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

FOR OFFICE USE ONLY	
Town No.:	Site No. 27
UTM	
QUAD:	

DISTRICT ☐ S ☐ NR   IF NR. SPECIFY ☐ Actual ☐ Potential

IDENTIFICATION

1. BUILDING NAME (Common)   (Historic)
Merwin, Henry Sage, House

2. TOWN CITY   VILLAGE   COUNTY
Durham   Middlesex

3. STREET AND NUMBER (and or location)
Haddam Quarter Road, south side

4. OWNER(S)
Michael and Bette LaCroix   ☐ Public   ☒ Private

5. USE (Present)   (Historic)
Residence   Residence

6. ACCESSIBILITY TO PUBLIC: EXTERIOR VISIBLE FROM PUBLIC ROAD ☒ Yes ☐ No   INTERIOR ACCESSIBLE ☒ Yes ☐ No   IF YES. EXPLAIN with permission

DESCRIPTION

7. STYLE OF BUILDING   DATE OF CONSTRUCTION
Greek Revival   1848

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	

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**

12 CONDITION (Structural)
☐ Excellent ☒ Good ☐ Fair ☐ Deteriorated   **(Exterior)** ☐ Excellent ☒ Good ☐ Fair ☐ Deteriorated

13 INTEGRITY (Location) ☒ On original site ☐ Moved   WHEN ?   (Alterations) ☒ Yes ☐ No   IF YES EXPLAIN East additions

14 RELATED OUTBUILDINGS OR LANDSCAPE FEATURES
☐ Barn ☐ Shed ☐ Garage ☐ Other landscape features or buildings (Specify)
☐ Carriage house ☐ Shop ☐ Garden

15 SURROUNDING ENVIRONMENT
☐ Open land ☐ Woodland ☐ Residential   ☐ Scattered buildings visible from site
☐ Commercial ☐ Industrial ☒ Rural   ☐ High building density

16 INTERRELATIONSHIP OF BUILDING AND SURROUNDINGS
The Henry Sage Merwin House is set well back from Haddam Quarter Road, facing an abandoned farm road.

(OVER)

DESCRIP

The gable-to-street, side-hall plan, three-bay facade faces west away from the street. A moulded frieze encompasses the main block beneath the eaves. The first floor fenestration has been replaced by a large multipaned window. Six-over-six sash are featured throughout the rest of the house. The entry door is set in a simple moulded frame. A 1½ story ell projects from the eastern elevation.

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18 ARCHITECT | BUILDER

19 HISTORICAL OR ARCHITECTURAL IMPORTANCE

SIGNIFICANCE

Built in 1848, this 2½ story Greek-Revival-style farmhouse rests on a sandstone foundation. The wood-shingled post-and-beam frame is capped by an asphalt-shingled gable roof.

This house was built by Henry Sage Merwin (1824-1910), the youngest son of Miles Merwin, Jr., at the time of his marriage to Sylvia Minerva Merriam. Unlike his more enterprising brother Miles Talcott Merwin, who divided his time between his holdings in upper New York State and farming and lumbering in Durham, Henry Sage Merwin was content to be a farmer. In 1905, widowed and in his 81st year, he deeded the house to his youngest son Arthur H. Merwin (b. 1860) subject to a support agreement. In 1910 Henry died, and five years later Arthur sold the house to Jeremiah Beckwith, who sold it shortly thereafter to Frederick Otte. It remained in the Otte family until 1977, when it passed to its present owners.

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
P. D. Hall		6/83
VIEW	NEGATIVE ON FILE	
Southeast		

COMPILED BY

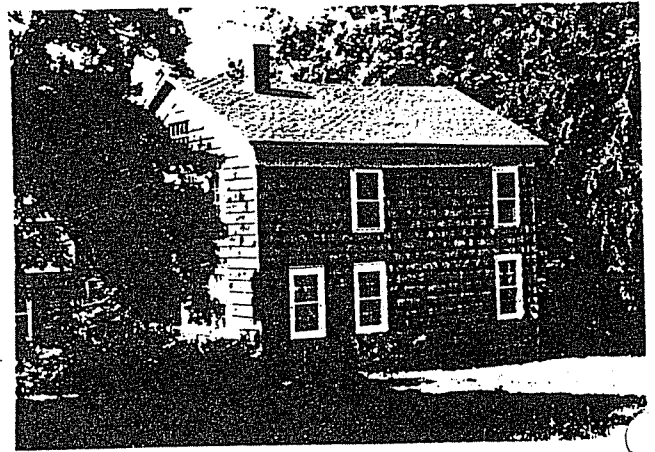| NAME		DATE
E. R. Hart/P. D. Hall		5/84
ORGANIZATION		
Greater Middletown Preservation Trust		
ADDRESS		
27 Washington Street, Middletown, CT 06457		

20 SUBSEQUENT FIELD EVALUATIONS

21 THREATS TO BUILDING OR SITE

[X] None known   [ ] Highways   [ ] Vandalism   [ ] Developers   [ ] Other _____

[ ] Renewal   [ ] Private   [ ] Deterioration   [ ] Zoning   [ ] Explanation _____