

**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. 111
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) <i>(Historic)</i> Austin Ackeman House		David, Henry, House	
	2. TOWN CITY Durham		VILLAGE	COUNTY Middlesex
	3. STREET AND NUMBER (and or location) 31 Main Street			
	4. OWNER(S) Ackeman, Jr., Austin <input type="checkbox"/> Public <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Private			
	5. USE (Present) Residence		<i>(Historic)</i> Residence	
	6. ACCESSIBILITY TO PUBLIC:	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 Nineteenth-Century Domestic			DATE OF CONSTRUCTION 1878-1881
	8. MATERIAL(S) (Indicate use or location when appropriate)			
	<input checked="" 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 & Battén	<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) _____	
<i>(Material)</i>				
<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		APPROXIMATE DIMENSIONS 25'x55'		

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)		WHEN	ALTERATIONS
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> On original site	<input type="checkbox"/> Moved		<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No
IF YES EXPLAIN 2 story shed roof ell, S side; 1&2 story addition to N. side			
14. RELATED OUTBUILDINGS OR LANDSCAPE FEATURES			
<input checked="" 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 checked="" 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 residence stands on a tree-shaded one and a half acre lot. Just south is Ackeman's Store, with which it has been historically associated.

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

DESCRIPTION (Continued)

Stick style wrap-around porch with turned columns, sawn brackets and spindles.

18 ARCHITECT

BUILDER

19 HISTORICAL OR ARCHITECTURAL IMPORTANCE

SIGNIFICANCE

The Ackerman-Davis House is a 2 story, side-hall entry, domestic vernacular structure with Eastlake ornamentation. The main block is a 2 story gable roofed structure with the gable-end facing the street. An open, wrap-around porch on the east and south sides is supported by turned columns and sawn brackets. The columns are joined by spandrels with turned spindle and a stick-style balustrade. The front door, a turn of the century replacement, is wood panelled with a large plate glass pane in its upper section. The windows in the main block are two-over-two, double hung sash. The house has had two major additions. The first is a two story shed roofed 12'x12' addition to the south side. This appears to date from the turn of the century. The second is a one story shed roof addition to the northwest corner. It measures 15'x19' and appears from its concrete foundation to date from the twentieth century. There is a rear entry with an open and enclosed porch to the rear of the south side addition. This house was built for Henry Davis, proprietor of Davis' Store on land purchased from William H. Canfield in 1877. It was built between 1877 and 1881. Davis, long-time Durham storekeeper and sometime postmaster, sold the house to Austin M. Ackerman in 1927. It remains in the Ackerman family. This house is a fine example of late nineteenth-century domestic architecture. Its well-preserved Eastlake-style porch is especially notable. Its historical significance derives from its association with Henry Davis and the Ackermans, leaders of Durham's community life in the nineteenth and twentieth centuries.

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: Alex Parades DATE: 4/84

VIEW: W NEGATIVE ON FILE: 11:8

COMPILED BY

NAME: P.D. Hall DATE: 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 _____