

**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 42
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) Curtis-Coe House	
	2. TOWN CITY Durham	VILLAGE COUNTY Middlesex
	3. STREET AND NUMBER (and or location) Maiden Lane, north side	
	4. OWNER(S) Marion B. Newton <input type="checkbox"/> Public <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Private	
	5. USE (Present) (Historic) Residence	
DESCRIPTION	6. ACCESSIBILITY TO PUBLIC: EXTERIOR VISIBLE FROM PUBLIC ROAD <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No INTERIOR ACCESSIBLE <input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> No IF YES EXPLAIN	
	7. STYLE OF BUILDING Colonial	DATE OF CONSTRUCTION ca. 1745
	8. MATERIAL(S) (Indicate use or location when appropriate)	
	<input type="checkbox"/> Clapboard <input type="checkbox"/> Asbestos Siding <input type="checkbox"/> Brick <input type="checkbox"/> Other (Specify) _____ <input checked="" 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 type="checkbox"/> Cut stone Type: _____	
	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 checked="" type="checkbox"/> Asphalt shingle <input type="checkbox"/> Built up <input type="checkbox"/> Tile <input type="checkbox"/> Other (Specify) _____	
	11. NUMBER OF STORIES 2 1/2	APPROXIMATE DIMENSIONS 34 x 36
	12. CONDITION (Structural) (Exterior)	
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Excellent <input type="checkbox"/> Good <input type="checkbox"/> Fair <input type="checkbox"/> Deteriorated <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Excellent <input 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 Facade porch and rear additions		
14. RELATED OUTBUILDINGS OR LANDSCAPE FEATURES		
<input checked="" 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 checked="" 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 checked="" type="checkbox"/> Rural <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> High building density		
16. INTERRELATIONSHIP OF BUILDING AND SURROUNDINGS		

Facing south, the Curtis-Coe House is located on a lot at the corner of Maiden and Brick lanes. Situated in an area once actively farmed, the house is still surrounded by wide open fields.

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

DESCRIPT: (Continued)

The five-bay facade, which features a large frontal overhang, is highlighted by a decorative, Victorian-period veranda. Identical to the veranda on the Andrew Hull Homestead (114 Main Street), it is most likely that Mr. Hull, a builder, erected this porch also. Supported by turned posts and decoratively sawn brackets, the porch features an elaborately sawn balustrade. The second floor exhibits original eight-over-twelve sash and the first floor displays six-over-six windows. Two small additions extend from the rear. A number of small farm buildings remain on the grounds.

18 ARCHITECT _____ BUILDER _____

19 HISTORICAL OR ARCHITECTURAL IMPORTANCE

SIGNIFICANCE

Built about 1745, this 2½ story, center-chimney, Colonial-period house rests on a sandstone foundation. The wood-shingled post-and-beam timbers are topped with a ridge-to-street, asphalt-shingled gable roof.

This house was built about 1745 by James Curtis, Sr. (1686-1765), a native of Stamford and one of Durham's original proprietors. Curtis and his wife Hannah (1698-1758) had ten children: James, Jr., Sarah, Esther, Mary, Phebe, John, David, Hannah, Abigail, and Eunice. A farmer, James, Sr. had a slave named Pelu who was baptized in 1745. The first deed reference made to this house is in 1746 when James sells to his son David "for love and affection one-half of my new dwelling house, barn and homelot" (DLR 6:21). In 1748 David (b. 1724) received the other half of the property from his father. David married Thankful Thomson in 1747. John Curtis (1721-1800) acquired the house and barn from his brother in 1773. Upon his death in 1800, John presumably willed the house to his son John, Jr. (1760-1812). In 1794 John, Jr. married Lydia Hall, who died in 1799. He married his second wife, Ruth Parmelee (1769-1816), in 1801. John, Jr. willed the house to his daughter Lydia, his only child (b. 1802). In 1823 Lydia married Benjamin H. Coe, a renowned nineteenth-century painter. The Coes, who had moved to New York City, sold the house to prosperous farmer Miles T. Merwin in 1851. In 1852 Miles T. sold it to his father Miles Merwin, Jr., who was also a successful farmer and a prosperous manufacturer. Peter Bierce of Cromwell bought the house in 1855 and sold it to Lewey Griswold in 1860. Mrs. Griswold and her husband, Dr. Wait R. Griswold, owned the house (CONTINUED)

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. Beers, J. H., Commemorative Biographical Record of Middlesex.

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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 _____

