STATE OF CONNECTICUT

HISTORIC RESOURCES INVENTORY FORM

1. BUILDING NAME: Common: __________________________ Historic: Abel Wilcox House
2. TOWN/CITY: Middletown VILLAGE: __________________________ COUNTY: Middlesex
3. STREET & NUMBER (and/or location): 206 South Main Street
4. OWNER(S): Thomas and Ida Burch __________________________ 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: Colonial __________________________ DATE OF CONSTRUCTION: c. 1783
8. MATERIAL(S) (indicate use or location when appropriate): _x_ clapboard _x_ wood shingle _x_ board & batten _x_ aluminum siding _ other: _x_ asbestos siding _x_ asphalt siding _x_ stucco _x_ concrete: type: _x_ brick _x_ fieldstone _x_ cobblestone _x_ cut stone: type: _x_ brownstone _x_ foundation
9. STRUCTURAL SYSTEM: _x_ wood frame; _x_ post and beam _x_ balloon _x_ load bearing masonry _x_ structural iron or steel _ other: _
10. ROOF: type: _x_ gable _x_ shed _x_ flat _x_ mansard _x_ monitor _x_ sawtooth _ other: _
material: _x_ wood shingle _x_ roll asphalt _x_ slate _ other: _
11. NUMBER OF STORIES: _2 x_ APPROXIMATE DIMENSIONS: 38'x28'
12. CONDITION: Structural: _x_ excellent _x_ good _ other: _
Exterior: _x_ excellent _x_ good _x_ fair _x_ deteriorated
13. INTEGRITY: Location: _x_ on original site _ moved, when: _ Altered: _no _x_ yes, explain: Aluminum siding; porch; north wing added
14. RELATED OUTBUILDINGS OR LANDSCAPE FEATURES: _x_ barn _x_ shed _x_ carriage house _x_ garage _x_ other landscape features or buildings: Set back from street
15. SURROUNDING ENVIRONMENT: _x_ open land _x_ woodland _x_ residential _x_ scattered buildings visible from site _ commercial _ industrial _ rural _x_ high building density
16. INTERRELATIONSHIP OF BUILDING AND SURROUNDINGS: South Main Street displays a variety of building styles and uses. This house faces west to Warwick Street, and marks a change in the makeup of the neighborhood. To the north are residences; to the south is the Wilcox Crittenden Manufacturing plant.

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17. OTHER NOTABLE FEATURES OF BUILDING OR SITE (interior and/or exterior):

Chimney offset to north
Center straight run stairway

SIGNIFICANCE

18. HISTORICAL OR ARCHITECTURAL IMPORTANCE: This house was built around 1783 for Abel Wilcox. In 1792 it was acquired by Jacob Eggleston, a pewterer, whose shop was across the street. He also owned the adjacent property to the north with a store. This house remained in the Eggleston family until 1859. It has always been in residential use, and now houses several apartments.

Unfortunately, little of the original fabric of this house remains. It is noteworthy for its historical associations with Jacob Eggleston and for its unusual plan. A center stair rises straight up from the hall with the chimney to the north. This stairway appears to be original to the house. Unusual aspects of the plan (for example, no provision for heating the south rooms) suggest that the original configuration of the house differs from its present form.

PHOTOGRAPH

photographer: Elizabeth Loomis

date: 4/78 view: west

negative on file: Roll 18, #26A

COMPILED BY:

name: John E. Reynolds date: 7/78

organization: Greater Middletown Preservation Trust

address: 27 Washington St., Middletown, Ct. 06457

19. SOURCES: Middletown Land Records; Middletown Probate Court Records; Middletown City Directories; Jesse Alsop, "Abel Wilcox House," Old Houses of Connecticut Series (FERA 1935); 1825 Barnum Map; 1851 Clark Map; 1874 Beers Atlas; 1877 Bailey Map

20. SUBSEQUENT FIELD EVALUATIONS:

21. THREATS TO BUILDING OR SITE:

__x__ none known __highways __vandalism __developers __other:

__renewal __private __deterioration __zoning __explanation: 

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