

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) 21 Old Highway

Building Name (Historic) Mary Gannett House

Street Address or Location 21 Old Highway

Town/City Wilton Village _____ County Fairfield

Owner(s) Barrett, David & Joyce Ellen 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 Colonial Revival Date of Construction 1931

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

- | | | | | |
|--|---|--------------------------------------|--|--|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Clapboard | <input type="checkbox"/> Asbestos Siding | <input type="checkbox"/> Brick | <input checked="" 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: 1.5 Approximate Dimensions 27' x 32'

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 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# 57/19 PID# 2934

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: 21 Old Highway, Wilton, CT



Photograph of 21 Old Highway, view facing south.

Interrelationship of Building and Surroundings:

This house is located on the south side of Old Highway, roughly 550' northeast of Old Highway's intersection with Danbury Road (CT Rt. 7). The house is set back roughly 80' from Old Highway and stands on a hill partially hidden from view by a dense screen of trees. A gravel driveway leads from the road along the north side of the house to a one-car garage. The house is surrounded by a small lawn, while mature trees fill the remainder of the parcel.

Other Notable Features of Building or Site:

The house at 21 Old Highway is a one-and-a-half-story, wood-frame, Colonial Revival-style residence built ca. 1929. It has a side-gabled roof that extends in a Saltbox-style form along its east (rear) elevation. The house is oriented with its ridgeline set roughly north-south roughly perpendicular to the street. It is clad in wood shingle siding and has a central red brick ridgeline chimney. There are minimal overhangs of the

HISTORIC RESOURCE INVENTORY – BUILDINGS AND STRUCTURES

CONTINUATION SHEET: 21 Old Highway, Wilton, CT

asphalt-shingled roof at the eaves and rakes. The formal entry is centered within the three-bay façade where it is flanked by sidelights and a wood surround with a simple entablature. A secondary (but likely more used) entry is located on the north (side) elevation where it is sheltered by a one-story shed-roof porch with square supports. Fenestration throughout the house consists of six-over-six double-hung sash with molded wood trim.

Historical and Architectural Importance:

The land that the house was built on was owned by the Gregory family going back to the middle of the 19th century. Mary Gregory was the last of the family to have the property, which totaled 3.5 acres which extended all the way down to Route 7 and to St. Matthew's Cemetery. In 1922, Gregory sold that property to Harry Remsen, who then sold it 7 years later in 1929 to Edith Day. Day then sold 1.25 acres of that larger piece of property to Mary Ross Gannett in 1931. Based on a 1964 article from the *Wilton Bulletin* announcing Gannett's move from the town, it appears she built the home sometime between her purchase of the property in March 1931 and the end of that same year. Trained as a journalist and writer, Gannett was heavily involved in several different Wilton organizations, including the League of Women Voters. She wrote the League's weekly column in the *Wilton Bulletin* entitled "Everybody's Business". She lived in the house until 1964 when she sold it to Mary Wilson, who sold it only four years later to Thomas and Victoria Spater in 1968.

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.