

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:	S	NR:	ACTUAL POTENTIAL

IDENTIFICATION

- 1. BUILDING NAME: Common: _____ Historic: John Wilcox House
- 2. TOWN/CITY: Middletown VILLAGE: Westfield COUNTY: Middlesex
- 3. STREET & NUMBER (and/or location): 591 Middle Street
- 4. OWNER(S): Ernest R. and Stella N. Phillips PUBLIC PRIVATE
- 5. USE: Present: Residence Historic: same
- 6. ACCESSIBILITY TO PUBLIC: Exterior visible from public road: yes no
Interior accessible: yes, explain with occupant's permission no

DESCRIPTION

7. STYLE OF BUILDING: Center-Chimney Colonial (saltbox) DATE OF CONSTRUCTION: c. 1738

- 8. MATERIAL(S) (indicate use or location when appropriate):

<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> clapboard	<input type="checkbox"/> asbestos siding	<input type="checkbox"/> brick
<input 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 checked="" type="checkbox"/> cut stone: type: <u>brownstone</u>
<input type="checkbox"/> other: _____		<u>rubble foundation</u>

- 9. STRUCTURAL SYSTEM:

<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> wood frame: <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> post and beam <input type="checkbox"/> balloon
<input type="checkbox"/> load bearing masonry <input type="checkbox"/> structural iron or steel
<input type="checkbox"/> other: _____

- 10. ROOF: type:

<input type="checkbox"/> gable	<input type="checkbox"/> flat	<input type="checkbox"/> mansard	<input type="checkbox"/> monitor	<input type="checkbox"/> sawtooth
<input type="checkbox"/> gambrel	<input type="checkbox"/> shed	<input type="checkbox"/> hip	<input type="checkbox"/> round	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> other <u>saltbox</u>

 material:

<input type="checkbox"/> wood shingle	<input type="checkbox"/> roll asphalt	<input type="checkbox"/> tin	<input type="checkbox"/> slate
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> asphalt shingle	<input type="checkbox"/> built up	<input type="checkbox"/> tile	<input type="checkbox"/> other: _____

11. NUMBER OF STORIES: 2 1/2 APPROXIMATE DIMENSIONS: 32'x40'

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

- 13. INTEGRITY: Location: on original site moved, when: _____
Alterations: no yes, explain: Chimney removed

- 14. RELATED OUTBUILDINGS OR LANDSCAPE FEATURES:

<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> barn	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> shed	<input type="checkbox"/> garage	<input type="checkbox"/> other landscape features or buildings: _____
<input type="checkbox"/> carriage house	<input type="checkbox"/> shop	<input type="checkbox"/> garden	

- 15. SURROUNDING ENVIRONMENT:

<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> open land	<input type="checkbox"/> woodland	<input type="checkbox"/> residential	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> scattered buildings visible from site
<input type="checkbox"/> commercial	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> industrial	<input type="checkbox"/> rural	<input type="checkbox"/> high building density

16. INTERRELATIONSHIP OF BUILDING AND SURROUNDINGS: This ancient saltbox house faces east from the west side of Middle Street near the intersection with Smith Street. It occupies a rise on a steep slope which continues up behind the house. Middle Street in this area displays a mixture of dwellings and light industry scattered about this still rural section of Westfield.

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

Single overhang at attic level

SIGNIFICANCE

Architect: _____

Builder: _____

18. HISTORICAL OR ARCHITECTURAL IMPORTANCE: This house was probably built around 1738 by John Wilcox. Many of his ten children settled in Westfield and built homes, several of which are extant. This house remained in the Wilcox family until 1851 when it was purchased by the Rev. Stephen Hayes, pastor of the Westfield Congregational Church. In 1855 it was acquired by James Nolan. It passed out of the Nolan family in 1944 and since then has had several owners.

The single overhang at the attic level is a rare feature among Middletown's few remaining saltbox houses. This house dates from the earliest settlement of Westfield and was long associated with one of the area's most prominent families. Its presence is a strong reminder of Westfield's past in stark contrast to the recent industrial development nearby.

PHOTOGRAPH

photographer: John E. Reynolds
date: 9/78 view: southeast
negative on file: Roll 47, #14A-15

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 Atlas



20. SUBSEQUENT FIELD EVALUATIONS:

21. THREATS TO BUILDING OR SITE:

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