

**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. 104
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) (Historic)
Parsons, Catherine and Dency, House

2. TOWN CITY: Durham VILLAGE: COUNTY: Middlesex

3. STREET AND NUMBER (and or location)
48 Main Street

4. OWNER(S)
Stanley M. Prusinski Public Private

5. USE (Present) (Historic)
Residence Residence

6. ACCESSIBILITY TO PUBLIC: Yes No EXTERIOR VISIBLE FROM PUBLIC ROAD Yes No INTERIOR ACCESSIBLE Yes No IF YES, EXPLAIN

DESCRIPTION

7. STYLE OF BUILDING: Greek Revival DATE OF CONSTRUCTION: ca. 1832

8. MATERIAL(S) (Indicate use or location when appropriate)

Clapboard Asbestos Siding Brick Other (Specify) _____

Wood Shingle Asphalt Siding Fieldstone

Board & Batten Stucco Cobblestone

Aluminum Siding Concrete Type: _____ Cut stone Type: sandstone foundation and stucco covering

9. STRUCTURAL SYSTEM

Wood frame Post and beam balloon Other (Specify) _____

Load bearing masonry Structural iron or steel

10. ROOF (Type)

Gable Flat Mansard Monitor sawtooth

Gambrel Shed Hip Round Other (Specify) _____

(Material)

Wood Shingle Roll Asphalt Tin Slate

Asphalt shingle Built up Tile Other (Specify) _____

11. NUMBER OF STORIES: 2½ APPROXIMATE DIMENSIONS: 25' x 29'

12. CONDITION (Structural) (Exterior)

Excellent Good Fair Deteriorated Excellent Good Fair Deteriorated

13. INTEGRITY (Location) (Alterations)

On original site Moved WHEN? Yes No IF YES EXPLAIN: 1 northeast add. (7.6' x 14.6') 2 east additions (10' x 17.6' in total)

14. RELATED OUTBUILDINGS OR LANDSCAPE FEATURES

Barn Shed Garage Other landscape features or buildings (Specify)

Carriage house Shop Garden

15. SURROUNDING ENVIRONMENT

Open land Wood-land Residential Scattered buildings visible from site

Commercial Industrial Rural High building density

16. INTERRELATIONSHIP OF BUILDING AND SURROUNDINGS

The Parsons House is situated on a small lot on the east side of Main Street. It is centrally located directly across from the Green and Town Hall.

DESCRIPT (Continued)

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

An unusual element found in the Parsons House is the stuccoed exterior and foundation. Although comparable in size to other homes built during this time, the stuccoing gives the house a sense of weight and massiveness. Its west facade includes the later addition of a full-length shed-roofed porch with south entrance, supported by three large square columns that taper toward the top, and a solid stuccoed balustrade. All windows are six-over-six sash flanked by louvred shutters and topped by a plan cornice. A rectangular multi-pane window is centrally set in the facade gable. There is a 2 story hip-roofed northeast addition as well as two additions on the east or rear of the house.

18 ARCHITECT _____ BUILDER _____

SIGNIFICANCE

19 HISTORICAL OR ARCHITECTURAL IMPORTANCE

Catherine and Dency Parsons built their Greek Revival style house about 1832. A stuccoed 2½ story, 3 bay, side-hall-plan building, it rests on a sandstone foundation. Asphalt shingling covers the fully pedimented gable-to-street roof with exterior chimney on the east and the north side.

Catherine (1781-1854) and Dency (1786-1874) Parsons, two sisters in their 50s, bought a small tract of land from Zebulon Hale and Watson Davis in 1839. Six years later the Parsons purchased an additional strip of land to the south of the first piece; the Parsons' house is first mentioned in this deed as a ". . . lot of land near their [the Parsons'] dwelling house" (DLR 21:474). In 1868 the land passed out of the hands of the Parsons to Isaac Parmelee. The Parmelee family owned this house until the early-twentieth century.

The Catherine and Dency Parsons House is not only a good example of a Greek Revival style building, but is unusual because it is the only stuccoed building in the Historic District and one of very few in Durham.

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; 1874 Beers Atlas.

PHOTO	PHOTOGRAPHER	DATE
	P. D. Hall	Summer 1983
COMPILED BY	VIEW	NEGATIVE ON FILE
	west & frontal	III:35
	NAME	DATE
	I. Heublein	8/2/83
ORGANIZATION		
Greater Middletown Preservation Trust		
ADDRESS		
27 Washington Street, Middletown, CT 06457		



20 SUBSEQUENT FIELD EVALUATIONS

21 THREATS TO BUILDING OR SITE

<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> None known	<input type="checkbox"/> Highways	<input type="checkbox"/> Vandalism	<input type="checkbox"/> Developers	<input type="checkbox"/> Other _____
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Renewal	<input type="checkbox"/> Private	<input type="checkbox"/> Deterioration	<input type="checkbox"/> Zoning	<input type="checkbox"/> Explanation _____