

STATE OF CONNECTICUT  
CONNECTICUT HISTORICAL COMMISSION  
135 South Prospect Street, Hartford, Connecticut 06106  
(860) 566-3005  
HISTORIC RESOURCES INVENTORY FORM  
A. Buildings and Structures

FOR OFFICE USE ONLY  
TOWN NO.: \_\_\_\_\_ SITE NO.: \_\_\_\_\_  
UTM: 18 / - / - / - / - / - / - / - / - / - / - / -  
QUAD:  
DISTRICT: S NR: ACTUAL  
POTENTIAL

IDENTIFICATION

- 1. BUILDING NAME: Common: \_\_\_\_\_ Historic: Wilcox-Dreher House
- 2. TOWN/CITY: Middletown VILLAGE: \_\_\_\_\_ COUNTY: Middlesex
- 3. STREET & NUMBER (and/or location): 489 East Street
- 4. OWNER(S): Arthur E. and Margaret W. Sibley 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: possibly 1750s
- 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: 36'x28'; southwest

- 11. NUMBER OF STORIES: 2 1/2 APPROXIMATE DIMENSIONS: wing 30'x28'

- 12. CONDITION: Structural: \_\_\_\_\_ excellent  good \_\_\_\_\_ fair \_\_\_\_\_ deteriorated  
Exterior: \_\_\_\_\_ excellent  good \_\_\_\_\_ fair \_\_\_\_\_ deteriorated

- 13. INTEGRITY: Location:  on original site \_\_\_\_\_ moved, when: \_\_\_\_\_  
Alterations:  no  yes, explain: West wing added

- 14. RELATED OUTBUILDINGS OR LANDSCAPE FEATURES:  
 barn \_\_\_\_\_ shed \_\_\_\_\_ garage \_\_\_\_\_ other landscape features or buildings: \_\_\_\_\_  
 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 house faces east from atop a bank along the west side of East Street. This section of East Street near the intersection of Poplar Road displays several early houses in this still rural section of Westfield.

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

12/12 sash  
Double overhang

SIGNIFICANCE

Architect: \_\_\_\_\_ Builder: \_\_\_\_\_

18. HISTORICAL OR ARCHITECTURAL IMPORTANCE: Due to contradictory evidence, it is impossible to assign a certain date to this house. A deed for this property dated 1809 from Giles Wilcox to his son Sylvester (1782-1833) conveys "three acres with a dwelling house and barn". However, a commemorative biography states that it was built by Sylvester Wilcox. Its center chimney and double overhang suggests a mid-eighteenth century origin. The wing and doorway with transom date from a later period.

The Wilcox family owned the property until 1866. August Dreher subsequently purchased the house and surrounding farm which he occupied until his death in 1916. It has since passed through several owners.

This house is presently in good original condition, and with its contemporary neighbors illustrates the development of an eighteenth century farming community.

PHOTOGRAPH

photographer: John E. Reynolds  
date: 12/78 view: southeast  
negative on file: Roll 51, #8A



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; Commemorative Biography of Middlesex County (Chicago: J.H. Beers, 1903); 1859 Walling Map; 1874 Beers Map

20. SUBSEQUENT FIELD EVALUATIONS:

21. THREATS TO BUILDING OR SITE:

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