

STATE OF CONNECTICUT

CONNECTICUT HISTORICAL COMMISSION

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

HISTORIC RESOURCES INVENTORY FORM

of 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: Daniel Prior House
- 2. TOWN/CITY: Middletown VILLAGE: _____ COUNTY: Middlesex
- 3. STREET & NUMBER (and/or location): 1762 Saybrook Road
- 4. OWNER(S): Estelle J. Gordon 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: c. 1730
- 8. MATERIAL(S) (indicate use or location when appropriate):
 clapboard ___ asbestos siding ___ brick
 ___ wood shingle ___ asphalt siding fieldstone foundation
 ___ 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: 1½ APPROXIMATE DIMENSIONS: 26'x36'
- 12. CONDITION: Structural: ___ excellent ___ good fair ___ deteriorated
 Exterior: ___ excellent ___ good fair ___ deteriorated
- 13. INTEGRITY: Location: on original site moved, when: early nineteenth century
 Alterations: no yes, explain: Chimney rebuilt with concrete block; attached rear shed 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 ___ scattered buildings visible from site
 ___ commercial ___ industrial rural ___ high building density

16. INTERRELATIONSHIP OF BUILDING AND SURROUNDINGS: This 1½-story building on Saybrook Road is sited slightly below the highway. It faces wooded property, south across the road. Low wooded knolls border the plot north and west. A garage is west, closeby the house. A cottage that was once a small service station is east, a short distance away.

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

SIGNIFICANCE

Architect: _____ Builder: _____

18. HISTORICAL OR ARCHITECTURAL IMPORTANCE: This building was erected by Daniel Prior, probably around 1730. It remained occupied by the Prior family until 1879 and, according to tradition, it once served as an inn. The house originally bordered Dripps Road which is a short distance north. Dripps Road, formerly the Old Haddam Road, had been the area's major highway in the eighteenth century. The building was moved to its present location probably upon the completion of the Middlesex Turnpike around 1805. The dirt road, which joins Saybrook Road opposite the site, is a remnant of this early highway.

The 1½-story Colonial structure is representative of a house-type popular in the area during the eighteenth century. A simple rectangular floor plan is below a broad gabled roof. An overhang is displayed above the first story, beneath the gable ends. The house, sided by clapboards, has retained much of its original appearance and is a notable feature on Saybrook Road.

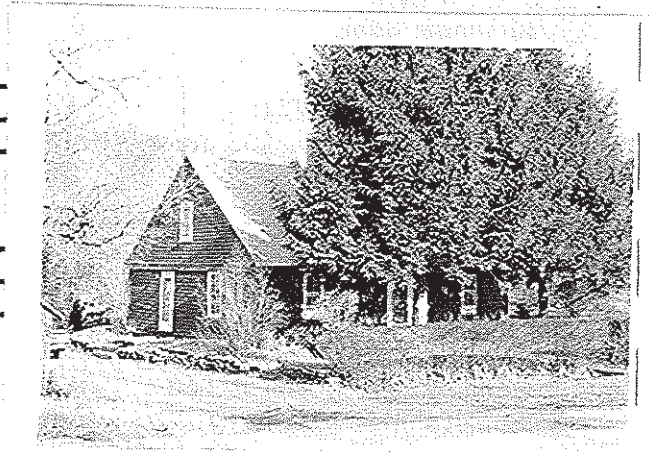
PHOTOGRAPH

photographer: Robert Svec
date: 12/78 view: south
negative on file: Roll 52, #17A

COMPILED BY:

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

19. SOURCES: Jesse Alsop, "Prior House," Old Houses of Connecticut Series (FERA, 1935); 1874 Beers Atlas



20. SUBSEQUENT FIELD EVALUATIONS:

21. THREATS TO BUILDING OR SITE:

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