

STATE OF CONNECTICUT

CONNECTICUT HISTORICAL COMMISSION

39 South Prospect Street, Hartford, Connecticut 06106
(203) 566-3005

HISTORIC RESOURCES INVENTORY FORM

for Buildings and Structures

| | | | |
|---------------------|-----------|-----|---------------------|
| FOR OFFICE USE ONLY | | | |
| TOWN NO.: | SITE NO.: | | |
| UTM: 18/ | / | / | / |
| QUAD: | | | |
| DISTRICT: | S | NR: | ACTUAL POTENTIAL |

IDENTIFICATION

- 1. BUILDING NAME: Common: _____ Historic: _____
- 2. TOWN/CITY: Middletown VILLAGE: _____ COUNTY: Middlesex
- 3. STREET & NUMBER (and/or location): 572 Saybrook Road
- 4. OWNER(S): Leo and Gertrude Klare PUBLIC PRIVATE
- 5. USE: Present: Residence Historic: same
- 6. ACCESSIBILITY TO PUBLIC: Exterior visible from public road: yes no
Interior accessible: yes, explain _____ no

DESCRIPTION

- 7. STYLE OF BUILDING: Center-Chimney Colonial DATE OF CONSTRUCTION: late 18th C. Probably

- 8. MATERIAL(S) (indicate use or location when appropriate):
 clapboard asbestos siding brick
 wood shingle asphalt siding fieldstone
 board & batten stucco cobblestone
 aluminum siding concrete: type: _____ cut stone: type: _____
 other: _____

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

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

- 11. NUMBER OF STORIES: 2 1/2 APPROXIMATE DIMENSIONS: 27'x38'

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

- 13. INTEGRITY: Location: on original site moved, when: _____
 Alterations: no yes, explain: Side porch with round columns and rear wing with

- 14. RELATED OUTBUILDINGS OR LANDSCAPE FEATURES: aluminum siding, added
 barn shed garage other landscape features or buildings: See #18
 carriage house shop garden _____

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

16. INTERRELATIONSHIP OF BUILDING AND SURROUNDINGS: This brick structure is sited close to Saybrook Road, Route 9A. Its west wall is set into a small knoll and a low retaining wall extends south towards the highway. Development has changed this area once characterized by farmland. East, a road leads to a tract of recently built houses. A car dealership, small grocery store, and drive-in theater are nearby.

17. OTHER NOTABLE FEATURES OF BUILDING OR SITE (interior and/or exterior):

SIGNIFICANCE

Architect: _____ Builder: _____

18. HISTORICAL OR ARCHITECTURAL IMPORTANCE: This brick building's appearance suggests that it was constructed during the late eighteenth century. However, it may have been built in the early 1800s, patterned after the familiar Colonial style. The broad gabled roof is topped by a large center-chimney. Its three-bay facade, running parallel to the roof ridge, has a central entranceway.

The Walling Map indicates that L. Johnson resided here in 1859. Daniel H. Prior obtained the house and farm around 1871. Prior, born in Middletown, had lived in New York City. Traditionally, it was claimed that he was the first blacksmith to weld steel in that city. The property was passed to his son Daniel W. Prior in 1893. The farm contained forty-five acres and a large sandbank in 1903. Prior supplemented his farm income by selling sand to city contractors.

The structure is one of the best-preserved early homes on Saybrook Road. Its notability is also enhanced by its unusual placement. Sited against a small knoll, the north wall of the first story is set into the slope. A low retaining wall, constructed of brownstone, extends from the facade towards the highway.

PHOTOGRAPH

photographer: Robert Svec
date: 11/78 view: southwest
negative on file: Roll 52, #32A



COMPILED BY:

name: Robert Svec date: 12/78
organization: Greater Middletown Preservation Trust
address: 27 Washington St., Middletown, Ct. 06457

19. SOURCES: 1859 Walling Map; 1874 Beers Atlas; Commemorative Biographical Record of Middlesex County (Chicago: J.H. Beers, 1903)

20. SUBSEQUENT FIELD EVALUATIONS:

21. THREATS TO BUILDING OR SITE:

none known highways vandalism developers other: _____
 renewal private deterioration zoning explanation: _____