

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. 48 |
| UTM | |
| QUAD: | |
| DISTRICT | IF NR SPECIFY |
| <input type="checkbox"/> S <input type="checkbox"/> NR | <input type="checkbox"/> Actual <input type="checkbox"/> Potential |

IDENTIFICATION

| | |
|---|----------------------------|
| 1. BUILDING NAME (Common) <i>(Historic)</i> | |
| Carolyn Adams House | The Parmalee, James, House |
| 2. TOWN CITY | COUNTY |
| Durham | Middlesex |
| 3. STREET AND NUMBER (and or location) | |
| 153 Main Street | |
| 4. OWNER(S) | |
| Adams, Carolyn V. <input type="checkbox"/> Public <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Private | |
| 5. USE (Present) <i>(Historic)</i> | |
| Residence Residence/Shoe Manufactory | |
| 6. ACCESSIBILITY TO PUBLIC: EXTERIOR VISIBLE FROM PUBLIC ROAD INTERIOR ACCESSIBLE IF YES, EXPLAIN | |
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No With Permission | |

DESCRIPTION

| | | |
|---|---|--|
| 7. STYLE OF BUILDING | | DATE OF CONSTRUCTION |
| Colonial | | ca. 1817 |
| 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 type="checkbox"/> Wood Shingle | <input type="checkbox"/> Asphalt Siding | <input type="checkbox"/> Fieldstone |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Board & Batten | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Stucco (over clapboard) | <input type="checkbox"/> Cobblestone |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Aluminum Siding | <input type="checkbox"/> Concrete Type: _____ | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Cut stone Type: Sandstone |
| 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 | | APPROXIMATE DIMENSIONS |
| 2½ | | main block 28'x30' |
| 12. CONDITION (Structural) (Exterior) | | |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Excellent | <input type="checkbox"/> Good | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Fair <input type="checkbox"/> Deteriorated <input type="checkbox"/> Excellent <input type="checkbox"/> Good <input checked="" 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 see #19 |
| 14. RELATED OUTBUILDINGS OR LANDSCAPE FEATURES | | |
| <input checked="" 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 | The large barn to the rear of the house is presently used for commercial purposes. |
| 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 | | |

Standing on a large 6.25 acre lot, this house is set close to the edge of Durham's Main Street in the midst of the town's commercial district.

None.

DESCRIPTION (Continued)

18 ARCHITECT

BUILDER

19 HISTORICAL OR ARCHITECTURAL IMPORTANCE

SIGNIFICANCE

This 2½ story Federal central chimney house stands at the north end of Durham's Main Street, just outside the Historic District. As built, it was a simple, 3 bay colonial house with Federal-style features: quarter-lune fanlights in the gable ends, cornice returns, full length corner pilasters, and an entry flanked by fluted pilasters with caps and bases and surmounted by a pediment. The house has undergone extensive alterations, most of them dating from the nineteenth century. These include the addition of a hip-roofed, open porch on the south, east and north sides, a sun porch and a screened porch to the south and a 2 story, gable-roofed, addition to the rear. The original clapboarding, which is still intact, has been covered with blue-painted stucco. The original central chimney has been reduced in size--though it still serves two fireplaces. The original fenestration has been partially replaced: the lower sections of what were once 6x6s now contain two-pane operating units. When the porch was added in the late nineteenth century, the pediment over the doorway was removed. According to Fowler, this house stands on the site of an earlier eighteenth-century structure built by Hezekiah Baldwin, who acquired the property from his father, Noah Baldwin. Noah Baldwin had, in turn, received it from his father with a "dwelling, barn, and weaver's shop" in 1765. Fowler states that the old house was razed and that the present structure was built by James Parmalee, Jr. (1763-18), one of Durham's leading shoe makers. Parmalee and his father, Phineas, formed the shoemaking firm of Phineas Parmalee & Company, which carried on its business on the site. They were prosperous initially, judging from this substantial and rather elegant house. But in the late 1820s they, like many shoemakers, found themselves in financial

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 Altas.

| | | |
|--|---------------------------------------|---------|
| PHOTO | PHOTOGRAPHER | DATE |
| | P.D. Hall | 6/5/83 |
| VIEW | NEGATIVE ON FILE | |
| | S & E elevation | III: 25 |
| COMPILED BY | NAME | DATE |
| | P.D. Hall | 8/10/83 |
| | ORGANIZATION | |
| | Greater Middletown Preservation Trust | |
| ADDRESS | | |
| 27 Washington St., Middletown, Conn. 06457 | | |



20 SUBSEQUENT FIELD EVALUATIONS

THREATS TO BUILDING OR SITE

None known.
 Highways
 Vandalism
 Developers
 Other _____

Renewal
 Private
 Deterioration
 Zoning
 Explanaton _____

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 | / | 4 | 8 |
| QUAD: | | | |
| DISTRICT: | S | NR: | ACTUAL POTENTIAL |

CONTINUATION SHEET

Item number: 19 Date: 9/29/83

THE JAMES PARMALEE HOUSE, 153 Main Street, Durham

straits and began borrowing extensively--first small amounts from local merchants and other shoemakers including Joseph P. Camp, Perez Sturtevant, and Alpheus Camp). By the early 1830s, they consolidated three outstanding loans into a mortgage from the Middlesex County Bank. In 1834, the firm failed and James Parmalee, who had moved to Yates, Orleans County, New York, quit-claimed his house and six acres to the bank. The bank sold it to Middletown manufacturer, Samuel Russell, in 1836. He sold it three years later to Jehiel M. Hand. Hand--who listed his residence in 1851 as Augusta, Georgia--sold the house in that year to Henry W. Bailey. The house passed through a succession of owners between 1851 and 1911, when the house was purchased by Frank Arrigoni in 1919. In 1942, the Arrigoni's sold it to its present owners.

This house is one of Durham's few Federal style structures--and with restoration could be as elegant as the David Smith house, which is presently the best example of the Federal period structure in Durham. Standing as it does in an otherwise commercial area, the Parmalee House constitutes an important visual and thematic anchor to Durham's past. Historically, the house is notable for its association with Durham's shoe industry and with the members of the Parmalee family, who were among the pioneer shoemakers of the town.