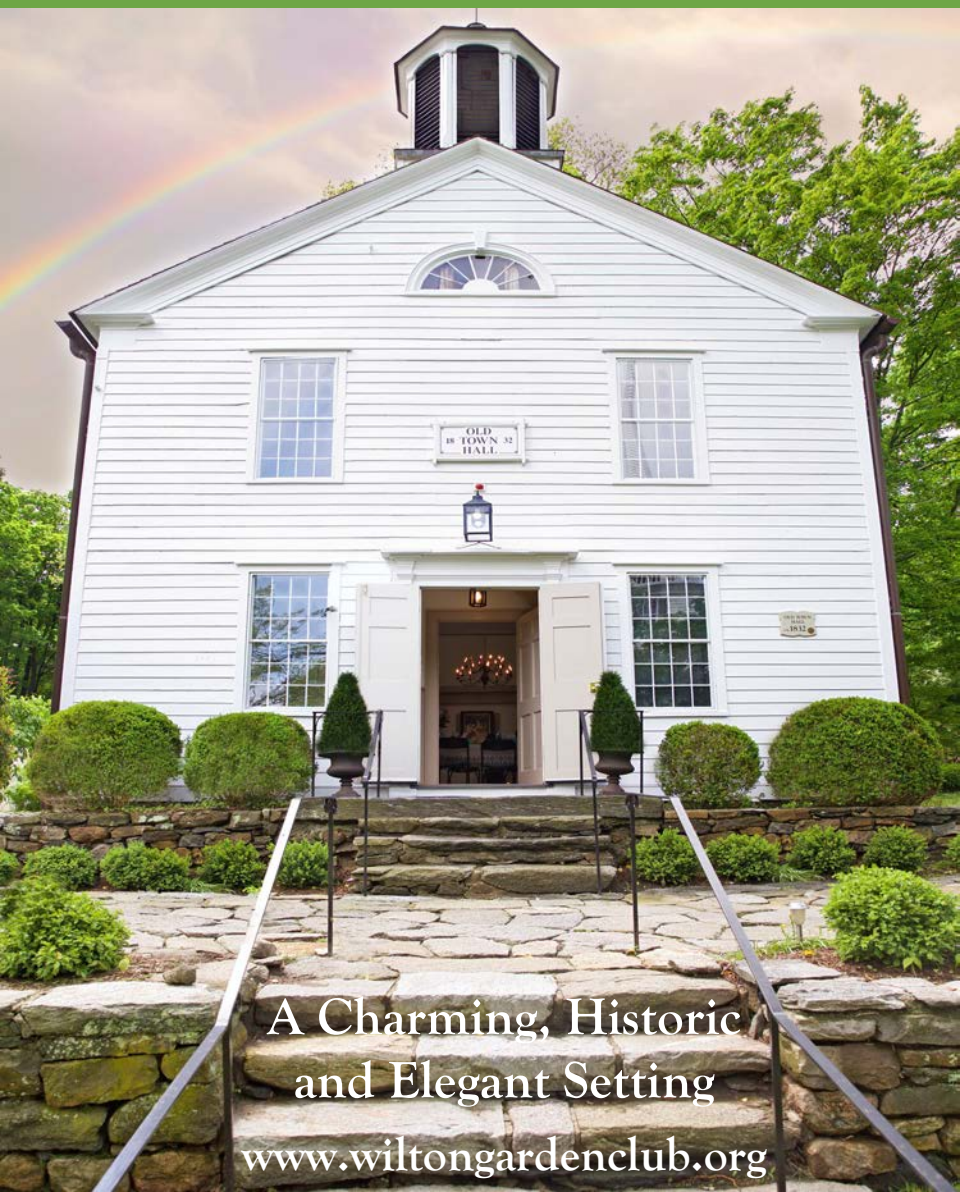


BOOK YOUR SPECIAL EVENT AT

Wilton's Old Town Hall



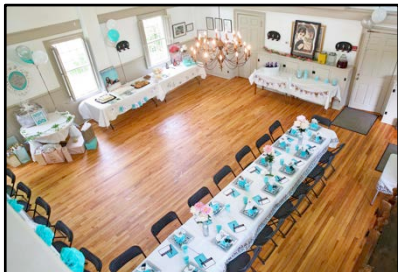
A Charming, Historic
and Elegant Setting

www.wiltongardenclub.org

OLD TOWN HALL

Two Belden Hill Lane, Wilton, CT

*Listed on the National Registrar for Historic Places and located in
Wilton's Historic District #2.*



Parties ♦ Classes ♦ Club Events
Weddings ♦ Baby Showers ♦ Rehearsal Dinners
Business Meetings ♦ Art and Craft Fairs

*The Wilton Garden Club has lovingly maintained and acted as rental agent
for Old Town Hall since 1980. It features:*

- Intimate and elegant setting
- Tasteful, historically appropriate décor
- Air conditioned and heated
- Accommodates 53 people seated banquet-style, 72 seated lecture-style, or 114 standing
- Completely renovated new kitchen (2016) and two bathrooms
- Ten 6' tables and 72 chairs available for use
- Windows can be darkened for media presentations
- Ample parking behind building
- Conveniently located near Route 7, Wilton Center and Metro North train station

**FOR RENTAL INFORMATION OR TO ARRANGE A TOUR,
CONTACT US AT:**

www.wiltongardenclub.org

or

203-834-1032



One Sunday morning in 1828, a town meeting was convened after services in the Wilton Congregational Church at which time Wilton residents voted to build a "Townhouse." Nathan Comstock, who lived across the street from the Congregational Church, donated the property for such a building and deeded it to the Town of Wilton. The first meeting was held in the new but unfinished building in October of the same year. The construction of the townhouse was finally completed in 1832, the date ascribed to the building and found on the plaque above the front door today.

The first floor of the townhouse was used for town meetings while the second floor housed the Wilton Academy, a private secondary school which prepared its students for college. The Wilton Academy continued

to occupy the second floor until 1867. Sometime after that, most of the second floor was removed except a section which became a balcony, still in existence.

The Town Hall continued to be used as the site of Wilton's town meetings, a form of town government currently in use in Wilton and many other New England towns. In 1928-29, the Town Hall was pressed into use as a school house after one one-room school burned and some others were becoming over crowded. The town outgrew the building completely so that residents attending town meetings had to stand outside and shout their remarks through the windows. The balcony was often so loaded with people that it was in danger of collapsing on the heads of those seated below.

The building of a new Center School in 1929 made possible the consolidation of all education and the closing of the district schools. About the same time, plans were begun to construct a new Town Hall. It was dedicated on Valentine's Day in 1931. As a result, the Old Town Hall stood empty and decaying. Many townspeople wanted it torn down.

At this point the Wilton Garden Club began its love affair with this beautiful old building. They persuaded the Town to allow the Club to renovate, decorate, and completely maintain the Old Town Hall. This ambitious undertaking by the Wilton Garden Club has been supported by major financial commitments and strong membership participation over the intervening years. The preservation

and restoration of this charming and historic townhouse were rewarded with a certificate of commendation from the Historic American Building Survey in 1939.

In 1970 the Old Town Hall, along with other neighboring buildings, became designated as Historic District #2. The Wilton Historic District Commission described the design of the building "as a simple, excellent one of Colonial character. It appears to be earlier than 1832 since a building of this date would normally have windows with larger panes. Perhaps the early character of the Old Town Hall was due to the fact that it was a two-day journey to large centers such as Boston or New York and that the latest styles did not penetrate to remote areas such as Wilton for a considerable number of years. Or, perhaps the builders of this building wished to make its look in harmony with the Congregational Church, built in 1790, and copied the small paned windows of this nearby building."

The Garden Club added a section to the rear of the building in 1948 making room for a kitchen, restrooms, furnace, and a small greenhouse. Many refurbishing, landscaping, painting, and patching projects were necessary to keep the building in useable condition. During one of these special projects, insulation of the roof area in 1977, rotten support timbers were discovered. The building was then condemned.

The Garden Club organized and led a major renovation project to restore this building of architectural and historic interest to the

Town. In December of 1980, the Old Town Hall was officially reopened with the Wilton Garden Club acting as rental agent/caretaker of the property.

When the Old Parsonage property adjacent to the Old Town Hall was sold in 1992, changes were made again to the building. The Town built a new drive and doorway on the west side, both accessible for the disabled. The new construction opened up an opportunity for the Garden Club to design a landscape plan for the new entryway. With contributions from club members and a PETALS grant, gardens of trees, shrubs, perennials, and annuals were planted, displaying four-season interest while enhancing the historic building.

During the summer of 2014, the Town of Wilton, as owner of the hall, had the interior painted and floors refinished using colors appropriate for the historic building.

Care and preservation of the Old Town Hall continues to be a major concern of the members of the Wilton Garden Club, and through their efforts, a very important part of Wilton's history has been preserved.

Information researched by:

Carol Russell, Club Historian

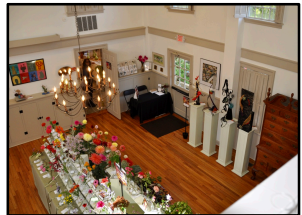
May 1990;

revised 1994, 2000, 2014, 2019

The *Wilton Garden Club, Inc.* was established in 1921, became a member of The Federated Garden Clubs of CT, Inc. in 1927, and was incorporated in 1953. It is a charter member of The Federated Garden Clubs of Connecticut, Inc., New England Garden Clubs, Inc. and National Garden Clubs, Inc.



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