**OF CONNECTICUT**

**CUT HISTORICAL COMMISSION**

h Prospect Street, Hartford, Connecticut 06106
56 7005

**RESOURCES INVENTORY FORM**

**HISTORIC Lstdings and Structures**

**IDENTIFICATION**

**OWNER/CITY:** Middletown  **VILLAGE:** Westfield  **COUNTY:** Middlesex

**STREET & NUMBER (and/or location):** 612 Middle Street  **PUBLIC x PRIVATE**

**W. ER(S):** Paul Weld  **Historic: same**

**SE: Present: Residence  Interior accessible: yes, explain x no**

**ESSIBILITY TO PUBLIC: Exterior visible from public road: x yes no**

**RATION**

**TYPE OF BUILDING:** Center-Chimney Saltbox  **DATE OF CONSTRUCTION:** c. 1686

**MATERIAL(S) (indicate use or location when appropriate):**

- clapboard w/beaded edges
- wood shingle
- board & batten
- aluminum siding
- rubber foundation

**STRUCTURAL SYSTEM:**

- wood frame:
- load bearing masonry
- structural iron or steel

**ROOF:**

- gable w/salt- flat
- gambrel box
- gable w/salt- shed
- gambrel box

**APPARENTY DIMENSIONS:** 37'x32'

**NUMBER OF STORIES:** 2½

**CONDITION:** Structural: x excellent good fair deteriorated

**Exterior:** x excellent good fair deteriorated

**INTEGRITY:** Location: x on original site moved, when:

**Alterations:** no x yes, explain: Restoration

**RELATED OUTBUILDINGS OR LANDSCAPE FEATURES:**

x barn  shed  garage  other landscape features or buildings:

x carriage house  shop  garden

**SURROUNDING ENVIRONMENT:**

- open land
- woodland
- residential
- scattered buildings visible from site

- commercial
- industrial
- rural
- high building density

**RELATIONSHIP OF BUILDING AND SURROUNDINGS:** This house faces east from the east side of Middle Street, north of Smith Street. Middle Street formerly passed to the east of the house, but was rerouted around the rear of the structure. Tall shade trees obscure the side of this ancient house. This section of Westfield is primarily rural in character.
17. OTHER NOTABLE FEATURES OF BUILDING OR SITE (interior and/or exterior):

Structure has been restored to period, including use of some probable original elements.

SIGNIFICANCE

18. HISTORICAL OR ARCHITECTURAL IMPORTANCE: In 1666 Daniel Harris arrived in Middletown from Massachusetts. Twenty years later he built this house for his son Samuel, upon his marriage. It is the oldest known residential structure in Middletown. Around 1710 the lean-to was added to the rear of the house; and around 1719 the property was acquired by the Graves family.

The present owner, Mr. Paul Weld, has undertaken the thorough restoration of the property. Under his expert care, the house has come to once again display the look and feel of the property around 1710.

This house features a three-bay facade with small sash windows; a double leaf entrance door; and cellar windows in the high brownstone foundation. The slope of the roofline in the rear clearly defines the lean-to addition. Through its long history and present faithful restoration this house presents the most complete picture of 17th century architecture in Middletown.

PHOTOGRAPH

photographer: John E. Reynolds

date: 9/78

view: northeast

negative on file: Roll 31, #3

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; Interview with present owner, Mr. Paul Weld, 1978

20. SUBSEQUENT FIELD EVALUATIONS:

21. THREATS TO BUILDING OR SITE:

X none known    highways    vandalism    developers    other:

renewal    private    deterioration    zoning    explanation: