

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: S NR: ACTUAL POTENTIAL

IDENTIFICATION

- 1. BUILDING NAME: Common: Historic: Benoni Plum House
2. TOWN/CITY: Middletown VILLAGE: COUNTY: Middlesex
3. STREET & NUMBER (and/or location): 62 Westfield Street
4. OWNER(S): Nathaniel Gallito et al. PUBLIC x PRIVATE
5. USE: Present: Residence (double) Historic: Residence
6. ACCESSIBILITY TO PUBLIC: Exterior visible from public road: x yes no
Interior accessible: yes, explain no

DESCRIPTION

- 7. STYLE OF BUILDING: Center-Chimney Colonial DATE OF CONSTRUCTION: 1722 and 1744
8. MATERIAL(S) (indicate use or location when appropriate):
x clapboard asbestos siding brick
wood shingle asphalt siding fieldstone
board & batten stucco cobblestone
aluminum siding concrete: type: cut stone: type: probably
other: brownstone foundation
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 mansard monitor sawtooth
gambrel shed hip round other
material:
wood shingle roll asphalt tin slate
x asphalt shingle built up tile other: 34'x26'; west wing 10'x18';
11. NUMBER OF STORIES: 2 1/2 APPROXIMATE DIMENSIONS: east wing 32'x14'
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: Front veranda; rear additions; window sash
14. RELATED OUTBUILDINGS OR LANDSCAPE FEATURES:
x barn shed x garage other landscape features or buildings:
carriage house shop garden
15. SURROUNDING ENVIRONMENT:
open land woodland x residential scattered buildings visible from site
commercial industrial rural x high building density
16. INTERRELATIONSHIP OF BUILDING AND SURROUNDINGS: This house faces south from the north side of Westfield Street near the intersection with Old Mill Road. It is set back from the street atop a low hill. This area of Westfield Street is heavily developed with post-World War II residential construction.

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

Double overhang
Three-bay facade

SIGNIFICANCE

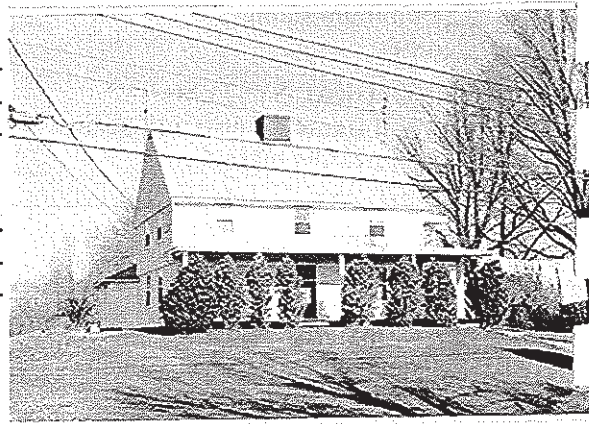
Architect: _____ Builder: _____

18. HISTORICAL OR ARCHITECTURAL IMPORTANCE: Benoni Plum probably built this house between 1722, when he acquired the land, and 1744, when he deeded the property with a house to his son Benoni, Jr. The Plum family was prominent in the farming communities of Newfield and Westfield for over two hundred years. Through most of the 19th century the house was owned by Thomas DeMars, a prominent local farmer.

This house is one of the earliest examples in Middletown of the center-chimney, gable-roofed configuration which dominated eighteenth-century domestic architecture. The three-bay facade and double overhang are also features found on other early houses in Middletown. Together with its neighbor to the east, the Doud-Sage House (ca. 1770), this house serves to contrast the traditional rural character of Newfield with its present densely populated neighborhoods.

PHOTOGRAPH

photographer: Elizabeth Loomis
date: 10/78 view: south
negative on file: Roll 48, #13



COMPILED BY:

name: John E. Reynolds date: 12/78
organization: Greater Middletown Preservation Trust
address: 27 Washington St., Middletown, Ct. 06457

19. SOURCES: Middletown Land Records; Middletown Probate Court Records; "Sage House," Old Houses of Connecticut Series (FERA, 1935); 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: _____