

**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. 148
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>	
Holcomb, Medad, House	
2. TOWN CITY	VILLAGE
Durham	
3. STREET AND NUMBER (and or location)	
New Haven Road, west side	
4. OWNER(S)	<input type="checkbox"/> Public <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Private
Morris, Ruth A.	
5. USE (Present) <span style="float: right;">(Historic)</span>	Residence
6. ACCESSIBILITY TO PUBLIC:	EXTERIOR VISIBLE FROM PUBLIC ROAD
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> No
IF YES, EXPLAIN	

DESCRIPTION

7. STYLE OF BUILDING	DATE OF CONSTRUCTION
Federal	1817
8. MATERIAL(S) (Indicate use or location when appropriate)	
<input type="checkbox"/> Clapboard	<input type="checkbox"/> Asbestos Siding
<input type="checkbox"/> Wood Shingle	<input type="checkbox"/> Asphalt Siding
<input type="checkbox"/> Board & Batten	<input type="checkbox"/> Stucco
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Aluminum Siding	<input type="checkbox"/> Concrete Type: _____
<input type="checkbox"/> Brick	<input type="checkbox"/> Other (Specify) _____
<input type="checkbox"/> Fieldstone	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Cut stone Type: Sandstone
<input type="checkbox"/> Cobblestone	
9. STRUCTURAL SYSTEM	
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Wood frame	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Post and beam
<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"/> Gambrel	<input type="checkbox"/> Shed
<input type="checkbox"/> Wood Shingle	<input type="checkbox"/> Roll Asphalt
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Asphalt shingle	<input type="checkbox"/> Built up
11. NUMBER OF STORIES	
2 1/2	
APPROXIMATE DIMENSIONS	
28' x 27'	
12. CONDITION (Structural) <span style="float: right;">(Exterior)</span>	
<input type="checkbox"/> Excellent	<input type="checkbox"/> Good
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Fair	<input type="checkbox"/> Deteriorated
<input type="checkbox"/> Excellent <input type="checkbox"/> Good <input type="checkbox"/> Fair <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Deteriorated	
13. INTEGRITY (Location) <span style="float: right;">(Alterations)</span>	
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> On original site	<input type="checkbox"/> Moved
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Yes	<input type="checkbox"/> No
IF YES EXPLAIN	
additions to west 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 type="checkbox"/> Wood-land
<input 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 type="checkbox"/> High building density
16. INTERRELATIONSHIP OF BUILDING AND SURROUNDINGS	

Facing southeast onto New Haven Road, the Medad Holcomb House is set on a slightly elevated site in a low density residential neighborhood.

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

DESCRIP: (Continued)

The three-bay, side-hall plan facade exhibits a fully-pedimented gable highlighted by a carved Federal-style fan decoration. A modillioned cornice borders the underside of the pediment. The original sash have been replaced with one-over-one windows and the original facade entryway has been removed and replaced with a modestly framed twentieth-century door. The original central brick chimney is deteriorated, due to neglect. A single story, shed-roofed addition extends from the rear. A two-bay garage is located to the north of the house.

18 ARCHITECT

BUILDER

19 HISTORICAL OR ARCHITECTURAL IMPORTANCE

SIGNIFICANCE

Oriented gable-to-street, this 2½ story, Federal-style house was erected by Medad Holcomb in 1817. Supported by a sandstone foundation, the aluminum-sided, post-and-beam frame is capped by an asphalt-shingled gable roof.

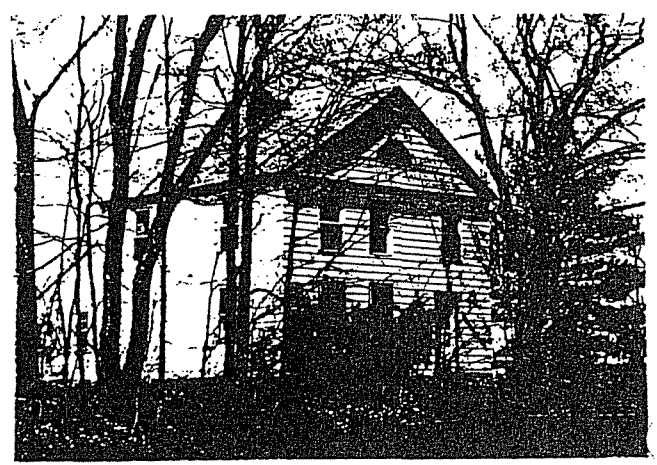
Medad Holcomb erected this house in 1817 along the New Haven Turnpike, a few years after the Middletown-Durham-New Haven Turnpike Company was chartered to construct a road between the shoreline and Middletown. There is little historical information available concerning Holcomb, except that he was originally from Killingworth. Shortly after the house was completed, Holcomb sold it to Orren Bartholomew of Wallingford. In 1827 brothers, Enos S. and Elah Camp II, acquired the house and surrounding land. A farmer and Deacon of the Congregational Church, Elah, II (b 1792) and his wife, Orib (Lee) resided here until they moved to Meriden in 1842. The next owners were William H. and Polly (Foote) Maltby. In 1866 Samuel Griffin Stevens, a shoemaker, purchased the house and resided there until his death in 1900.

Although in need of repairs, the Medad Holcomb House is a notable example of Federal-period architecture 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
	Alex Parades	5/84
COMPILED BY	VIEW	NEGATIVE ON FILE
	northwest	14:5
COMPILED BY	NAME	DATE
	E. R. Hart	5/84
	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     Explanation \_\_\_\_\_