

STATE OF CONNECTICUT  
 CONNECTICUT HISTORICAL COMMISSION  
 59 SOUTH PROSPECT STREET, HARTFORD, CONNECTICUT 06106  
 (203) 566-3005

FOR OFFICE USE ONLY

Town No.:	Site No.: 81
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) <span style="float: right;">(Historic)</span> Coe-Parsons House	
2. TOWN CITY Durham	VILLAGE Middlesex
3. STREET AND NUMBER (and or location) 94 Main Street	
4. OWNER(S) Kellish, Danial & Richard <span style="float: right;"><input type="checkbox"/> Public <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Private</span>	
5. USE (Present) <span style="float: right;">(Historic)</span> Residence <span style="float: right;">Residence</span>	
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	

DESCRIPTION

7. STYLE OF BUILDING Greek Revival		DATE OF CONSTRUCTION 1829-1830
8. MATERIAL(S) (Indicate use or location when appropriate)		
<input type="checkbox"/> Clapboard	<input type="checkbox"/> Asbestos Siding	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Brick chimney
<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"/> Gambrel	<input type="checkbox"/> Shed	<input type="checkbox"/> Hip
<input type="checkbox"/> Wood Shingle	<input type="checkbox"/> Roll Asphalt	<input type="checkbox"/> Tin
<input type="checkbox"/> Asphalt shingle	<input type="checkbox"/> Built up	<input type="checkbox"/> Tile
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Slate	<input type="checkbox"/> Other (Specify) _____	
11. NUMBER OF STORIES 2 1/2	APPROXIMATE DIMENSIONS main block 31'x28', rear addit: 24'x27', south addit: 16'x12'	
12. CONDITION (Structural) <span style="float: right;">(Exterior)</span>		
<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"/> Fair	<input type="checkbox"/> Deteriorated
13. INTEGRITY (Location) <span style="float: right;">(Alterations)</span>		
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> On original site	<input type="checkbox"/> Moved	WHEN ?
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Yes	<input type="checkbox"/> No	IF YES EXPLAIN additions to east, south, north sides
14. RELATED OUTBUILDINGS OR LANDSCAPE FEATURES		
<input type="checkbox"/> Barn	<input type="checkbox"/> Shed	<input type="checkbox"/> Garage
<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 checked="" type="checkbox"/> Commercial	<input type="checkbox"/> Indus-trial	<input type="checkbox"/> Rural
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> High building density	<input type="checkbox"/> Scattered buildings visible from site	
16. INTERRELATIONSHIP OF BUILDING AND SURROUNDINGS		

This handsome Greek Revival house stands on a commodious one and three quarter acre tree-shaded lot on Durham's Main Street, near the intersection of Route 68.

DESCRIP (Continued)

- full length corner pilasters with entasis which rise to a full pediment
- full pediment contains a demi-lune fanlight
- windows in the main block are surmounted by crown-molded lintels with corner blocks

18 ARCHITECT

BUILDER

19 HISTORICAL OR ARCHITECTURAL IMPORTANCE

SIGNIFICANCE

The Coe-Parsons house is a two and a half story, three bay side-hall Greek Revival residence. It boasts full length corner pilasters with entasis which rise to a full pediment. This pediment contains a demi-lune fanlight. A hip-roofed porch supported by heavy square recessed panel columns of late nineteenth century origins stands on the north, west and east sides of the house. The main entry, which is framed with pilasters contains a transom and sidelights. The windows in the main block are 6x6 throughout. They are surmounted by crown-molded lintels with corner blocks. There are three additions to this house, all dating from the nineteenth century. The largest, a one and a half story gable roof kitchen ell stands to the rear of the main block. Built in the Greek Revival style, with eyebrow windows, it may date from shortly after the main block was built. Two one story additions to the north and south sides of the house stand on brick foundations. They appear to date from the construction of the porch in the second half of the nineteenth century. The fenestration of the additions is consistent with that of the main block.

In June of 1829, Manoh Camp sold 53 rods of his home lot to Benjamin Hutchins Coe, a well-to-do young man with artistic ambitions. The son of a wealthy Middlefield farmer, Elijah Coe, Benjamin Coe had married a Durham belle, Lydia Curtis, in 1823. With a substantial inheritance and sophisticated sensibilities, young Coe's house was bound to be unusual--and so was. He evidently brought in craftsmen from outside Durham to erect it, for in execution and design it is far more elegant than any other Greek Revival structure in town. He only lived in the house for three years. In 1833, he moved to New York City, where he became a notable

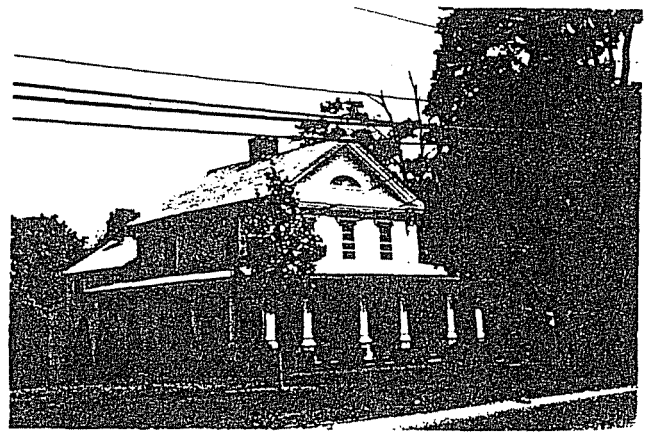
SOURCES

(CONTINUED)

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.

COMPILED BY PHOTO

PHOTOGRAPHER	DATE
P.D. Hall	6/10/83
VIEW	NEGATIVE ON FILE
N&W elevations	III: 8
NAME	DATE
P.D. Hall	8/20/83
ORGANIZATION	
Greater Middletown Preservation Trust	
ADDRESS	
27 Washington St., Middletown, Conn. 06457	



20 SUBSEQUENT FIELD EVALUATIONS

21 THREATS TO BUILDING OR SITE

- None knowr.  
  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/---/---/---/---/8/---

QUAD:

DISTRICT: S NR: ACTUAL  
POTENTIAL

CONTINUATION SHEET

Item number: 19 Date: 8/83

COE-PARSONS HOUSE, 94 Main Street, Durham

19. art dealer and author of books on painting and drawing. The purchaser of his house was Samuel Parsons (1788-1848), a Durham native who had prospered in New York City as a dry goods merchant. Afflicted with tuberculosis, he retired to his birthplace at the age of 45. On Parson's death in 1848, the house passed to his widow, who lived in it until her death in 1887. She left it to her unmarried daughters, Catherine (1829-1896) and Caroline (1836-1894), both of whom lived in New Haven. In 1902, the property was sold to John R. Smith, a painter and decorator, whose wife was Harriet Eliza Coe, a cousin of Benjamin H. Coe and the daughter of one of Durham's wealthiest citizens. She sold the house in 1938 to Austin M. Ackerman, Durham Center postmaster and proprietor of Ackerman's Store. The house passed to its present owners in 1973. This house is unquestionably the finest and most high style example of Greek Revival architecture in Durham. Its historical significance derives from its association with Benjamin H. Coe, the nineteenth century artist and art dealer, and Samuel Parsons, one of the leading figures in Durham's ante-bellum commercial life.