

**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. 77
UTM	
QUAD:	
DISTRICT <input type="checkbox"/> S <input type="checkbox"/> NR	IF NR SPECIFY <input type="checkbox"/> Actual <input type="checkbox"/> Potential

IDENTIFICATION

DESCRIPTION

1. BUILDING NAME (Common) <i>(Historic)</i> Fairchild House/Spelman Hotel	
2. TOWN CITY Durham	VILLAGE COUNTY Middlesex
3. STREET AND NUMBER (and or location) Main Street and Wallingford Road, NW corner	
4. OWNER(S) United Churches <input type="checkbox"/> Public <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Private	
5. USE (Present) <i>(Historic)</i> Church property Residence, hotel	
6. ACCESSIBILITY TO PUBLIC: EXTERIOR VISIBLE FROM PUBLIC ROAD <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No INTERIOR ACCESSIBLE <input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> No IF YES EXPLAIN	
7. STYLE OF BUILDING Colonial/Greek Revival	DATE OF CONSTRUCTION ca. ]740
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 <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 type="checkbox"/> Cut stone Type: _____	
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 2 1/2	APPROXIMATE DIMENSIONS 36' x 30' main block
12. CONDITION (Structural) <i>(Exterior)</i> <input type="checkbox"/> Excellent <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Good <input type="checkbox"/> Fair <input type="checkbox"/> Deteriorated <input type="checkbox"/> Excellent <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Good <input type="checkbox"/> Fair <input type="checkbox"/> Deteriorated	
13. INTEGRITY (Location) <i>(Alterations)</i> <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> On original site <input type="checkbox"/> Moved WHEN? <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No IF YES EXPLAIN Ca. 1850, clapboard ext., gambrel roof changed to gable.	
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 type="checkbox"/> High building density	
16. INTERRELATIONSHIP OF BUILDING AND SURROUNDINGS The house stands at the northwest corner of the junction of Main Street and Wallingford Road, the latter formerly known as "Quarry Hill Road" and existing since the second quarter of the eighteenth century, if not earlier. The First Church of Christ was later built on the next lot north.	

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

DESCRIPTION (Continued)

The original gambrel roof was replaced by a gable roof with Greek Revival style full pediments and entablature. Eyebrow windows mark the latter. The central facade doorway is framed by architrave moulding. A full-length, hip-roofed facade porch is supported by six square columns which rise from chamfered pedestals with recessed panels. The full-size 2/2 sash windows are flanked by louvered shutters. A 1 1/2 story ell has been added to the northeast corner. Also on the rear of the house is a newer, single-story, shed-roof addition.

18 ARCHITECT

BUILDER

19 HISTORICAL OR ARCHITECTURAL IMPORTANCE

SIGNIFICANCE

The five-bay, central-hall plan Fairchild House/Spelman Hotel, on the west side of Main Street, is a Colonial period building (erected ca. 1740) with substantial mid-nineteenth-century Greek Revival style alterations. In its present form, the wooden post-and-beam frame of the 2 1/2 story, double chimney house has an asphalt-shingled gable roof, is sheathed in clapboarding, and rests on a sandstone/brick foundation.

The Fairchild House/Spelman Hotel has had a colorful history. In 1739, Curtis Fairchild bought a tract of land, bounded easterly by "broade street" and southerly by "highway", from Samuel Norton (DLR 5:456). Five years later, Fairchild conveyed the property, with a dwelling house and a barn, to John Jones. Jones soon died of smallpox. His son, John Jones, Jr., received the house. In 1767, however, the younger Jones fell into irreparable debt. A court in Hartford issued judgments in favor of no less than nine creditors, among whom were Hannah Jones (John's mother) and Phineas Spelman. The local constable was ordered to take "John Jones late of Durham, now absconded into parts unknown...(and) commit him unto the keeper of the Gaol in New Haven." (DLR 7:356-366). Whatever the eventual fate of John might have been, his property fell into the hands of his creditors, who in turn quit-claimed their shares to the aforementioned Phineas Spelman.

Phineas, grandson of Richard Spelman of Middletown, turned the house into an inn. It became known as the "Spelman Hotel." In 1789, Phineas died, and left the famed inn to his (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  
COMPILED BY

PHOTOGRAPHER		DATE	
Peter Hall		6/83	
VIEW	NEGATIVE ON FILE		
From SE			6:22
NAME		DATE	
J. McCord		8/83	
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:      8      NR:      ACTUAL  
   POTENTIAL

CONTINUATION SHEET

Item number: \_\_\_\_\_ Date: \_\_\_\_\_

Fairchild House/Spelman Hotel - p.2 (cont'd.)

wife Elizabeth. But in 1793, the town closed the Spelman Hotel. "...licensing of Mrs. Elizabeth Spelman to keep Tavern in Durham...will be unnecessary to accomodate Travailers and detrimental to the good order and Morals of the inhabitants." (Barbour, 1910, p. 128).

In the early years of the nineteenth century, Daniel Bates owned the house. Later it passed to Parsons Coe, who was responsible for the extensive Greek Revival style alterations. The house remained in the Coe family until 1898. The Harvey family owned the house from 1902 to 1954. It then became the property of the First Church of Christ of Durham.

The Fairchild House/Spelman Hotel is noteworthy as one of Durham's early inns along the New-York-Boston Post Road. The extensive Greek Revival style alterations to this Colonial period house demonstrate the popularity of this style, considered to be the first truly American architectural form.