

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 57
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) Notre Dame Rectory (Historic) Fairchild, Robert, House	
	2 TOWN CITY Durham	COUNTY Middlesex
	3 STREET AND NUMBER (and or location) 130 Main Street	
	4 OWNER(S) Notre Dame Church Corporation <input type="checkbox"/> Public <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Private	
	5 USE (Present) Residence (Historic) 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
	7 STYLE OF BUILDING Colonial DATE OF CONSTRUCTION ca. 1730	
	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: 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		
DESCRIPTION	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 37' x 28'
	12 CONDITION (Structural) <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Excellent <input type="checkbox"/> Good <input type="checkbox"/> Fair <input type="checkbox"/> Deteriorated	
(Exterior) <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Excellent <input 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: one-story addition to SE corner; two-story addition to NE corner	
14 RELATED OUTBUILDINGS OR LANDSCAPE FEATURES		
<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 checked="" type="checkbox"/> High building density		
16 INTERRELATIONSHIP OF BUILDING AND SURROUNDINGS		
This house is set back 30' from Main Street and stands on a 1.5 acre wooded lot.		

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

DESCRIPTION (Continued)

This center-chimney, 5 bay, colonial house, although appearing to be in pristine condition has been subject to many alterations. A turn of the century photograph (Newton, 53) shows it with a full-length wraparound porch. It may have been changed in other ways as well. As it presently stands, the house presents standard Colonial features. On the first story of its facade, four 12 x 12 windows symmetrically flank a doorway with a plain frame which contains a replacement vertical flushboard door with replacement wrought iron strap hinges. On the second story, five 12 x 12 sash are arranged in the Georgian mode. The south gable end contains a "funeral door" with a doorframe which, although appearing old, is not original to the house (it does not appear in the ca. 1900 photograph). This doorway contains a replacement vertical flushboard door with replacement wrought iron strap hinges. (CONT.)

18 ARCHITECT

BUILDER

19 HISTORICAL OR ARCHITECTURAL IMPORTANCE

SIGNIFICANCE

This house was built around 1730 by Robert Fairchild at the time of his marriage to Ann Curtis. Fairchild erected the dwelling on the southern portion of his father's homelot, which he received in December of 1729. Born in Durham in 1703, Robert was the son of Samuel and Mary Fairchild. The elder Fairchild, a native of Stratford, was one of Durham's original proprietors. Robert served as a town representative from 1739 to 1744 and was a charter member of the Book Company of Durham, which was founded in 1733 and believed to be one of the country's earliest libraries. In 1746/7 Fairchild, who had removed to Stratford, sold this house to John Rowlson of Guilford. Rowlson sold the property to Moses Sheldon of Middletown in October of 1747. Two years later Sheldon married Elizabeth Grave and they raised three children: Ezra (1750), Moses (1752), and Mary (1753). Joseph Stedman of Windsor bought the house in 1751/2 and sold it a few months later to Benjamin Wells of Durham. Wells sold the property three months later in September of 1752 to James Tibbals. Born in Farmington to Joseph and Abigail Tibbals, James (b. 1720) married Martha Spencer in 1744. James Arnold of Durham acquired the house in 1771. Col. Arnold had married Tabatha Parsons in 1765 and they raised three children: Tabitha (1776), James (1782), Whiting (1785). In 1786 Richard Spelman and Seth Turner purchased the property, which included 3½ acres, dwelling house, and barn. Shortly thereafter Job Merwin bought the house for L300. The son of Miles and Mary Merwin, Job (1749-1824) served as a town representative in 1808. Upon his death in 1824 he willed his homestead to his wife Martha. In 1845 Martha Merwin willed the property to her daughter by her first marriage, (CONT.)

SOURCES

Durham Land Records; Durham Vital Records; Middletown Probate Records; Beers, J.B. History of Middlesex County, Connecticut (New York: J.B. Beers & Co., 1884); Fowler, William C. History of Durham (Durham: W.C. Fowler, 1866); 1859 Walling Map, 1874 Beers Atlas; Newton, Caroline G. Miles Merwin, 1623-1697, and One Branch of His Descendants (1909).

PHOTO

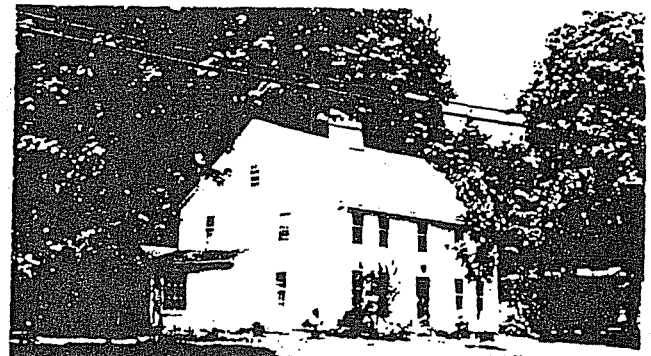
PHOTOGRAPHER P.D. Hall DATE 6/5/83

VIEW S & W elevations NEGATIVE ON FILE I:37

COMPILED BY

NAME Elizabeth R. Hart DATE 6/4/86

ORGANIZATION Greater Middletown Preservation Trust ADDRESS 27 Washington St., Middletown, CT 06457



20 SUBSEQUENT FIELD EVALUATIONS

21 THREATS TO BUILDING OR SITE

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

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/	/	/	/
QUAD:			
DISTRICT:	5	NR:	ACTUAL POTENTIAL

CONTINUATION SHEET

Item number: 17,19 Date: 6/4/86

17.

Placed close to this door is a single 12 x 12 window. To the rear of this window is a narrow one-story shed-roof addition built in the nineteenth century. It features a large multi-paned picture window which dates from the late nineteenth century. The windows on the second story of the south side are 8 x 12 and in the peak, a 6 x 6. A two-story, shed-roof addition, also of nineteenth-century origin, stands on the northeast corner of the house. It features 12 x 12 on the first story and 2 x 2 sash on the second.

19.

Mary Ann Bowers. On her death in 1851, the house was sold to Susan Clark, whose estate sold it to Fanny Camp in 1891. On her death two years later, the house passed by will to Fanny B. Hubbard and in 1896 to William and Grace Hubbard, who owned the house until 1940. The house passed through several owners until 1960, when it was purchased by the Notre Dame Church as a rectory. Architecturally, this house is notable as one of Durham's earliest surviving residential structures, dating from the second decade of the town's settlement. Historically, it is notable for its association with a number of early Durham families, including the Fairchilds, Sheldens, Tibbals, Arnolds, and Merwins.