

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

FOR OFFICE USE ONLY

Town No.	Site No. 45
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) _____	
2 TOWN CITY Durham	VILLAGE _____ COUNTY Middlesex
3 STREET AND NUMBER (and/or location) 172 Main Street	
4 OWNER(S) Johnson, Robert E. <input type="checkbox"/> Public <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Private	
5 USE (Present) _____ (Historic) _____ Residence Residence	
6 ACCESSIBILITY TO PUBLIC: <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No	EXTERIOR VISIBLE FROM PUBLIC ROAD <input 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 19th century domestic	DATE OF CONSTRUCTION ca. 1895
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 type="checkbox"/> Cut stone Type: _____
9 STRUCTURAL SYSTEM	
<input type="checkbox"/> Wood frame <input type="checkbox"/> Post and beam	<input checked="" 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 2½	APPROXIMATE DIMENSIONS 20'x20'; attached garage 20'x20'
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) _____ 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 20'x20' garage added in 1950s
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 type="checkbox"/> Residential <input type="checkbox"/> Scattered buildings visible from site	
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Commercial <input type="checkbox"/> Indus-trial <input type="checkbox"/> Rural <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> High building density	
16 INTERRELATIONSHIP OF BUILDING AND SURROUNDINGS	

This small clapboard structure, one of a group of three houses built in the 19th century as rental properties, stands close to the edge of Main Street, just north of Durham's commercial center.

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

None

DESCRIP (Continued)

18 ARCHITECT

BUILDER

19 HISTORICAL OR ARCHITECTURAL IMPORTANCE

This house is one of a group of small residential structures built for rental purposes on Main Street, just north of Durham's commercial center. The house itself is larger than those that adjoin it, the main structure measuring 20'x20' and containing two stories. Built at the turn of the century, it has a balloon frame. The gable end of this house faces the street. Its facade contains on the first floor a one story hip-roof addition sheltering the main entry with a set of double six-over-six windows. The windows of the same type on the second story are centered on the roof line. The house has been subjected to a number of additions including a large garage and shed attached to its northwest corner, an enclosed front entry porch, and several small additions to the rear. The roof pitch on the north side of the roof has been altered giving it two pitches and adding to the generally asymmetrical and organic appearance of the house. This small house, standing on a fifth of an acre, is first mentioned in the land records in 1895, when Nehemiah Burr, owner of the large farm to the east of this property, sold it to Sylvia and George S. Wilcox of Middlefield. Wilcox was a carpenter. In 1901, Burr foreclosed on a \$500 mortgage on the property--but the Wilcoxes apparently retained possession for in 1931 Elizabeth Downs, who owned the adjoining properties, received the house from one Walter S. Wilcox. The house passed through several hands between 1937, when Elizabeth Downs sold it to Deborah Currier, and 1965, when the house passed to its present owner. Like the other small houses in this group, this structure is typical of the rental housing available to those of modest means in nineteenth century Durham.

SIGNIFICANCE

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	6/10/83
VIEW	NEGATIVE ON FILE			
	E		VIII: 34	
NAME	P.D. Hall		DATE	8/10/83
ORGANIZATION	Greater Middletown Preservation Trust			
ADDRESS	27 Washington St., Middletown, Conn. 06457			



20 SUBSEQUENT FIELD EVALUATIONS

21 THREATS TO BUILDING OR SITE

- None known
- Highways
- Vandalism
- Developers
- Other _____
- Renewal
- Private
- Deterioration
- Zoning
- Explanation _____