

## 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) Hanford-Ryan House  
Building Name (Historic) William Hanford House  
Street Address or Location 89 Chestnut Hill Road  
Town/City Wilton Village \_\_\_\_\_ County Fairfield  
Owner(s) Clayton C. Wheat ☐ 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 c.1830,1920-30

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 46 x 56 + 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 east Negative on File CHC 4:21, 20

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**

**89 Chestnut Hill Road, Wilton**



Photograph 89 Chestnut Hill Road. View west.



## HISTORIC RESOURCE INVENTORY – BUILDINGS AND STRUCTURES

### CONTINUATION SHEET

89 Chestnut Hill Road, Wilton

### Interrelationship of Buildings and Surroundings

### Other Notable Features or Buildings on the Site

The nucleus of the present, rambling mid-20<sup>th</sup> century Colonial Revival house is a transitional Federal/Greek Revival, five-bay, two-story dwelling with Grecian molding profiles to the cornice returns. Six-over-six windows are used on the upper level. During the middle of this century the house was reworked in the Colonial Revival style. A flat-roofed portico with square, giant-order columns shelter the façade and the windows on the first level have been replaced by French doors. A large wing with an inset, double-tiered porch was added to the north side of the house. It defers to the original structure in both scale and detailing. The most significant building on the site is the picturesque carriage barn located to the northwest of the house. It has a central cross gable and pedimented architraves over the doors and windows. Still in place are the sliding lift door and the inward folding barn doors. It is one of the best carriage barns in Wilton.

### Historical and Architectural Importance

The Hanford family owned a great deal of land in the vicinity of the intersection of Westport and Chestnut Hill roads in the early 19<sup>th</sup> century. When the property came into the possession of the Nathan Hanford family is not known, but it appears that the property passed to his son William H. after Nathan's death in 1832. Stylistically the house dates to the 1830-40s, so it is reasonable to attribute the nucleus of the present house to William H. Hanford's ownership. Another of Nathan's sons, Charles E. Hanford, inherited the family homestead at 120 Chestnut Hill Rd. After William H.'s death, his estate was distributed in 1897 to his widow, Mary B. and their three children: William Henry Hanford, Georgianna Nichols, and Harriet White. Georgianna Nichols sold the house to George H. Gregory in 1906, and held it until his death in 1923 (23:181, 34:343). His estate conveyed it to Henry P Burton. In 1931 the property was acquired by the Central Supply Company, later styled as the McCall Corporation, and it was under their ownership that the house was reworked in the Colonial Revival mode. In 1945, it was purchased by Margaret Ryan. In addition to the handsome, well-preserved carriage barn, hen houses also graced the property. The house is a good example of the early 20<sup>th</sup> century attitude toward period homes, which was to acquire them and rework them into comfortable country retreats with more regard for grandeur than authenticity. Fairfield County was particularly popular with "weekenders" from New York City. The Colonial Revival movement took stronghold in the area in the 1910s.

### Sources

WLR