

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

FOR OFFICE USE ONLY

Town No.:	Site No. 114
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)*
Ackerman's Store | Davis, Henry, Store

2. TOWN CITY | VILLAGE | COUNTY
Durham | | Middlesex

3. STREET AND NUMBER (and or location)
27/29 Main Street

4. OWNER(S)
Ackerman, Jr., Austin M. Public Private

5. USE (Present) *(Historic)*
Store | Carriage shop/Store

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

DESCRIPTION

7. STYLE OF BUILDING | DATE OF CONSTRUCTION
Nineteenth-century Domestic | ca. 1851

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: _____

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 | APPROXIMATE DIMENSIONS
2 | 58' x 62'

12. CONDITION (Structural) *(Exterior)*
 Excellent Good Fair Deteriorated | Excellent Good Fair Deteriorated

13. INTEGRITY (Location) | WHEN? | Alterations | IF YES EXPLAIN
 On original site Moved | | Yes No | 1 story shed roof addition surrounds the main block

14. RELATED OUTBUILDINGS OR LANDSCAPE FEATURES
 Barn Shed Garage Other landscape features or buildings (Specify)
 Carriage house Shop Garden | Plastic domed green house

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

This building stands on a one and a half acre lot on Durham's Main Street. An asphalt parking lot lies in front of the structure.

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

DESCRIBE (Continued)

The first floor of the two story 24' x 23' main block of this structure remains basically unchanged, containing windows with plain moldings and six-paned fixed windows in the gable peaks. The first story has been obscured by a one story shed roofed 1958 addition which surrounds the original structure on all four sides. This addition is windowless except for two plate glass display windows on the east side that flank the aluminum and glass main entry. The addition, like the main block, is sheathed with clapboards. A tall brick chimney rises from the north side of the roof.

18 ARCHITECT

BUILDER

19 HISTORICAL OR ARCHITECTURAL IMPORTANCE

SIGNIFICANCE

As built, this 2 story, gable-roofed commercial building is typical of the rural general stores of the late nineteenth-century. A simple frame building with its gable end facing the street, it has a store area on the first floor and apartments and storage space on the second.

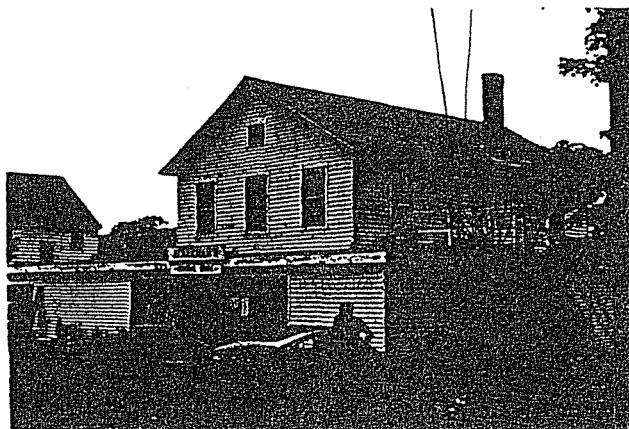
In 1851, Henry Canfield and his son, William H. Canfield, bought land on Main Street, erecting a house (31 Main Street) and a wagon manufactory. This building appears to have been the Canfield's factory. They conducted their enterprise until 1872. In 1877 William H. Canfield sold his workshop and the land it stood on to Henry Davis, a 26 year old merchant who, though born in Killingworth, has been living and working in Durham since 1877-- probably for his relative George H. Davis, partner in Hale and Davis's Store on Main Street. Between 1878 and 1881, he converted the Canfield's workshop into a store, which he presided over until he sold it to Austin Ackerman in 1927. The Ackermans, Senior and Junior, have kept store here ever since. Ackerman's Store has always been the quintessential New England general store, a social center as well as a place where one could purchase almost anything. Ackerman's store served as the Durham Center Post Office for nearly fifty years. Henry Davis, an ardent Democrat, was appointed Postmaster by President Cleveland, serving between 1884 and 1889 and 1893 to 1897. The Ackerman's filled this office from 1927 to 1961, when Durham Center Post Office was consolidated with Durham's. (continued)

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	DATE
P.D. Hall	6/10/83
VIEW	NEGATIVE ON FILE
N&E elevations	6:5
NAME	DATE
P.D. Hall	8/20/83
ORGANIZATION	
Greater Middletown Preservation Trust	
ADDRESS	
27 Washington Street, Middletown, Conn. 06457	



20 SUBSEQUENT FIELD EVALUATIONS

21 THREATS TO BUILDING OR SITE

- None knowr.
 Highways
 Vandalism
 Developers
 Other _____
 Renewal
 Private
 Deterioration
 Zoning
 Explanation _____

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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 / 1 / 4
QUAD:			
DISTRICT:	S	NR:	ACTUAL POTENTIAL

CONTINUATION SHEET

Item number: 19 Date: 8/83

Henry Davis Store, 27/29 Main Street, Durham

- 19 . Ackerman's is architecturally significant as a typical late-nineteenth-century commercial structure. Its historic importance is derived from its place in Durham's industrial and commercial history and from its long-time function as the town's post office.