

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. 39 |
| UTM : | |
| QUAD: _____ | |
| DISTRICT <input type="checkbox"/> S <input type="checkbox"/> NR | IF NR SPECIFY <input type="checkbox"/> Actual <input type="checkbox"/> Potential |

| | | |
|--|--|---|
| IDENTIFICATION | 1. BUILDING NAME (Common) _____ (Historic) <u>Johnson, John, House</u> | |
| | 2 TOWN CITY <u>Durham</u> | VILLAGE _____ COUNTY <u>Middlesex</u> |
| | 3 STREET AND NUMBER (and or location) <u>Maiden Lane, south side, .15 m east of Main Street</u> | |
| | 4 OWNER(S) <u>Michael Hooven and Norma Allewell</u> <input type="checkbox"/> Public <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Private | |
| | 5 USE (Present) _____ (Historic) <u>Residence</u> | |
| | 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 <u>with permission</u> | |
| DESCRIPTION | 7 STYLE OF BUILDING <u>Colonial</u> DATE OF CONSTRUCTION <u>ca. 1750</u> | |
| | 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>sandstone foundation</u> |
| | 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 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 type="checkbox"/> Asphalt shingle | <input type="checkbox"/> Built up <input type="checkbox"/> Tile <input type="checkbox"/> Other (Specify) _____ | |
| 11 NUMBER OF STORIES <u>2 1/2</u> | APPROXIMATE DIMENSIONS <u>34 x 26</u> | |
| 12 CONDITION (Structural) _____ (Exterior) _____ | | |
| <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) <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> On original site <input type="checkbox"/> Moved | WHEN? _____ Alterations <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No IF YES EXPLAIN <u>Interior remodeling 1966, 1979</u> | |
| 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 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"/> Indus-trial <input type="checkbox"/> Rural <input type="checkbox"/> High building density | | |
| 16 INTERRELATIONSHIP OF BUILDING AND SURROUNDINGS <u>The John Johnson House stands on a half-acre cleared lot close to the edge of Maiden Lane.</u> | | |

DESCRIPTIVE (Continued)

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

The John Johnson House is a 2½ story Colonial-style residence. The main entry is placed off-center on the east side of the facade. Its simple moulded door frame with four top-lights contains a replacement door of Victorian vintage. The fenestration is similarly irregular, consisting of four nine-over-twelve sash on the first and second stories grouped to the west of the mid-line of the facade, and a single nine-over-twelve aligned over the entry. The central chimney is off-center, being placed to the west of the mid-line of the facade. The house possesses a double overhang which, however, has been eradicated on its west gable end.

18 ARCHITECT _____ BUILDER _____

SIGNIFICANCE

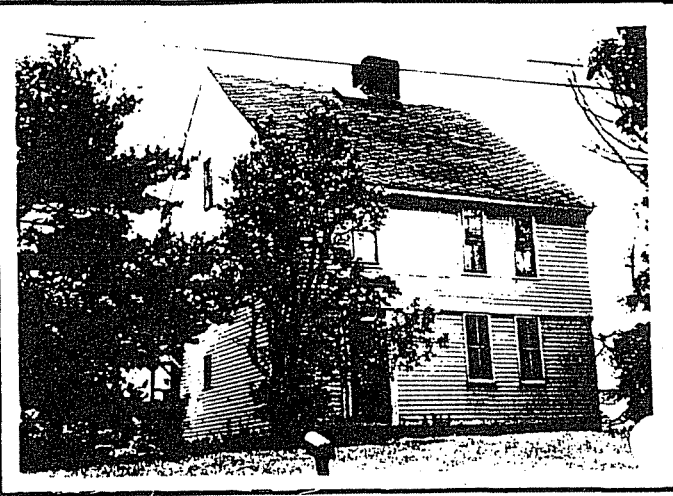
19 HISTORICAL OR ARCHITECTURAL IMPORTANCE

In November of 1743 Thomas Spelman and Noah Lyman purchased from John Camp a half-acre lot. When they sold the property to Stephen Lyman in 1750, "a small shop" had been built on the lot. Since Spelman is known to have been a stone carver (F.C.W. Barbour, Spelman Genealogy, 1910), it seems likely that the shop run by Spelman and Noah Lyman was a stone-carving enterprise. In 1761 Stephen Lyman sold the half interest in his partnership with Noah Lyman--and this property--to Elizabeth Austin. In 1773 Jesse and Elizabeth Austin sold the half acre "with a dwelling and shop" to John Johnson, Jr., scion of a Middletown family which had been involved in stone carving for several generations (A. I. Ludwig, Graven Images, 1966). Although not a Durham native, his possession of a valuable skill and his remarkable success as a commercial farmer (which was no doubt enhanced by his commercial contacts in Middletown), enabled John Johnson to occupy a central position in the life of the town. He served for many years as a deacon of the First Congregational Society and was active, under the pastorate of the Rev. David Smith, in purging unreliable persons from the church. In 1825 Johnson sold his house to his unmarried daughters, Almira, Rhoda, Eunice, and Nancy--after whom Maiden Lane is named. In 1869 the house was sold by Almira Johnson to Henry Atkins, a retired Middletown printer. He died in 1883, his widow lived on in the house until 1896, dying at the age of 91. In 1898 the Atkins heirs sold the property to Louesa A. Stevens of Madison, whose daughter Jennie L. Bristol (Mrs. Melville D. Bristol) inherited the property in 1918. The Johnson House remained in the Bristol family until 1969 when it was sold to its present owners. At that time (CONT'D)

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 P. D. Hall | DATE 7/5/84 |
| | VIEW North elevations and east / | NEGATIVE ON FILE 1:21 |
| COMPILED BY | NAME P. D. Hall | DATE 5/15/84 |
| | 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 Explanations _____

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 | / | 3 | 9 |
| QUAD: | | | |
| DISTRICT: | S | NR: | ACTUAL POTENTIAL |

CONTINUATION SHEET

Item number: 19 Date: 5/15/84

JOHN JOHNSON HOUSE, Durham

19 (cont'd)

a stone well parapet ornamented with carvings was moved to the Bristol House on the other side of Maiden Lane.

This house, because of its unusual configuration, is of considerable architectural significance. It is of major historical importance as the center of stone carving in Durham for the period 1750-1825.