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: Town Farms Inn Historic: Town Farm
2. TOWN/CITY: Middletown VILLAGE: 
3. STREET & NUMBER (and/or location): Silver Street; north side, corner of River Road
4. OWNER(S): Town Farms Inn, Inc. PUBLIC / PRIVATE
5. USE: Present: Restaurant Historic: Almshouse; residence
6. ACCESSIBILITY TO PUBLIC: Exterior visible from public road: yes no Interior accessible: yes, explain Dining quarters no

DESCRIPTION
7. STYLE OF BUILDING: Federal (orig. section); Second Empire (addition) DATE OF CONSTRUCTION: c.1835 (orig. section); c.1891 (addition)
8. MATERIAL(S) (indicate use or location when appropriate):
   - clapboard
   - wood shingle
   - board & batten
   - aluminum siding
   - other:
   - asbestos siding
   - asphalt siding
   - stucco
   - concrete: type:
   - brick
   - fieldstone
   - cobblestone
   - cut stone: type: brownstone
   - foundation
   - structural iron or steel
9. STRUCTURAL SYSTEM:
   - wood frame: post and beam balloon
   - load bearing masonry
   - other:
10. ROOF: type:
    - (orig.) x gable
    - (orig.) x flat
    - (orig.) x mansard
    - (orig.) monitor
    - sawtooth
    - shed
    - hip
    - round
    - other:
    - material: (add.)
    - wood shingle
    - roll asphalt
    - tin (orig.) x slate
    - asphalt shingle
    - built up
    - tile
    - other:
11. NUMBER OF STORIES: 2½, 3(add.) APPROXIMATE DIMENSIONS: 88'x51'
12. CONDITION: Structural:
   - excellent
   - fair
deteriorated
   - exterior:
   - excellent
   - fair
   - deteriorated
13. INTEGRITY: Location: x on original site moved, when:
   - Alterations: no x yes, explain: See #18; one-story rear ell added
14. RELATED OUTBUILDINGS OR LANDSCAPE FEATURES:
   - barn
   - shed
   - garage
   - other landscape features or buildings:
   - carriage house
   - shop
   - garden
15. SURROUNDING ENVIRONMENT:
   - open land
   - woodland
   - residential
   - commercial
   - industrial
   - rural
   - high building density
16. INTERRELATIONSHIP OF BUILDING AND SURROUNDINGS: The Town Farms Inn faces the intersection of Silver Street and River Road. From here, Silver Street ascends to the Connecticut Valley Hospital. The Connecticut River is close by beyond River Road and the railroad tracks, north. This, the last structure on Silver Street, stands alone in a rural setting approximately two miles from the city's commercial center.
SIGNIFICANCE

18. HISTORICAL OR ARCHITECTURAL IMPORTANCE: This structure has two, large sections of different styles. The earliest part was built as a residence for Thomas G. Mather between 1835 and 1839, a later date than its Federal style implies. The five-bay facade has a central entrance. Two pairs of chimneys are on either end of the gabled roof and mutules are exhibited beneath the cornice. In 1853, Mather sold the building to the town of Middletown, which used the premises to house the city's poor, terminating the use of the city's first Almshouse (53 Warwick Street). Its occupants also worked the farm which adjoined the structure. During the city's ownership, a plainly styled, two-story rear wing was added to the rear of the original section around 1870. The large three-story addition was erected to the side in 1890 or '91. This latter section has a mansard roof reminiscent of the Second Empire style. It displays plainly decorated dormers and slender brackets beneath the eaves. The City of Middletown sold the property in 1946. The building was later converted to a restaurant and has since been utilized for this purpose.

This distinctive structure is an interesting unification of two divergent styles. The mansard roofed addition is more simplistically decorated and was built at a much later date (see continuation sheet).

PHOTOGRAPH
photographer: Robert Svec
date: 12/78 view: south
negative on file: Roll 53, #27-27A

COMPiled BY:
name: Robert Svec date: 12/78
organization: Greater Middletown Preservation Trust
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19. SOURCES: Middletown Land Records; David Ransom, "Town Farms Inn", National Register Nomination (1978)

20. SUBSEQUENT FIELD EVALUATIONS:

21. THREATS TO BUILDING OR SITE:

X none known __highways __vandalism __developers__ other: __
__renewal __private __deterioration __zoning __ explanation: __
than most of its contemporaries. Like the earlier Federal section, it has smooth brownstone sills and lintels, and a fanlight above the entrance. These features combined with its sparse detail, make the addition compatible with the original Federal section.