ENTIFICATION
1. BUILDING NAME: Common: ____________________________ Historic: Aaron Plum House
2. TOWN/CITY: Middletown VILLAGE: Westfield COUNTY: Middlesex
3. STREET & NUMBER (and/or location): 571 East Street
4. OWNER(S): ____________________________ PUBLIC: x PRIVATE
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: Center-Hall Colonial DATE OF CONSTRUCTION: 1765
8. MATERIAL(S) (indicate use or location when appropriate):
   - x clapboard
   - _ wood shingle
   - _ board & batten
   - _ aluminum siding
   - _ other:
   - _ asbestos siding
   - _ asphalt siding
   - _ stucco
   - _ concrete: type: __
   - _ brick
   - _ fieldstone
   - _ cobblestone
   - _ cut stone: type: __
   - _ brownstone
   - _ foundation
   - _ ashlar
9. STRUCTURAL SYSTEM:
   - x wood frame; x post and beam
   - _ load bearing masonry
   - _ structural iron or steel
   - _ other:
0. ROOF: type:
   - x gable
   - _ gambrel
   - _ shed
   - _ hip
   - _ monitor
   - _ round
   - _ sawtooth
   - _ other:
   - _ material:
   - _ wood shingle
   - _ roll asphalt
   - _ tin
   - _ slate
   - _ asphalt shingle
   - _ built up
   - _ tile
   - _ other: 37'x30'; southwest wing
1. NUMBER OF STORIES: 2½ APPROXIMATE DIMENSIONS: 28'x23'
2. CONDITION: Structural: x excellent x good __ fair __ deteriorated
   Exterior: x excellent x good __ fair __ deteriorated
3. INTEGRITY: Location: x on original site __ moved, when:
   Alterations: no x yes, explain: Projecting eaves (cornice); wing added
4. RELATED OUTBUILDINGS OR LANDSCAPE FEATURES:
   - _ barn
   - _ shed
   - _ garage wing
   - _ carriage house
   - _ shop
   - _ garden
   - _ other landscape features or buildings: sheds in rear; granite hitching post in front
5. SURROUNDING ENVIRONMENT:
   - _ open land
   - _ woodland
   - _ residential
   - _ scattered buildings visible from site
   - _ wood hand
   - _ commercial
   - _ industrial
   - _ rural
   - _ high building density
6. INTERRELATIONSHIP OF BUILDING AND SURROUNDINGS: This Colonial house faces east from
   the west side of East Street south of Miner Street. It is set back from the road and is
   shaded in front by large trees. East Street in this area displays several contemporary houses
   mixed with more recent construction and spaces of open land.
17. OTHER NOTABLE FEATURES OF BUILDING OR SITE (interior and/or exterior):

- Granite hitching post in front yard
- Double overhang
- Center hall

SIGNIFICANCE

18. HISTORICAL OR ARCHITECTURAL IMPORTANCE: Aaron Plum had already commenced building this house when his father Samuel deeded him the land in 1765 for "natural love and affection". It was certainly an exceptional house for its day, with two large chimneys heating the rooms flanking the center hall. However, the house retained the use of the traditional double overhang. The house remained in the Plum-Coe family until 1881. Since then it has gone through a series of owners while retaining its original residential usage.

This section of Westfield near the village center displays much of its original rural character. The Aaron Plum House makes a significant contribution to this traditional feeling through its long history and nearly original appearance.

PHOTOGRAPH

- photographer: John E. Reynolds
- date: 11/73
- view: east
- negative on file: Roll 51, #11-11A

COMPiled BY:

- name: John E. Reynolds
- date: 9/78
- organization: Greater Middletown Preservation Trust
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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:

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