

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

FOR OFFICE USE ONLY

Town No.: _____ Site No.: 91

UTM: _____

QUAD: _____

DISTRICT: S NR IF NR SPECIFY Actual Potential

IDENTIFICATION

1. BUILDING NAME (Common) (Historic)
Hill-Spelman House

2. TOWN CITY: Durham VILLAGE: _____ COUNTY: Middlesex

3. STREET AND NUMBER (and or location)
73 Main Street

4. OWNER(S)
Winler, Lewis D. Public Private

5. USE (Present) (Historic)
Residence Residence

6. ACCESSIBILITY TO PUBLIC: EXTERIOR VISIBLE FROM PUBLIC ROAD Yes No INTERIOR ACCESSIBLE Yes No IF YES EXPLAIN

DESCRIPTION

7. STYLE OF BUILDING: Colonial Cape DATE OF CONSTRUCTION: 1730

8. MATERIAL(S) (Indicate use or location when appropriate)

Clapboard Asbestos Siding Brick Other (Specify) _____

Wood Shingle Asphalt Siding Fieldstone

Board & Batten Stucco Cobblestone

Aluminum Siding Concrete Type: _____ Cut stone Type: Sandstone Foundation

9. STRUCTURAL SYSTEM

Wood frame Post and beam balloon Other (Specify) _____

Load bearing masonry Structural iron or steel

10. ROOF (Type)

Gable Flat Mansard Monitor sawtooth

Gambrel Shed Hip Round Other (Specify) _____

(Material)

Wood Shingle Roll Asphalt Tin Slate

Asphalt shingle Built up Tile Other (Specify) _____

11. NUMBER OF STORIES: 2 APPROXIMATE DIMENSIONS: 30' X 30'

12. CONDITION (Structural) (Exterior)

Excellent Good Fair Deteriorated Excellent Good Fair Deteriorated

13. INTEGRITY (Location) (Alterations)

On original site Moved WHEN? _____ IF YES EXPLAIN

Yes No Dormer on facade, 18th Century lean-to.

14. RELATED OUTBUILDINGS OR LANDSCAPE FEATURES

Barn Shed (2) Garage Other landscape features or buildings (Specify)

Carriage house Shop Garden

15. SURROUNDING ENVIRONMENT

Open land Wood-land Residential Scattered buildings visible from site

Commercial Indus-trial Rural High building density

16. INTERRELATIONSHIP OF BUILDING AND SURROUNDINGS

The house sits above the west side of Main Street on a shaded lot. A garage with German siding stands to the rear of the property.

DESCRIPTION (Continued)

19th-century facade dormer.
 Original corbelled chimney.
 20th-century single bay, open facade porch.

18 ARCHITECT

BUILDER

19 HISTORICAL OR ARCHITECTURAL IMPORTANCE

SIGNIFICANCE

Like the Roberts-Smithson House to the south, the construction of the Hill-Spelman House took place in following the division of Theophilus Morrison's home lot. In December 1729, Daniel Hill bought the 1¼ acre lot from Gideon Leet. Two years later, when Hill sold the property to Samuel Henmen, a "dwelling house" had been built (DLR 5:18).

Little historical information is available concerning Daniel Hill, although we know that Hill and his wife had several children by the time the house was built.

In 1734, the house was sold to Thomas Spelman. His father Richard Spelman, an English immigrant, settled in Middletown in the early years of the eighteenth century. Thomas was responsible for the carved stones of the Old Burying Ground before John Johnson began his stone-cutting work in Durham.

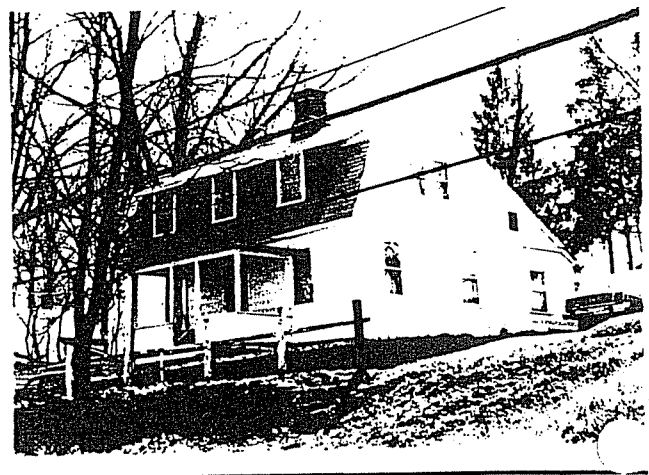
Subsequently, the house changed hands many times. In the nineteenth century, it was owned by the Parsons and Hickox families.

Historically this house is significant for its association with Thomas Spelman, pioneer Durham stonecarver. Architecturally, it is a unique example of a structure combining a saltbox form with a gambrel roof.

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
	Alex Parades	4/84
COMPILED BY	VIEW	NEGATIVE ON FILE
	W	11:25A
	NAME	DATE
	J. McCord	8/83
	ORGANIZATION	
Greater Middletown Preservation Trust		
ADDRESS		
27 Washington Street, Middletown, Conn. 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 _____