STATE OF CONNECTICUT

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

HISTORIC RESOURCES INVENTORY FORM
for Buildings and Structures

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 x PRIVATE
5. USE: Present: Residence Historic: same
6. ACCESSIBILITY TO PUBLIC: Exterior visible from public road: x yes no
Interior accessible: x yes, explain ___________________________________________ x no

DESCRIPTION
7. STYLE OF BUILDING: Center-Chimney Colonial DATE OF CONSTRUCTION: Probably late 18th C.
8. MATERIAL(S) (indicate use or location when appropriate):
   __ clawboard __ asbestos siding x 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:
    __ x gable __ flat __ mansard __ monitor __ sawtooth
        __ gambrel __ shed __ hip __ round __ other __
    material:
    __ wood shingle __ roll asphalt __ tin __ slate __ other __
    __ asphalt shingle __ built up __ tile __ other: __________
11. NUMBER OF STORIES: 2½ APPROXIMATE DIMENSIONS: 27' x 38'
12. CONDITION: Structural: __ excellent __ x good __ fair __ deteriorated
    Exterior: __ excellent __ x good __ fair __ deteriorated
13. INTEGRITY: Location: x on original site moved, when:
    Alterations: __ no x yes, explain: Side porch with round columns and rear wing
14. RELATED OUTBUILDINGS OR LANDSCAPE FEATURES: aluminum siding, added
    __ barn x shed __ garage __ other landscape features or buildings: __ See #18 __
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

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:

- X None known
- Highways
- Vandalism
- Developers
- Renewal
- Private
- Deterioration
- Zoning
- Other:

Explanation: