

**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. 75
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)		(Historic)	
Morse & Otte Market		Leach, L.W., and Son, Store	
2. TOWN CITY	VILLAGE	COUNTY	
Durham		Middlesex	
3. STREET AND NUMBER (and or location)			
95 Main Street			
4. OWNER(S)			
Otte, Melvin M. <input type="checkbox"/> Public <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Private			
5. USE (Present)		(Historic)	
Store		Store	
6. ACCESSIBILITY TO PUBLIC:	EXTERIOR VISIBLE FROM PUBLIC ROAD	INTERIOR ACCESSIBLE	IF YES, EXPLAIN
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No	store

DESCRIPTION

7. STYLE OF BUILDING		DATE OF CONSTRUCTION
Domestic vernacular		c. 1855
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 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	APPROXIMATE DIMENSIONS	
2 1/2	Main block: 30' x 60'	
12. CONDITION (Structural)		
<input type="checkbox"/> Excellent	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Good	<input type="checkbox"/> Fair <input type="checkbox"/> Deteriorated
(Exterior)		
<input type="checkbox"/> Excellent	<input checked="" 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 type="checkbox"/> Yes	<input type="checkbox"/> No	IF YES EXPLAIN _____
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 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		

The store is on a small, shallow lot on the west side of Main Street and just north of the First Church of Christ.

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DESCR. ION (Continued)

Full windows are generally 6/6 sash.  
Outside chimney on south side.

18 ARCHITECT

BUILDER

19 HISTORICAL OR ARCHITECTURAL IMPORTANCE

SIGNIFICANCE

This 2 1/2 story, gable-to-street, rectangular commercial building on the west side of Main Street was built in the 1850's. It has a post-and-beam frame, asbestos siding, and a sandstone foundation. The modern store front crosses the first story of the east facade. The south side has a full-length, single story, hip-roofed addition. In 1842 Denis Camp conveyed this lot to Leverett W. Leach, a prominent Durham merchant. An 1854 deed does not yet refer to any buildings on the site, but the 1859 Business Directory (v. Century, p. 43) shows the "L.W. Leach and Son" store. The store remained in the Leach family until the last decades of the nineteenth century. In 1897, the store was bought by Frederick L. and Jesse B. Atwell. In the twentieth century, it has been owned and operated by the Otte family and is today the "Morse and Otte Self-Service Market." This building has always been a commercial structure. It represents the mercantile aspects of nineteenth-century Durham.

SOURCES

Durham Land Records; Durham Vital Records; Middletown Probate Records; Federal Census of 1820, 1850, 1880; Beer, 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  
COMPILED BY

PHOTOGRAPHER	DATE
Hall, Peter	6/83
VIEW	NEGATIVE ON FILE
East side	6:25
NAME	DATE
McCord, J.	8/83
ORGANIZATION	
Greater Middletown Preservation Trust	
ADDRESS	
27 Washington Street, Middletown, Conn. 06457	



20 SUBSEQUENT FIELD EVALUATIONS

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 _____