

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:	5	NR:	ACTUAL POTENTIAL

IDENTIFICATION

- 1. BUILDING NAME: Common: _____ Historic: Cook-Bengtson House
- 2. TOWN/CITY: Middletown VILLAGE: _____ COUNTY: Middlesex
- 3. STREET & NUMBER (and/or location): Bear Hill Road; north side, 1.2 miles east of Brooks Road
- 4. OWNER(S): Russell and Elizabeth Bengtson PUBLIC PRIVATE
- 5. USE: Present: Residence Historic: same
- 6. ACCESSIBILITY TO PUBLIC: Exterior visible from public road: yes no
Interior accessible: yes, explain _____ no

DESCRIPTION

- 7. STYLE OF BUILDING: Center-Chimney Colonial DATE OF CONSTRUCTION: Probably early 1780s
- 8. MATERIAL(S) (indicate use or location when appropriate):

<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> clapboard	<input type="checkbox"/> asbestos siding	<input type="checkbox"/> brick
<input type="checkbox"/> wood shingle	<input type="checkbox"/> asphalt siding	<input type="checkbox"/> fieldstone
<input type="checkbox"/> board & batten	<input type="checkbox"/> stucco	<input type="checkbox"/> cobblestone
<input type="checkbox"/> aluminum siding	<input type="checkbox"/> concrete: type: _____	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> cut stone: type: <u>granite</u>
<input type="checkbox"/> other: _____		<u>foundation</u>
- 9. STRUCTURAL SYSTEM:

<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> wood frame: <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> post and beam <input type="checkbox"/> balloon
<input type="checkbox"/> load bearing masonry <input type="checkbox"/> structural iron or steel
<input type="checkbox"/> other: _____
- 10. ROOF: type:

<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> gable	<input type="checkbox"/> flat	<input type="checkbox"/> mansard	<input type="checkbox"/> monitor	<input type="checkbox"/> sawtooth
<input type="checkbox"/> gambrel	<input type="checkbox"/> shed	<input type="checkbox"/> hip	<input type="checkbox"/> round	<input type="checkbox"/> other _____

 material:

<input type="checkbox"/> wood shingle	<input type="checkbox"/> roll asphalt	<input type="checkbox"/> tin	<input type="checkbox"/> slate
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> asphalt shingle	<input type="checkbox"/> built up	<input type="checkbox"/> tile	<input type="checkbox"/> other: _____
- 11. NUMBER OF STORIES: 1 1/2 APPROXIMATE DIMENSIONS: 29'x36'
- 12. CONDITION: Structural: excellent good fair deteriorated
Exterior: excellent good fair deteriorated
- 13. INTEGRITY: Location: on original site moved, when: _____
Alterations: no yes, explain: See #18
- 14. RELATED OUTBUILDINGS OR LANDSCAPE FEATURES:

<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> barn	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> shed	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> garage	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> other landscape features or buildings: <u>two brick silos</u>
<input type="checkbox"/> carriage house	<input type="checkbox"/> shop	<input type="checkbox"/> garden	
- 15. SURROUNDING ENVIRONMENT:

<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> open land	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> woodland	<input type="checkbox"/> residential	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> scattered buildings visible from site
<input type="checkbox"/> commercial	<input type="checkbox"/> industrial	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> rural	<input type="checkbox"/> high building density

16. INTERRELATIONSHIP OF BUILDING AND SURROUNDINGS: This building is located on the north side of Bear Hill Road in Maromas, a rural district in the southeastern section of the city. Sited on a slope, it faces west and its gable end overlooks the road nearby. A garage is west, close to the house; a barn, two brick silos, and a shed are sited near the road on the opposite side.

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

SIGNIFICANCE

Architect: _____ Builder: _____

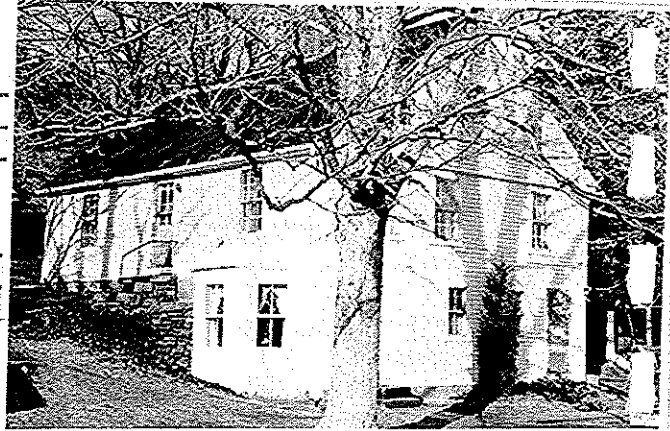
18. HISTORICAL OR ARCHITECTURAL IMPORTANCE: This Colonial farmhouse was probably erected by William Cook in the early 1780s. It remained occupied by Cook's descendants until 1872. Members of the Bengtson family have resided here since 1894 and the property is still farmed by the family, although on a limited basis.

Set on the side of a hill, the building is sited in an unusual fashion. Its gable end faces the road and has a full basement story. A bay window, probably added in the late 1800s projects from the side of the basement. The main section, above the ground floor, exhibits a Colonial style popular in rural Middletown during the 18th century. The three-bay facade has a central entrance, and overhangs are displayed on the sides beneath the gable. Like the foundation, the large, brick center chimney was originally constructed of granite which came from quarries nearby.

This clapboarded structure, located near agricultural outbuildings and pasture lots, is reminiscent of the small farms that once characterized the area. Its early details and unusual siting to the road contribute to making this house a notable feature of this rural district.

PHOTOGRAPH

photographer: Robert Svec
date: 12/78 view: southwest
negative on file: Roll 57, #6



COMPILED BY:

name: Robert Svec date: 12/78
organization: Greater Middletown Preservation Trust
address: 27 Washington St., Middletown, Ct. 06457

19. SOURCES: Jesse Alsop, "Andrew Bengtson House," Old Houses of Connecticut Series (FERA 1935); 1874 Beers Atlas

20. SUBSEQUENT FIELD EVALUATIONS:

21. THREATS TO BUILDING OR SITE:

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