

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:	5	NR:	ACTUAL POTENTIAL

IDENTIFICATION

- 1. BUILDING NAME: Common: _____ Historic: David Tryon House
- 2. TOWN/CITY: Middletown VILLAGE: _____ COUNTY: Middlesex
- 3. STREET & NUMBER (and/or location): 655 Bow Lane
- 4. OWNER(S): Krishna Winston & Donald Billingsley PUBLIC PRIVATE
- 5. USE: Present: Residence Historic: same
- 6. ACCESSIBILITY TO PUBLIC: Exterior visible from public road: yes no
Interior accessible: yes, explain with permission no

DESCRIPTION

Center-Chimney Colonial

- 7. STYLE OF BUILDING: (saltbox) DATE OF CONSTRUCTION: c. 1785
- 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 (saltbox) ___ 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 1/2 APPROXIMATE DIMENSIONS: 39'x29'

12. CONDITION: Structural: ___ excellent good ___ fair ___ deteriorated
Exterior: ___ excellent good ___ fair ___ deteriorated

13. INTEGRITY: Location: on original site ___ moved, when: _____
Alterations: no yes, explain: Rear porch added

14. RELATED OUTBUILDINGS OR LANDSCAPE FEATURES:

- barn shed s (2) ___ 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 house is set back from Bow Lane atop a small rise. The site is bordered by small fields east, south and west. Two sheds and a barn are close to the house. It is one of four neighboring residences built in the eighteenth and nineteenth centuries. These widely spaced buildings contrast with the later residences that line Bow Lane beyond the house.

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

SIGNIFICANCE

Architect: _____ Builder: _____

18. HISTORICAL OR ARCHITECTURAL IMPORTANCE: This Colonial structure was built by David Tryon, probably in the 1780s. Tryon, a farmer, served during the War of 1812 at New London. After becoming ill, he was brought back to the house where he died in 1819. The Tryon family substantially contributed to the history of this outlying Middletown district. The building remained occupied by members of the family until 1917.

The house exhibits a building style popular in Middletown during the eighteenth century. The broad roof, crowned by a large center chimney, pitches to the first story in the rear, and forms a saltbox configuration. The three-bay facade has a central entrance that displays five rectangular lights above the door. Double overhangs decorate the clapboarded walls.

The building is one of the best-preserved Colonial structures in the city. Complemented by a barn and other outbuildings on the site, it reflects the early rural character of this district of Middletown. The house is also one of four residences that once comprised a small neighborhood of farms. This group forms a notable collection of early architecture on Bow Lane.

PHOTOGRAPH

photographer: Robert Svec
date: 12/78 view: north
negative on file: Roll 55, #3

COMPILED BY:

name: Robert Svec date: 2/79
organization: Greater Middletown Preservation Trust
address: 27 Washington St., Middletown, Ct. 06457



19. SOURCES: Commemorative Biographical Record of Middlesex County (Chicago: J.H. Beers Co., 1903); 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: _____