

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: Joseph Wilcox House Historic: same
- 2. TOWN/CITY: Middletown VILLAGE: Westfield COUNTY: Middlesex
- 3. STREET & NUMBER (and/or location): 227 Atkins Street
- 4. OWNER(S): Patrick and Virginia Renschen PUBLIC  PRIVATE
- 5. USE: Present: Residence Historic: same
- 6. ACCESSIBILITY TO PUBLIC: Exterior visible from public road:  yes  no  
Interior accessible:  yes, explain with permission  no

DESCRIPTION

- 7. STYLE OF BUILDING: Center-Chimney Colonial DATE OF CONSTRUCTION: c. 1774
- 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>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 checked="" 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 type="checkbox"/> other _____

 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: <u>36'x26'; southwest wing 30'x20'</u>
- 11. NUMBER OF STORIES: 2½ APPROXIMATE DIMENSIONS: north wing 30'x15'
- 12. CONDITION: Structural:  excellent  good  fair  deteriorated  
Exterior:  excellent  good  fair  deteriorated
- 13. INTEGRITY: Location:  on original site  moved, when: \_\_\_\_\_  
Alterations:  no  yes, explain: North wing added ca. 1812; southwest wing ca. 1870
- 14. RELATED OUTBUILDINGS OR LANDSCAPE FEATURES:
 

<input type="checkbox"/> barn	<input type="checkbox"/> shed	<input type="checkbox"/> garage	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> other landscape features or buildings: <u>outhouse</u>
<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 checked="" type="checkbox"/> residential	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> scattered buildings visible from site
<input type="checkbox"/> commercial	<input type="checkbox"/> industrial	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> rural	<input type="checkbox"/> high building density
- 16. INTERRELATIONSHIP OF BUILDING AND SURROUNDINGS: The section of Westfield west of Interstate 91 retains its primarily rural character. This house faces east from the west side of Atkins Street. It is set back from the road by a yard and two large trees which flank the brownstone walk leading to the front door.

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

Panelling, wainscoting, and corner cupboards in northeast and southeast parlors  
North wing tromp l'oeil simulated panelling (ca. 1830)  
Keeping room fireplace wall with vertical sheathing: fireplace with bake oven  
in rear  
Basement beehive oven

SIGNIFICANCE

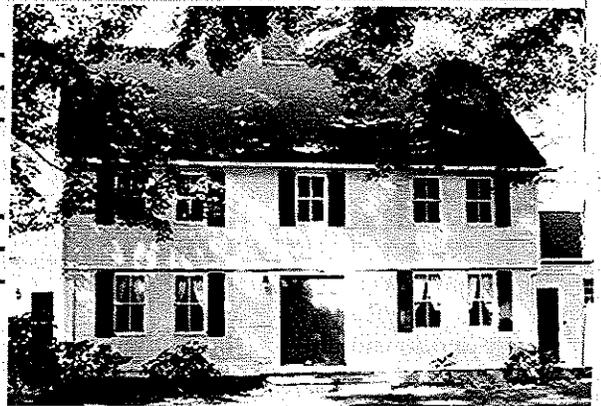
Architect: \_\_\_\_\_ Builder: \_\_\_\_\_

18. HISTORICAL OR ARCHITECTURAL IMPORTANCE: This center-chimney Colonial house was built around 1774 by Joseph Wilcox. It remained in the Wilcox family until six years ago. The Wilcoxes were a prominent early family in Westfield, their presence there dating from the early eighteenth century. Much of the original materials exist in this house. The northeast parlor is of exceptional quality; featuring a corner shell cupboard, panelled wainscoting, and an elaborately panelled fireplace wall. Although the southeast parlor is less formal in its appointments, it too displays a corner cupboard, wainscoting, and a panelled fireplace wall with cupboard. Rare five panel doors with strap hinges also remain as do the original wide floorboards and beam casings. A kitchen wing was added to the original structure around 1812. It features simulated panelling and woodgraining which was executed around 1830. The two story southwest wing was added around 1875 to take in the overflow from the resort hotel located across the street (since destroyed).

The center-chimney, two room deep plan of this house was a common form of construction in the Connecticut River valley during the second half of the eighteenth century. Because of its nearly original condition and fine workmanship, this house is one of the best examples of the type in Middletown.

PHOTOGRAPH

photographer: John E. Reynolds  
date: 9/78 view: east  
negative on file: Roll 35, #16



COMPILED BY:

name: John E. Reynolds date: 8/78  
organization: Greater Middletown Preservation Trust  
address: 27 Washington St., Middletown, Ct. 06457

19. SOURCES: Middletown Land Records; Middletown Probate Court Records; Middletown City Directories; 1874 Beers Atlas

20. SUBSEQUENT FIELD EVALUATIONS:

21. THREATS TO BUILDING OR SITE:

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