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: Cornell Homestead
   Historic: Joseph Cornell House

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

3. STREET & NUMBER (and/or location): 83 Smith Street

4. OWNER(S): Thomas M. and Beverly Kennedy
   PUBLIC X PRIVATE

5. USE: Present: Residence
   Historic: same

6. ACCESSIBILITY TO PUBLIC: Exterior visible from public road: X yes
   Interior accessible: X yes, explain: with permission

DESCRIPTION

7. STYLE OF BUILDING: Center-Chimney Colonial
   DATE OF CONSTRUCTION: c. 1783

8. MATERIAL(S) (indicate use or location when appropriate):
   X clapboard
   X wood shingle
   X board & batten
   X aluminum siding
   X other:
   X brick
   X fieldstone
   X cobblestone
   X cut stone: type: X brownstone
   X ashlar foundation

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

10. ROOF: type:
    X gable
    X gambrel
    X shed
    X hip
    X round
    X sawtooth
    X other:
    X material:
    X wood shingle
    X roll asphalt
    X tin (wing)
    X slate
    X asphalt shingle
    X built up
    X tile
    X other:

11. NUMBER OF STORIES: 2½
    APPROXIMATE DIMENSIONS: 32′ x 39′; north wing 30′ x 28′

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

13. INTEGRITY: Location: X on original site
    moved, when:
    Alterations: X no
    X yes, explain:

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

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

16. INTERRELATIONSHIP OF BUILDING AND SURROUNDINGS:
This center-chimney Colonial house faces east from the west side of Smith Street across from the intersection of Glenwood Terrace. This section of Smith Street marks the boundary between the traditional rural atmosphere of Westfield and recent residential development along Glenwood Terrace and the east side of Smith Street.
17. OTHER NOTABLE FEATURES OF BUILDING OR SITE (interior and/or exterior):
   Old ell with eyebrow windows
   Double overhang
   Six paneled entrance overlight

SIGNIFICANCE
Architect:  
Builder:  

18. HISTORICAL OR ARCHITECTURAL IMPORTANCE: The Cornwell family was amongst the early settlers of Westfield. This house was probably built around 1783 by Joseph Cornwell, a yeoman farmer. It remained in the family for over a century. In recent years the house has undergone much restoration work in an effort to regain its approximate early appearance.

The center-chimney configuration and double overhang of this house are typical of eighteenth century domestic construction. Together with its near neighbors to the south (see GMPT Report, Joseph Clarke House, 35 Smith Street), this house defines the distinction between the old and the new in this section of Westfield.

PHOTOGRAPH
photographer: John E. Reynolds
date: 12/78
view: southeast
negative on file: Roll 51, #17-17A

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

19. SOURCES: Middletown Land Records; Middletown Probate Court Records; Commemorative Biography of Middlesex County (Chicago: J.H. Beers, 1905); 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:_________________