

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. 63 |
| UTM | |
| QUAD: | |
| DISTRICT <input type="checkbox"/> S <input type="checkbox"/> NR | IF NR SPECIFY <input type="checkbox"/> Actual <input type="checkbox"/> Potential |

| | | | | |
|---|---|---|---|--|
| IDENTIFICATION | 1. BUILDING NAME (Common) (Historic) | | Roberts-Moffitt House | |
| | 2. TOWN CITY | | VILLAGE | COUNTY |
| | Durham | | | Middlesex |
| | 3. STREET AND NUMBER (and or location) | | | |
| | 117 Main Street, west side | | | |
| | 4. OWNER(S) | | | |
| | Talmadge, Gladys <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 |
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No | | <input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> No | | |
| DESCRIPTION | 7. STYLE OF BUILDING | | | DATE OF CONSTRUCTION |
| | Colonial | | | 1739 |
| | 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 | | |
| 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 | | |
| 2 | | 32' x 31' | | |
| 12. CONDITION (Structural) (Exterior) | | | | |
| <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 checked="" type="checkbox"/> On original site | <input type="checkbox"/> Moved | | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No rear eels | |
| 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 checked="" 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 property is set in a neighborhood of well-preserved homes along Main Street which comprise Durham's Historic District. | | | | |

DESCRIPTION (Continued)

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

The three-bay facade features a central Greek-Revival-style doorway dating from the early nineteenth century. The front door, recessed about half a foot from the exterior wall, is flanked by four-paned sidelights and pilasters which support a massive entablature with dentiled course and projecting cornice. The gable end displays slight cornice returns and a twelve-paned rectangular window. The six-over-six sash display wooden lintel-type window heads. A single-story ell and shed extend from the west elevation.

18 ARCHITECT

BUILDER

19 HISTORICAL OR ARCHITECTURAL IMPORTANCE

SIGNIFICANCE

The early history of this house is obscure. A dwelling house stood on this property as early as 1739 but architectural detailing suggests that the original house was either rebuilt or remodelled in the early nineteenth century. Unusually oriented gable-to-street, the 2½ story dwelling rests on a sandstone foundation. The clapboarded post-and-beam frame is topped by an asphalt-shingled, shallow pitched roof.

The first mention of a building standing on this property is in 1739 when Samuel Roberts of Durham purchased a three-acre lot with a dwelling house and barn from Samuel Norton. Within a year Roberts had sold the property to John Bates (b. 1717). The Bates family had come to Durham in the early eighteenth century from the neighboring town of Haddam. Shortly before he migrated to Granville, Massachusetts, in 1757, Bates sold the house and a blacksmith shop to Abner Newton. In March of 1767 James Robinson bought the house from Newton's estate and sold it the following December to Lemuel Moffitt. In 1763 Moffitt married the widow Huldah Newton (1741-1771) and they had three children: Abigail, Hannah, and Lemuel. In 1785, after Moffitt had migrated to West Stockbridge, Massachusetts, he sold the property with a "mansion" house and a cooper's shop to John Hall. Hannah and John Hall (1753-1831), who resided in the house from 1785 to 1831, are most likely responsible for the Greek-Revival-style alterations. Upon his death in 1831 Hall willed his homelot to his daughter, the widow Hannah Catlin. Hannah (1791-1875) married John J. Catlin (1791-1825) in October of 1822. A native of New Marlborough, Massachusetts, Catlin studied medicine at the College of Physicians and Surgeons in New York City (CONT'D)

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 | DATE |
| P. D. Hall | 6/83 |
| VIEW | NEGATIVE ON FILE |
| West | 6:32 |
| NAME | DATE |
| E. R. Hart | 5/84 |
| ORGANIZATION | |
| Greater Middletown Preservation Trust | |
| ADDRESS | |
| 27 Washington Street, Middletown, CT 06457 | |



20 SUBSEQUENT FIELD EVALUATIONS

21 THREATS TO BUILDING OR SITE

| | | | | |
|---|-----------------------------------|--|-------------------------------------|--|
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> None known. | <input type="checkbox"/> Highways | <input type="checkbox"/> Vandalism | <input type="checkbox"/> Developers | <input type="checkbox"/> Other _____ |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Renewal | <input type="checkbox"/> Private | <input type="checkbox"/> Deterioration | <input type="checkbox"/> Zoning | <input type="checkbox"/> Explanation _____ |

