

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: Wilcox-Keefe House
- 2. TOWN/CITY: Middletown VILLAGE: \_\_\_\_\_ COUNTY: Middlesex
- 3. STREET & NUMBER (and/or location): 160 Boston Road
- 4. OWNER(S): Leo A. & Denise A. Lensing PUBLIC  PRIVATE
- 5. USE: Present: Residence Historic: same
- 6. ACCESSIBILITY TO PUBLIC: Exterior visible from public road:  yes  no  
Interior accessible:  yes, explain \_\_\_\_\_  no

DESCRIPTION

- 7. STYLE OF BUILDING: Federal DATE OF CONSTRUCTION: c. 1835  
(before 1841)
- 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: 21'x36'; wings 16'x27'
- 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 replaced
- 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: The Wilcox-Keefe house is sited at the east side of Boston Road, on relatively flat, open land. The surrounding area exhibits gradual development from 19th century rural residences to post-World War II suburban housing.

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

SIGNIFICANCE

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

18. HISTORICAL OR ARCHITECTURAL IMPORTANCE: The Wilcox-Keefe house was built in the late 1830s (before 1841) by Eli Wilcox. The house, in Staddle Hill, near the Starr Mill, (see GMPT Report #8) served as a farm house for Wilcox and its subsequent owners. In 1854 Lucy Wilcox, the widow of Eli Wilcox, sold the house and surrounding 24 acres to Freeman Johnson. Joseph Gleason purchased the house and land in 1858. The Gleason family resided in the Wilcox-Keefe house for forty years. In 1898 the Keefe family purchased 160 Boston Road and surrounding acreage from June Gleason. The Keefe family lived in this house until 1969. Since that date the house has changed owners several times.

The Wilcox-Keefe house is an early example of the use of the three-bay wide, gable-to-street configuration in Middletown. It displays a delicate cornice with short return rather than the pediment commonly found in Greek Revival houses of this type. The house shows the lingering influence of the Federal style in the treatment of the window caps and entranceway. The Wilcox-Keefe house represents a transitional phase from the Federal to the Greek Revival style, and is in fine, well-preserved condition.

PHOTOGRAPH

photographer: Elizabeth Loomis  
date: 10/78 view: west  
negative on file: Roll 48, #17A-18

COMPILED BY:

name: David Engstrom date: 10/78  
organization: Greater Middletown Preservation Trust  
address: 27 Washington St., Middletown, Ct. 06457

19. SOURCES: Middletown Land Records; 1874 Beers Atlas



20. SUBSEQUENT FIELD EVALUATIONS:

21. THREATS TO BUILDING OR SITE:

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