

**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. 156
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)	
Durham		Parmelee, Willis I, House	
2. TOWN CITY	VILLAGE	COUNTY	
Durham		Middlesex	
3. STREET AND NUMBER (and or location)			
Parmelee Hill Road, South side			
4. OWNER(S)			
Parmelee, Richard C. <input type="checkbox"/> Public <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Private			
5. USE (Present)		(Historic)	
Residence		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 checked="" type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No	with permission

DESCRIPTION

7. STYLE OF BUILDING		DATE OF CONSTRUCTION	
Colonial Revival		1909/1910	
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: Foundation, traprock	
9. STRUCTURAL SYSTEM			
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Wood frame	<input type="checkbox"/> Post and beam	<input checked="" 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 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 checked="" 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 checked="" type="checkbox"/> Slate
<input type="checkbox"/> Asphalt shingle	<input type="checkbox"/> Built up	<input type="checkbox"/> Tile	<input type="checkbox"/> Other (Specify) _____
11. NUMBER OF STORIES	APPROXIMATE DIMENSIONS		
2 1/2	44' x 36'		
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 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
			interior renovations
14. RELATED OUTBUILDINGS OR LANDSCAPE FEATURES			
<input checked="" 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 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			

Built on a level terrace on the eastern slope of Parmelee Hill and shaded by large pines, the Willis I. Parmelee House is located in a rapidly developing residential neighborhood.

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

DESCRIPT (Continued)

The three-bay facade features a balustraded veranda with centered pediment above the main entrance. The porch as it wraps around the east side is enclosed and on the southeast corner features an enclosed screened porch. The facade door surround exhibits a moulded cornice supported by fluted pilasters. The elegant entrance door displays a full-length oval glass pane. Large attic dormers are featured on all slopes of the roof and the one-over-one sash are set in plain trim topped with a simple moulded cornice. A large barn with slate roof is located to the south of the house.

18 ARCHITECT

BUILDER

Elijah Crawford

19 HISTORICAL OR ARCHITECTURAL IMPORTANCE

SIGNIFICANCE

Prominently situated upon Parmelee Hill overlooking the valley to the east is the Willis I. Parmelee House. Erected in 1909-1910, this 2½ story Colonial Revival dwelling is topped with a slate-shingled, hip roof. The clapboarded balloon frame is supported by a traprock foundation.

In 1909 prominent cattle dealer/farmer Willis Isaac Parmelee (1861-1935) hired Elijah Crawford, a contractor from Hudson Falls, New York, to erect a new home on the site of the Old Parmelee homestead. The house was completed within a year at the cost of \$3000 and boasted such modern conveniences as gas lights and indoor bathrooms. Parmelee, the son of Frederick and Caroline (Blair) Parmelee, married Esther Elliot Clark in 1912. Successful in farming and cattle driving, Parmelee also sold timber and imported slate, sleds, wagons and maple syrup from Vermont. Active in the Republican party, he served as a town selectman and assessor and was an ardent member of the Grange. The house is now owned by Mr. Parmelee's eldest son.

The most imposing property in the area, the Willis I. Parmelee house is an excellent example of the Colonial Revival-style architecture in Durham and reflects the wealth and ingenuity of a prosperous early twentieth-century farmer, Willis I. Parmelee.

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, 1966); Whited, Milton, Durham's Heritage (Durham:1976); 1859 Walling Map; 1874 Beers Atlas; Interview with Richard C. Parmelee; Beers, J.H. & Co., Biographical Record of Middlesex County, Connecticut (Chicago:1903).

PHOTO	PHOTOGRAPHER	DATE
	Alex Parades	5/84
COMPILED BY	VIEW	NEGATIVE ON FILE
	southeast	13:17
COMPILED BY	NAME	DATE
	E.R. Hart	4/84
	ORGANIZATION	
Greater Middletown Preservation Trust		
ADDRESS		
27 Washington St., Middletown, Conn. 06457		



20 SUBSEQUENT FIELD EVALUATIONS

21 THREATS TO BUILDING OR SITE

None known. Highways Vandalism Developers Other _____

Renewal Private Deterioration Zoning Explanation _____