STATE OF CONNECTICUT
CONNECTICUT HISTORICAL COMMISSION
59 South Prospect Street, Hartford, Connecticut 06106
(203) 566-3005
HISTORIC RESOURCES INVENTORY FORM
For Buildings and Structures

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 X
5. USE: Present: Residence ___________________________ Historic: same ___________________________
6. ACCESSIBILITY TO PUBLIC: Exterior visible from public road: X yes _ no ___________________________
   Interior accessible: X yes, 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):
   X clapboard (partial) __ asbestos siding __ brick ___________________________
   __ wood shingle X asphalt siding (partial) __ fieldstone ___________________________
   __ board & batten __ stucco __ cobblestone ___________________________
   __ aluminum siding __ concrete: type: ________________ X cut stone: type: brownstone ___________
   __ other: ___________
9. STRUCTURAL SYSTEM:
   X wood frame: X post and beam __ balloon ___________
   __ load bearing masonry __ structural iron or steel ___________
   __ other: ___________
10. ROOF: type:
    X gable __ flat __ mansard __ monitor __ sawtooth ___________
    __ gambrel __ shed __ hip __ round __ other ___________
    __ material: ___________
    __ wood shingle __ roll asphalt __ tin __ slate ___________________________
    X asphalt shingle __ built up __ tile __ other: ___________________________
11. NUMBER OF STORIES: 2 1/2 __ APPROXIMATE DIMENSIONS: 35'x42'; rear wing 18'x19' ___________
12. CONDITION: Structural: X excellent __ good __ fair __ deteriorated ___________________________
    Exterior: X excellent __ good __ X fair __ deteriorated ___________________________
13. INTEGRITY: Location: X on original site __ moved, when: ___________
    Alterations: ___________
    X yes, explain: Wing, south; center chimney removed ___________
14. RELATED OUTBUILDINGS OR LANDSCAPE FEATURES:
    X barn __ shed __ garage __ other landscape features or buildings: large copper beech tree ___________
    carriage house __ shop __ garden ___________
15. SURROUNDING ENVIRONMENT:
    X 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: ____________________________