others in Wilton that started modestly but were transformed into

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CONTINUATION SHEET

212 Drum Hill Road, Wilton

rambling summer homes that were eventually winterized. A studio and a cottage, which were built around the time of the First World War, were located on the property. The studio to the Northeast of the main house has been re-architected and enlarged, it is now separate ownership. The cottage, which was originally adjacent to the main house, was moved in the 1950s to the extreme north portion of the property. It was demolished in the 1980s and a new house has replaced it, again under new ownership.

Historical and Architectural Importance

When Julian Fromhartz purchased the lot at the corner of Drum Hill and Belden Hill roads from William B. Gregory in 1864, no building was standing (14:102). He had constructed the nucleus of the present house by 1867 as it depicted on the Beers map of Wilton. It remained in the family until 1903. A. Bowne Sutton, wife of Frederick D. Sutton of Manhattan was deeded the property in 1903. Together they reworked the simple house in the French taste. The house was purchased by Roberts Mott Chapin (wife of Dr. F.W. Chapin, of the city of New York in 1915 (30:204). She and her family used the property as a summer home, and at one time there were two cottages on the grounds for use by her children. After her husband passed away, Mr. Chapin moved to Wilton permanently. The house was enlarged several times by the Suttons and the Chapins, the result being a charming if somewhat confusing progression of wings and tastes. Mrs. Chapin's estate sold the house to Robert Loosley in 1951 and he retained it until 1956 when it was purchased by Rick and Lynn Taylor. The current owners, Lawrence and Terry Goodwin, purchased the property in 1962. The house is an excellent example of the dominance of the Colonial Revival style in Connecticut and its popularity for seasonal homes. Many of Wilton's 18th and 19th century houses were preserved because of the early 20th century desire for quaint, country summer houses.

Sources

Goodwin, Therese – Interview, 5/89.
Wilton Land Records.1867 Beers Map