

STATE OF CONNECTICUT
 CONNECTICUT HISTORICAL COMMISSION
 59 SOUTH PROSPECT STREET, HARTFORD, CONNECTICUT 06106
 (203) 566-3005

FOR OFFICE USE ONLY	
Town No.:	Site No 28
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)	
Fairchild-Merwin House		The Merwin, Miles, House	
2. TOWN/CITY		VILLAGE	COUNTY
Durham			Middlesex
3. STREET AND NUMBER (and or location)			
Haddam Quarter Road, north side, .2 miles east of intersection with Brick Lane			
4. OWNER(S)			
Bradford & Mary S. Wilkinson <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 with permission			
7. STYLE OF BUILDING			DATE OF CONSTRUCTION
Colonial			1727
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 checked="" 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 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	
2½		Main block: 32 x 40; northwest addition: 16 x 18	
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 16 x 18 addition to northwest corner (1962)
14. RELATED OUTBUILDINGS OR LANDSCAPE FEATURES			
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Barn <input checked="" 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 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 well back from Haddam Quarter Road, this building stands on a four-acre wooded lot.			

DESCRIPT (Continued)

17 OTHER NOTABLE FEATURES OF BUILDING OR SITE (interior and or exterior)
 The Merwin House is a 2½ story, center chimney Colonial house with an added lean-to, making it a house of the saltbox type. Its 5 bay facade contains eight twelve-over-eight windows. The central window on the second story has nine-over-six sash. The front entry has a molded frame and contains a six-pane overlight and double-leaf door which may be original to the structure. The entry was once protected by a gable-roofed canopy which while shown in c. 1900 photographs of the house, has since been removed. This house has a pronounced overhang at the attic level on the east and west sides. In 1962 an 1½ story gambrel roof addition was made to the northwest corner of the house. A concrete patio was also added to the northeast rear. This house contains much of its original interior woodwork. The date of construction, 1727, is carved in one of its hearth stones.

18 ARCHITECT _____ BUILDER _____

SIGNIFICANCE

19 HISTORICAL OR ARCHITECTURAL IMPORTANCE

The date of construction of this house is set by tradition and by a carved hearthstone as 1727. It is first mentioned, however, in a 1755 deed from Samuel Fairchild, who is said to have built the house, to Ezra Baldwin. Baldwin evidently purchased the house as a wedding gift for his son Abiel (1730-1802), who married Mehetable Johnson in 1756. Abiel left the property to his son Aaron Baldwin (1770-) who, on moving with a large group of Durhamites to New York State, sold it in 1816 to Isaac Newton. Newton sold it a few days later to Miles Merwin, Sr. (1772-1859).

Miles Merwin, Sr. was a rural patriarch who married three times and sired nine children:

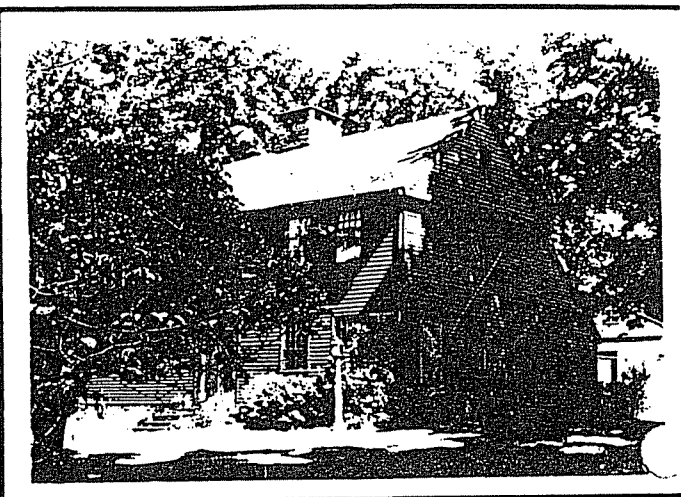
He feared God, but not man; attended church fifty two Sundays a year, and twice each Sunday; commenced the sabbath at sundown on Saturday; brought up a family of eight children; settled his two sons on farms adjoining his own. . . . He reuled over his family, as was his right and duty according to the doctrine of the age, and was resolute in maintaining his position when he knew he was right. (Newton: 8-9)

In 1827 Miles Merwin, Sr. deeded over the house to his son Miles Merwin, Jr. (1795-1879) He was probably the leading citizen of nineteenth-century Durham. Not only did he farm the land, he was also a cattleman of consequence, going each year to upper New York State, where he purchased cattle and drove them overland to Durham--where their hides were undoubtedly used to sustain the town's shoe industry. Merwin was one of (SEE CONT. SHEET)

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 (Whited, Milton, Durham's Heritage (Durham: 1976); 1859 Walling Map; 1874 Beers Atlas; Newton, C. G., Miles Merwin (Durham: 1909).

PHOTO	PHOTOGRAPHER P. D. Hall	DATE 6/1/83
	VIEW South & east elev.	NEGATIVE ON FILE I:3
COMPILED BY	NAME P. D. Hall	DATE 8/10/83
	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 _____

