

**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. 175
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> Knowles, Oliver, House	
	2. TOWN CITY Durham	VILLAGE COUNTY Middlesex
	3. STREET AND NUMBER (and or location) Town House Road, west side, 5 m south of Maple Avenue	
	4. OWNER(S) Durham Fair Association <span style="float: right;"><input type="checkbox"/> Public <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Private</span>	
	5. USE (Present) <span style="float: right;">(Historic)</span> Residence <span style="float: right;">Residence</span>	

DESCRIPTION	6. ACCESSIBILITY TO PUBLIC: <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No	EXTERIOR VISIBLE FROM PUBLIC ROAD <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No	INTERIOR ACCESSIBLE <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No	IF YES, EXPLAIN with permission
	7. STYLE OF BUILDING Greek Revival		DATE OF CONSTRUCTION ca. 1839	

DESCRIPTION	8. MATERIAL(S) (Indicate use or location when appropriate)			
	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Clapboard	<input type="checkbox"/> Asbestos Siding	<input type="checkbox"/> Brick	<input type="checkbox"/> Other (Specify) _____
	<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: <u>cut sandstone foundation</u>	

DESCRIPTION	9. STRUCTURAL SYSTEM		DATE OF CONSTRUCTION	
	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Wood frame	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Post and beam	<input type="checkbox"/> balloon	<input type="checkbox"/> Other (Specify) _____
	<input type="checkbox"/> Load bearing masonry	<input type="checkbox"/> Structural iron or steel		

DESCRIPTION	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 (Specify) _____
	(Material)				
	<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 (Specify) _____	

11. NUMBER OF STORIES 2½	APPROXIMATE DIMENSIONS main block, 26 x 34; shed-roofed addition, 9 x 34; garage, 22 x 22
-----------------------------	--

12. CONDITION (Structural) <span style="float: right;">(Exterior)</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 (Location)	WHEN ?	Alterations	IF YES, EXPLAIN
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> On original site <input type="checkbox"/> Moved		<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No	lean-to addition to west side garage to west side

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 checked="" type="checkbox"/> Residential	<input type="checkbox"/> Scattered buildings visible from site
<input type="checkbox"/> Commercial	<input type="checkbox"/> Industrial	<input type="checkbox"/> Rural	<input type="checkbox"/> High building density

16. INTERRELATIONSHIP OF BUILDING AND SURROUNDINGS  
The Oliver Knowles House stands on a cleared lot adjacent to the Durham Fairgrounds and the Durham Town Hall.

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

DESCRIBED (Continued)

This five-bay residence represents the transition from the Colonial to the Greek-Revival style. Its basic structure, with its ridge pole parallel to the street, is typically Colonial. Its doorway, however, is Greek Revival in character, containing two four-pane sidelights flanked by pilasters with moulded bases and capitals, surmounted by a top-light transom and a flat-moulded cornice. There is a band of dentiled moulding between the freize and architrave of the cornice. The fenestration is six-over six throughout. A single-story shed-roofed addition spans the west side of the structure. A garage dating from the twentieth century adjoins this addition.

18 ARCHITECT

BUILDER

19 HISTORICAL OR ARCHITECTURAL IMPORTANCE

SIGNIFICANCE

Shortly after 1790 John Loveland built a house on this lot, which he inhabited until his death in 1837. In that year the Grand List showed a deteriorated structure valued at \$500 standing on the site. In 1838, when Elias B. Meigs began purchasing the shares of the Loveland heirs to the property, no structure is listed as standing there. But in 1839 the Grand List shows a new structure valued at \$1,150 on the property. Meigs sold the property to Oliver Knowles in 1840. After passing through several hands the house was sold to William C. Ives, a peddler, in 1853. (He had apparently rented the structure for some years, for he is shown as residing there in the census of 1850, along with his wife Caroline, his 8-year-old daughter Elizabeth, his 65-year-old widowed mother, and 38-year-old shoemaker Russell W. Scranton.) The Ives house was purchased by the Durham Fair Association, along with several other residential properties, during the 1940s. It is presently a rental property.

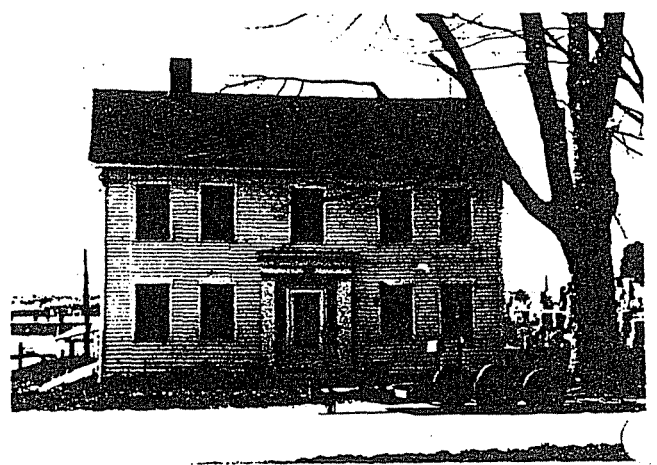
This house is an interesting example of the vernacularization of the Greek Revival style. Because of its strategic location on the Green, it represents an important visual anchor to the nineteenth-century atmosphere of the Durham Green.

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.

COMPILED BY PHOTO

PHOTOGRAPHER	DATE
Alex Parades	5/84
VIEW	NEGATIVE ON FILE
W	11:3
NAME	DATE
P. D. Hall	5/5/84
ORGANIZATION	
Greater Middletown Preservation Trust	
ADDRESS	
27 Washington Street, Middletown, CT 06457	



20 SUBSEQUENT FIELD EVALUATIONS

21 THREATS TO BUILDING OR SITE

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