

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. 166
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) <i>(Historic)</i>		Atwell, George, House	
2. TOWN CITY	VILLAGE	COUNTY	
Durham		Middlesex	
3. STREET AND NUMBER (and or location)			
South End Ave., West side			
4. OWNER(S)			
Wiatrak, Alex & Susan <input type="checkbox"/> Public <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Private			
5. USE (Present) <i>(Historic)</i>			
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 type="checkbox"/> Yes <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> No		

DESCRIPTION

7. STYLE OF BUILDING		DATE OF CONSTRUCTION	
Mid-nineteenth-century Domestic		1844	
8. MATERIAL(S) <i>(Indicate use or location when appropriate)</i>			
<input type="checkbox"/> Clapboard	<input type="checkbox"/> Asbestos Siding	<input type="checkbox"/> Brick	<input type="checkbox"/> Other <i>(Specify)</i>
<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 checked="" 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 <i>(Specify)</i>
<input type="checkbox"/> Load bearing masonry	<input type="checkbox"/> Structural iron or steel		
10. ROOF <i>(Type)</i>			
<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 <i>(Specify)</i>
<i>(Material)</i>			
<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 <i>(Specify)</i>
11. NUMBER OF STORIES		APPROXIMATE DIMENSIONS	
2 1/2		28' x 24'	
12. CONDITION <i>(Structural)</i> <i>(Exterior)</i>			
<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 <i>(Location)</i> WHEN? <i>(Alterations)</i> IF YES EXPLAIN			
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> On original site	<input type="checkbox"/> Moved	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No	1 story shed roof ell to west elevation
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 <i>(Specify)</i>
<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 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 east onto South End Avenue, the George Atwell House is sited on a maple-shaded lot which drops off to the west exposing the rear basement. The house is set in a residential neighborhood which contains buildings from the eighteenth through the twentieth centuries.

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

DESCRIPT (Continued)

The three-bay, side-hall-plan facade is highlighted by a six-panelled door framed by two thin vertical three-paned sidelights and topped with a thin molded cornice. Flanking the sidelights are thin fluted pilasters with molded cornices. Stylistically, it is most probable that the doorway is a later addition. Added to the rear of the house is a single story, shed-roofed ell. The six-over-six sash feature fixed louvered shutters.

18 ARCHITECT

BUILDER

19 HISTORICAL OR ARCHITECTURAL IMPORTANCE

SIGNIFICANCE

This mid-nineteenth-century Domestic-style structure, reminiscent of the Greek-Revival style, was built in 1844 by George Atwell. The 2½ story building is oriented gable-to-street with an asphalt-shingled roof. Utilizing a post-and-beam framing system, it is covered in aluminum siding and sits on sandstone foundation.

In the spring of 1844 farmer George Atwell purchased a three-acre lot from Charles Robinson on which he erected this house. Atwell (1805-1881), the son of Jesse and Phebe Atwell, was married to Eliza Camp (1804-1889) of Middlefield. Besides farming, he also owned a portion of the tannery his father once operated along Malt Brook. Active in local affairs, Atwell was selected as a fenceviewer in 1851 and elected as town selectman in 1852. Two of his sons, Curtis C. and Seager, served in the Civil War, with Seager rising to the rank of Lieutenant Colonel. The house remained in the Atwell family until 1889.

The George Atwell House is an important reminder of the agricultural and industrial community that thrived in this area during the mid-nineteenth century.

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; 1974 Beers Atlas.

PHOTO

PHOTOGRAPHER	P.D. Hall	DATE	6/83
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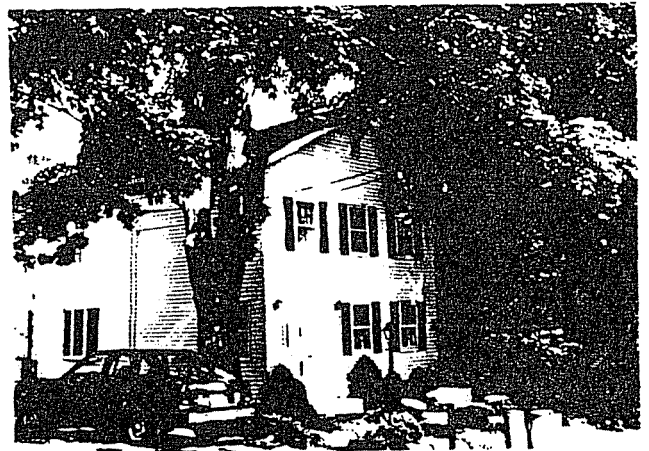
VIEW	Facing NW	NEGATIVE ON FILE	7:9
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COMPILED BY

NAME	E.R. Hart	DATE	2/84
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ORGANIZATION	Greater Middletown Preservation Trust
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ADDRESS	27 Washington St., Middletown, Conn. 06457
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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 _____ |