

**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. 152

UTM

QUAD:

DISTRICT

IF NR SPECIFY

S

NR

Actual

Potential

IDENTIFICATION

1. BUILDING NAME (Common) (Historic)
Ward, Sylvester, House

2. TOWN CITY: Durham VILLAGE: COUNTY: Middlesex

3. STREET AND NUMBER (and or location)
Old Wallingford Road, north side

4. OWNER(S)
Leslie T. Spilman and Malcolm G. Vie Public Private

5. USE (Present) (Historic)
Residence Residence

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

DESCRIPTION

7. STYLE OF BUILDING: Domestic Vernacular DATE OF CONSTRUCTION: ca. 1835

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 block foundation

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: 41 x 26

12. CONDITION (Structural) (Exterior)

Excellent Good Fair Deteriorated Excellent Good Fair Deteriorated

13. INTEGRITY (Location) WHEN? Alterations? IF YES EXPLAIN

On original site Moved Yes No rear shed-roofed addition

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 Indus-trial Rural High building density

16. INTERRELATIONSHIP OF BUILDING AND SURROUNDINGS

Facing south on a small elevated lot at the intersection of Old Wallingford and Tuttle Roads, the Sylvester Ward house is neighbored by a variety of nineteenth- and twentieth-century domestic architecture. Before the modern portion of Route 68 was constructed to the north of the property in the early twentieth century, Old Wallingford Road was a portion of the major thoroughfare from Durham to Wallingford.

(OVER)

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

DESCRIP (Continued)

The facade gable end features a raking cornice and a boarded-up rectangular window. Surmounted by a long horizontal, single-paned overlight, the facade door displays four horizontal panels, the top two replaced with glass. Modern two-over-two sash are exhibited on the first floor while the second floor retains the original twelve-over-twelve sash. A 1 story, shed-roofed lean-to has been added to the northern elevation and a brick chimney is centrally located.

18 ARCHITECT

BUILDER

19 HISTORICAL OR ARCHITECTURAL IMPORTANCE

SIGNIFICANCE

Utilizing a side hall plan, this 2½ story, three bay, early nineteenth-century Domestic style building was constructed by Sylvester Ward ca. 1835. Supported by a sandstone block foundation, the post-and-beam frame is topped with a gable-to-street, asphalt-shingled roof.

Sylvester Ward (1784-1846) erected this house ca. 1835 on acreage he purchased in 1819 called the Strong Farm. Ten years before he built his new home Sylvester deeded the land to his wife, Sarah. In 1854 Sarah deeded the "70 acre Strong Farm with a two story dwelling house" (DLR 22:502) to her son Phineas Ward. Thomas Clingan (b. 1803), a farmer, purchased the house in 1863. In 1870 businessmen Gardiner Morse and John Mansfield of New Haven and Timothy Dwight of New York acquired the property. In 1880 the house was purchased by a shoemaker, Jerome Shelley (1810-1899) and his sons Wallace (1849-1924) and Weldon (1852-1899). In 1882 Wallace, a farmer, quit-claimed all his rights in the "Ward Farm" to his father and brother. Upon their deaths in 1899 the house was divided among the heirs of Weldon and Jerome. Jane Shelley, Weldon's widow, and her children Ruth and George received the second-story rooms and the widow of Jerome, Eliza, and her minor daughter Ada were willed the first floor. The house remained in the Shelley family until 1956.

The Sylvester Ward house is notable as a well-preserved example of an early nineteenth-century rural farmhouse so commonly found in Durham and surrounding towns.

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; 1974 Beers Atlas.

COMPILED BY PHOTO

PHOTOGRAPHER	DATE
Alex Parades	5/84
VIEW	NEGATIVE ON FILE
facing northeast	13:7
NAME	DATE
E. R. Hart	1/84
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 _____