

**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. 147
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>		Seward, Moses, House	
2. TOWN CITY	VILLAGE	COUNTY	
Durham		Middlesex	
3. STREET AND NUMBER (and or location)			
New Haven Road, west side			
4. OWNER(S)			
Otte, Carl & Helena <span style="float: right;"><input type="checkbox"/> Public <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Private</span>			
5. USE (Present)		<i>(Historic)</i>	
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	
Center Chimney Colonial		ca. 1760	
8. MATERIAL(S) <i>(Indicate use or location when appropriate)</i>			
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Clapboard	<input type="checkbox"/> Asbestos Siding	<input type="checkbox"/> Brick	<input type="checkbox"/> Other <i>(Specify)</i>
<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: Sandstone	
9. STRUCTURAL SYSTEM			
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Wood frame	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Post and beam	<input type="checkbox"/> balloon	<input type="checkbox"/> Other <i>(Specify)</i>
<input type="checkbox"/> Load bearing masonry	<input type="checkbox"/> Structural iron or steel		
10. ROOF <i>(Type)</i>			
<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 <i>(Specify)</i>
<i>(Material)</i>			
<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 <i>(Specify)</i>
11. NUMBER OF STORIES	APPROXIMATE DIMENSIONS		
2½	35'x27'		
12. CONDITION <i>(Structural)</i> <span style="float: right;"><i>(Exterior)</i></span>			
<input type="checkbox"/> Excellent	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Good	<input 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 <i>(Location)</i>		WHEN ?	<i>(Alterations)</i> IF YES EXPLAIN
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> On original site	<input type="checkbox"/> Moved		<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No rear additions & entry sun porch
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 <i>(Specify)</i>
<input type="checkbox"/> Carriage house	<input type="checkbox"/> Shop	<input type="checkbox"/> Garden	
15. SURROUNDING ENVIRONMENT			
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Open land	<input type="checkbox"/> Wood-land	<input type="checkbox"/> Residential	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Scattered buildings visible from site
<input type="checkbox"/> Commercial	<input type="checkbox"/> Indus-trial	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Rural	<input type="checkbox"/> High building density
16. INTERRELATIONSHIP OF BUILDING AND SURROUNDINGS			

Shaded by large maple trees this house was once part of a thriving eighteenth-century agricultural community. Significant modern development has occurred along the New Haven Turnpike in this primarily rural residential neighborhood.

DESCRIPTION (Continued)

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

The original eight-over-twelve sash remain and the original center chimney has been replaced by a small brick stack. Additions include a small modern greenhouse to the facade which protects the main entry and a single story shed-roofed ell projecting from the rear. A small gable-roofed garage is sited to the north of the house.

18 ARCHITECT

BUILDER

19 HISTORICAL OR ARCHITECTURAL IMPORTANCE

Constructed about 1760, this well-preserved five-bay, 2½ story, Colonial-period house faces east onto New Haven Road. Resting on a sandstone foundation, the post-and-beam frame is capped by an asphalt-shingled, ridge-to-street gable roof.

Moses Seward (1727-1792), son of John and Ruth Seward, erected this house about 1760 on land he and his siblings received from their father's will. Married to Sarah Thomas in 1761, Seward operated a coopers shop and farmed the surrounding land. On September 16, 1777, Mr. Seward took the oath of fidelity and the oath of a Freeman, which gave him the right to vote. In 1792 the dwelling house, barn and coopers shop were willed to Moses's third-eldest son, Seth (1766-1846). A deacon for the Congregational Church, Seth served as a town representative and was an original member of the Temperance Society. He and his wife Rhoda (Pickett) had four daughters; Orpha, Maria, Eliza and Nancy and one son, Dwight. The Reverend Dwight Seward graduated from Yale in 1831 and settled in the ministry in Yonkers, New York. In 1808 Samuel Birdsey purchased the house and resided there until 1814 when he migrated to Middlefield. Between 1814 and 1821, Deacon Daniel Parmelee (1748-1826) and his son, Daniel Jr., farmed the property. The Parmelees were direct descendants of original proprietor, Joel Parmelee who came to Durham from Guilford. August Howd was the next owner, residing there with his wife Catherine and children until 1854. Shoemaker and Haddam native, Samuel Griffin Stevens (1819-1900) and his wife Elizabeth (Parmelee) owned the house from 1854 to 1866. In 1866 Irish immigrant, Michael Powers (1818-1885) and his (cont)

SIGNIFICANCE

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.

COMPILED BY PHOTO

PHOTOGRAPHER	DATE
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VIEW	NEGATIVE ON FILE
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NAME	DATE
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ORGANIZATION	
Greater Middletown Preservation Trust	
ADDRESS	
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20 SUBSEQUENT FIELD EVALUATIONS

21 THREATS TO BUILDING OR SITE

None known  
  Highways  
  Vandalism  
  Developers  
  Other \_\_\_\_\_  
 Renewal  
  Private  
  Deterioration  
  Zoning  
  Expiration \_\_\_\_\_

