STATE OF CONNECTICUT
CONNECTICUT HISTORICAL COMMISSION
59 South Prospect Street, Hartford, Connecticut 06106
(203) 566-3005
HISTORIC RESOURCES INVENTORY FORM
For Buildings and Structures

IDENTIFICATION
1. BUILDING NAME: Common: Old Gear Place Historic: Frederick Winthrop House
2. TOWN/CITY: Middletown VILLAGE: Staddle Hill COUNTY: Middlesex
3. STREET & NUMBER (and/or location): 717 Washington Street
4. OWNER(S): Margaret Daley et al. 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

DESCRIPTION
7. STYLE OF BUILDING: Center-Chimney Colonial DATE OF CONSTRUCTION: 1777
8. MATERIAL(S) (indicate use or location when appropriate):
   - clapboard
   - wood shingle
   - board & batten
   - aluminum siding
   - other:
   - asbestos siding
   - asphalt siding
   - stucco
   - concrete: type:
   - brick
   - fieldstone
   - cobblestone
   - cut stone: type: brownstone rubble foundation
9. STRUCTURAL SYSTEM:
   - wood frame: x post and beam balloon
   - load bearing masonry structural iron or steel
   - other:
10. ROOF: type:
    - gable
    - gambrel
    - shed
    - hip
    - round
    - other:
    - material:
      - wood shingle roll asphalt
      - asphalt shingle built up
      - tile
      - other:
11. NUMBER OF STORIES: 2 1/2 APPROXIMATE DIMENSIONS: 33'x27' wing 25'x17'
12. CONDITION: Structural: x excellent good fair deteriorated
    Exterior: x excellent good fair deteriorated
13. INTEGRITY: Location: x on original site moved, when:
    Alterations: x no yes, explain:
14. RELATED OUTBUILDINGS OR LANDSCAPE FEATURES:
    - barn
    - shed
    - carriage house shop
    - garage
    - garden
    - other landscape features or buildings:
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 house faces north from the southeast corner of Washington Street and Boston Road. It is set back slightly from Washington Street atop a steep bank. To the east the West River crosses under Washington Street. This area displays a mixed commercial and residential character.
17. OTHER NOTABLE FEATURES OF BUILDING OR SITE (interior and/or exterior):

Greek Revival entrance (not original)

SIGNIFICANCE

18. HISTORICAL OR ARCHITECTURAL IMPORTANCE: For many years this house was associated with the mill privileges on the West River. It was built in 1777 by Frederick Winthrop who sold it that same year to Zebulon Rockwell. Daniel Kelly purchased the house in 1786 and operated a fulling mill nearby as well as a "Clothiers Shop" on the premises. A succession of owners lived in this house while operating variously a saw mill, grist mill, and fulling mill on the nearby river. In the mid-nineteenth century the house was purchased by Norman Crittenden, a gunsmith who may have been employed at the nearby North Arm's factory in Staddle Hill.

This center-chimney Colonial house with five-bay facade is typical of local eighteenth-century house construction. Its long connection with the mill works on the West River is an important historical association which is illustrated by this property and the nearby Johnson's Mill (675 Washington Street) of the same period.

PHOTOGRAPH

photographer: Barbara Ann Cleary
date: 3/79
view: northwest
negative on file: Roll 61, #20A

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

20. SUBSEQUENT FIELD EVALUATIONS:

21. THREATS TO BUILDING OR SITE:

☒ none known  ☐ highways  ☐ vandalism  ☐ developers  ☐ other: __________________________

☒ renewal  ☐ private  ☐ deterioration  ☐ zoning  ☐ explanation: __________________________

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