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: John Cookson House
   Historic: same
2. TOWN/CITY: Middletown
   VILLAGE: ______
   COUNTY: Middlesex
3. STREET & NUMBER (and/or location): 61 Main Street
4. OWNER(S): John F. Reynolds III
   PUBLIC X PRIVATE
5. USE: Present: Professional Offices
   Historic: Residence
6. ACCESSIBILITY TO PUBLIC: Exterior visible from public road: X yes
   Interior accessible: X yes, explain: with tenant's permission

DESCRIPTION
7. STYLE OF BUILDING: Federal-Greek Revival
8. MATERIAL(S) (indicate use or location when appropriate):
   X clapboard
   wood shingle
   wood & batten
   aluminum siding
   X other: flush boarded pediment
   X brick
   asphalt siding
   stucco
   concrete: type: poured
   X cut stone: type: brownstone
   X fieldstone
   X cobblestone
   upper foundation; entrance stoops
9. STRUCTURAL SYSTEM:
   X wood frame
   X post and beam
   X balloon
   load bearing masonry
   ___ structural iron or steel
   ___ other:
10. ROOF: type:
    X gable
    ___ gambrel
    ___ shed
    ___ hip
    ___ mansard
    ___ monitor
    ___ sawtooth
    ___ round
    ___ other

    material:
    X wood shingle
    X roll asphalt
    ___ tin
    ___ slate
    ___ asphalt shingle
    ___ built up
    ___ tile
    ___ other:
11. NUMBER OF STORIES: 2
    APPROXIMATE DIMENSIONS: 28'x24' (west wing 27'x16')
12. CONDITION: Structural:
    ___ excellent
    ___ fair
    ___ deteriorated
    Exterior:
    ___ excellent
    ___ fair
    ___ deteriorated
13. INTEGRITY: Location: X on original site
    moved, when: 1977
    Alterations: no X yes, explain: See #18
14. RELATED OUTBUILDINGS OR LANDSCAPE FEATURES:
    barn
    X carriage house
    shed
    ___ garage
    ___ garden
    ___ other landscape features or buildings:
    X fence with gate on Main Street
15. SURROUNDING ENVIRONMENT:
    open land
    woodland
    ___ residential
    ___ scattered buildings visible from site
    X commercial
    ___ industrial
    ___ rural
    X high building density
16. INTERRELATIONSHIP OF BUILDING AND SURROUNDINGS: This house faces east on Main Street from the center of the block between William and Church Streets. It is in a row of four structures dating from the eighteenth and early nineteenth centuries. The opposite side of Main Street offers a variety of architectural styles and building uses, and is undergoing changes through continuing redevelopment.
17. OTHER NOTABLE FEATURES OF BUILDING OR SITE (interior and/or exterior):
   Elliptical fanlight in flushboarded pediment
   Full height corner pilasters
   Doorway with side and over lights

SIGNIFICANCE

18. HISTORICAL OR ARCHITECTURAL IMPORTANCE: Reverend John Cookson, an Englishman, was p
   orator of the First Baptist Church of Middletown in 1828-39. In 1837 he built this house on the
   east side of South Main Street across from the first Baptist meeting house. The house re
   mained in residential use through a succession of owners until its acquisition and schedul
   demolition by the Redevelopment Agency in 1972. The house was saved from destruction by its
   inclusion in a restoration-adaptive use project developed by John F. Reynolds III. It was
   moved to its present site in 1977.

   Much of the original fabric remained, and the house's exterior has been restored to its ap
   proximate original appearance. The main rooms of the interior were restored and decorated
   to the period; these rooms and the exterior are protected under an architectural covenant th
   the deed. The rest of the interior has been renovated to provide additional space for the
   tenant, an accounting firm.

   This house is of the three-bay, gable-to-street configuration of the Greek Revival perio
   which was popular in Middletown in the 1830's and 1840's. The use of Federal stylistic de
   tails in the Cookson house indicates a conservative acceptance of the new style. In its pres
   ent restored condition and adapted use this house is a major contributor to the redevelop-

PHOTOGRAPH

   photographer: Elizabeth Loomis
   date: 7/78
   view: east
   negative on file: Roll 25, #9

COMPiled BY:

   name: John E. Reynolds
   date: 6/78
   organization: Greater Middletown Preservation Trust
   address: 27 Washington St., Middletown, Ct. 06457

19. SOURCES: Middletown Land Records; Middletown Probate Records; Middletown City Directories;
     Connecticut Historical Commission Survey, 1970;
     Stetson K. Ryan, "A History of the First Baptist Church, Middletown, Ct." (Middletown: 1945);
     1851 Clark Map; 1874 Beers Atlas; 1877 Bailey Map

20. SUBSEQUENT FIELD EVALUATIONS:

21. THREATS TO BUILDING OR SITE:
   X none known
   ___ highways
   ___ vandalism
   ___ developers
   ___ renewal
   ___ private
   ___ deterioration
   ___ zoning
   ___ other:
   ___ explanation: