STATE OF CONNECTICUT

CONNECTICUT HISTORICAL COMMISSION
9 South Prospect Street, Hartford, Connecticut 06106
(203) 566-3005

HISTORIC RESOURCES INVENTORY FORM
for Buildings and Structures

IDENTIFICATION
1. BUILDING NAME: Common: ________________________ Historic: Elisha Sears House
2. TOWN/CITY: Middletown VILLAGE: ________________________ COUNTY: Middlesex
3. STREET & NUMBER (and/or location): 112 East Main Street
4. OWNER(S): Russell M. and Mary E. Perking PUBLIC X PRIVATE
5. USE: Present: Residence Historic: same
6. ACCESSIBILITY TO PUBLIC: Exterior visible from public road: X yes no
Interior accessible: yes, explain ________________________________________________ X no

DESCRIPTION
7. STYLE OF BUILDING: Italianate DATE OF CONSTRUCTION: c. 1860
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: _____________________________________________________________

9. STRUCTURAL SYSTEM:
   X wood frame: __ post and beam __ balloon (probably transitional)
   __ load bearing masonry __ structural iron or steel
   __ other: ____________________________________________________________

10. ROOF: type:
    __ gable __ flat or low __ mansard __ monitor __ sawtooth
        __ gambrel __ shed __ hip __ round __ other _______________________
        __ material: _____________________________________________________
        __ wood shingle __ roll asphalt __ tin __ slate
        __ asphalt shingle __ built up __ tile __ other: ______________________

11. NUMBER OF STORIES: 2 APPROXIMATE DIMENSIONS: 26 x30' (rear ell, 18' x41')
12. CONDITION: Structural: X excellent __ good __ fair __ deteriorated
    Exterior: X excellent __ good __ fair __ deteriorated

13. INTEGRITY: Location: X on original site moved, when:
    Alterations: __ no __ yes, explain: Rear addition; north addition and porches; asbestos

14. RELATED OUTBUILDINGS OR LANDSCAPE FEATURES: siding over clapboards
    __ 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 residence on East Main Street is near the intersection of Chestnut Street and Cooley Avenue. Its large size and bold rectangular design make it an apparent feature on the street. The structure contrasts with the neighboring houses and commercial buildings. Flanked by a brick commercial structure south and an overgrown lot north, it faces a service station and an early three-story factory building across the street.
17. OTHER NOTABLE FEATURES OF BUILDING OR SITE (interior and/or exterior):

18. HISTORICAL OR ARCHITECTURAL IMPORTANCE: This residence, first owned by Elisha Sears, may have been erected soon after the property was mortgaged in 1854. Sears taught school for many years in the Hubbard and South Farms Districts. The house, exhibiting a large rectangular profile, is of the Italianate style. It features a wide cornice with dentils displayed on the frieze beneath and a distinctive narrow cupola. Like the roof of the building, the cupola has an unusually wide cornice. It is further decorated by thin scrolled brackets and small ogee-like, arched windows.

This building, one of the largest Italianate houses in the South Farms area, is an integral East Main Street feature. It is representative of a style popular in the vicinity during the 1860s and 70s when a large increase in residential development occurred, corresponding with the district's industrial growth. East Main Street and nearby Silver Street developed earlier than the surrounding roads. Consequently, the residence may have been one of the first Italianate buildings constructed in South Farms, where a large concentration of this style remain.

19. SOURCES: Middletown Land Records; Beers Atlas, 1874; Bailey Map, 1877; Walling Map, 1859; Commemorative Biographical Record of Middlesex County (Chicago: J.B. Beers, 1903)

20. SUBSEQUENT FIELD EVALUATIONS:

21. THREATS TO BUILDING OR SITE:
   _none known_ _highways_ _vandalism_ _developers_ _other:_
   _renewal_ _private_ _deterioration_ _zoning_ _explanation:_

SIGNIFICANCE

Architect:                      Builder:

PHOTOGRAPH

photographer: Robert Svec  
date: 6/78 view: west
negative on file: Roll 27, #8

COMPiled by:

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