STATE OF CONNECTICUT

TORIC RESOURCES INVENTORY FORM
For Buildings and Structures

IDENTIFICATION
1. BUILDING NAME: Common: Spiderweed; Nature Conservancy
   Historic: Soloman Hubbard Farm
2. TOWN/CITY: Middletown
3. STREET & NUMBER (and/or location): Dripps Road; east side, .5 miles from Saybrook Road
4. OWNER(S): The Connecticut Chapter of The Nature Conservancy
   PUBLIC X PRIVATE
5. USE: Present: Residence, nature conservancy Historic: Residence
6. ACCESSIBILITY TO PUBLIC: Exterior visible from public road: X yes, explain with permission
   Interior accessible: X yes, no

DESCRIPTION
7. STYLE OF BUILDING: Center-Chimney Colonial
   DATE OF CONSTRUCTION: Mid-18th century
8. MATERIAL(S) (indicate use or location when appropriate):
   X clapboard asbestos siding
   wood shingle asphalt siding
   board & batten stucco
   aluminum siding concrete: type:
   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 X flat X mansard X monitor X sawtooth
     X gambrel X shed X hip X round X other
    material:
     wood shingle roll asphalt tin slate
     asphalt shingle built up tile other:
11. NUMBER OF STORIES: 2½
12. CONDITION: Structural:
    X excellent X good X fair X deteriorated
    Exterior:
    X excellent
13. INTEGRITY: Location: X on original site moved, when:
    Alterations: no X yes, explain: Chimney rebuilt; some late 19th century interior
14. RELATED OUTBUILDINGS OR LANDSCAPE FEATURES:
    X barn X shed X garage X other landscape features or buildings: cast iron
    carriage house X shop X water pump and lighting fixture
15. SURROUNDING ENVIRONMENT:
    X open land X woodland X residential scattered buildings visible from site
    commercial X industrial X rural high building density
16. INTERRELATIONSHIP OF BUILDING AND SURROUNDINGS: Spiderweed faces west on a dirt road, about half a mile from Saybrook Road (Route 9A). A small yard, garden and fields are to the side and rear. The surrounding area is woodland and overgrown fields.
17. OTHER NOTABLE FEATURES OF BUILDING OR SITE (interior and/or exterior):

Overhang at second story and gable ends
Much original material: clapboards; fireplaces; kitchen sheathing

18. HISTORICAL OR ARCHITECTURAL IMPORTANCE: Spiderweed was originally built as the homestead of Soloman Hubbard in the mid-eighteenth century. His father, Soloman Hubbard, had also farmed in the "Great tier of Lotts," and his house stood nearby. Soloman Hubbard, builder of this house, accumulated land from his father's estate and from his neighbors. In 1817 Soloman Hubbard deeded the house and land to the Town of Middletown for the payment of debts, reserving life tenancy for himself and his wife. Traditionally, Hubbard is said to have been prevented from operating the farm because of a wound suffered in the Revolutionary War. After Hubbard's death the Town of Middletown sold the house to the Bailey family. It was sold to the Dripps family in 1866. The house primarily remained in the hands of the Dripps and Meader family (related by marriage) until obtained by Miss Helen Lohman in 1936. Miss Lohman kept intact the acreage which had been acquired through the years of the house's use as a farm, and, renaming it Spiderweed, used the property as a rustic country retreat. Consequently, the house retains its rural setting to the present day, and still lacks modern heat and plumbing facilities. Helen Lohman demonstrated her concern for the house and land by deeding it to the Connecticut Chapter of The Nature Conservancy in 1975. That (see continuation sheet)

19. SOURCES: Middletown Tax Assessors; Middletown Land Records; Middletown Probate Records; 1874 Beers Atlas; Connecticut Chapter of The Nature Conservancy

20. SUBSEQUENT FIELD EVALUATIONS:

21. THREATS TO BUILDING OR SITE:

\[ X \] none known  [ ] highways  [ ] vandalism  [ ] developers  [ ] other:

[ ] renewal  [ ] private  [ ] deterioration  [ ] zoning  [ ] explanation: ________________________
organization plans not only to maintain the grounds as a wildlife preserve, but hopes to create an interpretive program for the house and associated historic landscape.

Spiderweed is an 18th century, center-chimney, Colonial farmhouse; and displays an overhang at the second story level and gable ends. The fenestration of the facade is irregular and asymmetrical. Structural evidence suggests that the house may originally have been a story and a half in height. Placement of the stairs at the side of the kitchen rather than in front of the chimney supports this theory. The interior displays some original material (i.e. floor boards, sheathing in kitchen, large kitchen fireplace), as well as alterations in wall finish and fireplace treatment probably dating from around the turn of the century. It remains in a good state of preservation, with few twentieth century alterations.

The 157 acres associated with the house reflect the continued use of the land for over 200 years, both as farm and as country retreat. It is now mostly heavily wooded, with recently overgrown fields. In close proximity to the house are a variety of specimen trees and plants, the remains of a large early barn with full fieldstone foundation, a cast iron water pump and lighting fixture, and stone walls.

Surprisingly isolated, despite its near proximity to a major local route and an industrial complex (United Technologies), the Spiderweed house and property is an important historic, cultural, and natural resource in Middletown.