STATE OF CONNECTICUT

CONNECTICUT HISTORICAL COMMISSION
South Prospect Street, Hartford, Connecticut 06106
203) 566-3005

TORIC RESOURCES INVENTORY FORM

BUILDINGS AND STRUCTURES

IDENTIFICATION

1. BUILDING NAME: Common: ___________________________ Historic: Wilcox-Dreher House
   TOWN/CITY: Middletown VILLAGE: ___________________ COUNTY: Middlesex
   STREET & NUMBER (and/or location): 489 East Street
   OWNER(S): Arthur E. and Margaret W. Sibley
   USE: Present: Residence Historic: same
   ACCESSIBILITY TO PUBLIC: Exterior visible from public road: yes no
                                        Interior accessible: yes, explain with owner's permission no

DESCRIPTION

STYLE OF BUILDING: Center-Chimney Colonial DATE OF CONSTRUCTION: 1750s

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: brownstone
   ___ other: foundation

STRUCTURAL SYSTEM:
   x wood frame: x post and beam ___ balloon
   ___ load bearing masonry ___ structural iron or steel
   ___ other:

ROOF: type:
   _x_ gable ___ flat ___ mansard ___ monitor ___ sawtooth
   ___ gambrel ___ shed ___ hip ___ round ___ other

material:
   ___ wood shingle ___ roll asphalt ___ tin ___ slate
   _x_ asphalt shingle ___ built up ___ tile ___ other: 36'x28'; southwest

NUMBER OF STORIES: ______ APPROXIMATE DIMENSIONS: wing 30'x28'

CONDITION: Structural: _____ excellent x good ___ fair ___ deteriorated
   Exterior: _____ excellent x good ___ fair ___ deteriorated

INTEGRITY: Location: x on original site moved, when:
   Alterations: no x yes, explain: West wing added

RELATED OUTBUILDINGS OR LANDSCAPE FEATURES:
   _x_ barn ___ shed ___ garage ___ other landscape features or buildings:
   ___ carriage house ___ shop ___ garden

SURROUNDING ENVIRONMENT:
   ___ open land ___ woodland _x_ residential _x_ scattered buildings visible from site
   ___ woodland ___ commercial ___ industrial ___ rural ___ high building density

INTERRELATIONSHIP OF BUILDING AND SURROUNDINGS: This house faces east from atop a
     kn along the west side of East Street. This section of East Street near the intersection
     of Poplar Road displays several early houses in this still rural section of Westfield.
17. OTHER NOTABLE FEATURES OF BUILDING OR SITE (interior and/or exterior):

12/12 sash
Double overhang

18. HISTORICAL OR ARCHITECTURAL IMPORTANCE: Due to contradictory evidence, it is impossible to assign a certain date to this house. A deed for this property dated 1809 from Giles Wilcox to his son Sylvester (1782-1833) conveys "three acres with a dwelling house and barn". However, a commemorative biography states that it was built by Sylvester Wilcox. Its center chimney and double overhang suggests a mid-eighteenth century origin. The wing and doorway with transom date from a later period.

The Wilcox family owned the property until 1866. August Dreher subsequently purchased the house and surrounding farm which he occupied until his death in 1916. It has since passed through several owners.

This house is presently in good original condition, and with its contemporary neighbors illustrates the development of an eighteenth century farming community.

19. SOURCES: Middletown Land Records; Middletown Probate Court Records; Commemorative Biography of Middlesex County (Chicago: J.H. Beers, 1903); 1859 Walling Map; 1874 Beers Map

20. SUBSEQUENT FIELD EVALUATIONS:

21. THREATS TO BUILDING OR SITE:

- X none known  __ highways  _____ vandalism  ___ developers  __ other: _______________________
- ___ renewal  ___ private  _____ deterioration  ___ zoning  __ explanation: ________________________