

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. 139
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)	
	Crane, Sergt. Silas, and Crane, Jesse, House	
	2. TOWN CITY	VILLAGE COUNTY
	Durham	Middlesex
	3. STREET AND NUMBER (and or location)	
	Mica Hill Road, west side	
4. OWNER(S)		
Banta, Alfred C., Jr. (deceased) <input type="checkbox"/> Public <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Private		
5. USE (Present) (Historic)		
Residence Residence		
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		

DESCRIPTION	7. STYLE OF BUILDING		DATE OF CONSTRUCTION	
	Colonial		1730/1755	
	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 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		30' x 30'		
12. CONDITION (Structural) (Exterior)				
<input type="checkbox"/> Excellent	<input type="checkbox"/> Good	<input type="checkbox"/> Fair	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Deteriorated	
<input type="checkbox"/> Excellent	<input type="checkbox"/> Good	<input type="checkbox"/> Fair	<input checked="" 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 East and south portico additions	
14. RELATED OUTBUILDINGS OR LANDSCAPE FEATURES				
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Barn	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Shed	<input type="checkbox"/> Garage	<input type="checkbox"/> Other landscape features or buildings (Specify)	
			Many outlying farm buildings across road	
<input type="checkbox"/> Carriage house	<input type="checkbox"/> Shop	<input type="checkbox"/> Garden		
15. SURROUNDING ENVIRONMENT				
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Open land	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Wood-land	<input type="checkbox"/> Residential	<input 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 Mica Hill Road, the Crane homestead is surrounded by land once actively farmed. Some modern development has occurred in the immediate neighborhood which is encompassed by open fields.

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

DESCRIP: (Continued)

Original features include the hewn double overhangs, which are characteristic of area architecture of this period. The off-center facade door is protected by a hip-roofed portico supported by square posts. An exterior brick chimney has been added to the south elevation. Modern four-over-four sash are featured on the first floor and the original twelve-over-twelve windows remain on the second floor. The small off-center window placed above the entranceway exhibits a six-over-six sash. A small shed-roofed portico covers a south elevation entrance door. A large number of farm-related out-buildings are located on the property.

18 ARCHITECT

BUILDER

19 HISTORICAL OR ARCHITECTURAL IMPORTANCE

SIGNIFICANCE

This 2½ story, 3-bay, center-chimney colonial-period house was built between 1730 and 1755. Topped by a steeply-pitched, ridge-to-street gable roof, the clapboarded post-and-beam frame rests on a sandstone foundation.

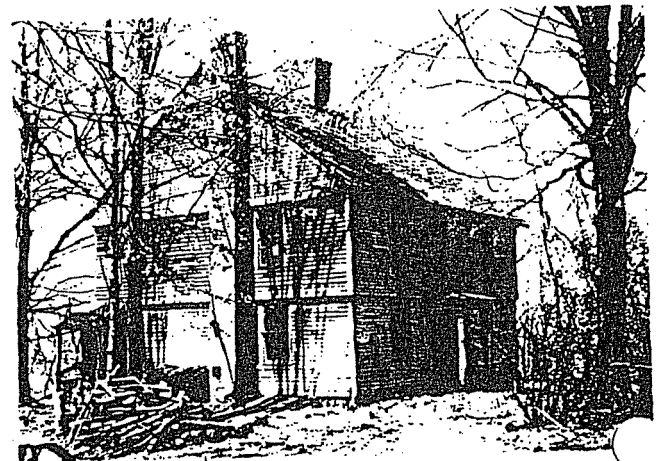
While the early history of this house is obscure, we know Jesse Crane (1732-1794) lived here in the mid-eighteenth century and it is quite possible that he inherited the house from his father, Sergt. Silas Crane (1707-1763). Silas was the son of Henry Crane, one of Durham's earliest proprietors, who settled in the southern portion of town which had been originally a portion of Killingworth and Guilford. Silas, a farmer and a member of the First Ecclesiastical Society, married Mercey Griswold in 1729. Upon his death in 1763 Silas left his dwelling house and homelot to be divided among his seven sons: Jesse, Silas, Robert, Eli, Flood, Frederick, and Nathan. In the distribution of Silas's estate his widow Mercey received the entire home lot with dwelling house, and upon her death in 1782 it is possible that she willed it to her eldest son Jesse. A farmer like his father, Jesse and his wife Mary had one son, Lament, who died as a young child. Leaving no heirs, Jesse willed his entire estate to his nephew Nathan Crane. Nathan (b. 1772) was the son of Eli and Mehitabel (Chapman) Crane. Upon inheriting his uncle's large estate in 1796, (he caused some conflict within the family. In January of 1796 an appeal was filed in Middletown Superior Court by 21 of Nathan Crane's relatives including aunts, uncles, cousins, sisters, and brothers. The appeal asked the court to disregard the will and distribution of Jesse Crane's estate and to appoint Frederick Crane, (SEE CONTINUATION 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.

COMPILED BY PHOTO

PHOTOGRAPHER		DATE
Alex Parades		5/84
VIEW	NEGATIVE ON FILE	
west	13:12	
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
 Explanation _____

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59 South Prospect Street, Hartford, Connecticut 06106

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For Buildings and Structures

FOR OFFICE USE ONLY

TOWN NO.:

SITE NO.:

UTM: 18/---/---/---/139

QUAD:

DISTRICT: S NR: ACTUAL
POTENTIAL

CONTINUATION SHEET

Item number: 19 Date: 5/84

SERGT. SILAS CRANE AND JESSE CRANE HOUSE, Durham

19 (cont'd)

the younger brother of the deceased, to replace Nathan as administrator. The appeal was denied and Nathan retained ownership of the farm. In 1813 Nathan migrated to Westmoreland, New York, and sold the property to Hamlet Hickox. Guernsey Bates purchased the house shortly thereafter, and in 1839 Dennis Camp took title to the property as repayment of a debt. A farmer, Henry E. Nettleton acquired the "Crane Farm" in 1841. The son of Eliphaz and Lydia Nettleton, Henry E. (1807-1887) was educated in Durham's district schools. As a young man he worked in marble quarries in both Connecticut and New York before returning home to Durham to farm. In 1839 he married Cornelia Camp, by whom he had four children: Rose, Frances, Henry Isiah, and Sabina. Mr. Nettleton, primarily a cattle and dairy farmer, also supplemented his income by charcoal burning. Active in the Democratic Party, he served as a town selectman for many years. In 1868 Henry E. sold the "Crane Farm" to his son Henry Isiah Nettleton, who became one of Durham's "most substantial and influential farmers." Henry Isiah (1847-1920) was educated in local schools and later attended the school of Daniel H. Chase in Middletown. A leading member of the Connecticut Pomological Society, Nettleton was well-known for his pioneer work in fruit growing. Successful in peach and berry farming, the Nettletons also operated a dairy farm. Henry I. married Rosetta Miller (1852-1923) of Middlefield. A member of the Methodist Church, Nettleton was also a member of the Durham Grange and served as tax collector for a number of years. In 1921 the farm was sold to the Banta family, who retain ownership today.

The Crane homestead derives its significance as one of Durham's best architectural representatives from the first half of the eighteenth century. Historically the house is important for its association with the Crane and Nettleton families.