

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. 74 |
| 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) (Historic) | | Chauncey, Elnathan, House #2 | |
| 2. TOWN CITY | VILLAGE | COUNTY | |
| Durham | | Middlesex | |
| 3. STREET AND NUMBER (and or location) | | | |
| Fowler Avenue | | | |
| 4. OWNER(S) | | | |
| Grant, Gary <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 | | INTERIOR ACCESSIBLE | |
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No | | <input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> No | |
| IF YES, EXPLAIN | | | |
| 7. STYLE OF BUILDING | | | DATE OF CONSTRUCTION |
| Colonial Period | | | ca. 1792 |
| 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: _____ | |
| 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 | |
| 1 1/2 | | 20 1/2' x 28' | |
| 12. CONDITION (Structural) (Exterior) | | | |
| <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? | (Alterations) |
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> On original site | <input type="checkbox"/> Moved | | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No |
| IF YES EXPLAIN | | | |
| 2 NW additions: 13 1/2' x 7'; 13 1/2' x 13' | | | |
| 14. RELATED OUTBUILDINGS OR LANDSCAPE FEATURES | | | |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Barn | <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 type="checkbox"/> High building density |
| 16. INTERRELATIONSHIP OF BUILDING AND SURROUNDINGS | | | |

The Chauncey House is located on the north side of Cherry Lane.
 The house sits on a cleared small lot.

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

DESCRIP 1, 1-N (Continued)

A notable feature on this colonial period house is the presence of the overhang on both the north and south end and facade. The facade has a slightly off-center 4 narrow-paneled, 2 tiered door flanked by two two-over-two sash windows with shutters. There are two additions: one gable roof west extension, and a west single story sun porch added to the south side of the first addition.

18 ARCHITECT

BUILDER

19 HISTORICAL OR ARCHITECTURAL IMPORTANCE

SIGNIFICANCE

Elnathan Chauncey built this clapboarded 1½ story, colonial-period house about 1792. The building has a post-and-beam frame which rests on a sandstone foundation and is topped by a ridge-to-street asphalt-shingled roof and a large granite center chimney.

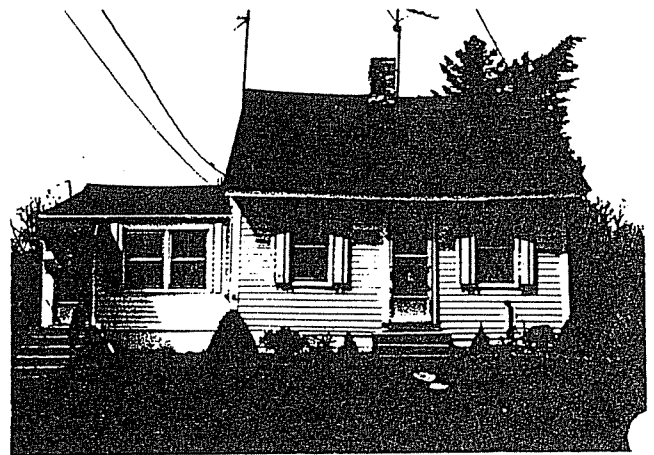
This small dwelling is closely related with the Elnathan Chauncey homestead located a few hundred feet to the west. It was most likely constructed by a prominent Durham farmer, Elnathan Chauncey in 1792, possibly to house relations or laborers. Upon Elnathan's death in 1796, both the small house and large house were willed to his two sons, Nathaniel and Worthington. Nathaniel William (1761-1840), Elnathan's eldest son, served in the Revolutionary War before he settled on the homestead to farm. Worthington (1772-1858), as a young man tutored the family of Major Van Rensselaer in Claverack, N.Y. and later dealt in land speculation in the "wildlands" of upstate New York. On returning to Durham to help operate his father's farm, Worthington served as a magistrate under King George III, and after the War for Independence continued to serve the public at their request. Both men served as representatives to the State Legislature and helped to finance the building of the Methodist-Episcopal Church. Apparently neither of the Chaunceys married, and the house was willed to their nephew, Professor William C. Fowler. The house remained a portion of the Chauncey homestead until 1946 when it was sold out of the family.

The Chauncey House #2 is a fine example of a small, late-Colonial period house which has not been altered over the years.

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 |
| | Alex Parades | | 5/84 |
| COMPILED BY | VIEW | NEGATIVE ON FILE | |
| | N | 11:19 | |
| | NAME | | DATE |
| | I. Heublein | | 9/22/83 |
| | ORGANIZATION | | |
| Greater Middletown Preservation Trust | | | |
| ADDRESS | | | |
| 27 Washington St., Middletown, CT 06457 | | | |



20 SUBSEQUENT FIELD EVALUATIONS

21 THREATS TO BUILDING OR SITE

- | | | | | |
|--|-----------------------------------|--|-------------------------------------|--|
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> None known | <input type="checkbox"/> Highways | <input type="checkbox"/> Vandalism | <input type="checkbox"/> Developers | <input type="checkbox"/> Other _____ |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Renewal | <input type="checkbox"/> Private | <input type="checkbox"/> Deterioration | <input type="checkbox"/> Zoning | <input type="checkbox"/> Explanation _____ |