

STATE OF CONNECTICUT

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

HISTORIC RESOURCES INVENTORY FORM
For Buildings and Structures

FOR OFFICE USE ONLY			
TOWN NO.:	SITE NO.:		
UTM: 18/	/	/	/
QUAD:			
DISTRICT:	S	NR:	ACTUAL POTENTIAL

IDENTIFICATION

- 1. BUILDING NAME: Common: _____ Historic: Wetmore-North House
- 2. TOWN/CITY: Middletown VILLAGE: _____ COUNTY: Middlesex
- 3. STREET & NUMBER (and/or location): 479 Boston Road
- 4. OWNER(S): Leslie Hare PUBLIC PRIVATE
- 5. USE: Present: Residence Historic: same
- 6. ACCESSIBILITY TO PUBLIC: Exterior visible from public road: xyes no
Interior accessible: xyes, explain with owner's permission no

DESCRIPTION

- 7. STYLE OF BUILDING: Colonial; Federal alterations DATE OF CONSTRUCTION: c. 1765

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

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

- 10. ROOF: type:
 gable flat mansard monitor sawtooth
 gambrel shed hip round other _____
material:
 wood shingle roll asphalt tin slate
 asphalt shingle built up tile other: _____

- 11. NUMBER OF STORIES: 2 1/2 APPROXIMATE DIMENSIONS: 35'x42'; rear wing 18'x19'

- 12. CONDITION: Structural: excellent good fair deteriorated
Exterior: excellent good fair deteriorated

- 13. INTEGRITY: Location: on original site moved, when: _____
Alterations: no yes, explain: Wing, south; center chimney removed

- 14. RELATED OUTBUILDINGS OR LANDSCAPE FEATURES:
 barn shed garage other landscape features or buildings: large copper beech tree
 carriage house shop garden

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

16. INTERRELATIONSHIP OF BUILDING AND SURROUNDINGS: This large Colonial house faces east from the north side of Boston Road. It occupies a rise which slopes down a broad lawn to George Street. A large copper beech tree shades the house on the west. This section of Staddle Hill displays recent residential development.

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

Federal period fanlight over entrance

SIGNIFICANCE

Architect: _____ Builder: _____

18. HISTORICAL OR ARCHITECTURAL IMPORTANCE: This house was probably built around 1765 by Seth Wetmore, Jr., son of Judge Seth Wetmore who built his house to the north (now on Washington Street Extension; see GMPT Survey Report #269). In 1814 the property was purchased by Simeon North who was probably responsible for the addition of a Federal style entrance. At this time the large center chimney was probably removed and a central hall opened up from the new Federal entrance. North was a prominent arms manufacturer whose factory was located in Staddle Hill.

The house retains the double overhang typical of the period of its construction as well as later Federal elements. The imposing scale of this house reflects the prominent standing of the Wetmore family in eighteenth-century Middletown. The present owners are currently removing later siding to reveal the original narrow clapboarding. The house occupies an impressive site on a hill, with fields to the south.

PHOTOGRAPH

photographer: Roger Sherman
date: 9/78 view: east
negative on file: Roll 42, #31-31A

COMPILED BY:

name: John E. Reynolds date: 8/78
organization: Greater Middletown Preservation Trust
address: 27 Washington St., Middletown, Ct. 06457



19. SOURCES: Middletown Land Records; Middletown Probate Court Records; 1859 Walling Map; 1874 Beers Atlas

20. SUBSEQUENT FIELD EVALUATIONS:

21. THREATS TO BUILDING OR SITE:

none known highways vandalism developers other: _____
 renewal private deterioration zoning explanation: _____