

STATE OF CONNECTICUT

CONNECTICUT HISTORICAL COMMISSION

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

HISTORIC RESOURCES INVENTORY FORM
For Buildings and Structures

FOR OFFICE USE ONLY			
TOWN NO.:		SITE NO.:	
UTM: 18	/	/	/
QUAD:			
DISTRICT:	8	NR:	ACTUAL POTENTIAL

IDENTIFICATION

- 1. BUILDING NAME: Common: _____ Historic: Prior House
- 2. TOWN/CITY: Middletown VILLAGE: _____ COUNTY: Middlesex
- 3. STREET & NUMBER (and/or location): Bow Lane; south side, .3 miles east of Randolph Road
- 4. OWNER(S): Helena M. Wilson 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: Italianate DATE OF CONSTRUCTION: c. 1870
- 8. MATERIAL(S) (indicate use or location when appropriate):
 clapboard asbestos siding brick
 wood shingle asphalt siding fieldstone
 board & batten stucco cobblestone
 aluminum siding concrete: type: _____ cut stone: type: brownstone.
 other: _____ foundation
- 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: 2 APPROXIMATE DIMENSIONS: 20'x47'
- 12. CONDITION: Structural: excellent good fair deteriorated
Exterior: excellent good fair deteriorated
- 13. INTEGRITY: Location: on original site moved, when: _____
Alterations: no yes, explain: Possibly early rear addition; chimney on west side
and enclosed porch on east side, 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 building faces north towards Bow Lane in a rural area of the city. It is obscured from the road by trees on the small front lawn. The site is bordered by open lots south, east, and west. The house is one of four neighboring residences built before the twentieth century. Its appearance contrasts with that of the stuccoed, Colonial house across the road.

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

SIGNIFICANCE

Architect: _____ Builder: _____

18. HISTORICAL OR ARCHITECTURAL IMPORTANCE: This residence is of the Italianate style and probably was built by members of the Prior family around 1870. Its rectangular features are emphasized by the low, hipped roof. Wide, plain fascia boards are displayed above the clapboarded walls. The facade has three bays with the entrance set to the side. The front porch, running the width of the facade, has square columns with rectangular bases and capitals.

The Italianate style was popular in urban Middletown during the 1860s. It remained fashionable in the outlying city districts through the 1870s. This house, which retains much of its original detail, is a notable representative of the Italianate style in one of Middletown's rural areas. It is also one of four neighboring residences built in the eighteenth and nineteenth century that form a notable collection of early architecture on Bow Lane. This group, which once comprised a small farming neighborhood, reflects the rural appearance of the district during the 1800s.

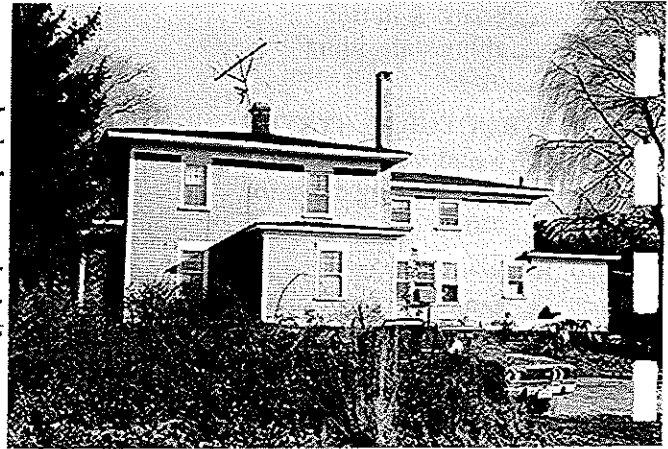
PHOTOGRAPH

photographer: Robert Svec
date: 12/78 view: west
negative on file: Roll 55, #5

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



20. SUBSEQUENT FIELD EVALUATIONS:

21. THREATS TO BUILDING OR SITE:

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