STATE OF CONNECTICUT

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

HISTORIC RESOURCES INVENTORY FORM
for Buildings and Structures

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

1. BUILDING NAME: Common: _____ Historic: __Elisha Sears House__

2. TOWN/CITY: __Middletown__ VILLAGE: _____ COUNTY: __Middlesex__

3. STREET & NUMBER (and/or location): __112 East Main Street__

4. OWNER(S): __Russell M. and Mary E. Perking__   __PUBLIC _X_ PRIVATE

5. USE: Present: __Residence__   Historic: __same__

6. ACCESSIBILITY TO PUBLIC: Exterior visible from public road: _X_ yes __ no
   Interior accessible: __ yes, explain _____ _x_ no

DESCRIPTION

7. STYLE OF BUILDING: __Italianate__   DATE OF CONSTRUCTION: __c. 1860__

8. MATERIAL(S) (indicate use or location when appropriate):
   __clapboard   _X_ asbestos siding   __ brick
   __wood shingle   __ asphalt siding   __ fieldstone
   __board & batten   __ stucco   __ cobblestone
   __aluminum siding   __ concrete: type: _____   _X_ cut stone: type: __brownstone__
   __other: __foundation__

9. STRUCTURAL SYSTEM:
   _X_ wood frame: __ post and beam _X_ balloon (probably transitional)
   __ load bearing masonry   __ structural iron or steel
   __ other: _____

10. ROOF: type:
    __gable   _X_ flat or low __ mansard   __ monitor   __ sawtooth
    __gambrel   __ shed hip   __ hip   __ round   __ other _____
       material:
    __ wood shingle __ roll asphalt __ tin   __ slate
    __ asphalt shingle _X_ built up   __ tile   __ other: _____

11. NUMBER OF STORIES: __2__   APPROXIMATE DIMENSIONS: __26'x30' (rear ell, 18'x41')__

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: __Rear addition; north addition and porches; asbestos
    siding over clapboards__

14. RELATED OUTBUILDINGS OR LANDSCAPE FEATURES:
    __ barn   __ shed   __ garage   __ other landscape features or buildings: _____
    __ carriage house __ shop   __ garden   _____

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

16. INTERRELATIONSHIP OF BUILDING AND SURROUNDINGS: This residence on East Main Street is near the intersection of Chestnut Street and Cooley Avenue. Its large size and bold rectangular design make it an apparent feature on the street. The structure contrasts with the neighboring houses and commercial buildings. Flanked by a brick commercial structure south and an overgrown lot north, it faces a service station and an early three-story factory building across the street.

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

SIGNIFICANCE

Architect: _____   Builder: _____

18. HISTORICAL OR ARCHITECTURAL IMPORTANCE: This residence, first owned by Elisha Sears, may have been erected soon after the property was mortgaged in 1854. Sears taught school for many years in the Hubbard and South Farms Districts. The house, exhibiting a large rectangular profile, is of the Italianate style. It features a wide cornice with dentils displayed on the frieze beneath and a distinctive narrow cupola. Like the roof of the building, the cupola has an unusually wide cornice. It is further decorated by thin scrolled brackets and small ogee-like, arched windows.

This building, one of the largest Italianate houses in the South Farms area, is an integral East Main Street feature. It is representative of a style popular in the vicinity during the 1860s and 70s when a large increase in residential development occurred, corresponding with the district's industrial growth. East Main Street and nearby Silver Street developed earlier than the surrounding roads. Consequently, the residence may have been one of the first Italianate buildings constructed in South Farms, where a large concentration of this style remain.

PHOTOGRAPH

photographer: _____Robert Svec_____

date: __6/78__   view: __west__

negative on file: __Roll 27, #8__

COMPILED BY:

name: ___Robert Svec___   date: __6/78__

organization: _Greater Middletown Preservation Trust_

address: _27 Washington St., Middletown, Ct. 06457_

19. SOURCES: Middletown Land Records; Beers Atlas, 1874; Bailey Map, 1877; Walling Map, 1859; _Commemorative Biographical Record of Middlesex County_ (Chicago: J.B. Beers, 1903)

20. SUBSEQUENT FIELD EVALUATIONS:

21. THREATS TO BUILDING OR SITE:

___none known   ___highways   ___ vandalism   ___developers   ___ other:_____

___renewal   ___private   _X_ deterioration ___zoning   ___ explanation: _____