

STATE OF CONNECTICUT  
CONNECTICUT HISTORICAL COMMISSION  
59 SOUTH PROSPECT STREET, HARTFORD, CONNECTICUT 06106  
(203) 566-3005

FOR OFFICE USE ONLY

Town No.:	Site No. 160
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>		South District School House	
2. TOWN CITY	VILLAGE	COUNTY	
Durham		Middlesex	
3. STREET AND NUMBER (and or location)			
Sand Hill Road			
4. OWNER(S)			
Mancarella, Stephen & Eileen <input type="checkbox"/> Public <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Private			
5. USE (Present)		<i>(Historic)</i>	
Residence		Schoolhouse	
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	
Nineteenth-century School House		Early 19th century	
8. MATERIAL(S) <i>(Indicate use or location when appropriate)</i>			
<input type="checkbox"/> Clapboard	<input type="checkbox"/> Asbestos Siding	<input type="checkbox"/> Brick	<input type="checkbox"/> Other <i>(Specify)</i>
<input checked="" 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 checked="" 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 (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 <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		
1 1/2	24x20; 12x9; 22x22		
12. CONDITION <i>(Structural)</i>		<i>(Exterior)</i>	
<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>
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> On original site <input type="checkbox"/> Moved		<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No	connecting passage & east ell
14. RELATED OUTBUILDINGS OR LANDSCAPE FEATURES			
<input type="checkbox"/> Barn	<input type="checkbox"/> Shed	<input 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 type="checkbox"/> Open land	<input checked="" 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			

Facing south onto Sand Hill Road, the South District Schoolhouse is sited atop Sand Hill on a long open lot surrounded by nineteenth- and twentieth-century dwelling.

DESCRIP

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

The Schoolhouse originally displayed a central doorway flanked by two six-over-six windows. The exterior brick chimney and gable window were added when the building was enlarged.

SIGNIFICANCE

18 ARCHITECT

BUILDER

19 HISTORICAL OR ARCHITECTURAL IMPORTANCE

The western ell of this dwelling was erected in the early nineteenth century as the South District School House. The eastern ell and connecting passage were added in the early twentieth century when the building was modified for residential use. Oriented gable-to-street, the original block is 1½ stories in height and utilizes a post-and-beam framing system supported by a sandstone foundation. Constructed to mirror the original portion, the eastern gable-to-street wing utilizes a balloon frame supported by a cement foundation, as does the ridge-to-street connecting ell. The entire building is sheathed with wooden shingles and the roof is asphalt shingled.

Durham's school system was established in 1711 when the town voted to hire a school-master for six months "for the advantage of children in town, that they may be instructed to writt and read." The first schoolhouse in Durham was erected on the Green in 1722. By 1766 the town had established four school districts: Middle, North, South and West. In 1821 the number of school districts had grown to five: North school, Quarry, Center, South and West side. Noah Robinson, the school collector in 1821 collected \$299.53 to be divided among the districts. The Center District, being the largest, received \$104.38 and the South school, being the second smallest district, only received \$34.81. While an exact date for the South District School House cannot be determined, tradition asserts that it may have been standing as early as 1802. The first actual deed reference was made in 1857, when David Norton's heirs and Charles Robinson each deeded a small lot of land with a "school house standing thereon" to the South School District. (continued)

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
P.D. Hall	6/83
VIEW	NEGATIVE ON FILE
Facing NW	VIII:4
NAME	DATE
E.R. Hart	3/84
ORGANIZATION	
Greater Middletown Preservation Trust	
ADDRESS	
27 Washington St., Middletown, Conn. 06457	



20 SUBSEQUENT FIELD EVALUATIONS

21 THREATS TO BUILDING OR SITE

- |                                                 |                                   |                                        |                                     |                                            |
|-------------------------------------------------|-----------------------------------|----------------------------------------|-------------------------------------|--------------------------------------------|
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> None knowr. | <input type="checkbox"/> Highways | <input type="checkbox"/> Vandalism     | <input type="checkbox"/> Developers | <input type="checkbox"/> Other _____       |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Renewal                | <input type="checkbox"/> Private  | <input type="checkbox"/> Deterioration | <input type="checkbox"/> Zoning     | <input type="checkbox"/> Explanation _____ |

STATE OF CONNECTICUT  
CONNECTICUT HISTORICAL COMMISSION  
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	/	---	/	---	6	0
QUAD:						
DISTRICT:	5	NR:	ACTUAL			
			POTENTIAL			

CONTINUATION SHEET

Item number: 19 Date: 4/19/84

SOUTH DISTRICT SCHOOL HOUSE, Sand Hill Road, Durham

When the Methodist Church was established in 1815, services were held in the South District School House until 1830, when the congregation grew so large it was relocated to the Academy on the Green. In Beer's History of Durham, the number of school age children attending the South District in 1822 was 54, in 1825 the number was 48, in 1831, 43 children and in 1843, 50 children attended. By 1910, the South School District was the smallest of the five districts and was allotted \$400 for expenditures. The 1910 school report recorded the South School District had one school with one room, thirty number of sittings, 36 weeks in a school year and had 180 days of school. The building was used as a school house until 1924 when it was converted into a residence.

The South District School House is an important link to the development of Durham's educational system.