

**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.: 121
UTM	
QUAD:	
DISTRICT	IF NR SPECIFY
<input type="checkbox"/> S <input type="checkbox"/> NR	<input type="checkbox"/> Actual <input type="checkbox"/> Potential

IDENTIFICATION

DESCRIPTION

1. BUILDING NAME (Common) <i>(Historic)</i>		Davis, Bela House	
2. TOWN CITY	VILLAGE	COUNTY	
Durham		Middlesex	
3. STREET AND NUMBER (and or location)			
12 Main Street (East Side)			
4. OWNER(S)			
Hall, Robert Francis & Helen B. <input type="checkbox"/> Public <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Private			
5. USE (Present)		<i>(Historic)</i>	
Residence		Residence	
6. ACCESSIBILITY TO PUBLIC:	EXTERIOR VISIBLE FROM PUBLIC ROAD	INTERIOR ACCESSIBLE	IF YES EXPLAIN
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> No		
7. STYLE OF BUILDING		DATE OF CONSTRUCTION	
Georgian / Greek Revival		1865	
8. MATERIAL(S) (Indicate use or location when appropriate)			
<input type="checkbox"/> Clapboard	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Asbestos Siding (ext)	<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 type="checkbox"/> Aluminum Siding	<input type="checkbox"/> Concrete Type:	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Cut stone Type: Mortared Sandstone Foundation	
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	APPROXIMATE DIMENSIONS		
2½	36' X 28'		
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?	<i>(Alterations)</i>
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> On original site <input type="checkbox"/> Moved			IF YES EXPLAIN West facade porch, 2 main N.E. additions off rear.
14. RELATED OUTBUILDINGS OR LANDSCAPE FEATURES			
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Barn (1)	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Shed (2)	<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 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			

The Bela Davis House is located on the east side of Main Street in Durham's center just north of the Amoco station. The house sits on a narrow and opened lot.

The center doorway is flanked by two sidelights and by plain pilasters with moulded capitals.

DESCRIPTION (Continued)

18 ARCHITECT

Unknown

BUILDER

Unknown

19 HISTORICAL OR ARCHITECTURAL IMPORTANCE

The Bela Davis House, built in 1865, is an asbestos-sided, 2½ story, nineteenth-century house with Georgian and Greek Revival style features. This post-and-beam building rests on a mortared sandstone block foundation, and is capped by an asphalt-shingled roof with center chimney. The 5 bay Georgian facade features a full-length hip-roofed porch on the west side, supported by four turned posts with sawn brackets and a simple Stick style balustrade. Greek Revival detail is found on the center doorway; it is flanked by two sidelights and plain pilasters with moulded capitals. Surmounting the door is a plain, side entablature. If this doorway had a notable cornice, it was removed when the porch was added. Another Greek Revival detail may be seen in the cornice returns on both the north and south gable ends. All windows are six-over-six sash with plain frames; the second-story windows are smaller than those below. A northeast addition was probably built soon after the main house, a 1½ story, gable-roofed, center-chimney extension. The north side has five irregularly placed windows but more notable are the two six-paned rectangular eyebrow windows.

SIGNIFICANCE

In 1865 Bela Davis (1800-1887) purchased a total of seven acres from Zebulon Hale and David Smith. According to the tax records, Davis built this house in 1865. A farmer, Bela was born in Durham and married Sarah Davis (1805-1891) of Madison, CT. The 1850 census shows that Bela and his wife had four children. The house passed to Eli and Reuben Hubbard in 1875.

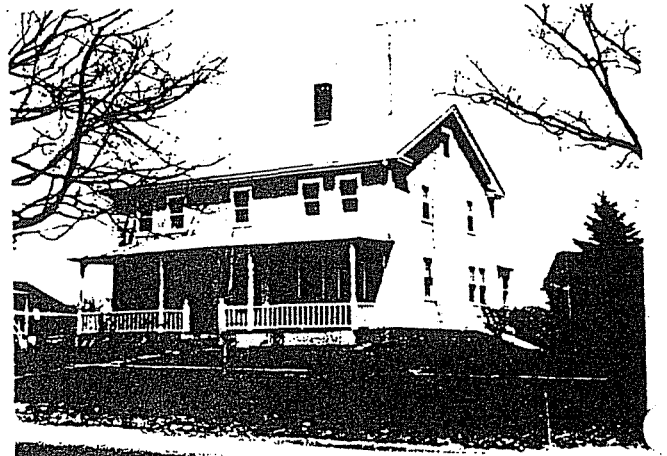
Notable for its incorporation of earlier Colonial and Greek Revival features, this Civil War period house makes an important contribution to the historic character of Main Street.

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
COMPILED BY

PHOTOGRAPHER		DATE
Alex Parades		4/84
VIEW	NEGATIVE ON FILE	
E	11:15	
NAME		DATE
I. Heublein		8/3/83
ORGANIZATION		
Greater Middletown Preservation Trust		
ADDRESS		
27 Washington Street Middletown, Ct. 06457		



20 SUBSEQUENT FIELD EVALUATIONS

21 THREATS TO BUILDING OR SITE

None known.
 Highways
 Vandalism
 Developers
 Other _____

Renewal
 Private
 Deterioration
 Zoning
 Expropriation _____