

**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. <b>109</b>
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) <b>Canfield-Parsons House</b>	
2 TOWN CITY <b>Durham</b>	VILLAGE _____ COUNTY <b>Middlesex</b>
3 STREET AND NUMBER (and or location) <b>33 Main Street</b>	
4 OWNER(S) <b>Joseph &amp; Maxine Downes</b> <input type="checkbox"/> Public <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Private	
5 USE (Present) _____ (Historic) <b>residence</b>	
6 ACCESSIBILITY TO PUBLIC: <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No	EXTERIOR VISIBLE FROM PUBLIC ROAD <input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No
INTERIOR ACCESSIBLE <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No	IF YES EXPLAIN <b>With permission</b>

DESCRIPTION

7 STYLE OF BUILDING <b>19th century domestic</b>		DATE OF CONSTRUCTION <b>c. 1880</b>
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 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 checked="" type="checkbox"/> Aluminum Siding	<input type="checkbox"/> Concrete Type: _____	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Cut stone Type: <b>Rubble Sandstone</b>
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 <b>2</b>	APPROXIMATE DIMENSIONS <b>32' X 26'</b>	
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) _____ WHEN _____ ALTERATIONS _____ IF YES EXPLAIN		
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> On original site <input type="checkbox"/> Moved	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No	<b>16X18 addition to west side</b>
14 RELATED OUTBUILDINGS OR LANDSCAPE FEATURES		
<input type="checkbox"/> Barn <input type="checkbox"/> Shed <input checked="" 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		

This house stands on a large, tree-shaded two acre lot at the corner of Main Street and Town House Lane.

DESCRIP (Continued)

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

18 ARCHITECTURE: Unknown      BUILDER: Unknown

SIGNIFICANCE

19 HISTORICAL OR ARCHITECTURAL IMPORTANCE

This nineteenth-century domestic style structure stands at the corner of Main Street and Townhouse Lane. Like most houses of this period, its gable end faces the street, with a side-hall entry. The facade is fronted by a full-length shed-roofed porch which continues around the north side of the house. The porch is supported by turned posts on pedestals and sawn brackets. The south end of the porch, which protects the main entry, is gable roofed. The fenestration in the house is throughout with 8-paned fixed windows in the gable peaks. The major addition to the structure is a 2 story, gable-roofed ell on its west side (rear). It stands on a sandstone rubble foundation. On the south side of this addition is an 8' X 18' sun porch.

The land records show that a house was built on this site by Samuel Coe Camp (1761-1822) in 1819, shortly after he purchased the property from his brother Ozias. It is unlikely, however, that the present structure dates from that time. When Camp died, he gave a life estate in the house to his widow and daughter, after which it was to pass to a group of Congregational charities, Yale College, the American Board of Commissioners of Foreign Missions, and the American Society for Alleviation the Condition of the Jews. Title passed to these organizations in 1842. (see continuation sheet)

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

COMPILED BY PHOTO

PHOTOGRAPHER: Alex Parades      DATE: 4/84

VIEW: W      NEGATIVE ON FILE: 11:6

NAME: P.D. Hall      DATE: 8/20/83

ORGANIZATION: Greater Middletown Preservation Trust

ADDRESS: 27 Washington St. Middletown, CT. 06457



29 SUBSEQUENT FIELD EVALUATIONS

30 THREATS TO BUILDING OR SITE

None known     Highways     Vandalism     Developers     Other \_\_\_\_\_

Renewal     Private     Deterioration     Zoning     Expropriation \_\_\_\_\_

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/---/---/1/0/9  
QUAD:  
DISTRICT: S NR: ACTUAL  
POTENTIAL

CONTINUATION SHEET

Item number: 19 Date: 9/23/83

Canfield- Parsons House  
33 Main Street Durham

Within the year, they sold the property with a dwelling and other buildings to Charles L. Mills of Middletown. In 1851, he sold the property to E. G. and Susan Smith, from whom it was purchased within the year by William H. Canfield. Canfield and his father Henry were wagon makers. The senior Canfield, born in Durham in 1792, had lived in Canada for many years, where his son William was born. They returned to Durham in the 1850s with the intention of settling and starting a wagon factory. They lived in the old Camp house and built a factory (now Ackerman's Store) to the south of their residence. Henry Canfield died in 1863; William H. died in 1880. In 1882, Canfield's estate sold the property to Alfred and Deborah Jackson who sold it, within a year, to William A. Parsons, a tinner in the employ of the Merriam Manufacturing Company. He later went on to start his own firm, the W. A. Parsons Company. Stylistic evidence suggests that Parsons razed the Camp-Canfield House and replaced it with this structure. On his death in 1925, Parsons left this house to his son, Harold C. Parsons and his daughter, Gertrude Page, both of whom lived in houses he had built for them to the south of Ackerman's store. The house remained in the Parsons family until 1964, when it passed to its present owners.

This house is notable historically for its association with the Parsons family. It is one of three structures in this part of Durham in which they lived. The Parsons were notable for their activities as metal fabricators in the nineteenth and twentieth centuries.