STATE OF CONNECTICUT

CONNECUT HISTORICAL COMMISSION
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HISTORIC RESOURCES INVENTORY FORM
for Buildings and Structures

IDENTIFICATION

1. BUILDING NAME: Common: ____________ Historic: Timothy Gilbert House

2. TOWN/CITY: Middletown VILLAGE: ____________ COUNTY: Middlesex

3. STREET & NUMBER (and/or location): 1252 Newfield Street

4. OWNER(S): John S. Grassi et al. PUBLIC x PRIVATE

5. USE: Present: Residence Historic: same

6. ACCESSIBILITY TO PUBLIC: Exterior visible from public road: x yes no
Interior accessible: x yes, explain with permission no

DESCRIPTION

7. STYLE OF BUILDING: Federal DATE OF CONSTRUCTION: ER 1815 in foundation

8. MATERIAL(S) (indicate use or location when appropriate):
   • clapboard
   • wood shingle
   • board & batten
   • aluminum siding
   • other:
   • asbestos siding
   • asphalt siding
   • stucco
   • concrete: type:
   • brick
   • fieldstone
   • cobblestone
   • cut stone: type: brownstone ashlar foundation; sills & lintels

9. STRUCTURAL SYSTEM:
   • wood frame: post and beam balloon
   • load bearing masonry structural iron or steel
   • other:

10. ROOF: type:
    • gable
    • gambrel
    • shed
    • mansard
    • hip
    • round
    • monitor
    • sawtooth
    • other
    • material:
      • wood shingle
      • roll asphalt
      • tile
      • built up
      • other:

11. NUMBER OF STORIES: 2½ APPROXIMATE DIMENSIONS: 53' x 27'

12. CONDITION: Structural: __ excellent x good __ fair __ deteriorated
    Exterior: __ excellent x good __ fair __ deteriorated

13. INTEGRITY: Location: x on original site moved, when:
    Alterations: no x yes, explain: Later two-story rear wing; enclosed porch on front

14. RELATED OUTBUILDINGS OR LANDSCAPE FEATURES:
    • barn
    • shed
    • carriage house shop
    • garage
    • garden
    • other landscape features or buildings: pump in front yard

15. SURROUNDING ENVIRONMENT:
    • open land
    • woodland
    • residential
    • commercial
    • industrial
    • rural
    • scattered buildings visible from site
    • high building density

16. INTERRELATIONSHIP OF BUILDING AND SURROUNDINGS: This brick, Federal-period house faces west from the east side of Newfield Street near the Cromwell line. It is set back from the street on a slight rise, and is shaded by several large trees in front. This area of Newfield is a mixture of scattered residences and small industries in an open, rural setting.
17. OTHER NOTABLE FEATURES OF BUILDING OR SITE (interior and/or exterior):
Old hand pump in front yard
"ER. 1815" carved in cornerstone

18. HISTORICAL OR ARCHITECTURAL IMPORTANCE: This house was built in 1815 by Timothy Gilbert (1790-1878) on land purchased by his ancestors directly from the Indians. The Gilbert family for many years was prominent in the Newfield area of Middletown. The use of brick and the three-bay, ridge-to-street configuration of this house is known elsewhere only in the downtown area of Middletown. This distinction led this house "...or many years to be regarded as one of the best in the rural settlements" (Biographical Records of Middlesex County, 1903). Timothy Gilbert was a farmer and also manufactured brick from clay found on this property.
A large rear wing and an enclosed front porch across the width of the house have altered the original appearance of the house; however, as the only brick house of its type outside the urban center of Middletown, it is a unique survival.

19. SOURCES: Biographical Record of Middlesex County (Chicago: J.H. Beers, 1903); 1859 Walling Map; 1874 Beers Atlas

20. SUBSEQUENT FIELD EVALUATIONS:

21. THREATS TO BUILDING OR SITE:
   _x_ none known  _ _ highways  _ _ vandalism  _ _ developers  _ _ other:
   _ _ renewal  _ _ private  _ _ deterioration  _ _ zoning  _ _ explanation: