

**HISTORIC RESOURCES INVENTORY**  
**BUILDING AND STRUCTURES**  
 HIST-6 NEW 5 77

STATE OF CONNECTICUT  
 CONNECTICUT HISTORICAL COMMISSION  
 59 SOUTH PROSPECT STREET, HARTFORD, CONNECTICUT 06106  
 (203) 566-3005

| FOR OFFICE USE ONLY                                    |  |
|--|--|
| Town No.:  | Site No. 163   |
| UTM  | _____  |
| QUAD:  | _____  |
| DISTRICT   | IF NR SPECIFY  |
| <input type="checkbox"/> S <input type="checkbox"/> NR | <input type="checkbox"/> Actual <input type="checkbox"/> Potential |

|  |   |   |                        |                 |
|--|---|---|------------------------|-----------------|
| IDENTIFICATION   | 1. BUILDING NAME (Common) <span style="float: right;">(Historic)</span> |   | Prout, Benjamin, House |                 |
|  | 2. TOWN CITY  | VILLAGE   | COUNTY                 |                 |
|  | Durham  |   | Middlesex              |                 |
|  | 3. STREET AND NUMBER (and or location)                                  |   |                        |                 |
|  | Saw Mill Road, west side  |   |                        |                 |
| 4. OWNER(S)  |   |   |                        |                 |
| Frances and Joyce Tubby <span style="float: right;"><input type="checkbox"/> Public <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Private</span> |   |   |                        |                 |
| 5. USE (Present)   |   | (Historic)  |                        |                 |
| Residence  |   | Residence   |                        |                 |
| 6. ACCESSIBILITY TO PUBLIC:  |   | EXTERIOR VISIBLE FROM PUBLIC ROAD                                   | INTERIOR ACCESSIBLE    | IF YES, EXPLAIN |
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No  |   | <input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> No |                        |                 |

|   |  |   |   |  |
|---|--|---|---|--|
| DESCRIPTION   | 7. STYLE OF BUILDING                                       |   | DATE OF CONSTRUCTION  |  |
|   | Queen Anne   |   | 1896  |  |
|   | 8. MATERIAL(S) (Indicate use or location when appropriate) |   |   |  |
|   | <input type="checkbox"/> Clapboard                         | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Asbestos Siding | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Brick                                     | <input type="checkbox"/> Other (Specify) _____ |
|   | <input type="checkbox"/> Wood Shingle                      | <input type="checkbox"/> Asphalt Siding             | <input type="checkbox"/> Fieldstone   |  |
|   | <input type="checkbox"/> Board & Batten                    | <input type="checkbox"/> Stucco                     | <input type="checkbox"/> Cobblestone  |  |
|   | <input type="checkbox"/> Aluminum Siding                   | <input type="checkbox"/> Concrete Type: _____       | <input type="checkbox"/> Cut stone Type: _____                                |  |
|   | 9. STRUCTURAL SYSTEM                                       |   |   |  |
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Wood frame      | <input type="checkbox"/> Post and beam                     | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> balloon         | <input type="checkbox"/> Other (Specify) _____                                |  |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Load bearing masonry       | <input type="checkbox"/> Structural iron or steel          |   |   |  |
| 10. ROOF (Type)                                     |  |   |   |  |
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Gable           | <input type="checkbox"/> Flat                              | <input type="checkbox"/> Mansard                    | <input type="checkbox"/> Monitor <input type="checkbox"/> sawtooth            |  |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Gambrel                    | <input type="checkbox"/> Shed                              | <input type="checkbox"/> Hip                        | <input type="checkbox"/> Round <input type="checkbox"/> Other (Specify) _____ |  |
| (Material)  |  |   |   |  |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Wood Shingle               | <input type="checkbox"/> Roll Asphalt                      | <input type="checkbox"/> Tin                        | <input type="checkbox"/> Slate  |  |
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Asphalt shingle | <input type="checkbox"/> Built up                          | <input type="checkbox"/> Tile                       | <input type="checkbox"/> Other (Specify) _____                                |  |

|                       |                        |
|-----------------------|------------------------|
| 11. NUMBER OF STORIES | APPROXIMATE DIMENSIONS |
| 2 1/2                 | 40' x 30'              |

|  |   |            |  |
|--|---|------------|--|
| 12. CONDITION (Structural)   |   | (Exterior) |  |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Excellent <input type="checkbox"/> Good <input type="checkbox"/> Fair <input type="checkbox"/> Deteriorated | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Excellent <input type="checkbox"/> Good <input type="checkbox"/> Fair <input type="checkbox"/> Deteriorated |            |  |

|   |  |       |   |  |
|---|--|-------|---|--|
| 13. INTEGRITY (Location)  |  | WHEN? | Alterations   | IF YES EXPLAIN                           |
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> On original site <input type="checkbox"/> Moved |  |       | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No | Small shed-roofed ell on south elevation |

|  |                               |  |  |
|--|-------------------------------|--|--|
| 14. RELATED OUTBUILDINGS OR LANDSCAPE FEATURES |                               |  |  |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Barn                  | <input type="checkbox"/> Shed | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Garage | <input type="checkbox"/> Other landscape features or buildings (Specify) _____ |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Carriage house        | <input type="checkbox"/> Shop | <input type="checkbox"/> Garden            |  |

|                                     |   |   |   |
|-------------------------------------|---|---|---|
| 15. SURROUNDING ENVIRONMENT         |   |   |   |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Open land  | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Wood-land | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Residential | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Scattered buildings visible from site |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Commercial | <input type="checkbox"/> Indus-trial          | <input type="checkbox"/> Rural                  | <input type="checkbox"/> High building density                            |

|  |  |
|--|--|
| 16. INTERRELATIONSHIP OF BUILDING AND SURROUNDINGS |  |
|  |  |

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

DESCRIPTIVE (continued)

Reminiscent of the earlier Greek Revival-style farmhouse, the 3-bay side-hall-plan facade features broad overhanging eaves and large cornice returns. The gable displays a set of long vertical paired windows. Highlighting the facade is an elaborate Queen Anne-style wraparound, balustraded veranda with delicately carved posts, scroll-saw brackets, a decorative frieze, and lattice work. The north elevation exhibits a 2 1/2 story, single-bay crossgable. A single-story, 3-sided bay extends from the south elevation and the original two-over-two sash are featured throughout.

18 ARCHITECT

BUILDER

19 HISTORICAL OR ARCHITECTURAL IMPORTANCE

SIGNIFICANCE

Oriented gable-to-street, this 2 1/2 story, late nineteenth-century house was built in 1896 by Benjamin Prout. Supported by a brick foundation, the asbestos-sided balloon frame is capped by an asphalt-shingled roof.

In 1896 Benjamin R. Prout (b. 1870) built this house on a piece of land owned by his father, Ransom Prout. In 1908 Ransom sold his son the lot "reserving to myself the life use of the barn and carriage." Benjamin was the eighth child of Margaret (Eckler) and Ransom Prout and as an adult operated the sawmill on the nearby brook. The house remained in the Prout family until 1921.

The Benjamin R. Prout House is architecturally significant as a well-preserved example of a late nineteenth-century dwelling and historically notable for its association with the industrial activity along Saw Mill Brook.

SOURCES

Durham Land Records; Durham Vital Records; Middletown Probate Records; Federal Census of 1820, 1850, 1880; Beers, J. B., History of Middlesex County, Connecticut (New York: J. B. Beers & Co., 1884); Durham History Committee, Durham, CT, 1866-1980: Century of Change (Durham: 1980); Fowler, William C., History of Durham (Durham: W. C. Fowler, 1866); Whited, Milton, Durham's Heritage (Durham: 1976); 1859 Walling Map; 1974 Beers Atlas

|  |  |                  |
|--|--|------------------|
| PHOTO                                      | PHOTOGRAPHER                           | DATE             |
|  | Alex Parades                           | 5/84             |
| COMPILED BY                                | VIEW                                   | NEGATIVE ON FILE |
|  | West                                   | 14:8             |
| COMPILED BY                                | NAME                                   | DATE             |
|  | E. B. Hart                             | 5/84             |
|  | ORGANIZATION                           |                  |
|  | Greater Middletown, Preservation Trust |                  |
| ADDRESS                                    |  |                  |
| 27 Washington Street, Middletown, CT 06457 |  |                  |



20 SUBSEQUENT FIELD EVALUATIONS

21 THREATS TO BUILDING OR SITE

None known.     Highways     Vandalism     Developers     Other \_\_\_\_\_

Renewal     Private     Deterioration     Zoning     Explanaton \_\_\_\_\_