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: Coleman House Historic: Fairchild House
2. TOWN/CITY: Middletown VILLAGE: COUNTY: Middlesex
3. STREET & NUMBER (and/or location): 390 Coleman Road
4. OWNER(S): David and Jane Swift Historic: same
5. USE: Present: Residence Interior accessible: x yes, explain with permission
6. ACCESSIBILITY TO PUBLIC: Exterior visible from public road: x yes
   Interior accessible: x yes, explain with permission

DESCRIPTION
7. STYLE OF BUILDING: Center-Chimney Colonial
   DATE OF CONSTRUCTION: before 1777
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:  x 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  __ flat  __ mansard  __ monitor  __ sawtooth
     __ gambrel  __ shed  __ hip  __ round  __ other
     __ wood shingle  __ roll asphalt  __ tin  __ slate
     x asphalt shingle  __ built up  __ tile  __ other:
11. NUMBER OF STORIES: 2½
    APPROXIMATE DIMENSIONS: 39'x29' (wing 17'x18')
12. CONDITION: Structural: x excellent  __ good
    Exterior:  __ excellent  x good
13. INTEGRITY: Location: x on original site moved, when: Major interior alterations; exterior renovation/restoration
    Alterations: x no  __ yes, explain: __
14. RELATED OUTBUILDINGS OR LANDSCAPE FEATURES:
    __ barn  __ shed  __ garage  __ other landscape features or buildings:
    __ carriage house  __ shop  __ garden
15. SURROUNDING ENVIRONMENT:
    __ open land  __ woodlot  __ residential  __ scattered buildings visible from site
    __ commercial  __ industrial  __ rural  __ high building density
16. INTERRELATIONSHIP OF BUILDING AND SURROUNDINGS: This substantial structure faces west from the east side of Coleman Road. It is set back from the road on a large plot. The house is surrounded by later dwellings set on large plots in this otherwise rural area.
17. OTHER NOTABLE FEATURES OF BUILDING OR SITE (interior and/or exterior):

SIGNIFICANCE

18. HISTORICAL OR ARCHITECTURAL IMPORTANCE: Elisha Fairchild erected this structure sometime before 1777. Upon his death in the late 1770s the farm descended to his daughter Lucretia Fairchild Miller, wife of Steven Miller. Steven W. Miller, the son of Lucretia and Steven, received fifty acres and the farmhouse as his share of his father's property. He resided there, engaging in agricultural pursuits, until his death in 1884. Mr. Miller was a mechanic for twelve years at the William Wilcox Manufacturing Company at Zoar, prior to becoming a prosperous farmer. After Steven Miller's death the property was acquired by the Coleman family. The Coleman family have been locally known for their extensive farming and dairy products since the turn of the century. In the early 1960s it was purchased by the developers of Sunsest Ridge Incorporated and the property was subdivided into building lots. The building was then vacated and remained so until 1963 when David and Jane Swift, the current owners, purchased it. Although the house was in deteriorated condition when the Swifts acquired it, they successfully renovated it to residential use.

This house is Colonial in style with a center chimney and one overhang on the facade. It was extensively renovated by its current owners, including new sashes, clapboards, entrance way, chimney, and roofing material. (see continuation sheet)

PHOTOGRAPH

photographer: Elizabeth Loomis
date: 9/78
view: southwest
negative on file: Roll 45, #17A-18

COMPiled BY:

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date: 9/78
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19. SOURCES: Middletown Land Records; Middletown Probate Records; Middletown City Directories; 1859 Walling Map; 1874 Beers Atlas; History of Middlesex County (Chicago: H.P Beers, 1884)

20. SUBSEQUENT FIELD EVALUATIONS:

21. THREATS TO BUILDING OR SITE:

\_\_\_\_\_none known \_\_\_\_\_highways \_\_\_\_\_vandalism \_\_\_\_\_developers \_\_\_\_\_other: _____________________________

\_\_\_\_\_renewal \_\_\_\_\_private \_\_\_\_\_deterioration \_\_\_\_\_zoning \_\_\_\_\_explanation: _____________________________
In use for over 200 years as a farmhouse, the Fairchild-Mill-Coleman House is an important survival in an agricultural district which has undergone moderate development in recent years.