

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: Cornwell Homestead Historic: Joseph Cornwell House
- 2. TOWN/CITY: Middletown VILLAGE: Westfield COUNTY: Middlesex
- 3. STREET & NUMBER (and/or location): 83 Smith Street
- 4. OWNER(S): Thomas M. and Beverly Kennedy PUBLIC  PRIVATE
- 5. USE: Present: Residence Historic: same
- 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: c. 1783
- 8. MATERIAL(S) (indicate use or location when appropriate):  
 clapboard      \_\_\_ asbestos siding      \_\_\_ brick  
 \_\_\_ wood shingle      \_\_\_ asphalt siding      \_\_\_ fieldstone  
 \_\_\_ board & batten      \_\_\_ stucco      \_\_\_ cobblestone  
 \_\_\_ aluminum siding      \_\_\_ concrete: type: \_\_\_\_\_  cut stone: type: brownstone  
 \_\_\_ other: \_\_\_\_\_ ashlar 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 (wing) \_\_\_ slate  
 asphalt shingle \_\_\_ built up \_\_\_ tile \_\_\_ other: \_\_\_\_\_
- 11. NUMBER OF STORIES: 2½ APPROXIMATE DIMENSIONS: 32'x39'; north wing 30'x28'
- 12. CONDITION: Structural: \_\_\_ excellent  good \_\_\_ fair \_\_\_ deteriorated  
 Exterior: \_\_\_ excellent  good \_\_\_ fair \_\_\_ deteriorated
- 13. INTEGRITY: Location:  on original site \_\_\_ moved, when: \_\_\_\_\_  
 Alterations:  no \_\_\_ yes, explain: \_\_\_\_\_
- 14. RELATED OUTBUILDINGS OR LANDSCAPE FEATURES:  
 \_\_\_ barn \_\_\_ shed \_\_\_ garage \_\_\_ other landscape features or buildings: \_\_\_\_\_  
 \_\_\_ 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 center-chimney Colonial house faces east from the west side of Smith Street across from the intersection of Glenwood Terrace. This section of Smith Street marks the boundary between the traditional rural atmosphere of Westfield and recent residential development along Glenwood Terrace and the east side of Smith Street.

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

- Old ell with eyebrow windows
- Double overhang
- Six paned entrance overlight

**SIGNIFICANCE**

Architect: \_\_\_\_\_ Builder: \_\_\_\_\_

18. HISTORICAL OR ARCHITECTURAL IMPORTANCE: The Cornwell family was amongst the early settlers of Westfield. This house was probably built around 1783 by Joseph Cornwell, a yeoman farmer. It remained in the family for over a century. In recent years the house has undergone much restoration work in an effort to regain its approximate early appearance.

The center-chimney configuration and double overhang of this house are typical of eighteenth century domestic construction. Together with its near neighbors to the south (see GMPT Report, Joseph Clarke House, 35 Smith Street), this house defines the distinction between the old and the new in this section of Westfield.

**PHOTOGRAPH**

photographer: John E. Reynolds  
 date: 12/78 view: southeast  
 negative on file: Roll 51, #17-17A

**COMPILED BY:**

name: John E. Reynolds date: 9/78  
 organization: Greater Middletown Preservation Trust  
 address: 27 Washington Street, Middletown, Ct. 06457

19. SOURCES: Middletown Land Records; Middletown Probate Court Records; Commemorative Biography of Middlesex County (Chicago: J.H. Beers, 1905); 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: \_\_\_\_\_