

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 118
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) <i>(Historic)</i>		William A. Otte House		Parsons, William A., Homestead	
	2 TOWN CITY		VILLAGE		COUNTY	
	Durham				Middlesex	
	3 STREET AND NUMBER (and location)					
	23 Main Street					
	4 OWNER(S)					
	Otte, Jr., William A. <input type="checkbox"/> Public <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Private					
DESCRIPTION	5 USE (Present) <i>(Historic)</i>		Residence			
	6 ACCESSIBILITY TO PUBLIC:		EXTERIOR VISIBLE FROM PUBLIC ROAD		INTERIOR ACCESSIBLE	
	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No		<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No		IF YES EXPLAIN	
					With Permission	
	7 STYLE OF BUILDING					DATE OF CONSTRUCTION
	Dutch Colonial Revival					1930
	8 MATERIAL(S) (Indicate use or location when appropriate)					
	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Clapboard <input type="checkbox"/> Asbestos Siding <input 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 checked="" type="checkbox"/> Cobblestone Foundation <input type="checkbox"/> Aluminum Siding <input type="checkbox"/> Concrete Type: _____ <input type="checkbox"/> Cut stone Type: _____					
	9 STRUCTURAL SYSTEM					
	<input 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 type="checkbox"/> Gable <input type="checkbox"/> Flat <input type="checkbox"/> Mansard <input type="checkbox"/> Monitor <input type="checkbox"/> sawtooth <input checked="" 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		33'x26'				
12 CONDITION (Structural) <i>(Exterior)</i>						
<input type="checkbox"/> Excellent <input type="checkbox"/> Good <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Fair <input type="checkbox"/> Deteriorated <input type="checkbox"/> Excellent <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Good <input type="checkbox"/> Fair <input type="checkbox"/> Deteriorated						
13 INTEGRITY (Location)		WHEN		ALTERATIONS		
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> On original site <input type="checkbox"/> Moved				<input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> No		
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 type="checkbox"/> Wood-land <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Residential <input type="checkbox"/> Scattered buildings visible from site <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Commercial <input type="checkbox"/> Indus-trial <input type="checkbox"/> Rural <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> High building density						
16 INTERRELATIONSHIP OF BUILDING AND SURROUNDINGS						

This house, fine covered and tree shaded, stands on a deep, narrow two acre lot on Durham's Main Street.

DESCRIP. (Continued)

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

- mortered cobblestone foundation
- two small demi-lune windows in the gable peaks

18 ARCHITECT

BUILDER

19 HISTORICAL OR ARCHITECTURAL IMPORTANCE

SIGNIFICANCE

This Dutch Colonial Revival residence, like Durham's other bungalow-style house of the early twentieth century, stands on a mortered cobblestone foundation. Unlike them, however, its gable end faces the street. This, combined with the thick growth of ivy, shade-trees, and shrubs, creates an impression of enclosed privacy uncharacteristic of such houses. The house has two full-length dormers along its north and south sides. All fenestration consists of 3x1 units. Two small demi-lune windows are placed in the gable peaks. The main entry to this house is protected by an enclosed porch on the north side. It contains an arched vertical flush board door with a multi-paned transom. There is a small porch on the southeast corner of the house. A cobblestone chimney rises from basement level up the outside of the east facade. This is the second of three houses at the south end of Main Street associated with the W.A. Parsons family, the proprietors of the W.A. Parsons Company, metal fabricators. The land on which it stands was part of a 2½ acre parcel bought by Harold C. Parsons in 1913. In 1921, the southern half of this property was sold to Parson's sister and her husband, Gertrud and Frederick H. Page. The house they built on the site--21 Main Street--still stands. Harold C. Parsons died in 1925. His son, William A. Parsons, married in 1930 and in that year built this house on the remainder of the lot. In 1940, he sold the house to William August and Sophie Otte, the present owners. This house is a fine example of the suburban architecture of the 1920s. Its historical importance derives from its association with William A. Parsons, one of Durham's leading twentieth century entrepreneurs.

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

Alex Parades

DATE

4/84

VIEW

W

NEGATIVE ON FILE

11:16

COMPILED BY

NAME

P.D. Hall

DATE

8/20/83

ORGANIZATION

Greater Middletown Preservation Trust

ADDRESS

27 Washington St., Middletown, Conn. 06457

20 SUBSEQUENT FIELD EVALUATIONS



21 THREATS TO BUILDING OR SITE

- None known.
 Highways
 Vandalism
 Developers
 Other _____
- Renewal
 Private
 Deterioration
 Zoning
 Explanatoin _____