STATE OF CONNECTICUT

HISTORIC RESOURCES INVENTORY FORM

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 X 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):
   - X clapboard  asbestos siding
   - wood shingle  asphalt siding
   - board & batten  stucco
   - aluminum siding  concrete: type:
   - other:
9. STRUCTURAL SYSTEM:
   - X wood frame X post and beam  balloon
   - load bearing masonry  structural iron or steel
   - other:
10. ROOF: type:
    - X gable  flat
    - gambrel  shed
    - mansard  hip
    - monitor  round
    - sawtooth  other
    - material:
    - wood shingle  rolled asphalt
    - X asphalt shingle  built up
d   - tin  slate
   - other:
11. NUMBER OF STORIES: 1½  APPROXIMATE DIMENSIONS: 26'x36'
12. CONDITION: Structural: excellent  good  fair  x deteriorated
    Exterior: excellent  good  x fair  x deteriorated
13. INTEGRITY: Location: on original site  moved, when: early nineteenth century
    Alterations: no x yes, explain: Chimney rebuilt with concrete block; attached rear shed added
14. RELATED OUTBUILDINGS OR LANDSCAPE FEATURES:
    - X barn  shed  garage
    - carriage house  shop  garden
    - other landscape features or buildings:
15. SURROUNDING ENVIRONMENT:
    - open land  X woodlot  X residential
    - commercial  industrial  X rural
    - scattered buildings visible from site
    - 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, closely by 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

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 1 1/2-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, 417A

COMPILED BY:

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20. SUBSEQUENT FIELD EVALUATIONS:

21. THREATS TO BUILDING OR SITE:

X none known _highways _vandalism _developers _other:
_renewal _private _deterioration _zoning _explanation: