STATE OF CONNECTICUT
CONNECTICUT HISTORICAL COMMISSION
59 South Prospect Street, Hartford, Connecticut 06106
(203) 566-3005
HISTORIC RESOURCES INVENTORY FORM
For Buildings and Structures

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

DESCRIPTION
7. STYLE OF BUILDING: ____________________________ DATE OF CONSTRUCTION: c. 1835
   Federal (before 1841)
8. MATERIAL(S) (indicate use or location when appropriate):
   x 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:
   x wood frame: x post and beam ______________ balloon
   ______________ load bearing masonry ______________ structural iron or steel
   ______________ other: ______________
10. ROOF: type:
    x gable ______________ shed ______________ flat ______________ hip ______________ sawtooth
        ______________ gambrel ______________ wood shingle ______________ roll asphalt ______________ tin
        x asphalt shingle ______________ built up ______________ slate ______________ tile
        ______________ other: ______________
11. NUMBER OF STORIES: ____________________________ APPROXIMATE DIMENSIONS: ____________________________
    2½ 21'x36'; wings 16'x27'
12. CONDITION: Structural: x excellent ______________ good ______________ fair ______________ deteriorated
    Exterior: ______ excellent ______________ good ______________ fair ______________ deteriorated
13. INTEGRITY: Location: x on original site moved, when:
    Alterations: ______ no x 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 x 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

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:

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