

**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. 105
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) Post Office	
	2. TOWN/CITY Durham	VILLAGE COUNTY Middlesex
	3. STREET AND NUMBER (and or location) 46 Main St. (East side)	
	4. OWNER(S) Nelson, William & Jacquelin <input type="checkbox"/> Public <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Private	
	5. USE (Present) (Historic) Residence Post Office/Business	
	6. ACCESSIBILITY TO PUBLIC: <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No	EXTERIOR VISIBLE FROM PUBLIC ROAD <input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> No
	7. STYLE OF BUILDING Nineteenth century Public Building style	
	DATE OF CONSTRUCTION ca. 1852	
	8. MATERIAL(S) (Indicate use or location when appropriate)	
	<input type="checkbox"/> Clapboard <input type="checkbox"/> Asbestos Siding <input type="checkbox"/> Brick <input type="checkbox"/> Other (Specify) _____ <input checked="" 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 checked="" type="checkbox"/> Concrete Type: Foundation <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Cut stone Type: Foundation: Sandstone, irregularly coursed	
DESCRIPTION	9. STRUCTURAL SYSTEM	
	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Wood frame <input type="checkbox"/> Post and beam <input checked="" 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 checked="" type="checkbox"/> Slate <input type="checkbox"/> Asphalt shingle <input type="checkbox"/> Built up <input type="checkbox"/> Tile <input type="checkbox"/> Other (Specify) _____	
	11. NUMBER OF STORIES 1½	
	APPROXIMATE DIMENSIONS 22'x28'	
	12. CONDITION (Structural) (Exterior)	
	<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) (Alterations)	
<input type="checkbox"/> On original site <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Moved from Maple Ave. <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No East addition: 20½'x26' WHEN 1857		
14. RELATED OUTBUILDINGS OR LANDSCAPE FEATURES		
<input type="checkbox"/> Barn <input type="checkbox"/> Shed <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Garage <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Other landscape features or buildings (Specify) Low picket fence around house <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		

Surrounded by a low picket fence, the David Smith Post Office is situated directly in the center of town overlooking the Green.

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

DESCRIPTIVE (Continued)

This building was moved to this lot on Main Street in 1857. An early photograph in Whited's Durham's Heritage, p. 106, shows the building soon after it was built. It is clear that alterations have been made. Today the west facade is marked by a central doorway with a plain frame and topped by a crown-moulded cornice, a later addition. The fenestration pattern has been changed. The two windows in the gable were originally located directly over the two windows flanking the doorway below. Earlier, the building had three symmetrically placed operable windows on either side, topped by three eyebrow windows. There is an east gable-roofed, center-chimney addition with a south screened porch irregularly punctuated by windows and doors. This addition rests on a concrete foundation.

18 ARCHITECT

BUILDER

19 HISTORICAL OR ARCHITECTURAL IMPORTANCE

SIGNIFICANCE

David Smith built this 1½ story balloon-frame building about 1850. It is oriented gable-to-street, is covered with stained wooden shingles, and rests on a high random-coursed sandstone foundation. A central chimney caps the slate-covered gable roof.

Originally built as a post office by the Reverend David Smith, this building stood immediately east of his house on Maple Avenue. Smith was postmaster from 1850 to 1854 and succeeded by his eldest daughter Catherine. In 1857 Catherine married Henry L. Ellsworth. At this time the building was moved to its present location on Main Street. In the 1870s the building was also the Hale & Davis Store. Other shops and stores occupied the building throughout the late-nineteenth and early-twentieth century until it finally became a residence.

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, 1966); Whited, Milton, Durham's Heritage (Durham:1976); 1859 Walling Map; 1874 Beers Atlas.

PHOTO
COMPILED BY

PHOTOGRAPHER	DATE
P.D. Hall	Summer 1983
VIEW	NEGATIVE ON FILE
Front-West Side	III:36
NAME	DATE
I. Heublein	8/2/83
ORGANIZATION	
Greater Middletown Preservation Trust	
ADDRESS	
27 Washington St., Middletown, Conn. 06457	



20 SUBSEQUENT FIELD EVALUATIONS

21 THREATS TO BUILDING OR SITE

None known
 Highways
 Vandalism
 Developers
 Other _____
 Renewal
 Private
 Deterioration
 Zoning
 Explanation _____