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: 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 XPRIVATE
5. USE: Present: Residence ____________________________ Historic: same
6. ACCESSIBILITY TO PUBLIC: Exterior visible from public road: X yes no
Interior accessible: yes, explain ____________________________ Xno

DESCRIPTION
7. STYLE OF BUILDING: Center-Chimney Colonial ___________ DATE OF CONSTRUCTION: 1780s

8. MATERIAL(S) (indicate use or location when appropriate):

| X clapboard | asbestos siding | brick |
| wood shingle | asphalt siding | fieldstone |
| board & batten | stucco | cobblestone |
| aluminum siding | concrete: type: | cut stone: type: granite |
| other: | | foundation |

9. STRUCTURAL SYSTEM:

| 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 |
| asphalt shingle: X built up | tile | other: |

11. NUMBER OF STORIES: 1 1/2 ___________ APPROXIMATE DIMENSIONS: 29'x36'

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: See #18

14. RELATED OUTBUILDINGS OR LANDSCAPE FEATURES:

| X barn | X shed | X garage | X other landscape features or buildings: two brick silos |
| carriage house | shop | garden |

15. SURROUNDING ENVIRONMENT:

| X open land | X woodland | residential | X scattered buildings visible from site |
| commercial | industrial | rural | 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


20. SUBSEQUENT FIELD EVALUATIONS:

21. THREATS TO BUILDING OR SITE:

- X none known  highways  vandalism  developers  other: __________________________
   renewal  private  deterioration  zoning  explanation: __________________________