STATE OF CONNECTICUT

HISTORIC RESOURCES INVENTORY FORM
for Buildings and Structures

IDENTIFICATION

1. BUILDING NAME: Common: Aresco Apartments
   Historic: William McKinster House

2. TOWN/CITY: Middletown
   VILLAGE: Newfield
   COUNTY: Middlesex

3. STREET & NUMBER (and/or location): 995 Newfield Street

4. OWNER(S): Sebastian Aresco et al.
   PUBLIC & PRIVATE

5. USE: Present: Multiple Residence
   Historic: Residence

6. ACCESSIBILITY TO PUBLIC: Exterior visible from public road: yes no
   Interior accessible: yes, explain
   x no

DESCRIPTION

7. STYLE OF BUILDING: Greek Revival

8. MATERIAL(S) (indicate use or location when appropriate):
   _x_ clapboard
   _wood shingle
   _board & batten
   _aluminum siding
   x other: flush, boarded pediment

9. STRUCTURAL SYSTEM:
   x wood frame; x post and beam
   _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
   _asphalt shingle
   _roll asphalt
   _tin
   _slate
   _tile
   _built up
   _other:

11. NUMBER OF STORIES: 2½
    APPROXIMATE DIMENSIONS: 52' x 44'; rear section 38' x 36'

12. CONDITION: Structural:
    _x_ excellent
    _excellent
    _good
    _fair
    _deteriorated

   Exterior:
   _x_ excellent
   _good
   _fair
   _deteriorated

13. INTEGRITY: Location: x on original site, moved, when:
    Alterations: _no_ x yes, explain: Addition in rear; second floor porch in portico

14. RELATED OUTBUILDINGS OR LANDSCAPE FEATURES:
    _x_ barn
    _shed
    _carriage house
    _shop
    _garage
    _x_ other landscape features or buildings: parking
    _lot in rear

15. SURROUNDING ENVIRONMENT:
    _x_ open land
    _woodland
    _residential
    _commercial
    _industrial
    _rural
    _scattered buildings visible from site
    _high building density

16. INTERRELATIONSHIP OF BUILDING AND SURROUNDINGS: This large Greek Revival mansion faces
    east from the west side of Newfield Street north of Mile Lane. Newfield Street in this area
    displays residences and small industrial sites scattered through the remaining open spaces
    of this former farming community.
17. OTHER NOTABLE FEATURES OF BUILDING OR SITE (interior and/or exterior):

Plain entablature with denticulated cornice
Doric portico
Panelled ceiling in portico
Large Greek Revival entrance

SIGNIFICANCE

18. HISTORICAL OR ARCHITECTURAL IMPORTANCE: This imposing Greek Revival, temple-form, house was probably built between 1830 and 1834 by William Mckinster, who purchased the property while living in Chatham (now Portland). Mckinster operated a very large farm in Newfield, and after his death the property was purchased by the Tuttle Brick Company which made use of its extensive clay deposits. The building is now divided into apartments.

The Russell House (350 High Street), the earliest and best example of the Greek Revival in Middletown, was built at the most, only six years before this house. While this house can in no way be said to approach the Russell House in sophistication or elegance, the use of the temple form with full-height portico at such an early date, in a rural area such as the Newfield of 1830, was perhaps of equal significance in establishing the Greek Revival as the dominant style in Middletown until the advent of picturesque architecture.

PHOTOGRAPH

photographer: Elizabeth Loomis
date: 10/78 view: northwest
negative on file: Roll 50, #7

COMPILED BY:

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date: 9/78
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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    other:
    renewal      private      deterioration      zoning    explanation: