

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. 144
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) Parsons, Ithamar, House	
	2. TOWN CITY Durham	COUNTY Middlesex
	3. STREET AND NUMBER (and or location) Middlefield Road, east side	
	4. OWNER(S) Willet, Leo & Dorothy <input type="checkbox"/> Public <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Private	
	5. USE (Present) _____ (Historic) Residence	

6. ACCESSIBILITY TO PUBLIC:	EXTERIOR VISIBLE FROM PUBLIC ROAD <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No	INTERIOR ACCESSIBLE <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No	IF YES, EXPLAIN with permission
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7. STYLE OF BUILDING Colonial	DATE OF CONSTRUCTION 1733/34
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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: brownstone	

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 2½	APPROXIMATE DIMENSIONS 30' x 39'
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12. CONDITION (Structural)		(Exterior)	
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Excellent	<input type="checkbox"/> Good	<input type="checkbox"/> Fair	<input type="checkbox"/> Deteriorated
<input 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	rear ells

14. RELATED OUTBUILDINGS OR LANDSCAPE FEATURES			
<input type="checkbox"/> Barn	<input type="checkbox"/> Shed	<input type="checkbox"/> Garage	<input type="checkbox"/> Other landscape features or buildings (Specify) _____
<input type="checkbox"/> Carriage house	<input type="checkbox"/> Shop	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Garden	

15. SURROUNDING ENVIRONMENT			
<input type="checkbox"/> Open land	<input checked="" 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 type="checkbox"/> Rural	<input type="checkbox"/> High building density

16. INTERRELATIONSHIP OF BUILDING AND SURROUNDINGS

Facing west, the Ithamar Parsons House is located at a sharp corner on Middlefield Road at the intersection of Maple Avenue. The road to Middlefield was once called Crooked Lane. Slightly elevated, the house is shaded by large maples in a residential neighborhood located west of Durham's commercial center.

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

DESCRIP (Continued)

The most prominent original feature is the large overhang between the first and second floors, which could possibly be a framed overhang.

The elaborate seven-panelled facade door, probably a later addition, is topped by a six-paned overlight. The south elevation displays a similar panelled funeral door. A number of the original twelve-over-twelve sash remain. Other windows exhibit modern two-over-two sash. Two single-story, shed-roofed eels project from the rear elevation. The original chimney has been replaced from the second floor up. Interior features include the original fireplaces, wide floor boards, and encased beams. The large brownstone kitchen fireplace retains its beehive oven, although it has been panelled over. An interesting feature about the large rear fireplace is the initials ISP carved upside down (CONT'D)

18 ARCHITECT BUILDER

19 HISTORICAL OR ARCHITECTURAL IMPORTANCE

SIGNIFICANCE

One of Durham's most prominent colonial-period buildings is this 2½ story, five-bay, center-chimney structure built in 1733/34 by Ithamar Parsons. Topped by a ridge-to-street, asphalt-shingled gable roof, the clapboarded post-and-beam frame rests on a brownstone foundation. Inscribed in the northwest cornerstone are the dates "1734" and "A.P. 1800."

This house was built shortly after Ithamar's marriage to Sarah Curtis. In December of 1733 Ithamar's father, Samuel Parsons, sold his son "half an acre upon which Ithamar's house stands" (DLR 5:119). It was most likely Ithamar (1707-1786) who had carved the date 1734 upside down on the northwest cornerstone. Born in Northampton, Massachusetts, Ithamar moved to Durham with his family at the age of two. Sarah and Ithamar had seven children: Phebe, David, Rhoda, Sarah, Nathan, Ithamar, and Aaron. A member of the Congregational Church, Parsons was a farmer. Upon his death in 1783 Ithamar willed the dwelling house and homelot to his youngest son Aaron (1758-1812). It was Aaron who was responsible for carving the initials "A.P. 1800" near his father's initials on the northwest cornerstone. Married to Lucy Hawley in 1782, Aaron and his wife raised nine children: Curtis, Hannah, Nathan, Marcus, Calvin, Rhoda, Phebe, Amand, and Otis. In 1812 Aaron willed the south half of the dwelling house to his widow Lucy and the north half to his eldest son Curtis. Both Lucy and Curtis sold their portions to Marcus Parsons, Aaron's third eldest son. Marcus (1789-1847), a shoemaker, married Orpha Robinson in 1812. The Parsons family remained in the house until 1853, when the heirs of Marcus and Orpha sold the dwelling house and barn to Thomas W. Lyman. Lyman (1810-1862), whose (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.

PHOTO	PHOTOGRAPHER P. D. Hall	DATE 6/83
	VIEW Northeast	NEGATIVE ON FILE 5:24
COMPILED BY	NAME E. R. Hart	DATE 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 _____

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

CONTINUATION SHEET

Item number: 17/19 Date: 5/84

ITHAMAR PARSONS HOUSE, Durham

17 (cont'd)

on the right-hand side. The initials could possibly stand for Ithamar S. Parsons or Ithamar and Sarah Parsons. The southwest front parlor features raised panelling and wainscoting. The upstairs southwest room also displays raised panelling on the fireplace wall, and the small fireplace stone lintel features four carved symbols.

19 (cont'd)

name is burned into the kitchen wall, was a farmer. The son of George Lyman, Thomas William Lyman was the grandson of Thomas Lyman, IV, who built the large Georgian-style house to the north. The Thomas W. Lyman family resided here until 1889 when the house was sold out of the family.

Although some modern conveniences have been added to the Ithamar Parsons House, it retains much of its original appearance. Historically the house is significant for its long association with the Parsons and Lyman families.