

STATE OF CONNECTICUT

CONNECTICUT HISTORICAL COMMISSION

59 South Prospect Street, Hartford, Connecticut 06106
(203) 566-3005

HISTORIC RESOURCES INVENTORY FORM
For Buildings and Structures

FOR OFFICE USE ONLY

TOWN NO.: _____ SITE NO.: _____
UTM: 18/____/____/____/____/____
QUAD: _____
DISTRICT: 3 NR: ACTUAL
POTENTIAL

IDENTIFICATION

1. BUILDING NAME: Common: _____ Historic: "Ashcroft" Capt. Giles Wilcox House
2. TOWN/CITY: Middletown VILLAGE: Westfield COUNTY: Middlesex
3. STREET & NUMBER (and/or location): 455 East Street
4. OWNER(S): Helen M. Brainard PUBLIC PRIVATE
5. USE: Present: Residence Historic: same
6. ACCESSIBILITY TO PUBLIC: Exterior visible from public road: yes no
Interior accessible: yes, explain with owner's permission no

DESCRIPTION

7. STYLE OF BUILDING: Center-Chimney Colonial DATE OF CONSTRUCTION: 1786
8. 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: brownstone
_____ other: _____ foundation
9. STRUCTURAL SYSTEM:
 wood frame: post and beam _____ balloon
_____ load bearing masonry _____ structural iron or steel
_____ other: _____
10. 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: _____
11. NUMBER OF STORIES: 2½ APPROXIMATE DIMENSIONS: 31'x18' southwest wing
12. CONDITION: Structural: excellent _____ good _____ fair _____ deteriorated
Exterior: excellent _____ good _____ fair _____ deteriorated
13. INTEGRITY: Location: on original site _____ moved, when: _____
Alterations: no yes, explain: Southwest wing attached; southeast door removed; Greek Revival doorways added; north wing added
14. RELATED OUTBUILDINGS OR LANDSCAPE FEATURES:
_____ barn _____ shed _____ garage other landscape features or buildings: white picket fence along East Street; large ash tree on southeast corner of property
_____ carriage house _____ shop _____ garden
15. SURROUNDING ENVIRONMENT:
 open land _____ woodland residential scattered buildings visible from site
_____ commercial _____ industrial rural _____ high building density
16. INTERRELATIONSHIP OF BUILDING AND SURROUNDINGS: This large center-chimney Georgian house faces east on East Street at the head of Poplar Lane. It is set back behind an elaborate white picket fence along the road, and a large ash tree whose high branches frame the house in a picturesque manner. This section of East Street displays several fine old houses in a rural setting with some new development taking place south of Poplar Lane.

17. OTHER NOTABLE FEATURES OF BUILDING OR SITE (interior and/or exterior):

Denticulated main cornice
Paneling, wainscot, and denticulated cornice in northeast parlor
Much original material; floors, paneling, hardware, etc.
Original stone hitching posts flanking gate on picket fence

SIGNIFICANCE

Architect: _____ Builder: _____

18. HISTORICAL OR ARCHITECTURAL IMPORTANCE: Captain Giles Wilcox erected this house in 1786 on land he acquired from the estate of his father-in-law, David Doud. Giles Wilcox lived to be 88 years old, and was prominent in local affairs, serving as a Captain in the militia. The house remained in the Wilcox family until 1943, when it was acquired by the present owners, the Brainard family.

This house displays the center-chimney, two room-deep plan typical of 18th century Connecticut Valley house construction. A denticulated main cornice distinguishes the facade, while the interior displays much original paneling, wainscoting, hardware, etc. The southwest wing was originally a small center-chimney house which pre-dated this one. It was moved and attached for use as a kitchen wing over 100 years ago.

This is an imposing house for its type of construction; as such, it reflects the elevated position of Giles Wilcox in the Westfield Parish.

PHOTOGRAPH

photographer: John E. Reynolds
date: 11/78 view: east
negative on file: Roll 51, #5-5A



COMPILED BY:

name: John E. Reynolds date: 9/78
organization: Greater Middletown Preservation Trust
address: 27 Washington St., Middletown, Ct. 06457

19. SOURCES: Middletown Land Records; Middletown Probate Court Records; Joellyn Kuhnlein and Elizabeth Reynolds, "Wilcox House," GMPT Report (unpublished, 1974); Beers Commemorative Biography of Middlesex County (Chicago: J.H. Beers, 1903); 1859 Walling Map; 1874 Beers Atlas

20. SUBSEQUENT FIELD EVALUATIONS:

21. THREATS TO BUILDING OR SITE:

none known highways vandalism developers other: _____
 renewal private deterioration zoning explanation: _____