

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.: 31
UTM:	
QUAD:	
DISTRICT:	IF NR, SPECIFY
<input type="checkbox"/> S <input type="checkbox"/> NR	<input type="checkbox"/> Actual <input type="checkbox"/> Potential

IDENTIFICATION

DESCRIPTION

1. BUILDING NAME (Common) (Historic)		Wadsworth, William, House	
2. TOWN CITY	VILLAGE	COUNTY	
Durham		Middlesex	
3. STREET AND NUMBER (and or location)			
Madison Road, East Side			
4. OWNER(S)			
Blakeslee, Henry Arnold <input type="checkbox"/> Public <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Private			
5. USE (Present)		(Historic)	
Residence		Residence	
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		
7. STYLE OF BUILDING		DATE OF CONSTRUCTION	
Greek Revival		1848	
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: Sandstone Foundation	
9. STRUCTURAL SYSTEM			
<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	
10. ROOF (Type)			
<input 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 checked="" 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		APPROXIMATE DIMENSIONS	
2½		25'x30'; 27'x16'	
12. CONDITION (Structural)		(Exterior)	
<input type="checkbox"/> Excellent	<input type="checkbox"/> Good	<input type="checkbox"/> Fair	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Deteriorated
<input type="checkbox"/> Excellent	<input type="checkbox"/> Good	<input type="checkbox"/> Fair	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Deteriorated
13. INTEGRITY (Location)		WHEN?	(Alterations)
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> On original site	<input type="checkbox"/> Moved		<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No
IF YES EXPLAIN			
1 story gable-roofed ell to E. windows			
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 (Specify)
<input type="checkbox"/> Carriage house	<input type="checkbox"/> Shop	<input type="checkbox"/> Garden	
15. SURROUNDING ENVIRONMENT			
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Open land	<input type="checkbox"/> Wood-land	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Residential	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Scattered buildings visible from site
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Commercial	<input type="checkbox"/> Indus-trial	<input type="checkbox"/> Rural	<input type="checkbox"/> High building density
16. INTERRELATIONSHIP OF BUILDING AND SURROUNDINGS			

Facing west, the Wm. Wadsworth House is set on an elevated wooded lot overlooking the intersection of Routes 17 and 79. Located in an area which developed as a commercial community in the twentieth century, the house is bordered to the rear by open farmland.

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

DESCRIP. (Continued)

Although the William Wadsworth House has been vacant for many years and is quickly deteriorating, it retains many original features. The facade displays four bays on the first story and three bays on the second story. Fully Greek Revival in character are the wide flush-board corner pilasters supporting a massive entablature which extends below the eaves around the entire house. On all four elevations the second story sash extend into and interrupt the entablature. Surrounded with plain trim, the facade entrance way exhibits a modest single panel door as do the central doors on the north and south elevations. The 2 story, gable-roofed ell extending from the rear elevation features eyebrow windows on the second story.

18 ARCHITECT

BUILDER

19 HISTORICAL OR ARCHITECTURAL IMPORTANCE

SIGNIFICANCE

Prominently sited upon a hill at the intersection of Higganum and Madison roads, this 2½ story, Greek Revival style house was built in 1848. Supported by a sandstone foundation, the clapboarded post-and-beam frame is capped with an asphalt-shingled hip roof.

In 1846 Wadsworth Wadsworth sold his younger brother William a tract of land "south of my dwelling house" at the corner of Madison Road and Durham/Haddam Road. William (1817-1870) was the fourth son of Wadsworth and Content Scranton Wadsworth and a descendant of Col. James Wadsworth, one of Durham's most prominent citizens. A farmer, William served as town clerk from 1846 to 1859 and again from 1860 to 1870. He also served as a Justice of the Peace and a town Representative. Never marrying, Wadsworth sold the property to Angeline L. Scranton in 1863, reserving the premises to himself during his natural life. Miss Scranton (b. 1811) married Orrin Camp (b. 1803) of Oquaukie, Illinois, in 1873 and sold the house in 1874 shortly before they migrated west.

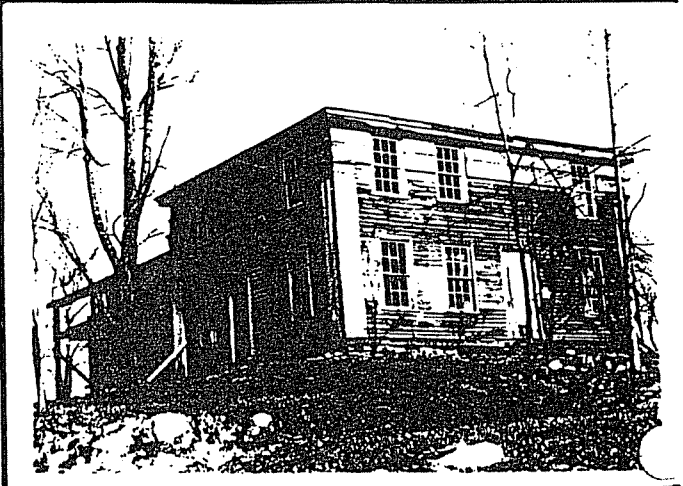
Architecturally the William Wadsworth House is significant as a superb example of the Greek Revival style and, historically, notable for its association with the Wadsworth family and its role in the development of Durham.

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.

PHOTO
COMPILED BY

PHOTOGRAPHER	DATE
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ORGANIZATION	
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20 SUBSEQUENT FIELD EVALUATIONS

21 THREATS TO BUILDING OR SITE

None known
 Highways
 Vandalism
 Developers
 Other _____

Renewal
 Private
 Deterioration
 Zoning
 Explanaton _____