

STATE OF CONNECTICUT

CONNECTICUT HISTORICAL COMMISSION
55 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: Spiderweed; Nature Conservancy Historic: Soloman Hubbard Farm
2. TOWN/CITY: Middletown VILLAGE: _____ COUNTY: Middlesex
3. STREET & NUMBER (and/or location): Dripps Road; east side, .5 miles from Saybrook Road
4. OWNER(S): The Connecticut Chapter of The Nature Conservancy PUBLIC PRIVATE
5. USE: Present: Residence, nature conservancy Historic: Residence
6. ACCESSIBILITY TO PUBLIC: Exterior visible from public road: yes no
Interior accessible: yes, explain with permission no

DESCRIPTION

7. STYLE OF BUILDING: Center-Chimney Colonial DATE OF CONSTRUCTION: Mid-18th century
8. MATERIAL(S) (indicate use or location when appropriate):
 clapboard asbestos siding brick
 wood shingle asphalt siding fieldstone foundation
 board & batten stucco cobblestone
 aluminum siding concrete: type: _____ cut stone: type: _____
 other: _____
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: 2½ APPROXIMATE DIMENSIONS: 27'x31'
12. CONDITION: Structural: excellent good fair deteriorated
 Exterior: excellent good fair deteriorated
13. INTEGRITY: Location: on original site moved, when: _____
 Alterations: no yes, explain: Chimney rebuilt; some late 19th century interior alteration
14. RELATED OUTBUILDINGS OR LANDSCAPE FEATURES:
 barn shed garage other landscape features or buildings: cast iron
 carriage house shop garden water pump and lighting fixture
15. SURROUNDING ENVIRONMENT:
 open land woodland residential scattered buildings visible from site
 commercial industrial rural high building density
16. INTERRELATIONSHIP OF BUILDING AND SURROUNDINGS: Spiderweed faces west on a dirt road, about half a mile from Saybrook Road (Route 9A). A small yard, garden and fields are to the side and rear. The surrounding area is woodland and overgrown fields.

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

Overhang at second story and gable ends
Much original material: clapboards; fireplaces; kitchen sheathing

SIGNIFICANCE

Architect: _____

Builder: _____

18. HISTORICAL OR ARCHITECTURAL IMPORTANCE: Spiderweed was originally built as the home-
stead of Soloman Hubbard in the mid-eighteenth century. His father, Soloman Hubbard, had
also farmed in the "Great tier of Lotts," and his house stood nearby. Soloman Hubbard,
builder of this house, accumulated land from his father's estate and from his neighbors. In
1817 Soloman Hubbard deeded the house and land to the Town of Middletown for the payment of
debts, reserving life tenancy for himself and his wife. Traditionally, Hubbard is said to
have been prevented from operating the farm because of a wound suffered in the Revolutionary
War. After Hubbard's death the Town of Middletown sold the house to the Bailey family. It
was sold to the Dripps family in 1866. The house primarily remained in the hands of the
Dripps and Meader family (related by marriage) until obtained by Miss Helen Lohman in 1936.
Miss Lohman kept intact the acreage which had been acquired through the years of the house's
use as a farm, and , renaming it Spiderweed, used the property as a rustic country retreat.
Consequently, the house retains its rural setting to the present day, and still lacks mod-
ern heat and plumbing facilities. Helen Lohman demonstrated her concern for the house and
land by deeding it to the Connecticut Chapter of The Nature Conservancy in 1975. That
(see continuation sheet)

PHOTOGRAPH

photographer: Elizabeth Loomis
date: 8/78 view: west
negative on file: Roll 32, #33



COMPILED BY:

name: Barbara Ann Cleary date: 7/78
organization: Greater Middletown Preservation Trust
address: 27 Washington St., Middletown, Ct. 06457

19. SOURCES: Middletown Tax Assessors; Middletown
Land Records; Middletown Probate Records; 1874
Beers Atlas; Connecticut Chapter of The Nature
Conservancy

20. SUBSEQUENT FIELD EVALUATIONS:

21. THREATS TO BUILDING OR SITE:

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

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CONTINUATION SHEET
Inventory number: 18 Date: 7/78

Soloman Hubbard Farm
Dripps Road, Middletown, Conn. 06457

organization plans not only to maintain the grounds as a wildlife preserve, but hopes to create an interpretive program for the house and associated historic landscape. Spiderweed is an 18th century, center-chimney, Colonial farmhouse; and displays an overhang at the second story level and gable ends. The fenestration of the facade is irregular and asymmetrical. Structural evidence suggests that the house may originally have been a story and a half in height. Placement of the stairs at the side of the kitchen rather than in front of the chimney supports this theory. The interior displays some original material (i.e. floor boards, sheathing in kitchen, large kitchen fireplace), as well as alterations in wall finish and fireplace treatment probably dating from around the turn of the century. It remains in a good state of preservation, with few twentieth century alterations.

The 157 acres associated with the house reflect the continued use of the land for over 200 years, both as farm and as country retreat. It is now mostly heavily wooded, with recently overgrown fields. In close proximity to the house are a variety of specimen trees and plants, the remains of a large early barn with full fieldstone foundation, a cast iron water pump and lighting fixture, and stone walls.

Surprisingly isolated, despite its near proximity to a major local route and an industrial complex (United Technologies), the Spiderweed house and property is an important historic, cultural, and natural resource in Middletown.