

**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. 59
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> The Coe Place		Coe, Henry M., House	
	2. TOWN CITY Durham		VILLAGE	COUNTY Middlesex
	3. STREET AND NUMBER (and or location) 128 Main Street			
	4. OWNER(S) Coe, Marian E. & Ehlers, Reba <input type="checkbox"/> Public <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Private			
	5. USE (Present) Residence		<i>(Historic)</i> Residence	
DESCRIPTION	6. ACCESSIBILITY TO PUBLIC: <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No		EXTERIOR VISIBLE FROM PUBLIC ROAD <input checked="" 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 Nineteenth-century Domestic			DATE OF CONSTRUCTION 1859
	8. MATERIAL(S) (Indicate use or location when appropriate)			
	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Clapboard <input type="checkbox"/> Asbestos Siding <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Brick Foundation (front) <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 foundation			
	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 2½		APPROXIMATE DIMENSIONS 31' x 41' main block; 24' x 85' rear addition		
12. CONDITION (Structural) <i>(Exterior)</i>				
<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: <input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> No	
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> On original site <input type="checkbox"/> Moved			IF YES EXPLAIN Three additions to rear	
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 feet from Durham's Main Street. It stands on a narrow but deep wooded 1.7 acre lot.				

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	/	5	9
QUAD:			
DISTRICT:	S	NR:	ACTUAL POTENTIAL

CONTINUATION SHEET

Item number: 19 Date: 8/83

HENRY M. COE HOUSE, 128 Main Street, Durham

19 (continued)

trustees. Although his death record lists his occupation as "minister," there is no evidence that he was ever ordained or served a congregation in a formal capacity. The house passed to Coe's sons on his death in 1866. In 1908 a disagreement developed among the six heirs owning shares in the house, and one, brought by Grace E. B. Gould of Milo, Maine, and the Merriam Manufacturing Company forced a partition sale of the property. Sold at public auction in October of 1908, the house was purchased by the Merriam Manufacturing Company. In 1919, however, the property returned to the Coe family, with its purchase by Blanche M. Coe. On her death in 1958 the property passed to her daughter, Marian E. Coe.

Architecturally, this house is notable as one of the earliest Domestic vernacular structures in Durham. Owing no clear allegiance to any one style, it borrows freely from the Federal (the entry), the Greek Revival (cornice returns), and the Italianate (wide soffit). Historically, it is notable for its occupancy by the same family since its construction in 1859.

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

DESCRIPTION (Continued)

- Colonial Revival style portico supported by double, fluted, square posts and pilasters
- Fanlight and sidelights at the entry
- Broad flushboarded soffit

18 ARCHITECT BUILDER

19 HISTORICAL OR ARCHITECTURAL IMPORTANCE

SIGNIFICANCE

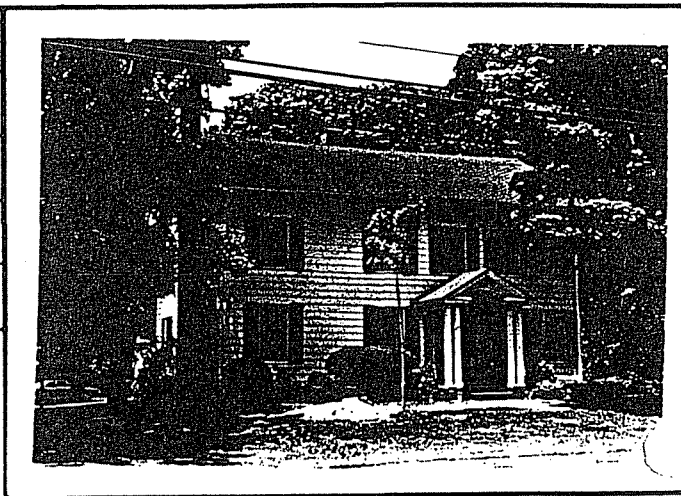
This house at first presents an appearance of being older than it is--perhaps a side-hall Federal style house with a large addition. Closer examination shows that it stands much as it was built in the 1850s, a 31' x 41' main block with three shed additions to its east side. The main block stands on a foundation which is brick on its west side and cut sandstone to the north, south, and east. The facade of the main block is strikingly assymmetrical: The entry is flanked by four six-over-six sash, two of them closely spaced to the left, the other two broadly spaced to the left. The second-story windows stand above the first. The gable ends of the main block contain five symmetrically placed six-over-six sash (three on the first story, two on the second), with rectangular fixed pane windows in the peak. A new exterior chimney runs up the southwest corner of the south gable end. To the rear of the main block in an 85 foot line stands a series of three additions. The first, measuring 15' x 31', stands 1½ stories on a sandstone rubble foundation, with three 3' x 3' eyebrow windows. The other additions, a 23' x 19' screen porch and a 32' x 24' garage, are of recent origin.

The land on which this house was built originally belonged to the Merwin estate. In 1852 Henry Moulthrop Coe paid the Charles G. Arnold Merwin estate \$1,220 for buildings and land "six rods in width" on this site--and in 1859 purchased an additional two acres. He built the house shortly thereafter, for it appears on the 1859 map of Durham and is referred to by Fowler as H. M. Coe's "new house." Henry M. Coe (1811-1866) was one of the founders of the Methodist Church in Durham, serving as one of its original (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; 1974 Beers Atlas.

PHOTO	PHOTOGRAPHER	DATE
	P. D. Hall	6/5/83
COMPILED BY	VIEW	NEGATIVE ON FILE
	west elevation	I:36
	NAME	DATE
	P. D. Hall	8/14/83
	ORGANIZATION	
	Greater Middletown Preservation Trust	
	ADDRESS	
	27 Washington Street, Middletown, CT 06457	



20 SUBSEQUENT FIELD EVALUATIONS

21 THREATS TO BUILDING OR SITE

None known.     Highways     Vandalism     Developers     Other \_\_\_\_\_

Renewal     Private     Deterioration     Zoning     Explanation \_\_\_\_\_