

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,
450 Columbus Blvd., Suite 5, Hartford CT 06103

* Note: Please attach any additional or expanded information on a separate sheet.

GENERAL INFORMATION

Building Name (Common) 605 Ridgefield Road
Building Name (Historic) Nehemiah Northrop House
Street Address or Location 605 Ridgefield Road
Town/City Wilton Village _____ County Fairfield
Owner(s) Esposito, Anthony ☐ Public ☒ Private

PROPERTY INFORMATION

Present Use: Single-family residence
Historic Use: Single-family residence

Accessibility to public: Exterior visible from public road? ☐ Yes ☒ No
Interior accessible? ☐ Yes ☒ No If yes, explain _____
Style of building Georgian Date of Construction ca. 1825

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: 2.5 Approximate Dimensions 23'x26', 28'x22', 24'x25', 10'x20'

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: Later ells and windows.

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: In-ground pool.

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 Stacey Vairo & Lucas Karmazinas Date September 2017

View See continuation sheet Negative on File CTSHPO

Name Stacey Vairo & Lucas Karmazinas Date October 2017

Organization Stacey Vairo, LLC & FuturePast Preservation

Address 17 Hard Hill Rd., Woodbury, CT 06798 & 940 West Blvd., Hartford, CT 06105

- Subsequent field evaluations:

MBLU# 118/16 PID# 5919

Threats to the building or site:

- ☒ None known
 ☐ Highways
 ☐ Vandalism
 ☐ Developers
 ☐ Renewal
 ☐ Private
☐ Deterioration
 ☐ Zoning
 ☐ Other _____
 ☐ Explanation _____

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CONTINUATION SHEET: 605 Ridgefield Road, Wilton, CT



Photograph of 605 Ridgefield Road, view facing southwest.

Interrelationship of Building and Surroundings:

This house is located on the west side of Ridgefield Road, roughly 0.28-mile northwest of Ridgefield Road's intersection with Linden Tree Road. The house is set back approximately 50' from the road and a gravel driveway leads from the street and runs to the north side of the house where there is a small gravel parking area and a one-and-a-half-story wood-frame garage with a front-facing gambrel roof located 20' north of the residence and connected to it via a covered walkway. The residence is surrounded by a large lawn and extensive plantings and mature trees dot and fill the parcel. A large in-ground pool is located immediately south of the house. A stone wall topped by a solid wood fence lines the boundary of the property flanking the road.

Other Notable Features of Building or Site:

The house at 605 Ridgefield Road is a two-and-a-half-story, wood-frame, Georgian-style residence built ca. 1825. It has a side-gabled roof and is oriented with its ridgeline set roughly north-south parallel to the street. A one-story side-gabled ell adjoins the main block's south (side) elevation, and a two-story side-gabled ell adjoins the north (side) elevation of the main block. A one-story, cross-gable ell adjoins the northwest

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CONTINUATION SHEET: 605 Ridgefield Road, Wilton, CT

corner of the two-story ell and adjoins the garage via a covered walkway, as noted. There are moderate overhangs of the asphalt-shingled roof at the eaves and rakes and gabled dormers on the east (façade) and west (rear) elevations of the main block. Red brick ridgeline chimneys are centered on the main block and south ell. The house is sheathed with wood shingles. The primary entrance to the house is offset on the north side of the three-bay façade and consists of a paneled wood door flanked by multipane sidelights and wood pilasters, these topped by a molded entablature. Fenestration primarily consists of a mix of six-over-six and 12-over-12 double-hung windows set in plain surrounds, some with operable shutters.

Historical and Architectural Importance:

The earliest known reference to a building on the property is in the 1832 property transfer from Nehemiah "Miah" Northrup to Hezekiah Lyon. The earliest available map of this area, which dates to 1856, identifies this residence as being occupied by an "N. Benedict," this being Isaac N. Benedict, a farmer. The 1860 Federal Census indicates that Benedict was 47 years old and he resided with his 42-year old wife, Emma; three children, Lucy, Frederick, and Arthur, age 18, 17, and 15; and a 74-year old man by the name of Samuel Keeler, who it is presumed was Emma's father. The census identifies Benedict as a man of above-average means as he possessed a farm valued at \$8,000, which was of greater value than most of those living in the area at the time. By the time of the 1880 Federal Census Emma Benedict had died, however, Isaac continued to reside in the house along with Lucy and Frederick, as well as a 55-year old boarder by the name of Mary Watrous. Isaac Benedict appears to have died in 1882 and by 1909, when the next available map of the area was created, the house had passed to a "G.E. Kent," who could not be located in local census records or directories during the period. By the late 1930s the house had been acquired by Arnold J. Thayer, a carpenter. The 1940 Federal Census identifies Thayer as a 51-year old laborer working for the Works Progress Administration and he resided with his 47-year old wife, Evelyn, 25-year old daughter Evelyn Cooke, 31-year old son-in-law, Leslie Cooke, who was a tree worker, and their ten-year old daughter, Marceline. Arnold Thayer died by 1950, when the house was occupied by his widow and a woman by the name of Juanita B. Thayer, whose relationship to Arnold is unclear. Evelyn Thayer appears to have remained in the house through the late 1950s. Despite the addition of the modern ells on the south and north sides of this house by the middle of the 20th century, this residence retains much of its historic character as a Georgian-style residence, including its essential form and massing. As such, it is significant as an example of Wilton's stock of mid-18th century houses and is illustrative of the typical changes made to these early residences as occupants adapted them to the demands of contemporary living.

Sources:

Wilton Assessor's Records on Vision Appraisal; U.S. Federal Census Records, 1900-1940; "Map of the Town of Wilton, Conn., 1909," C.C. Wood, C.E.; "Map of the Town of Wilton, Conn., 1922," Robt. F. Thorley; "Map of the Town of Wilton, Conn., 1929," W.E. Godfrey, Surveyor; "Atlas of Fairfield County, Conn., 1931," Dolph & Stewart, Publishers, New York: NY; "Residents of Wilton, Conn. (As of July 1, 1937), 1937," Town of Wilton, CT; "Atlas of Fairfield County, Conn., 1942," Dolph & Stewart, Publishers, New York: NY; "Wilton, Connecticut, Directory Map, 1950," Town Planning Committee, Wilton: CT; Westport, Saugatuck, Greens, Weston, Wilton Directory, The Price & Lee Co., New Haven, CT, 1933-1963.