

STATE OF CONNECTICUT

CONNECTICUT HISTORICAL COMMISSION

59 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: Old Gear Place Historic: Frederick Winthrop House
- 2. TOWN/CITY: Middletown VILLAGE: Staddle Hill COUNTY: Middlesex
- 3. STREET & NUMBER (and/or location): 717 Washington Street
- 4. OWNER(S): Margaret Daley et al. 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: 1777
- 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: brownstone  
 other: \_\_\_\_\_ rubble foundation
- 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: 2½ APPROXIMATE DIMENSIONS: 33'x27' wing 25'x17'
- 12. CONDITION: Structural:  excellent  good  fair  deteriorated  
Exterior:  excellent  good  fair  deteriorated
- 13. INTEGRITY: Location:  on original site  moved, when: \_\_\_\_\_  
Alterations:  no  yes, explain: \_\_\_\_\_
- 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  scattered buildings visible from site  
 commercial  industrial  rural  high building density
- 16. INTERRELATIONSHIP OF BUILDING AND SURROUNDINGS: This house faces north from the southeast corner of Washington Street and Boston Road. It is set back slightly from Washington Street atop a steep bank. To the east the West River crosses under Washington Street. This area displays a mixed commercial and residential character.

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

Greek Revival entrance (not original)

SIGNIFICANCE

Architect: \_\_\_\_\_

Builder: \_\_\_\_\_

18. HISTORICAL OR ARCHITECTURAL IMPORTANCE: For many years this house was associated with the mill privileges on the West River. It was built in 1777 by Federick Winthrop who sold it that same year to Zebulon Rockwell. Daniel Kelly purchased the house in 1785 and operated a fulling mill nearby as well as a "Clothiers Shop" on the premises. A succession of owners lived in this house while operating variously a saw mill, grist mill, and fulling mill on the nearby river. In the mid-nineteenth century the house was purchased by Norman Crittenden, a gunsmith who may have been employed at the nearby North arms factory in Staddle Hill.

This center-chimney Colonial house with five-bay facade is typical of local eighteenth-century house construction. Its long connection with the mill works on the West River is an important historical association which is illustrated by this property and the nearby Johnson's Mill (675 Washington Street) of the same period.

PHOTOGRAPH

photographer: Barbara Ann Cleary  
date: 3/79 view: northwest  
negative on file: Roll 61, #20A



COMPILED BY:

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

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:

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