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: Glen Springs Historic: Henry Gilbert House
2. TOWN/CITY: Middletown VILLAGE: COUNTY: Middlesex
3. STREET & NUMBER (and/or location): 523 Ridgewood Road
4. OWNER(S): Florence B. Gilbert
5. USE: Present: Residence Historic: same
6. ACCESSIBILITY TO PUBLIC: Exterior visible from public road: yes no
Interior accessible: yes, explain with owner’s permission no

DESCRIPTION
7. STYLE OF BUILDING: Italianate DATE OF CONSTRUCTION: 1874
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: brownstone
   other: foundation
9. STRUCTURAL SYSTEM:
   x wood frame; post and beam x balloon
   load bearing masonry structural iron or steel
   other:
10. ROOF: type:
    gable x flat mansard monitor sawtooth
    gambrel shed hip round other
    material:
    wood shingle x roll asphalt tin slate
    asphalt shingle built up tile other:
11. NUMBER OF STORIES: 2 1/2 APPROXIMATE DIMENSIONS: 52'x24'; rear wing 12'x19'
12. CONDITION: Structural: x excellent good fair deteriorated
    Exterior: x excellent good fair deteriorated
13. INTEGRITY: Location: x on original site moved, when:
    Alterations: no x yes, explain: Porches in rear added
14. RELATED OUTBUILDINGS OR LANDSCAPE FEATURES:
    barn shed garage x other landscape features or buildings: stream on
    carriage house shop garden north side of property
15. SURROUNDING ENVIRONMENT:
    x open land woodland residential scattered buildings visible from site
    commercial industrial rural high building density
16. INTERRELATIONSHIP OF BUILDING AND SURROUNDINGS: This immaculately maintained house faces east from the west side of Ridgewood Road, north of Poplar Road. It is set back from the street atop a rise. Large trees shade the broad lawn and provide a picturesque setting for the house. Ridgewood Road in this area retains a traditional rural streetscape.
17. OTHER NOTABLE FEATURES OF BUILDING OR SITE (interior and/or exterior):
   Eyebrow windows below eaves
   Oculus window south side

SIGNIFICANCE

18. HISTORICAL OR ARCHITECTURAL IMPORTANCE: This house was built in 1874 by Henry Gilbert and still remains in the Gilbert family. It was built on land inherited from Orrin Gilbert and known as the "Stony Hill" lot. The Gilbert family has been prominent in Newfield and Westfield for over two centuries.

   The comparative late date and plain decoration of this Italianate style house reflect its traditional rural setting. The Italianate style was popular in Middletown during the third quarter of the nineteenth century; it was prevalent primarily in the urban areas. The Gilbert house displays the typical features of the style, with wide overhanging eaves. Its original condition and traditional setting make it an important rural example of the style.

PHOTOGRAPH

photographer: John E. Reynolds
date: 12/78 view: east
negative on file: Roll 51, #36

COMPiled BY:

name: John E. Reynolds date: 9/78
organization: Greater Middletown Preservation Trust
address: 27 Washington St., Middletown, Ct. 06457

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

20. SUBSEQUENT FIELD EVALUATIONS:

21. THREATS TO BUILDING OR SITE:
   _none known_ highways _vandalism_ developers _other:_
   _renewal_ private _deterioration_ zoning _explanation:_