STATE OF CONNECTICUT

HISTORIC RESOURCES INVENTORY FORM

1. BUILDING NAME: Common: ___________________________ Historic: Nathaniel Bacon House
2. TOWN/CITY: Middletown VILLAGE: ___________________________ COUNTY: Middlesex
3. STREET & NUMBER (and/or location): 353 Newfield Street
4. OWNER(S): William and Mary Tuttle PUBLIC __ PRIVATE x
5. USE: Present: Residence Historic: same
6. ACCESSIBILITY TO PUBLIC: Exterior visible from public road: x yes no Interior accessible: x yes, explain with permission no

DESCRIPTION

7. STYLE OF BUILDING: Center-Chimney Colonial DATE OF CONSTRUCTION: before 1758
8. MATERIAL(S) (indicate use or location when appropriate):
   X clapboard not original __ asbestos siding
   __ wood shingle __ asphalt siding
   __ board & batten __ stucco
   __ aluminum siding __ concrete: type:
   __ other: __ brick
   __ fieldstone
   __ cobblestone
   X cut stone: type: brownstone
   __ foundation; ashlar

9. STRUCTURAL SYSTEM:
   X wood frame; X post and beam __ balloon
   __ load bearing masonry __ structural iron or steel
   __ other:

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

11. NUMBER OF STORIES: 2½ APPROXIMATE DIMENSIONS: 30'-40'

12. CONDITION: Structural: __ excellent X good __ fair __ deteriorated
    Exterior: __ excellent X good __ fair __ deteriorated

13. INTEGRITY: Location: X on original site moved, when:
    Alterations: __ no __ x yes, explain: Large porch across front; additions to rear

14. RELATED OUTBUILDINGS OR LANDSCAPE FEATURES:
    X barn __ shed __ garage __ other landscape features or buildings: large lawn
    __ carriage house __ shop __ garden

15. SURROUNDING ENVIRONMENT:
    __ open land __ woodland X residential __ scattered buildings visible from site
    __ commercial __ industrial __ rural X high building density

16. INTERRELATIONSHIP OF BUILDING AND SURROUNDINGS: This large center-chimney Colonial house faces east from the west side of Newfield Street. It is set back slightly from the street and is shaded by large trees. Newfield Street in this area displays small residences which contrast with several nearby multi-story apartment complexes.
17. OTHER NOTABLE FEATURES OF BUILDING OR SITE (interior and/or exterior):

Panelling and staircase, interior
Later doorway and porch.

SIGNIFICANCE

18. HISTORICAL OR ARCHITECTURAL IMPORTANCE: This house was probably built by Lt. Nathaniel Bacon on land inherited from his father Nathaniel in 1704. Lt. Nathaniel's will of 1758 mentions this property "as the lot I now dwell on." The large scale of this house, together with the absence of overhangs, make it an interesting example of the center-chimney house type so common during the mid-eighteenth century. The fine quality of the interior appointments suggest that this was a prominent mansion in its day.

The Bacon family has been prominent in Middletown for over three centuries. Through its historical association with this family as well as its interesting deviations from the architectural norms of its period, this house remains an important survivor from the early growth of the Newfield area.

PHOTOGRAPH

photographer: Elizabeth Loomis
date: 11/78 view: east
negative on file: Roll 49, #31

COMPILED BY:

name: John E. Reynolds date: 9/78
organization: Greater Middletown Preservation Trust
address: 27 Washington St., Middletown, Ct. 06457

19. SOURCES: Jesse Alsop, "Jeremiah Bacon House" (FERA 1935); 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: ______________________