

**HISTORIC RESOURCES INVENTORY**  
**BUILDING AND STRUCTURES**  
 HIST-6 NEW S 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. 158
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) <span style="float: right;">(Historic)</span> Combs-Chalker House	
	2. TOWN CITY Durham	VILLAGE COUNTY Middlesex
	3. STREET AND NUMBER (and or location) Pisgah Road, west side	
	4. OWNER(S) Pierson, Andrew, II, Sarah B. <span style="float: right;"><input type="checkbox"/> Public <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Private</span>	
	5. USE (Present) <span style="float: right;">(Historic)</span> Residence <span style="float: right;">Residence</span>	
	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 checked="" type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No IF YES, EXPLAIN with permission	
DESCRIPTION	7. STYLE OF BUILDING Colonial-period Cape	
	DATE OF CONSTRUCTION Prior to 1760	
	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 checked="" type="checkbox"/> Wood Shingle <input type="checkbox"/> Roll Asphalt <input type="checkbox"/> Tin <input 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 1 1/2 33' x 34'; 25' x 26'; 26' x 27'; 36' x 18'		
12. CONDITION (Structural) <span style="float: right;">(Exterior)</span> <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 Gable-roofed ell on north elevation		
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 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 checked="" type="checkbox"/> Rural <input type="checkbox"/> High building density		
16. INTERRELATIONSHIP OF BUILDING AND SURROUNDINGS		

Set on a pleasant wood lot, the Combs-Chalker House faces east onto Pisgah Road. The surrounding neighborhood, which developed in the eighteenth and nineteenth centuries with the industrial activity along Malt Brook, is experiencing some modern residential development.

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

DESCRIBE (Continued)

The five-bay facade features an overhang. The central facade door is set in a simple decorative frame topped by a thin projecting cornice. A brick chimney rises from the center of the roof. Original six-over-nine sash are exhibited throughout. Attached to the single-story, gable-roofed ell which projects from the north elevation are an open breezeway and a gable-roofed garage.

18 ARCHITECT

BUILDER

19 HISTORICAL OR ARCHITECTURAL IMPORTANCE

SIGNIFICANCE

The early history of this house is obscure. Architecturally it is similar to other colonial-period dwellings in the area built between 1745 and 1755. Capped with a wood-shingled, ridge-to-street gable roof, the 1 1/2 story, clapboarded, post-and-beam timbers rest on a sandstone block foundation.

The first deed reference to this building is in 1794 when Captain Jabez Chalker, Jr. received a parcel of land with dwelling house from John Combs. Although the conditions under which Combs received the house are unclear, there is a dwelling situated upon this property on the 1760 map of Durham. There is little historical information available concerning Combs, but we do know he moved to Bristol, New York, between 1798 and 1805. Chalker (1768-1841), whose ancestors came from Old Saybrook, married Hannah Pickett, the daughter of Benjamin Pickett. The eldest son of Jabez and Sarah Chalker (who lived on Sand Hill Road), Jabez, Jr. operated a clothier's shop and fulling mill along Malt Brook. The father of ten children, he took his oath of fidelity in 1781 and his freeman's oath in 1795. A captain in the Revolutionary War, Chalker served as a local representative to the State Legislature in 1827. In 1842 Ozias Chalker (b. 1805), Jabez's eldest living son, received his father's home. Ozias, a farmer, never married and resided there until his death in 1872.

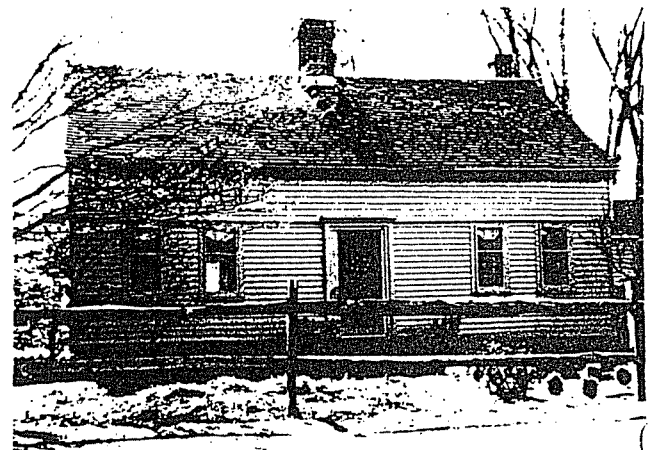
An interesting example of the colonial-period Cape style, the Combs-Chalker House derives its significance from its association with the industrial development that occurred along Malt Brook in the eighteenth and nineteenth centuries.

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
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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 \_\_\_\_\_