

The Comstock Barns are contiguous to the Nathan Comstock House (c.1810-1820), which in turn is next to Wilton's Old Town Hall (1832). Across the street is the Wilton Congregational Church (1790). Their prominent public location provides a way for today's community to understand the Wilton of yesterday.

The restoration of the Comstock barns will have a major impact on preserving the historic character of this important center of Wilton life.

**Contributions for the restoration of the Comstock Barns are warmly welcomed and deeply appreciated.**

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## Preservation of the Comstock Barns



**Located at the key crossroads of Wilton's 19<sup>th</sup> century life – *and* 21<sup>st</sup> century life – the Comstock Barns are sited at the heart of the Wilton Center Historic District, which is listed on the National Register of Historic Places and the State Register of Historic Places.**



The Comstock barns are typical of the 18<sup>th</sup>–19<sup>th</sup> century agricultural life that formed around a rural New England crossroads. Directly across Ridgefield Road

stands the Wilton Congregational Church, built in 1790 and today the oldest church in Fairfield County still in use. The Comstock family store stood at this location from approximately 1800, and a grist mill and saw mill were a stone’s throw down Lovers Lane (then known as Mill Road).

The barns were likely built c.1850-60, next to the Nathan Comstock House, which the Wilton



Congregational Church acquired in 1962 and now uses as the church parsonage. The house was begun around 1810 by Benajah Strong Comstock, and additions were made as the years went on. As recollected in a June 27, 1962 article in *The Wilton Bulletin*, “Each afternoon in good weather, cows from the pasture would meander up to the

Comstock’s red barn, which still stands at the southwest [sic] corner of Belden Hill and Ridgefield Roads and enter the barn’s lower level. Horses, wagons and carriages were kept in the upper part.”

Restoration of the barns will preserve them as the anchor in the crossroads of the Wilton Center Historic District, visible from every direction at this historic corner.

The Connecticut Trust for Historic Preservation recently awarded the Church a Barn Grant to help fund the first phase of restoration: firming the fieldstone foundation. The grant reinforces the value of restoring these barns.



The Wilton Congregational Church seeks contributions in any amount to help fund the next phase of preservation work, which will ultimately restore the functionality of the barns. With a structurally sound, weather-tight space, the barns would offer a place for storage, maintenance and educational opportunities. Church youth groups and Habitat for Humanity volunteers could store tools and materials, as well as hold training programs in a seasonal “shop” setting.