

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. 164
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) (Historic) Seward, John, House	
	2. TOWN CITY Durham	COUNTY Middlesex
	3. STREET AND NUMBER (and or location) South End Avenue	
	4. OWNER(S) Franklyn C. Dormer, Jr. <input type="checkbox"/> Public <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Private	
	5. USE (Present) (Historic) Residence Residence	
	6. ACCESSIBILITY TO PUBLIC: <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No <input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> No IF YES, EXPLAIN	
	7. STYLE OF BUILDING Colonial Cape	
	8. MATERIAL(S) (Indicate use or location when appropriate)	
	9. STRUCTURAL SYSTEM	
	10. ROOF (Type)	
DESCRIPTION	11. NUMBER OF STORIES 1 1/2	
	12. CONDITION (Structural) (Exterior)	
	13. INTEGRITY (Location) WHEN? (Alterations) IF YES EXPLAIN	
	14. RELATED OUTBUILDINGS OR LANDSCAPE FEATURES	
	15. SURROUNDING ENVIRONMENT	
	16. INTERRELATIONSHIP OF BUILDING AND SURROUNDINGS	

Facing east onto South End Avenue, the John Seward House is situated in a rural, residential neighborhood which developed in the eighteenth and nineteenth centuries with the industrial activity that occurred along Malt Brook.

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

The three-bay facade exhibits six-over-six sash set in simple flush window frames and a modest four-panelled entrance door capped by a thin projecting cornice. A single-story ell with garage has been added to the north elevation.

DESCRPTI

18 ARCHITECT

BUILDER

19 HISTORICAL OR ARCHITECTURAL IMPORTANCE

Built about 1765, this 1½ story, center-chimney, colonial-period, Cape-style dwelling rests on a mortared sandstone foundation. Topped with a ridge-to-street, wood-shingled gable roof, the post-and-beam frame is sided in clapboards.

The early history of this building is difficult to determine. It is most probable that John Seward (b. 1737) built this house about 1765, prior to his marriage to Sarah Burr in 1769. Shortly after the birth of their first child in 1770, the Seward family moved to Haddam and sold the dwelling house to John's older brother Samuel (b. 1734). Both Samuel and John were the sons of Lieut. Joseph Seward and his wife Hannah Crane. Their grandfather was Dr. Joseph Seward, one of Durham's earliest proprietors and the town's first physician. Little historical information is available concerning Samuel Seward. In 1795 he sold his homelot to Daniel and Guernsey Bates, who immediately sold the house to Nathaniel and Enos Seward, distant cousins of Samuel. In the transaction between the Bateses and the Seward family, it is stated in the deed that "Samuel Seward shall occupy the house for the term of his natural life" (DLR 11:13). In 1801 Daniel Hickox acquired a portion of the "Samuel Seward" property from Nathaniel and Enos. Both Seward brothers had met early deaths by the end of 1801 and their heirs sold Hickox the rest of the property with dwelling house, barn, and blacksmith shop. Hickox (1767-1839) was the son of Joseph and Martha (Willcocks) Hickox, who came to Durham from Waterbury. Daniel married Jerusha Camp (1763-1837), the daughter of Job and Rachel Camp, and they raised four children: Daniel, Charlotte, Charles, and Henry. Daniel, Jr. (1798-1858) received (CONTINUED)

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, 1866); Whited, Milton, Durham's Heritage (Durham: 1976); 1859 Walling Map; 1874 Beers Atlas.

SOURCES

PHOTO	PHOTOGRAPHER Alex Parades	DATE 4/84
	VIEW West	NEGATIVE ON FILE 10:23
COMPILED BY	NAME E. R. Hart	DATE 5/84
	ORGANIZATION Greater Middletown Preservation Trust	
	ADDRESS 27 Washington Street, Middletown, CT 06457	



20 SUBSEQUENT FIELD EVALUATIONS

21 THREATS TO BUILDING OR SITE

<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> None known.	<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 _____

