

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. 138
UTM	
QUAD:	
DISTRICT <input type="checkbox"/> S <input type="checkbox"/> NR	IF NR SPECIFY <input type="checkbox"/> Actual <input type="checkbox"/> Potential

IDENTIFICATION	1. BUILDING NAME (Common) <i>Smith, David, House</i> (Historic) <i>Smith, David, House</i>	
	2 TOWN CITY <i>Durham</i>	COUNTY <i>Middlesex</i>
	3 STREET AND NUMBER (and or location) <i>Maple Avenue, north end of Town House Road</i>	
	4 OWNER(S) <i>Goodwin, Constance & A. Hooker & Richard H.</i> <input type="checkbox"/> Public <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Private	
	5 USE (Present) <i>Residence</i> (Historic) <i>Residence</i>	
	6. ACCESSIBILITY TO PUBLIC: <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No EXTERIOR VISIBLE FROM PUBLIC ROAD <input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No INTERIOR ACCESSIBLE <input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> No IF YES EXPLAIN	
DESCRIPTION	7 STYLE OF BUILDING <i>Federal Period</i> DATE OF CONSTRUCTION <i>1803</i>	
	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 type="checkbox"/> Cobblestone <input type="checkbox"/> Aluminum Siding <input type="checkbox"/> Concrete Type: _____ <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Cut stone Type: <i>Mortar Finished sandstone</i>	
	9 STRUCTURAL SYSTEM	
	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Wood frame <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Post and beam <input 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 <i>2 1/2</i> APPROXIMATE DIMENSIONS <i>28' x 28'</i>	
	12 CONDITION (Structural) <i>Excellent</i> (Exterior) <i>Excellent</i>	
	13 INTEGRITY (Location) <i>On original site</i> WHEN? <i>Alterations</i> <i>Yes</i> IF YES EXPLAIN <i>N.W. addition(14 1/2'x27'); N. addition (21'x21')</i>	
14 RELATED OUTBUILDINGS OR LANDSCAPE FEATURES		
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Barn (2) <input type="checkbox"/> Shed <input type="checkbox"/> Garage <input type="checkbox"/> Other landscape features or buildings (Specify) <input type="checkbox"/> Carriage house <input type="checkbox"/> Shop <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Garden <i>2 barns to west of original structure, small:(1)gable end to st., not orig., gable roof; (2)to n.w. of small barn, 1 1/2 stor once part of orig. estate, gable roof</i>		
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 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		

The David Smith House is located on Maple Avenue immediately north of the Green and town hall. The front part of the lot is landscaped with many gardens and large maple trees; to the north and east are open fields.

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

DESCRIP (Continued)

The south gable facade is marked by a pedimented gable-roofed portico supported by two round columns having plain bases and capitals; it shelters a south six-panel (reproduction) door having plain moulding. Surmounting the doorway is a delicate leaded-glass fanlight. All windows are twelve-over-twelve sash with crown-moulded cornices flanked by louvered shutters except for the eight-over-twelve sash central gable window. A peculiar Connecticut feature that has persisted even in this later structure is a "coffi. door" on the south end of the east side. A 2 story, 3/4 length, gable-roofed north addition, including a south open porch, was added in the late 1800s. A small single-story gable-roofed building, which probably once was the wood shed, was added to the west side of the north addition

18 ARCHITECT BUILDER

19 HISTORICAL OR ARCHITECTURAL IMPORTANCE

SIGNIFICANCE

The Rev. David Smith House was built in 1803. It is a 3 bay, 2½ story, Federal-period, side-hall-plan house. The post-and-beam frame building, resting on a mortared sandstone block foundation, is sheathed with clapboarding and is covered by an asphalt-shingled gable roof with an off-center chimney.

Upon appointment as Durham's minister, Rev. Smith was given a 999 year lease on a five-acre lot of land by the town. In 1803 he built his home. In 1843 Smith leased the land to his daughters Catherine and Elizabeth. From this point on, the land was handed down through the family by warrant deed. The house is presently in the hands of a descendant of David Smith, Constance Hart Goodwin. David Smith was born in Bozrah, Connecticut, on December 13, 1767. He married Betsy Marsh when he was 16 or 17 and had one son, David Marsh. Betsy's early death prompted him to prepare for college. He studied without an instructor for a short period, then studied under Rev. Jacob Catlin of New Marlborough, Massachusetts, and finally, in 1792, was accepted at Yale College as a sophomore and graduated three years later. David taught school in Sheffield, Massachusetts, and shortly after, in 1796, began study in theology with Rev. Ephraim Judson. That October Smith was licensed to preach by the Association of Berkshire County. February 10, 1799, he preached in Durham and soon after was asked by the town to settle there. He was the second minister of Durham. In 1830 he received a Doctor of Divinity degree from Hamilton College. During his ministry in Durham "he showed more than common ability, enterprise and energy" (Fowler, p. 76). However the 33 years of Smith's preaching were difficult ones. As government (SEE CONT. SHEET)

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, 1966); Whited, Milton, Durham's Heritage (Durham: 1976); 1859 Walling Map; 1874 Beers Atlas.

PHOTO	PHOTOGRAPHER		DATE
	Alex Parades		4/84
COMPILED BY	VIEW	NEGATIVE ON FILE	
	N	10:7	
	NAME	DATE	
	I. Heublein	8/9/83	
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 _____

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59 South Prospect Street, Hartford, Connecticut 06106
HISTORIC RESOURCES INVENTORY FORM
For Buildings and Structures

FOR OFFICE USE ONLY			
TOWN NO.:		SITE NO.:	
UTM: 18	/	1	3/8
QUAD:			
DISTRICT:	S	NR:	ACTUAL POTENTIAL

CONTINUATION SHEET

Item number: 19 Date: 5/84

THE DAVID SMITH HOUSE, Maple Avenue, Durham

had changed, so had the attitudes towards the old religious ways which encompassed and held Durham's citizens together throughout its history. When Rev. David Smith's ministry commenced in Durham, it was called the "New Divinity." However, as time went on, Smith adhered to his old Hopkinsian beliefs and his ministry began to be referred to as the "Old Divinity" (Fowler, p. 74). As Fowler explains:

" . . . differences of opinion grew up among the people themselves so that the position of the clergy became delicate in relation to different political parties in their parishes." (p. 76)

In 1804 the ecclesiastical society separated from the town of Durham and during his term there were "six revivals of religion." (p. 73)

" . . . An ecclesiastical council convened at the house of the Rev. David Smith, D.D., in Durham, Jan. 11, 1832, by letters missive, from the pastor and the committee of the church and society in said place, for the purpose of dissolving the pastoral relation, between him and them . . ." (Fowler, p. 72). The Rev. Mr. Smith retired from the ministry in 1833 and pursued farming. During his later years he substantially increased his land holdings in Durham. He preached every now and then in towns around Durham and died March 5, 1862, at his daughter's house in Fair Haven. He was 94.

The Rev. David Smith House is not only noteworthy for its particularly fine Federal-Period architecture and detail, but for its owners. Smith was a prominent early minister in Durham and the house has been owned by the same family for 180 years.