

**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. 13
UTM	
QUAD:	
DISTRICT	IF NR. SPECIFY
<input type="checkbox"/> S <input type="checkbox"/> NR	<input type="checkbox"/> Actual <input type="checkbox"/> Potential

IDENTIFICATION	1. BUILDING NAME (Common) (Historic)	
	Strong, Asahel, House	
	2. TOWN CITY	VILLAGE COUNTY
	Durham	Middlesex
	3. STREET AND NUMBER (and or location)	
	Fowler Avenue, north side	
	4. OWNER(S)	
	Taylor, Richard & Mary <input type="checkbox"/> Public <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Private	
	5 USE (Present) (Historic)	
	Residence Residence	
DESCRIPTION	6. ACCESSIBILITY TO PUBLIC: <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No	
	EXTERIOR VISIBLE FROM PUBLIC ROAD <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No	
	INTERIOR ACCESSIBLE <input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> No	
	IF YES, EXPLAIN	
	7. STYLE OF BUILDING	
	Federal Period	
	DATE OF CONSTRUCTION	
	1823	
	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 & 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: <u>Coursed sandstone foundation</u>	
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		
2 1/2		
APPROXIMATE DIMENSIONS		
25'x29'		
12 CONDITION (Structural)		
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Excellent <input type="checkbox"/> Good <input type="checkbox"/> Fair <input type="checkbox"/> Deteriorated <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Excellent <input type="checkbox"/> Good <input type="checkbox"/> Fair <input type="checkbox"/> Deteriorated		
13 INTEGRITY (Location)		
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> On original site <input type="checkbox"/> Moved <input type="checkbox"/> Destroyed <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No <input type="checkbox"/> Alterations: IF YES EXPLAIN 3 north adds: 12'x20'+13'x20'+13'x15'		
14 RELATED OUTBUILDINGS OR LANDSCAPE FEATURES		
<input type="checkbox"/> Barn <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Shed <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Garage <input type="checkbox"/> Other landscape features or buildings (Specify) 3 NE adds: 14'x8'+6'x8'+14'x17' 2 NW adds: 6'x19'+18'x28'		
15 SURROUNDING ENVIRONMENT		
<input checked="" 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"/> Industrial <input type="checkbox"/> Rural <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> High building density		
16 INTERRELATIONSHIP OF BUILDING AND SURROUNDINGS		
Facing south onto Fowler Avenue at the intersection of Cherry Lane, the Asahel Strong House is sited on a well landscaped lot shaded by large maples		

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

DESCRIPTION (Continued)

The most prominent Federal period feature is the facade portico which exhibits a cove ceiling supported by delicate Doric columns. Exhibiting slight cornice returns and a small six-over-six sash the gable end is sheathed with wood shingles which produce a slight overhang effect. Throughout the house twelve-over-twelve sash display fixed louvered shutters. The house has been enlarged by a number of additions to the north and west elevations, including a two-bay garage.

18 ARCHITECT

BUILDER

19 HISTORICAL OR ARCHITECTURAL IMPORTANCE

SIGNIFICANCE

One of Durham's finest examples of Federal style architecture, the 2½ story, three-bay side-hall plan, gable-to-street dwelling was built in 1823. Resting on a coursed sandstone foundation, the clapboarded post-and-beam frame is capped by an asphalt-shingled gable roof.

Farmer, Asahel Strong built this house in 1823 replacing an earlier structure which stood on the property. Strong (1781-1863), whose ancestors came to Durham from Northampton, Mass., married Sally Munson in 1803. Active in local affairs, Asahel Strong served as a State Representative. In 1863 he quit-claimed the homestead to his youngest son, George W. Strong (b 1828), who shortly thereafter sold it to Asa Fowler of Guilford. Fowler (1812-1884) married to Laura Coe Camp (1812-1904), continued farming the land. In 1872, Asa's son, John A. Fowler, built a small dwelling in the southwest portion of his father's homestead. The Fowler family retained ownership until 1885.

The Asahel Strong House is architecturally significant as one of Durham's most exquisite examples of Federal style architecture.

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: NE NEGATIVE ON FILE: 10:20

COMPILED BY

NAME: E.R. Hart DATE: 4/84

ORGANIZATION: Greater Middletown Preservation Trust

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20 SUBSEQUENT FIELD EVALUATIONS

21 THREATS TO BUILDING OR SITE

- None known
 Highways
 Vandalism
 Developers
 Other _____
 Renewal
 Private
 Deterioration
 Zoning
 Explanatoin _____