

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

FOR OFFICE USE ONLY

Town No.:	Site No. 54
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)	
The Leach Place		Leach, Oscar, House	
2. TOWN CITY	VILLAGE	COUNTY	
Durham		Middlesex	
3. STREET AND NUMBER (and or location)			
134/136 Main Street			
4. OWNER(S)			
Carlson, Gary R. and Virginia A. <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 checked="" type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No	With permission
7. STYLE OF BUILDING			DATE OF CONSTRUCTION
Greek Revival			1839-1840
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 type="checkbox"/> Stucco	<input type="checkbox"/> Cobblestone	
<input checked="" 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 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	34' x 36'		
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)
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> On original site <input type="checkbox"/> Moved		<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No	IF YES EXPLAIN
14. RELATED OUTBUILDINGS OR LANDSCAPE FEATURES		2 story add. to S side ; 2 story sun porch E side dormer added to S side	
<input 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 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			

Set back 50' from Main Street, this house stands on a wooded 1 acre lot.

Full-length 6x9 windows on the facade
 South-facing gable peak contains a triangular multi-paned Queen Anne style window.

DESCR ON (Continued)

18 ARCHITECT

Unknown

BUILDER

Unknown

19 HISTORICAL OR ARCHITECTURAL IMPORTANCE

This 2½ story, 2 bay Greek Revival residence has been much altered since its construction in 1840. As built, it consisted of a 20 x 26 main block with its gable end facing the street and its main entry centered on the south side, like its neighbor to the north, the William A. Parmalee House. The full-length 6x9 windows on the facade suggest that the house originally possessed a front porch. As it presently stands, the 2 bay facade, while still possessing its original fenestration (two 6x6s over two 6x9s) the porch has been removed along with whatever ornament the exterior may have carried. It is surmounted by a full pediment with a rectangular fixed 2 pane window. On the south side, the original main entry has been displaced by a two-story 7 x 14 addition to its southeast corner. Parts of the original doorframe appear to have been moved into the east-facing side of this addition. The doorframe, while retaining its original sidelights, contains a Victorian panel and plate glass door. This addition contains doubled sets of narrow 1' x 1' windows. Its south-facing gable peak contains a triangular multi-paned Queen Anne window. Another major alteration is a 7' x 22' gable roof addition to the northeast corner of the north side. Another later addition is a 2 story sunporch on the east side (rear). These additions have given the house a cruciform configuration. In 1839, Phineas Parmalee, a Durham shoe manufacturer, purchased seven acres opposite his house. He built two house on the property, selling one of them (138 Main) to his son, William A. Parmalee. The other must have been built between his land purchase in Feb 1839 and its sale Aug 1840 to fellow shoemaker Perez Sturtevant. Sturtevant kept the house until 1862, when he sold it to Oscar Leach (1831-1896), a prominent Durham businessman and politician. Leach died in 1896, leaving the house and its contents to _____ (CONTINUED)

SIGNIFICANCE

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.

SOURCES

PHOTO	PHOTOGRAPHER		DATE
	Hall, Peter Dobkin		6 JUN 1983
COMPILED BY	VIEW	NEGATIVE ON FILE	
	West elevation	III:3	
	NAME		DATE
	Hall, Peter Dobkin		10 AUG 1983
	ORGANIZATION		
	Greater Middletown Preservation Trust, Inc.		
ADDRESS			
27 Washington Street, Middletown, Conn. 06457			



20 SUBSEQUENT FIELD EVALUATIONS

THREATS TO BUILDING OR SITE

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

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.: _____ RITE NO.: _____
UTM: 18/____/____/____/5,4/____
QUAD:
DISTRICT: 8 NR: ACTUAL
POTENTIAL

CONTINUATION SHEET

Item number: 19 Date: 8/83

LEACH, OSCAR, HOUSE, 134/136 Main Street, Durham

19. his widow Eliza Jane (Hickox) Leach and his unmarried daughter Luie A. Leach. When Luie Leach died in 1936, her estate sold the house to Marina Arrigoni, who sold it in 1937 to George H. Jackson, whose family owned several adjoining properties to the south (132 Main). He sold it in 1956 to Kenneth and Shirley Gilley who sold it in 1977 to Carl O. Erickson. In 1981 it passed to its present owners.

In spite of major alterations, the Leach place is of architectural interest, especially as a point of comparison to the Parmalee House (138 Main), which was built at the same time and, very likely, by the same builder. Its historical significance stems from its association with Durham's nineteenth century shoemaking families, the Parmalees, Sturtevants, and Camps (Perez Surtevant's wife was the daughter of Joseph P. Camp, another leading shoemaker), and from its connection with the late-nineteenth century entrepreneurs, the Leaches.