

**HISTORIC RESOURCES INVENTORY
BUILDING AND STRUCTURES**
HIST-6 NEW § 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. 24
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) M. Foster Mather House		(Historic) Wilson-Clark House		
	2. TOWN/CITY Durham		VILLAGE	COUNTY Middlesex	
	3. STREET AND NUMBER (and or location) Southwest corner of Haddam Quarter Road and Foothills Road				
	4. OWNER(S) M. Foster Mather		<input type="checkbox"/> Public <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Private		
	5. USE (Present) Residence		(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	
	7. STYLE OF BUILDING Colonial			DATE OF CONSTRUCTION 1777/78	
	8. MATERIAL(S) (Indicate use or location when appropriate)				
	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Clapboard <input type="checkbox"/> Asbestos Siding <input checked="" 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: granite foundation				
	9. STRUCTURAL SYSTEM				
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Wood frame <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Post and beam <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> balloon southeast addition & screen porch <input type="checkbox"/> Other (Specify) _____ <input type="checkbox"/> Load bearing masonry <input type="checkbox"/> Structural iron or steel					
DESCRIPTION	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 checked="" 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 1 1/2		APPROXIMATE DIMENSIONS Main block: 25 x 34; southeast addition: 20 x 15; porch: 9 x 14		
	12. CONDITION (Structural) (Exterior)				
	<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 Additions to southeast corner	
	14. RELATED OUTBUILDINGS OR LANDSCAPE FEATURES				
	<input type="checkbox"/> Barn <input 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 type="checkbox"/> Garden				
15. SURROUNDING ENVIRONMENT					
<input type="checkbox"/> Open land <input type="checkbox"/> Wood-land <input 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					
This handsome cape-style Colonial sits close to the roadway at the intersection of Foothills Road and an abandoned and unpaved section of Haddam Quarter Road.					

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

DESCRIBED (Continued)

The Mather House is a 1½ story center chimney Cape style colonial residence. It stands on a granite foundation--an unusual feature for a Durham house, where sandstone was usually the masonry material of choice. The central chimney is likewise constructed of roughly hewn granite blocks. The facade of the house, which faces north, is divided into three bays. A replacement front door, constructed with vertical flushboards and attached with H-hinges, is framed by plain moldings. The doorway is flanked by two eight-over-twelve windows. The fenestration of the first and second stories of the gable ends consists, on the first story, of two eight-over-twelve sash, and on the second, one eight-over-twelve and one small four-over-four sash (the latter towards the rear of the house). The west gable end has an overhang between the first and second stories. (CONT.)

18 ARCHITECT _____ BUILDER _____

19 HISTORICAL OR ARCHITECTURAL IMPORTANCE

SIGNIFICANCE

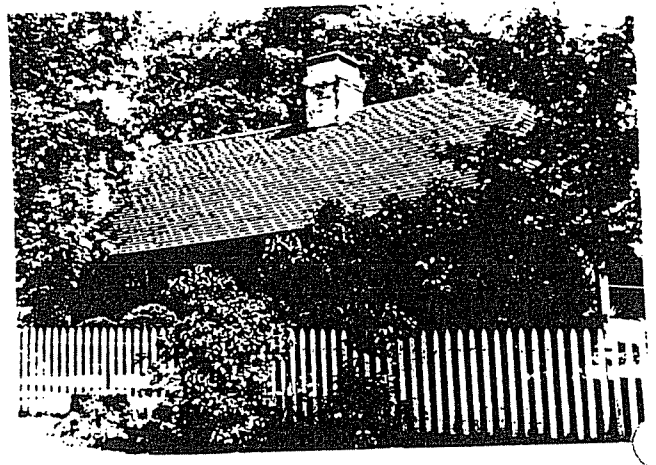
In April of 1777 Samuel Sutcliffe sold John Wilson 37 acres, "part in Durham, part in Haddam," for 120 pounds. A year and a half later, in October of 1778, Wilson sold the 37 acres "with a dwelling house and barn" for 600 pounds. The purchaser was Samuel Squires. In 1801 Squires sold his father half interest in the property. In 1808 Samuel Squires died. His estate was deeply in debt, and his father, as administrator, was ordered to sell off sufficient property to satisfy his creditors' demands. He sold the farm to Dr. William Foote, whose in-laws, James and Anna Pickett, owned the farm opposite this one, on the other side of Haddam Quarter Road. In 1834, when Foote moved across the street to his deceased in-laws' larger homestead, he deeded this house to his son James Pickett Foote. When Dr. Foote died, James moved across the street and sold his little homestead to Admiral Clark of Middletown, whose relative John B. Clark would buy the Pickett/Foote house across the street in 1869. The house remained in the Clark family until 1893, when it, like many other houses in the Haddam Quarter, was purchased by New Yorkers, Anna and George Lutz. Presumably used as a summer residence, the house changed hands frequently until the 1960s when it was purchased and restored by the family of its present owner.

This house is notable both for its excellent and intact condition and for the integrity of its site. It is one of the half-dozen Cape-style colonial houses still surviving in Durham. And its use of granite in preference to sandstone masonry makes it unique. Its historical significance derives from its association with William Foote, one of Durham's earliest physicians.

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
	P. D. Hall	6/5/83
VIEW	VIEW	NEGATIVE ON FILE
	north side	8:21
COMPILED BY	NAME	DATE
	P. D. Hall	2/1/84
	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 Explanaton _____

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59 South Prospect Street; Hartford, Connecticut 06106
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TOWN NO.:		SITE NO.:	
UTM: 18	/	24	/
QUAD:			
DISTRICT:	S	NR:	ACTUAL POTENTIAL

CONTINUATION SHEET

Item number: _____ Date: _____

Wilson-Clark House, Durham

17. continued

The house contains three fireplaces and detailed interior millwork. The wide-plank interior floors are original to the structure.

Two additions have been made to the southeast rear corner of the house, both apparently dating from a remodeling done in 1960. A large, gable-roofed addition (20' x 15') immediately adjoins the main block. Like the older part of the structure, it is sheathed in clapboards and roofed with asphalt shingles. To the south of this is a shed-roofed screen porch. Both additions stand on poured concrete foundations.

The house is surrounded by a white wooden picket fence. A modern three-car garage stands to the south side of the structure.