

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. 137
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)		Robinson, David, House
	2. TOWN CITY	VILLAGE	COUNTY
	Durham		Middlesex
	3. STREET AND NUMBER (and or location)		
	Maple Avenue, west side		
4. OWNER(S)		<input type="checkbox"/> Public	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Private
5. USE (Present)		(Historic) 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		

DESCRIPTION	7. STYLE OF BUILDING		DATE OF CONSTRUCTION	
	Colonial		Prior to 1735	
	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: sandstone	
	9. STRUCTURAL SYSTEM			
	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Wood frame	<input 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		30' x 30'		
12. CONDITION (Structural)		(Exterior)		
<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)		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 shed-roofed ell to rear Hip roofed additions, windows, panelled door,	
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)	
<input type="checkbox"/> Carriage house	<input type="checkbox"/> Shop	<input type="checkbox"/> Garden		
15. SURROUNDING ENVIRONMENT				
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Open land	<input type="checkbox"/> Wood-land	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Residential	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Scattered buildings visible from site	
<input type="checkbox"/> Commercial	<input type="checkbox"/> Indus-trial	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Rural	<input type="checkbox"/> High building density	
16. INTERRELATIONSHIP OF BUILDING AND SURROUNDINGS				

Facing east onto Maple Avenue, the David Robinson House is surrounded by sweeping open fields in a rural residential neighborhood.

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

DESCRIP (Continued)

The facade exhibits a modern exterior brick chimney and an off-center doorway. The first floor displays six-over-one sash while the second floor features smaller, six-over-six windows. The gable ends exhibit overhanging eaves and a small rectangular six-paned window. A shed-roofed addition has been added to the rear. The north elevation features a hip-roofed ell with six-over-six sash. A number of farm-related outbuildings are found on the property.

18 ARCHITECT

BUILDER

19 HISTORICAL OR ARCHITECTURAL IMPORTANCE

SIGNIFICANCE

This unusual three-bay, 2½ story, ridge-to-street colonial-period house dates from the first three decades of the eighteenth century. Resting on a sandstone block foundation, the post-and-beam framing system is sided with clapboards. The shallow pitched roof is asphalt-shingled.

Although the records are not entirely clear, this house was probably constructed by David Robinson (b. 1660) before 1735. Robinson, a native of Guilford, was one of Durham's earliest proprietors. In 1708 he received permission to erect a cornmill on Allyn's Brook in the center of town. A number of Robinson's heirs were the first settlers of Granville, Massachusetts. The first reference made to this property is in 1735 when Robinson's daughters, Abigail, Hannah and Mary, quit-claimed to their brothers, Thomas, David, Jr. and Ebenezer, "all the real estate of our father's estate" (DLR 5:144-145). Ebenezer (1701-1783) received a 47 acre parcel bordered on the east by a highway, which contained a dwelling house, barn, and fruit trees. A farmer, Ebenezer gave the town a lot of land near the green on which a new school house was built in 1775. In 1783, leaving no direct heirs, Ebenezer willed his old dwelling house and barn to his cousin Ebenezer Robinson, Jr. Robinson's will also bestowed the town of Durham three acres of land near the meeting house to be used for a burying ground. The will stipulated "that all profits that hereafter arise from the improvement of said land hereafter be appropriated, used and improved for the benefit and support of the said Center School" (Fowler, p. 129). Ebenezer Robinson, Jr. (b. 1754) was the son of James Robinson (b. 1731), the nephew of Ebenezer (SEE CONT. 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.

PHOTO

PHOTOGRAPHER

DATE

P. D. Hall

6/83

VIEW

NEGATIVE ON FILE

Northwest

5:7

COMPILED BY

NAME

DATE

E. R. Hart

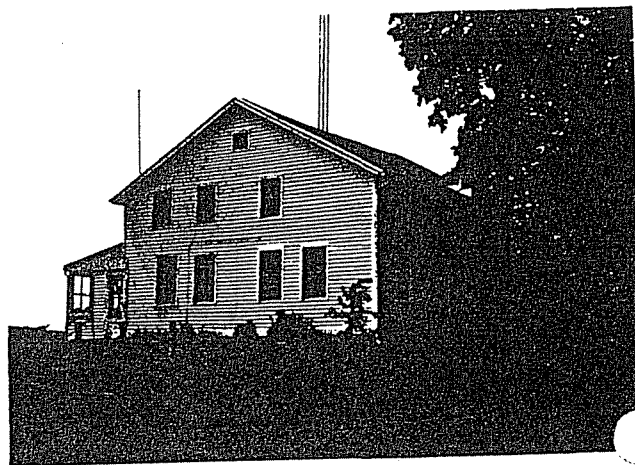
5/84

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
 Explanaton _____

STATE OF CONNECTICUT
CONNECTICUT HISTORICAL COMMISSION
9 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	/ 3 / 7
QUAD:			
DISTRICT:	S	NR:	ACTUAL POTENTIAL

CONTINUATION SHEET

Item number: 19 Date: 6/83

DAVID ROBINSON HOUSE, Durham

19 (cont'd)

Robinson, Sr. A private in the Revolutionary War, Ebenezer, Jr. joined other Durham volunteers in 1775 to march to Boston and relieve the colonial troops after the confrontation at Lexington. In 1818 Ebenezer, Jr. quit-claimed the house and barn to Moses Robinson (1790-1820). Robinson genealogy does not reveal how Ebenezer, Jr. and Moses are related, but they could possibly be father and son, respectively. Moses and his wife Electra had five children: Andrew Jackson, Moses Austin, Susan Malvira, Rachel Rice, and Elizabeth Electra. In 1853 the heirs of Moses sold the property to a farmer, Charles Hickox (1803-1890), the son of Daniel Hickox, Sr and his wife Jerusha. Sherman J. Nettleton (1822-1905) acquired the property in 1868. The son of Jeremiah and Clarinda (Davis) Nettleton, Sherman continued operating a successful farm.

One of the oldest structures remaining in Durham, the David Robinson House derives its significance from its association with the Robinson family and Durham's agricultural past.