

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: \_\_\_\_\_ Historic: Nathaniel Bacon House
- 2. TOWN/CITY: Middletown VILLAGE: Westfield COUNTY: Middlesex
- 3. STREET & NUMBER (and/or location): 8 Boardman Lane
- 4. OWNER(S): Parker Hannifin Corporation PUBLIC  PRIVATE
- 5. USE: Present: Vacant Historic: Residence
- 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: possibly c. 1755
- 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: \_\_\_\_\_ foundation
- 9. STRUCTURAL SYSTEM:  
 wood frame  post and beam \_\_\_ balloon  
 \_\_\_ load bearing masonry      \_\_\_ structural iron or steel  
 \_\_\_ other: \_\_\_\_\_
- 10. ROOF: type:  
 gable rear \_\_\_ flat      \_\_\_ mansard      \_\_\_ monitor      \_\_\_ sawtooth  
 gambrel wing \_\_\_ 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: 28'x38'; rear wing 21'x26'
- 12. CONDITION: Structural: \_\_\_ excellent  good \_\_\_ fair \_\_\_ deteriorated  
 Exterior: \_\_\_ excellent \_\_\_ good  fair \_\_\_ deteriorated
- 13. INTEGRITY: Location:  on original site \_\_\_ moved, when: \_\_\_\_\_  
 Alterations:  no  yes, explain: Gambrel north wing added ca. 1962
- 14. RELATED OUTBUILDINGS OR LANDSCAPE FEATURES:  
2 barns  shed \_\_\_ garage  other landscape features or buildings: brook and pond  
 \_\_\_ 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 Colonial farmhouse is sited facing south from the crest of a hill up from the intersection of Middle Street and Boardman Lane. It overlooks a valley to the south and east. This area of Westfield has been zoned industrial; a recently constructed industrial building across Middle Street from this house is a harbinger of the changes to come to this rural area.

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

**SIGNIFICANCE**

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

18. HISTORICAL OR ARCHITECTURAL IMPORTANCE: The Bacon family for over two centuries was prominent in the Westfield district of Middletown. This house was built by Nathaniel Bacon III before 1779; a likely date would be around 1755. Nathaniel Bacon III was a well-to-do farmer in Westfield, and owned several hundred acres. The house and farm remained in the Bacon family until 1925. It presently is owned by Parker Hannifin Corporation whose local subsidiary, EIS Automotive, is interested in the property for possible plant expansion.

This house displays the center-chimney, two-room deep plan, and double overhang characteristic of mid-eighteenth century house construction in the lower Connecticut valley. The interior is largely original and contains much fine detail work including panelling of dados and fireplace walls, a triple-run staircase, and a corner cupboard.

As one of Middletown's best examples of mid-eighteenth century domestic architecture this house retains a characteristic rural setting. Unfortunately, the future of this house is uncertain.

**PHOTOGRAPH**

photographer: John E. Reynolds  
date: 9/78 view: south  
negative on file: Roll 47, #18A-19



**COMPILED BY:**

name: John E. Reynolds date: 8/78  
organization: Greater Middletown Preservation Trust  
address: 27 Washington St., Middletown, Ct. 06457

19. SOURCES: Middletown Land Records; Middletown Probate Records; Middletown City Directories; Joellyn Kuhnlein and Elizabeth Reynolds, "Nathaniel Bacon House," unpublished GMPT Report, 1974

**20. SUBSEQUENT FIELD EVALUATIONS:**

**21. THREATS TO BUILDING OR SITE:**

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

been zoned industrial; EIS Automotive Corp., a subsidiary of Parker Hannifin, may use this land for expansion. The house may be saved; however, its setting could be destroyed. The house is now vacant and boarded up, leaving it vulnerable to deterioration caused by neglect or vandalism.